

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

Stuart Kestenbaum, the author of this week's poem, lost his brother Howard in the destruction of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. We thought it appropriate to commemorate the events of September 11, 2001, by sharing this poem. The poet is the director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts on Deer Isle, Maine.

### Prayer for the Dead

The light snow started late last night and continued all night long while I slept and could hear it occasionally enter my sleep, where I dreamed my brother was alive again and possessing the beauty of youth, aware that he would be leaving again shortly and that is the lesson of the snow falling and of the seeds of death that are in everything that is born: we are here for a moment of a story that is longer than all of us and few of us remember, the wind is

blowing out of someplace we don't know, and each moment contains rhythms within rhythms, and if you discover some old piece of your own writing, or an old photograph, you may not remember that it was you and even if it was once you, it's not you now, not this moment that the synapses fire and your hands move to cover your face in a gesture of grief and remembrance. 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 Stuart Kestenbaum. Reprinted from "Prayers & Run-on Sentences," Deerbook Editions, 2007, by permission of Stuart Kestenbaum. 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.



Evanell Davis Photo by Patrick Ready

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**P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448**

## Literary Calendar

September 20, 1878: The writer Upton Sinclair was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He will later receive the Pulitzer Prize for "Dragon's Tooth" in 1942.

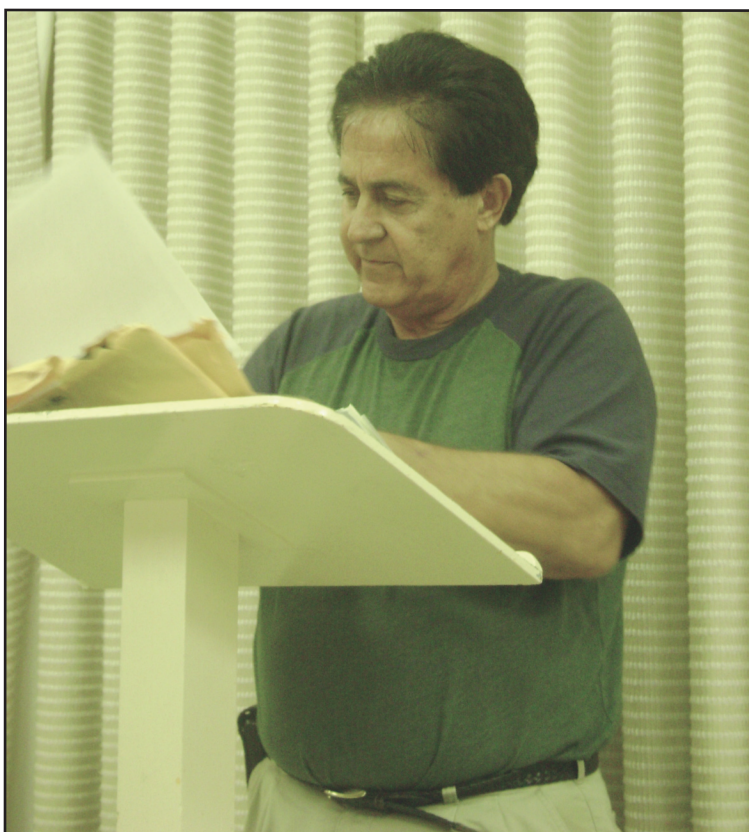
September 21, 19. B. C. Virgil died, after having removed in his last will a request to burn the "Aeneid" at his death.

September 21, 1915: Ezra Pound started his poem of undesigned length which he will write in the next four decades. It will be known as the "Cantos." he called it a "cryselephantine."

September 22, 1598: After killing another actor in a duel, Ben Johnson was indicted for manslaughter.

September 22, 1926: In a time when authors photographs of authors weren't common, James Joyce and Thomas Wolfe took the same tour bus to visit the battlefield at Waterloo. It is said that they did not meet.

September 23, 1800: Compiler of the Eclectic Readers, educator William H. McGuffey was born at Claysville, Pennsylvania.



Dr. Duane Hale Photo by Patrick Ready

### Words to use:

**Psittaceously:** An adjective meaning "like a parrot." It was not used in the novel, "Treasure Island," by Robert Louis Stevenson.

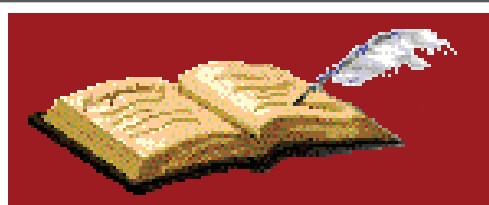
**Quincunx:** A noun referring to the placing of five things, where one is at the center and the other four are at the corners, like the number five on a die.

**Reave:** This verb is used to mean to plunder, to pillage or to loot.

**Selenian:** This adjective refers to something that is like the moon, not necessarily a blue moon, or a half moon, or a harvest moon.



## Wanted: Writers & Poets



The pen is mightier than the sword.

Submissions sought to: **Star P.O. Box 29 Eastland, TX 76448**  
 email: [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto: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](mailto:leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)**

**Abilene Writers Guild News**  
 Submissions for the 2008 contests will be accepted through October 1, 2008.  
 For more information about the contests and membership:  
<http://abilenewritersguild.org/#notify>  
[AWG@abilenewritersguild.org](mailto:AWG@abilenewritersguild.org)

**West Texas Book and Musical Festival September 22-27, 2008**  
 This event runs through the week and begins with a Poetry Fest on Monday at the downtown library. Other events through out the week will be at the Abilene Civic Center.  
 For more information: [www.abilenetx.com/apl](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl)  
[janis.test@abilenetx.com](mailto:janis.test@abilenetx.com) or 325-676-6017

## 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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