

[Marion Deutsche Cohen: Poem](#) [1]

May 23, 2016 [Prose Poetry](#) [2]

[Math Poetry](#) [3]

What I've Been Reading Lately

Our Scrabble group is talking about what we've been reading lately. Barbara's reading *Running with Scissors*, Bruce is reading *Wuthering Heights*, Susan *The Time Traveler's Wife*, and I'm curling up with *Numerical Semigroups*. It was the title that got me. I always liked semigroups, numerical or not, wondered why the texts never said more about them. And indeed these characters have begun to pull at me; I care about them. My friends laugh when I tell them what I'm reading, laugh again when I say that, like with novels, I skip to the last page. Well, I really want to know how to make a numerical semigroup, how to make all numerical semigroups, want to know what numerical semigroups look like and what happens to them. I don't get to tell my friends that skipping to the end doesn't quite work; even though I've found out what happens, I haven't found out how. Also, I know whodunit but not to whom it was dun.



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Marion Deutsche Cohen's latest poetry book is *Lights I Have Loved*, and her latest memoir is *Still the End: Memoir of a Nursing Home Wife*. Her books total 27, including *Crossing the Equal Sign*, about the experience of math, and *Truth and Beauty*, about the interaction among students and teacher in the course she

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developed called Mathematics in Literature at Arcadia University in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Her other interests include classical piano, singing, Scrabble, thrift shopping, four grown children, and five grands. She has a poetry chapbook forthcoming—*What I'm Wearing Today*—about thrift shopping.

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[1] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/marion-deutsche-cohen-poem>

[2] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/spotlight-prose-poetry>

[3] <https://mail.talkingwriting.com/talkingwriting-categories/spotlight-math-poetry>

[4] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/76881191@N07/15237303123/>