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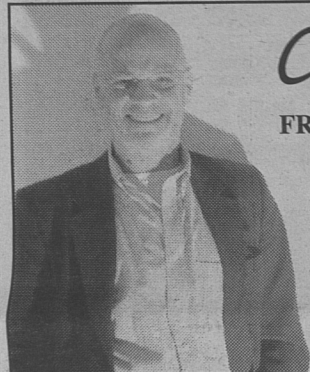
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**THE SEASONS**

# October Light

BY LYNN MARTIN

It is early October, but already the quality of light has changed. The morning sun looks ornamental, without warmth. The cold, clear light of autumn, when every leaf stands out as if to etch itself on memory, is not far away. In the night sky, the big dipper hangs, upright and full, already thinking of turning over, emptying itself of summer.

Walking through the woods, the green has changed, it seems overnight, from deep and lush to faded and limp. Pine needles, golden and russet, litter the paths, suddenly dominant. "Drink your tea," orders the Towhee. The Blue Jay echoes with "Do it. Do it," but only the Blue Jay has a permanent sound. The Towhee seems to be thinking of other things. Light seeps from leaf to leaf in the gathering afternoon. Darkness creeps up on you silently, not like in summer when light and dark leaped and cavorted in rushes of wind.

Is the clarity of light more pronounced because I am no longer young? Is this the time of life when reaching toward the sky, I begin to level out, and can't quite fly so high against the pull of gravity? My children's voices have leveled out to an adult's timbre. The sound of the four-year-old in my arms is only a memory.

Sometimes, in my dreams, the light etches every face I have known, those who no longer walk with me in summer, skin aglow with a reflecting light, called life. What, I wonder, is the source of that life that burns with such intensity, ebbs, and then appears to go out? Where does such light go? I imagine turning a corner unexpectedly some day. The light will be so bright I will know everything I have been trying to learn inch by painful inch. I will add my own light, and what was a bare flicker will now be a sun that never goes out. ▼



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➔ Lynn Martin observes the change in seasons from her home in Brattleboro.

**OCTOBER IS GAY & LESBIAN HISTORY MONTH**

## The Word "Lambda"

The eleventh letter of the Greek alphabet, lambda is also the symbol of kinetic energy, reports Kathy Beige of Lesbian Life (on the Web at about.com/people).

Kathy says: "The lambda has been used as a symbol of gay pride and identification since the 1970s. The Gay Activists Alliance first used the lambda as a symbol of the energy of the gay/lesbian movement." ▼

