

# Tchotchkes

*by Gary Hardaway*

## **In Memoriam**

It was a bad year for losses-  
But aren't they all?

## **Dessert**

The fortune cookie tells me  
"Use your charm and personality  
to obtain your wishes." It seems  
the cookie doesn't know me well.

## **Recalibration**

Artists, like scientists,  
must trust their instruments  
despite uncertainty's  
nagging bray.

## **Kill**

Hit a plane? You hit a plane.  
The enemy's plane, a machine  
designed to kill you.  
It's not a pilot, with a family, dead.  
It's a plane. The enemy's plane.

## **Mementos**

Each little token is the world  
as you knew it at each time and place

before the tastes and refinements  
of a larger world taught you how

to be ashamed of what  
you remembered where.

