

# Healing, Optimism, and Polarization

A Collection of Political Poetry Musings



By Jennifer C. Wolfe

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BlazeVOX [books]

Buffalo, New York

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BlazeVOX [books]  
303 Bedford Ave  
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Editor@blazevox.org

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**BlazeVOX [ books ]**

blazevox.org

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# Healing, Optimism, and Polarization



## **We are Healed**

We are healed by a new president,  
A new president who promises change:  
Change is a subjective thing;  
The opposition purports change is something  
Which equates to nothing.  
They do not want to be healed.

We are healed by a new mindset,  
A new mindset that promises change:  
Change is a divisive thing;  
The opposition purports change is an evil  
That dooms the country.  
They do not want what is new.

We are healed by a new outlook,  
A new outlook that promises change:  
Change is an opportunistic thing;  
The opposition purports change is vile,  
Transforming America into Socialism.  
They do not want what is unfamiliar.

We are healed by a new president,  
A new president who promises change:  
Change is an interactive thing;  
The opposition purports change is nothing  
Which equates to something.  
They do not want to be informed.



## Close Gitmo

Guantanamo Bay deserves to be closed:  
It is a beacon of torture and intolerance,  
Transforming America's might into secondary thought;  
It quells our ethics.

Guantanamo Bay deserves to be forgotten:  
It is a piece of rented Cuba,  
Which makes a mockery of America's soul;  
It silences our morals.

Guantanamo Bay deserves to be berated:  
It is a nightmare to rule-of-law,  
Purporting anything is good for National Security;  
It closes our collective minds.

Close Gitmo:  
And we may open our minds to what America is, what it can be,  
And what it has always been:  
The proud guardian of the moral high ground.



## Rendition

Let's render those we classify as our enemy  
To unnamed prisons in unnamed countries:  
Where we can question them at our will;  
Or allow others to torture them into confession.

Let's render those we classify as our opposition  
To a widely renowned prison in Cuba:  
Where we can question them at our will;  
Or torture them into confession ourselves.

Let's use rendition to absolve ourselves  
Of any and all guilt associated with the taint of rendition.



## Polar Ice Caps in America

We are polarized:  
Presidential optimism cut short  
By close minded figureheads who imagine they know better.

We are polarized:  
Steps on the road to positive change halted  
By the negativity of bitter rivals who lost an election.

We are polarized:  
Our aspirations for a newfound idealism quelled  
By the ignorance of individuals who purport it will fail.

We are polarized:  
Too polarized for presidential optimism, positive change, or newfound idealism;  
It is the by product of political enemies locked in a battle for re-election votes.



## Government Motors

General Motors:  
That great mogul of an automobile empire;  
How far, indeed, you have fallen.

General Motors:  
You were the bedrock of American automobile might;  
Now you are a sad remnant of your former self.

General Motors:  
Your once powerful union leaders are now forced to take  
What meager little the bankruptcy court judge meets out.

General Motors:  
The US Government rushed in to your rescue;  
Forever linking you to the disdain of a public bailout.

Government Motors:  
You are what is left over, after decades of poor management  
Doomed you to be too big to fail.



## **Birther Mania**

A fanatical faction purports  
President Obama was not born on American soil:  
Imagining his Hawaiian birth certificate is false.

A fanatical grouping of individuals insists  
President Obama was born in Kenya,  
Despite all legal evidence to the contrary.

A fanatical choir of frenzied opposition voices demands  
President Obama provide his original birth certificate copy,  
So that they might place it under a microscope:

Where they can discover for themselves that their mania  
Is nothing more than a figment of their conspiratorial imagination.

Back to the drawing board, I guess.



## Rush Week

College universities all across the nation  
Host their collective fraternity rush weeks:  
Where prospective freshmen pledge the fraternity house of their choice.  
They are berated; mocked; and otherwise maligned,  
All for the opportunity to wear the frat sweat shirt and baseball cap.

Network radio stations all across the nation  
Host their collective political spokesman, Rush Limbaugh:  
Where a self aggrandized hero pledges the derailment of change.  
Optimism is berated; mocked; and otherwise maligned,  
All for the opportunity to spew pure hatred from the FM airwaves soapbox.



## Flat Line

Health care that is affordable;  
How is that so horrible?

Health care that is transportable;  
Could it really be so terrible?

Health care that is tangible;  
Leads to what is respectable.

Health care that is recognizable;  
Makes consumer confidence sizeable.

Health care that is undeniable;  
Makes pre existing conditions viable.

Health care that is affordable, transportable, tangible, recognizable, and undeniable:  
A noble dream, resisted by ignoble cowards.



## Town Hall

Town hall meetings;  
They are not what they used to be.  
Where speakers interacted with an uninformed public  
In an ordered, respectful setting geared at solving problems.

Town hall meetings;  
They have now degenerated into a gladiatorial arena,  
Where speakers defend themselves from the public  
In a rabid, frenzied landscape of polarized hatred.

Town hall meetings;  
They need to revert to what they were meant to be:  
Where speakers interact with a well informed public  
In an ordered, respectful setting geared at solving problems.



## Food Police

The US Food and Drug Administration,  
Proud guardians of America's food and pharmaceutical prowess.  
Imagining they are the immutable last line of defense  
Against consumer health contamination.

I have a bit of news for them:  
E coli is running rampant at the local steakhouse,  
Bacteria is sickening our peanut butter,  
Anti freeze from China lurks in our imported mouthwash,  
While their accompanying lead painted toys retard our children,  
Our food crops are producing salmonella by the truck load,  
Marginally tested drugs buy authorized approval,  
Promising drugs encounter roadblocks, due to impossible testing mandates,  
While mad cow diseased beef flows across the border from Canada.

It would seem the self acclaimed food police should first police themselves.



## Hooray for Bonuses

AIG was the dramatic darling of the government,  
One of the first to be deemed “too big to fail.”  
What did they do with US taxpayers’ generosity,  
Bestowed as the result of a financial bailout?  
They paid their executives exorbitant bonuses:  
I mean, the new country home or yacht should not have to be put on hold,  
Simply because the common man’s contribution has made it possible, right?

AIG was the recipient of the snarling public masses,  
Crowds of the many who deemed them “a self absorbed ingrate.”  
What did they do with US taxpayers’ hostile scrutiny,  
Bestowed as a result of their unapologetic arrogance?  
They paid their executives a second round of exorbitant bonuses:  
I mean, the mink coats and thousand dollar dinners should not have to be forgone,  
Simply because the common man’s envious anger paints them in a bad light, right?



## **Sarah Palin, Resigned**

Sarah Palin is now the former governor of Alaska,  
And the frozen populace heaves a tremendous sigh of relief.

No more infamous bridges to nowhere,  
No more magic marker redacted library books,  
No more dismissed librarians, who questioned the magic marker redacted library books,  
No more state troopers dismissed for divorcing her sister,  
No more state trooper supervisors dismissed for refusing to dismiss state troopers,  
No more costly state ethics inquiries,  
No more swaggering to the abstinence only podium,  
While her teenage daughter makes love to the unwed and pregnant camera.

Sarah Palin is now the former governor of Alaska,  
And the frozen populace heaves a tremendous sigh of relief.



## The Specter of Specter

Poor Senator Arlen Specter,  
The beleaguered former Republican Senator turned Democrat:  
He is branded a traitor by elephant tamers.

Poor Senator Arlen Specter,  
The controversial figure unafraid to switch political parties:  
He is scorned with frigid GOP vehemence.

Poor Senator Arlen Specter,  
A decades' long Pennsylvania politician:  
He is snubbed by the state's conservative crowd.

Poor Senator Arlen Specter,  
A man condemned by Republicans and regarded warily by Democrats,  
He is ostracized by all.



## Reality Check

Proposed health care reform is not a universal Canadian carbon copy,  
President Obama was born in Hawaii and has the official birth certificate to prove it,  
The polar ice caps are, in fact, melting,  
Eco friendly cars save both money and the environment,  
The US transportation infrastructure remains fractured and underfunded,  
A tax hike on the rapidly dwindling middle class is inevitable, to pay down the US deficit,  
It will take three generations to pay down the current US deficit,  
Warrantless wiretapping is still in place,  
The policy of rendition is still in place,  
The prison facility at Guantanamo is still in place,  
The prisoners at Guantanamo can be held safely in maximum security US prisons,  
Any US citizen may still be classified as an Enemy Combatant, courtesy of the USA Patriot Act,  
The Department of Homeland Security is monitoring your credit card purchases,  
The FBI is monitoring your library check outs and retail book purchases,  
TSA is placing thousands of wrongfully accused individuals on terrorist watch lists,  
Iraq is not a better country, for America's having invaded and occupied,  
Afghanistan is not a better country, for America's having installed a puppet, pro US regime,  
Ann Coulter's hatred spewing diatribes are a laughable police outline of moronic reasoning,  
And  
Everything which projects out of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, or Bill O'Reilly's  
Conservative mouth is not the absolute, unquestioned truth.



## Calm Down

Relax,  
Take a deep breath,  
Close your eyes,  
Count to ten,  
Sit down,  
Stretch out,  
Take another deep breath,  
Turn on the TV,  
Or  
Place the I-pod buds in your ears,  
Keep your eyes closed,  
And let all negative polarization  
Seep out of your tired body.

There,  
That's better, isn't it?



## Hurricane Katrina Revisited

George W. Bush flew high overhead,  
While New Orleans residents drowned below.

George W. Bush strummed a guitar with the US Presidential seal,  
While New Orleans' famous jazz and blues halls lay silenced.

George W. Bush shook beleaguered Mayor Ray Nagin's hand,  
While smiling magnificently for the television news cameras.

George W. Bush sat watching inside a Colorado NORAD bunker,  
While New Orleans' levees failed.  
(The same levees he officially declared he had not been informed would fail)

George W. Bush laughed at his Secretary of State's Broadway Spamalot excursion,  
While New Orleans sat underwater and its citizens foraged desperately for food.

George W. Bush directed our friends at FEMA to house those left homeless  
Within dingy, mold prevalent trailers, whose makeshift camps stretched for miles.

George W. Bush allowed big corporations to evict residents  
From condemned public housing complexes for unchecked profit.

Conservatives accuse: "Why keep picking on George W? He is not still relevant,"  
(Because he is not still the current US President)

Ask the still displaced residents of New Orleans if he and his administration's  
Woeful, criminally negligent actions and inactions are not still relevant.



## **If Polarized Individuals had any Brains, They'd be Un-polarized**

**(An answer to Ann Coulter's If Democrats had any Brains, They'd be Republicans©)**

The real answer to getting things done is to not spew hatred,  
The real method to achieving lasting change is not found in finger pointing,  
The real way to garner support is to not accuse,  
The real solution to solving problems is to work together,  
The real question to be asked is: "Can we reach a compromise for the good of the nation?"  
The real equation to be answered is not how to divide and conquer,  
The real backdrop to democracy is not participating in a shouting match,  
The real setting for providing National Security lies in putting country ahead of self,  
The real landscape for moral and ethical responsibility is found in mutual respect,  
The real drama unfolding should include the element of mutual regard for the other's position,  
The real placeholder for American might is found within its citizens' calmly directed voices,  
The real endeavor is for politicians to be well informed and to strive to be so,  
The real goal is what is good for the country, not what is good for re-election.

∞∞∞

## Unplug

Unplug your mind from troubling thoughts,  
Unplug your heart from broken dreams,  
Unplug your ears from polarizing diatribes,  
Unplug your eyes from rabid displays of hate,  
Unplug your ideals from the idea of strict conformity,  
Unplug your nose from the pungent stench of politicians,  
Unplug your mouth from speaking before you think,  
Unplug your outlook from acting, without having all of the facts,  
Unplug your thoughts from being shaped without information,  
Unplug your hands from pointing fingers,  
Unplug your feet from marching in cookie cutter protest,  
Unplug your attitude from being closed to possibilities,  
Unplug your smile from your detached, pessimistic frown.



## Sink the Pink

Do you ever wish the US Congress had an industrial sized bottle of Pepto Bismol®,  
So that if their stomachs ever felt as disturbed as the American people's, when they:

Pass all manner of obscure laws, governing every aspect of everyday life,  
And  
Raise taxes at an accelerated rate, across the board,  
And  
Point millions of earmark dollars toward moronic pet state projects,  
And  
Break all of their heated campaign promises,  
And  
Debate ridiculous legislation, under the guise of legitimizing their election,  
And  
Reward their party contributors with lucrative financial compensation,  
And  
Push critical legislation until the last minute, then adjourn for recess.....

.....They would know exactly how Joe and Jane Sixpack feel;  
Sickened, disillusioned, and morose.



## Are You Better Off?

“Are you better off?” seems to be the question of the moment,  
The question of the day,  
The question of the week,  
The question of the month,  
The question of the quarter,  
The question of the year,  
The question of the past decade.

The answer is most likely “No.”

A better question would be:  
“Would you like to be better off?”



## Let Go

Let go of your polarizing hatred,  
Let go of your angry postulating,  
Let go of your wild eyed finger pointing,  
Let go of your opinionated gossiping,  
Let go of your distrustful complaining,  
Let go of your self centered conniving,  
Let go of your malicious conspiring,  
Let go.



## Change We Can Believe In

Real change we can believe in is:  
Trusting without imposed conditions,  
Lending a helping hand to those less fortunate than ourselves,  
Making decisions based on fact and not polarized judgment,  
Being able to actually afford to be sick or hospitalized,  
Spending our nation's money frugally,  
Utilizing war as a last resort action; not as a first resort one,  
Extending our hands in bi-partisan cooperation,  
Endeavoring to garner mutual respect and trust,  
Automatically smiling before we frown.



## Wall Street

“What is Wall Street?” you might ask,

Fraudsters?

Economic pranksters?

The seat of the US’ financial wealth?

The primary star within the world economy’s Big Dipper?

Greedy stock brokers grabbing fistfuls of dollars?

Greedy corporate entities stealing their employees’ retirement?

Greedy SEC minions being paid for their fraudulent oversight?

Michael Douglas (as Gordon Gecko) heralding: “Greed is good?”

I think we would all do well to keep in mind that:

Wall Street is, first and foremost, a paved Manhattan street.

It is up to everyone to keep the estimation of Wall Street in check.



## Broadcast News

The media establishment of the day is  
Nothing more than a mere shell of their yesteryear glory.  
The “man America trusted” is now gone;  
There is no one left to tell us that wars are unwinnable.

FOX, CNN, ABC, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, C-SPAN:  
A veritable alphabet soup of self-centered vanity, arrogant pride,  
And engineered public opinion;  
Where journalistic standards are lowered in increments,  
Until the breaking news story of the day is a runaway bride,  
Paris Hilton’s latest fling, Lindsay Lohan’s latest stint in rehab,  
Or Britney Spears’ latest custody battle.

The media establishment of the day is  
Permeated with the unspoken principle of flash over substance:  
And the American viewing masses are all the more  
Mesmerized, polarized, and politically retarded, because of it.



## Sarah Palin, Blogger

Sarah Palin has entered the fray of those who write their own online blog,  
Now that she has abandoned the Alaskan Governorship;  
How magnanimous and ignoble of her!  
We may now all read her fanatical discouragements, conspiratorial diatribes,  
And heavily polarized bile for ourselves:  
The online anti-Dem maven at last has a haven.

Sarah Palin has raised her bitter, outraged voice to the online masses,  
Now that she has quit her job, merely halfway into her Governor's term;  
How righteous and astute of her!  
We may now all read her lame GOP stories; her lame GOP whit,  
And her lame GOP wisdoms for ourselves:  
The field dresser of a moose has been let loose.

Sarah Palin has jubilantly heralded her (supposedly) important blogger's insight,  
Now that she has settled back into the (supposedly) non-political, frozen wilderness;  
How atypical and self aggrandized of her!  
We may now all become privy to her rabid thoughts, her rabid accusations,  
And her rabid attempts at projecting intelligentsia for ourselves:  
The former Alaska Governor, now a Republican Internet pioneer.

Sarah Palin is a blogger:  
And the collective online GOP world applauds, while the rest of the online world vomits.



## The Case Against George W. Bush

The case against George W. Bush is not subtle;  
Nor is it cast aside at a moment's convenience, simply because  
He is no longer the US President.  
It is an ongoing plethora of political intrigues, dioramas, and outrages.

The case against George W. Bush is not forgettable;  
Despite how many GOP leaders try to sweep it away, due to  
Their pious estimation that it is no longer relevant.  
Leaving the US Presidency does not absolve him from his guilt.

The case against George W. Bush is not redeemable;  
No matter how many of the Republican Party faithful purport  
History will eventually judge him within a flattering, positive light.  
No amount of wishful postulating will render history's judgment any less harsh.

The case against George W. Bush is not laughable;  
Even if Ann Coulter and Sean Hannity assure us that it is,  
Wearing their hero worship hearts on their close minded sleeves.  
Heroism is heralded by deeds and actions, not accolades from venal hypocrites.

The case against George W. Bush is not imagined;  
Eight years present a mammoth paper, media, and biographical research trail,  
Which tells the unconvinced American public otherwise.  
This Georgie Porgie has kissed America and made it cry.



## Cash for Clunkers

Cash for clunkers presents an interesting enigma:  
Were it to be entirely truthful, under the guise of placing the nation before themselves,  
One would find both the GOP elephant and the Democrat burrow in the line.  
This is not to say that the burrow cannot bounce back,  
And demonstrate to the American people what they can truly be and accomplish.  
Or that even the elephant cannot swallow their pride,  
And demonstrate to the American people that they, too, can be more than the sum  
Of their partisan exclusive parts.



## How to Talk to Ann Coulter—If You Must

Author Ann Coulter had a best selling non-fiction book on the shelves,  
Entitled: *How to Talk to a Liberal—If You Must*©.

What I would like to know or ascertain:

Is where she emerged as the omniscient purveyor of all that is good and true;  
Or what criteria she uses, to categorize individuals as a liberal?

Is it that liberals are people who do not agree with her viewpoints?

Is it that liberals are the crowd which does not pontificate George W. Bush?

Is it that liberals are those with enough intellect to effectively counter her polarized diatribes?

Is it that liberals question their elected US leaders and their US government?

Is it that liberals listen to Bruce Springsteen or Neil Young?

Is it that liberals dare to contradict her viewpoints?

Is it that liberals watch Michael Moore films?

Is it that liberals draw caricatures of Sarah Palin?

Is it that liberals are actually well-informed on political issues and debate them well?

Is it that liberals are open minded enough to see both sides of an argument?

Is it that liberals chew their cereal either too quickly or too slowly?

Hollywood had a hit motion picture with *The World According to Garp*®;

The world according to Ann Coulter is little more than a suspicious, malignant,  
Accusatory landscape, where fascist government leaders dictate their National Security  
dogma,

To enhance their non-negotiable position that National Security trumps all civil liberties:

And where all those who disagree or voice their dissent are rounded up and carted off

To the nearest police state prison camp to be re-educated out of their liberality.

Oh, what grandiose, jubilant fun Ms. Coulter would have in that world!



## Cookie Cutter

Do not surrender your beliefs into the gaping maw  
Of being politically correct.

Do not give away your idealism to the relegated ranks  
Of those who do not question.

Do not remain silent in the face of injustice,  
Or in the faces of those who demand lock-step allegiance.

Do not be or become a random individual,  
Cut into the contrived shape of the political party cookie cutter:

Be a fresh, innovative, and independent voice for optimistic change.



## Healing

Look into another's soul and heal them at your will;  
When you find encouragement, the best shall be fulfilled.  
Look into another's heart and comfort all their pain;  
When you seek the positive, you'll find it yet again.  
Look into another's dreams and lend your kind support;  
When you uplift others, it produces a good start.  
Look into another's mind and guess at what they need;  
When your shoulder's cried upon, you are a friend, indeed.  
Look into another's goals and help them to achieve;  
When you offer wisdom, they most likely will succeed.  
Look into your soul, and heart, and dreams, and mind, and goals;  
And you will find all that you need to make and keep you whole.



## NAFTA and CAFTA

Trade agreements arrived at with hasty conclusion;  
Where our goods are imported and their goods' profitability is de-valued,  
And their goods are imported and our goods' profitability is de-valued,  
Equal opportunity for lost revenue, across the board.

Hooray for the North American Free Trade Agreement!  
Let Mexico's corn farmers starve, while US farmers sell their corn by the bushel.  
It's all in the interest of free trade.

Hooray for the Central American Free Trade Agreement!  
Let America's poverty stricken starve, while their handmade goods garner pennies.  
It's still in the interest of free trade.

Ah, the bliss of free trade!  
Trade without borders or tariffs,  
Revenue without guilt or conscience.



## Nancy Pelosi to the Tune of Eleanor Rigby®

Nancy Pelosi,  
First female speaker of the US House; not a quiet mouse.

Nancy Pelosi,  
Unwilling to have her mindset deterred; future preferred.

Nancy Pelosi,  
She stands behind her party's goal and drive; toughness alive.

All the hateful people,  
Where do they all come from?

[Repeat]



## Hold

Hold magic in your thoughts;  
Hold optimism in your dreams;  
Hold intellect in your mind;  
Hold patriotism in your heart;  
Hold energy in your soul;  
Hold a stranger's hand and give kindness;  
Hold a friend's hand and give support;  
Hold a lover's hand and give devotion:

Hold onto the positive aspects of self and give your life joyous purpose.



## Sarah Palin, Wordsmith

Sarah Palin has cast herself into the spotlight she so adamantly denies she seeks,  
By typing frenetically into her daily blog and lavishing all with her daily tweets.

Sarah Palin imagines herself to be a storied master of the written, politically inspired word,  
Yet all who read her enigmatic type suggest a more moronic pitch they have never heard.

Sarah Palin longs to project herself into the elusive ranks of the online elite,  
I hate to break it to her; but this is a fruitful exercise in self deceit.

Sarah Palin is resolute in her tempestuous blogging resolve,  
Speaking of resolve; let's use the liquid plumber  
To wash that rhetorical blog hairball right down the rhetorical drain,  
And spare the online reading community from all of its pain.



Jennifer C. Wolfe resides in Maplewood, MN, and studied creative writing and poetry at Century College, White Bear Lake, MN. She has two previously published political poetry eBooks with BlazeVox Books: *Kick the Stones: Everyday Hegemony, Empire, and Disillusionment*, October 2008, and *Yukon Ruminations: Great Fun for All in the Land of Sarah Palin's Joe Sixpack Alaska*, June 2009.