



W friends of WILLIAM STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4 NO. 2

LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

APRIL 2000

STAFFORD POEMS DAZZLE IN UNDERGROUND WALKWAY AT PIONEER PLACE, PORTLAND, OR

Two Stafford poems, "Reminders" and "Climbing along the River," formed in brass letters about 7 inches tall are embedded in a blue sparkling sidewalk. News of the poems in a public place was covered in *The Oregonian*, Friday, February 11, 2000, by columnist Jonathan Nicholas:

"Nobody ever paid Bill Stafford \$30,000 to write a poem. Now Pioneer Place is spending \$30,000 on brass letters to remind us how well Stafford wrote.

Gearing up to build Phase II of its downtown mall, The Rouse Co. brought back Patsy Freeman to work on the project. Lucky us. The woman affectionately called 'design goddess' was responsible for many of the touches that make the first phase of the 10-year-old mall so distinctive.

Freeman hatched the idea of using some Stafford poetry as the key design element in the underground concourse that links the old mall with the new. In the ribbon of verse, each brass letter embedded in the terrazzo floor, Stafford's words actually seem to sparkle.

Turns out they are starlit from beneath by fiber optics.

I asked Kim Stafford whether his late father would have liked such credit-card-coated polish for such splendidly unadorned language. 'Oh, yes,' said Kim, beaming at the lingual legacy. 'He would have said every store should look like this.'

"Climbing along the River" appears here with permission.

Climbing along the River

Willows never forget how it feels
To be young.

Do you remember where you came from?
Gravel remembers.

Even the upper end of the river
Believes in the ocean.

Exactly at midnight
Yesterday sighs away.

What I believe is,
All animals have one soul.

Over the land they love
They crisscross forever.

William Stafford
The Way It Is
(Graywolf Press, 1998)

SALES OF "A RITUAL TO READ TO EACH OTHER" LETTERPRESS BROADSIDE BENEFIT 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.

April 3-4 MONDAY + TUESDAY

POETRY IN AMERICA

A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

A two-day event celebrating
poetry at the millennium.

Co-sponsored with the Academy
of American Poets

Monday, April 3, 7:30 pm

A reading with Rita Dove,
Louise Glück, W. S. Merwin,
Robert Pinsky, Naomi Shihab
Nye and Joshua Weiner

Tuesday, April 4, 8:30 am

The following day includes
readings and panels and
culminates with a reading
by the featured poets and
seminar participants.

Library of Congress
10 Jefferson Street, SE

Washington, D.C.

For information (202) 707-5221

April 8 SATURDAY 12 noon

POETRY IN MOTION™

CHICAGO READING/
POETRY FEST 2000

Poetry in Motion™ poets
Michael Anania, Rosellen Brown,
Calvin Forbes, Brigit Pegeen
Kelly and Maureen Seaton
will read as a part of an all-day
festival of poetry at the
Chicago Public Library.

Admission free

Chicago Public Library
Harold Washington Library Center
400 South State Street
Chicago

For information (312) 747-4050

April 9 SUNDAY 10 am

POETRY AND THE HOLOCAUST

SPEECH AND SILENCE

A daylong event including
panels, readings, interviews and
performance at the United States
Holocaust Museum

Co-sponsored with the United
States Holocaust Memorial
Museum, the Library of Congress,
the Unterberg Poetry Center at
the 92nd Street YMHA and the
Academy of American Poets

Admission free

United States Holocaust Museum
100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW
Washington, D.C.

For information (202) 488-2692

*"What can anyone
give you greater
than now..."*



National Poetry Month Honoring

William Stafford

Sunday, 2-4pm
April 16th, 2000

Huckleberry's Poetry Group and the
Friends of William Stafford cordially
invite you to attend an afternoon of
poetry. Hear new voices and meet
long-time literary friends as Dorothy
Stafford and local poets read from
Stafford's collection and introduce
original work.

Huckleberry's Books and Coffee

809 Washington Street • Vancouver, WA 98660 • 360/750/9629

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH EVENTS LISTED

National Poetry Month, inaugurated by the Academy of American Poets in April 1996, brings together poets, libraries, schools, booksellers and publishers from around the country in a national celebration of poetry and its vital place in American culture. "American poets in recent decades have produced one of the world's most extraordinary artistic legacies," says Bill Wadsworth, Executive Director of the Academy. "Poetry is steadily gaining in popularity in the culture at large."

SALEM OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY READING

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the Friends of the Salem Public Library will host "A Gathering of Poets," a reading by Peregrine Writers, a group of award-winning and emerging local poets and writers. The reading will take place Sunday, April 2, 2 PM in the Anderson Room at the Salem Public Library, 585 Liberty Street, SE.

Readers include event coordinator Abigail Albrecht, recipient of the California State Poetry Society's annual award; Jane Bailey, recipient of three Academy of American Poets Prizes and a C. Hamilton Bailey fellowship in poetry from Oregon Literary Arts; Eleanor Berry; Helen Beum; Virginia Corrie-Cozart, recipient of the Ben Hur Lampsman Award for Poetry; Marilyn Johnston, winner of the Donna J. Stone National Literary Award for Poetry; David Laing, founding editor of *Fireweed*; Ada Molinoff; and Lois Rosen, winner of the Oregon State Teachers as Writers Contest and the Oregon State Poetry Association Spring Poet's Choice Contest.

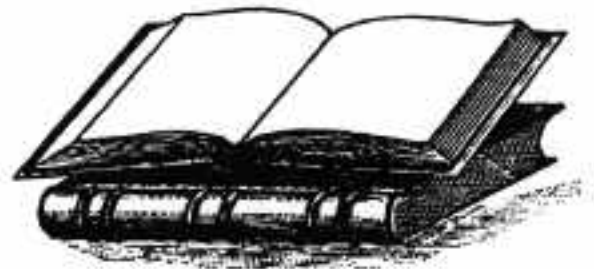
IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STACKS

Istanbul in July 16's heat.
My birthday, and rainfall gathers
on asphalt, drips from leaves
into grass only to rise again
and hang in all the air.
A vaporous sweat that insists
my clothing cling,
it swells and ruffles the pages
in Bogazici University's
small gray library.

First, rows for *Money and Banking*,
Debt Games, *Doing*
Deals. Done. I move on
to spot from my bookish youth Thomas Wolfe's
Look Homeward, Angel, and of course,
I've not forgotten *You Can't Go*
Home Again. Willa Cather's "Paul's Case"
still holds my father's and half of my
first name. All of my birth's
last name is in Whitman—
today's rain steaming from those
leaves of grass.

Deep in the call #'s of poetry,
I play a game. Will this Harvard of Turkey
shelve any poets I've actually
seen? There's Bly, Carruth,
Gale, Kinnell, Levine,
Simpson, Snyder, and two others
I can call friend.
Denise, your *Footprints* are here,
and Bill, I find *Allegiances*,
The Rescued Years, then *Someday, Maybe*.
Some day has become today.
A happy birthday, yes.

Paulann Petersen



SOUTHERN OREGON READINGS

Sara Jameson, Grants Pass, OR, journalist and poet lists the following events in Southern Oregon for April:

April 3, 4, "Celebration of Poetry" Stevenson Union, SOU, Ashland, OR, honoring donation of the Adrienne Lee Ferte' Memorial Collection to the University Library Special Collections. Donated by Tom Ferte', the collection contains over six hundred books, many signed first editions. Authors with most volumes in the collection are Carolyn Kizer, D.H. Lawrence, and William Stafford. **April 3**, Carolyn Kizer reads from new books, 7:30 PM. **April 4**, Kizer joins Joyce Epstein, Lawson Inada, Robert McDowell, Paulann Peterson, and Vince Wixon. Dorothy Stafford reads from William Stafford's works, 7:30 PM. **April 7**, First Friday Art Night, open mic at Fire House Gallery 4th & H Street, Grants Pass, 7 PM. Hosted by the Literary Magazine Club of Rogue Community College, which will release the new *Rogue's Gallery 2000* in May. **April 13**, Open mic poetry reading, Conspiracy of Poets, 7 PM, Yellow Pages Used Books, 111 SE "G" Street, Grants Pass. The 4th annual Southern Oregon Poetry Prizes will be awarded. **April 13**, reading by Joyce Epstein, Lawson Inada, and Al Reiss, Barnes & Noble, 1400 Biddle Road, Medford, 7 PM. **April 14**, Grants Pass High School, Performing Arts Center, 7 PM. Poetry reading arranged by GPHS senior Nick Kaeser, as his senior project. **April 28**, 3-5 PM, Annual William Stafford Poetry Day at Grants Pass Library showing videos of Stafford's life and work with opportunity to read his poems and yours. (See related article for additional readings scheduled in Ashland, OR.)

Check your local bookstore for poetry features in April. Here's what one independent bookstore has scheduled:

BLOOMSBURY BOOKS, ASHLAND, OR, CELEBRATES WITH ELEVEN POETRY READINGS IN APRIL

April 1, 7:30 PM. An evening of Persian Ecstatic Verse, read by Middle Eastern scholar Steven Scholl of White Cloud Press.

April 5, 7:30 PM. Poet Robert McDowell reads from newly released *Cowboy Poetry Matters* (Story Line Press).

April 7, 7:30 PM. Ginger Andrews, winner of 1998 Nicholas Roerich Prize Poetry, reads from her book *Honest Answer* (Story Line Press).

April 10, 7:30 PM. Three Oregon Shakespeare Festival actors read African-American Poets whose influence spans three centuries.

April 13, 7:30 PM. Performance poet Carolyn Askar reads her poems of the spirit.

April 15, 2:30 PM. Anita Isser, of Bloomsbury Books, reads children's poetry.

April 18, 7:30 PM. Ashland Middle School students' poetry night.

April 21, 7:00 PM. Dorianne Laux, Pushcart Prize winner, and Joseph Millar, finalist for the 1999 National Poetry Series, read their work.

April 24, 7 PM. OSF actor Barry Kraft reads Thomas Hardy.

April 28, 7:30 PM. Oregon Literary Arts Writing Fellowship recipient Sandy Diamond reads from her new book, *The Hunchback*.

April 30, 7:30 PM. Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, Jim Somers, a Vietnam Veteran and award-winning poet, reads from his new chapbook, *Kindly Stop the War Stories*.

April in National Poetry Month. If you haven't already renewed your membership in the year 2000, please take a moment to do so. Your membership dollars support our newsletter as well as other literary activities.

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.

YEAR 2000 FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

E-mail:

Phone:

Business or Educational Address (if applicable):

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Country:

E-mail:

Phone:

Membership:

Check one: New Renewal

Circle one: Standard \$25 Retired \$10 Student \$10 Lifetime \$150

Payment:

Make check payable to "Friends of William Stafford" (or for tax deduction purposes: "Oregon Community Foundation fbo FWS"). **Send** to Friends of William Stafford, P.O. Box 592, Lake Oswego, OR 97034.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Check any that interested you:

Organize poetry readings

Other:

Help with refreshments or set-up

Distribute event posters or flyers

Publicize upcoming events

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Working in collaboration with MTA New York City Transit, the PSA inaugurated *Poetry in Motion™* in New York in 1992 and has since expanded the program to ten cities from coast to coast. This spring, poets featured in New York will include Frau Ava, Yusef Komunyakaa, Stephen Sondheim, Ellen Bryant Voigt and others. *Poetry in Motion™* is made possible in New York by a generous contribution from Barnes & Noble, Inc.

ATLANTA

Poets featured in the current phase of *Poetry in Motion™* Atlanta include Lady Oromo No Sakanoe, William Stafford, Richard Wilbur and others. *Poetry in Motion™* Atlanta is presented in association with AIGA/Atlanta, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority and The Mead Corporation.

BALTIMORE

Poetry in Motion™ re-launched in Baltimore in the fall, and the program will feature new poems this spring by Michael Collier, Denise Levertov, Terrence Winch, John Yau and others. *Poetry in Motion™* Baltimore is presented in association with AIGA/Baltimore and the Maryland Mass Transit Administration.

CHICAGO

Poetry in Motion™ continues in Chicago with poems by Rosellen Brown, Louise Erdrich, Robert Frost, Ralph J. Mills Jr. and others. *Poetry in Motion™* Chicago is presented in collaboration with the Chicago Transit Authority, AIGA/Chicago, Chicago Public Library, The Chicago Community Trust, Sara Lee Corporation and in association with the Illinois Arts Council.

DALLAS

William Blake, Linda Pastan, Kenneth Rexroth and Lorenzo Thomas will be among the next

poets to be featured in *Poetry in Motion™* Dallas, presented in association with Dallas Area Rapid Transit and Richland College/Dallas County Community College District.

EUGENE

Robert Hayden, Chu Chen Po, Muriel Rukeyser and William Stafford will be among the first poets to be featured in *Poetry in Motion™* Eugene, which will launch later this year. *Poetry in Motion™* Eugene is presented in association with Lane Transit District.

PHILADELPHIA

Poetry in Motion™ continues in Philadelphia with poems by Robert Creeley, Seamus Heaney, Dorothy Parker and others.

Poetry in Motion™ Philadelphia is presented in collaboration with AIGA/Philadelphia and the South Eastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority.

PORTLAND

Poetry in Motion™ returned to Portland in the fall, and in the spring will feature poems by Garrett Hongo, Gabriela Mistral, Charles Reznikoff and Cathy Song, among others. *Poetry in Motion™* Portland is presented in association with Literary Arts, Inc., The Oregon Community Foundation, Tri-Met, Obie Media, AIGA/Portland and Starbucks Coffee.

LOS ANGELES

Poets featured in the current phase of *Poetry in Motion™* Los Angeles include Louise Glück, Harryette Mullen, Octavio Paz and Sylvia Plath, among others. *Poetry in Motion™* Los Angeles is presented in association with The Getty Research Institute for the Arts and the Los Angeles County MTA.

=====
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; Cecil Huntington, Lake Oswego, OR; Paulann Petersen, Portland, OR; Shelley Reece, Portland, OR; Dennis Schmidling, Portland, OR; Helen Schmidling, Portland, OR; Nancy Winklesky, Oregon City, OR; Patty Wixon, Ashland, OR. **National Advisors:** Marvin Bell, Robert Bly, Kurt Brown, Lucille Clifton, James DePreist, Donald Hall, Maxine 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
=====

