

Hood River News

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ABOUT LETTERS

Hood River News reminds letter to the editor writers that shorter is better. Concise letters are not only better-read, they are more likely to be published because limited space is available.

Almost any point can be made in 350 words or fewer, so this is set as an upper level for length.

Thank-you letters are no longer accepted, neither are unsigned letters, letters signed with fictitious signatures and copies of letters sent to public officials.

We limit letters on a subject when we feel it has been thoroughly aired, to the point of letters becoming repetitive.

Also rejected are letters that are libelous, in bad taste or personal attacks on individuals or private businesses. Writers must include addresses and telephone numbers. These are for identification purposes only, and will not be published.

Got News?

How to get your item into the newspaper

It's easy to submit your news item to the Hood River News.

- Engagements, anniversaries, and weddings: hrnews@hoodrivernews.com; attach jpg photos with credit where applicable. Births can be submitted to the same address.
 - Happenings: Non-profit groups can send their information about events to Trisha Walker at twalker@hoodrivernews.com.
 - Church news can be sent to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com.
 - Entertainment: Non-profits are encouraged to send us their information on concerts, speakers or other events, to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com or Jim Drake at jdrake@hoodrivernews.com.
 - Classtime: hrnews@hoodrivernews.com.
 - Sports items: Adam Lapierre at alapierre@hoodrivernews.com.
 - Obituaries: Contact Esther Smith, esmith@hoodrivernews.com; the News charges \$30 per obituary, no length limit, photos included.
 - Letters – word limit 350, include your name and home town.
- Letters to the editor of a "thank you" nature are generally not published on the Viewpoint page, but these can be sent for use in Neighbors, to hrnews@hoodrivernews.com.
- Letters, and any other item, may be mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered.
- For all inquiries about submitting an item, call the newsroom at 541-386-1234. Hood River News is located at 409 State St.

A YEAR OF POEMS

Trembling on the edge of maybe, with the priests of the invisible

By **KIRBY NEUMANN-REA**
News editor

In 2014 I read a poem each day. One poem, sometimes more, and I would always re-read it, either back to back, or return to it later in the day.

In one of the craziest year-end lists you'll ever see, I've recorded all those poets' names, below.

(See hoodrivernews.com for a longer version of this column.)

It was a daily ritual that, like others I have done, gave my day structure. No matter what happened, I knew I had a poem to read or return to. In years past I have written a letter or a postcard each day, and in 2013 I listened to no music but classical.

In 2015 I will listen to one record album each day all the way through our collection. That's VINYL — and yes, we do own about 365 or so grooved such platters. (Any requests? Send them to kneumannrea@hoodrivernews.com. It will be interesting to see where collections overlap — but remember I am talking LPs only.)

And having enjoyed a daily poem so much, I will probably continue that as well. It was cleansing, uplifting, challenging. Most days it reminded me what real writing is all about.

I read usually in the morning, or before bed, for the poems created tent poles for my shaky days.

Some poems I did not like, nor understand, but nearly always felt challenged, or moved, and I kept a list of all 365 poems.

I read some poets multiple times — Yeats for example. I read mostly men, but I made a point of reading Emily Dickinson, Charlotte Bronte, Naomi Shabab Nye, Christina Rossetti and others. In 2014 I returned repeatedly to William Stafford, Robert Lowell, W.S. Merwin, Rainer Maria Rilke, and William Blake, and to Yeats.

I combed books we have at home (my wife's Norton Anthology of Literature from college was a particular trove), chose some intentionally and randomly at the library, took them from newspapers and magazines. "Circles" by Carl Sandburg was used in my high school yearbook — never read the poem before — and another was framed on a friend's wall. And no, not once this year did I WRITE a poem; why would you bring PB and J to a smorgasbord?

Below is the list, in order, of each poet I read in 2014: a total of 267 writers, with other powerful lines that grabbed me:

- William Stafford
- Yusuf Komunyakaa: "there's a ghost poised between free will and the gig"
- David Spicer, Diane Dickinson: "I am half alive the rest is anticipation ..."
- Christina Rossetti: "... and what do we see glancing back?"
- Stephen Dunn: "now might be the right

time to cultivate disbelief"

Michael McGriff, Glyn Maxwell, Rebecca Hoogs, Robert Pinsky, Hannah Stephenson, David Ferry, Rustin Larson, Robert William Service, Donald Hall, Peter Mishler

Gary Snyder: "lay down these words/before your mind like rocks"

Robert Duncan: "Neither our vices nor our virtues further the poem. They came up and died just like they do every year on the rocks"

Richard Wilbur, Lia Perpuera, Galway Kinnell, Matthew Dickman, Gerald Green, Chuck Klosterman, Suzanne Cleary, Eileen G'Sell, WS Merwin, Robert Frost

Theodore Roethke: "all finite things reveal infinitude"

Ruth Padel, Bronwyn Lea, Don Paterson, Billy Collins, Yves Bonnefoy, Margaret Levine, Lisa Ampleman, Ronald Koertge, Robert Browning, Andrew Frisardi, Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Blake, Jane Satterfield, e.e. cummings, Edward Arlington Robinson, Wallace Stevens, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Elizabeth Bishop, Chana Bloch, Nick Norwood, Patrick Brandon, Chris Morrison, Benny Anderson, Stephen Ackerman, Daisy Fried

Rusty Morrison, Dan Peterson, Edgar Allan Poe, Gwendolyn Brooks, Robert Duncan, W.B. Yeats, Elton Glaser, Katha Pollitt, Robin Becker, Padraic Colum, Thomas More, A.R. Ammons, C. Dale Young, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Chad Davidson, Robinson Jeffers, Billy Collins

John Keats, Maureen N. McLean, Mitchell Gonzalez

Pablo Neruda: "Don't go far off, not even for a day, because — because — I don't know how to say it: a day is long and I will be waiting for you, as in an empty station when the trains are parked off somewhere else, asleep."

Dylan Thomas, John Skoyles, AJM Smith, Edwin Brock, Judith Jedamus Archibald MacLeish: "a poem should be motionless in time ... A poem should not mean but be ..."

Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Carl Dennis, John Hodgen, John Boyle O'Reilly, Wytawa Szymborska, Lisa Williams

Walter Malone: "... each night I burn the records of the day; At sunrise every soul is born again ..."

Alan Feldman, Sarah Lindsey, Lord Byron, H.N. Fifer, Jeffrey Harrison, Anonymous, "My Life is but a Weaving" Henry Rago, R.T. Smith, Tom Wayman, Percy Bysshe Shelley

Karen Knapp Johnson: "my witness, my here"

Mary Oliver, Ruth L. Schwartz, A.E. Housman, Paul Blackburn, Stephen Berg, Steve Kowitz, Bob Hicok, Vijay Seshardi, Julie Lechevsky, Doug Dorph, Dana Gioia, Margaret Levine, Jon Agee, Kim Stafford, Martin Espada

Rumi: "this being human is a guest

house/every morning a new arrival ..."

Martha Solano: "The Poet Is The Priest of the Invisible"

Jane Mead, Elton Glaser, Ryokan

Ted Loder: "Move

with us now/in our time of beginnings,/when the air is rain and snow-washed/and the world seems fresh and full of possibilities,/and we feel ready and full/We tremble on the edge of a maybe..."

William Carlos Williams, Maya Angelou, David Orr, Juliana Waters, Ted Kooser, Don Rea, Elise Paschen, Julie Lechowsky, Denise Levertov, Yves Bonnefoy, Eaven Boylan, David Lehman, Michael Chilwood, Major Jackson, A.E. Housman, Charles Simic, Carol Snow, Howard Nemerov, William Matthews, Kay Ryan, Connie Wanek, Harold Johnson, AJM Smith, Albert Goldbarth, Mary Oliver

Stanley Kunitz: "oh, I have made myself a tribe of my true affections ..."

Franz Wright, Tom Wayman, Dorianne Laux, Phillis Levin, Robert Francis, Liesl Mueller, Denver Butson, Alexander Macdonald, John Milton, Robinson Jeffers, Irish author unknown, Giolla Brighde MacCommidhe, Tony Wallace, Robert Bly, Daniel Hoffman, Ralph Waldo Emerson, John Woods

Wendell Berry: "for a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

Matthew Sweeney, Naomi Shabab Nye, Mark Strand, Susan Ludvigson, Claudia Emerson, John Ashbery, William Shakespeare, Wilfred Owen, James Lasdun, Julie Sheehan, Mary Tall Mountain, Richard Wilbur, Wallace Stevens, B.H. Fairchild, Robert Frost, Robert Lowell, Alison Fell, Wilfred Noyce, Susan Mitchell, Jack Gilbert, Seamus Heaney, Carl Sandburg, Peter Meinke, Robert Watson, Olav Hauge, Alberto Rios, William Wordsworth, Ron Padgett, Charles Wright, Richard Wilbur, Sandra Lim, Mark Halliday

Christian Wiman: "I have no illusion

that some fusion of force and form will save me."

Charlotte Bronte, Verne Bright, Conrad Hilberry, Amit Majmudar, Robert Hayden, Ada Limon, David Whyte, Thomas Moore Lucie Brock-Broido, "Moon River":

"What exactly do you mean when you call me your 'huckleberry friend'?"

Kofi Awoonor, James Mangan, HC Wallace, Alice Firman, Florence Fogelin, Amy MacLennan, Robert Lunday, Sara Wallace, Jack Prelusky, Gwendolyn Brooks Elizabeth Bishop: "lose something every day/Accept the fluster of lost door keys, the hour badly spent/The art of losing isn't hard to master."

Robert Duncan, Harold Schweizer, Author unknown, CS Lewis, Carol Frost Bill Coyle: "lost continents and present discontents"

Elinor Wylie: "poets make pets of pretty, docile words; ... I like words opalescent, cool, and pearly... Gilded and sticky, with a little sting."

Edna St. Vincent Millay Archibald MacLeish: "A poem should not mean but be."

Ezra Pound, Mercedes Lawry, Galway Kinnell, Debra Kang Dean, Billy Collins, Lawson Inada, Floyd Skloot: "first the sheen, then the shock of all we have seen comes clear."

Frannie Lindsay, Helen Hunt Jackson Jean Pedrick: "just keep walking and I'll presently be where you are."

Marge Piercy, Harold Notice, Vern Rut-sala,

Herman Melville: "audacity — reverence. These must mate."

Randall Jarrell, William Cowper, James Thomson, Thomas Parnell, Ted James, Eugenio Montale, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Aaron Balance

Edgar Lee Masters: "Deities!/Inexorable revealers,/Give me strength to endure/The gifts of the Muse ..."

Fanny Howe, Richard Robbins, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Robert Burns, Jennifer Rondeau, Steve Langhorst, Thomas James, Stuart Dybek, Aaron Fagan, Robert Service, Herman Hesse, Jonathon Cupp, John Dryden, Michael Bruce, Rainer Maria Rilke, Allen Ginsburg, Rabindranth Tagore, T.S. Eliot, Roger Weaver.



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