



Bill Stafford, Friendship and the Scottish Poetry Library

By Hermon Joyner and Sulima Malzin, with Don and Betty Balmer

The smell of scones and good strong tea drifted through the cozy apartment in Edinburgh. The weather, unpredictable at best, was refreshingly mild in Scotland this past September. At that moment, Don and Betty Balmer were sitting in the apartment of Tessa Ransford, a long-time friend of theirs. Vigorous, warm, and full of life, Tessa's eyes still held the same penetrating intelligence and sparkling sense of humor that the Balmers first saw more than 30 years ago. Her ruddy cheeks framed a quiet smile, as she lifted the teapot and poured them all another cup. They sat back, sipped their tea and let their thoughts return to that first meeting.

Don and Betty Balmer first visited Scotland in 1971, when they brought a group of students from Lewis and Clark College, where Don taught Political Science from 1951 until his retirement in 2002. The program offered two terms of Scottish History and Geography taught by faculty from the University of Edinburgh. This opened the door to a number of long-term friendships for the Balmers.

The beauty and age of the Scottish surroundings were captivating to the Balmers and their students. The walk down Edinburgh's Royal Mile stretches from its formidable castle, with parts dating back to the 1200s, to the stately palace of Holyrood, once the residence of Mary, Queen of Scots. Piercing the 12-story rows of gray stone buildings are entryways, or closes, leading to hidden courtyards. One such close was labeled Tweeddale Court. Intrigued by the quaint title, the Balmers found a small stone structure identified as the Scottish Poetry Library (SPL). Since they were friends with one good poet, William Stafford, the Balmers decided to



Photo: Don Balmer

Tessa Ransford and Betty Balmer

Why I Keep A Diary

While I follow the wind
There is no wind. Because
my wings are silent. I follow
the coast and find these pines
wrapped in their wind, those old believers

And I know that I am alive
and this is the world's trail
a day, a day, a day
much on its own track.
Where did the others go?

Pacemaker sun, persuader,
and heart that wants to beat
(and then the soul's one stride):
my destiny is to find
this coast I follow.

* For Sandy on July 16,1974
because he asked on July 15

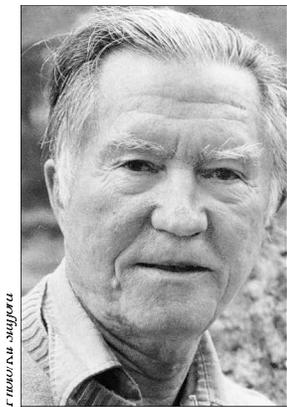
Bill Stafford (handwritten signature)

check it out, and there they met the library's founder and director, Tessa Ransford.

Tessa, a respected and published poet in Scotland, introduced herself and explained the SPL's primary objective, which is to promote the creation, preservation, appreciation, and distribution of Scottish poetry. All of the shelves in the cramped, but cozy library were filled with books of poetry, not only Scottish, but from around the world, as well. Frequent poetry readings were held in the courtyard, weather permitting. Scotland's climate is much like the Northwest, minus the summer heat.

The Balmers brought their students to several such events, and learned that the poets reading at SPL

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Tessa Ransford

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Scottish Poetry Library ...

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were often inspiring people who earned their livings as skilled stonemasons or carpenters, but lived their lives as poets.

The SPL is both a lending library and research center. It encourages writing in Gaelic and Scots languages, as well as English, and publishes reciprocal translations of Eastern European and Scottish poetry. It also sends staff and bookmobiles to outlying communities and schools without libraries of their own, and encourages interest in contemporary poets, such as Hugh MacDiarmid. There are nine branches throughout Scotland.

Since their first visit, the Balmers have returned to Scotland almost every other year. While visiting, Betty and Don usually stay with friends, like Dr. A.J. "Sandy" Crosbie and his wife, Nicola, who are members of FWS. Sandy, a University of Edinburgh geographer, had arranged for several of the Lewis and Clark College programs in Scotland. At the end of their first visit, the Balmers presented him a copy of *Traveling Through The Dark*, which had been signed by all the students. Seeing the book again this summer, Betty says, brought tears to her eyes. Over the years, they have donated other Stafford books, including *A Message From Oregon*, to the SPL international collection.

In the 1980s, Don and Betty visited with Dorothy and Bill Stafford in Scotland, after the Staffords had finished touring Europe with the U.S. Information Agency. The Balmers introduced them to Tessa Ransford, who graciously gave the Staffords a personal tour of the library. Quiet as usual, Bill was nonetheless pleased and honored to be included in the library's collection.

Over the years, the small library in Tweeddale's Court has grown into an important institution for Scottish poetry, and poetry in general. The SPL has been able to secure various grants for innovative programs and the construction of a new, larger building. The new library, an architectural award winner, is now located in Crichton's Close near the nearly completed Scottish Parliament. It is a strategic location that promises a great future for the library.

Tessa Ransford retired several years ago as the director of SPL. She was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for her contributions to poetry in Scotland, and received an honorary degree from Paisley University in Glasgow. SPL's current director, Robyn Marsak, is now leading the library forward. According to Betty, the library welcomes visitors and would appreciate more William Stafford publications. You can find out more about the SPL and their current happenings on their web site at www.spl.org.uk.

Back in Tessa's apartment, time has slipped by. The cups of tea have been replaced by glasses of smoky Scottish whiskey. The rich flavor provides a soothing counterpoint to the falling temperatures outside, bracing the Balmers for their walk back to the Crosbies' home. As on all their visits to Scotland, Don and Betty are nurtured by the camaraderie of their many friends and by the beauty of the country. They are bolstered by the connection they have created between an Oregon poet and a faraway library. Scotland continues to call, and the Balmers continue to answer.

**Editor's Note: In 1974 Sandy Crosbie taught at Lewis and Clark College while on sabbatical from the University of Edinburgh. In one of his conversations with Bill Stafford he asked him why he kept a diary. The poem, "Why I Keep a Diary," was Bill's response. It is a gift that Dr. Crosbie has kept framed above his desk for almost 30 years, a memento of that time and of their friendship. The poem eventually became "Why I Keep A Journal," but was published as "Diary" in American Scholar in 1975 and again in a limited edition called Seeking The Way, in 1992. Used with permission from the Estate of William Stafford.*

Don Balmer remembers Hideo Hashimoto

Hideo Hashimoto, long time peace activist and Lewis and Clark faculty colleague of William Stafford, died last June at the age of 92. A Methodist minister, he served the Japanese interned at a camp in Arkansas during World War II, and lost two family members in the atomic bomb blast at Hiroshima.

Hideo's affiliations included the Fellowship of Reconciliation, American Friends Service Committee, and many similar pacifist organizations. He was a frequent spokesperson at peace rallies and joined in many efforts to achieve disarmament and to limit atomic weapons and their testing.

Hideo and Bill were of the same mind on many important issues and appeared on the same platform a number of times. Bill often said that Hideo was the "token Japanese" and he was the "token poet." Would that we had more like him!

Editor's Note: Don Balmer is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Lewis and Clark College.

FWS Newest Lifetime Member is a Winner

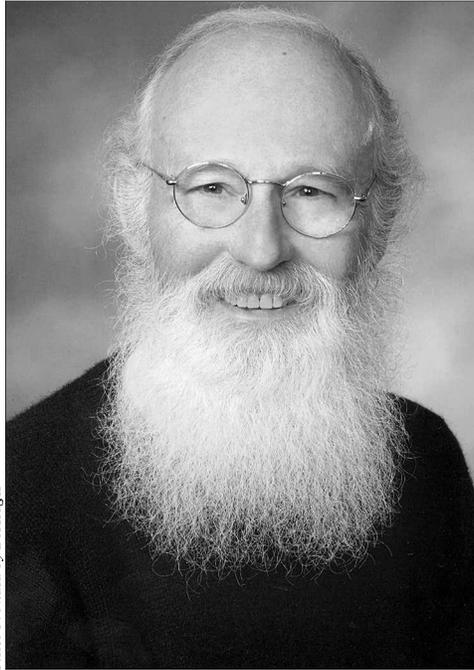
By Sulima Malzin

David Hedges is important to Oregon poetry. In fact, his involvement in Oregon's literary arts community goes back 30 years, when he and Bill Stafford became acquainted as they found themselves at many of the same events. David went on to take some workshops with Bill, and a long and satisfying friendship with the Staffords began.

In 1977, David first joined the board of the Oregon State Poetry Association (OSPA). It was going strong then, and Penny Avila was chair of the Portland Chapter. Many of you will remember her as the poetry editor of *The Oregonian's Northwest Magazine*. As the head of OSPA, Penny would contact national poetry figures, schedule them for workshops, and then leave the "details of filling up the chairs" to David. As his mentor, she encouraged him in his writing, published his first poems, and strengthened the notion he carried that giving is just as meaningful as getting.

This year it seems that David Hedges' name is popping up everywhere. First it was the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he took third place in the Founders Award, (affectionately known as the BIG one) for his aubade, "Dialogue At Dawn." Next, a terza rima titled "Stirring The Pot," was accepted by *Poetry* magazine. Then, in September, The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ announced the winners for its annual "In The Beginning Was The Word ..." Literary Arts Contest. First place and \$500 went to David Hedges. It was for a prose poem entitled "Door To Door On Alameda Drive," which is his childhood reminiscence of Christmas in Northeast Portland 1945 (See Page 10). And finally, on November 13, at the Oregon Book Awards ceremony, David accepted the prestigious Stewart H. Holbrook Award for Outstanding Contributions to Oregon's Literary Life.

Associated for many years with FWS, David has now become a lifetime member. Most recently, he was involved in the successful effort to establish the William Stafford Pathway and participated in its dedication ceremony. (See "Stafford Stations" article, Page 7.) He was also instrumental in establishing OSPA's annual William Stafford Award. David recalled his last conversation with Bill, just a few weeks before he died. They had run into each other, as they often did, at the Lake Oswego Lazerquick, and talked about making a trip to the desert together



David Hedges

in the fall. David's poem "Rendevous In The Desert With Bill Stafford," grew out of that conversation. In 1997, it was given First Prize in the Perryman-Visser National Poetry Awards.

"Door To Door On Alameda Drive" speaks well of this poet's life and his dedication to bringing poetry to the masses. The poem begins with, "The ad on the back cover of the Captain Marvel comic book said Win Valuable Prizes!, an irresistible invitation to one with aspirations like mine,"

It goes on ... "Up and down Alameda Drive I trudged with my packets of flower seeds tucked tightly into slots in the cardboard box I could barely carry. Everybody bought one or two, praising my enterprise." Then Hedges moves into the focus of the poem, "For over a year, I ate nothing for breakfast but Wheat Chex ... I saved just enough box tops to make my dream come true." Later, he reveals the dream:

The glitter knocked everybody for a loop: A set of silver-plated dinnerware, complete with butterknives and gravy ladle. Everything but napkin rings and oyster forks, since we had Grandma's sterling silver napkin rings and never ate oysters except in stew. Besides, I'd have needed more boxtops than I could eat Wheat Chex if I'd counted on the works.

Then comes the stanza that says it all:

Everybody laughed around the tree. Colored lights sparkled in eyes overflowing with oceans of love, a payoff worthy of my monumental effort. There was no settling for second best, no getting by half-baked. I wanted this more than a real bike. As Nana liked to say, The more you give, the more you get.

In the next stanza, Hedges writes:

I got my bike and took right off, wobbling on training wheels up and down Alameda Drive like a young Lawrence of Arabia on his stallion, waving to everybody I knew ... Whole families stepped outside and wished me Merry Christmas!, having seen me struggle past the other way.

David Hedges has worked with diligence for nearly three decades on behalf of the literary arts community in Oregon, while still writing his own poetry. In 1987, he left the OSPA

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New Faces At Friends of William Stafford

By Joseph Soldati

Sulima Malzin, our newest Board member and co-editor of this Newsletter, is a lifelong writer who recently retired from a counseling career in Addiction Recovery work. Among other projects, she is working on a memoir collection of poetry and prose that reflects upon her post-World War II childhood in rural Connecticut where she grew up in a first generation American family of German/ Russian heritage. When not writing, she is engaged part-time as an attentive companion to elders in need of personal assistance, and in cooking “for fun and profit.”

Sulima moved here from Texas in the summer of 1980, having interpreted the Mt. St. Helens eruption as a positive omen. She has lived in the Portland area since then, and has taken classes at Haystack, Sitka, and the Northwest Writing Institute. Her writing, both poetry and prose, has been published in OSPA’s *Verseweavers* and in Mt. Hood Community College’s *Perceptions*. Sulima has been a lifetime member of FWS since 2000, is a member of OSPA, and has written for the past five years with a group called “The Sunday Writers.” She is an active member of the West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship where she serves as co-chair of the Social Justice/Social Action Committee, writes with a group called the WHUUF Writers, edits their “occasional” literary arts journal, and performs with the Dance Choir. The mother of five children and grandmother of eight, she looks forward to the arrival of her first great-grandchild next April.

Having discovered Stafford’s poetry late in his life, Sulima says that even though she never met Bill or took a class with him, upon learning of his death she felt “as if I had lost a good friend—someone who really knew me.” She credits “You and Art” and “The Way It Is” with helping her through some difficult times.

Sulima has a lot of enthusiasm for the mission of FWS and looks forward to contributing her creative energy to the mix.



Sulima Malzin and Hermon Joyner

Hermon Joyner (yes, he spells Hermon with an “o”) will co-edit the FWS Newsletter with Sulima. In his varied professional life he has been a musician, photographer, writer, and editor.

Hermon, a poet who specializes in haiku poetry, has been web content editor for Camera World of Oregon, writing equipment reviews, informational articles, and ad copy for both web site and catalogs, along with editing all written content for the company. He is a specialist in public relations writing and, he claims, is “a ‘whiz’ at whipping out press releases.”

He is the editor and photographer of *You Can Weave* (Davis Publications), a book of weaving lessons written by his wife, Kathy Monaghan. As a writer of health and lifestyle articles for magazines and newsletters, Hermon also enjoys writing the liner notes for small-label jazz, folk, and Celtic recordings.

At present, Hermon and Kathy are co-producing *Visual/Haiku*, a limited edition, hand-bound book of his black-and-white photographs and haiku poetry inspired by Japanese gardens in the Pacific Northwest. The book, which received a substantial grant from Oregon’s Regional Arts and Cultural Council to aid in its production, also includes an essay and detailed explanations of the gardens. Kathy is handling the layout, design, and the hand-binding of the book.

Hermon teaches at PSU where he is also pursuing a Masters of Professional Writing degree. He is president of the Rose City Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication in Portland and is co-editor of its newsletter.

Sulima and Hermon agreed that the best way to introduce themselves would be to share some of their work. Thus, the following selections ...

Last Light



Photo: Hermon Joyner

the evening's last breath
liquid light flowing past rocks
crickets greet the dark

Hermon Joyner

If My Father Had Died in August

I would have lined his coffin with tomato vines
and all the green husks and yellow corn silk
I could gather.

Instead, it is January, the most barren month,
when I finally place the last old driving cap,
brown and seasonless, upon his stony head
just before they close the lid, and I go back.

On winter mornings he would finish his coffee,
slip a freshly-opened pack of Luckies and a book
of matches inside his cap, flip it onto his head
tugging at the buttoned visor with one big hand,
and whistle his way out to the barn, smelling of bacon
and coffee and fresh tobacco, while I lingered
still sleepy over hot cocoa.

But on late August evenings, before the match light flared
and the smoke drifted over, it was the smell of tomato vines
and cornhusks that announced my father's presence on the porch
where I sat on the top step with my book.

Sometimes, after lighting up his last Lucky Strike, he'd peel back
the empty wrapper's tinfoil and hand it over for my collection;
then, tossing the crumbled pack into the waste pail
he'd sit down beside me.

And it would be on those nights, as we sat together
wrapped in the fragrance of a long summer's day,
that my father might ask me to read to him.

Sulima Malzin

Autumn is the Season of Change

Notes from the Chair



Joseph Soldati

I have accepted, at his request, Brian Booth's resignation from the FWS Board of Trustees. The good news is that Brian will remain a member of FWS and, he assures me, will continue to provide us with his good counsel and legal advice whenever we might need it (See Patty Wixon's article on Brian on Page 13 in this issue.)

To fill the vacated position—and this is more good news—Sulima Malzin has been elected to the Board of Trustees. Besides her Board duties, Sulima will co-edit the Newsletter with Hermon Joyner. (See the article on them at left.) Sulima and Hermon are replacing Patricia Carver, who will remain on the Board. Helen Schmidling will continue to serve as designer and publisher. Thank you, Helen.

On behalf of all members of FWS, I want to thank Brian for his many years of service and dedication, and Pat for her fine work on the Newsletter these past two years. I welcome Sulima to the FWS Board, and welcome her and Hermon to the masthead of the Newsletter.

Being Italian-American (but not only for that reason), I often go to the poetry of Eugenio Montale (1896–1981) for insight, inspiration, and especially in recent times, for solace. This has been for me, in part, a cruel summer of unexpected deaths—the young daughter of a good friend, a favorite aunt, and a dear friend and colleague who was my age. Those were my personal sorrows, and I know others of you had some too. Such personal grief, along with the second anniversary of the murderous attacks of September 11, messes with our hearts and minds.

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David Hedges ...

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board and joined the board of the Portland Poetry Festival, where his writing skills earned grants from the Metropolitan Arts Commission, Oregon Arts Commission, and National Endowment for the Arts. This allowed the festival to invite poets like W.S. Merwin, Yusef Komunyakaa, Naomi Shihab Nye, and William Stafford, to their 1988 event. Also in 1988 he joined the board of the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission (OCHC), where for the past 15 years he has contributed time, energy and expertise to a wide range of projects. In 1998 he conceived, coordinated and emceed "RiverSpeak: The Literature and Lore of Oregon Rivers," an OCHC benefit for the Museum of the Oregon Country at Willamette Falls.

David served on seven grant panels for the Metropolitan Arts Commission and its successor, the Regional Arts & Culture Council. He has judged innumerable poetry contests both statewide and nationally, and helped create Northwest Writers, Inc.

In 1996, David refocused his efforts on OSPA. The organization was in a downward spiral and he thought it was far too valuable to let disappear. OSPA has existed since 1956, when it was founded as a statewide extension of the Verseweavers Poetry Society of Portland, which itself dated back to 1936. David became president of OSPA, streamlined its constitution and by-laws, and wrote a dynamic mission statement, which reads in part, "to help Oregon poets, young and old, develop their talents and skills; to stimulate, at the grassroots level, a statewide appreciation of poetry; and, to raise public awareness of Oregon poets, past and present."

More Lawrence of Arabia than the Lone Ranger, David sought advice from the Oregon Literary Coalition (see article by Peter Sears on Page 12) about how to prioritize goals and initiatives for the new mission. He came away with the seeds for the Family Poetry Workshop Project, where pairs of poets instruct children and adult mentors in the art and craft of poetry, and help them create chapbooks. Since 1997, these workshops have been conducted in 25 small libraries around the state.

David was president of OSPA for six years. He stepped down in July of 2002, after increasing the membership by 400%, raising the annual contest prizes from \$400 to over \$2,000, and establishing the K-12 Oregon Student Poetry Contest, which in the past four years has drawn more than 5,000 entries from every corner of the state. This year, when corporate funding for that project dried up, David was able to secure a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation's Walt and Peggy Morey Fund.

David sees the revitalization of OSPA as his way of repaying the debt he owes two very important people: his mentor Penny

Avila, and the founder of the original Verseweavers Society and OSPA, Laurence Pratt, the teacher and poet who introduced him to poetry.

There is no doubt that David Hedges, in remaining true to his values of inclusiveness and outreach, will continue to have an impact on Oregon's literary arts community. Going back to his poem, it would appear that his nana was right – *The more you give, the more you get.*

From the Chair ...

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Usually at such times I go to the beach to walk long stretches of the shore, allowing the Pacific and the salt wind to tidy up my sad heart and troubled mind. I didn't get to the continent's end this summer, but I got to Montale's "Mediterranean" poems – his paeans, to his ocean. Thus,

You told me as a child
the petty ferment
of my heart was merely a moment
of yours; ...
(Tu m'hai detto primo
che il piccino fermento
del mio cuore non era che un momento
del tuo; ...)

And ...

O immensity, it was you, redeeming
even the stones in their suffering:
in your jubilation the fixity
of fine things was justified.
(Tu vastita riscattavi
anche il patire dei sassi:
nel tuo tripudio era giusta,
l'immobilità dei finiti.)

All of us are fixed between the poignancy of the finite and the immensity of the infinite. The former sometimes drives us crazy. The latter can give us peace.

(All quotations are from Eugenio Montale, *Cuttlefish Bones*, Trans. William Arrowsmith (New York: W.W. Norton, 1992), pp.88, 89, 90, 91.)

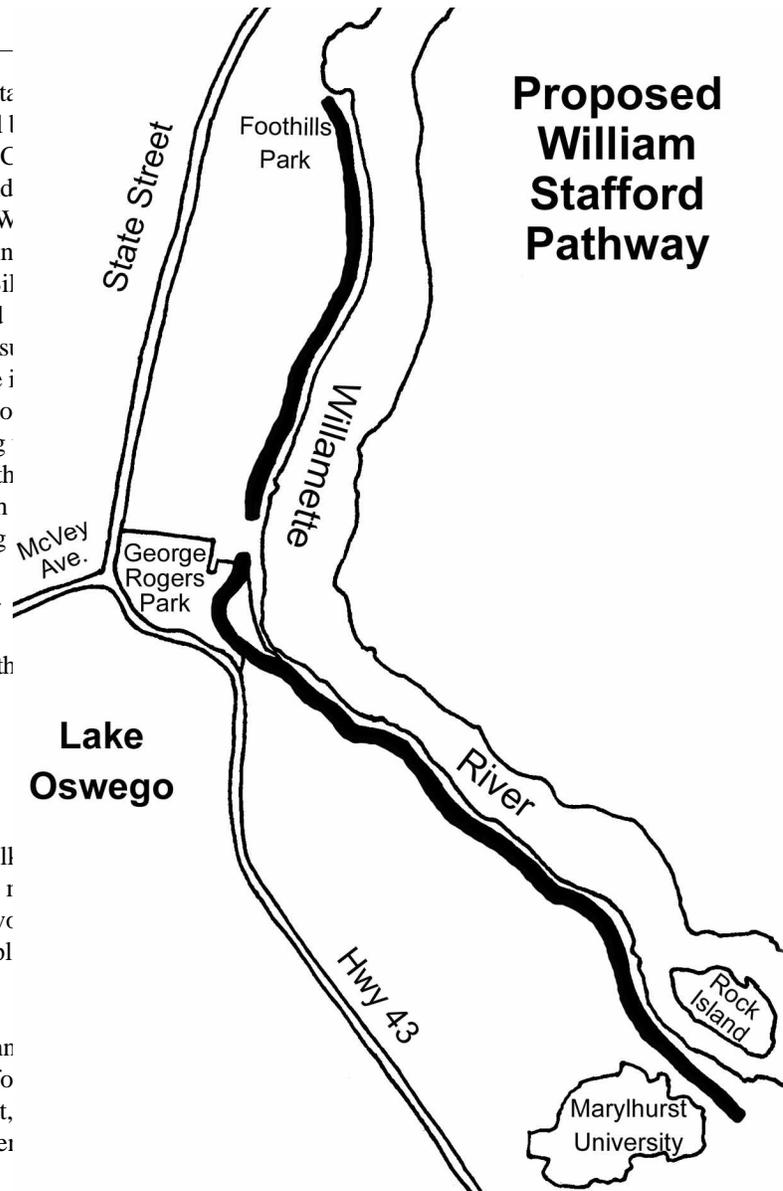
'Stafford Stations' to Mark Willamette River Walkway

By Sulima Malzin

When the newly-named William Stafford Pathway is completed, visitors will follow it from the mouth of Tryon Creek through Foothills and Rogers Parks to the north edge of Lake Oswego. Along the way, they will be able to read and contemplate some of Bill Stafford's poetry. Several "Stafford Stations"—plaques inscribed with his poems for the setting—will first be placed at picturesque sites in the area of Foothills Park, with eventual additions along the entire length of the meandering path. At present, the path is incomplete with a gap of a few hundred yards along River Road, between George Rogers and Roehr Park. The completion of Foothills Park, expected next year, will bring it all the way to the mouth of Tryon Creek.

From the time the family moved into their Lake Oswego home in 1957 until his death in 1993, Bill Stafford could often be found walking the path. The pathway not only honors the poet, who is frequently referred to as the poetic voice of the day in the northwest, but it honors the place that inspired him and provided him with inspiration and respite.

Lake Oswego City Councilor John McVey's recent movement to commemorate the poet's life by naming the path after him was approved by the Council. The Council also approved the establishment of the Stafford Pathway.



The ceremony will be held on Monday, January 17, at 11 a.m. at the mouth of Tryon Creek. The event is being organized by the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark College.

Other members of the local community who will be participating in the ceremony include David Hedges representing the Oregon State Parks Association (OSPA), David Herlihy representing the Oregon Heritage Commission, and Joe Soldati, who spoke at the dedication last year. Dorothy and Kim Stafford will also be present.

The plaques will take up the Stafford Pathway. They will provide inspiration to anyone who walks the path and read them—a fitting honor for the poet who believed in making poetry accessible to everyone.

On your visit, look for the plaques. One reads: *Be a person here. Stand by the river, invoke the owls and How you stand here is important. How you listen for the next thing to happen. How you breathe.*

Third Annual Stafford Symposium Will Examine Pacifist Views

This year's Stafford Symposium will be held on the poet's birthday, January 17, from 9 a.m. to noon on the Lewis & Clark Campus. Rather than offering a formal presentation or panel discussion, this year's symposium promises to be more like a workshop in which participants will share their responses to the pacifist values expressed in Stafford's poetry. Kim Stafford will facilitate the program, along with other presenters.

Registrants will be given a packet of materials to help prepare them for participation in what is expected to be a lively, interactive discussion. The two most recently published books contain-

ing Stafford's prose and poetry, *The Answer Is In The Mountains*, and *Every War Has Two Losers*, as well as a CD of him reading his own work, will form the basis for discussion.

Lewis and Clark's Northwest Writing Institute is again sponsoring the event, for which there is no admission fee. However, as always, space will be limited, so pre-registration is a must. Complete information will be sent to those on NWWI's mailing list and registration will be open after December 1. Contact Diane McDevitt at 503-768-6160.

The William Stafford Celebration for 2004

Once again, the Friends of William Stafford are putting out the Red Carpet to celebrate William Stafford's Birthday with a series of January events throughout the country. Under the guidance of FWS Board Member Paulann Petersen, these events are growing in scope and number each year. The schedule, printed here, lists 33 events, from Stafford's home in Lake Oswego to sites in Kentucky, Washington, Wisconsin and Maryland.

Portland Metro Events

Wednesday, January 7, 7 p.m., Tigard City Library

Contact: Mary Bush, mary@ci.tigard.or.us

Hosted by Tim Barnes and featuring Steve Arndt, Gerry Foote, Jim Grabill, Diane Holland, Dan Skach-Mills, Carolyn Moore, and FWS board member Dennis Schmidling

Saturday, January 10, 8 p.m., Mountain Writers Center

Contact: Tonaya Craft, tonaya_craft@hotmail.com

Hosted by John Morrison and featuring Kelly Lenox Allan, Linda Hathaway Bunza, Maggie Chula, Doug Marx, Carlos Reyes, Sydney Thompson, and FWS board member Betty Barton

Sunday, January 11, 2 p.m., Oswego Heritage House

Contact: Susan Headlee, 503-635-6373

Hosted by Herman Asarnow and featuring Lois Baker, David Biespiel, Patricia Bollin, Robert Davies, Ceil Huntington, Joanna Rose, and FWS board member Nan Atzen

Thursday, January 15, 7 p.m., Multnomah Central Library

Contact: Marsha Weber, marshaw@multcolib.org

Hosted by Greg Simon. With special guests Barbara Stafford, Dorothy Stafford, and Kim Stafford. Featuring Steven Babcock, Janice Gould, Marilyn Sewell, and FWS board member Don Colburn.

Saturday, January 17, Symposium, Lewis & Clark College

Contact: Paul Merchant at NW Writing Institute, 503-768-6160

Tuesday, January 20, 7 p.m., Belmont Library

Contact: Barbara J. Head, barbahe@multcolib.org

Hosted by Jane Glazer and featuring Judith Arcana, Michele Glazer, Ruth Gundle, Barbara LaMorticella, Dan Raphael, Willa Schneberg, and FWS board chair Joseph Soldati

Thursday, January 22, 7:30 p.m., Annie Bloom's Books

Contact: Will Peters, books@annieblooms.com

Hosted by Paulann Petersen and featuring Judith Barrington, Brian Christopher, Leanne Grabel, Hermon Joyner, Maxine Scates, Lisa Steinman, and FWS board member Sulima Malzin

If you are interested in hosting a Stafford reading in commemoration of his birthday (which is January 17), please e-mail Paulann Petersen (paulann@paulann.net) by no later than December 15. The format includes readings of favorite Stafford poems by invited guest readers, followed by an open mike where others may share their own favorite Stafford poems.

Saturday, January 24, 1 p.m., Oregon City Library

Contact: Lynda Ackerson, lyndamac@lincc.lib.or.us

Hosted by David Hedges and featuring Linda Besant, Dan Cisco, Walt Curtis, Mike Langtry, Cassandra Sagan, Pat Vivian, and FWS board member Helen Schmidling

Monday, January 26, 7 p.m., Gregory Forum, Clackamas Community College

Contact: Diane Averill, diane@clackamas.edu

Hosted by Kate Gray and featuring Howard Aaron, Michael Cowger, Harold Johnson, Marianne Klekacz, Suzanne Sigafos, Dianne Stepp, and FWS board member Nancy Winklesky

Tuesday, January 27, 7 p.m., Broadway Books

Contact: Roberta Dyer or Gloria Borg-Olds, Bookbroads@aol.com

Hosted by Rodger Larson and featuring Brian Doyle, Verlana Orr, Sandy Polishuk, Vern Rutsala, Jim Shugrue, Sandra Stone, and FWS board member Shelley Reece

Thursday, January 29, 7:30 p.m., Bookstore, Marylhurst University

Contact: Joan Maiers, jmaiers@yahoo.com

Hosted by Joan Maiers and featuring Jessica Lamb, Bob MacFarlane, David Rutiezer, Peter Sears, BT Shaw, Primus St. John, and FWS board member Pat Carver

Saturday, January 31, 2 p.m., Beaverton Library

Contact: Michele Caldwell, mcaldwell@ci.beaverton.or.us

Hosted by Penelope Scambly Schott and featuring Tom Bremer, Karen Braucher, Sherron Norlen, Wendy Swanson, Claire Sykes, Joe Wheeler, and FWS board member Ann Staley

Events Outside the Portland Metro Area

Saturday, January 10, 2 p.m., White Salmon Valley Community Library, White Salmon, Washington

Contact: Jennifer Hull, jhull@fvrl.org
or the library at 509-493-1132

Sunday, January 11, 2 p.m., Bend Library, Bend, Oregon

Contact: Judith Montgomery, jhm@bendcable.com or Liz Goodrich, lizg@dpls.lib.or.us

Tuesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m., Richard Hugo House, Seattle, Washington

Contact: Trisha Ready, programs@hugohouse.org

Thursday, January 15, 7:30 p.m., Hamersly Library, Room 107, Western Oregon University, Monmouth, Oregon

Contact: Michele Price, pricemv@wou.edu

Thursday, January 15, 4 p.m., Reception; 5:30, Reading Lower Columbia College Art Gallery, Longview, Washington

Contact: Deborah Brink, dbrink@lcc.ctc.edu
Joseph Green, tossedgreens@scattercreek.com

Saturday, January 17, 3-5 p.m., Tsunami Books, Eugene, Oregon

Contact: Ingrid Wendt, idwendt@msn.com

Sunday, January 18, 3 p.m., Jewel Box Theater, Poulsboro, Washington

Contact: Sharon Svendsen, svend@sinclair.net

Sunday, January 18, 2-4 p.m., Anderson Room, Salem Public Library, Salem, Oregon

Contact: Eleanor Berry, eberry@wvi.com

Sunday, January 19, 2-4 p.m., Klamath County Library, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Contact: Mary Hope, fish_trappe@yahoo.com

Thursday, January 22, 7 p.m., O.N.E. (Amity's Community Arts Cafe), Amity, Oregon

Contact: Seth Johnson, SeJohnson@msd.k12.or.us

Thursday, January 22, 6 p.m., Gallery 76, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee, Washington

Contact: Derek Sheffield, DSheffield@wvc.edu

Friday, January 23, 7 p.m., Bloomsbury Books, Ashland, Oregon

Contact: Alice Hardesty, aliceh@charter.net

Saturday, January 24, 2 p.m., Joseph-Beth Booksellers, Lexington, Kentucky

Contact: Christine Delea, christine.delea@eku.edu

Monday, January 26, 7:30 p.m., Elliott Bay Books, Seattle, Washington

Contact: Peter Aaron, PAaron@elliottbaybook.com

Sunday, January 25, 3 p.m., Vancouver Community Library, Vancouver, Washington

Contact: Betty Barton, gbartongsb@aol.com

Tuesday, January 27, 7 p.m., The 310 Winebar Gallery, Silverton, Oregon

Contact: Steve Slemenda, sles@chemeketa.edu

Sites committed to an event, but not yet scheduled:

Ontario, Oregon (Malheur County Library)

Contact: Pat Bradshaw, malheurlibrary@yahoo.com

Forest Grove, Oregon (Forest Grove Library)

Contact: Anya Doll, 503-357-5635, artsminds@aol.com

Bethesda, Maryland (Writers Center)

Contact: Martin Dickinson, dickinson@eli.org

Madison, Wisconsin

Contact: R. Virgil Ellis, ronellis@direcway.com

Corvallis, Oregon

Contact: Linda Gelbrich, lindaw@exchangenet.net

Sudbury, Maine

Contact: Helen Marie Casey, HMCCasey@aol.com

*To organize a January Stafford Birthday Celebration, please contact: Paulann Petersen
paulann@paulann.net*

Kim Stafford Was Double Finalist for Oregon Book Awards

The 17th annual Oregon Book Awards were held November 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Scottish Rite Center on 1512 SW Morrison Street in Portland. Esteemed poet Carolyn Kizer hosted this year's event. Kizer is the author of eight books of poetry and has received numerous honors, including an American Academy of the Arts and Letters Award, the Frost Medal and the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Award. Also presenting were poet Clemens Starck, author and artist Walt Curtis, and Willamette Writers president Cynthia Whitcomb.

George Hitchcock, David Hedges, and Jerry Isom received special awards at the ceremony. Hitchcock accepted the C.E.S. Wood Retrospective Award for a distinguished career in Oregon Letters. Born in Hood River in 1904, he is a nationally recognized poet, playwright, fiction writer, editor, publisher, journalist and teacher. David Hedges, who is the subject of a feature article in this newsletter, was given the Stewart H. Holbrook Award for Outstanding Contributions to Oregon's Literary Life. Jerry Isom claimed the Walt Morey Special Award. Isom is the director of *Books for Kids*, a special program of the Willamette Writers which distributes new and used books to disadvantaged children and youth at no cost, through more than 45 agencies and organizations in Portland, Eugene and Medford. The categories, judges, finalists, and winners included:

Stafford/Hall Award for Poetry, Jimmy Santiago Baca, judge
Jane Bailey for *The Fine Art of Postponement*
Casey Kwang for *Copia*
Robert McDowell for *On Foot, in Flames*
Rita Ott Ramstad for *The Play of Light and Dark*
Clemens Starck for *China Basin*
Winner: Rita Ott Ramstad

Ken Kesey Award for the Novel, Pam Houston, judge
Cai Emmons for *His Mother's Son*
April Henry for *Learning to Fly*
Jane Kirkpatrick for *A Name of Her Own*
Alan Siporin for *Fire's Edge*
Lono Waiwaiole for *Wiley's Lament*
Winner: Cai Emmons

H.L. Davis Award for Short Fiction, Pam Houston, judge
Tracy Daugherty for *It Takes a Worried Man*
Douglas Rennie for *Badlands*
Lidia Yuknavitch for *Real to Reel*
Winner: Tracy Daugherty

F. Fuller Victor Award for Gen. Nonfiction, Peter Gilbert, judge
Rick Harmon for *Crater Lake National Park*
Barbara S. Mahoney for *Dispatches and Dictators*
Kim Stafford for *The Muses Among Us*
Winner: Barbara S. Mahoney

Sarah Winnemucca Award for Creative Nonfiction, Paul West, judge
Carol Ann Bassett for *A Gathering of Stones*
Chris Chester for *Providence of a Sparrow*
Gabrielle Glaser for *The Nose*
Floyd Skloot for *In the Shadow of Memory*
Kim Stafford for *Early Morning*
Winner: Floyd Skloot

Eloise Jarvis McGraw Award for Children's Literature
Linda Perkins, judge
Eric A. Kimmel for *Three Samurai Cat*
Petra Mathers for *Herbie's Secret Santa*
Valerie Rapp for *Life in a River*
Nicole Rubel for *No More Vegetables!*
Cynthia Rylant for *Henry and Mudge and the Tall Tree House*
Winner: Eric A. Kimmel

Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Adult Literature
Amy Alessio, judge
Brian A. Connolly for *Wolf Journal*
Heather Vogel Frederick for *The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed*
Kezi Matthews for *Flying Lessons*
Elizabeth Rusch for *Generation Fix*
Graham Salisbury for *Island Boyz*
Winner: Heather Vogel Frederick

'In the Beginning Was The Word ...' Contest Winners Named

"In the Beginning Was the Word ..." the Literary Arts Contest, sponsored annually by the Lake Oswego, Oregon, United Church of Christ, recently announced this year's winners.

First Place was awarded to David Hedges of West Linn, OR for his prose poem "Door to Door on Alameda Drive (1945)." Second Place went to Wendy Thompson of Vancouver, WA for her poem, "Numina." Judith Barrington of Portland, OR won Third Place for an essay, "What Remains In Place."

In addition, three "Honorable Mentions" were chosen. They are Ingrid Wendt of Eugene, OR; Mkawai Mcharo of Washington, D.C. and Karen Guzman of Raleigh, NC. Each of the winning submissions was given a public reading at one of the church's Sunday services in October.

In a concurrent young writers' contest, the winners were Lauren Hansen of Forest Grove, OR and Crystal Chiemwichitra of Walla Walla, WA.

New Letterpress Broadside Available

By Patty Wixon

Through a generous donation by Dr. Pierre Rioux, FWS member formerly of North Dakota and now Minnesota, FWS has been able to offer six letterpress broadsides of poems by William Stafford. Each of these represents a poem written in a different decade between 1940 and 1990. Now, poems Stafford wrote in the '30s have surfaced, so the Friends of William Stafford are offering a seventh broadside.

Responding to these early poems, Charles Seluzicki, rare book appraiser and FWS member, feels we should be aware of a poet's beginnings. It's Seluzicki's opinion that William Stafford's early formalism influenced Thom Gunn and Ted Hughes to include him in the British book *Five American Poets* (London: Faber & Faber, 1963), published the same year Stafford received the National Book Award for Poetry for *Traveling Through The Dark* (New York: Harper & Row, 1962)

Written by Stafford in El Dorado, Kansas, the poem "To Shuman Heink" (who was a popular radio singer in the '30s) was published in *The Bard* vol. 5 no.3 (Jackson, Missouri, Fall 1938).

To Shuman Heink

Too near the heart, the lullaby, too near,
The strains it trolls are melting twisting strains;
You should not sing the song for us to hear,
For pains it soothes away bring sadder pains.

The pulse of sorrow vibrates all alone,
And when the grandeur of the voice that's gone
Reflects an instant in the shaking tone,
What sudden memories to light are drawn.

Your love has been so great, your life so long,
That feeling in your voice is like a dart,
And when you think far back and sing the song,
You stab too near the heart, too near the heart.

William Stafford
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OSPA's Fall Conference Harvests Poetry Contest Winners

From the 452 poems submitted by 103 hopeful poets from 15 states and one country (Wales), OSPA's fall poetry contest gleaned 31 winners and 38 honorable mentions in eight categories. Certificates and cash prizes were awarded, and several of the winning poems were read at the fall conference held at Chemeketa Community College on Saturday, October 18. The winners divided over \$1,000 in prize money.

All of the judges admitted to being faced with very difficult choices, given the abundance of excellent poems submitted. Among several multiple winners, Eleanor Berry of Lyons, OR received three honorable mentions in addition to taking second place in the Poets Choice category for her poem, "Night Soil." Poet's Choice is almost always the largest category, drawing submissions from many parts of the country. This year, there were 82 entries and the first place winner, Deborah Nodler Rosen, was from Illinois. Last year's Oregon Book Awards poetry prize winner, Willa Schneberg was the judge.

Marianne Kleckacz judged this season's Form category, the Pantoum, which is very precise, using quatrains formed of interlocking repeating couplets. It originated in the Southeast Asian country of Malay. The first place winner was Ruth F. Harrison of Waldport, OR, for her poem, "Small Lamp With Shadows."

This year's Theme category was "Alphabet Soup," and was judged by Ingrid Wendt. Third Prize was given to David Hedges from West Linn, OR for "A Liberal Serving," Second to Sara Jameson of Lebanon, OR for "Autumn ABCs," and First Place went to Allison Joseph from Illinois, for "Dictionary." She also placed third in the Pantoum for "Women's Encounter Group: Sunday Funnies."

The most eagerly awaited awards often come from the Dueling Judges. Here two judges independently award prizes for submissions of any form and any subject. Get them to agree on first place, and you've doubled your prize money. Can two judges agree? Not usually—but what fun! Dueling this time were Vern Rutsala and Paulann Petersen.

Rutsala's Picks:

1. Ann Sinclair, Portland, OR for "The Space At The Table"
2. Melanie Green, Portland, OR, for "To Chief Joseph (Thunder-In-The-Mountains) of the Nez Perce"
3. Ramon Klitzke, Waukesha, WI for "Cool Freedom"

Petersen's Picks:

1. Penelope Scambly Schott, Portland, OR for "Swimmer"
2. Christine Delea, Richmond, KY for "Orange"
3. Colette Tennant, Salem, OR for "Scissors and Knives"

Continued on Page 12

OSPA Harvests ...

Continued from Page 11

The closest the judges came to agreement was in their honorable mentions. They both gave one to Catherine Moran of Little Rock, Ark, for her poem "Shedding." Petersen also gave Ann Sinclair one for "The Space At The Table." Christine Delea, Petersen's second place winner, claimed first prize in the Free Verse category, judged by Lisa Steinman. Her winning poem was titled "How To Eat Poetry."

A complete list of prize winners and honorable mentions will be included in the next issue of OSPA's Newsletter, and can be found on their web site.

OSPA sponsors two contests a year. The spring contest includes a competition for students K-12 in addition to the usual categories. For more information about deadlines for submission, you may visit their web site at www.oregonpoets.org.

Oregon Literary Coalition Stands Out as Advocate for the Arts

By Peter Sears

Years ago, when Ballot Measure 5 struck at the heart of Oregon arts and culture, Oregon universities were caught in a severe budget crunch. They were forced to adopt the policy that any program not directly a part of instruction was to be considered for termination of funding. Northwest Review, Oregon's premiere literary journal, located at the University of Oregon, sought the help of the Oregon Advocates for the Arts. They mobilized a letter-writing campaign. The effort worked, but just barely. The Oregon literary community realized that stronger advocacy was needed.

Within the year 1991, the Oregon State University Press faced the same challenge. There is only one such press in the state, and it is more costly to operate than a literary journal. Advocates set out to demonstrate to OSU that the value of this press was greater than the money it generated. OSU's then-president Byrne traveled to Portland to meet with representatives of the Oregon literary community. Because of this, President Byrne decided to retain the press. It was a good day for Oregon literature.

On the momentum of this success, those of us at the meeting decided to form the Oregon Literary Coalition. The purpose of this organization, founded in 1993, was to advocate for worthwhile literary programs. To support this mission, we quickly added networking, once we found out how helpful it was to meet on a regular basis. The Oregon Literary Coalition was designed to be as simple as possible: no cost, no complications, no

distinctions among organizations, profit or non-profit. Meetings are held twice a year in the Portland area.

Literary Arts Inc., Mountain Writers Center, the English departments at Portland State University and Marylhurst College have served as meeting sites. Literary Arts Inc. has been kind enough to mail meeting notices and minutes. Working with Director Carrie Hoops, who attends every meeting, has been gratifying for me, as the facilitator of the group. My job has been to invite people to each meeting, organize an agenda, run the meeting and write the minutes. It's a joy.

Each year, funding in the arts shrinks. The Oregon Advocates for the Arts is no longer around. The Portland Poetry Festival is gone. Even the state arts agency itself, the Oregon Arts Commission, has been crippled, just as the National Endowment for the Arts was a few years ago. Indeed, the very notion of a cultural infrastructure is now threatened. The Oregon State Library, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association and Oregon Council of Teachers of English—to name three primary organizations—struggle each year to help their constituents around the state. The Oregon Literary Coalition, in its ad hoc way, becomes more valuable every year.

Peter Sears was born in New York and graduated from Yale and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He won the 1999 Pergrine Smith Poetry Competition for his book of poems The Brink. His first book-length collection, Tour, was published in 1987. For more information, go to www.writersontheedge.org/sears.html.

Membership in FWS Makes a Wonderful Holiday Gift!

Are you looking for the perfect Holiday Gift for the person who has everything? Consider a Gift Membership in Friends of William Stafford. And, to dress it up, add one of our Letterpress Broad-sides! Use the membership Form on Page 15 to enroll, renew your membership, or give a gift membership. Remember, all membership donations are tax-deductible. You may also

renew online at www.williamstafford.org. Please make all checks payable to Friends of William Stafford. Mail to PO Box 592, Lake Oswego OR 97034. The frameable broadsides are available from Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Road, Newberg, OR 97123. The cost is \$10 each, plus \$3.85 shipping.

Brian Booth Leaves FWS Board of Trustees

By Patty Wixon

Brian Booth, after serving eight years on the Friends of William Stafford Board of Trustees, has stepped down. He will be remembered both for his ideas and his legal assistance. It was because of Brian's persistent determination, along with that of Attorney Jeffrey Cronn, that FWS continued to persevere for seven years to achieve nonprofit status for the organization.

In the late 1980s, Brian Booth developed a strong friendship with William Stafford while they worked together as advocates for the literary arts of Oregon. When Booth founded the Oregon Institute of Literary Arts, Stafford agreed, along with Ursula K. LeGuin, to serve as distinguished writers on their Board of Directors. Booth was instrumental in creating the annual Oregon Book Awards and the Oregon Fellowship for Emerging Writers, which still thrive. These programs have provided financial benefits and recognition to nearly 400 writers and publishers.

The friendship between the two men continued for nearly a decade. One of Booth's happiest memories, he recalls, is of the Portland Poetry Festival dedicated to William Stafford in August of 1993, with events and ceremonies to honor him. Two years



Brian Booth

poem, "The Tillamook Burn" is a permanent part of the display helping visitors consider the impact of the huge fire that consumed forests in that region.

Brian Booth's long-term presence on the FWS board is greatly appreciated. He will be missed.

after Stafford's death, Brian Booth became a charter member of the founding Board of Trustees for the Friends of William Stafford.

A fourth-generation Oregonian, Booth has received many honors and distinguished citizen awards for his dedication to preserving the arts, history, and natural beauty of the state. In the 1970s, he was president of the Board of Trustees of the Portland Art Museum and founded the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission. From 1989 to 1997, Booth served as the first Chair of the Oregon Parks Commission, where he developed stable funding and public support for the parks system. Through his leadership, poetry became part of the new Tillamook Interpretive Center at Cape Lookout State Park on the Oregon coast. The Friends of William Stafford worked together with the park director, and today Stafford's

News, Notes & Opportunities

SAN MIGUEL POETRY WEEK

Poetry classes, readings, and workshops will be held from January 4–9 in this beautiful Mexican city where Pablo Neruda once lived. San Miguel is famous for its mild climate, 17th century architecture and excellent restaurants. Faculty includes Ruth Fainlight, Forrest Gander, X.J. Kennedy, and C.D. Wright. Contact: 212-254-5157 or email: info@sanmiguelpoetry.com.

GRANTS FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

The Puffin Foundation offers grants to artists in literature, art, music and theater. They specialize in providing funds to artists underrepresented because of race, gender or social philosophy. For more information go to www.puffinfoundation.org. Deadline for applications is December 30, 2003.

POETS AGAINST THE WAR

Poets Against The War continues to be active. In addition to supporting the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride in September, they also helped organize numerous readings on October 25th throughout the country. Several events took place in Oregon. You are invited to submit your poetry against the war at www.poetsagainsthewar.org.

CALDERA LOOKING FOR ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

Caldera Artist Residencies of one to five weeks are offered to visual and literary artists February 15–June 15. Caldera is located in the beauty of Central Oregon's Cascade mountains. Applications can be downloaded at www.calderaarts.org, or you may call 503-937-7563.

News, Notes & Opportunities

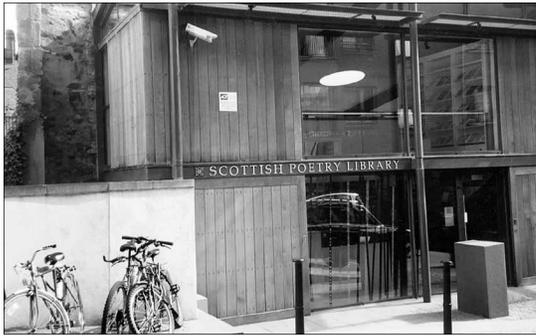


Photo: Leon Esthler

*The
Scottish
Poetry
Library*

SCOTLAND LIBRARY HOSTS SCHOOL OF POETS

The Scottish Poetry Library web site (www.spl.org.uk) offers the following invitation: "The School of Poets, founded in 1981 by Tessa Ransford, meets monthly in the Library in Edinburgh, Scotland. To join, come along on any meeting night (normally, the second Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m. SPL also sponsors a number of competitions.

FWS MEMBER'S WRITING ON STAFFORD PUBLISHED

Explicator, a Washington, D.C. magazine has published two of Erland Anderson's explications on Bill Stafford's poems, "Ask Me" and "Father and Son." An FWS member and former English and Writing instructor at Southern Oregon University, Anderson now teaches at Moorehead College in California. His explication on "Aunt Mabel" will be published next.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER WRITING JUDGES

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards is a national organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding creativity in schools. Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington is currently seeking volunteers to judge the regional writing entries. Interested? Contact Becky Hornsten at 503-225-5900. You can also email her at becky@ya-or.org.

AN EVENING WITH BILLY COLLINS

Portland Arts & Lectures is presenting an evening with Poet Laureate Billy Collins at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland at 7:30 p.m. on January 14, 2004. Tickets are \$24.00, available at the door or from Literary Arts at 503-227-2583. Billy Collins is the first American poet since Robert Frost to combine high critical acclaim with broad popular appeal and he is one of only a few poets to appear on Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* and NPR's *Fresh Air*. Poet Edward Hirsch has said, "Billy Collins is an American original—a metaphysical poet with a funny bone and a sly questioning intelligence. He is an ironist, and his poems-witty, playful and beautifully formed bump up against the deepest human mysteries." His latest books of poetry include *Nine Horses* (2002); *Sailing Alone Around the Room*; *New and Selected Poems* (2001); *Picnic*, *Lightning* (1998); and *The Art of Drowning* (1995).

STEWART HOLBROOK EXHIBITS

Chronicler of American Misfits & The Far Corner (1893-1964) is part of the Oregon Originals Program and will be featured from November 20 through December 12. A show of Holbrook material, primarily from the Booth collection, will be featured in the Third Floor Collins Gallery at Portland's Central Library.

THE HANGED WORD

2 Gyriz Quarterly and La Palabra Cafe-Press have accepted entries for *The Hanged Word*, an exhibition of zines, chapbooks, and book arts to be displayed during the Enteractive Language Festival's *Language of Print* exhibit. Work by Northwest writers, illustrators, and publishers will be displayed through December at the home of Palabra Press, 4810 NE Garfield Avenue in Portland. Call Krista at 503-493-0333 or email: info@lapalabra-cafepress.org.

PSA NATIONAL CHAPBOOK FELLOWSHIP

The Poetry Society of America will publish two winning manuscripts from two poets in their National Chapbook Fellowship. Winners will also receive a \$1,000 cash award. The contest is open to any U.S. resident who has not published a full-length poetry collection. Manuscripts must be between 20 and 30 pages in length, written by one poet, and postmarked no later than December 22, 2003. This year's judges are Robert Creeley and Mary Oliver. For complete guidelines, visit their web site at www.poetrysociety.org.

SUNDAYS WITH MOUNTAIN WRITERS

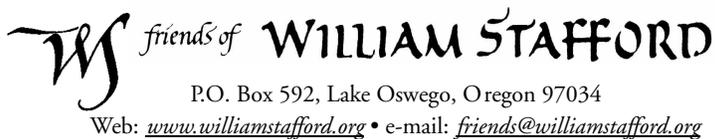
Mountain Writers Series holds a variety of readings called "Sundays At The Center." December 7 at 7 p.m. – The Attic Writers—Garth Weber, David Filer, David Ciminello, and Lynn Bey. For a complete schedule, call 503-236-4854 or go to pdxmws@mountainwriters.org.

HOW THE INK FEELS

Friends of William Stafford's traveling broadside exhibit, *How the Ink Feels*, is currently featured in the Thorne-Sagendorph Art Gallery at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, through December 7, 2003. Starting January 12, 2004 and continuing through February 2, the broadsides will be on display in Longview, Washington at the Lower Columbia College Art Gallery.

WATCH FOR FWS MEMBER SURVEY

FWS Member Survey will be coming soon. To better meet the needs of our readers, the editors of this newsletter want to know more about you and your interests. When you get the survey, please fill it out and send it right back.



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide ongoing education in literature, particularly in poetry, in a way that will encourage and enrich a broad community of readers and writers. In the spirit of William Stafford's gifts as a teacher, we are also devoted to the free expression of literature and conscience. We seek ways to share his work and advance the spirit of his teaching and literary witness. We direct our work toward education in local communities, to contribute to the poet's legacy for generations to come.

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. Annual membership includes:

- Newsletters that let you know about activities of Friends of William Stafford
- A forum to promote poetry in your community
- Opportunities to volunteer for Friends of William Stafford projects
- A network of other poets, writers, and poetry organizations

Your membership dollars support our newsletter and web site and the traveling broadside exhibit, How The Ink Feels, as well as the reading, writing and enjoyment of poetry.

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
e-mail: _____ Phone (with area code): _____

Business/Institutional Address OR Gift (Send to) Address:
Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____
e-mail: _____ Phone (with area code): _____

- Membership: (Please check ALL appropriate boxes!)
[] New [] Renewal [] Gift
[] Standard \$25 [] Retired \$10
[] Student: \$10 [] Lifetime \$150

- Volunteer Opportunities: (Check any you're interested in)
[] Organize Poetry Readings in your community
[] Help with Refreshments/Set-up
[] Distribute Posters/Flyers [] Publicize Events

How did you learn about Friends of William Stafford? _____

Payment: Please make check payable to "Friends of William Stafford" Mail to: Friends of William Stafford, PO Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

Memberships (except for Lifetime) are due and renewable each January. Please copy or use this form to renew and let us know if you change your address. Consider a gift membership to someone else. Thank you!

Lifetime Members

- David Hedges - 2003
Sandy & Nicola Crosbie - 2003
Roland Bartel - 2003
Ron Talney - 2003
Martin Dickinson - 2003
Harold Johnson - 2003
Joan Peterson - 2003
Anne Henke - 2003
Verne Dusenbery - 2003
Joy Bottinelli - 2003
Madeline De Frees - 2003
Doris Carlsen - 2003
Sally Anderson - 2003
Kathleen Worley - 2003
Kim Cornwall - 2002
Terry & Nan Atzen - 2002
Sarah P. Simmons - 2002
Doug Erickson - 2002
James & Ginette DePreist - 2002
Chris Sloop & R. Sanderson - 2002
Todd & Marinhah Prendergast - 2002
Penelope Scambly Schott - 2002
Robert & Kerstin Adams - 2002
Karen Braucher - 2002
Bill Howe - 2002
B.J. Seymour - 2002
Pierre Rioux - 2001
Carlos Rivera - 2001
Jane B. Glazer - 2001
Erland G. Anderson - 2001
Brian & Gwyneth Booth - 2001
Ceil Huntington - 2001
Elizabeth Rogers-Wallace - 2001
Linda Hathaway Bunza - 2001
Philip Miller & Colleen Cain - 2001
R. Virgil Ellis - 2001
Shelley Reece - 2001
Patty & Vince Wixon - 2001
Marilyn S. (Marsh) Noll - 2001
George & Elizabeth Barton - 2001
Sulima Malzin - 2000
J. Alma Tedrow - 2000
Linda Richard - 2000

New Members August-Nov. 2003

- White Salmon Public Library
Jeffrey & Shelley Rudeen
Robin Shaufler
Warren Oliver
Skip Renker
Marie & Tom Taylor

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Thank You, Members!

FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD
Newsletter© is published quarterly.
Editors: Sulima Malzin
Hermon Joyner
Editorial Advisor: Patricia Carver
Publisher/Designer: Helen Schmidling
Consultant: Dennis Schmidling
Send comments, letters, news, and info on poetry events, etc. to:
news@williamstafford.org
or mail to Friends of William Stafford,
PO Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Allegiances

It is time for all the heroes to go home
if they have any, time for all of us common ones
to locate ourselves by the real things
we live by.

Far to the north, or indeed in any direction,
strange mountains and creatures have always lurked –
elves, goblins, trolls, and spiders: - we
encounter them in dread and wonder.

But once we have tasted far streams, touched the gold,
found some limit beyond the waterfall,

a season changes, and we come back, changed
but safe, quiet, grateful.

Suppose an insane wind holds all the hills
while strange beliefs whine at the traveler's ears,
we ordinary beings can cling to the earth and love
where we are, sturdy for common things.

William Stafford

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