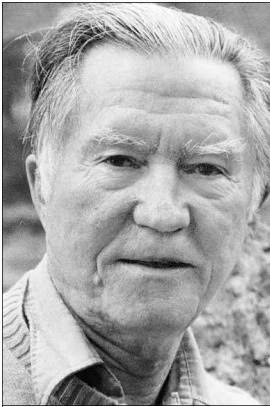




friends of WILLIAM STAFFORD

A Newsletter For Poets & Poetry

Volume 7, Issue 1 – January 2002



Photo/Kir Stafford

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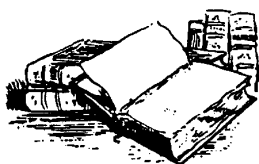
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Celebrate at one of many Stafford Birthday Events

It is time, once again, to break the doldrums of winter and gather together to celebrate the birthday and poetry of Oregon's own poet laureate, William Stafford.

Paulann Petersen, FWS Events Coordinator, has organized eight venues in the Portland-Metro area and 11 more throughout Oregon and Washington. The complete schedule appears on Page 2.

Featured readers will open the program with a Stafford poem and one of their own, written in the spirit of William Stafford. Then, members of the audience will be invited to read a favorite Stafford poem, or share a treasured memory of him.

Dorothy Stafford will be the honored guest at the Portland-area readings. The birthday-poetry events began several years ago with only a few readings; the gatherings have quickly multiplied, with 19 events planned for this year. Paulann notes that Stafford's poems have a profound effect on people, satisfying a longing for a voice of wisdom and compassion. The readings will be especially meaningful this year, with the tragedies of September Eleven still haunting us.

Nancy Winklesky, FWS Board Member, remembers last year's readings: "It was like coming out of the dark on a winter night, into the warmth and the light of gathered friends, and into the light of William Stafford. Our being there is a testimony to his importance."

David Hedges, OSPA President, has high praise for the annual Stafford events. "Immersing yourself in a Stafford celebration is an exhilarating experience: an honest-to-God togetherness!"

So, circle the dates on your calendar, choose a favorite Stafford poem and bring a friend or two for a warm and enriching time, a time for sharing the spirit of William Stafford.

An Afternoon In The Stacks

Closing the book, I find I have left my head inside. It is dark in here, but the chapters open their beautiful spaces and give a rustling sound, words adjusting themselves to their meaning. Long passages open at successive pages. An echo, continuous from the title onward, hums behind me. From in here the world looms, a jungle redeemed by these linked sentences carved out when an author traveled and a reader kept the way open. When this book ends I will pull it inside-out like a sock and throw it back in the library. But the rumor of it will haunt all that follows in my life. A candleflame in Tibet leans when I move.

William Stafford

"An Afternoon In The Stacks" copyright 1991, 1998 by the Estate of William Stafford. Reprinted from *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems*, with the permission Graywolf Press, St. Paul MN

Two William Stafford poems, "Why I Am Happy" and "Earth Dweller" will be available as broadsides suitable for framing. They will be sold after the readings in the Portland area for \$10 each. By purchasing the broadsides at the reading, you can save the cost of postage. They can, however, be ordered by mail from Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Rd., Newberg, OR 97132. Please enclose \$3.50 for postage with mail-orders.

In addition, January is the time when memberships officially become due, so it's a great time to renew your FWS membership. FWS Board Members will be at the Portland-area events with membership forms and information, and membership forms will be available at the other readings.

Stafford was born Jan. 17, 1914, in Hutchinson, Kansas. He spent his childhood years and attended college in Kansas. He moved to Oregon where he was a professor of English at Lewis & Clark College for many years.

Friends of William Stafford is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness of poetry and literature, using the legacy, life and works of the late award-winning Oregon poet William Stafford.

Stafford Birthday Events & Calendar

FWS-SPONSORED EVENTS:

MOUNTAIN WRITERS CENTER: Friday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m., 3624 S.E. Milwaukie Ave., Portland. Featuring Tom Bremer, Gerry Foote, David Hedges, Doug Marx, Verlena Orr, Dianne Stepp, and FWS Board Member Nancy Winklesky.

OSWEGO HERITAGE HOUSE: Sunday, Jan. 13, 2-4 p.m., 398 10th Street, Lake Oswego. Featuring David Biespiel, Patricia Bollin, Michele Glazer, Mike Langtry, Dennis McBride, Willa Schneberg, and FWS Board Member Patricia Carver.

BELMONT LIBRARY: Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m., 1038 S.E. 39th, Portland. Featuring Linda Besant, Maggie Chula, Jane Glazer, Melanie Green, Harold Johnson, and FWS Board Member Nan Atzen.

MULTNOMAH CENTRAL LIBRARY: Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., U.S. Bank Room, 801 SW 10th Ave., Portland. Featuring Walt Curtis, Ursula K. LeGuin, Vern Rutsala, Greg Simon, Sandra Stone, Primus St. John, and FWS Board Member Joseph Soldati.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND: Monday Jan. 21, 7 p.m., St. Mary's Student Center, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland. Featuring Herman Asarnow, Karen Braucher, Brian Doyle, Barbara LaMorticella, Carlos Reyes, Brenda Shaw, and FWS Board Member Shelley Reece.

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE: Thursday Jan. 24, 7 p.m., Gregory Forum, 19600 South Molalla Avenue, Oregon City. Featuring Diane Averill, Tim Barnes, Jim Grabill, Kate Gray, John Morrison, Victoria Wyttenberg, and FWS Board Member Helen Schmidling.

BROADWAY BOOKS: Tuesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m., 1714 N.E. Broadway, Portland. Featuring Judith Barrington, Don Colburn, Christine Delea, Joan Maiers, Jim Shugrue, Lisa Steinman, and FWS Board Member Patty Wixon.

HEATHMAN HOTEL: Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., SW Broadway and Salmon, Portland. Featuring Lois Baker, Brian Christopher Hamilton, Bob McFarlane, Sandy Polishuk, Peter Sears, Douglas Spangle, Joe Wheeler, Sandra Williams, and FWS Board Member Dennis Schmidling.

OTHER STAFFORD EVENTS IN PORTLAND:

WILLAMETTE WRITERS: Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Old Church, SW 11th and Clay, Topic, "How These Words Happen: William Stafford, the Nature of a Writing Life," by Paul Merchant. \$10 fee waived for FWS members.

WY'EST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION: Sunday, Jan. 20, 4-5 p.m., SE 39th and Steele, Portland (Trinity United Methodist Church). Tribute to William Stafford and his work featuring David Biespiel, Rodger Larson, Paulann Petersen, Greg Simon, and Dorothy Stafford.

STAFFORD EVENTS ELSEWHERE & ORGANIZERS

SILVERTON: Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8 p.m., Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 N. Water Street. John Burke, Steve Slemenda.

ASHLAND: Sunday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., Bloomsbury Books. Alice Hardesty.

EUGENE: Thursday, Jan. 17, 7-9 p.m., Unity of the Valley Church. Ingrid Wendt and FWS Board Member Martha Gatchell.

ENTERPRISE: Sunday, Jan. 13, 4 p.m. at Fishtrap House, Amy Minato.

SALEM: Sunday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Salem Library. Abigail Brandt, Jan Markee.

CORVALLIS: Sunday, Jan. 27, 2-4 p.m., Main Meeting Room, Public Library. Steven Sher.

MADRAS: Saturday, Jan. 26, 2 p.m., Jefferson County Library Annex. Jarold Ramsey.

LAGRANDE: Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m., Groth Recital Hall, EOU. George Venn, Jodi Varon, David Axelrod, Thomas Madden, David Memmott.

MONMOUTH: Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Hamersly Library, Room 107, WOU. Donna Henderson, Clem Starck, Michelle Price, Alice Kirk.

SEAVIEW, WA: Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Shelburne Inn. David Campiche, Laurie Anderson.

VANCOUVER, WA: Monday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m., Vancouver Community Library. Betty Barton, Arnie Dwyer.

OTHER EVENTS:

JAN. 17: William Stafford's Birthday. Time to renew your annual FWS membership.

FEB. 14: Valentine's Day. Give someone you love a poem, perhaps a commemorative FWS Broadside.

FEB 26: Marvin Bell reading, Clackamas Community College, 10:30 a.m.

OREGON STATE POETRY ASSOCIATION: March 15, Contest deadline. April 27, Spring Conference. June 27-30, National Poetry Conference in Coos Bay, Oregon. Kim Stafford, keynote speaker. For information, call (503) 655-1274 or write P.O. Box 602, West Linn, OR 97068, www.oregonstatepoet-ryassoc.org; email: ospa@teleport.com.

LITERARY ARTS, INC. ARTS & LECTURE SERIES: Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16, "Writers on Writers," 3 acclaimed writers discuss their muses and the art of biography; Feb. 6, Anchee Min; March 6, J.M. Coetzee; April 25, David Sedaris. 503-227-2583 or www.literary-arts.org

LITERARY ARTS, INC. POETRY SERIES: 7:30 p.m., Wieden & Kennedy Building Atrium, 224 NW 13th Ave, Portland. Feb. 26, Cornelius Eady; March 12, Robert Creeley, March 19, Naomi Shihab Nye; April 2, Jorie Graham.

POETRY READING: David Lee, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Wiegand Hall, Marylhurst University.

MOUNTAIN WRITERS SERIES: "Building Themes in Poetry – The Manuscript," "Advanced Poetry Workshop – Poetry of the Workplace," both Jan. 28-Mar. 18; "Poetry of Relocation and Travel," Feb. 9 & 23; "Master Workshop Contemporary American Poetry" with David St. John, March 2. Call (503) 236-4854 or email pdxmws@aracnet.com.

NORTHWEST WRITING INSTITUTE OF LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE: Winter Term beginning Jan. 25 includes two poetry classes, "Longer Poems: The Basics" with Paul Merchant and "Pilgrims of the Page: A Poetry Workshop" with Annie Callan. To register, call (503) 768-6160.

Poetry is our refuge since September Eleven events

Are any of us surprised that so many people turned to poetry for comfort following the calamitous events of September Eleven and afterwards, and that poetry with its keen language of insight and solace continues to nurture and heal as national and international events become ever more violent and bizarre? You and I, for whom poetry is no mere pastime, could have selected hundreds of poets and poems from our bookshelves. Yet we have our favorites. Me? I went first to Wordsworth:

*Dust as we are, the immortal spirit grows
Like harmony in music; there is a dark
Inscrutable workmanship that reconciles
Discordant elements, makes them cling together
In one society. How strange, that all
The terrors, pains, and early miseries,
Regrets, vexations, lassitudes interfused
Within my mind, should e'er have borne a part,
And that a needful part, in making up
The calm existence that is mine when I
Am worthy of myself!*

(*The Prelude*, 1.340-50)

Baltimore Sun refers to Stafford poem

Before the ink was dry on Joseph Soldati's column (above) we received this letter from FWS Member Sarah "Sally" Simmons.

"On Sept. 25, The Baltimore Sun published four poems which it had requested of specific Maryland poets, asking them to share verses that have haunted them since Sept. 11. Michael Waters, professor at Salisbury University of the Eastern Shore, chose William Stafford's poem 'Objector.'

Stanley Plumly, who teaches at the University of Maryland at College Park, selected an Emily Dickinson poem whose title is '#341.' I was reminded that in an interview I witnessed – I cannot recall where or when – the person questioning William Stafford asked him who his favorite female poet was. To Bill, it would have been unthinkable to name a living poet – he was too gentle, too kindly, ever discreet and canny. His response was 'Emily Dickinson.'"

Check out the website www.poets.org for links to poetry appropriate to September Eleven.

Notes from the Chair



Joseph Soldati

Then to Whitman:

*I think I could turn and live with animals, they are
so placid and self-contain'd,
I stand and look at them long and long.
They do not sweat or whine about their condition,
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins,
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God,
Not one is dissatisfied, not one is demented with the
mania of owning things,
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived
thousands of years ago,
Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.
(Song of Myself, 32.684-91)*

I could have gone to poems by Stafford, and I did of course. But the selections from Wordsworth and Whitman seemed particularly immediate to me. Sometimes poems are personal, like toothbrushes.

So, which poets and poems did you read and are reading now since September Eleven? Send your favorite to Patricia Carver, Editor, P.O. Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034. We will include as many as possible in upcoming issues.

— Joseph Soldati, FWS Chairman



Barrington, Callan and Gies at Stafford Symposium

Stafford Symposium reflects the times

Portland writers Judith Barrington, Annie Callan and Martha Gies were presenters at "Friends To This Ground: The First William Stafford Symposium," held Oct. 13 at Lewis & Clark College. The event took place at a time when William Stafford's pacifist views continue to be relevant: themes of war, injustice, compassion and restraint. Paul Merchant, literary archivist for the Estate of William Stafford, is planning another symposium in the spring at a date to be announced. For information, call the Northwest Writing Institute, (503) 768-6160.

Poetry miniseries features Naomi Shihab Nye

FWS National Advisory Board member Naomi Shihab Nye will be a featured speaker for Portland Arts & Lectures' second annual Poetry Downtown miniseries. All readings take place in the Atrium of the Wieden & Kennedy building, 224 NW 13th Ave., Portland, at 7:30 p.m. Series tickets are \$45; single tickets are \$14. Call Literary Arts at (503) 227-2583 for more information.

CORNELIUS EADY: (Tuesday, February 26) "Eady's poems are joyous, incantory, experiential" (*Readings in Contemporary Poetry*). Formerly the director of the Poetry Center at SUNY/Stonybrook, Eady is currently a distinguished writer-in-residence at the City College of New York. He is the author of six poetry collections, including *Brutal Imagination* (2001), and *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze* which was the 1985 Lamont Poetry Selection of

The Academy of American Poets.

ROBERT CREELEY: (Tuesday, March 12) "Creeley's influence on contemporary American poetry has probably been more deeply felt than that of any other writer of his generation" (*The New York Times Book Review*). Creeley has published more than 60 books of poetry in the United States and abroad, including *Just in Time: Poems 1984-1994* (2001). He is the Samuel P. Capen Professor of poetry and humanities at the SUNY Buffalo, and was elected a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 1999.

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE: (Tuesday, March 19) William Stafford called Naomi Shihab Nye "a champion of the literature of encouragement and heart. Reading her work enhances life." Nye is the author of six books of poems, including *Fuel* (1998), *Red Suitcase* (1994), and *Hugging*

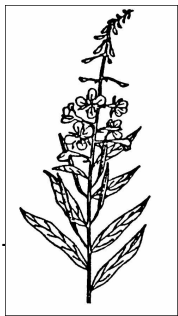
the Jukebox (1982). Nye has also written books for children, and has edited several anthologies of prose. She wrote the preface to *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems* by William Stafford. She received her B.A. from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, where she still resides with her family.

JORIE GRAHAM: (Tuesday, April 2) has been hailed by John Ashbery as "one of the finest poets writing today," and by the poet James Tate as "a poet of staggering intelligence." She is the author of eight collections of poetry including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Dream of the Unified Field: Selected Poems 1974-1994*, and *Swarm* (2000). She has taught at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop and is currently the Boylston Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory at Harvard.

A little history of *Fireweed*, Oregon's poetry magazine

By Shelley Reese

Now 12 years old, *Fireweed: Poetry of Western Oregon* is living up to its name and growing into its place. It takes a tough weed like *epilobium angustifolium* to grow first after forest fires;



Darryla Green-McGrath

Fireweed

maybe it isn't too much to think about the fire that transforms itself into a spiky weed with purple-red blossoms. David Laing, Erik Muller, and Ann Staley, who founded *Fireweed* in Eugene, must have had that toughness and sense of place in mind when they wrote in volume 1, number 1:

"William Stafford, we thought, invited us to a 'state,' part land, part language. 'Stafford country' is one name for what we inhabit, our place unnamed yet in its variety."

Since its beginnings, the editors of *Fireweed* have affirmed that intersection of person, land, language. Along with them, a number of other people helped

each issue come into print. Early on, Darryla Green-McGrath began to provide the familiar fireweed graphic for the magazine cover. Along the way, Barbara Drake and Clem Starck guest edited issues (April and July of 1991). The editors printed a "newcomers' issue" (April 1992) of writers who hadn't been published in *Fireweed* before.

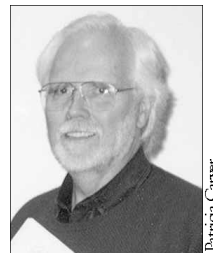
A few months after we lost William Stafford, the editors dedicated an issue of poems and memories to him (April 1994). Donna Henderson, who began to co-edit *Fireweed* in January of 1994, stayed for two years and left as of the winter 1995 issue to have more time to write poetry. David Laing, who gave the 'Weed' its name, left his co-editorship as of the fall 1995 issue. The "guest poem/commentary" feature was his idea. By that time, at least one review of poets like Madeline DeFrees, Bill Stafford, Vern Rutsala, and Robert Davies appeared in each issue.

After a decade as co-editors, Erik Muller and Ann Staley left the magazine in the hands of Harold Johnson and Sydney J.

Thompson in Portland. Anne Dosskey became graphic designer for the magazine. Then, when Harold Johnson and Anne Dosskey left *Fireweed* in 2000, Pat Vivian and Shelley Reese began as additional co-editors and Jackie Kramer as graphic designer. The 'Weed' has persisted through these changes. Early on and recently, in 1992 and again in 1999, *Fireweed* received an Oregon Institute of Literary Arts Publisher's Award.

Fireweed is now a non-profit 501(c)3 organization; anyone who contributes to the magazine may use the contribution as a tax deduction. To subscribe to the magazine, send a \$12 check to *Fireweed*, 5204 N. Gay Ave., Portland, OR 97217. Subscribers and contributors help keep the 'Weed' growing.

Shelley Reese, FWS Board Member, is a professor of English at Portland State.



Patricia Carver

Shelley Reese

National Advisory Board profile

This is the first in a series of articles profiling FWS National Advisory Board members.

URSULA K. LE GUIN writes: "My first 'book signing' was for a children's charity, when I was fairly new to Portland. There were lots of authors and lots of people. I didn't know anybody, and vice versa. I sat there working on an expression that would show everybody that I was completely indifferent to indifference, and didn't feel like a mouse on a landing field. I know what I looked like: a mouse on a landing field. A man got up from where he was signing and came over and said, 'I'm Bill Stafford, I've been wanting to meet you; if I buy your book, will you sign it?' I said 'Oh, yes, oh yes, yes,' and intelligent things like that. He gave me one of his books and I was so floored and happy I didn't even ask him to sign it. But I know he knew how I felt. Bill had good radar. This fall and last, I have been doing a good deal of traveling and signing for my new books, and have thought of how extraordinarily much Bill traveled and met people and did workshops and did gigs. It seemed like he was always somewhere doing something, yet it didn't interfere with his writing. To me, a week of that sort of thing often means weeks or more lost to my real work. I wonder how he kept the deep river flowing, under all the tension and the ballyhoo and the great drain of trying to give people what they want of an author ... which is, of course, what he gave me at that book signing: his book and himself, all in one."

The Oregonian, on Dec. 30, lists LeGuin's latest books as two of the best books of 2001. "Portland's national treasure shows no signs of slowing down, and what's most impressive is the combination of quantity and quality. Both *Tales From Earthsea* and *The Other Wind* are part of LeGuin's Earthsea Cycle. There's a nice map of Earthsea on her web site, www.ursulaklequin.com."

FWS member profile: Ingrid Wendt

Born and raised in Aurora, Illinois, Ingrid Wendt headed West in 1966, after graduating from Cornell College (Iowa), to attend the University of Oregon, where she received her MFA in Creative Writing in 1968.

She first met William Stafford during his visit to Fresno State College, in 1969, where she was teaching. Several years later, "team-teaching" a writing workshop with Stafford at a 2-week summer institute in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, she witnessed Bill's gift of shaping and encouraging a respectful, responsible community of writers, as well as his commitment to resurrecting everyday words and giving them new dimensions. Words like "Allegiance." "Ready." "Swerve." "Alert." "Steady." "Leap." Words that even today recall Stafford's example of being "present" at all times, whether writing, teaching, or being a friend.

A resident of Eugene since 1971, where she and writer-husband Ralph Salisbury raised their daughter, Martina, Wendt has worked as a visiting writer in hundreds of classrooms, grades K-12, in Oregon, Washington, Utah, and Iowa. She has held a Fulbright Professorship in Frankfurt, Germany, and has recently taught in the Antioch University Los Angeles MFA program.



Ingrid Wendt

Wendt was a founding board member of the Lane Literary Guild in 1984. She was recently named the second-place award winner in the 2001 Literary Arts Contest sponsored by the Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, for her poem, "For Mary."

Her first book of poems, *Moving the House*, was selected and introduced by Stafford for BOA Editions' New Poets of America Series. *Singing the Mozart Requiem*, her second book, received the Oregon Book Award from Literary Arts. Wendt is the co-editor of two anthologies, and her book-length teaching guide, *Starting with Little Things*, takes its title from a Stafford poem. A third book, *Inheritance*, is forthcoming from Pecan Grove Press.

Offerings

When they passed the collection plate and I asked
Where does the money go? my mother, ever
certain, whispered, To God, for His work.
Those words were enough

though for years
what use God had of money, I couldn't guess.
And when a young friend died?
God wanted her, too.

Those days, all of us knew there was no
question too great, nothing the right word
couldn't stop. Why? led straight
where we wanted to go. If only never

kept doubling back on
itself, and courage
was always a day we could step into
from the right side of the bed.

Now, when I learn of your grief
I look for those words that make everything right.
These words, my whole heart is in them.
This whisper, I pass it to you.

Ingrid Wendt

First published in *Fireweed* 1989 © Used with the author's permission

Book Awards honor Erik Muller

FWS member Erik Muller was presented the Stewart H. Holbrook Award for Outstanding Contributions to Oregon's Literary Life, at the 15th Annual Oregon Book Awards ceremony, held Nov. 8 at the Scottish Rite Center.

Erik's literary contributions began in the 1960s when he was editor and co-founder of *NEXT*, U of O's student literary magazine. His poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals such as *Hubbub* and *Clackamas Literary Review*. He was one of three founding editors of *Fireweed: Poetry of Western Oregon*, and is a frequent reviewer there of Oregon poetry books. He is currently publisher of *Traprock Books*, chapbooks by Eugene/Springfield poets. He is president of the Lane Literary Guild, and resides in Eugene.

The book awards recognize authors for excellence in poetry, fiction, literary nonfiction, drama and literature for young readers. This year's awards were presented as follows:

The Hazel Hall Award for Poetry was presented to Floyd Skloot of Amity for *The Evening Light* (Story Line Press). Judge Maxine Kumin called the book "truly significant." The other finalists were Karen Braucher of Portland, Tom Bremer of Portland, Dorianne Laux of Eugene and Ralph Salisbury of Eugene.

The H.L. Davis Award for Fiction was presented to Molly Best Tinsley of Ashland for *Throwing Knives* (The Ohio State University Press).

The Frances Fuller Victor Award for Literary Nonfiction was presented to Chanrighy Him of Eugene, for *When Broken Glass Floats* (W.W. Norton & Co.).

The Angus L. Bowmer Award for Drama was presented to Dori Appel of Ashland for *Lost and Found*.

The Leslie Bradshaw Award for Young Readers was presented to Virginia Euwer Wolff of Oregon City for *True Believer* (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster).

Each winning author received \$1,000 and all winners and finalists are invited to participate in the OBAAuthor Tour.

The Oregon Book Awards are sponsored by Literary Arts, Inc., a statewide, nonprofit arts organization dedicated to promoting the importance of language as a means to express, explore and experience the world in which we live. The other programs of Literary Arts are the Portland Arts & Lectures Series, Oregon Literary Fellowships, Poetry In Motion®, and Writers in the Schools. For more information about any of these programs, please contact Meg Daly at (503) 227-2583, or visit the Literary Arts website at www.literary-arts.org.

Quinn

He wakes with a laugh,
and a sparkling eye
and an expectant grin,
hungry for his breakfast
and his cuddling.

We take him in bed with us,
like my folks took me in,
like their folks took them in,
knowing this is the story
my Father tells of me.

He eats noisily,
his Mama's milk running down his eager chin.
He pats her breast gently,
contented at the roundness of the world.
Then he remembers Dad.

And throwing his left arm out
like a sailor seeking balance,
he rolls around, spies me and waits.
I open an eye, and he harpoons me with his grin,
pulling me clean from the clinging vastness of sleep.

He is ready for a laugh now,
quiet,
waiting,
harpoon ready lest I try to slip away.

I make a tickle-like motion
with a sleep sodden finger
and he bursts into giggles, so sincere, so deep,
that he shakes away the last fiction of my sleep,
and I know that this is the story I will tell of him.

Paul Baxter

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How the Ink Feels concludes at WOU

The FWS Traveling Broadside Exhibit *How the Ink Feels* is taking a rest after a very successful run at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. "I believe that it has brought an added dimension to the campus community and augmented the overall education of our students," said Jerrie Lee Parpart, exhibit coordinator.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a campus poetry contest and reading were held. Dr. Paul W. Baxter (1st place, "Quinn") is the General Advisor for the Liberal Arts and Sciences and teaches anthropology. Dr. Steven Sher (2nd place, "A Poet's Roots") is an adjunct faculty in the English department. Oscar Rethwill (3rd place, "i mathato dei") is a student, as are all the honorable mention winners. A total of 25 entries were judged by FWS Board Members Joseph Soldati, Paulann Petersen and Shelley Reese.



P.O. Box 592, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Web: www.williamstafford.org • e-mail: friends@williamstafford.org

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 Upcoming Events

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 FWS, P.O. Box 492, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
 or e-mail: friends@williamstafford.org

Poetry and Writing News and Notes

POETS ON STAMPS

Two American poets will be honored this year with new postage stamps from the U.S. Postal Service. Langston Hughes will appear on the 25th stamp in the Black Heritage Series, which will be released in February. Ogden Nash will be honored in August with a new stamp in the Literary Arts Series. For more information, go to www.pw.org/mag.

CLACKAMAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Creative Writing: Poetry classes with Diane Averill and Kate Gray, instructors, are being offered winter term at CCC, 19600 South Molalla Ave., Oregon City.

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

The Center for Excellence in Writing is pleased to announce the classes in book publishing scheduled for winter term,

January 7 to March 15. Classes are Introduction to Book Publishing, Book Editing, Book Marketing and Promotion, Book Design and Production, Publishing Research and Publishing Inquiry. For details, contact Dennis Stovall at the PSU Office: 308E University Center Bldg, 527 SW Hall St., phone (503) 725-9410; fax: (503) 725-3561; email stovall@pdx.edu.

NWABP

The Northwest Association of Book Publishers meets on the last Thursday of each month, January through October. The first meeting is Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to noon at Hospitality Inn, 10144 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland; approximately 1 mile north of PCC Sylvania Campus. For further information, call (503) 223-9055, or write Northwest Association of Book Publishers, PO Box 3786, Wilsonville, OR 97070.

MOUNTAIN WRITERS CENTER

Mountain Writers Center (3624 SE Milwaukie, Portland, OR 97202 (503) 236-4854, email pdxmws@aracnet.com) offers the following winter workshops: Building Themes in Poetry: The Manuscript with Maxine Scates; Advanced Poetry Workshop, Poetry of the Workplace with Joseph Millar; Intermediate Fiction with Rick Hillis, Beginning Freelance Writing for Magazines and Newspapers with Liz Nakazawa; So You Want to Write – An Introduction to Writing with Doug Marx; Master Workshop on Contemporary American Poetry with David St. John; Life as a Celebration: A course in Spiritual Memoir with Annie Callan; Displacement as Spur and Impediment, Poetry of Relocation & Travel with Eleanor Berry; and Short Fiction, the Basics with Martha Gies.

Please notify sender of change of address.

"The true nature of poetry
is the drive to connect ...
the dream of a
common language."
— Adrienne Rich



William Stafford
Birthday Events
Throughout January
See Schedule, Page 2

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