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CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT

WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

Poetry Foundation Launches Poetry Tour of Washington, DC

CHICAGO—The Poetry Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the Washington, DC, Poetry Tour. The interactive tour, freely available at www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrytour, reveals our nation's capital through the eyes of its great poets, including Walt Whitman, Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Elizabeth Bishop, among many others. From the hallowed halls of the federal buildings to neighborhood side streets, the tour features poems written in and about DC, as well as original photographs by poet Thomas Sayers Ellis.

Narrator and inaugural poet Elizabeth Alexander leads the tour from the stacks of the Library of Congress to Civil War battlefields to the Capitol steps, from the National Zoo to the U Street Corridor to the Busboys & Poets Café. Archival recordings from canonical poets including Langston Hughes, Robert Hayden, Sterling Brown, Randall Jarrell, and Ezra Pound chronicle DC's rich literary history, while contemporary poets such as Linda Pastan, Quique Avilés, Yusef Komunyakaa, Naomi Ayala, A.B. Spellman, and Jane Shore share their experiences, through both poetry and commentary, of national monuments and monumental poets alike.

The DC Poetry Tour presents the development of the capital's poetry scene over the last century and a half, from its interplay with musicians Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, and Ben Webster, to the creation of the office of poet laureate, to the legendary literary salons hosted by Georgia Douglas Johnson, to the multifaceted work of numerous poet-activist groups. Local poets and scholars—including E. Ethelbert Miller, director of the Afro-American Studies Resource Center at Howard University; David Gewanter of Georgetown University; and Kim Roberts, editor of *Beltway* magazine—provide the framework for understanding the moments and movements that have shaped DC's literary culture.

Listeners to the tour, which includes 34 stops throughout the National Mall and Northwest DC, learn that Washington is not only our government's headquarters but an important American literary capital as well. Historical images and artifacts provide a glimpse into DC's storied past, while photographs by poet Thomas Sayers Ellis, who was born and raised in Washington, give viewers an inside look at DC's neighborhoods and people. Poem text is presented along with original audio recordings and archival images, as listeners step into the national arenas that continue to inspire poets today.

"Tracing the history of American poetry against the culture and geography of our national capital helps readers develop a better sense of our shared literary heritage," notes Anne Halsey, media director of the Poetry Foundation. "Poetry lovers visiting Washington can download free audio tours and maps to take guided poetry walking tours of the National Mall or Northwest DC—but you don't have to be in DC to explore the city's literary history. The full multimedia tour can also be experienced virtually at poetryfoundation.org/poetrytour."

Beginning at the Library of Congress—the home of the first Poetry Consultant, Archibald MacLeish—the tour discusses the contributions of such heralded poets as Robert Lowell, Robert Frost, and William Carlos Williams. MacLeish declares, "A poem should not mean / But be." Later, Williams fashions a modernist American poetry: "Never reverse a phrase that is your language as you speak it . . . Then you've started to create a culture in your place as you are."

Contemporary poets from throughout the Beltway also present poems. Poets such as Brian Gilmore, who relates his personal interest in Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Myra Sklarew, who discusses May Miller, recognize the influence of their predecessors, reflecting upon them as President John F. Kennedy did when he spoke of Robert Frost: "Our national strength matters; but the spirit which informs and controls our strength matters just as much. This was the special significance of Robert Frost."

The Washington, DC, Poetry Tour, an original production of the Poetry Foundation created in collaboration with Tierra Innovation, was written and produced by Curtis Fox. Special collaborators on the project include Grace Cavalieri, Katie Davis, Patricia Gray, E. Ethelbert Miller, and *Beltway* magazine editor Kim Roberts.

For more information, go to <http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrytour>

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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.

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of *Poetry* magazine and one of the largest literary organizations in the world, exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience. The Poetry Foundation seeks to be a leader in shaping a receptive climate for poetry by developing new audiences, creating new avenues for delivery, and encouraging new kinds of poetry through innovative literary prizes and programs. For more information, please visit poetryfoundation.org.

Thanksgiving

**With thankful hearts we come to Thee
Counting our blessings with humility
You give us blessings more and more
As you gave blessings to those before**

**The time has come for us to share
With thankful hearts Your love and care
And give to others from what we have
So they may know that love can save**

**We share our blessings day by day
Helping others along life's way
So they may know the God of love
Who sends His blessings from above.
Ron Vaughn
11-1-09**

Thanksgiving

- Thankful - Proud of favor and blessings grand
- Humble - Glad to be found lowly and meek
- American - Our home of the free, our homeland
- Native - Belonging and natural are we.
- Kindred - Related to all men of Earth
- Special - Able to see as they see us
- Gracious - Unboasting of grace, pride or worth
- Image - So concerned how others view us.
- Valid - Well rounded, effective and sound
- Immune - Bold and free from all harm and hurt
- National - We are fellow citizens Found
- Gallant - Brave of spirit and grand of birth.

- Weldon L. Smith
Eastland, Texas

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

Thankful For Language

Language is a beautiful thing, and we should perhaps stop and meditate on the beauty of speech, and the wonderful gift, to be able to communicate to each other with language. It is a thing to be thankful for, that with language and voice you can create music. You can name things. Definition and description are two intellectual uses of language that we do without well. Imagine trying to define Aunt Gertrude, if you only had stick and sand pictures to use. Look at how hard it would be to describe the red flower, the green stem and the prickly thorns of the rose. Movement is very difficult to communicate without words. What if you needed to demonstrate the action of a moving jackrabbit, and the only tool you had, was to mimic it with your own movements? We might have a more humorous world, but not a better one. - Patrick Ready

Dear Fellow Poetry Lovers,

Let us remember that in the end we go to poetry for one reason, so that we might more fully inhabit our lives and the world in which we live them, and that if we more fully inhabit these things, we might be less apt to destroy both.

—Christian Wiman, Editor, *Poetry*

As we wrap up an eventful year and head into the holidays, the Poetry Foundation would like to invite you to give yourself (and us!) a gift—join us, and a whole world of poetry, on our **Facebook page** (and on **Twitter!**).

Join a community of fellow poetry lovers, and get blog posts, poems, and articles from poetryfoundation.org delivered right to your news feed. You can:

- Take an **abstract walk** with Poet Laureate Kay Ryan
- Learn **how Auden liked his martini**
- Determine just how similar poetry critiquing is to the process of elimination on **Project Runway**
- Weigh in on whether **poetry can reconnect the individual and society**, as A.F. Moritz contends
- On top of all that, fans keep abreast of Poetry Foundation events and announcements including:
 - Helen Vendler's recent lecture at the Art Institute
 - C.D. Wright's reading on Poetry Day
 - The launch of the **DC Poetry Tour**
 - The latest poet to be featured on the **NewsHour**
 - The winner of the **Poetry Film Prize**
 - The launch of the new **Poetry Learning Lab**

Fans get the scoop on **seasonal poems** and entertain themselves with videos from **Poetry Everywhere**, as well as with Melissa Friedling's ongoing quest to find out just "What Is Poetry?"—as friends like **Joe** and **Tomas** respond.

Become a fan now, and don't miss out on what's to come:

- The announcement of our spring **Events** schedule
 - The latest **poetry news**
 - Spotlighted posts from our blog, **Harriet**
- Joining Poetry Foundation & *Poetry* magazine on **Facebook** and **Twitter** allows you to be an active part of today's poetry conversation. (And eavesdropping on that conversation can be equally fun.)

You can also **give a subscription to Poetry magazine for free** this holiday with the purchase of one subscription. Give friends and family something to talk about this season: poetry! We look forward to connecting with you on Facebook!

—Poetry Foundation



Happy Thanksgiving