



Image from Pond5

John Zedolik

Leeway

We were only turning around in his
driveway even if in high spirits borne
by nineteen years, but the homeowner's

silhouette against a single glaring
porch light extended from his right hand
to a monstrous digit pending nearly

to the knee, which we determined
in an adrenaline jolt, stretched
not as warm flesh darkened but cold

tense metal daring to be turned
toward our youth and discharged
in our callow direction, stop us in our

errant tracks upon the driveway's gravel
and dirt, innocent of avarice and any ill
intent, but incorrect nevertheless,

and saved by the gear of quick reverse,
obedient to the anxious hand
that might have slicked the shift

with sweat even in the dark night cool
that could not hide the error in our route
from the man in the woods, triggered resolute.

John Zedolik has published work in *Abbey*, *The Bangalore Review* (India), *Commonweal*, *FreeXpresSion* (Australia), *Orbis* (U.K.), *Paperplates* (Canada), *Poetry Salzburg* (Austria), *Third Wednesday*, *Transom*, and elsewhere. His books include *Salient Points and Sharp Angles*, *When the Spirit Moves Me*, and *Mother Mourning*. He teaches at Chatham University and Duquesne University.