



HOMEWORDS: A Project of the Poet Laureate of Kansas

By Wyatt Townley

This weekly poetry column explores the notion of “home” from micro to macro—from the

mobile home of the **body**, to the **house** it inhabits, to the **land** that holds the house, to the **sky** that enfolds it all. *HomeWords* addresses big themes with a tiny poem: the **American Cinquain**. Its 5 lines contain—in order—2, 4, 6, 8, and 2 syllables.

This week’s topic is **home as body**, and we find our two poets having quite different experiences of crowds. **Toseki Weinman** lives in the Kansas City area, graduated from Emporia State University with a degree in English and creative writing, and has just finished his first novel. I like the way his last line mimics the heartbeat.

*Many
hearts beating in
unison produces
great power. Make society
strong. Strong..*

Bill Johnston of Hutchinson is spending his retirement writing and publishing his poems and participating in book groups. In December he will celebrate his 50th anniversary with his wife, Marilyn.

*I am
human, flesh, blood
and exist as a face
who vanishes in a crowd of
robots.*

Poets and poets-to-be of all ages from across the state are invited to submit to



Poet Bill Johnston of Hutchinson

HomeWords. For guidelines, visit www.kansashumanities.org.

The Kansas Humanities Council is a nonprofit organization that supports community-based cultural programs and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities.