

TED KOOSER

Professional Information as of 5/8/2019

I am currently a Presidential Professor at The University of Nebraska, teaching the writing of poetry. My poetry has been collected in a number of full-length volumes and special editions and has appeared in many literary periodicals. A number of my poems appear in textbooks and anthologies currently in use in secondary school and college classrooms.

I am the editor of a weekly newspaper column, "American Life in Poetry," which is carried in a number of newspapers and is available online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org" www.americanlifeinpoetry.org](http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org). It is jointly sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln English Department, The Library of Congress and the Poetry Foundation. Distribution of the column has continued to grow despite the problems in the newspaper industry and many readers now receive it via email. It, too, is being used in classrooms. The column has an estimated circulation of over four and a half million readers around the world.

In the past few years I have enjoyed writing for children, and those books are listed below.

Books Published:

Poetry:

Official Entry Blank, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1969

A Local Habitation & A Name, Solo Press, San Luis Obispo, 1974

Not Coming to be Barked At, Pentagram Press, Milwaukee, 1976

Sure Signs, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1980

One World at a Time, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1985

The Blizzard Voices, Bieler Press, St. Paul, 1986. Reprinted in 2006 by University of Nebraska Press

Weather Central, University of Pittsburgh Press, 1994

Winter Morning Walks; 100 Postcards to Jim Harrison, Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2000.

Braided Creek, with Jim Harrison. Copper Canyon Press, 2003.

Delights and Shadows. Copper Canyon Press, 2004.

Flying at Night, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005.

Valentines, University of Nebraska Press, 2007
Splitting an Order, Copper Canyon Press, 2014
Kindest Regards; New and Selected Poems, Copper Canyon Press, 2018.

Nonfiction:

Local Wonders; Seasons in the Bohemian Alps. University of Nebraska Press, 2002.
The Poetry Home Repair Manual, University of Nebraska Press, 2005.
Writing Brave and Free; Encouraging Words for People Who Want to Start Writing
(with Steve Cox), University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
Lights on a Ground of Darkness, University of Nebraska Press, 2009
The Wheeling Year; A Poet's Field Book, University of Nebraska Press, 2014

Children's Books:

Bag in the Wind, Candlewick Press, 2010
The House Held Up by Trees, Candlewick Press, 2012
The Bell in the Bridge, Candlewick Press, 2016
Mr. Posey's New Glasses, Candlewick Press, 2019
Making Mischievous; Two Poets at Play Among Figures of Speech, a collaboration with
Connie Wanek, forthcoming from Candlewick in 2019 or 2020.

Chapbooks and Special Editions:

Grass County, privately printed, 1971
Twenty Poems, Best Cellar Press, Crete, NE, 1973
Shooting a Farmhouse/So This is Nebraska, Ally Press, St. Paul, 1975
Hatcher, Windflower Press, 1976
Voyages to the Inland Sea, with Harley Elliott, Center for Contemporary Poetry,
LaCrosse, WI, 1976
Old Marriage and New, Cold Mountain Press, Austin, TX, 1978
Cottonwood County, with William Kloefkorn, Windflower Press, 1979
Etudes, Bits Press, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, 1992
A Book of Things, Lyra Press, Lincoln, 1995.
A Decade of Ted Kooser Valentines, Penumbra Press, Omaha, 1996
Lights on a Ground of Darkness, University of Nebraska Press, 2005. (Limited
clothbound edition, numbered and signed, and given to friends of the
university.)
Out of the Moment, Brooding Heron Press, Waldron Island, WA, 2006.
Together, Brooding Heron Press, Waldron Island, WA, 2012.

Pursuing Blackhawk, Cedar Creek Press, 2013
At Home, Comstock Review Poetry Press, 2017

Books Edited:

The Windflower Home Almanac of Poetry, Windflower Press, 1980
The Poets Book of Birds, with Judith Kitchen, Anhinga Press, 2009
Darkened Rooms of Summer; New and Selected Poems, by Jared Carter, U of NE Press, 2014
Rival Gardens; New and Selected Poems by Connie Wanek, U of NE Press, 2016
The Woods are on Fire; New and Selected Poems, by Fleda Brown, U of NE Press, 2017

Awards and Honors:

Prairie Schooner Prize in Poetry, 1976 and 1978
Writing Fellowships, National Endowment for the Arts, 1976 and 1984
Society of Midland Authors Poetry Prize, 1980
Stanley Kunitz Poetry Prize, *Columbia Magazine*, 1984
Pushcart Prize, 1984
Governor's Art Award, 1988
Mayor's Art Award, 1989
Richard Hugo Prize, *Poetry Northwest*, 1994.
James Boatwright Award, *Shenandoah*, 2000
Nebraska Arts Council Merit Award in Poetry, 2000
Mari Sandoz Award, Nebraska Library Association, 2000
Nebraska Book Award for poetry, 2001
Barnes & Noble Discover Nonfiction Prize, third place, 2003
Friends of American Writers Prize, 2003
Honorable Mention, Society of Midland Authors nonfiction prize, 2003
First place, *ForeWord Magazine* autobiographical writing competition, 2003
The Best American Poetry, 2003
Nebraska Book Award for nonfiction, 2003
Society of Midland Authors Poetry Prize (with Jim Harrison, 2004)
Named United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, 2004
Honorary Doctorate, University of Nebraska, 2004
Delights & Shadows named as a "Best Book of the Year" for 2004
Reappointed U. S. Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. 2005
Honorary Doctorate, South Dakota State University, 2005
American Library Association Notable Book Citation for *Delights & Shadows*, 2005

Milton Kessler Award, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2005
The Best American Essays, 2005
Society of Midland Authors Poetry Prize, 2005
Pushcart Prize, 2005
Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, 2005
Midwest Booksellers Association Poetry Award. 2005
Sower Award, Lincoln Community Foundation, 2005
Jason Award, Children's Square, 2005
University of Nebraska Presidential Professorship 2005
Sower Award, Lincoln Community Foundation, 2005
Sower Award, Nebraska Committee on the Humanities, 2006
Sower Award, Nebraskaland Foundation, 2006
University of Nebraska Presidential Professorship 2006
Chosen to be on the three-person jury for the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, 2006
Honorary Membership, Sigma Tau Delta, 2007
Distinguished Alumnus, Iowa State University, 2007
Alumni Achievement Award, University of Nebraska, 2007
Midwest Booksellers Association Poetry Award. 2007
University of Nebraska Presidential Professorship 2007
Honorary Doctorate, State University of New York at Binghamton, 2008
Midwest Booksellers Association Poetry Award. 2008
Word Sender Award, John G. Neihardt Foundation, 2008
Honorary Doctorate, Doane College, 2009
Pushcart Prize, 2009
Dedication of Ted Kooser Elementary School, 2009
Mildred Bennett Award, Nebraska Center for the Book, 2009
Hall Kenyon Award in American Poetry, 2010
Local Wonders; Seasons in the Bohemian Alps, chosen as the "One Book, One Nebraska title for 2011
Chosen to be on the three-person jury for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry
Teachers Choice Award – International Reading Association, 2011
Pushcart Prize, 2012
Honorary board of directors, The Poetry Center, Passaic, NJ, 2012
New York Times Best Illustrated Book, for *House Held Up By Trees*, 2013
Mark Twain Award from The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, 2013
House Held Up by Trees named a Best Children's Book of the Year for 2013 by the Children's Book Committee.
House Held Up by Trees named (NCTE) Children's Literature Assembly's 2013 Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts.

Nebraska Book Award for children's books for *House Held Up by Trees*, 2013.
Independent Publisher's Gold Medal Award for *The Wheeling Year*, 2015
Midwest Booksellers Choice Award in Poetry, 2015, for *Splitting an Order*
Finalist (one of three), High Plains Book Award in poetry, 2015, for *Splitting an Order*
Nebraska Book Award for *The Wheeling Year*, 2015.
Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities 2016 South Dakota Humanities
Commission.
At Home, winner of The Comstock Writers Group Chapbook Award 2016

Biographical Data:

Born April 25, 1939, in Ames, Iowa. Attended Ames Public Schools, Iowa State University (B.S. 1962), and the University of Nebraska (M.A. 1968). Worked for many years as a life insurance executive; now retired and teaching half time at The University of Nebraska. Married to Kathleen Rutledge, retired editor of The Lincoln Journal Star. One son, Jeff, two granddaughters, Margaret and Penelope, and two great grandchildren.

Literary Biography: The Poetry and Life of Ted Kooser, by Mary K Stillwell;
University of Nebraska Press, 2013

Compilation of Interviews, Critical Comments, and Literary Reminiscences: The Weight of the Weather; Regarding the Poetry of Ted Kooser, ed. by Mark Sanders.
Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2017

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