

# CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT

## WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

### Fernando Perez Talks Poetry

Major League Baseball player reflects on the role of poetry in his life

CHICAGO — The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, is pleased to announce that Tampa Bay Rays outfielder Fernando Perez is featured in the September issue of Poetry magazine. As a contributor to Poetry, Perez joins the varied ranks of non-poets—including singer Neko Case, actor Alfred Molina, psychiatry professor Kay Redfield Jamison, and Vanity Fair columnist Christopher Hitchens—who have recently written for the magazine about the place of poetry in their lives.

Perez is a graduate of Columbia University in New York City, where he received a degree in American studies and completed the creative writing program. He joined the Tampa Bay Rays in 2008 and was one of six Ivy Leaguers to be appointed to the roster of Major League Baseball teams in the 2009 season. A longtime reader of contemporary poetry, Perez has named Robert Creeley and John Ashbery among his favorite poets.

Perez says he turns to poetry when he's "after displacement, contrast" from the game of baseball. "The thick wilderness," he continues, "of, say, late Ashbery can wrangle with the narrowness of competition."

Created with the belief that not only should poetry have a wider audience, but the range of people writing about poetry should be diverse, Poetry's occasional special feature The View from Here this month includes short essays from Brenda Starr writer Mary Schmich and writer William T. Vollmann. Vollmann, like Perez, reminds readers of poetry's role in opening minds.

With their distinct backgrounds, contributors to this month's issue of Poetry also connect to poetry in individual ways. They may see poetry as an aid in professional life, as chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Dennis Jacobs states: "My long interest in poetry has yielded a respect for the language that people should employ when they undertake to speak the law." Or they may regard it, as music and comic book critic Douglas Wolk says, "as a sort of chisel to break my brain open." Alternatively, poetry can be greeted as a departure from the daily grind.

Poetry's September issue also includes new poems by Samuel Menashe, Belle Randall, Don Paterson, Lucia Perillo, Atsuro Riley, Desirée Alvarez, Sandra McPherson, Spencer Reece, Malachi Black, and Dan Beachy-Quick, as well as prose and criticism by Ange Mlinko and Michael Hofmann.

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About Poetry Magazine

Founded in Chicago by Harriet Monroe in 1912, Poetry is the oldest monthly devoted to verse in the English-speaking world. Harriet Monroe's "Open Door" policy, set forth in volume 1 of the magazine, remains the most succinct statement of Poetry's mission: to print the best poetry written today, in whatever style, genre, or approach. The magazine established its reputation early by publishing the first important poems of T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Marianne Moore, Wallace Stevens, H.D., William Carlos Williams, Carl Sandburg, and other now-classic authors. In succeeding decades it has presented—often for the first time—works by virtually every significant poet of the 20th century.

### 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**

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.**

### My Love Is Dead

**It was the Autumn of the year  
And Autumn brought our time to wed  
Slow Autumn days that brought her  
here  
Left dreary days so long ahead.**

**Listen as all the rites are read  
Hear all the funeral songs be sung  
An anthem for my love is dead  
Forever dead, yet oh so young.**

**So broken is our spitrirts seal  
Lost to me and life forever  
The soft bells toll their pensive peal  
Peeling out our final sever.**

**I hear the moans, I see the tears  
ON all the cheeks of every face  
Her life has flown from all our years  
A dirge proclaims the awful waste.**

- *Weldon L. Smith*  
*Eastland, Texas*

### Special Words:

**Dilogy:** This dilly of a word refers to when you might create ambiguity on purpose, like when you talk about a word that is not used very often.

**Exsuccous:** When a plant is dry and has no sap, you can describe it with this adjective. Dead wood is exsuccous.

**Glabrous:** What a wonderful word to use as an adjective for something that has surfaces that are smooth. A river stone is such a thing.

**Hispid:** Plants with tiny thorns or bristles.

**Incanous:** Something that has small white hairs is described by this word. Perhaps some plants are hispid and incanous.

### Rhymes To Use:

Gentian

Incompehension

Tension

Intervention

Pretention

Zephyr

Heifer

Deafer

Feoffor

### American Life in Poetry Column 233

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

Diane Glancy is one of our country's Native American poets, and I recently judged her latest book, *Asylum in the Grasslands*, the winner of a regional competition. Here is a good example of her clear and steady writing.

### Indian Summer

There's a farm auction up the road.  
Wind has its bid in for the leaves.  
Already bugs flurry the headlights  
between cornfields at night.  
If this world were permanent,  
I could dance full as the squaw dress  
on the clothesline.  
I would not see winter  
in the square of white yard-light on the wall.  
But something tugs at me.  
The world is at a loss and I am part of it  
migrating daily.  
Everything is up for grabs  
like a box of farm tools broken open.  
I hear the spirits often in the garden  
and along the shore of corn.  
I know this place is not mine.  
I hear them up the road again.  
This world is a horizon, an open sea.  
Behind the house, the white iceberg of the barn.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Copyright ©2007 by Diane Glancy, whose novel *The Reason For Crows*, is forthcoming from State University of New York Press, 2009. Poem reprinted from *Asylum in the Grasslands*, University of Arizona Press, 2007, by permission of Diane Glancy. Introduction copyright ©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.

Poetry, Granta, and STOP SMILING present

### A Celebration of Literary Chicago

CHICAGO — The Poetry Foundation announces that Chicago literary institutions Poetry and STOP SMILING will join with UK-based journal Granta to celebrate the launch of Granta's special Chicago-themed fall issue. The event will feature readings by contributors to both Poetry and Granta and will debut previously unpublished poems by native Chicagoan James Schuyler, with Granta editor John Freeman offering an introduction. David Trinidad, a friend of Schuyler's, will speak briefly about the poet's life and work and read a selection of his poems forthcoming in Poetry and Granta. Chicago poets Reginald Gibbons, Anne Winters, and Diego Báez will also read. A reception follows.

What: A Celebration of Literary Chicago: featuring Reginald Gibbons, Anne Winters, and Diego Báez, with David Trinidad reading previously unpublished work by James Schuyler. A reception follows the reading.

When: Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Where: Stop Smiling Storefront, 1371 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

Admission is free and open to the public.

Diego Báez received a bachelor's degree in English from Illinois Wesleyan University and is currently pursuing his MFA at Rutgers University–Newark. His poetry and criticism appear in *Poemeleon*, *Growler*, *The Ampersand Review*, and *The Little White Poetry Journal*.

Reginald Gibbons's most recent book of poems is *Creatures of a Day* (2008), a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award. His new translations of Sophocles, *Selected Poems: Odes and Fragments* (2008), won the Soeurette Diehl Fraser translation award from the Texas Institute of Letters. His new book, *Slow Trains Overhead: Chicago Poems and Stories*, will be published in 2010. Gibbons teaches at Northwestern University.

James Schuyler was a preeminent figure in the celebrated New York School of poets. After World War II he made his way to Italy, where he served for a time as W.H. Auden's secretary. His books include three novels, *A Nest of Ninnies* (written with John Ashbery), *Alfred and Guinevere*, and *What's For Dinner*, as well as numerous volumes of poetry.

David Trinidad received his MFA from Brooklyn College and has taught at Rutgers University, the New School, and Princeton University. His collection *Plasticville* (2000) was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize of the Academy of American Poets. Trinidad teaches at Columbia College Chicago, where he co-founded the literary journal *Court Green*.

Anne Winters is on the faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her books include *The Displaced of Capital*; *The Key to the City*, which was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *Salamander: Selected Poetry of Robert Marteau*, winner of Poetry's Jacob Glatstein Translation Award. Her published poems and essays appear in the *New Republic*, the *New Yorker*, *Paris Review*, *Poetry*, and *Yale Review*, as well as journals in France, Canada, and Italy.