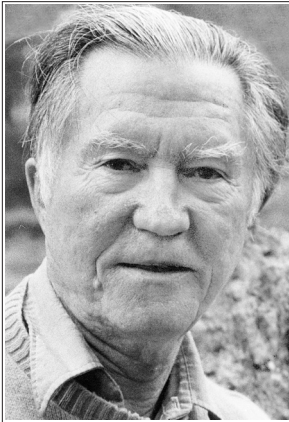




Photo/Kit Stafford



UNDERSTANDING STAFFORD THROUGH YORUBA MYTHOLOGY

by Sulima Malzin

Abayomi Animashaun, a University of Nevada graduate student born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, discovered the Friends of William Stafford through our website and wrote us about his love of Stafford's work, and his plan to honor the man he has come to think of as his master teacher, with a special reading.

He went on to say, "It might sound surprising, but a lot of Mr. Stafford's personal philosophies are really close to the philosophies and mythologies of my people, the Yoruba, who live in the southwest region of Nigeria..."

Intrigued by these statements and the poem he enclosed, "Ode to Bill Stafford," we began a correspondence to shed more light on this passing reference.

Accepted at Marian College in 1996, Abayomi arrived in Indianapolis, Indiana, thinking he would become an accountant. He soon changed his mind and eventually became aware that *something within me wanted more... It was much later before I understood that the spiritual nourishment my soul yearned for would come from poetry.*

But before poetry would be the pursuit of literature and philosophy. Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* helped to satisfy the young student's hunger for meaning and he describes William Barrett's *The Irrational Man* as "literally saving me from the horrible angst that comes from encounters with solitude and nothingness." Clearly though, it was the poetry of William Stafford that left the deepest impression and had the strongest effect.

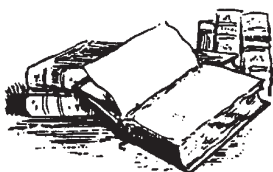
During an immersion semester of poetry, two things happened. Abayomi began "scribbling some of the worst god-awful poems anyone could read" and he was introduced to "Traveling Through the Dark."

With guidance from Dave Shumate and Fran Quinn, two teachers whom he continues to hold in high esteem, Abayomi began studying William Stafford and started waking early to write on a daily basis. He became acquainted with the thread in "The Way It Is," and fell in love with *You Must Revise Your Life*. Over time, he came to think of Stafford as a 'Master of the Dark Road' and the 'Father of Fish.' His first poetry collection (still in process) is dedicated to Stafford and titled *Donning the White Agbada*.

Abayomi has learned there is a mystical element in the

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WALKING THE BORDERS

Sometimes in the evenings a translator walks out and listens by streams that wander back and forth across borders. The translator holds a mint on the tongue, turns it over to try a new side, then tastes a wild new flavor, a flavor that enlivens those fading languages of cursing and calling each other those names that destroyed millions by swinging a cross like an ax, or a crescent curved like a knife, or a star so red it burned its way over the ground.

The wild new flavor fades away too, but lingers awhile along borders for a translator to savor secretly, borrowing from both sides, holding for a moment the smooth round world in that cool instant of evening before the sun goes down.

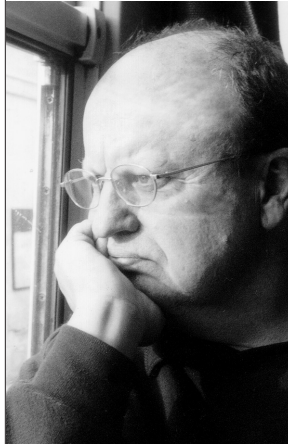
WJ WILLIAM STAFFORD

A William Stafford Exhibit at Manchester College, Indiana

By Paul Merchant

One of the pleasures in archiving is the unexpected query that opens a new avenue of exploration. Just such a question came in a July message to Doug Erickson at Lewis & Clark College. Travis Poling, of the archives at Manchester College, North Manchester, Indiana, was gathering materials for an exhibit to illustrate William Stafford's long association with that college. In searching our two collections for relevant items, Doug and I learned new details about a relationship that began in 1943 and continues to this day. The exhibit was to focus on three key visits of different lengths: the first a wartime assignment of a few weeks, the second a one-year teaching appointment from 1955 to 1956, and the third an engagement to give a reading at the college in April 1979. Our packet of items sent for exhibit was drawn from almost every kind of typed and manuscript material in our collections. In response, Travis Poling provided background information on many of William Stafford's observations.

REPORT FROM



THE ARCHIVES

Manchester College, one of six Church of the Brethren foundations, teaches the nation's oldest Peace Studies program, and in World War II hosted Relief and Reconstruction Training Units from the Brethren Civilian Public Service camps, to provide a variety of skills to conscientious objectors. In June 1943 eight COs were selected by vote to travel to Manchester from Los Prietos camp near Santa Barbara: Bob Cochran, Ed Crill, Dan Force, Caleb Frantz, Ron Gordley, Tom Polk Miller, Bob Pope, and William Stafford. The archives contain two poems written there by William Stafford. The first begins:

*While we sat on the lawn in the shade,
pursuing with talk our task—food, help,
reconstruction all over the world—*

There is also an animated two-page letter to his friend Harry Faulconer back at Los Prietos, in which he describes attending the "belligerently pacifist" Brethren Church, and "living in spiritual luxury and meeting wonderful people." Among these he mentions Dan West, who founded the Heifer Project that still provides farm animals to the developing world, and he was also impressed by Andrew Cordier, Political Science professor, who was instrumental in drafting the United Nations Charter. This wartime visit is most directly captured in eight photographs taken in July, showing a mixture of serious activities with more recreational ones like square dancing. The photograph of a training session in the college infirmary is printed on this page.

In the spring of 1955 Stafford was offered a one-year position at Manchester College. We have his letter to Dean Howard explaining his inclination to take the position: "Manchester is a college I have been thinking about for a long time. Several of my friends are there; it is a school with a direction I sympathize with. . ." We also have the typescripts and drafts of the eighty-five poems written during his stay at Manchester between August 1955 and May 1956. This burst of creativity resulted in nine poems that appeared in *West of Your City* ("It Is the Time You Think," "Sayings from the Northern Ice," "On the Glass Ice," "Ice-Fishing," the first poem of "The Move to California," "Sauvies Island," "The Farm on the Great Plains," "By the Snake River," and "When We Looked Back") and seven poems in *Traveling through the Dark* ("Time's Exile," "Fall Wind," "Summer Will Rise," "On Quitting a Little College," "Prairie Town," "The View from Here," and "With My Crowbar Key"). Clearly he used this return to the Midwest to focus his thoughts about his roots and his new home in the West, the subject that shapes both of his first two books of poetry. And one of the poems, "On Quitting a Little College," written when leaving Manchester, ends in a mordant but

continued on 8



Photo courtesy of Stafford Archives

This photograph, sent to Stafford in 1943 by Tom Polk Miller, is captioned "Samaritans," and shows (L to R) Louis Newman, Bob Cochran, two unidentified men, Thurl Metzger, Bill Stafford, Ron Gordley, one of the Manchester program managers Dr. Carmen, and Dan Force (who was to be best man at the Staffords' wedding). It illustrates the practical instruction provided at the Manchester College Training program. The hospital setting is a reminder of the crucial role played by COs during the war in revolutionizing the treatment of patients in psychiatric hospitals across the nation, and of the immensely valuable volunteer CO starvation/nutrition experiment that saved many lives in postwar Europe. William Stafford, with pen and folded paper at the ready in his shirt pocket, is perhaps remembering his own injection at the age of six for diphtheria, vividly described in "Third Street" (The Way It Is).

Ode to Bill Stafford

Your poems were never to a set agenda.
What words people marveled at
You put aside, for what others might call
Mundane, out of place, too ordinary.
All too available.

Every morning at five
You the explorer, put on
Your gray shirt, khakis, and shoes
And went in search,
Not of a poem

But the first faint call
Of a fish hook glinting dull in the mud,
A lost country on a wall where
Ants pass on the right,
Black hats with voices
That ride our thoughts.

You the explorer with the dull
Glinting hook, did not throw it away
For lack of promise.
You held fast instead and listened
To its real music,
And danced along the shore.

You became a flute-player,
Father of fish, and they
Hearing the melody
Dance onto the shore
With their fish legs after you
Twisting their fish bodies
Doing the holy wobble.

You, the explorer, gave your
Gray shirt and khaki pant
To the lead fish – still dancing –
And walked into a high cabin
White from the sanctity

And your sister waiting
With scarves and gloves
Laughs at you because she knows
You've been dancing with the fish
To a melody all too forgotten.



Photo/Heather Jacobs

How strange that we laugh at your explorer ways
How you go out in search of nothing
And come back complete,
With ants, fish, deer,
Black hats, white suits, a war camp,
Dead people, a lost country.

How is it that for us that come after you
Your music is old.
Must poems come from grand ideas?
We are so intellectual.
We forget sometimes the best
Lesson is the complaint of birds.

And your sister,
Waiting, steps onto the hard
Snow-covered ground
Fastens dogs to the sled
And waits for you to come out
Decked in winter gear.

Father explorer,
What will you find?
Threads in the snow reaching
Deep into our silence?
White horses dead
In front of your sled?

This morning I found your shirt
And khakis, well washed,
Hanging on the gray branch of a tree,
The hook, anchored to the front right pocket,
Still glinting dull.

ABAYOMI ANIMASHAUN

Understanding Stafford through Yoruba mythology, *continued from 1*

act of writing early each morning which, as a Yoruba man, he cannot ignore. *It is a time of partaking not only of this world, but of that other unseen one, as well –the world of the poet/priest.*

This idea of the poet as priest - by which I mean the interpreter of signs - whose medium leads him into the known and unknown, the seen and unseen, is nothing new. And so it is likely no surprise when I say that Stafford's poetry transcends the borders of the landscape of American poetry and finds itself comfortably in Yoruba mythology. Stafford began following the thread each morning with immense trust, into renewed imagination. The Yoruba priests begin each morning with the oracle, which leads them into truths they sometimes didn't know existed. Both are talking about the same guiding hand which helps to navigate the dark...

Nigeria's Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, speaks of *the truths that are revealed in darkness*, and Chief D.O. Fagunwa, in his book, translated as *Forest of a Thousand Demons*, writes of how young hunters prove their worth by going into the forest late at night and early in the morning to encounter the beautiful, the grotesque, the inappropriate. In Yoruba mythology, it is Ogun, the personal god for hunters, who guides the traveler through the dark.

Our correspondence closed with these comments. *I have come to believe that Ogun comes to me through Stafford ... Sometimes I forget that salvation exists in the dark, especially the metaphorical dark where I seem to find myself just before I begin to write... but then I am reminded of the thread and the need to trust and to embrace the process of stepping into the unknown again and again. And so I do.*

Poetry Northwest Returns to Literary Scene in 2006

Poetry Northwest is making a comeback. In 1959 the inaugural issue of the poetry-only journal founded by Carolyn Kizer contained 28 pages and included the work of Philip Larkin, James Wright, and William Stafford. The editors selected four of Stafford's poems for that first issue and more than 30 others during the next 25 years.

According to FWS board member Patty Wixon, most of the Stafford poems published first in *Poetry Northwest* went on to become part of other popular books. Three of those first four poems can be found in *Stories That Could be True*: "The Poet's Indigence Report", "Mouse Night: One of Our Games," and "At the Fair." The fourth, "A Stared Story" appears in the collection, *The Way It Is* (Graywolf Press, 1998), along with "At the Fair." "People of the South Wind," first published in PNW in spring of 1971, was used as the focus for Stafford's keynote address to the 1972 NCTE Spring Institute in Dallas, Texas and "Light and My Sudden Face" (from the autumn issue of 1965) became the title poem of a chapbook.

During *Poetry Northwest's* four decades, the magazine gained an international reputation for publishing some of the best poetry by both established and up-and-coming poets in the U.S., Britain, and beyond, including Stanley Kunitz, Theodore Roethke, W.S. Merwin, and Czeslaw Milosz.

Sadly, the prestigious journal ended 43 years of continuous publication in 2002 due to a loss of funding, but publication will begin again in 2006, according to an announcement by the University of Washington. Poet and critic David Biespiel has been appointed the journal's new editor and the editorial offices have been moved to Portland.

Formerly published as a quarterly, *Poetry Northwest* will resume as a biannual with a new format and design that will include poetry, reviews, and essays. According to Biespiel, the magazine will be published in March and October and will maintain the same mission it has always had. In the words of founding editor, Carolyn Kizer, "We shall continue to encourage the young and the inexperienced, the neglected mature, the rough major talents, and the fragile minor ones."

For more information about the new *Poetry Northwest*, you may visit their website at www.poetrynorthwest.org.

The Poet's Annual Indigence Report

Tonight beyond the determined moon,
aloft with nothing left that is voluntary
for delight, everything uttering hydrogen,
your thinkers are mincing along through a hail of contingencies.

While we all – floating though we are, lonesome though we are,
lost in hydrogen – we live by seems things:
when things just are, then something else
will be doing the living.

Doing is not enough; being is not enough;
knowing is far from enough. So we clump around, putting
feet on the dazzle floor, awaiting the real schedule
by celebrating the dazzle schedule.

And, whatever is happening, we are here;
a lurch or a god has brought us together.
We do our jobs – listening in fear
in endless, friendless, Jesus-may-happen fashion.

Our shadows ride over the grass, your shadows, ours:
Rich men, wise men, be our contemporaries.

☞ WILLIAM STAFFORD

Light and My Sudden Face

I am the man whose heart for
four days lost in a cave
beat when the water dripped:
I was found, and the water stopped,
never to start again.
Now even the cave is lost
where the lost, in order to hear,
held the whole breath of the earth.

In the night I strike a match,
one little glory, a flame
the world surrounds, a stutter
that leaps as the light goes out
and the trail to the cave begins:
impenetrably disguised as myself
I range the whole world in the dark
to hammer on doors with my heart.

☞ WILLIAM STAFFORD



From the Chair

by Shelley Reece

On November 5, I spent the day at Lewis & Clark College with about a hundred other people at the fifth annual William Stafford Symposium, *The Dream of Now*. That day let me live inside of what Stafford, in *Writing the Australian Crawl*, called “the dizzying struggle with the Now-ness of experience.”

After Kim Stafford welcomed everyone, Naomi Shihab Nye, one of our National Advisors, and the first Stafford Center Fellow, spoke with passion about writing, its value and its uses. Her energy so filled the room that when we broke into small writing groups later, the electricity was still there, both in the buzz of conversation and in the silence of writing together. I hadn’t expected to loosen up my writing hand quite so much; still, to write, read aloud, and hear others read what they had written, was a pleasure.

After a very fine lunch, we returned for the afternoon session. Paul Merchant, who is in charge of the Stafford Archives, first spoke of a chapbook workshop he had conducted at the Stafford Center this fall, (see article on page 7) then led us through Stafford’s layers of writing and revising one poem, “The Dream of Now,” as typical of Stafford’s way of composing – from the hieroglyphic script of his daily writings all the way to the documentary and printed copies of a finished poem. Merchant’s aside that Stafford’s handwriting “only seems illegible on the surface” brought a muffled laugh from the crowd; but since he has read thousands of pages in Stafford’s script, it is possible to see how the handwriting may have become easier for Merchant to decipher.

We had a second small group writing session, which, like the day itself, ended too soon; yet it was only a beginning for me. The poems I wrote that day still beckon from my notebook, leading me back to Naomi’s poems, which are even more remarkable than I remember from Bill Moyer’s PBS series, “The Language of Life.” As a friend said to me at the end of the day, “Naomi Nye is a force of nature!”

There is whimsy and wit, memory, resistance, some grief, hope, and urgency about our frail world in Naomi’s poems. She finds human resonance in ordinary things, daily things, household objects – a dress pinned up by the shoulders, a buttonhole, a pulley, yeast, a needle, the oven door, salt, typewriters with jammed ribbons, clocks that won’t wind, a brick, a broom, a bowl. These objects all become magnifying glasses for human insight.

Naomi honors the size and intensity of children’s emotions, as in “So There,” where a little boy writes on a sheet of paper in large letters,

“LOVE HAS FAILED.” At times a single line won’t hold the insight, as in her poem, “Ongoing,” where *The people went round and round / in the arena / dragging their sacks / of troubles and stones and jiggedy love ...*

From the way the symposium affected me, I can only imagine how it must have struck different notes for others in the audience that day. I thank those at the Stafford Center who worked to put this symposium together. And I must say I wasn’t totally surprised that Naomi Shihab Nye was the first William Stafford Fellow, considering her dedication in the volume, *Words Under the Words*, “With ongoing gratitude, in memory of William Stafford. The day I found his poems was a lucky day. And every day thereafter.”

That day was my lucky day too.

CROSS THAT LINE

PAUL ROBESON STOOD
ON THE NORTHERN BORDER
OF THE USA
AND SANG INTO CANADA
WHERE A VAST AUDIENCE
SAT ON FOLDING CHAIRS
WAITING TO HEAR HIM.

HE SANG INTO CANADA.
HIS VOICE LEFT THE USA
WHEN HIS BODY WAS
NOT ALLOWED TO CROSS
THAT LINE.

REMIND US AGAIN,
BRAVE FRIEND.
WHAT COUNTRIES MAY WE
SING INTO?
WHAT LINES SHOULD WE ALL
BE CROSSING?
WHAT SONGS TRAVEL TOWARD US
FROM FAR AWAY
TO DEEPEN OUR DAYS?

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE

Little Things Make Up Last Summer's Stafford Studies

by Susan Juve-Hu Bucharest

In a small room in a corner of the library, we gather with notebooks around a table, looking out into conifers and clouds. A gift of dark red cherries, each as if polished, roughly cut squares of chocolate shortbread, and a blue bowl of salty nuts, greet us as we begin to meet each other and share experiences of William Stafford, and to write.

Our week together included reading poems and essays, both by Stafford and by others who wrote about him, listening to or watching Stafford himself read his poems, hearing impressions from colleagues and family, mostly interacting with the work itself, creating found poems, responding to prompts taken from his poetry, and sinking more and more deeply into the intricate simplicity of his work as the week progressed.

For me the concept of daily writing, exploring several Stafford samples and the application of writing each day in my own life, was the most powerful outcome of the week; a validation of attentive receptivity, exploring and re-exploring. This process connected with powerful feelings experienced earlier in my life when I spent a good amount of time hiking in the high country of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Then I was always eager to go a little further, around the next bend, over the next pass; the thrill of wonder close to the possibility of being lost. Isn't this what putting words on paper is all about? First the impulse (a word or phrase arrives unbidden) then the wondering (the state of being lost) and finally, the making or understanding of meaning, and the delight when it comes together.

Susan Juve-Hu Bucharest, who recently joined FWS, was one of eleven students who completed the second Stafford Studies summer program at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. For information about next year's program you may contact Dianne McDevitt at wilstaff@clark.edu or write her at Lewis & Clark College, MSC 100, 0615 SW Palatine Hill Road, Portland, OR 97219

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Little Things

Somewhere in the dark out there
the son holds his rifle
lays it across the edge of the roof and takes aim.
Back here in the scone-lit kitchen
standing at her sink
the mother washes white bowls, flowered saucers.
Drying them on a cloth embroidered with cherries
she wonders *Who is gone now? Who is lost?*
Outside orange leaves shiver.
Morning arrives and light falls on
late summer dahlias
crimson in a blue vase.

SUSAN JUVE-HU BUCHAREST

The World Speaks Everything to Us: Broadside Portfolio, Available Through FWS

Seven poems by William Stafford, one from each decade (1930s to 1990s) of his long career, have been collected in a portfolio of letterpress broadsides titled *The World Speaks Everything to Us*. The title is taken from a line in Stafford's poem, "Earth Dweller".

The broadsides, some illustrated by Barbara Stafford, had originally been printed and sold individually to fund projects that helped FWS further its goal of expanding poetry audiences and building awareness of William Stafford's work. Some are still available for individual purchase.

For the portfolio, all seven broadsides have been collected and placed between high-quality covers along with a foreward and separation sheets. They are available as a limited edition (twenty-six in all) and can be purchased for \$290 plus a \$10 shipping charge. \$100 qualifies as a tax deductible contribution.

The seven poems are: "To Shuman Heink," "A Ritual to Read to Each Other," "Note," "Why I Am Happy," "A Story That Could Be True," "Earth Dweller," and "You Reading This, Be Ready."

To order a portfolio or to purchase an individual broadside, (\$10 each plus \$3.85 shipping) you may send a check to: Patty Wixon, 126 Church Street, Ashland, Oregon. Please note that "To Shuman Heink" and "A Ritual to Read to Each Other" are no longer available individually.

THE 2006 WILLIAM STAFFORD



Governor Tom McCall with the Staffords at the ceremony installing William Stafford as Poet Laureate of Oregon in 1975. The post, vacant since 1993, is in the process of being filled.

Poetry

Its door opens near. It's a shrine
by the road, it's a flower in the parking lot
of The Pentagon, it says, "Look around,
listen. Feel the air." It interrupts
international telephone lines with a tune.
When traffic lines jam, it gets out
and dances on the bridge. If great people
get distracted by fame they forget
this essential kind of breathing
and they die inside their gold shell.
When caravans cross deserts
it is the secret treasure hidden under the jewels.

Sometimes commanders take us over, and they
try to impose their whole universe,
how to succeed by daily calculation:
I can't eat that bread.

— Bill Stafford

BIRTHDAY EVENTS



*Readings and
Celebrations
Around the Country*

Join Us As We Celebrate the Spirit of William Stafford

Each year, the Friends of William Stafford rolls out the red carpet to celebrate the late poet's birthday (January 17, 1914) with a full month of Birthday Celebration Readings. These events are held in communities throughout the country, and each year more are added. Free and open to the public, they offer old friends and new a chance to share in the spirit of William Stafford. Invited guest poets read first, followed by an open mike, during which members of the audience are invited to read their own favorite Stafford poem or share a memory. If you are new to the poetry of William Stafford, you may just enjoy hearing it for the first time. You can also learn more about us and sign up for a free newsletter. We look forward to sharing this time with you and welcome your feedback at www.williamstafford.org.

In the Portland Metro Area

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 7-8:30 PM—PORTLAND

First Unitarian Church, Fuller Hall, 1011 SW 12th, Portland (enter at 12th and Main). Hosted by Dianne Stepp. Featuring Karen Braucher, Deborah Buchanan, Jane Glazer, Everett Goodwin, Stephen Pearce, Kay Reid, Lynne Thomas, and FWS Board Member Shelley Reece. Contact: Dianne Stepp, Diannes406@comcast.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2 PM—WELCHES

Wy'east Book Shoppe & Art Gallery at the Rendezvous Center, 67149 E. Highway 26, Welches. Hosted by Sharon Wood Wortman. Featuring Barbara and Joe Adams, Joshua Baker, Lindy Delf, Nan Hunt, Paul Keller, Gary Miranda, Rita Ott Ramstad, Tony Wolk, and FWS Board member Joseph Soldati. Contact: Sharon Wood Wortman, sharon@bridgestories.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 2 PM—BEAVERTON

Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th St., Beaverton. Hosted by Wendy Swanson. Featuring Patricia Bollin, Vince Fitzgerald, Jane Knechtel, Bob McFarlane, Suzanne Sigafoos, Celeste Thompson, Laura Weeks, and FWS Board Member Shelley Reece. Contact: John Switzer, jswitzer@ci.beaverton.or.us

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 7 PM—PORTLAND

Looking Glass Book Store, 318 SW Taylor, Portland. Hosted by Harold Johnson. Featuring Lois Baker, Ron Bloodworth, Maggie Chula, Leanne Gabel, Diane Holland, Paula Lowden, Sandra Williams, and FWS Board Member Don Colburn. Contact: lookingglassbook@quest.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2 PM—VANCOUVER

Vancouver Community Library, 1007 East Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA. Hosted by Sally Anderson and Arnie Dyer. Featuring Chuck Bender, Bob Bureker, Dennis Cole, Susan Cole, Cindy Kidder, Susan Lagsdin, Mark Martin, Den Mark Wichar, special guest Barbara Stafford Wilson, and FWS Board Member Betty Barton. Contact: Sally Anderson, sallyyea@comcast.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2 PM—PORTLAND

West Hills Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Forest Hall, 8470 SW Oleson Road, Portland. Hosted by Sulima Malzin. Featuring Doug Marx, Dan Skach-Mills, Laurence Overmire, Beverly Partridge, Penelope Scambly Schott, Dan Sisco, and FWS Board Member Ann Staley. Contact: Sulima Malzin, sulimama@aol.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 7-8:30 PM—LAKE OSWEGO

Lake Oswego Library, 706 4th, Lake Oswego. Hosted by Clemens Starck. Featuring Jerry Harp, Marianne Klekacz, Mike Langtry, Amy Minato, Leah Stenson, Mary Szybist, and FWS Board Member Patricia Carver. Contact: Bill Baars, bbaars@ci.oswego.or.us

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 7:30, PM—PORTLAND

Annie Bloom's Books, 7834 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland. Hosted by Jessica Lamb. Featuring Tim Barnes, Linda Besant, Pam Crow, Sarah Lanz, Sandra Stone, Pat Vivian, and FWS Board Member Sulima Malzin. Contact: books@annieblooms.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 7 PM—OREGON CITY

Literary Arts Center, Roger Rook Hall 220, Clackamas Community College, 19600 S. Molalla Ave., Oregon City. Hosted by Jim Grabill. Featuring Diane Averill, Janice Gould, Kate Gray, Verlena Orr, Mimi Wheatwind, and FWS Board Member Don Colburn. Contact: Jim Grabill, jimg@clackamas.edu

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2 PM—PORTLAND

Multnomah Central Library, US Bank Room, 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland. Hosted by Joanna Rose. Featuring Judith Barrington, Molly Gloss, Paul Merchant from the Stafford Center at Lewis & Clark College, David Milholland, Carlos Reyes, special guest Dorothy Stafford, and FWS Board Member Shelley Reece. Contact: markridi@multcolib.org

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 7 PM—PORTLAND

Portland State University, Smith Center, Room 238, 1825 SW Broadway, Portland. Hosted by Primus St. John. Featuring Howard Aaron, Kelly Lenox Allan, Judith Arcana, Barbara LaMorticella, Rodger Larson, Cassandra Sagan, and FWS Board Member Don Colburn. Contact: litac@pdx.edu

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 7 PM—WEST LINN

West Linn Library, 1595 Burns, West Linn. Hosted by David Hedges. Featuring Walt Curtis, Brian Doyle, David Rutiezer, Sandra Sakurai, Steve Sander, Virginia Euwer Wolff, and FWS Board Member Ann Staley. Contact: Lynette Meadows, lmeadows@ci.west-linn.or.us

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 7 PM—PORTLAND

Buckley Center 163, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland. Hosted by Herman Asarnow. Featuring Tom Bremer, Linda Hathaway Bunza, Michele Glazer, BT Shaw, Jim Shugrue, Lisa Steinman, Joe Wheeler, and FWS Board Member Betty Barton. Contact: Herman Asarnow, asarnow@up.edu

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 7:30 PM—TIGARD

Borders Books, Bridgeport Village, 7227 SW Bridgeport Rd., Tigard (Take exit 290 off I-5). Hosted by Jose Knighton. Featuring Stephen Arndt, Casey Bush, Angie Chuang, Cindy Williams Gutierrez, Scott Poole, Bill Siverly, and FWS Board Members Helen and Dennis Schmidling. Contact: Jose Knighton, 503-656-8612

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 2 PM—LAKE OSWEGO

Willow Room, Clark Commons, Marylhurst University, Hwy 43 south of Lake Oswego. "Poetry Northwest Celebrates William Stafford" Hosted by Joan Maiers. Featuring David Biespiel, Edward Derby, John Morrison, Claire Sykes, Garth Weber, and FWS Board Member Pat Carver. Contact: Joan Maiers, jmaiers@yahoo.com

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 7 PM—PORTLAND

Broadway Books, 1714 NE Broadway, Portland. Hosted by Willa Schenberg. Featuring Sara Halprin, David Johnson, Vern Rutsala, Maxine Scates, Greg Simon, Sydney Thompson, Vince Wixon, and FWS Board member Patty Wixon. Contact: bookbroads@aol.com

In the Greater Northwest

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 8 PM—LA GRANDE, WA

Wee Mama's Sandwich Shoppe, 224 Fir Street, La Grande, Oregon. Sponsored by RondeHouse Media Konsortium. Contact: Greg Johnson BenBrowns@webmail.bmi.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH, 4 PM—ENTERPRISE, OR

Fishtrap, the Coffin House, Enterprise, Oregon. Contact: Rich Wandschneider, rich@fishtrap.org

SUNDAY JANUARY 8TH, 4 PM—HERMISTON, OR

Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston, Oregon. Hosted by Marie Baldo and Pam Steele. Contact Pam Steele, 541-966-4106 hillgirl_2@yahoo.com

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 7 PM—SILVERTON, OR

Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 N. Water St., Silverton, Oregon. Contact: Kelley Brassaw, kbrassaw@chemeketa.edu

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH, 3 PM—WENATCHEE, WA

Wenatchee Valley College, Sexton 6026, Wenatchee, Washington. Contact: Derek Sheffield, 509-682-6736, dshffield@wvc.edu

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH, 7:30 PM—MCMINNVILLE, OR

Austin reading Room, Nicholson Library, Linfield College, 900 SE Baker Ave, McMinnville, Oregon. Contact: Barbara Drake, bdrake@linfield.edu

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 7 PM—LINCOLN CITY, OR

Lincoln City Congregational Church, 1760 NW 25th St., Lincoln City, Oregon. Contacts: Charles Busch, 541-994-2378, and John Fiedler, 541-994-8178, tilebiz@wcn.net

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2 PM—FLORENCE, OR

Bromley Room, Siuslaw Public Library, 1460 9th St., Florence, Oregon. Hosted by C.A. Gilbert. Contact: C.A. Gilbert, W 541-997-2576, H 541-997-7543, chinook@oregonfast.net

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2 PM—MADRAS, OR

Rodriguez Annex, Jefferson County Library, 134 SE "E" Street, Madras, Oregon. Hosted by Johnny Stallings. Featuring Lona Burkhart, Maralee Gerke, Jack Lorts, Paula Lowden, Jarold Ramsey and Rob Whitbeck. Contact: Johnny Stallings, johnnymstallings@madras.net

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2 PM—KLAMATH FALLS, OR

Klamath County Library, 126 S. 3rd, Klamath Falls, Oregon. Contact: Mary Hope, fishtrappe@direcway.com 541-850-2091; or Christy, 541-882-8897

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 3-5 PM—BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA

Bainbridge Island Library, Bainbridge Island, Washington. Hosted by Neil Baker. Contact: Neil Baker njeffbaker147@aol.com

In the Greater Northwest, *continued*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22ND, 2-4 PM—SALEM, OR

Anderson Room, Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty St. SE, Salem, Oregon. Hosted by Eleanor Berry and Janet Markee. Focusing on Stafford's prose, with featured readers including Barbara Drake, Albert Furtwangler, and Charles Goodrich. Contact: Eleanor Berry eberry@wvi.com or Janet Markee janetmarkee@mac.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 3-4:30 PM—LONGVIEW, WA

Writing Workshop with Danika Dinsmore, Admissions Building, Room 143, Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple Street, Longview, Washington. Contact Deborah Brink, dbrink@lcc.ctc.edu

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 7 PM—LONGVIEW, WA

Longview Public Library, Longview, Washington. Reading and Open Mic, Hosted by Karen Dennis. Featuring Danika Dinsmore. Contact Deborah Brink, dbrink@lcc.ctc.edu

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 7:30 PM—SEATTLE, WA

Elliott Bay Book Company, 101 S. Main St., Seattle, Washington. Hosted by Peter Aaron. Contact: Karen Maeda Allman kmaedman@elliottbaybook.com

MONDAY, JANUARY 23RD—WAYLAND, MA

Afternoon Meeting of the Monday Night Poets, Wayland, Massachusetts. Contact: Helen Marie Casey, 978-443-4753 HMCasey@aol.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 7 PM—KIRKLAND, WA

Kirkland Parkplace Books, 348 Kirkland Parkplace Shopping Center, Kirkland, Washington. Contact: Laura Gamache 206-612-6321 lgamache@blarg.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 7:30 PM—ASHLAND, OR

Hannon Library, Meese Meeting Room (LIB 305), Southern

Oregon University, Ashland, Oregon. Featuring Dori Appel, Anna Beauchamp, Jeannette Doob, Lawson Inada, Michael Jenkins, Mitzi Miles-Kubota, Richard Moeschl, and Vince Wixon. Contact: Patty Wixon vpwixon@opendoor.com or Mary Jane Cedar Face cedarface@sou.edu

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH,

7PM RECEPTION, 7:30 READING—BEND, OR

College Library, Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon. Hosted by Judith Montgomery. Featuring Neil Browne, Jay Casbon, Dorothy Leman, Peter Lovering, Rise Quay, and special guest Kit Stafford. Contact: Judith Montgomery jhm@bendcable.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28TH, 1-4 PM—SEASIDE, OR

Seaside Public Library, 60 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, Oregon. Hosted by Susan Firghil Park. Contact: Susan Firghil Park 503-738-4340, spark@freedomnuu.com

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 4 PM—EUGENE, OR

Tsunami Books, Eugene, Oregon. Hosted by Martha Gatchell and Ingrid Wendt. Contact: Martha Gatchell, 541-836-2532; or Ingrid Wendt, idwendt@comcast.net

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 1-3 PM—CORVALLIS, OR

ArtCentric, Corvallis Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis, Oregon. Writing workshop led by Ann Staley. Contact: Linda Gelbrich lindaw@exchangenet.net

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 3-5 PM—CORVALLIS, OR

ArtCentric, Corvallis Arts Center, 700 SW Madison Ave., Corvallis, Oregon. William Stafford Celebration Reading. Featuring Gregg Kleiner, Beth Russell, Peter Sears, Sheila Shafer, and two high school students. Contact: Linda Gelbrich lindaw@exchangenet.net

Around the Country

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 7 PM—MADISON, WI

Avol's Bookstore, 315 W. Gorham St., Madison, Wisconsin. Contact: Ron Czerwien avols@mail.chorus.net

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 4 PM—ANN ARBOR, MI

Hopwood Room, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Featuring Britta Ameel, Michael Dickman, Larry Goldstein, Meredith Martin, Sean Norton, and Keith Taylor. Contact: Meredith Martin martinmz@umich.edu

ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Pending in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY, and HALF MOON BAY, CALIFORNIA. Please check our website, www.williamstafford.org for last-minute updates.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2-4 PM—HENDERSON, NV

The Sun Room, Green Valley Library, 2797 N. Green Valley Parkway, Henderson, Nevada. Hosted by the Las Vegas Poets. Contact: Abayomi Animashaun simplegen@yahoo.com 702-736-7315

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, 2 PM—BETHESDA, MD

The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda, Maryland. Contact: Judith McCombs, j1260@earthlink.net or The Writer's Center, www.writer.org, 301-654-8664

FWS Members Enjoy Stafford Center's Grand Collaboration

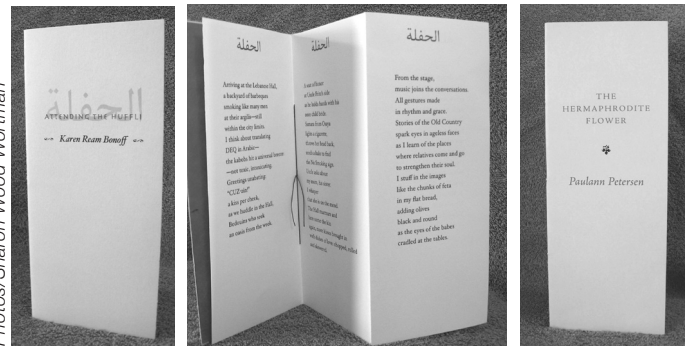
by Sharon Wood Wortman

FWS members, Karen Ream Bonoff, Paulann Petersen, Jane Glazer, and Wendy Turner Swanson were four of the students in the Stafford Center's first Chapbook Publishing Workshop, led by Paul Merchant and Glenn Storhaug in late 2005.

Merchant, the William Stafford archivist, is an experimenter who believes time is infinite, that writers too often work in seclusion, and that collaboration can produce chapbooks made more beautiful and easier to create than a writer might imagine. Storhaug is Merchant's publisher, visiting from England, who also happens to be a technology whiz.

Realizing this experiment, six poets, one writer of fiction, and an essayist met four times (twelve hours total) to produce six copies each of their own chapbook—no book the same, save looking as if they could be first cousins in a royal family devoted to literature: text set in a variety of sizes printed on cream-colored Strathmore drawing paper, cover stock a pure rag Stonehenge Fawn. Six contained handmade Nepalese endpapers, and each book was hand sewn with crimson thread.

Some class members offered comments (edited for space) on their experience. Karen Ream Bonoff, whose book is titled, *Attending the Huffli* (poem): "My finished poem, a French-folded (six panels) chapbook, was a tribute to my Lebanese roots and I intend to stitch up another printing for relatives and friends."

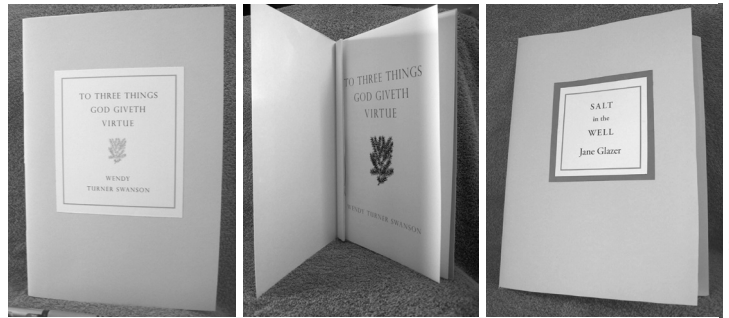


Photos/Sharon Wood Wortman

Steve Jones, *Circle of Twenty Apes* (twelve short-short stories): "The chapbook experience was one of the best seminars I've ever taken in over fifty years of course work and teaching. We learned how to group poems for tone and physical size, paste up and dummy preparation, folding, cutting, and sewing chapbooks." (Jones has already printed a second edition.)

Paulann Petersen, *The Hermaphrodite Flower* (poem): "Providing a unique concept and format for each of us, Paul and Glenn showed us how a computer program and a photocopier can be used to make fine publications."

Leah Stenson, *East / West* (five poems) said: "I am thankful they encouraged me to publish some of my poems about Japan in a traditional Japanese format. The format fits the poems perfectly. I am currently reprinting enough copies to give as holiday gifts...I now realize that putting a book together isn't as daunting a process as I had imagined."



Photos/Sharon Wood Wortman

All eight chapbooks are part of the Stafford Center collection and will be posted on their website (www.lclark.edu/dept/wilstaff) at some time in the future. As for Paul Merchant, he's already thinking about the possibility of another workshop.

FWS member Sharon Wood Wortman organizes the William Stafford Birthday celebration in Welches.

FWS Board Bids Farewell to Long-Time Member, Nan (Atzen) Sherman

Not long after sending its best wishes for a long and happy marriage to board member Nan Atzen and her new husband, Craig Sherman, the Friends of William Stafford Board of Trustees regretfully accepted Nan's resignation from the board.



Photo/Sulima Matzin

Beginning a new life and dealing with some unexpected health challenges were proving to be quite time-consuming and Nan *didn't want to short-change the board*, she said. Nan had managed the inventory and sales of broadsides (a task now taken over by Patty Wixon).

A friend of Bill and Dorothy Stafford for a number of years before Bill's death in 1993, Nan and Dorothy continue to keep in touch. Having once been an aerialist who rode on and danced with elephants in the Barnum & Bailey circus, Nan likes to recall how Bill often said he would think of her when reading "A Ritual to Read to Each Other."

While we look forward to seeing Nan and Craig at Birthday Readings and other Stafford events, we are already missing her lively and creative presence on the board. Thank you, Nan, and all best to you both.

From the Archives, *continued from 2*

determined quatrain reflecting on his dissident status:

*The bitter habit of the forlorn cause
is my addiction. I miss it now, but face
ahead and go in my own way
toward my own place.*

Where he was facing, that March day when the poem was written, was three months ahead, to the watershed residency at Yaddo, and to a new appointment, back in California at San Jose State, another fortunate move. There he encountered Robert Greenwood of Talisman Press, who in 1960 would publish *West of Your City*, Stafford's beautiful first collection.

In April 1979 William Stafford had just finished his last month of teaching at Lewis & Clark College, after a career of thirty years. His visit to Manchester marked the start of a busy retirement during

which he traveled to almost every state in the union for workshops and readings. The documentation for the 1979 visit is partly the familiar manuscript and type-script draft material, but we also have his travel journal, containing details of his stay with Paul and Hazel Keller, friends who appear in the Staffords' family album, and frequent

*"Let's charge on.
Accept this witnessing
buoyantly. Walk your
town; remember us—
come our way when you
can, or we'll find you.
Be ready."*

correspondents over the years. Paul was a colleague of Stafford's at the Brethren office in Elgin, Illinois in 1946 and again at Manchester. The entry for 12 April records a vision worthy of Blake: "Last night—no dreams—one long unperceived swoop, secure in the dusk with a whole universe coasting along beside me, ready to come true when I opened my eyes, or just flicked on in my head." The archives also contain his letter of thanks to the Kellers after his visit, recalling "the days at the Elgin Office—high spirits, picnic, *fellowshipping* the world, leaning forward into our plans . . ."

So we piece together a sense of a life from fragments, reminded at every turn of how partial our information is, but grateful for the connections. As Stafford says in the close of his letter to the Kellers: "Let's charge on. Accept this witnessing buoyantly. Walk your town; remember us—come our way when you can, or we'll find you. Be ready."

From 1975 –A Small Selection of Daily Writings

Editor's Note: The following selections are taken from William Stafford's daily writings of 1975, the year he was appointed Oregon's Poet Laureate.

23 JANUARY 1975

A driver, a pilot, a captain can be mistaken but still be responsible; they take over and decide, knowing that sometimes events overwhelm us but that someone has to adjust as well as possible, no matter what comes. A writer is like that.

8 JUNE 1975

Selling your poems is little like selling your prayers.

29 JULY 1975

There are things, you know, human things, that depend on commitment; poetry is one of those things. If you analyze it away, it's gone. It would be like boiling a watch to find out what makes it tick.

25 AUGUST 1975

About my children and poems, my offspring are much more impressive than I am.

10 DECEMBER 1975

When our lives reflect on themselves, gather experiences, materials that touch us, concepts and associations, we verge into art – the inner enriching activity that makes an enrichment of even weakness and mistakes.

And Now a Word from One of Our National Advisors...

From a 1975 interview with GARY SNYDER:

The wilderness pilgrim's step-by step breath-by-breath walk up a trail, into those snowfields, carrying all on back, is so ancient a set of gestures as to bring a profound sense of body-mind joy. The same happens to those who sail in the ocean, kayak fiords or rivers, tend a garden, peel garlic, even sit on a meditation cushion. The point is to make contact with the real world, real self. Sacred refers to that which helps us (not only human beings) out of our little selves into the whole mountains-and-rivers mandala universe. Inspiration, exaltation, and insight do not end when one steps outside the doors of a church. The wilderness as temple is only a beginning.

Thanks to all who volunteered and made additional donations in 2005

As an all-volunteer organization, the Friends of William Stafford relies on the generosity of its members to accomplish its goals. Our thanks to all who have joined us and those who have renewed or upgraded their donor friendships this year.

FWS especially appreciates the time and energy put forth by its board members and all those who contribute to making our Stafford Birthday Celebration Readings and other events successful, as well as those who have made extraordinary monetary donations.

Special gifts this year intended to enhance the *How The Ink Feels* Exhibit are gratefully acknowledged from the Barton Family Fund, Sally Anderson, Catherine Go, and Marinhah Prendergast

Additional donations for general use came from Shelley Reece, Rich Wandschneider, Nancy Winklesky, Vince & Patty Wixon, Elizabeth Johnson, and Judith Teufel. It is always a treat to receive a renewal check for more than the designated amount with a "keep the change!" note attached.

NEWS, NOTES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO STANLEY KUNITZ and congratulations on the publication of his newest volume of poetry: *The Wild Braid: A Poet Reflects on a Century in the Garden*. Kunitz and Stafford were long-time friends and colleagues and both served as Consultants in Poetry to the Library of Congress.

THE KANSAS JOURNEY, by Jennie Chinn, is the textbook for the new 7th Grade Kansas Studies Standards. The book contains information about William Stafford as a native son, and is available by phone at 800-748-5439. You may preview pages from it online at www.gibbs-smith.com/textbooks.

FWS NATIONAL ADVISOR AND FORMER CONDUCTOR OF THE OREGON SYMPHONY, JAMES DEPRIEST, received the National Medal of Arts from President George Bush in November. The National Medal of Arts is bestowed on recipients who are "deserving of special recognition by reason of their outstanding contributions to the excellence, growth, support, and availability of the arts in the United States." The honor was especially appreciated by DePriest, since his late aunt, the distinguished singer, Marian Anderson, had received the same award in 1986. DePriest was one

of 10 who received the award. Other recipients this year included actor Robert Duvall, jazz composer and trumpet player Wynton Marsalis, and singer Dolly Parton.

*"At my touch,
the wild braid
of creation
trembles —"*

*Stanley Kunitz,
from "The Snakes of
Redemption"*

NORTHWEST WRITING INSTITUTE ALUMNI ARE FORMING A WRITING GROUPS NETWORK. A number of writing groups designed to share ideas, circulate writing, and read publicly together, are being formed in and around the Portland area. The first reading will be held at Looking Glass Books in downtown Portland on February 9

at 7 p.m. The reading will celebrate the work of the NWI and the new William Stafford Center at Lewis & Clark College. For more information you may contact Diane McDevitt at 503-768-6162 or mcdevitt@lclark.edu.

OPERATION PAPERBACK, a grassroots movement begun several years ago by an extended family in Pennsylvania, will be part of the Stafford Birthday Readings in the Eugene, Oregon area during January. The organizers are asking that attendees bring along paperback books to be donated, either to flood-devastated libraries along the gulf coast, or to American troops overseas as a way to 'help build peace one book at a time, one soldier at a time.' If you'd like to know more about how the project is going in Eugene, or if you're interested in trying it out in your area, you may contact Ingrid Wendt at idwendt@comcast.net.

'WINTER FISHTRAP' IS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 24 – 26TH at Wallowa Lake Lodge in Joseph, Oregon where this year's participants will explore questions of how "New Wealth in the Old West" is affecting the old timers. Donald Snow, Laura Pritchett, Sara Michael, and Nils Christoffersen will be the presenters. Not all participants who attend will be writers, but all will be passionate about the subject. Sunday's Open Mike will welcome freshly written material which must be related to the theme. To learn more about this extraordinary annual event and about the presenters, visit www.fishtrap.org.

THE STAFFORD COMMEMORATIVE WALKWAY, coming out of Lake Oswego along the Willamette River is in the last stages of construction. After nearly two years selecting phrases from Stafford's poems to be sandblasted on stone pillars, artist Frank Boyden, along with Kim Stafford and Paul Merchant, recently made final selections and decided on their placement. The group's goal was to make sure the words would be large enough for visitors to see, and that they would appear at visually pleasing heights with the basalt pillars at appropriate intervals. The park site, still under construction, should be completed by spring.

continued on 10

NEWS, NOTES, AND OPPORTUNITIES, *continued from 9*

POET AND MEMOIRIST JUDITH BARRINGTON will be teaching a memoir workshop in Spain April 8 – 15, sponsored by the London Poetry School. It will be held at a retreat center in Almassera and limited to nine participants. The workshop will conclude on Easter weekend, which is an especially celebratory time in Spain. For details of the location, facility and surrounding area, visit www.oldolivepress.com and for specific questions, email oldolivepress@riscali.es. Cost is 435 British pounds sterling (approximately \$780 American) and includes meals and lodging.

ELDERHOSTEL WILL WORK WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TO HELP REBUILD HURRICANE-DEVASTATED HOMES MARCH 5 – 10. Guided by professional staff, participants will work side-by-side with future homeowners helping to rebuild the Gulf Coast in jobs suited to a variety of skill levels. This is a special project and a rare opportunity

to really lend a helping hand and become an integral element in the partnership between Elderhostel, Habitat, and the University of South Alabama. For details please visit www.elderhostel.org/programs.

THE POETRY CENTER OF CHICAGO invites regional poets to submit their unpublished work for consideration in the **12th Annual Juried Reading and Awards**. First prize is \$1,500, second, \$500, third, \$250. Five additional finalists will receive awards of \$50. Former Poet Laureate Billy Collins will be the final judge and eight poets will be invited to read at a Poetry Center event. Submissions are welcomed from poets residing in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Postmark deadline is February 10. Complete details and submission guidelines at www.poetrycenter.org.

NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN NEW YORK CITY, YOU MIGHT WANT TO VISIT POETS HOUSE. Founded in 1985 by poet Stanley Kunitz and arts administrator Elizabeth Kray, Poets House contains a vast poetry library and serves as a literary center that invites anyone interested to step into the living tradition of poetry. It offers a wide variety of poetry and literary events that document the wealth and diversity of modern poetry, and stimulate public dialogue on issues of poetry in culture. The address is 72 Spring Street (second floor) and the phone is (212) 431-7920. Learn more at www.poetshouse.org.

THE AUSTIN (TEXAS) 14TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL is coming up the weekend of April 20 – 23. This event seeks to promote literary excellence by connecting poets from Austin and around the world in a dynamic, inclusive environment that celebrates a passion for language, cultural diversity, and self-expression. Details www.aipf.org.

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



And Last, but not Least,
the Friends of William Stafford
would like to wish Dorothy,
Bill's *vivid girl from the mountains*,
a most Happy 90th Birthday!



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.

BECOME A FRIEND OF WILLIAM STAFFORD

William Stafford's work 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 continue to spread his work by advancing the spirit of his teaching in "a plain unmarked envelope passing through the world." By becoming a *Friend of William Stafford*, you will be contributing to his legacy for generations to come. Lifetime or annual donation 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 donations 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: _____

email: _____ Phone (with area code): _____

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email: _____ Phone (with area code): _____

DONATION:

(Please check ALL appropriate boxes!)

- New Renewal Gift
- Standard \$25 Retired \$10
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Please add \$5.00/year outside the U.S.

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

Annual donation (except for Lifetime) is for 1 year, and should be renewed in January.

Please copy or use this form to renew and let us know if you change your address.

Thanks to all those who renewed and/or upgraded their Friendships this year.

**New Friends
July – December 2005**

- Abayomi Animashaun
- Susan Juve-Hu Bucharest
- Judith Drais
- John Fiedler
- Anna Genest
- Janel Nockleby
- Cabydere Redmond
- Jack Ridl
- Scot Siegel
- Linda Varsell Smith
- Dianne Stepp
- Les Whip

**New Lifetime Friends
July – December 2005**

- Peter Brennan & Paige Fortna
- Elizabeth L. Burke
- Cathy Cain
- Hutchinson/Reno Arts & Humanities Council
- Bruce Johnson
- Paul Lyons
- Naomi Shihab Nye

FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD newsletter® is published three times a year.

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Please email comments, letters, news, and information on poetry events, awards, etc. to: news@williamstafford.org or mail to: Friends of William Stafford, P.O. Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

These Mornings

Watch our smoke curdle up out of the chimney
into the canyon channel of air.
The wind shakes it free over the trees
and hurries it into nothing.

Today there is more smoke in the world
than ever before.
There are more cities going into the sky,
helplessly, than ever before.

The cities today are going away into the sky,
and what is left is going into the earth.

That is what happens when a city is bombed:
Part of that city goes away into the sky,
And part of that city goes into the earth.
And that is what happens to the people when
a city is bombed:
Part of them goes away into the sky,
And part of them goes into the earth.

And what is left, for us, between the sky and
the earth
is a scar.

CS WILLIAM STAFFORD

friends of **WILLIAM STAFFORD**

P.O. Box 592 Lake Oswego, OR 97034
www.williamstafford.org | friends@williamstafford.org

Special Insert: 2006 Birthday Celebration Readings



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