

**Nancy Mebane Shakir** resides in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where she is a community activist and volunteer. She is the mother of three and the grandmother of one. She is a recipient of the Cave Canem Poetry Fellowship, The Rutgers University Ruth Fryer Creative Writing Honors Award, a Dodge Poetry Scholarship, and she has studied at the Fine Arts Work Center Provincetown. She is a member of the Carolina African American Writers' Collective. Ms. Shakir's poetry and short stories have been anthologized and her history research articles and essays have been published. She is an Op-ed columnist for the *Fayetteville Observer*, as well as host for the Cumberland County Progressives TV news and analysis program. Ms. Shakir has a BA in History from Rutgers University and a MA from St. Peter's Jesuit College.

### **Kwansaba for Spring**

Someone said it in a hope song  
That there is always one more time  
Love springs, erupts in its juicy glory  
A long gone seed buried in sand  
Pushes, green and lush from mother earth  
and we try to touch each other  
in places we can no longer reach