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CALLAHAN COUNTY

STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

American Life In Poetry

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

Perhaps you made paper leaves when you were in grade school. I did. But are our memories as richly detailed as these by Washington, D.C. poet, Judith Harris?

Gathering Leaves in Grade School

They were smooth ovals, and some the shade of potatoes--

some had been moth-eaten

or spotted, the maples were starched, and crackled like campfire.

We put them under tracing paper

and rubbed our crayons over them, X-raying

the spread of their bones and black, veined catacombs.

We colored them green and brown

and orange, and cut them out along the edges,

labeling them deciduous or evergreen.

All day, in the stuffy air of the classroom, with its cockeyed globe,

and nautical maps of ocean floors,

I watched those leaves lost in their own worlds flap on the pins of the bulletin boards:

without branches or roots,

or even a sky to hold on to.

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) 2007 by Judith Harris, whose most recent collection of poems is "The Bad Secret," Louisiana State University Press, 2006. Reprinted from "The Literary Review," Fall 2008, by permission of Judith Harris. 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

October 3, 1849: Dying days later, Edgar Allen Poe was kept drunk by politicians who designed him to vote several times at the polls during Baltimore elections.

October 4, 1535: In Zurich, the first complete translation in English of the Bible was printed.

October 4, 1910: For \$52.50, Sinclair Lewis sold nine plot outlines to Jack London.

October 7, 1571: In the Battle of Lepanto, Miguel de Cervantes was wounded in the chest two times and in the left hand.

October 8, 1924: Virginia Woolfe finished writing "Mrs. Dalloway." "The Waves" was published seven years later on the same date.

LOVE

Brightly beams our Fathers mercy
As He sends His love to us.
Like a shepherd's lost his sheep
In this sinful, troubled world.
Oh little child of sorrow and trouble
Cast your eyes to the Heavenly Sky.
You can see an artists masterpiece
As He paints the stars on high.
So when the load gets too heavy
And you never seem to get to the end.
Remember that Someone still loves you
In our Jesus we still have a friend.
So when the final trumpets are sounded
And the dead in Christ shall rise.
Will you join in the celebration
Or forever be cast aside?
By Bob Harbin

Sonnet

When to the Sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste:

Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow,
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,
And weep afresh love's long-since-cancell'd woe,
And moan th' expense of many a vanish'd sight:
Then can I grieve at grievances forgone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er

The sad account of fore-bemoaned moan,
Which I new pay as if not paid before.

But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,

All losses are restored and sorrows end.

- William Shakespeare 1564-1616

Words To Use:
Inhume: To bury in the ground.

Jigget: A fidget motion, or a type of juggle.

Levin: Here is a word for lightning, not often used around Pecos, Texas.

Oneric: An adjective to describe a state of dreaming.

2008 National Book Festival

The National Book Festival is taking place this week in Washington, D.C., hosted by Mrs. Laura Bush and sponsored by the Library of Congress. Approximately 120,000

people were expected to attend the various events. Special attractions were to be the Pavilion of the States and the multilingual World Digital Library.



Everything's ducky

Photo by Patrick Ready

Callahan County Star

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\$18.00 In County

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The pen is mightier than the sword.

Submissions sought

to:

Star

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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

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WANTED: Poetry and/or short stories for this page each week.

Mail to: Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448 or e-mail to thebairdspotlight@att.net



Carol Walt (L) is the author of Assisted Living and Aloha, Texas. In her own words, she lives "somewhere between Rising Star and Cross Plains" and was one of the speakers at Wednesday's Brown Bag Program during the West Texas Book & Music Festival. (September 24) Here she is speaking to Abilenian Nancy Jones. She will be participating in the Festival's Hall of Texas Authors at the Abilene Civic Center on Saturday, September 27th.

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:

Literary Editor

Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers

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