

## Life In Poetry

# Poet Examines Our Inability To Control Surroundings

BY TED KOOSER  
 U.S. POET LAUREATE

Jane Hirshfield, who lives in the San Francisco Bay area, is one of our country's finest poets, and I have never seen a poem of hers that I didn't admire. Here's a fine one that I see as being about our inability to control the world beyond us.

## THE PROMISE

Stay, I said  
 to the cut flowers.  
 They bowed  
 their heads lower.

Stay, I said to the spider,  
 who fled.

Stay, leaf.  
 It reddened,  
 embarrassed for me and itself.

Stay, I said to my body.  
 It sat as a dog does,  
 obedient for a moment,  
 soon starting to tremble.

Stay, to the earth  
 of riverine valley meadows,  
 of fossiled escarpments,  
 of limestone and sandstone.  
 It looked back  
 with a changing expression, in silence.

Stay, I said to my loves.  
 Each answered,  
 Always.

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Care-A-Lot Learning Center announces the sponsorship of the Child and Adult Food Program at its center located at 1010 Burleigh Street, Yankton.

The same meals will be made available to all enrolled participants at no separate charge.

Free and Reduced price meals are available to enrolled participants whose annual family income is at or below the levels shown on the following annual income scale effective until June 30, 2013. (Listed as Family Size/Eligibility Scale for Free Meals/Eligibility Scale for Reduced Meals):

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## Johnson Staffer To Hold Outreach In Clay Co.

WASHINGTON — Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) has announced that Erik Nelson of his Sioux Falls office will hold an Economic Development Outreach Day in Clay County on Wednesday, July 25. Nelson will visit Vermillion and Wakonda.

"Many South Dakotans are unable to travel to my offices in Rapid City, Aberdeen or Sioux Falls. Outreach Days help me remain in touch with the concerns of South Dakotans," Johnson said. "South Dakotans are my number one priority, and I want to make sure that everyone regardless of where they live has the opportunity to meet personally with my staff."

If Clay County residents would like to make an appointment with Nelson, they may call 1-800-537-0025.

# Shield Your Car From The Sun

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
 King Features Syndicate

## Dear Tom and Ray:

My husband and I recently purchased a hacienda in Tucson, Ariz., where we just arrived for the summer and will be spending all our future summers. At present, my beloved 1986 Buick Skylark, painted in John Deere green, is sitting in a fully exposed driveway with only the shade of a small cactus to protect it from the blazing sun. My German mother, whose advice I always follow, has suggested that we purchase a small gazebo to shade my Buick. My British husband, who has only just arrived in the states this January, has wondered whether a better course of action would be to get a "reflective cover thingy" (his words). His frugality here may be the result of the fact that the Buick broke down on the way to our wedding, and he thinks it is on its last legs. Bottom line: gazebo, "reflective cover thingy" or status quo? -Elizabeth

**TOM:** Or maybe your mother's just trying to get your husband to spend money because she's still miffed about the Treaty of Versailles?

**RAY:** Sun is hard on the car's paint, and on its interior — which can crack from the heat and the sun. If both exterior and interior are in good shape (which, frankly, I doubt, given that it's a 1986 Buick), then the best thing would be to put up some sort of sun-covering structure. That's probably what your mom means by a "gazebo." And a permanent structure is best.



## CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

**TOM:** But you can start with a temporary canopy. It can be as simple as four well-secured poles with a large tarp stretched between them. Or you can buy a temporary carport built just for that purpose. A lot of places sell tentlike structures specifically designed to protect a car from sun and rain — either just on top, or on the sides, too.

**RAY:** My second choice would be two window shades — one for the front windshield, and one for the rear. That will at least protect the interior and dashboard from some of the direct sun. Even better, combine those with tinted windows.

**TOM:** I'm not a big fan of car covers (or "reflective cover thingies") for cars that you drive every day, only because they're a mild pain in the butt to take on and off. And

chances are, after a while, you'll just stop using it.

**RAY:** A permanent carport definitely is the best solution, Elizabeth. But I'd actually recommend that you start with something temporary. Why? Because Tucson's a beautiful place, but after you spend a furnacelike summer there, you might change your mind about the "and all future summers" part. So you may not want to spend the money on a full-scale construction project until you're sure you're going to return year after year, rather than flee and spend your summers in Juneau, Alaska.

**TOM:** But if you do go for the temporary carport, be sure to write your name and address on it, so when it blows away in one of Tucson's summer monsoons, your neighbors can return it. Good luck, you guys.

What's the best way to warm up your engine in the morning? Find out by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at [www.cartalk.com](http://www.cartalk.com).

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# America Turning Into 'No Vacation Nation'

BY NEDRA RHONE

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ATLANTA — This spring, during a weeklong vacation in Florida, Caren West wasn't just wired, she was literally wired ... or wireless. The local public relations whiz spent most of her time in a beach house with laptop open, smartphone ringing and brain firing as she dealt with clients. On the one day she planned a boat trip, she asked for a moment of peace — which she got, until she returned to land and her mobile phone blew up.

"It is to the point where it almost doesn't make sense to go on vacation because not only are you working, but you come back to twice as much work," said West, co-owner of Caren West Public Relations. "I always feel guilty about not working." West isn't alone.

More than half of American workers ended 2011 with an average of 11 days unused vacation time, according to a recent survey by Harris Interactive for Jet-Blue. Financial constraints, fear of losing a job and just having too much work to do are among the reasons workers give for not taking earned time off.

If they do go on vacation, many workers find it hard to disconnect, keeping their smartphones, computers and other gadgets at the ready. Managers seem to do better at taking time off. According to one survey from CareerBuilder.com, 81 percent of managers took or plan to take vacation this year, compared with

65 percent of full-time employees.

While no one disputes the value of a vacation — research supports the need to avoid burnout and reduce stress — finding the time and the money for a getaway, can be a challenge.

West, a self-confessed workaholic, takes about 10 vacation days per year, but not without extensive preparation.

"Determining when I can take a vacation is tough because we are in a field that changes daily," she said. "We try to prepare clients by letting them know we have a team of two and four interns." Her safety net, however, is planning vacations where she knows there is wireless access just in case she needs to put in some office time.

Janet Walsh, president and CEO of Birchtree Global LLC, said the working vacation has become the norm, particularly as the workforce becomes more global.

"I am seeing a huge trend in people taking their work with them on vacation," she said. "The boss isn't going to know if you are sitting on a beach in Cancun emailing a customer in Portugal, and the customer isn't going to care, either." Walsh, who recently moved her business, which provides human resources, tax, legal and financial solutions to companies expanding globally, from Atlanta to Bedford Hills, N.Y., found herself working with a client in India on the Fourth of July.

"They understand it is a holiday, but they are sitting in their offices waiting for us to respond.

If we don't, someone else will," she said.

A leaner workforce and poor staffing also create a challenge for employees looking to take vacation especially at companies with fewer than 200 employees, which includes 80 percent of total U.S. businesses, Walsh said.

On a personal level, many employees simply don't have vacation plans.

"The 'stay-cation' is the new reality," Walsh said.

Other employees may not take vacation because they fear losing their jobs, and some companies promote that thought process, Walsh added.

But for organizations that want to encourage employees to take a break, the remedy is simple: Institute a use-it-or-lose-it policy.

Several years ago, Smyrna, Ga.-based United Acceptance Inc., a financial organization with more than 140 employees, shifted from a policy that allowed employees to carry over unused vacation time to one in which only 40 hours are allowed to roll from year to year, said human resources manager Katrina Jackson.

Last year, only a handful of employees lost vacation hours, and about 65 percent rolled over the 40-hour maximum, Jackson said. "Most employees are good about taking their time off," she said. "The management staff makes sure people are taking their paid time off, including themselves."

Another solution Walsh said is to just allow people to take whatever time off they need. "If people resign or leave, you don't have to pay unused vacation," she said. The sticky part is figuring out how to manage people who may abuse such a free-flowing system.

West said she prefers a flexible vacation policy. When a team member goes on vacation, she tries to have as much respect as possible for his or her time off.

"I want people to like working for CWPR. I don't want them to follow the mistakes I make," said West, who realizes the need to step away in order to fuel creativity. "I'm not going to deny someone the opportunity to go away and experience a great trip."

*The heat has made us crazy...*

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## The Center Hosts Bingo Tuesdays And Fridays

The Center, 900 Whiting Drive in Yankton, reminds the public that it hosts bingo at 7 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday night. Play is open to everyone.

For more information, contact The Center at 605-665-4685 or director@thecenteryankton.org.

## Church Event Canceled

Due to an unforeseen conflict, the violin and piano recital, featuring Andrew J. Paa and Adrian Ries, that was to take place at Trinity Lutheran Church, Yankton, on Sunday, July 22, has been canceled.

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