TWELVE EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY TO COMMEMORATE WILLIAM STAFFORD'S BIRTHDAY
Poets and readers will honor William Stafford in a series of events scheduled in twelve locations throughout Washington and Oregon, beginning January 11 and concluding January 28. For a complete schedule, see newsletter insert.

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Only the Traveler Can Change the Journey

is how we convince ourselves
these days though sometimes
we look elsewhere, think
to reassemble you, fog:
thrumbing man fast to shift
through four a.m. piles of poems,
all sky and juniper, the trout
quicksilvering the brook.
And the question of solitude
has always been answered
by one pine needle
refusing to fall. What remains:
hard as redwood, the deep bite
of axe. Ferns where your feet
moved slow and far from people.
In August the light
lies down like an elk
for the river, the hills, this
earth that we touch,
old friend, it lies down.

(in memory of William Stafford)

Thom Ward

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MCKAY HIGH SCHOOL GIVES ANNUAL WILLIAM STAFFORD WRITING AWARD
Eight years ago, Doug Wilson, McKay High School (Salem, OR) English teacher, named a graduating senior to receive the William Stafford Award for Outstanding Effort in the Area of Language Arts. The award has been presented each June since 1992 and is now sponsored by Borders Books who provides the student an award plaque and $300. Engraved on the plaque is the last sentence of Stafford's poem, "Simple Talk." [See poem next page.]

The annual award for the McKay High School English Student of the Year is voted by English Department teachers and is based on G.P.A., courses taken, and the student's involvement with writing. Last June's winner was Caitlin Wilson, now at Oregon State University majoring in English.

Doug, in his 24th year of teaching high school, became devoted to Stafford's poetry through his students in 1992. While teaching an American Literature Honors course, with a unit on poetry from early to modern period, he assigned student teams to research and present a poet to the class. Jason Roy, Troy Bassham, and Keith Olson were the only team that selected a living poet. The students contacted William Stafford and arranged (continued pg. 2)
to interview him at the library at Lewis and Clark College. They brought along books of Stafford poetry they’d purchased for him to sign. Their study of Stafford’s work helped them develop questions for the interview and his responses provided them insight not often captured by adult interviewers. Wilson has since donated the recording of the interview to the William Stafford Literary Archives.

Simple Talk

Spilling themselves in the sun bluebirds wing-mention their names all day. If everything told so clear a life, maybe the sky would come, maybe heaven; maybe appearance and truth would be the same. Maybe whatever seems to be so, we should speak so from our souls, never afraid, “Light” when it comes, “Dark” when it goes away.

William Stafford

Billy Collins, W.S. Merwin and William Shakespeare are among the current poets featured in Poetry in Motion® Dallas, presented in association with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Richland College/Dallas County Community College District.

Poetry in Motion® Los Angeles this fall will include Amy Gerstler, Philip Levine and Aleida Rodriguez, among others, presented in association with the Los Angeles County MTA.

Poetry in Motion® continues in Philadelphia with poems by Robert Creeley, Seamus Heaney, Dorothy Parker and others, presented in collaboration with AIGA/Philadelphia and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority.

Poetry in Motion® will return to Portland this fall, with poems by Kim Stafford, Frau Ava and Lex Runciman, among others, presented in association with Literary Arts, Inc., The Oregon Community Foundation, Tri-Met, Obie Media, AIGA/Portland and Starbucks Coffee.

Among the first poets featured in the Pioneer Valley Poetry in Motion® program, launched in March of 2000, were Elizabeth Bishop, Charles Simic and Wislawa Szymborska.

With co-sponsors Obie Media, Borderlands, AIGA and the Austin Transit Authority, the PSA is planning a special reading event to launch Poetry in Motion® Austin for November 4th and 5th.

Poetry in Motion® is also made possible by the continued support of the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund and the National Endowment for the Arts.
Dozens of poets, readers, and admirers of William Stafford's work will gather in January to honor his birthday. Paulann Petersen, FWS Events Director, says poems by William Stafford will be read by featured readers, some poets will read a poem of their own, and members of the audience will be invited to read a favorite poem by the late William Stafford. All events are free and open to the public.

***VANCOUVER, WA***

**Thursday, January 25, 7-9 P.M., Fort Vancouver Regional Library.** Featured Readers: David Benedictus, host; Mark Martin, Cindy Kidder, John Benson, Killian Koontz, Barbara Hamby, Cap Peck, Melinda Bell, Robert Hughes. Organizer: Betty Barton.

***BEND, OR***

**Saturday, January 20, 2 P.M., Bend Public Library.** Featured Readers: Jerry Ramsey and readers from 5 independent book sellers in the Bend area. Host: Kit Stafford.

***EUGENE, OR***

**Wednesday, January 17, 7:30 P.M., Tsunami Books, 2585 Willamette St., phone: 541-345-8986.** Those attending are invited to bring a favorite William Stafford poem to read. Refreshments will be served. This event is co-sponsored by Lane Literary Guild and Friends of William Stafford. Organizer, host: Ingrid Wendt.

***SALEM, OR***


***ASHLAND, OR***

**Friday, January 26, 7:30 P.M., Bloomsbury Books, 290 E. Main, phone: 541-488-0299.** Featured Readers: Jonah Bornstein, Alice Hardesty, Mariah Hegerty, Robert McDowell, Patty Wixon, Vincent Wixon. Host: Alice Hardesty.

***SIX IN PORTLAND, OR. AREA***

Paulann Petersen will host the following WS birthday celebrations in the Portland area, with Dorothy Stafford as honored guest at each.


***Friday, January 12, 8 P.M., Mountain Writers Center, 3624 S.E. Milwaukie, Portland.** Featured Readers: Judith Barrington, Gerry Foote, Jennifer Grotz, Judith H. Montgomery, Willa Schneberg, Laura Winter. Contact: Jennifer Grotz, 503-236-4854.

***Wednesday, January 17, 7:00-8:30 P.M., Multnomah Central Library, 801 S.W. 10th, Portland.** Featured Readers: Howard Aaron, Barbara Drake, Stephen Leflar, Steve Nemirov, Greg Simon. Contact: Chantal Seely, 503-988-5578.


INTERVIEW WITH DOUG STOW

Last year, FWS Board of Directors contracted with Doug Stow, of Paper Crane Letterpress, Half Moon Bay, CA, to create two broadsides of William Stafford poems: “A Ritual To Read To Each Other” and “Why I Am Happy.” In a recent phone interview, Doug had the following to say about his life as a poetry reader.

Q: What triggered your interest in poetry?
Doug: In college I had a 10-week course in 20th Century English Poetry. We spent 6 weeks on Yeats. After that I didn’t have much interest in reading poetry. Then 15 years ago, I was 35 years old and started reading some Archibald MacLeish essays, then his poetry. Then I branched out to Wallace Stevens. I knew I loved the sound of words. Then on the 100th anniversary of Edna St. Vincent Millay’s birthday, a lot of her poems were suddenly around so I read them. A friend of mine said I should read William Stafford, so I checked out Stories That Could Be True, then Writing the Australian Crawl and You Must Revise Your Life. I read all three, some parts over several times. Then I found a video on Stafford at Powell’s. I bought it ---“What the River Says”--- and watched it. So now every Stafford poem I read I hear his voice read to me. It really helps me read a poem if I hear the poet’s voice in my head, especially a poet like e.e. cummings.

Q: What other poets are favorites?
Doug: Oh, lots of poets. I read whoever I can find. Lately I’ve really liked reading Billy Collins and Sharon Olds.

Q: I know you have been collecting signed books and broadsides, and 1st editions. What have you gathered?
Doug: William Stafford hit my cord so strongly, he’s my first through twelfth choice to collect. But I also have some nice things signed by Wendell Berry, Hayden Carruth, some others. You have to find at least one poet to light the fire, then you never stop looking.

Q: What prompted you to buy a letterpress?
Doug: I bought a used one for my wife, Margaret, for Christmas. She’s an artist, and when our son was born she cut a linoleum block of his footprint. She used it for a Christmas card. Then I learned how to print doing a book of Wodehouse alphabet. Then I made greeting cards which we carry in our store.

Q: How did you become involved in creating letterpress broadsides?
Doug: I had a friend who had just bought his first used bookstore. That was in 1994. I suggested he have poetry readings and I offered to print a small letterpress broadside of a poet’s poems. Then the poet could sign forty or so and give them to whoever came to the reading. It really helps bring people in to hear the poetry. Now there must be over 20 of those broadsides on the wall of the little coffee shop on the side of the bookstore. Each one’s a different poet.

Q: What prompted you to locate in Half Moon Bay, CA?
Doug: We lived in San Francisco, and decided we wanted to live in a little smaller city. We thought we were big city people, but San Francisco was too big. So we were driving along when we came to Half Moon Bay. You can bypass it on Highway 101. But here it was with actually a charming Main Street about 5 blocks long. We rented a 280 sq. ft. space and decided to set up a store to sell cards, a pewter frame line, gifts, journals. Most
Impression

Dear William,

A paperclip-bookmark left
in a book too long unread
embossed itself two pages deep

It is your poem that
centers this impression.

Sincerely,

Bryan Grimes

Dear Bryan,

Now I open up my book
and pray my book mark
has done fine.

Anyone perusing there
will find that little loop of wire
gouging some impressive line.

-from poem exchange. Used with
permission of Bryan Grimes.

NEW BROADSIDE OF STAFFORD’S “WHY I AM HAPPY” NOW AVAILABLE

Another beautiful letterpress broadside is available for sale for $10 to raise funds
for projects of Friends of William Stafford. “Why I Am Happy,” the second broadside
created for FWS by Doug Stow of Paper Crane Letterpress, Half Moon Bay, CA, is
illustrated by Artist Barbara Stafford, Portland, OR. Its size, 9x12”, is the same as last
year’s “A Ritual To Read To Each Other” to accommodate framing together or to
alternate using the same frame. Orders for either broadside will be shipped within a
week. Send check payable to Friends of William Stafford for $10 (per broadside) plus
$3.20 for shipping (for one to two broadsides) to Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Road,
Newberg, OR 97132.


HIGHLY Praised Traveling Broadside Exhibit Opens Next at SOU Center for Visual Arts, Ashland, OR

FWS's letterpress broadside exhibit, "How the Ink Feels," is currently touring in the Northwest. Following an eight-week engagement at Washington State University, Pullman, the 67-piece show is on its way to Oregon. Nancy Winkleisky, Exhibit Coordinator, reports that during its showing in Pullman, the gallery receptionist received numerous positive comments about the show and recorded a high incidence of returning viewers. Pullman High School art teacher, Judy Busch, said in a letter, "I took my painting class up to see the broadside exhibit today. It is beautiful... My students spent quite a long time reading and looking at it then we went into the larger art museum which had a faculty exhibit... Several students asked to go back to the broadside exhibit after they had looked at the other work. I am very determined to build the written work assignment into my other classes as well. [FWS] should be proud of the broadside exhibit. It is a gift to anyone who is lucky enough to see it!"

"How the Ink Feels" is scheduled Jan. 11 to Feb. 8 in the Thorndike Gallery, Southern Oregon University Center for the Visual Arts, Ashland. A public reception will be held Friday, Feb. 2, 4 to 6 PM, as part of Ashland's First Friday Art Walk. Coordinator for the exhibit at SOU is Dr. Edwin Battistella, Dean of Arts and Letters. Co-sponsors include SOU Departments of Arts and English, and Friends of William Stafford.

"How the Ink Feels" will then move to Rogue Community College for five weeks. According to Tommi Drake, Wiseman Galleries Director, the show will be at RCC Medford site in the new G/Ward Building, Medford, and at the Firehouse Art Gallery, Grants Pass. Local publicity will announce exhibit opening dates.

In April, "How the Ink Feels" will be on display for National Poetry Month at Chemeketa Community College, Salem.

OR. Barbara Wigginton, Chemenekta English Program Chair, is coordinating the event in Salem.

For information about scheduling "How the Ink Feels" in your community, contact Nancy Winkleisky, phone: 503-655-1443; FAX 503-557-1453.

STANLEY KUNITZ

The Long Boat

When his long crazed brow
From its sloping, under the sheathing of the galley,
He tried to focus as well as
In the dawn, but they had already lost their heat. Too late even to dream
Of his distant land and one
Of his heroes, those moments
Sterile on his memory, atmosphere and all
That called.

He was content to lie down with the body glow
In the step of his stride, beloved by the moon, endlessly shifting.
Peace! Peace!

To be rocked by the ballasts
As if it was nature
Which lay lost as if he didn't know
He loved the earth so much
He wanted to stay forever.

WRITERS


HOW THE INK FEELS
Have you renewed your FWS membership for 2001? Your membership helps FWS keep poetry projects--such as the traveling broadside exhibit--alive in your community.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM:**

William Stafford's direct work as a writer ended with his death in 1993, but through the **Friends of William Stafford**, his gifts as a teacher continue. He traveled widely in pursuit of the free expression of literature and conscience. We aim to continue to spread his work, "a plain unmarked envelope passing through the world," by advancing the spirit of his teaching. By joining the **Friends of William Stafford**, you will be contributing to his legacy for generations to come. You will also:

- receive newsletters that let you know about activities of **Friends of William Stafford**;
- have a forum to promote poetry in your community;
- be able to volunteer for **Friends of William Stafford** projects;
- network with other poets, writers, and poetry organizations.

Bill Stafford was about poetry, and so is the **Friends of William Stafford**. Your membership dollars support our own newsletter as well as the reading, writing and enjoyment of poetry.

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**How did you learn about Friends of William Stafford?**

**Payment:**

Please make check payable to "Oregon Community Foundation fbo Friends of William Stafford"

Mail to: **Friends of William Stafford**, PO Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

**Thank you for your support.**
CONGRATULATIONS TO LUCILLE CLIFTON, FWS NATIONAL ADVISOR, FOR WINNING THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FOR POETRY

(The following is excerpted from The Newsletter of BOA Editions, Ltd., Volume 4, Issue 2, Fall 2000 and reprinted with permission of BOA Editions, Ltd.)

The National Book Award, one of the most prestigious prizes in the book world was announced November 15, 2000, in New York City. Lucille Clifton's book, Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988-2000 (BOA, 2000), received this year's award. Blessing the Boats is a volume of poems selected from all of Clifton's books since 1988, along with an offering of 19 new poems. Hard-hitting and transcendent, it was already hailed as one of the poetry world's notable books of the year 2000. This summer it was a main selection of the book club of The Academy of American Poets. The following describes a reading she gave in July.

Clifton captivates capacity crowd at Rochester reading

The mission of the poet, according to Lucille Clifton's audience listened intently as the award-winning poet, breast cancer survivor and kidney recipient read poems ranging in subject matter from dialysis to family. "I guess what I'm trying to do is comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."

Proving that poetry can both provoke and delight, Clifton brought a capacity crowd to its feet following her Health & Creativity reading at Rochester Public Library's Kate Gleason Auditorium on July 10. Clifton moved nimbly from reading poems from her most recent collection, Blessing the Boats, to extemporaneous comments about poetry and race, how artists face and illuminate illness, and the ways in which poetry can help restore one's well-being.

For nearly an hour people in the standing-room-only

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