

LIFE IN POETRY

Getting Close To Your Ancestors

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

When we are on all fours in a garden, planting or weeding, we are as close to our ancient ancestors as we are going to get. Here, while he works in the dirt, Richard Levine feels the sacred looking over his shoulder.

BELIEVE THIS

All morning, doing the hard, root-wrestling work of turning a yard from the wild to a gardener as will, I heard a bird singing from a hidden, though not distant, perch; a song of swift, syncopated syllables sounding like, Can you believe this, believe this, believe? Can you believe this, believe this, believe? And all morning, I did believe. All morning, between break-even bouts with the unwanted, I wanted to see that bird, and looked up so I might later recognize it in a guide, and know and call its name, but even more, I wanted to join its church. For all morning, and many a time in my life, I have wondered who, beyond this plot I work, has called the order of being, that givers of food are deemed lesser than are the receivers. All morning, muscling my will against that of the wild, to claim a place in the bounty of earth, seed, root, sun and rain, I offered my labor as a kind of grace, and gave thanks even for the aching in my body, which reached beyond this work and this gift of struggle.

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SCHOLASTICS

FREEMAN ACADEMY FIRST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL

GOLD HONOR ROLL 3.60 - 4.00 (* DENOTES 4.0 GPA)

EIGHTH GRADE

Polly Carlson
 *Ryan Haggerty
 Ian Hofer
 Emma Littell-Jensen
 *Sarah Miller
 Jorge Sanchez
 *Bethany Wollman
 *Hannah Yoder

FRESHMEN

Olivia Boese
 Emily Epp
 Clara Koerner
 *Brooklyn Ries
 Austin VanDiepen
 *Brennan Waltner

SOPHOMORES

Tristan Ashwell
 *Gabriel Eisenbeis
 *Meghan Hofer

JUNIORS

Benjamin Brockmueller

Lizzie Davis
 Matthew Graber
 *Christopher Miller
 Elizabeth Sanchez
 Michael VanDiepen
 Chelsea Wentz

SENIORS

*Makayla Epp
 Caleb Glader
 *Christina Hofer
 *Seulji (Stella) Kim
 *Natalie Miller
 *Brittney Ries
 *Jaime Tschetter
 Adam Unruh

MAROON HONOR ROLL 3.20 - 3.59

SEVENTH GRADE

Jesse Balzer
 Derian Voigt

FRESHMEN

William Janssen

SOPHOMORES

Cole Hofer

JUNIORS

Ben Carlson
 Amber Dissing
 Calvin Janssen
 Yi Zhi "Ariel" Lin
 Noah Yoder

'MORE' THANKFUL LETTERS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Additional letters describing what area readers were thankful for this Thanksgiving season were received after our deadline.

WYNOT PUBLIC SCHOOL

5th and 6th Grade

Nate Wieseler

I am thankful for several things. I'm thankful for my family and friends because they teach me many things. They help me get through tough times. I'm thankful for the water, shelter, and the food I get every day. I'm also thankful for the clothes I get from presents, birthdays, and just for when I need them to survive. I am thankful for the sports I get to play every day. I hope everybody can enjoy all the stuff I can. I'm thankful a lot for the special people who protect our country. There is another thing that I am thankful for, is the good education I get. The thing I'm mostly thankful for is that I am alive today. These are the things I'm thankful for.

Evvie Krie

I'm thankful for many things, but I am mostly thankful for my family. Some reasons I'm thankful for my family is because they are always there for me, and watching my back.

When I go over to either of my grandma and grandpa's house, I ask if we can bake cookies and then we can spend time together which is another thing I am so thankful for.

I'm also thankful for the food, water, and shelter my parent's provide for my four brothers, my sister, and me.

I'm also thankful for the many great friends I have that are also there for me.

The list could go on and on, because I am thankful for many more things, but the one last thing I'm thankful for is having a life to share with my friends and family and I couldn't be thankful for anything more than that.

TRIPP-DELMONT ELEMENTARY THIRD GRADE

Mason Schoenfelder

I am thankful to see my Grandma on Thanksgiving and my Uncle Ricky from California. I miss the soldiers that died. Jesus bless our family on Thanksgiving and bless us when I go up Mission Hill. Please make the people that died come back to us! Thank you God! I hope you bring my Grandma's brother back. Thank you for everything God! I Love You!

Logan VanPelt

I am thankful for . . . our country, soldiers, and Jesus. I am thankful for my three sisters and my Dad and Mom and the rest of my family. I am thankful for my food and drink. I still miss my Grandpa who died from a heart attack. He was my favorite Grandpa. I am thankful for the soldiers who died for us. I am thankful for my friends. I am also for God who made the world. God sent his son Jesus to die for us. Thank you for my life.

Ethan Stoebner

I am thankful for turkey, potatoes, duck, and ham. We are thankful for soldiers who served in the army for our freedom. I like Christmas because I get to see my family. I am thankful for our country. I am thankful for my parents. I am thankful for vehicles. I am thankful for bikes, scooters, rollerskates, and skateboards. I am thankful for my dogs Buckster and Remi. I am thankful for my friends. I am thankful for Memorial Day.

Hannah Whitney

I am thankful for my family and food that they give me. We give thanks for Jesus on Thanksgiving Day. We go to our Grandma and Grandpa's house! I love Thanksgiving! We find treasures in our hearts! We believe and love and hope. We respect Jesus and God for the

harvest they have given us for the farm. We love the Pilgrims and the Indians who gave thanks for our freedom and for the black people!

Chance Ziegler

I am thankful for my family, my Dad, my Mom, my friends, and my soldiers!

Morgan Faas

I am thankful for God and Jesus and my family and kids. When I grow up I will have 50 kids. I love my pets. I love my cousins and my Grandpa Bob and my Grandma Teresa! I love people. I have a cat named Neo and two dogs. I really like my dog named Coo-Jo. He is awesome! I love you all. My Dad is cool and you are too! I love my baby cousins Clara and Riley! They are both girls. Last spring we had a sleep over! It was fun. I am nine. My birthday is January 9 and I think I am awesome!

McKenzie Faas

I am thankful for my family. I love them! My Dad takes care of me. I have three sisters. Their names are Madison, Morgan, and Sami. I play with my sisters a lot. I color with them. My favorite sister is all of them! I help my Dad clean. It's fun! I have a baby cousin and her name is Clara. She is so cute! I get to have Thanksgiving at my Grandma's house. I love her! I get to go shopping on November 26th with my Dad and sister, Morgan. It's going to be fun because I get to do it with my family and because I love them so much!

Brady Wilson

I am thankful for the soldiers who fight for our country. I really love Thanksgiving a lot! My uncle is in the army and I hope my uncle comes out of the army alive. I am thankful for my Mom and Dad and Jesus. I love Christmas and spending time with my family. I am thankful for God. I really love Thanksgiving a lot because I get to see my cousins!

MENNO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Megan Black

Dear Sir,
 Did you know that Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays? I love it because I get to talk to almost all of my family. I really love it when we go to our grandma's house because I don't see my relatives very much because we live so far away. But what I really wanted to talk about was what I am thankful for.

I have lots of things I am thankful for. But I have two that are the most important to me. I am very thankful for my friends. Having friends have always been a very important thing for me. I'm glad that I have good friends everywhere I move. Mostly, I couldn't do well without good friends.

The second thing is that I'm thankful for my family. I love my family very much. They are the most important thing to me.

Brandon

I am very thankful. Because I have a house, clothes, bed, parents, and family. Some people do not like their lives and they even have everything a person could need. I am very happy for my life. My mom and dad make money they both have jobs so there is nothing to be mad about. Every Thanksgiving we go to my Grandmas house and we gather around the table and have a turkey dinner. Then after that we just go in the living room and talk and have a family celebration.

Breanna Mehlhaff

This Thanksgiving I am most thankful for my family and friends. I am so blessed to have a mother, father, and brother. God has also truly blessed me with many friends. Only to name a few Paige, Hailey, Grace, Ashton, Carol, and Megan. I also have one very special friend. Her name is Michelle and she used to be my babysitter when I was younger, but now I think of her as my big sister!

Another thing that I am thankful for this Thanksgiving is a house to live in and food to eat. I am so happy that I have a roof over my head and that I am not starving. There are many people who are homeless and that are starving in this world. My parents also have good jobs and they are able to provide for me and my brother.

This Thanksgiving I am going to be more thankful than ever because I have everything that I need to live on. I also have many things that I do not need to live and I am very thankful for those things too! Happy Thanksgiving!

Hailey

Dear Sir,

Do you like the holiday "Thanksgiving"? not because of the turkey, mashed potatoes, pumpkin pie or anything else like that. I'm talking about the family, friends, and other things that you are thankful for. In fact what are you thankful for?

Well I am thankful for lots of things like my mom, Chrissy, my dad, Chris, my brothers and sisters, Brady, Alana, and Isaac, my dog, Bandit, my best friend, Easley, my other friends, Paige, Breanna, Grace, Megan, and Ashton, and all of my relatives.

Have you ever made a acrostic-poem out of the word THANKFUL? Like this...T - trust H - happiness A - animals N - never-ending peace K - kittens F - friends and family U - ultimate faith L - love, or at least something like that. Well there is other things that fit this poem.

I am thankful for a lot more things, but those were the most important in my life. My family, friends, pets, food, shelter, and lots more! Thanksgiving is the best holiday ever.

Hunter Huber

I'm thankful for my mom and dad because they take care of me and feed me. They will take me places and take me out for dinner and all that stuff. I think they will keep taking me out for supper for a while. I hope they will do that for a while. They will love me forever and ever in my in tire life. They will always love me. They will always take care of me and will always. I'm thankful for my grandpa and grandma because they do the same thing as my mom and dad do.

Bailey Kotalik

Dear Sir

I am thankful my friends and family because they support me when I need help. My mom that helps me with all of my homework, feeds me, and she works to put a roof over my head. I am thankful that she buys all my cloths. I'm glad that my dad buys me a lot of stuff as well. I'm glad that my brother and sister take me places when I want to go place I can't drive myself.

I am thankful that I can go to school and get an education so that someday I can get a good job or go to college. I am grateful that I get to take PE in school because I like to be active.

Craig Schaeffer

Dear Sir,

I am thankful for a house that is warm and a safe place to sleep. I am thankful for my cat and friends to play with. I am thankful for my mom to study with. I am thankful for my dad who helps me do things in the yard like teach me to run the lawn mower and landscaping. I am thankful for my brother that taught me how to make wood projects and to stain the finished projects. I am thankful for my sister to help with the many things in middle school and who I love to pick on. I am thankful for my niece that is one year old and will be two in December; I love to play with her because I can act silly with her. I am thankful for both of my grandmas who spoil me rotten. I am thankful for a lot: my family, my house, friends, and other things. I feel fortunate for all I am thankful for.

Paige Heckenlaible

Dear Sir,

There are so many things that I am thankful for, but these are just a few: my parents, and shelter.

My parents are the best people in the world, and without them, I would be lost. My mom is always there for me when I am sick or sad. She almost always lets my sister and I do whatever we want as long as it's safe. I have always been daddy's girl and I always will be. He always lets me do fun things like help him drive a tractor, and when I was little I loved holding tools for him. I love my parents!

I am very thankful for shelter because I would be in danger and cold without it. I would be living on the streets and begging for money. I hate it when I have to see homeless people out on the roads.

Remember to be thankful this Thanksgiving!

Spencer Schultz

Dear, Sir

I am most thankful the people overseas fight for our freedom. I am also thankful for the teachers giving us kids an education throughout the world. I am thankful for the people who are fighting overseas because they are putting their lives in danger for us. If we didn't have those people who are fighting for our country then we would not have so many rights. We also have people who are brave in our schools our teachers are taking the time of day to come to school and give us an education. My mom is a teacher and she helps kids who have problems talking and I am very proud of her for her job.

Grace

Dear Sir,

People are not thankful for what they have anymore. I want to remind them that they can't get everything that they want and to show them to be thankful for what they have.

I am thankful for an education because with an education, I pretty sure that I will have a bright future. I'm also thankful that my mom and dad's job because without them, I would not have food or water. I am especially thankful for shelter. Otherwise without shelter, I would be out in the bitter cold right now. The thing that I am most thankful is my family. They help me through the rough times and make me laugh and feel better when I am down.

Carol

I am thankful for my mom and dad, because they put a roof over my head and feed me when I am hungry. I am thankful for my grandpa, because when my step mom is sick and in the hospital and I am at my dad's and he is with her my grandpa takes me to his house. I am thankful for my mom's job, because she helps the elderly in the nursing home. I am thankful for school, because we have to know math and all the other subjects for our education, and our future life as an adult. I am thankful for church, because we get to learn about god.

Ashton Vaith

Dear Sir,

I am thankful for my friends and family who will stand beside me in times of need, and who will always be there for me through my thick and thin times. Another reason that I am thankful for friends and family is because they make me laugh and we enjoy being around each other.

I also am thankful for the soldiers that serve our country every day and even at this very time. Some people should be more grateful of our soldiers that are fighting for our freedom, but some people just don't get the idea of being thankful.

The most of all things that I am thankful for is God. He is the greatest person that happened to everyone in the whole wide world.

Schuster To Be Featured In Northwestern Concert

ORANGE CITY, Iowa—Northwestern College's Brass Quintet and Clarinet Trio will present a wide variety of music in a concert on Friday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel. The event is free and open to the public.

The Brass Quintet, under the direction of Dr. Tim McGarvey, professor of music, will perform classical, jazz and contemporary American pieces. Their repertoire will include Jean Mouret's "Rondeau," which was the theme song for "Masterpiece Theatre"; "Contrapunctus 1," the first piece from

Bach's "Well-Tempered Clavier" arranged for chamber ensemble; and Leonard Bernstein's "Somewhere" from "West Side Story." The ensemble will also perform works by Johannes Brahms, Eric Ewazen, Don Haddad and other composers.

The Brass Quintet includes Carolyn Dundas, a senior business administration major from Wells, Minn., on trumpet; Matt Honken, a freshman music major from Sibley, Iowa, on trombone; Andrew Kraayenbrink, a freshman sociology major from Sibley, on trombone; Aaron Norman, a freshman modified music

and elementary education major from Morris, Ill., on trumpet; and Rebekah Stofer, a freshman music major from Camanche, Iowa, on horn.

The Clarinet Trio is led by Dr. Beverly Gibson, lecturer in music. The ensemble will perform classical pieces composed by Jacques Bouffil and Gaspard Kummer.

Members of the Clarinet Trio are Josh Klope, a freshman art/graphic design major from Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Meghan Schuster, a senior music major from Yankton; and Emily Wohlers, a sophomore music major from Denison, Iowa.

NSU/Community Concert Band To Perform

ABERDEEN — The public is invited to a free concert by the Northern State University/Community Concert Band and NSU ensembles at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 5 on the Johnson Fine Arts Center main stage.

The concert band, directed by Terry Beckler, is comprised of university students and members of

the community.

Other ensembles include the NSU Brass Choir and the NSU Trumpet Ensemble.

Members from the area include:

• Holly Barkley: Yankton, Junior
 – Psychology, Alto Saxophone
 • Schuyler Boyd: Yankton, Freshman – Music Education, Tuba

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