

Poems on life's 'Boundary'

By **BRIAN BURNES**

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After living for years in Mexico, California and the Caribbean, Janet Sunderland found herself back "at the boundary" in 1999.

That was at the family farm in Marshall County, Kan., on the Kansas-Nebraska line, 60 miles north of Manhattan.

Many times she crossed that border after the day her mother, riding in Sunderland's car in her mid-80s, announced after a big sigh that it was time for her to go to the "Good Sam."

That was the Good Samaritan Society care center in Wymore, Neb.

Sunderland's mother, Jeanette Brucker, died there in 2001. The poems in Sunderland's chapbook, "At the Boundary," invoke that moment, as well as the days she visited her mother and ran the farm.

"There was a lot of poetry generated driving from Overland Park to Wymore," said Sunderland, who now lives in Kansas City.

"I am a 'see-far' woman. I still don't wear glasses for long distances. The boundary is about my mother dying, but it's also about me really being anchored in this part of the world now."

Sunderland will read at 7 p.m. Friday at the Uptown Arts Bar, 3611 Broadway. She will be joined by other staff members of Kansas City Voices, a magazine published by Whispering Prairie Press, a nonprofit on whose board Sunderland serves.

For info about "At the Boundary," go to finishinglinepress.com.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/01/17/4754750/poems-on-lifes-boundary.html>