

# “Too Easy”

by Timothy Gerken

It is too easy to ignore the wars  
I am guilty of looking the other way:

the red house finch in the green  
leaves is not a blood stain  
the gold finch is not a toy truck  
atop of a pile of rubble

the Maple tree is not a sniper stand;  
the words of war can not grow like goldenrod  
or wild lilies and that should never change

twenty-two years ago I wrote  
37 letters to soldiers' families  
to be signed by the base General  
and it was not even a time of war;

the violence of young men  
the corruption of old men

consistent over time  
must change