

## Spring in Alexandria City

*--For RecFest, Saturday, May 3, 2025*

The azaleas aren't just blooming—listen—  
they're also calling us from our winter sleep  
to new games, new hope, and a new belonging.

The children have grown stronger than winter wind  
and more resplendent than snow—look  
at them running, their hair now glistening in the sun.

There is work to do, for peace, for unity, but we'll take our cues from the bluejays  
too, and cardinals, that play and dance, and make their beauty  
a song for us to thrive to in spring.

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City of Alexandria Poet Laureate