

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

This column has had the privilege of publishing a number of poems by young people, but this is the first we've published by a young person who is also a political refugee.

The poet, Zozan Hawez, is from Iraq, and goes to Foster High School in Tukwila, Washington. Seattle Arts & Lectures sponsors a Writers in the Schools program, and Zozan's poem was encouraged by that initiative.

Self-Portrait

Born in a safe family
But a dangerous area,
Iraq,

I heard guns at a young age, so young

They made a decision to raise us safe

So packed our things
And went far away.

Now, in the city of rain,
I try to forget my past,
But memories never fade.

This is my life,
It happened for a reason,
I happened for a reason.

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 Seattle Arts & Lectures. Reprinted from "We Will Carry Ourselves As Long As We Gaze Into The Sun," Seattle Arts & Lectures, 2007, by permission of Zozan Hawez and the publisher. Introduction copyright (c) 2009 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.

Words You Can Use:

Insipience: Here is a word for stupidity, that might sound nicer to use.

Joule: This word is a unit of work, or the energy to do work, that is equivalent to ten million ergs. It is the energy used by one watt in one second of time.

Kerygmatic: This word refers to preaching most especially of gospel.

Labret: A lip ornament this is, often referred to what savages wear. It is not known if modern urbanites who have lip rings use this word regularly.

Megascop: This noun is used for a magic lantern that magnifies things.

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
P. O. Box 29
Eastland, TX 76448
email: thebairdspotlight@att.net
Fax: 254-629-2092

Tiny Snowflake



I'm a tiny snowflake falling fast
I'd better hurry for I won't last
And I heard as down I hurled
That there's more like me in all this world.

But i'm unsure that I understand
Can this be true with absence of plan
Perhaps a flutter, perhaps a spin
Would well profit me but then again...

I'm so unlearned about a quick jerk
Or such other things that may not work
How am I to know the perfect way
That will fashion me and make my day.

So that none other will look like me
Thereby assuring my pedigree
How can I try to be so unlike
Billions of others out of my sight.

Perhaps its just a small lack of trust
In forces that have rule over us
Everything will sure turn out better
If we snowflakes don stick together.

Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas

Writing Of New Things

We have a new year for a new world now, in 2009. It would be a good time to look at writing new things. If you haven't worked on some types of writing, look at attempting them. They could lead to a new expertise for you, or they could enhance what you already do, by generating new insight. For instance, if you want to write poetry, you might start by writing a short essay or paragraph on the subject of interest. Write everything you can on a particular topic, say "the beauty of a broken rock you found on the roadside." If you get several thoughts down, then you have the starting point for the poetry. Then, look at all the possible genres you can attempt: song, short story, novel, poetry and essay. Perhaps it would be fun, and helpful, to take the subject matter and treat it in all the ways above. Some results you might not be so happy with, but the others might work out well, just because you tried the different approach.

- Patrick Ready

Traveling On

As we travel down life's highways
The joy and beauty we miss each day.
May be in the face of a stranger
As we hurry on our way.
So let's not forget our brother
In all the work we do.

The Lord gave us a commandment
To love one another as I have loved you.
So as we go on down life's roads
Let's stop and rest for a while.
And see the flowers blooming brightly
As if brought on by the Master's smile.
And when this life is over
And the dead in Christ shall rise.
Can we say we helped our brother
Or did we just pass Him by?

~By Bob Harbin



The pen is mightier than the sword.

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.

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

Rhymes to Use

Metamorphose

Twinkle-toes

Suppose

Nose

Rose

New Poetry Contest Open

A \$1,000 Grand Prize is being offered in a new poetry contest sponsored by Friendly Poets Guild. There are 50 prizes in all, totaling \$4,500.

To enter, send one poem of 21 lines or less to: **Free Poetry Contest, 10499 Mills Tower Dr., Suite 35, Rancho Cordova, California 95670.** Or enter online @www.friendlypoets.com. The deadline is Jan. 21, 2009. If you wish a winner's list please enclose a stamped return envelope.

"This is our first big contest of the new year," says Contest Director Joseph Mellon, "We expect to discover exciting new poets!"

For more information contact: Joseph Mellon, Contest Director call toll free 1-888-228-3820.

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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Wanted: Writers & Poets

Any and all ages



Famous Poetry Quotes

"Even when poetry has a meaning, as it usually has, it may be inadvisable to draw it out.... Perfect understanding will sometimes almost extinguish pleasure." ~ A.E. Housman

"The role of a writer is not to say what we all can say, but what we are unable to say." ~ Anaïs Nin