



W friends of WILLIAM STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

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SALES OF BROADSIDE OF WILLIAM STAFFORD POEM BENEFITS FWS

Early sales of a beautiful letterpress broadside are successfully raising funds for programs sponsored by Friends of William Stafford. Doug Stow, FWS member who printed the broadside at Paper Crane Letterpress, Half Moon Bay, CA, created a 9 x 12" broadside of Stafford's poem, "A Ritual to Read to Each Other," using Stonehenge paper and Bookman and Cloister Bold type with rust and black ink runs. The broadside is still available with delivery within one week. To place an order make your check for \$10 plus \$3.20 for shipping payable to Friends of William Stafford. Send to Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Road, Newberg, OR 97132.

W. STAFFORD POEM SELECTED FOR THE BEST AMERICAN POETRY 1999

The Best American Poetry 1999, (Scribner Paperback Poetry, published by Simon & Schuster, New York, 1999) is now available and includes William Stafford's "Ways to Live." According to *People* magazine, the editors have selected "A year's worth of the very best." The newest in the series begins with an introduction by Series Editor David Lehman who comments on "the current boom in poetry, the leaves-of-grass-roots populism going back to Maya Angelou's inaugural ode in 1993, and the emergence of poetry slams, cowboy balladeers, rappers, stand-up improvisatory poets," and a multitude of others. Robert Bly, 1999 Guest Editor, writes in his introduction about selecting the seventy-five poems for this book. He makes additional comments about a third of these poets, inviting us to consider their work in insightful and intriguing ways. Bly writes about Stafford, "The genius of William Stafford lies in his ability to pass swiftly, magically through the chambers-- which in his thought he honored so well-- and so to bring the soul close up to the thing he is looking at."

NANCY WINKLESKY NAMED TO FWS BOARD

Nancy Winklesky, Coordinator of the Friends of William Stafford Traveling Broadside Exhibit, has been named to the Board of Directors of Friends of William Stafford. Winklesky is a graduate in Fine Arts Education from Washington State University. She is currently on the Board of Trustees for the WSU Foundation and has been an active member of the C. G. Jung Society for over a decade. Nancy has worked in a physical therapy clinic and as a volunteer in the schools in ESL and Title I Reading programs. She began her adventure in writing in 1983 when taking a journal writing workshop, and turned to poetry in 1987 in a class at Clackamas Community College and later at the Northwest Writing Institute. She particularly likes returning to classes for the writing community they provide, with people writing at different levels. She has also attended workshops at Haystack, Squaw Valley, and Fishtrap. Nancy and her husband live in Oregon City, OR, have two grown children living in Washington and Oregon, and three grandchildren.

JANUARY EVENT CELEBRATES WILLIAM STAFFORD'S BIRTHDAY

On January 9 over a hundred people gathered at Oswego Heritage House, Lake Oswego, OR, to celebrate William Stafford's birthday January 17. Sponsored by Friends of William Stafford, the event gave the community an opportunity to hear new voices and meet long-time literary friends. Paulann Petersen served as moderator, and began the program with a group singing of "Happy Birthday" to Dorothy Stafford whose birthday was the same week. Over twenty favorite Stafford poems were read as well as several poems by readers who felt their writing had been influenced by William Stafford. Location of the gathering took advantage of the Traveling Broadside Exhibit on display for its last month in Oregon. The show of works by thirty-eight nationally known poets will reopen at the Lewis-Clark Center for Arts & History in Lewiston, ID, in March, where the exhibit will also feature readings by local poets.

WS POEM SELECTED FOR ROBERT PINSKY'S AMERICAN'S FAVORITE POEMS

Last year thousands of Americans participated in "The Favorite Poem Project" started by U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky. People of a variety of ages, occupations, and locations gathered in schools, book stores, and community centers to read their favorite poem. An archive of video tapes recording many of these events was established plus storage of postcards sent in from all over the country. The project has also published a book of some of the poems submitted. *American's Favorite Poems*, Robert Pinsky, ed. (W.W. Norton, January 2000) includes William Stafford's poem "Scars."

Scars

They tell how it was, and how time
came along, and how it happened
again and again. They tell
the slant life takes when it turns
and slashes your face as a friend.

Any wound is real. In church
a woman lets the sun find
her cheek, and we see the lesson:
there are years in that book; there are sorrows
a choir can't reach when they sing.

Rows of children lift their faces of promise,
places where the scars will be.

William Stafford

MUSIC PREMIERE JUNE 2 WILL BE BASED ON THREE STAFFORD POEMS

James DePreist, Oregon Symphony Orchestra conductor and National Advisor of Friends of William Stafford, announces a commissioned piece by composer Lee Frick will premiere June 2, 2000, during a birthday celebration for Portland, Oregon, at Waterfront Park. A narrator will read the text for the piece, three poems by William Stafford: "A History of Our Land," "The Light by the Barn," and "The Dream of Now."

FAIRFIELD REVIEW WINTER 2000 FEATURES POETRY

FWS members Janet and Edward Granger-Happ, editors of *The Fairfield Review* announce publication of a new issue featuring fiction by Rowan Wolf and poems by E.P. Allan, Michael David Coffey, Richard Fein, Linda Sue Grimes, Paul Kloppenborg, Linda Lerner, Alan MacDougall, David Meuel, John Walsh and Yosh. The "classic" poem is William Shakespeare's "Sonnet CXV." Authors seeking to submit their writing should visit the Editors & Authors page at: <http://www.fairfieldreview.org/fairfield/FairRevw.nsf/Links/98general09.5?OpenDocument>

Friends of William Stafford Board of Directors: Joseph Soldati, Portland, OR, Chair; Nan Atzen, Newberg, OR; Brian Booth, Portland, OR; Martha Gatchell, Drain, OR; Robert Hamm, West Linn, OR; Ceil Huntington, Lake Oswego, OR; Paulann Petersen, Portland, OR; Shelley Reece, Portland, OR; Dennis Schmidling, Lake Oswego, OR; Nancy Winklesky, Oregon City, OR; Patty Wixon, Ashland, OR. **National Advisors:** Marvin Bell, Robert Bly, Kurt Brown, Lucille Clifton, James DePreist, Donald Hall, Maxin Kumin, Li-Young Lee, Ursula Le Guin, Chris Merrill, W.S. Merwin, Naomi Shihab Nye, Gary Snyder. *Friends of William Stafford NEWSLETTER* is published quarterly. **NEWSLETTER** articles also appear on the **FWS Website:** www.wmstafford.org. Send inquires and correspondence to Friends of William Stafford, P.O. Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 or E-mail: friends@wmstafford.org

STAFFORD PICKED AS ONE OF CENTURY'S TOP WRITERS

The January 2, 2000, *Sunday Oregonian*, Portland, Oregon, presented its "Writers of the Century." The newspaper's panel of experts picked the Northwest's most significant authors. According to Ellen Emry Heltzel, Book Editor of *The Oregonian*, "In choosing panelists for this enterprise, we tried to balance those who emphasize contemporary writing against those who lead the effort to preserve the region's literary past. We aimed for gender balance as well as racial and

ethnic diversity...." Heltzel points out, "All but two of the 10 winners (Ken Kesey and Ivan Doig) are either known as poets or have poetry as part of their literary repertoire. Does this tell us something about the enduring power of poetry, at least in the eyes of those who guard our literature? Although from day to day the prose writer get the most attention, it seems to be the poet who speaks for the ages."

The panelists top ten: #1 Raymond Carver, credited with revitalizing the short story in the late 20th century.

#2 Ursula K. Le Guin who took science fiction writing beyond the genre in a prolific career that has included poetry, essays, short stories, children's books and 16 novels. #3 William Stafford, Nationally known poet and the first from Oregon to win the National Book Award. Served as Oregon's poet laureate from 1975 until shortly before his death in 1993. #4 Ken Kesey, #5 Theodore Roethke, #6 tied: Gary Snyder and Richard Hugo, #8 tied: Denise Levertov and H. L. Davis, #10 Ivan Doig.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

For William Stafford

We ate the apple the way horses do--
core and all. And the table after our long talk
stayed quiet, just one stem on its round surface.

To anyone else that room seems empty.
We've gone for a walk, but our names, the way
we said them, they're still there listening.

Off the path in the woods, you become invisible
again until, stumbling out into a cataract of light,
we find the road. A sign says: Minimum Speed 40.
Apparently some people have slowed down too much.

Your hands retreat into your pockets at the suggestion:
Maybe we *are* winning.

When it's almost dark we come back along by the dump.
We saw an owl here once and stand listening,
an old radio with holes shot through and a vine
at our feet: This might be the place to come
for the news.

Mark Mitchell

SWEDISH TRANSLATION PROJECT SEEKS ASSISTANCE

FWS member Lars Nordstrom is seeking assistance in publishing Swedish translations of William Stafford poems. Nordstrom, a writer and translator, has given numerous public readings of Stafford poems in English and Swedish. He has put together a manuscript of one hundred poems selected from the large number of Stafford poems he's translated into Swedish, and has located a publisher in Sweden for the book. However, the publisher has asked for additional funds to help subsidize publication of the book, with sales earmarked to return the investment. If you know of someone who might be interested in this project, please contact Lars Nordstrom, 23621 S. Spangler Road, Oregon City, OR 97045. Or E-mail <nordstrom@bctonline.com>

ARE YOU PLANNING A POETRY READING IN APRIL FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH?

If you are planning a poetry reading, or know of one that will occur to celebrate National Poetry Month, let Friends of William Stafford Newsletter help spread the word. Send details of your event to Friends of William Stafford, PO Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 or email to friends@wmstafford.org.

MARK MITCHELL is a self-employed website developer in St. Charles, Illinois. His poems have appeared widely in literary magazines including *Poetry East*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Oyez Review*. He established and maintains www.newsfromnowhere.com as a tribute to William Stafford. "Civil Disobedience" first appeared in *POETRY*, December 1999.

MISSION OF FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD:

To provide ongoing education in literature, particularly in poetry, in a way that will encourage and broaden the community of readers and writers. We want to keep alive William Stafford's gifts as a teacher devoted to the free expression of literature and conscience. We seek ways to share and send forth his work by advancing the spirit of his teaching and witnessing on behalf of literature in our lives. We direct our work toward education within local communities in order to contribute to the poet's legacy for generations to come.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DONATION TO FWS NOW DUE

Matching the month of William Stafford's birthday, FWS requests members renew their annual membership in January. However, since it's already February, we can say renewing early in the year helps our volunteer staff with record keeping. Please send this member form and check today.

******* FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMBER FORM *******

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NEW MEMBER _____ RENEWAL _____
Individual = \$25 Retired = \$10 Student = \$10

Additional donation:

Make check payable to

Oregon Community Foundation fbo Friends of William Stafford.

Mail to

Friends of William Stafford, PO Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

- Mailing (apply address labels and stamps) Help raise funds for a specific FWS project
- Organize poetry readings as a service to libraries, community centers, or schools
- Organize *Friends of William Stafford* gatherings in your town.
- Other:

What is the best way to contact you? Mail E-mail _____ Phone _____

