

It May Be a Season for Poetry

I need to start writing poems again with my life. How about you?

By **Kat Avila, Contributing Writer** | Published on LatinoLA: May 7, 2012



"I love spring, so much drama;
 I caught my first lizard;
 That day, right there, great blue heron."
 —an anonymous reporter

I was given the abovementioned "haiku" after a fellow nature lover shrugged and handed over the scrap of paper to me. She didn't want it.

A woman driving by had stopped next to us. We had been looking over the guardrail for wood ducks from the side of the road. The smiling driver had said, "I was listening to you two talk, and I wrote a haiku from what you said," then she had driven off.

I related this story to my ESL students. One mother said she had gone to the DMV in Santa Ana where a similar incident had happened. A homeless man had written a poem, read it out loud, and asked the nearest person for some money for the poem.

That reminded me of an NPR report I had heard that same morning. It had been about a San Francisco man named **Zach Houston** who bangs out poems on a manual typewriter in the open air for a living. His sign says in big, bold caps: POEMS. In smaller letters, "Your Topic, Your Price."

The point of all this is the spontaneous creation of art, of people creating poetry because of a natural, instinctive impulse to create something, regardless of judgment. The eavesdropper's poem is tacked onto my bulletin board.

It is not a "haiku" poem as I know haiku poems to be. I say this as a sometime poet who used to have her haiku poems regularly published in the small press. But her poem serves to remind me of that joy of honoring that impulse to create and of fearlessly sharing that creation with others.

I need to start writing poems again with my life. How about you?

Kat is teaching English via SKYPE and talking to far parts of the world these days -- Thailand, Serbia, Russia, Spain, Japan, you name it. The world's growing smaller every day.

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