

Petrolino pens new poetry in 'Congo Lights'



Middletown resident John Petrolino has just finished his latest book of poetry, "Congo Lights."—Monitor News Service

MONITOR NEWS SERVICE

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP—Township resident John Petrolino, 27, isn't your average poet and flash fiction writer. As well as being a Middletown High School South and Massachusetts Maritime Academy graduate, he is also a Merchant Marine who spends half the year working off the coast of Angola, Africa.

Petrolino is employed as the second assistant engineering officer on a dive support vessel that has the mission of exploring the sea floor to find new energy sources.

While working on the ocean can be exciting at times, it can also be solitary at times also. "The isolation gives me a chance to fully engage myself as a writer," Petrolino said.

Petrolino's latest work is a new book of poetry, titled "Congo Lights," published by Piscataway House Publishing, of Jackson.

"Congo Lights" includes 19 poems. Petrolino said, "A strong theme of the book is the eclectic nature of America and living life without being overwhelmed by capitalism."

The poetry in the book examines a cross section of American ideals, morality, social dichotomy, current social zeitgeists and the

juxtaposition of religion and sexuality, the author said.

Petrolino said he has been working on "Congo Lights" since 2008, and that he penned the title poem of the book based on his experiences at sea off the African coast.

"In this world, no matter what, we are going to have the underdog and those that are fortunate. There are always going to be people taking advantage of another culture on Earth. What is paramount, though, is to keep focused on what is important," Petrolino said.

According to Petrolino, the things that are important include: self-awareness, living life to its fullest potential, being grateful for what one has, and not "buying into the social hypnosis of what people are supposed to have and supposed to buy in order to be happy."

"Congo Lights" is not Petrolino's first book. Previously, he wrote "Galleria," a collection of poetry and a short story titled "Three Lonesome Travelers," published in 2007 by CreateSpace.

According to Petrolino, both "Congo Lights" and "Galleria" are available for purchase at Amazon.com. For more information, go to: JohnPetrolino.com, or e-mail him directly at: jpetrolinoiii@yahoo.com.

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