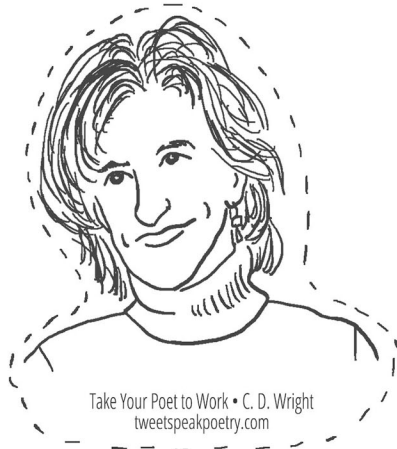


TAKE YOUR POET TO WORK DAY

Celebrated the 3rd Wednesday in July

C.D. Wright



“It is a function of poetry to locate those zones inside us that would be free, and declare them so.”

C.D. Wright (1949-2016), author of more than 20 books of poetry, was born in Mountain Home, Arkansas, the youngest of two children and daughter of a chancery judge and court stenographer. She studied at law school before leaving for an MFA at the University of Arkansas.

Her first poetry collection, *Room Rented By A Single Woman*, was published by poet Frank Stanford through his press Lost Roads Publishers. When he died, she took over being the publisher and added translated collections. She held the position for 30 years.

In 1979 Wright moved to San Francisco, where she met poet Forrest Gander, whom she would later marry; they had a son, Brecht Wright Gander. They eventually settled in Providence, Rhode Island and Wright became the Israel J. Kapstein Professor of Literary Arts at Brown University, where she held the position for 33 years.

Wright wrote both short poems and long—including multiple book-length poems such as *Just Whistle and Deepstep Come Shining*, in collaboration with her friend, photographer Deborah Luster.

Wright didn't belong to a particular school of poetry, and she was proud of her outsider status, crediting her nonconformity to growing up in the Ozarks. From southern-lyric to documentary, her poetry used constraint as topic, and dealt with race relations and incarceration, with an emphasis shifting from place to form.

She said, “my work reflects a hybridity of structure and genre.” *One With Others [a little book of her days]* which mixed investigative journalism, history, and poetry, won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Lenore Marshall Prize, as well as being a finalist for the National Book Award. C.D. said: “It is a function of poetry to locate those zones inside us that would be free, and declare them so.” She died on January 12, 2016, at the age of 67, passing away peacefully in her sleep.

How to take your favorite with you on Take Your Poet to Work Day

1. Color your poet
2. Cut out your poet along dotted lines
3. Attach a popsicle stick to the back of your poet with tape or glue
4. Take your poet to work



For more poets and celebration ideas, visit us at TweetspeakPoetry.com