

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION



CALLAHAN COUNTY

STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

American Life In Poetry

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Hearts and flowers, that's how some people dismiss poetry, suggesting that's all there is to it, just a

bunch of sappy poets weeping over love and beauty.

Well, poetry is lots more than that. At times it's a means of honoring the simple things about us. To illustrate the care with which one poet observes a flower, here's Frank Steele, of Kentucky, paying such close attention to a sunflower that he almost gets inside it.

Sunflower

You're expected to see only the top, where sky scrambles bloom, and not the spindly leg, hairy, fending off tall, green darkness beneath.

Like every flower, she has a little theory, and what she thinks is up. I imagine the long climb out of the dark

beyond morning glories, day lilies, four o'clocks up there to the dream she keeps lifting, where it's noon all day.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright (c) 2001 by Frank Steele. Reprinted from "Singing into That Fresh Light," co-authored with Peggy Steele, ed., Robert Bly, Blue Sofa Press, 2001, by permission of Frank Steele. Introduction copyright (c) 2008 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate

Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

Literary Calendar

August 16, 1949: The author of "Gone With the Wind," Margaret Mitchell, was hit by a taxi cab in Atlanta and died.

August 17, 1917: John Reed, who would write "Ten Days that Shook the World," said for Russia with Louise Bryant to report on the political upheaval.

August 19, 1662: The author of "Pensees," Blaise Pascal died at age 39, in a convent at Port Royal, France.

August 20, 1944: During World War II, there was an uprising off the Resistance, at Toulouse, France, and Andre malraux took command of the St. Michael prison.

August 21, 1850: Nikolai Gogol visited the printers to oversee his "Evenings on a Farm," when the typesetters seemed to enjoy the proofs, he inferred that he would be an author of the common people.

Summers Splendor

Magnolias are Blooming
 Their lemon scented blossoms
 Creating memories of long ago
 The quiet street where moss
 Draped trees stand silent
 Their leaves droop in the sun
 The perfume of jasmine
 Hangs heavy in the warm air
 Birds in the Cypress Trees
 Sing in muted voices
 Lest they disturb the quiet time
 Verandas on the silent streets
 Their Rocking chairs all in rows
 Are now occupied by
 Memories of Yesterday
 The song of the Locust in the Garden
 Reminds the Summer hours
 This is the time for Tea
 A charmed hour where Traditions
 Linger in Summers Splendor.

by Johnnie Alma Anderson
 Midland, Texas

Words You Can Use

Facies: the appearance or overall aspect of a thing

Ipsedixitist: A word not used often in newspapers in Oklahoma, describing a person who is a dogmatic doctrinarian.

Leptorrhin: A person with a long and narrow nose, somewhat like a rabbit's

Logodaedaly: It's a noun that means skill at words, and perhaps to refer to the ability to create new words. It is not to be confused with finding old and obscure words, although they may seem to be made up.

Submissions sought to: **Star**
P.O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448
 email: thebairdspotlight@att.net
 S.A.S.E. for returns

--WANTED--
 20 lines,
 double spaced or less
 Poetry
 Fiction or Non
Each entry with brief biography notes. All must be family oriented; no smut, slander or liable material.

Contacts of interest for writers:

NFSPS Poetry Contests for 2008
 Madelyn Eastlund
 310 South Adams Street
 Beverly Hills, Florida 34465

Poetry Society of Texas
 Membership Committee
 Lee Carroll
 3909 Gable Lane, #611
 Fort Worth, Texas 76155
 leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com

Emotional Writing

You know that you can do it. It has been done since we as humans have been writing. It is the transmission of the feelings we have, or the feeling we want the reader to have, by the way we use language and symbol. Look at the way you can use some of the "marks" of language. Flash the exclamation point! Use silence..... Can you create the notion of the unknown and mystery when you desire to? Use of the forms of metaphor is an excellent way to create beauty in your writing, based on the common characteristics of things. In the modern world many of these emotive techniques and have been unused, but they can be very effective for your writing, whether it be for poetry, stories or reminisces. Even good nonfiction can use these and other methods for great effect. Give them a try!

To Blossoms

Fair pledges of a fruitful tree,
 Why do ye fall so fast?
 Your date is not so past
 But you may stay yet here awhile
 To blush and gently smile,
 And go at last.

What! were ye born to be
 An hour or half's delight,
 And so to bid good night?
 'Twas pity Nature brought you forth
 Merely to show your worth
 And lose you quite.

But you are lovely leaves, where
 we
 May read how soon things have
 Their end, though ne'er so
 brave:
 And after they have shown their
 pride
 Like you awhile, they glide
 Into the grave.

- Robert Herrick
 1591-1674



Photo by Patrick Ready



Wanted: Writers & Poets

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