

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

Kristen Tracy is a poet from San Francisco who here captures a moment at a zoo. It's the falling rain, don't you think, that makes the experience of observing the animals seem so perfectly truthful and vivid?

Rain at the Zoo

A giraffe presented its head to me, tilting it sideways, reaching out its long gray tongue.

I gave it my wheat cracker while small drops of rain pounded us both. Lightning cracked open the sky. Zebras zipped across the field.

It was springtime in Michigan. I watched the giraffe shuffle itself backwards, toward

the herd, its bone- and rust-colored fur beading with water. The entire mix of animals stood

away from the trees. A lone emu shook its round body hard and squawked. It ran

along the fence line, jerking open its wings.

Perhaps it was trying to

shake away the burden of water or indulging an urge to fly. I can't know.

I have no idea what about their lives these animals

love or abhor. They are captured or born here for us,

and we come. It's true. This is my favorite field.

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) Kristen Tracy,

whose most recent teen novel is "Crimes of the Sarahs," Simon & Schuster, 2008. Poem reprinted from AGNI online, 9/2007, by permission of Kristen Tracy.

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 23, 1869: The author of "Spoon River Anthology," Edgar Lee Masters, was born in Kansas, at Garnett.

August 24, 1456: The Gutenberg Bible was printed in Mainz, Germany. Under the pen name Currer Bell, Charlotte Bronte sent "Jane Eyre" to the publishing house of Smith, Elder & Company.

August 25, 1836: The author of "The Luck of Roaring Camp and Other Sketches," Bret Harte was born at Albany, New York. He will later leave school at age 13 to travel to California, and then back to New York to pursue a writing career.

August 26, 1880: In Rome, Italy, to Polish parents, French writer and man of letters Guillaume Apollinaire is born.

August 27, 1930: Sara Powell Haardt, married the historian H. L. Mencken, after meeting him at a lecture he was giving on "How to Catch a Husband."

August 27, 1938: At a reading by Archibald MacLeish, a disturbed Robert Frost disrupts the event by setting afire a stack of papers.

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
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An Exercise In Coherence

Many times in a poem or a story we are moving along and do not stay on the central theme of what where we wanted to go with a story. This happens in all formats if the writer is not careful. There are ways to help you. You can simply look at each break, paragraph or chapter or stanza, and ascertain if you are staying on point. Some people do not like to outline a work, but it is a way to start out, and it will help you to reach your goal, the expression of the major theme. A special way to do this is to create a flowchart, much like computer programmers do. You may also find that a technique from the film industry helps. That is, you might take your theme and characters, and do a series of "storyboards", using drawings or stick figures in each cartoon to express the major action or movement. Try all of these out. They might help you to gain a coherence to your total expression. Good writing!

Words You Can Use With Abandon:

Uggr: This noun for fear or dread might be best used in a poetry journal in Dublin.

Vatic: This adjective is supposed to denote a thing pertaining to prophets or poets.

Wachet: An adjective that describes things that are light blue.

Antiverbality: Here is a noun that describes an attitude of animosity for using speech to communicate, perhaps entertained by those who use other methods of communication.



Wanted: Writers & Poets

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thebairdspotlight@att.net

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Chasing Rainbows

After a summer shower, often a rainbow spans the heavens. No beauty can surpass this heavenly splendor.



Remember when the promise was: "Go to the end of the rainbow; there you will find a pot of gold."

Chasing rainbows after the shower was delightful, though no treasure was ever found. The thrill of crossing the meadows where the clover was wet with raindrops; the buttercups were blooming. The butterflies were feasting on the damp wild flowers; wehre a small cottontail bunny gathered up a fresh treat of sparkling grasses; and a song bird in a distant oak tree was heard trilling his love song.

Now today I realize I found a treasure of beauty that cannot be forgotten. Years have passed. The pot of gold is no longer important; but the search for the end of the rainbow is a memory that never fades.

- Johnny Alma Anderson
Midland, Texas

My Angel

On a cold winter morning
Snow drifting slowly to the ground.
You look out your frost covered window
To see the icicles hanging all around.
A little mother kneels beside her bed
A tear stained pillow is all that needs to be said.

For God called His little angel home
To join other angels gathered around His throne.

She prayed for guidance from above
That in this home there may be love.
An empty space that cannot be filled
A broken heart that needs to be healed.

She dreams of that glorious day
When the Lord will call His children away.
There will be no more sorrow, trouble or tears
And His love will be with us throughout the years.

By Bob Harbin



The pen is mightier than the sword.

Writers And Poets!

The Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers announce that the Baird Star will be publishing submitted poetry and short stories. We will also be publishing a literary journal in the near future.

1. We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
2. There will be no payment, but you will get your works before the general public. We will be sending sample copies to other organizations, the literary world and libraries for their archives and your notoriety.
3. Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
4. Each submission should be typewritten, single spaced, with author's name and contact information in the top right hand corner. You must include a SASE for the return of the submission.
5. Please address all submissions to:

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