

# LOCAL MERCHANT MARINE ENGINEERING OFFICER RELEASES SECOND BOOK OF POETRY

Local Red Bank-based poet John J. Petrolino III, just a year after releasing his first book of poetry, *Galleria*, gets his second, *Congo Lights*, published by Piscataway House Publishing. Petrolino, 27, a Merchant Marine Engineering Officer by trade, pens his work while traveling, at sea, home, or at cafés in his beloved town.

*Congo Lights* is a collection dedicated to looking at a cross section of America and American ideals, mortality, morality, social dichotomy, current social zeitgeists, and the juxtaposition of religion and sexuality. The book has been in progress since 2008. The title poem, "Congo Lights," is based on what Petrolino experienced on a sea voyage off the coast of Africa in 2008. "We take and we take," a line from "Congo Lights" explains some of the book's themes.

"In this world, no matter what, we are going to have the underdog and those who are fortunate. There are always going to be people taking advantage of another culture or the Earth. What is paramount though, is to keep focused on what is important. Keeping yourself aware, living life to its fullest potential, being grateful for what you have, and also not buying into the social hypnosis of what we are supposed to have and supposed to buy in order to be happy. We, as a people, must be free thinkers, not sheep..." Petrolino explains some of his message.

*Congo Lights* is a trip through some of Petrolino's observations

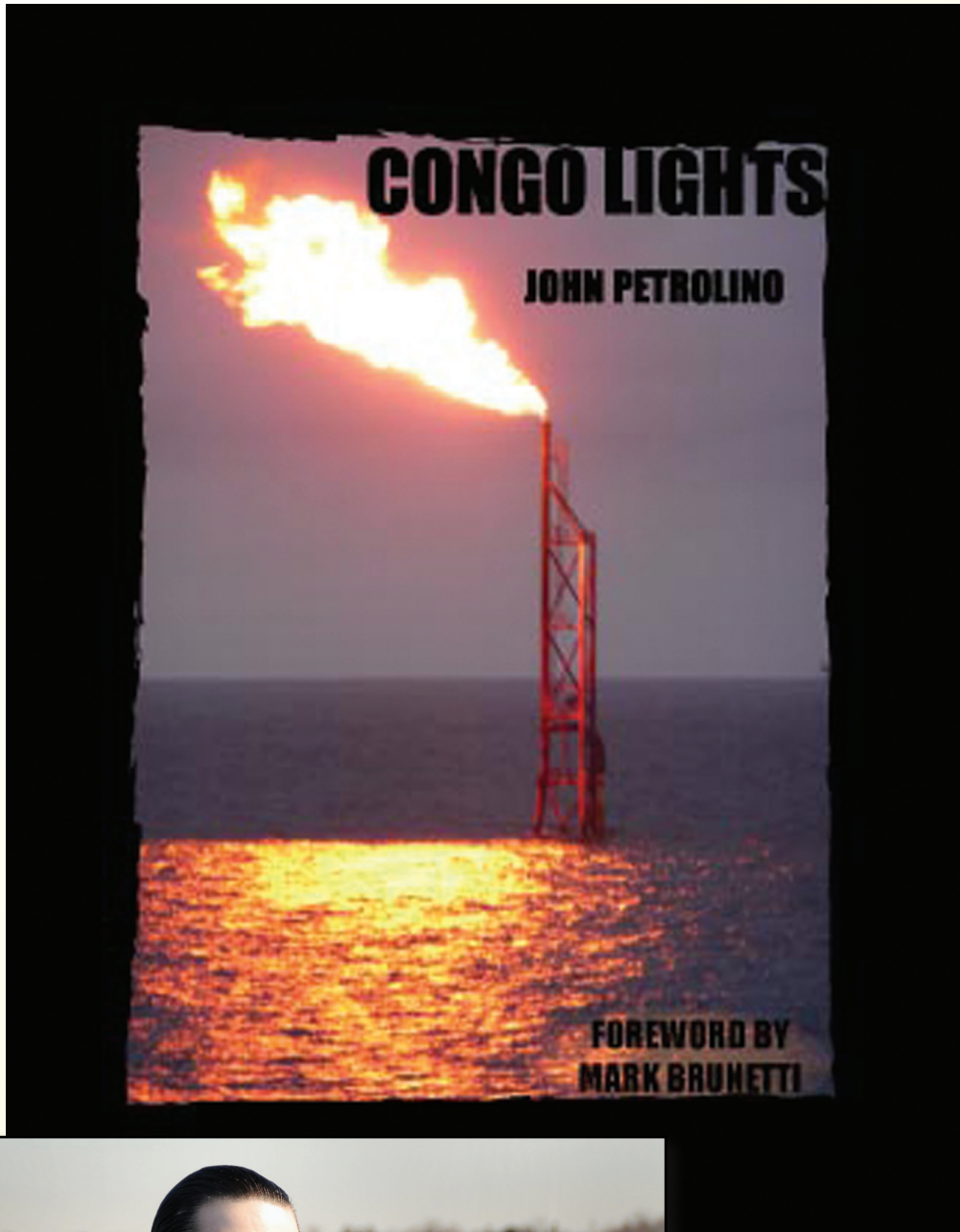


Photo by Charles Laskowski

and views and builds further on the themes of change, love, and introspection that he set forth in *Galleria*.

John Joseph Petrolino III is currently a United States Merchant Marine working as an Engineering Officer. He attended Massachusetts Maritime Academy and received his Bachelors of Science in Marine Engineering and his Third Assistant Engineer's Officer License. Since the year 2000, John has been working on numerous projects ranging from his own poetry, short fiction, and a co-written screenplay, to working as an Associate Producer on an independent film (*Indiscretion*). Since 2004, John has done numerous Jazz Poetry readings (with David Amram, John DeWitt and Kevin Twigg) at LCK! 04, 05, 06 and 07, monthly readings at Cornelia Street Café in Manhattan, and a reading at Georgian Court University in New Jersey. John also was a featured artist for the 2007 traveling sociology class: "Jack Kerouac Wrote Here: Crisscrossing America, Chasing Cool." John has done guest lectures, readings,

and featured readings at Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Georgian Court University, Brick High School, Neptune High School, The Middletown Arts Center, and The Barron Arts Center.

Petrolino's poetry has been featured in *The Idiom Magazine*, *Eviscerator Heaven*, *The Bradstock Journal*, *Write On!! Magazette*, *The Working Tools Magazine*, *The Storm Generation Magazine*, *The New Jersey Freemason*, *WestWard Quarterly*, *Exit 13*, and on [poetryvlog.com](http://poetryvlog.com), [identitytheory.com](http://identitytheory.com), and [wordriot.org](http://wordriot.org). John was also featured on the newly released *World Spirit* film, *Greenwich Village*. He continues to work on his poetry and other works while aboard ship, traveling, or at home. For more information about John, his work, and contact information, be sure to visit him on

the web at [www.johnpetrolino.com](http://www.johnpetrolino.com).

To order copies of *Congo Lights* by John J. Petrolino III, visit [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) or [www.bookch.com](http://www.bookch.com). Orders are also available through Book Clearing House via telephone: 1-800-431-1579.