

PATHOS · HUMOR · HISTORY · CREATIVE NON-FICTION

# CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR SPOTLIGHT WRITERS SHOWCASE

(All submitters retain ownership)

## American Life in Poetry

Column 262

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

When we hear news of a flood, that news is mostly about the living, about the survivors. But at the edges of floods are the dead, too. Here Michael Chitwood, of North Carolina, looks at what's floating out there on the margins.

### The Coffins

Two days into the flood they appear, moored against a roof eave or bobbing caught in the crowns of drowned trees. Like fancy life boats from an adventurer's flag ship, brass plating and grips, walnut sheen, scroll work, they slip through the understory on this brief, bad river. What have they discovered and come back to account? Or is this the beginning of the marvelous voyage and they plan never to return?

American Life in Poetry is made possible by [The Poetry Foundation](#), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2000 by Michael Chitwood, whose most recent book of poems is *Spill*, Tupelo Press, 2007. Poem reprinted from *Tar River Poetry*, Vol. 48, no. 1, Fall, 2008, by permission of Michael Chitwood and the publisher. 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.

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#### Rhymes You Can Use:

- Cuniform
- Warm
- Misinform
- Misform
- Storm
- Swarm
- Deform

**Have a Happy Easter**

## 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.

- We ask for first-time publishing rights. All other rights will remain with the author.
- 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.
- Short stories should be brief. Poetry should be no longer than 24 lines.
- 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.
- Please address all submissions to:

**Literary Editor**  
Eastland/Callahan County Newspapers  
P. O. Box 29  
Eastland, TX 76448  
email: [thebairdspotlight@att.net](mailto:thebairdspotlight@att.net)  
Fax: 254-629-2092

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.**

## Wisdom's Way

When man walks in wisdom's way  
Striving for fame and glory  
He'll find the battles every day  
Bringing pause bringing worry.

Cheers come which tickle the ears  
Persuading that all is well  
Yet inside he faintly hears  
The faint peeling of a bell.

Watch out at every turning  
For that which might bring regret  
Fight then with valor burning  
Along paths where fear besets.

Walk with your knightly valor  
Emblazon that dewy veil  
Smell not that sensuous flower  
Not to try is but to fail.

- Weldon L. Smith  
Eastland, Texas

## Some Called Him A Man



He walked on water, He calmed the winds  
Turned water to wine, forgave man's sins  
He fed the multitudes with a few fish and a couple loaves of bread  
As He died on the cross "Forgive them Father" is what He said  
He came to this world from a virgin mother  
As the Son of God, there will never be another  
He spread His love throughout the land  
Healed the sick with the touch of His hand  
Some called Him a Savior, other called Him a man  
Forgiveness of sin was His master plan  
Faith in Him will get you eternal life in the sky  
In a place called Heaven, where you never have to die  
What a blessed day when in calls me home  
To stand before Him and His Golden Throne  
They'll be no more sorrow, no counting' the years  
When my Lord and Savior dries my tears.  
By Robert Greenier  
Ft. Stockton, Texas

### Quotations:

- "For more than forty years I have been speaking prose without knowing it." - Moliere, 1622-1673
  - "The poor would never be able to live at all if it weren't for the poor." - George Moore, 1852-1933
  - "Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools, because they have to say something." - Plato, 427-347 B. C.
- Quotations from *The Dictionary of Humorous Quotations*, Ed. Evan Esar, Doubleday & Co. New York, 1949

**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)**

## Public Television Brings Poetry Into Homes Nationwide With Poetry Everywhere, a Collection of 32 Short Poetry Films

New iPhone app brings multimedia poetry project to a new platform

CHICAGO — This April, Poetry Everywhere with Garrison Keillor ([www.poetryfoundation.org/poetryeverywhere](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetryeverywhere) and [www.pbs.org/poetry](http://www.pbs.org/poetry)) returns to public television and the Web with new poems and unique voices.

Produced by WGBH Boston and David Grubin Productions, in association with the Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine, the project offers 32 short poetry films during unannounced moments in the public television broadcast schedule. Through television and the Internet, viewers are granted an exclusive, front-row seat to the world's greatest poetry festival.

The poetry films are freely available to all local public television stations and interweave with regular programming, airing unexpectedly. The Poetry Everywhere series employs a variety of dynamic production approaches, including poets reading their own work to the camera, animated interpretations of much-loved poems, and celebrities reading favorite poems. The project aims to reach a broad audience with the power of great poetry, and to increase poetry's presence on television and the Web.

New this season is the Poetry Everywhere iPhone application. The app continues to serve the series' objectives by expanding the audience for the art form and introducing a new way of experiencing great poetry. Through an easy-to-navigate media player, the app will offer selected videos from the project and provide moments of excitement and even revelation throughout the day.

According to WGBH executive producer Brigid Sullivan, "With Poetry Everywhere, our goal is to provide a new destination for poetry. It's a wonderful gift if we can give television viewers a moment to slow down and think about a poem."

David Grubin, the producer of the series, has always believed that "if poems became a part of our media landscape, as easily available as an e-mail or a text message or a television program, we would turn to them more often, and find the solace and wisdom, beauty, and delight for which we long." Building on Poetry Everywhere's existing collection of 24 short poetry films, the project's third year adds eight new poets reading their own works: Marilyn Chin, "The Floral Apron"; Toi Derricotte, "Blackbottom"; Martin Espada, "Who Burns for the Perfection of Paper"; Seamus Heaney, "Blackberry Picking"; Maxine Kumin, "After Love"; W.S. Merwin, "Yesterday"; C.D. Wright, "Lake Echo, Dear"; and Daisy Zamora, "Mother's Day."

Anne Halsey, media director at the Poetry Foundation, notes, "One of the Poetry Foundation's intentions is to encourage new readers of poetry by finding new avenues of delivering poetry to people. Through this emerging platform, we hope to reach a new audience with the works of some of our greatest living poets."

Selections from Poetry Everywhere are also offered on iTunes U and YouTube for free downloading. The video content can be shared among individuals, colleges, educators, book groups, and poetry clubs.

Garrison Keillor returns to Poetry Everywhere as series narrator. Keillor's enthusiasm for poetry is well documented, both as a regular feature on his public radio programs, *A Prairie Home Companion* and *The Writer's Almanac*, and in his poetry anthologies, *Good Poems and Good Poems for Hard Times*. Keillor's introductions to each of the poems and poets provide audiences with wonderful insights into each poet's perspective.

Poetry Everywhere is a co-production of WGBH and David Grubin Productions, in association with the Poetry Foundation. David Grubin is the producer. WGBH's Brigid Sullivan is executive producer. The poetry films of Philip Levine, Charles Simic, and Seamus Heaney were created by Leita Luchetti for the WGBH series Poetry Breaks. The series is distributed nationally by Boston-based American Public Television (APT).

Visitors to Poetry Everywhere on the Poetry Foundation's website, [www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org), will find the text of the featured poems as well as biographies and more work by the poets. In addition, selected poems are featured in a special educational collection on

the Poetry Foundation website, which includes video, background essays, strategies for teaching the poems, and sample lesson plans.

The Poetry Everywhere website at [www.pbs.org/poetry](http://www.pbs.org/poetry) and the Poetry Foundation's website also feature a collection of original animated interpretations of contemporary poems created by undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

For a full list of poems included in the Poetry Everywhere series or additional information on the program and partners, please visit [www.poetryfoundation.org/poetryeverywhere](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetryeverywhere).

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About WGBH Boston  
WGBH Boston is America's preeminent public broadcaster, producing such celebrated national PBS series as *Masterpiece*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *Frontline*, *Nova*, *American Experience*, *Arthur*, *Curious George*, and more than a dozen other award-winning primetime, lifestyle, and children's series. Boston's last remaining independent TV station, WGBH produces local TV productions (among them *Greater Boston*, *Basic Black*, and *Maria Hinojosa One-on-One*) that focus on the region's diverse community, while WGBH 89.7 FM is Boston's NPR Arts & Culture station, offering a rich menu of classical, jazz, blues, news programming, and more. WGBH is the leading producer of online content for [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org)—one of the most-visited dot-org sites on the Internet—as well as a major producer for public radio and a pioneer in developing educational multimedia and new technologies that make media accessible for people with disabilities. For its efforts, WGBH has been recognized with hundreds of honors, including Oscars, Emmys, Peabodys, and duPont-Columbia Journalism Awards. Visit WGBH on the Web at [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org).

About David Grubin Productions  
David Grubin Productions has produced over 100 films on subjects ranging from history to art, from poetry to science. David Grubin—producer, director, writer, and cinematographer—has won every major award in his field, including two Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University awards, three George Foster Peabody awards, five prizes from the Writer's Guild, and 10 Emmys. David Grubin Productions has been widely acclaimed for its biographies of American presidents, which have set the standard for television biography; they include LBJ; FDR; TR; The Story of Theodore Roosevelt; Truman; and Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided, all for American Experience on PBS. Other award-winning films include *Napoleon*, *Marie Antoinette*, *The Secret Life of the Brain*, *The Mysterious Human Heart*, *The Jewish Americans*, and *The Trials of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. Grubin's most recent film, *The Buddha*, will premiere on PBS in April 2010.

About American Public Television

American Public Television (APT) has been a leading distributor of high-quality, top-rated programming to America's public television stations since 1961. In 2009, APT distributed 56 of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles. Among its 300 new program titles per year are prominent documentaries, dramatic series, how-to programs, children's series, and classic movies, including *Spain...on the road*, *Again*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Worldfocus*, *Globe Trekker*, *Simply Ming*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *From Cook's Illustrated*, *Lidia's Italy*, *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Doc Martin*, *Rosemary and Thyme*, *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison*, *Liza's at the Palace*, and *John Denver: The Wildlife Concert*. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service. In 2006, APT launched Create™—the TV channel featuring the best of public television's lifestyle programming. For more information about APT's programs and services, visit [www.APTonline.org](http://www.APTonline.org).

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ABOUT THE POETRY FOUNDATION

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](http://poetryfoundation.org).