

Life In Poetry

Poet Examines Back To School Supplies

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

It's the time of the year for school supplies, and here's a poem by Daniel J. Langton about just one of the items you'll need to pick up. Langton lives in San Francisco.

SCHOOL

I was sent home the first day with a note: Danny needs a ruler. My father nodded, nothing seemed so apt. School is for rules, countries need rulers, graphs need graphing, the world is straight ahead.

It had metrics one side, inches the other. You could see where it started and why it stopped, a foot along, how it ruled the flighty pen, which petered out sideways when you dreamt.

I could have learned a lot, understood latitude, or the border with Canada, so stern compared to the South and its unruly river with two names. But that first day, meandering home, I dropped it.

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Reese Featured At S.D. Festival Of Books

BROOKINGS — Yankton author Jim Reese will be featured as a presenter at the South Dakota Festival of Books Sept. 28-30 in Sioux Falls.

Each year, thousands of people converge on the annual South Dakota Festival of Books, a weekend-long event that features well-known authors participating in book signings, presentations, panel discussions and readings. Over the past 10 years, the Festival of Books has become a premier literary event in the Midwest region.

Reese will present "Selections from ghost on 3rd" to festival attendees on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Sioux Falls Holiday Inn-City Centre (Palisades III room) at 4 p.m.

Reese is an Associate Professor of English; Director of the Great Plains Writers' Tour at Mount Marty College in Yankton and editor-in-chief of "Paddlefish."

Reese's poetry and prose have been widely published, most recently in New York Quarterly, Poetry East, Paterson Literary Review, Louisiana Literature Review, Connecticut Review, and elsewhere. His new book "ghost on 3rd" was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in letters by New York Quarterly Books and was a Finalist for the 2010 Milt Kessler Poetry Award. Since 2008, Reese has been one of five artists-in-residence throughout the country who are part of the National Endowment for the Art's interagency initiative with Department of Justice's Federal Bureau of Prisons.

For more on Reese, visit <http://jimreese.org/>

For more on the South Dakota Festival of Books, visit www.sd-bookfestival.com.

Trinity Lutheran Hosting Hobby Program

Trinity Lutheran Church of Yankton will be presenting "A Cup Of Faith: Your Escape from the Daily Grind" on Saturday, Sept 29, running from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Participants will have a fun-filled day enjoying a delicious lunch, being entertained and having the opportunity to attend various hobby sessions of your choice. With topics as diverse as Dutch oven cooking, social networking, hunting, winter bird feeding, herb drying, scrapbooking, crafts, model airplane flying and more — you are sure to find something you like.

Contact the Trinity Lutheran Church office at (605) 665-7415 or Jan at (402) 357-2102 with questions or to register.

GriefShare Meetings Planned For Oct. At Calvary Baptist

GriefShare recovery seminar and support group will be offered beginning Oct. 8 at Calvary Baptist located at 2407 Broadway Street in Yankton.

The group will meet each Monday evening for 13 weeks from 7-8:30 p.m. at Calvary. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a family member or friend is invited to participate.

GriefShare features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "The Journey of Grief," "The Effects of Grief," "When Your Spouse Dies," "Your Family and Grief," "Why?" and "Stuck in Grief."

For more information, call Pastor Rick Slattery at 605-665-5594.

It's An Off-Center Issue

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:
I recently had my car's front end aligned by a mechanic whom I have trusted for more than 10 years. The problem is, to keep the car running straight on the road, I must have my steering wheel turned to the right by about 15 degrees. When I straighten out the wheel, the car pulls to the left. Shouldn't a front-end alignment include making sure the steering wheel is straight? Isn't that the idea behind getting a front-end alignment? —David

TOM: Well, it's not "the idea" behind a front-end alignment. The idea of a front end alignment is to make sure the front wheels are pointing in exactly the same direction so that the car handles correctly and the tires don't wear out prematurely. Your mechanic probably did do that.

RAY: But centering the steering wheel is something that should be done as PART of a front-end alignment.

TOM: Having the steering wheel "agree" with the direction of the wheels isn't a mechanical necessity. Your car will steer fine regardless. But it's an indication to you that the job was done conscientiously. It's like when the dry cleaner folds your clean clothes and puts them on hangers, rather than just tossing them on the counter in a crumpled pile. They may still be clean, but it doesn't leave you with the same feeling.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

RAY: In the old days, adjusting the position of the steering wheel after the fact was a piece of cake. You could simply loosen a nut on the steering column and move the steering wheel to where you wanted it.

TOM: But now, with electronics that read the steering angle and air bags galore, it's no longer so easy. So you have to do it BEFORE you start the alignment.

RAY: First, you place the steering wheel at dead center. Then you align the front wheels so that they're pointing straight ahead. And when you're done, everything should be as nature intended it.

TOM: If you don't turn the steering wheel to its proper position first, once the align-

ment's done you could find yourself out of luck (see: your car, David).

RAY: So it's reasonable for you to take your car back to your mechanic and ask him to do it again. Tell him that someone forgot to center the steering wheel before doing the alignment, and now it's crooked. Tell him that the angle of the steering wheel has become an unhealthy obsession for you.

TOM: Yeah. Tell him you haven't eaten or bathed in three weeks. All you do is lie awake thinking about this cosmic mismatch.

RAY: Hopefully, you'll frighten him just enough so that he'll quickly get your steering wheel pointed in the right direction. But not so much that he'll call the EMTs and have you carted off. Good luck, David.

Tom and Ray offer a strategy for everyone who's shopping for a car. Find yours in their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, 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.

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McGovern Conference Theme, Speakers Announced

MITCHELL — Just a week after the 2012 elections, the annual McGovern Conference will analyze the possible fallout of this year's negative campaigning and the effects it might have on the operation of the country.

The 2012 McGovern Conference will focus on "Moving Beyond Political Polarization: How Can Congress Best Serve the Nation in the Coming Decade?"

The one-day annual event held on the campus of Dakota Wesleyan University will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 12, in the Sherman Center. This conference is sponsored by the McGovern Center and is open to the public. Online registration is available online at the McGovern Center at www.mcgoverncenter.com/conference/.

"The intensely negative campaigning and political polarization appears to be taking a toll. Pollsters are now reporting that Americans are tuning out and now have a decidedly more negative view of

politicians and their campaigns," said Dr. Don Simmons, dean of the College of Leadership and Public Service at DWU and director of the McGovern Center. "Many are wondering how it will be possible for the two major political parties to work together in Congress to pass much needed legislation once the mud-slinging campaign season is over. We want to address that issue at this year's conference."

Keynote presenters for the 2012 McGovern Conference will be former members of Congress Gil Gutknecht (R-Minn.) and Max Sandlin (D-Texas).

Gutknecht, an Iowa native, was elected to the Minnesota State House of Representatives in 1982. He served for 12 years until 1994, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served from 1995 to 2007. He served on the House Committee on Agriculture and two of its subcommittees: subcommittee on Specialty Crops and Foreign Agriculture Programs, and as the

chairman of the subcommittee on Department Operations Oversight Dairy Nutrition and Forestry. He served on the House committee on Government Reform and two of its subcommittees: subcommittee on Criminal Justice Drug Policy and Human Resources, and subcommittee on Government Management Finance and Accountability. He was also one of the congressional candidates who in 1994 signed the "Contract With America" that led to the emergence of the Republican-controlled Congress led by Newt Gingrich.

Sandlin served eight years (1997-2005) in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Democratic Congressman representing Texas District 1. He was a member of senior House leadership, serving as chief deputy whip to former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and subsequently to Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.). While in the House, Sandlin served on the powerful and prestigious Ways and Means Committee, and

also served on the Financial Services Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He was a member of the Blue Dog Coalition and was chairman of the Blue Dog Energy Task Force.

Other program participants will include political party leaders, representatives of the media and policy makers discussing how Congress can get back on track and move beyond polarization to best serve our nation.

"Anyone who loves politics can't afford to miss this conference," Simmons said.

The 2012 McGovern Conference is co-sponsored by the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service and the United States Association of Former Members of Congress, through their Congress to Campus Program.

Contact Simmons at 605-995-2937 for additional program information and registration details.

Nominations Sought For Retailer Of The Year Award

PIERRE — There are countless business people across South Dakota who are instrumental in helping to make their communities a better place to live by contributing to local causes, being active in community and civic events, and by providing great service to their customers.

The South Dakota Retailers Association wants to hear about them.

Each year, the organization presents the South Dakota Retailer of the Year Award to a business owner or manager who runs a top notch business, and is a booster for their community.

Jackie Morrison of The Tumbleweed in Mitchell is heading up

the SDR Awards Committee this year.

"The Retailer of the Year Award is a chance to recognize a retailer in your area who is always above and beyond in everything they do," says Morrison. "Hard work and dedication needs to be recognized and this is your chance to let us know about one of these deserving retailers. It is a great award for the retailer and their community."

Previous recipients of the Retailer of the Year Award include hardware stores, restaurants, grocery stores, clothing stores, flower shops, appliance stores, gift shops, pharmacies, implement dealers, a book store, and other businesses that play a vital role in the every day life of com-

munities across the state.

Shawn Lyons, executive director of the South Dakota Retailers Association, notes that business owners face many challenges.

"This year, many businesses across the state tightened their belts as a result of the drought. Last year, many contended with flooding," said Lyons. "And yet, you really have to admire them because no matter what is thrown at them, South Dakota's retailers don't just keep going strong, they continue to be the backbone of their local communities, remaining committed to providing great service. We hope that organizations who depend on those businesses for donations, employees, and customers will all take just a few minutes to fill out a nomina-

tion form and submit it to us."

Nominations for the Retailer of the Year Award must be post-marked by Nov. 12, 2012, or submitted online or via email by Nov. 15. A committee of business people from across the state will then select the recipient, who will be honored at the SDR Legislative Banquet in Pierre in January. Nominees who are finalists for the Award will receive a Certificate of Distinguished Service.

For more information or to obtain a nomination form, contact the South Dakota Retailers Association in Pierre at (605) 224-5050 or toll-free at 1-800-658-5545, visit the Association's website at www.sdra.org/award or email donna@sdra.org.

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MORNING COFFEE
WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY
Tuesday, September 25
7:40 am Kids Against Hunger (Steve Mach)
8:15 am The Center (Christy Hauer)
8:45 am Dakota Territorial Museum (Crystal Nelson)
Wednesday, September 26
7:40 am Disabilities Employment (Jennifer Trenhille)
8:15 am Hy-Vee Foods (Chef Staci)