



‘Earth Dweller’ selected for undersea libraries

By Patty and Vince Wixon

In May, W.S. Merwin’s provocative article ‘For An Undersea Library’ appeared in The American Poetry Review (May/June 2001). A representative of Borders, in charge of supplying Trident submarine libraries with books, asked Merwin for advice. What five books and five poems would he choose? ‘Could any poem, novel or short story cause anyone to interrupt their learned sequence of actions, once they have been ordered to launch? What words do I hope these men have read, and thought of, before they push buttons? ... How much can we believe in our own language, our literature, how far does it reach?’ asked the Borders representative.

Merwin took the request seriously. He recommended literature that gives readers an opportunity to view the world in a moral, but not preachy, way, allowing them ‘the recognition of our nature.’ He chose stories by Chekhov, Huckleberry Finn, essays by E.B. White and Lewis Thomas, and philosophy by Kierkegaard.

His first poem was William Stafford’s ‘Earth Dweller.’ (Other poems were by Stanley Kunitz, Gerald Stern, Hans Magnus Enzensberger, and Emily Dickinson.) Readers of poetry would not be surprised by Merwin’s choosing from Stafford’s work – we look to Stafford for his authentic stance and insistence on awareness.

Many Stafford poems celebrate the extraordinary in the ordinary, appealing to ‘common people.’ The title poem of the book Allegiances, in which ‘Earth Dweller’ first appears, asserts that ‘It is time ... for all of us common ones/ to locate ourselves by the real things/ we live by.’ In ‘Earth Dweller’ some occurrence on a farm has caused the speaker to see all of those ‘real things’ – clods of dirt, the barn, shed, the crack in the ax handle, the speaker’s hands – ‘become precious.’

To us, the event could be as simple as the sun striking the fields, trees, and buildings at a certain angle, the wind through cottonwoods, the call of a

Earth Dweller

It was all the clods at once become precious; it was the barn, and the shed, and the windmill, my hands, the crack Arlie made in the ax handle: oh, let me stay here humbly, forgotten, to rejoice in it all; let the sun casually rise and set. If I have not found the right place, teach me; for somewhere inside, the clods are vaulted mansions, lines through the barn sing for the saints forever, the shed and windmill rear so glorious the sun shudders like a gong.

Now I know why people worship, carry around magic emblems, wake up talking dreams they teach to their children: the world speaks. The world speaks everything to us. It is our only friend.

William Stafford

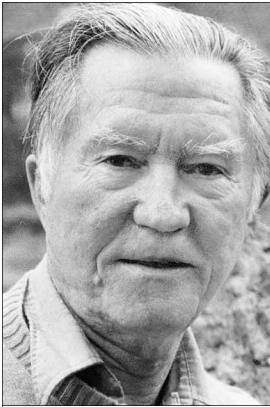
‘Earth Dweller’ copyright 1970, 1991, 1998 by the Estate of William Stafford. Reprinted from The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems, permission Graywolf Press, St. Paul MN

meadowlark. Though his hands have been included in the ‘revelation,’ he says he doesn’t need to be included in the change, but would like to stay to ‘rejoice in it all’ anonymously as time passes, the sun going about its business.

However, he hedges a bit by saying if he hasn’t ‘found the right place,’ he’d like to be taught where it is. Even if this farm isn’t the place, or the speaker isn’t right in his understanding, a transformation is happening somewhere. And ‘somewhere inside’ (the clods, oneself?) are cathedrals for songs and saints. It isn’t clear, but the ambiguity for poet and reader is typical of Stafford.

Judith Kitchen, in Writing the World: Understanding William Stafford, comments that ‘Earth Dweller’ could be called ‘transcendental,’ but that in the end, ‘Stafford comes back to earth; the transformation is completed in the real world.’

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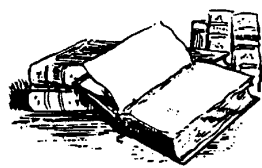
Photo/Kit Stafford

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## ‘How the Ink Feels’ on display at WOU in Monmouth

“How the Ink Feels,” the traveling exhibit of framed broadsides, is on display at Western Oregon University in Monmouth. An opening reception will be held Friday, Oct. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Hamersly Library.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a poetry contest will be held for WOU students, faculty, and staff. Also, a poetry reading will take place Wednesday, Nov. 14, from noon to 1 p.m. in Hamersly Library, Room 107. Poetry contest winners will read their poems and receive their awards at this time. Additional activities are being planned. Watch WOU’s web page for details and exhibit updates:

[www.wou.edu/library](http://www.wou.edu/library) Library Hours are Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, noon to midnight

### The Trouble with Reading

When a goat likes a book, the whole book is gone, and the meaning has to go find an author again. But when we read, it’s just print – deciphering, like frost on a window: we learn the meaning but lose what the frost is, and all that world pressed so desperately behind.

So some time let’s discover how the ink feels, to be clutching all that eternity onto page after page. But maybe it is better not to know; ignorance, that wide country, rewards you just to accept it. You plunge; it holds you. And you have become a rich darkness.

William Stafford

"The Trouble With Reading" copyright 1970, 1991, 1998 by the Estate of William Stafford. Reprinted from *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems*, permission Graywolf Press, St. Paul, MN

This exhibit is made possible by your membership donations to FWS, and sponsored by Hamersly Library and the Division of Extended Programs.

More information on activities at WOU is available from Jerrie Lee Parpart. (503) 838-8419, [parparj@wou.edu](mailto:parparj@wou.edu).

The exhibit takes its name from a line in William Stafford’s poem “The Trouble with Reading.” When it first went on the road, the exhibit was titled *Like Frost on A Window*, but last year, the title was changed to *How the Ink Feels*, a more vivid description of its content: the longevity of ink on paper.

More information on “How the Ink Feels” is available from Nancy Winklesky, (503) 655-1443 or [thewinks@teleport.com](mailto:thewinks@teleport.com).

## ‘Earth Dweller’ ...

*Continued from Page 1*

During a reading, Stafford was asked, “Are you religious?” to which he replied, “Not in the way you’d think.” In typical Stafford manner, the vocabulary of “Earth Dweller” is simple; he uses conventional religious words: “rejoice,” “saints,” “glorious,” “worship.” The world in a grain of sand becomes the world in a clod of dirt. But the ideas are not conventionally religious, and he comes to audacious claims: first, that he knows “why people worship,” and second, that they worship because the world, “our only friend,” “speaks everything to us.”

Many poems by William Stafford could be called upon for further thought about how the world speaks to us. In “In Response to a Question” we find, “The earth says have a place, be what that place/ requires.” In “Vocation” Stafford writes, “Your job is to find what the world is trying to be.” When Stafford says the world is our only friend, he’s also asking us to consider the responsibility, the reciprocity a relationship demands.

To us, “Earth Dweller” is inspirational, but in an unusual way. The speaker says the world “is our only friend,” not “God is our only friend” in the voice of conventional religion. Instead, the soil, barns and shed, the sun which “shudders like a gong” sustain us.

This is the hardheaded poet who also wrote in “So Long,” “At least at night, a streetlight/ is better than a star./ And better good shoes on a/ long walk, than a good friend,” ending with “and all that we’ll have/ to love may be what’s near/ in the cold, even then.” Grim, yes, but oddly comforting; it’s what’s near – the ordinary, real things in nature and things created – that we love. The world itself is enough.

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*Patty Wixon*, Ashland, is a retired school district administrator. She has published poetry and articles in numerous professional and literary journals and books. For many years, she and Vince have co-edited poetry for the *Jefferson Monthly*, the Southern Oregon Public Radio program guide. She is past president of the Friends of William Stafford.

*Vince Wixon*, Ashland, is a retired high school English teacher who continues to write poetry, give poetry workshops for teachers, and co-direct the SOU Center for Shakespeare Studies NEH Institute for high school teachers. Vince Wixon and Paul Merchant co-edited William Stafford’s *Crossing Unmarked Snow: Further Views on the Writer’s Vocation* (U. of Michigan Press, 1998) and helped edit *The Way It Is: New and Selected Poems* by William Stafford (Graywolf Press, 1998). Wixon and Mike Markee are creators of commercial videotapes on William Stafford’s life and writing and most recently on Lawson Inada’s poetry about his experiences in Japanese American internment camps. ([www.poetryvideos.com](http://www.poetryvideos.com))

*Reprinted with permission from Fireweed. Related Story, Page 4.*

## Notes on Broadsides Exhibit and Birthday Events

FWS members in Marion and Polk counties should visit our wonderful poetry broadside exhibit, "How the Ink Feels," at the Hamersly Library of Western Oregon University, in Monmouth, September 15 through December 15.

The opening celebration for the exhibit is on Friday, October 5, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and a poetry reading is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Other events are also scheduled. Board member Nancy Winklesky, who schedules and books the exhibit for FWS, has done her as-usual excellent job arranging the exhibit to be at Western. The three-month-long display of the exhibit is jointly sponsored by WOU's Division of Continuing Education, and the Hamersly Library. At Western, FWS member Ms. Michele Price is the Director of Continuing Education, Dr. Gary Jensen is Director of the Library, and Ms. Jerrie Parpart is the library's exhibit coordinator.

A personal note: Having the exhibit at Western gives me an opportunity to visit the college both as an Emeritus professor and as Chair of FWS. (I taught at Western from 1972 until 1998.) I look forward to "showing off" the exhibit to old friends and former colleagues.

### Stafford Symposium at Lewis and Clark

The first William Stafford Symposium will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, hosted by the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis and Clark College, on the new South Campus. Speakers will be Judith Barrington, poet and memoirist; Annie Callan, poet, memoirist and novelist; and Martha Gies, short story and nonfiction writer. Each of the presentations will focus on individual works by Stafford, some of them unpublished. The floor will be open to discussion after the presentations. Admission is free, but limited to the first 80 who make reservations, (503) 768-6160.

### OSPA Fall Conference at Willamette

The Oregon State Poetry Association (OSPA) Fall Conference will take place Saturday, Oct. 13 at Willamette University in Salem. Oregon poets Clemens Starck and Charles Goodrich will present morning workshops. Readings and an award ceremony for winners of the fall contest will be held in the afternoon. Non-member cost is \$30. Call David Hedges, (503) 655-1274.

### Willamette Writers plan Stafford program

Willamette Writers will feature Paul Merchant speaking on "How These Words Happen: William Stafford, The Nature of a Writing Life," Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Old Church, SW 11th & Clay, Portland. The standard \$10 admission to this meeting will be waived for FWS members. Call Jan Paeth, (503) 238-6858.

Believe it or not, FWS's annual January poetry readings celebrating the birthday of William Stafford are soon approaching. This year, members of FWS will be asked to assist the board with recruiting new members and selling broadsides at the readings. The birthday events, coordinated by FWS Events Director Paulann Petersen, are held in the Portland-Vancouver area and in towns and cities throughout Oregon. They provide FWS a natural venue to increase its membership and raise money through the sale of broadsides.

We on the FWS Board will appreciate you calling the Chair (503-274-0884) and volunteering to assist us at the readings. I'll pass your name on to Paulann. Thank you.

— *Joseph Soldati, FWS Chairman*

### Notes from the Chair



Joseph Soldati

rain came today  
falling soft and kind  
a humble journey long awaited  
teaching compassion

people listened to the rhythm  
of love falling on our streets

that rhythm captured our town  
weapons were thrown down  
and we welcomed this new wetness

shadows are softer now  
night is kinder  
our hands are open  
we will never forget

Ian Wilson

Ian Wilson, 17, a senior at Lincoln High School in Portland, is the grandson of William Stafford. He wrote: "In May of this year, I had the great privilege of hearing the Dalai Lama speak in front of thousands of high school students at the 'Educating the Heart' seminar. As a group, we walked across the river from Lincoln High School to the Memorial Coliseum. It was a cool day and the rain began early. We came from all parts of the city and, converging on the Coliseum, were drenched in our beloved Portland rain. I have never to this day felt so alive as those soggy hours spent realizing again what is important to me and what it means to live compassionately." Ian's poem is untitled.

## Book Awards celebrate Oregon's literary excellence

Peter Ho Davies will preside over the 15th annual Oregon Book Awards, Literary Arts Inc.'s program that honors the state's best writers of poetry, fiction, literary nonfiction, drama and young readers' literature, in addition to some of its most dedicated supporters and lovers of books. Finalists for the awards and Special Award recipients will be announced on Oct. 8.

Peter Ho Davies is the author of the short-story collections *The Ugliest House in the World* and *Equal Love*. *The Ugliest House in the World* won the Oregon Book Award for Fiction in 1998 and also received the John Llewelyn Rhys and PEN/Macmillan

prizes; *Equal Love* was a finalist for the 2000 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize and named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

A reception and book-signing follows the ceremony, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8 at the Scottish Rite Center, 709 SW 15th Ave., Portland. Tickets are \$15 and can be reserved by calling the Literary Arts office at 503-227-2583. PGE-Enron Foundation is the presenting sponsor and Oregon Public Broadcasting is the media sponsor.

The Oregon Book Awards is a program of Literary Arts, a statewide, nonprofit arts

organization whose mission is to sustain and keep vital the importance of ideas and knowledge through the written word. The other programs of Literary Arts are the Oregon Literary Fellowships, Poetry In Motion®, Portland Arts & Lectures, and Writers in the Schools. Upcoming events include the opening of the Portland Arts & Lectures Series on Oct. 4 with Stephen Jay Gould, evolutionary theorist and science writer.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact Meg Daly at 503-227-2583, or visit the website [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org).

## 'Earth Dweller' the latest FWS broadside for sale

"Earth Dweller" was selected by the FWS Board for the newest letterpress broadside now available for \$10. FWS Member Doug Stow of Paper Crane Letterpress in Half Moon Bay, CA, designed and printed the broadside using his letterpress, a manual typesetting and printing process. "Earth Dweller" is in Bookman type on Arches paper with deckled bottom edge.

Use of the poem from *The Way It Is*, is with permission of Graywolf Press.

"Earth Dweller" (see poem on page 1 in this Newsletter) is third in a series of six letterpress broadsides presented as a fund raiser for Friends of William Stafford. Stow designed and printed each broadside the same size to be interchangeable in a frame or mounted as a series. The first,

"ARitual To Read To Each Other," was printed in September 1999 and the second, "Why I Am Happy," in September 2000.

To order, send check payable to Friends of William Stafford for \$10 plus \$3.50 shipping to Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Road, Newberg, OR 97132. Allow two weeks for delivery.

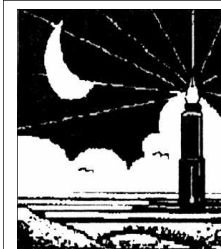
## Literary contest winners announced; reading Oct. 28

The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ, 1111 SW Country Club Road, has selected the winners for its annual "In the Beginning Was the Word ..." Literary Arts Contest.

First place was awarded to Janet McCann of College Station, TX, for her poem, "Emily Jumping." Second place went to FWS member Ingrid Wendt of Eugene, OR, for a poem, "For Mary." Barbara Branscomb, also of Eugene, won third place for an excerpt from her novel, *Fathers and Daughters*. In addition, three honorable mention entries were chosen. They are Tania Runyan of Glenview, IL, Barbara Sutryn of Montoursville, PA, and Judith Aftergut of Portland, OR.

Each of the winning submissions will be given a public reading at one of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship services in October. Barbara Branscomb's will be read on Oct. 14, Ingrid Wendt's on Oct. 21, and Janet McCann's on Oct. 28. In addition, those entries having received honorable mention will be read on that same day during a reception in honor of all the winners.

In this ninth year of the contest, 106 submissions were received from across North America. "We offer our contest as encouragement to writers to use their gifts in following their spiritual yearnings," said the Rev. Gary L. Davis. "From the positive response we continue to receive, it's clear our encouragement is greatly appreciated." In a concurrent young writ-



*In the  
Beginning ...  
was the  
Word*

*2001 Literary Arts Contest*

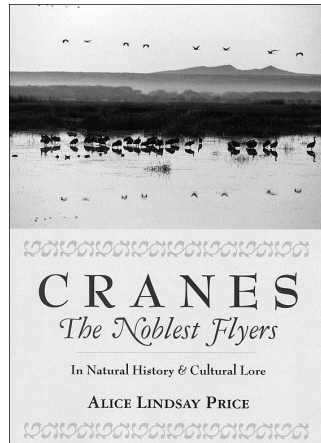
Sponsored by  
The Lake Oswego United Church of Christ  
(Congregational)  
Reception Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m.  
(503) 635-4348, e-mail [loucc@teleport.com](mailto:loucc@teleport.com)

ers' contest, the winners were Lena Macomson of Lake Oswego, OR, Meg Hayertz of West Linn, OR, and Lauryn McKee of Vancouver, WA.

## FWS Members' News

### Alice Lindsay Price's latest book released

Naturalist Alice Lindsay Price, a member of FWS, is the author of *Cranes: The Noblest Flyers In Natural History and Cultural Lore*. Published in August 2001 by La Alameda Press in Albuquerque, NM. This work is crafted from both scientific and cultural perspectives, interwoven with the author's own observations in field and marsh. The pages are illuminated with images from nature and depictions both ancient and modern of these "birds of healing," from a statue of a Cretan bird goddess to petroglyphs to the wand in the hand of a modern Navajo healer. The scope of this natural and cultural history will pique the interest of the seasoned naturalist as well as the novice birder seeing an echelon of cranes fly overhead for the first time.



### Update on 'Fiddling Poet' Ken Waldman

In April 2000, West End Press published Ken Waldman's first full-length collection, *Name Poems*, now in its second printing. In February, 2002, he will have a second full-length collection, *To Live on This Earth*. Both are distributed by the University of New Mexico Press and available in bookstores. In May 2000, his first CD, called *A Week in Eek*, was issued. His new CD is called *Burnt Down House*. Both of those can be ordered from [www.cdbaby.com/kenwaldman](http://www.cdbaby.com/kenwaldman). Waldman, who calls himself "Alaska's Fiddling Poet," is now on tour from Texas through the western states, heading southeast in spring, then on to Upstate New York, the upper Midwest and back to Alaska.

### Paulann Petersen's poetry to be published

Confluence Press, which has published five of William Stafford's books, will be publishing a book of poems by Paulann Petersen, board member of FWS. You can look for Petersen's *The Wild Awake* to appear in 2002.

### Writers Fair Nov. 11 in Portland

Multnomah County Library is sponsoring a one-stop informational Writers Fair, Nov. 11 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Central Library's U.S. Bank Room. The library is located at 801 SW Tenth St., Portland, OR 97205. Open to the public, free of charge, the Writers Fair includes tours of the Sterling Writers Room and John Wilson Rare Book Room. Librarians will be available to provide research tips to writers. Call (503) 988-5473 for more information.

## Star

Maybe every night a star wakes up  
leaves your house and climbs  
into the sky to be itself  
among the galaxies of prayer.

Maybe when the sun is gold again  
that star returns to sleep  
somewhere inside your doors –  
some blind spot you can never see.

Maybe this creature is with you  
there – somehow – say as a mother  
spider God made, her web so delicate  
we're all caught – shimmering.

Eternity is here sleeping – somewhere –  
common and silent. When you dream no one  
is looking, eternity escapes again –  
subtle, quiet, awake – consumed by light.

Be like that star.

George Venn

In memory of William Stafford (1914-1993)

West of Paradise (Ice River Press, 1999, LaGrande, OR)

Used with the author's permission

### Member profile: George Venn

Born in the shadow of the Washington Cascades, George Venn's early life was influenced by living some of the time at his grandparents' country farmhouse and nearby woods. His teenage years were spent in Spirit Lake, Idaho, the burned-over mill town between "cedars in rain and tamaracks gone gold." After studying in Ecuador, Spain and England, he graduated from the College of Idaho. In 1970, he completed an MFA at the University of Montana, and joined the faculty at Eastern Oregon University in LaGrande, where he is Writer-in-Residence and Professor of English. Venn first met William Stafford in 1970, and feels lucky that they both agreed on "the island called Oregon," and that writers should work together to make literature visible. Their amiable collaboration continued for twenty-some years. His work has been recognized by a Pushcart Prize for Poetry, a Special Award for Oregon Literature, a Multicultural Publishing Award from the National Council of Teachers of English, and the 1994 Stewart Holbrook Award from Oregon Institute of Literary Arts for "outstanding contributions to current Oregon literature." His most recent book, *West of Paradise* (Ice River, 1999) was a finalist for the Hazel Hall Poetry Award from Literary Arts Inc.

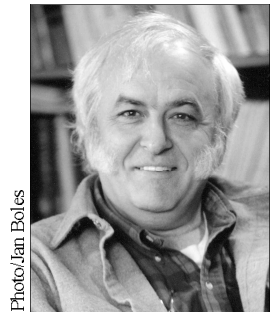


Photo: Jan Boles

## Searching for light in the smoke and rubble

By Sallie Tisdale

I have lost count of the number of people on television who have solemnly said: "This can't be happening here." One person means *this*, the terrible event.

And another means *here*. Not here. Because of course this does happen, it happens a lot.

Caught up in the strange fear, torn from our ordinary lives, we should remember: This is ordinary life. People live with these things all over the world – their streets blanketed in dust and debris, buildings gaping, skies filled with smoke. They grow up in it – in Lebanon, Chechnya, Tehran and Belfast, ordinary lives broken by a fear and uncertainty I am briefly touching today. In war, people disappear and are never heard from again. I count off my friends in New York City – and in San Francisco, in Los Angeles, where the planes were going. Count them off, and set them aside; there is no way to know yet. My son is in Canada with friends, and he is locked away, out of reach.

I keep watching the numbing news reports, the speculation and irresistible rush to judgment. The images are shown once again – "not," says a frowning anchorman, "gratuitously in any way." The plane strikes the tower. "And now can we have that in slow motion, please?" he asks, and the plane strikes the tower in slow motion. From now on, all those stories are gratuitous in some way. I already know what happened – but I want more. I want to find out where it fits.

Years ago, a magazine editor asked me to write an essay about AIDS; ours, she said seriously, was the first generation to have lost so many of its best young people. I thought she was kidding, and I began listing the epidemics, the wars. This was different, she said. This was us. We forget so easily – loss is also an ordinary event.

We have only the barest facts; nothing is certain. War is always a confusion of rumors, tedium broken by more disaster. Today I am thinking that we should not be so shocked. Most of the world lives in poverty, and many are refugees; we parade our lush lives

### 'Are you Mr. William Stafford?'

"Are you Mr. William Stafford?"

"Yes, but ..."

Well, it was yesterday.

Sunlight used to follow my hand.

And that's when the strange siren-like sound flooded over the horizon and rushed through the streets of our town.

That's when sunlight came from behind a rock and began to follow my hand.

"It's for the best," my mother said – "Nothing can ever be wrong for anyone truly good."

So later the sun settled back and the sound faded and was gone. All along the streets every house waited, white, blue, gray; trees were still trying to arch as far as they could.

You can't tell when strange things with meaning will happen. I'm (still) here writing it down just the way it was. "You don't have to prove anything," my mother said. "Just be ready for what God sends." I listened and put my hand out in the sun again. It was all easy.

Well, it was yesterday. And the sun came,  
Why  
It came.

William Stafford

"Are you Mr. William Stafford?" Copyright 1998 by the Estate of William Stafford. Reprinted from *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems*, permission Graywolf Press, St. Paul MN

in every corner of the world. I am sometimes so ashamed of this country's behavior in the world arena – our arrogance, our greed, our ability to forget that most people long for what we take for granted. For months, our government has been abandoning international treaties. We keep cutting back international aid. We make more weapons, sell more weapons than any other country. We sell missiles and missile launchers and try to sell the idea of a missile shield, with no sense of irony at all.

This can't happen here, someone says on television. We will get the people responsible. (They are probably dead, but no matter. We will get somebody.) We will have our eye for this eye, which was probably meant to pay for yet another eye, even if it makes us all go blind.

Wherever I travel, people ask me how it feels to live in the United States – such a dangerous country, with its crime and guns and anger. Then, I try to explain how much I cherish our mobility and personal freedom. I cherish this unique and strange refuge of diversity. I say that the United

States is a place where you can express any opinion, where I can pass people from every nation on the sidewalk, where people of every religion work side by side, and feel safe. We are doubly injured if we forget that in the middle of our outrage.

The Japanese poet Masahide wrote, "My storehouse burned down. Now nothing stands between me and the full moon." This afternoon, tomorrow, the small concerns of my life will take back my attention. This is as it should be. Is this tragic loss an act of war? So I keep hearing people say, and sometimes I think they are almost glad. Well, peace is nothing more than ordinary life. I wish that we all could be granted that. While we struggle to understand, we still have to go on, seeking light through the smoke – where, if we're lucky, we find tomorrow, and the next day.

• • •

Portland author Sallie Tisdale's work has appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Esquire*. Her latest book is *The Best Thing I Ever Tasted: The Secret of Food*. This essay is reprinted, with the author's permission,

# W friends of WILLIAM STAFFORD

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

Web: [www.williamstafford.org](http://www.williamstafford.org) • e-mail: [friends@williamstafford.org](mailto: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.

Bill Stafford was about poetry, and so is the *Friends of William Stafford*. Your membership dollars support our own newsletter and web site 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### 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

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

### Payment:

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**If you have not renewed your membership in 2001, please do so now. If you have, please share this form with a friend who would like to join. Or consider a gift membership. Thank You.**

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**FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD** Newsletter© is published quarterly.

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Send comments, letters, news, information on poetry events, etc. to:

FWS, P.O. Box 492, Lake Oswego, OR 97034

or e-mail:

[friends@williamstafford.org](mailto:friends@williamstafford.org)

## Calendar of events

**HOW THE INK FEELS:** Opening reception Oct. 5, 6-8 p.m., Hamersly Library, Western Oregon University, Monmouth. Continues through Dec. 14. Poetry reading Nov. 14, noon-1 p.m.

**WILLIAM STAFFORD SYMPOSIUM:** Oct. 13, 9 am-noon, Northwest Writing Institute, Lewis & Clark College. 503-768-6160

**OREGON STATE POETRY ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE:** Oct. 13, Willamette University, Salem. Info: David Hedges, (503) 655-1274.

**NATIONAL POETRY DAY:** Oct. 13.

**LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE:** "See Our Fine Paper: Poems on Libraries, Books and Reading" in the Watzek Library, until Oct. 15.

**LITERARY ARTS, INC. OREGON BOOK AWARDS TOUR:** Oct. 18, Newport Public Library; Oct. 19, North Bend Public Library; Oct. 25, Corvallis/Benton County Public Library; Oct. 26, Tsunami Books in Eugene; Dec. 7, Salem Public Library, all at 7:30 p.m.

**BOOKTIQUE 10-YEAR CELEBRATION:** Oct. 19 & 20, 10-4. Readings, music, door prizes. 3975 SW Mercantile Drive, Lake Oswego. All proceeds benefit Lake Oswego Library.

**LITERARY ARTS CONTEST:** Oct. 28, Reception and reading at Lake Oswego United Church of Christ. 10:30 a.m. (503) 635-4348.

**W.S. DI PIERRO READING:** Nov. 7, Marylhurst University, Wiegand Hall, 7:30 p.m. (503) 699-6313, [www.marylhurst.edu](http://www.marylhurst.edu) Poetry from his latest book, *Skirts and Slacks*. No admission charge.

**OREGON BOOK AWARDS:** Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Scottish Rite Center, 709 SW 15th Ave., Portland. Reserve tickets by calling Literary Arts office (503) 227-2583.

**WRITERS FAIR:** Nov. 11, 1:30-4:30 p.m., Multnomah County Central Library. (503) 988-5473 or [marshaw@mulcolib.org](mailto:marshaw@mulcolib.org)

**MOUNTAIN WRITERS:** Fall readings and workshops by Kim Addonizio, Diane Glancy, Rodney Jones, W.S. Di Piero, Terrence Hayes and Joe Millar. (503) 236-4854.

**WRITERS FAIR:** Dec. 4, 7 p.m. at The Old Church, Portland, sponsored by Willamette Writers (503) 452-1592.

**WILLAMETTE WRITERS:** "How these Words Happen: William Stafford, The Nature of a Writing Life" by Paul Merchant. Jan. 8, 7 p.m., Old Church, SW 11th and Clay, Portland. Complementary admission for FWS members. Call Jan Paeth, (503) 238-6858.

### [www.williamstafford.org](http://www.williamstafford.org)

If you haven't done so yet, now is the time to visit our official web site, [www.williamstafford.org](http://www.williamstafford.org).

- Links to other poetry web sites and past FWS newsletters
- Links to e-mail for our board members
- Listings for William Stafford January Birthday Events in Portland and elsewhere around Oregon (as they are scheduled)
- Sign up or renew your membership
- Submit letters, news and events, and comments for upcoming FWS Newsletters.

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