



Photo/Kit Stafford

## April is National Poetry Month

Long ago, William Shakespeare celebrated spring with these words: "I would I had some flowers o'the spring." Would he likewise celebrate April, a month for poets and lovers of poetry?

Inaugurated by the National Academy of Poets in April 1996, National Poetry Month (NPM) brings together publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries, schools, and poets around the country to celebrate poetry and its place in American culture. But why April?

When the Academy began to plan for the first National Poetry Month, it asked booksellers, librarians and teachers for an appropriate month. One criterion was that school had to be in session, so that students could be reached. Fall was already crowded with holidays; February and March were taken by Black History and Women's History, thus leaving April.

Tree Swenson, a former publisher and arts administrator, last month was named executive director of the Academy, succeeding William Wadsworth, who was instrumental in the launching of National Poetry Month. Swenson said that the annual April celebration will continue to be "the signature program of the Academy. I was at Copper Canyon (Press) when NPM started. I was wildly enthusiastic about it then, and I remain so."

The goals of National Poetry Month are:

- to highlight the legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets
- to introduce more Americans to the pleasures of reading poetry
- to bring poets and poetry to the public in immediate and innovative ways
- to make poetry a more important part

*Continued on Page 2*

## A Story That Could Be True

If you were exchanged in the cradle and your real mother died without ever telling the story then no one knows your name, and somewhere in the world your father is lost and needs you but you are far away.

He can never find how true you are, how ready. When the great wind comes and the robberies of the rain you stand on the corner shivering. The people who go by – you wonder at their calm.

They miss the whisper that runs any day in your mind, "Who are you really, wanderer?" and the answer you have to give no matter how dark and cold the world around you is: "Maybe I'm a king."

William Stafford

"A Story That Could Be True" copyright 1977, 1998 by the Estate of William Stafford. Reprinted from *The Way It Is: New & Selected Poems* with permission of Graywolf Press, Saint Paul, Minnesota

## New broadside poem available

William Stafford's poem "A Story That Could Be True" is the latest letterpress broadside available for sale. The cost is \$10, plus \$3.50 for shipping. Proceeds help fund various FWS projects, such as the traveling broadsides exhibit and this newsletter.

FWS member Doug Stow prints these broadsides at Paper Crane Press in Half Moon Bay, CA. He maintains a consistent 9 x 12 size, for ease in framing.

Two other broadsides are still available: "Why I Am Happy" and "Earth Dweller." They may be ordered from Nan Atzen, 29365 NE Putnam Road, Newberg, OR 97132. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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## April is National Poetry Month

Continued from Page 1

of the school curriculum

- to increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media
- to encourage increased publication, distribution and sales of poetry books
- to increase philanthropic support for poets and poetry.

Across the country, thousands of businesses and non-profit organizations participate via readings, festivals, book displays, workshops, and other events. Here in Oregon, readings will feature such noted poets as Marvin Bell, Kurt Brown, Kathleen Norris, Linda Bierds and Pattiann Rogers. "How The Ink Feels," is on exhibit at Blue Mountain Community College. Silverton is hosting a week-long Poetry Festival and OSPA is featuring Bookfairs and Readings and its annual Spring Poetry Festival, April 27 at The Heathman Hotel in Portland. (See Calendar, Page 4)

This year, NPM pays special attention to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Langston Hughes. He is the sole focus of the

### OSPA to host National Poetry Conference

The 2002 Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Inc. will be held June 27-30 at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay, hosted by the Oregon State Poetry Association.. Keynote speaker Kim Stafford and other Oregon poets such as Lawson Inada, Ingrid Wendt, Primus St. John, Carlos Reyes, Ralph Salisbury, Robert McDowell and Judith Montgomery will offer lectures and workshops. William Stafford twice served as honorary chancellor of NFSPS and twice gave keynote addresses at conventions. Kim Stafford will conduct a workshop and deliver a combined lecture and reading.

"Sea to Shining Sea" is the theme, reflecting the leap from Florida, last year's convention state, to Oregon, and the program's emphasis on multiculturalism in American Poetry.

Registration is \$50 and on-campus housing is available. Meals, catered by the college, are reasonably priced. For more information go to [www.oregonpoets.org](http://www.oregonpoets.org) or e-mail [ospa@teleport.com](mailto:ospa@teleport.com) or write to Convention, PO Box 602, West Linn, OR 97068.

The Academy of American Poets announces

My first published poem, outside of high school, was by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_ devoted for publication in *The Poetry*

THE NEGRO SPEAKS OF RIVERS. It goes like this:

I've known rivers

I've known rivers ancient as the world

And older than the flow of human blood—

By soul has grown deep like the rivers

I've known rivers that my people, the Negroes, have sanded with their tears—

I've known rivers that have conformed to the shapes and forms of the land

I've known rivers that have drunk the maddening night of grief that flows from the eyes of the young

I've known rivers that have listened and run by the cities of the Kingdom

I've known rivers that have been the hearthstones of prophets

I've known rivers that have carved the world of the imagination

I've known rivers that have been the lifeblood of the human race

I've known rivers that have been the cradle of the soul

I've known rivers that have been the source of the world's great literature

I've known rivers that have been the heart of the human race

I've known rivers that have been the cradle of the soul

I've known rivers that have been the source of the world's great literature

I've known rivers that have been the heart of the human race

To sit and dream, to sit and read,  
To sit and learn about the world  
Outside our world of here and now -  
our problem world -  
To dream of vast horizons of the soul  
Through dreams made whole,  
Unfettered free - help me!  
All you who are dreamers, too,  
Help me make our world anew.  
I reach out my hands to you.

This spring National Poetry Month will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Langston Hughes, one of America's most distinguished and beloved poets. Visit [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) and discover a special Langston Hughes Centenary Exhibit.

APRIL 2002

Additional support for this poster was provided by the American Bookellers Association, the American Library Association, Appleton-Century-Crofts, the National Council of Teachers of English, and the National Endowment for the Arts. If you are a teacher, librarian, or bookseller and want to receive a free copy of this poster, send an email to [NPMposter@poets.org](mailto:NPMposter@poets.org) (supplies limited).  
[www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)

NPM 2002 poster and national advertising campaign. In addition, a special Langston Hughes Centenary Exhibit is dedicated to his life and work. The Academy of American Poets, the Langston Hughes National Poetry Project and the National Council of Teachers of English sponsored a Langston Hughes Poetry Day on April 2. The U.S. Postal Service issued a Langston Hughes commemorative stamp in February.

Langston Hughes' first book of poetry, *The Weary Blues*, was published in 1926. His poetry, novels and short stories helped shape the artistic contribution of the Harlem Renaissance during the 1920s. He died in 1967.

Learn more about National Poetry Month and Langston Hughes online at [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) or check out our own website,

[www.williamstafford.org](http://www.williamstafford.org) for links to other events celebrating National Poetry Month.

### How the Ink Feels now in Pendleton

The FWS traveling exhibit of letterpress broadsides will be on display April 1-30 in Pioneer Library at Blue Mountain Community College, 2411 Carden Ave., Pendleton, as part of their Spring Arts & Cultural Festival. Grey Elliott and Robert Clapp, former professors at BMCC, will present a lecture/discussion, "Social Justice and Artistic Freedom" on April 19 at noon. Elliott wrote the introduction for William Stafford's *The Long Sigh the Wind Makes* (1991) and Clapp wrote the introduction for *Stafford's Road* (1991), an anthology tribute to Stafford.

Two new broadsides have been added to the exhibit: Stafford's "Earth Dweller" and a poem by FWS National Advisor Marvin Bell, "Dew at the Edge of a Leaf." Nine of the broadsides in the exhibit are poems by Stafford. Most of the pieces are printed using a manually operated letterpress. These pieces are collaborations between the writer, the artist and the printer. In August, some of the pieces will be on display at Lewis & Clark College and others will be shown at Marylhurst University. More on those exhibits in our July newsletter.

## Poetry is our refuge since September Eleven

In our January newsletter, Joseph Soldati asked readers “So which poets and poems did you read, and are reading now since September Eleven?”

We heard from Dr. Pierre Rioux of Austin, MN, a Lifetime member: “I very much enjoyed the latest issue of the FWS newsletter. Doctor Soldati’s article was especially appreciated. Enclosed please find several poems that I have been reading since the September 11th incident. Thanks for all the good work you do on behalf of FWS.” He sent us three poems that have special meaning to him: “Nevermore Will The Wind” by H.D. (Hilda Doolittle), a Haiku by Nobuyuki Yuasa, and “The North Ship” by Philip Larkin.

In the *New York Times*, Oct. 1, 2001, Dinitia Smith wrote an article titled “The Eerily Intimate Power of Poetry to Console.” She said that in the weeks after the terrorist attacks, people have been consoling themselves, and one another, with poetry... “Poems flew through cyberspace across the country in e-mails from friend to friend.” Some quoted Yeats: “All the words that I utter/ And all the words that I write/ Must spread out their wings

### Notes from the Editor

untiring/ And never rest in their flight/ Till they come where your sad, sad heart is.” Many people referred to Auden’s poem, “September 1, 1939,” written after Germany invaded Poland.

Poet Laureate Billy Collins said “in times of crisis, it’s interesting that people don’t turn to the novel, or say ‘We should all go to a movie’ or ‘ballet would help us.’ It’s always poetry. What we want to hear is a human voice speaking in our ear.” Collins said that since Sept. 11, he had been inundated with poems from friends, poems by Yeats, by Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, by Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska, writers, he noted, from countries that have known war. “We Americans have never been invaded; we have not produced a poetry that has much authority in this area.”

Apoem I have been reading and find hopeful was written by Polish poet Adam Zagajewski. “Try To Praise The Mutilated World,” concludes with these lines: “...Praise the mutilated world/ and the gray feather a thrush lost/ and the gentle light that strays and vanishes/ and returns.” The poem appeared in *The New Yorker*, Sept. 24, 2001 and was translated by Clare Cavanagh.

– *By Patricia Carver*

### Poetry and Community

#### Notes on the 2002 Stafford Birthday Events

“Steady, securely waiting in each of William Stafford’s poems is an invitation, an extension of hospitality. Even as they speak of that profound loneliness we each carry with us, his poems beckon us into plurality. They tell us that a community exists, one that includes us – our inclusion a simple result of our engagement, at that moment, with one of his poems.

“Most people who have read William Stafford’s poems then carry that sense of poetic plurality with them. And that’s what people bring to the January Birthday Events. Each celebration was a package of surprises. Anecdotes about Bill himself, tributes to the effect his poems have had on people’s lives, and the careful voicing of chosen poems created a fine variety at each gathering.

“Distinctive voices, yes, but each person who stepped up to read a favorite Stafford poem also voiced a common refrain: “Yes, I know him too. I know his wisdom, his humor, his witnessing for peace and justice. He’s a friend.”

“Such admiration, affection and respect. Such a welcome community.” – *Paulann Petersen, Event Organizer, FWS*

“I don’t know if I can keep doing these events. When they are all done, I miss them too much.” – *Dorothy Stafford, Lake Oswego*



Photo/Dennis Schmidling

Attendees chat after Heritage House reading in Lake Oswego. “You have brought a deep joy to so many. Perhaps we will have to find reasons beyond birthdays to keep the world happy.” – *Dennis Schmidling, Tualatin*

“We liked the idea of a Superbowl Alternative. What better antidote to the commercialism and violence of macho millionaires!” – *Diane Allen, Hood River*

“I am still filled with the lovely energy created in me by last night’s joyful celebration of William Stafford’s birthday. Thank you each and every one for making this occasion possible, and ending it with such heart and spirit.” – *Joan McMillen, Portland*

“Forty-seven people attended our birthday celebration ... We all shared a sense of community and celebration ‘sharing the world’ in the spirit of William Stafford.” – *Elizabeth Barton, Vancouver*

## Spring Calendar of Events

### MOUNTAIN WRITERS CENTER READINGS:

#### **BILL TREMBLAY, TOM BREMER & JIM**

**GRABILL:** Saturday, April 6, 7 p.m., Mountain Writers Center (MWC), 3624 SE Milwaukie Ave., Portland. (503) 236-4854

**LINDA BIERDS:** Thursday, April 11, 1 p.m., Clackamas Community college (CCC), Gregory Forum, 1600 S. Molalla Ave., Oregon City; and 7:30 p.m., Portland State University (PSU), Smith Memorial Center Browsing Lounge Room 238, 1825 Broadway, Portland. Friday, April 12, noon, Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC), Visual Arts Theater, 26000 SE Stark St., Gresham.

**JOSEPH MILLAR:** Tuesday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., CCC.

**MARVIN BELL:** Wednesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., Marylhurst University (MU) with jazz bassist Glenn Moore, in Flavia Salon, Marylhurst, OR. (503) 699-6313, or [www.marylhurst.edu](http://www.marylhurst.edu)

**ALICE DERRY:** Friday, April 25, noon, MHCC; and 7 p.m., MWC.

**MADLINE DEFREES:** Wednesday, May 8, noon, Linfield University, McMinnville. Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m., MU. Friday, May 10, noon, MHCC; and 7 p.m., MWC.

**VIRGIL SUAREZ:** Tuesday, May 14, noon, Peninsula College, Port Angeles, WA. Thursday, May 16, 1 p.m., CCC; and 7:30 p.m., PSU. Tuesday, May 21, 1 p.m., Clark College, Foster Auditorium, 1800 E. McLoughlin Blvd., Vancouver, WA. Thursday, May 23, noon, MHCC. 6 p.m., and Latino Film Festival, PCC Cascade, 705 N. Killingsworth St., Portland.

**CLEMENS STARCK & DOUG MARX:** Friday, May 24, 7 p.m., PSU.

### MOUNTAIN WRITERS SERIES WORKSHOPS:

**FINDING A FORM FOR A POEM: STRATEGIES FOR SHAPING EXPERIENCE:** Mondays, 7-10 p.m. instructor Andrew Field

**STORY TO SCREENPLAY:** Tuesdays, 7-10 p.m., instructor Rick Hillis.

**SO YOU WANT TO WRITE – AN INTRODUCTION TO WRITING:** Thursdays, 7-10 p.m., instructor Doug Marx

**LEAD DANCER AT THE MASKED BALLET:** with Linda Bierds, April 13, 10 a.m.-3 p.m..

**POETRY. THE CONTROLLING IMAGE:** with Joseph Millar, April 20.

**LIFE AS A CELEBRATION – A COURSE IN SPIRITUAL MEMOIR:** Sundays April 21 & May 12, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., instructor Annie Callan.

### SILVERTON (OR) POETRY FESTIVAL:

**CHILDREN'S POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP:** Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m., Silver Falls Library, 410 S. Water St., with poet Lisa Kuenzi.

**FAVORITE POEM PROJECT:** Saturday, April 20, 2 p.m., Silverton Together Community Center, S. Water St.

**OPEN MIC POETRY READING:** Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m., Lunaria Gallery, 113 N. Water St.

**YOUNG ADULTS & TEENS OPEN MIC POETRY READING:** Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m., Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 N. Water St.

**FEATURED POETS READING:** Friday, April 26, 7 p.m., O'Brien's Cafe, 105 N. Water St. Clemens Starck, Donna Henderson, Lisa Kuenzi.

**POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP FOR ADULTS:** Saturday, April 27, 1 p.m., Mount Angel Abbey, St. Benedict, OR. with Pat Love.

**SONGWRITERS WORKSHOP:** Saturday, April 27, 2 p.m., Silver Creek Coffee House.

**FEATURED POETS READING:** Saturday, April 27, 7 p.m., Silver Creek Coffee House.

### OTHER LITERARY EVENTS:

**HOW THE INK FEELS:** Friends of William Stafford's Traveling Broadside Exhibit at Blue Mountain Community College (BMCC), Pendleton, OR, throughout April.

**WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS:** Wednesday, April 10, noon, Portland Center for the Performing Arts Rotunda. Students from all the participating WITS schools will read from their work as part of this PCPA Brown Bag Lunch Series.

**KATHLEEN NORRIS:** 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 12, Annie Bloom's Bookstore.

**NATIONAL POETRY MONTH READINGS & BOOKFAIRS:** Saturday, April 13, Barnes & Noble Book Stores throughout Oregon. Sponsored by OSPA.

**GREY ELLIOTT & ROBERT CLAPP:** "Social Justice and Artistic Freedom" April 19, noon, BMCC, in conjunction with Spring Arts & Cultural Festival and "How The Ink Feels."

**JUDITH BARRINGTON, PAUL MERCHANT & DALE RAWLS:** An evening of Poetry and Art, Tuesday, April 16, 7 p.m., Looking Glass Bookstore, 318 SW Taylor St., Portland. (503) 227-4760.

**KURT BROWN & LAURE-ANNE BOSSELAAR:** 7 p.m., Saturday, April 20, Looking Glass.

**APRIL 23:** William Shakespeare's Birthday.

**IRISH MUSIC & POETRY:** April 25, 7 p.m. Marlhurst University, Wiegand Hall. Brian Doyle, Pattiann Rogers, Ger Killeen, Joanne Mulcahy; music by Cul An Ti. Benefit for Oregon Food Bank. (503) 699-6261.

**LITERARY ARTS, INC. ARTS & LECTURE SERIES:** Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m. April 25, David Sedaris. Tickets & Information, 503-227-2583 or [www.literary-arts.org](http://www.literary-arts.org)

**OSPA SPRING POETRY FESTIVAL:** Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Heathman Hotel, Portland. Round-Robin Readings and Award Ceremony. (503) 655-1274.

**DAVID HOROWITZ & DEREK SHEFFIELD:** April 27, 7 p.m., 2 p.m., Looking Glass.

**SUSAN KING & PETER SEARS:** April 29, 7 p.m., Looking Glass.

**WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS:** Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m., Broadway Books, 1714 NE Broadway, Portland. Grant High School students will read works from residencies with Lorraine Bahr, Ariel Gore, Brian Christopher Hamilton and Karen Karbo.

**SITKA CENTER FOR ART & ECOLOGY:** Writing classes by Kim Stafford, June 1 & 2; Molly Gloss, June 22 & 23. Information: (541) 994-5485 or [www.sitkacenter.org](http://www.sitkacenter.org)

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES INC.:** June 27-30 in Coos Bay, Oregon. Kim Stafford, keynote speaker. Hosted by OSPA. For information, call (503) 655-1274 or write P.O. Box 602, West Linn, OR 97068, [www.oregonstatepoetryassoc.org](http://www.oregonstatepoetryassoc.org); e-mail: [ospa@teleport.com](mailto:ospa@teleport.com).

## National Advisor: Naomi Shihab Nye

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

**NAOMI SHIHAB NYE** grew up in St. Louis and Jerusalem and currently lives in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband, Photographer Michael Nye, and their 15-year-old son. Her recent books include *Come With Me: Poems for a Journey* (2000), *Fuel* (1998), *Red Suitcase* (1994), and *Habibi* (1997) a novel for teens that won 6 Best Book awards. Daughter of a Palestinian father and an American Mother, she has edited six prize-winning anthologies of poetry for young readers and has worked as a visiting writer in schools and communities for 28 years. A recent Guggenheim Fellow, she was a Library of Congress Witter Bynner Fellow for 2000 and is currently a member of the National Council of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

William Stafford called Naomi “a champion of the literature of encouragement and heart. Reading her work enhances life.” When she was in Portland March 19 as part of the Literary Arts Poetry Series, Naomi reminisced about her dear friend:

“Just last week, we passed one of those ugly chain hotels that changes its name a lot, on an access road in North Texas and I felt a warm feeling toward it. Not because it is near Evelyn’s, a home-cooking shack on a back road, famous for catfish and coconut pies, but because the last time I noticed it, perhaps 10 or 11 years ago, William Stafford was in it, attending a round-up of the writerly sort. We found him in the lobby, mingling and chatting amiably with participants. He and my husband immediately launched back into a discussion of a philosophy book they’d been talking about the last time they met. Then Bill told me he was going to come to the discussion I was scheduled to lead about 30 minutes later, and I nearly fainted on the floor. “Would you like to lead it?” I asked, and he said “Oh no, I’ve already done mine – I’m free now.”

I went into a bathroom and placed my head against the cool tiles. Well, for one thing, I always started my sessions by talking about him, quoting him, reading his poems – one could hardly do that if he were sitting there!

We put our chairs in a circle. Bill crossed his feet and folded his hands, looking expectant. I held up a miniature book, about one inch tall, which some Latvian educators had just given me in Dallas. “We had to make them this small in the old bad days, so we could hide them,” they said. We were always getting in trouble for books.”

I talked a bit about what we sometimes take for granted as writers and readers in this country, and Bill raised his hand. “Could you pass me that little book please?” he said. “I want to hold it.”



Naomi Shihab Nye



Madeline DeFrees

Photo/Any Arbus

Photo/Copper Canyon Press - Joan Swift

## FWS member profile: Madeline DeFrees

**MADELINE DEFREES** was born in Ontario, Oregon in 1919. When she was 17, she entered the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, and was known as Sister Mary Gilbert for the next 38 years. She has published nine volumes of poetry, including *When Sky Lets Go* (1978), *Imaginary Ancestors* (1991), and *Possible Sibyls* (1991) and two memoirs on her life as a nun. She has taught at universities and colleges throughout the U.S., including the University of Massachusetts where she directed the MFA writing program. She now lives in Seattle, where she continues to write and teach. She will read from her latest book, *Blue Dusk*, in the Portland area, May 8-10.

Madeline shares some fond memories of William Stafford. “Shortly after I met William Stafford, he announced from many podiums that any school that wanted a poetry reading series could have one. I immediately put him to the test by writing to invite him to Holy Names College in Spokane. Bill accepted graciously – even drove the round-trip from Portland – for what I remember as a ridiculously low fee of \$100.

“Re-reading my file of letters and cards, I realize how much Bill traveled ... New Mexico, El Paso, Indiana and Washington, D.C.

*Continued on page 6*

### What I mistook for heather

was creeping thyme the gardener said,  
and I watched it creeping  
over the sheer rockfall without a leg  
to stand on. “So delicate,” a neighbor  
said, preferring thyme to sturdier  
plants, the day she made that confident  
pronouncement. Just out of sight  
the raspberry canes waited for something  
to lean on. When I planted my foot  
in the flower bed, it felt like the first  
far step across the moon.

Madeline DeFrees

From *Blue Dusk* 2001© Used with permission of Copper Canyon Press

## Madeline DeFrees

*Continued from Page 5*

“Another (letter)speaks of having finished the Utah circuit. Most of my appearances with Bill took place in the Pacific Northwest, but we also met in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Minneapolis, probably the only place in which I had preceded him in my second round of Bush Foundation judging. I remember that we had been instructed to bring the large (heavy!) ring binders with applicants’ material. Bill had a special bag for these – larger and more weighty than his personal overnighter bag. When we went to dinner with the bankers, Bill pulled on a sweater and seemed perfectly at ease among the more formal hosts.

“When Bill had been somewhere before me, he would tip me off on what to expect. Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa: ‘You’ll have lots of ice cream.’ New York City: ‘Two groups will invite you out afterwards. I chose the right one.’

“At an Elliott Bay reading in 1989, Bill read a poem I like especially well, ‘An Archival Print.’ He and Dorothy were staying overnight at my home, and the next morning, Bill emerged from the guest room with a handwritten copy of the poem, with this note appended: ‘for Madeline on a fine June morning in 1989 at her home from her grateful guests, Dorothy and Bill Stafford.’ I treasure that keepsake.”

## A brief history of Copper Canyon Press

Copper Canyon Press was founded in 1972 in the belief that poetry is essential to the human spirit and necessary in a thriving culture. The Press publishes poetry exclusively and has established an international reputation for its editorial acumen, commitment to poets, devotion to fine bookmaking, and dedication to expanding the poetry audience.

In 1974, the Press formed a permanent residency with Centrum, a nonprofit arts agency, at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend, WA. In its early years, the Press issued mostly small editions of letterpress books printed from hand-set type on quality paper and bound by hand. In the mid-’70s, the Press expanded its list to include more offset trade editions, providing expanded distribution for the work of both new and established writers.



The Chinese characters for ‘temple’ and ‘word’ make up the pressmark that serves as the logo of Copper Canyon Press

In 1983, the Press stopped publishing limited editions in order to concentrate on producing and marketing trade books that would maintain the highest possible standards of typography and design. In 1992, Copper Canyon was recognized among nonprofit publishers, with substantial stabilization grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Lila Wallace – Reader’s Digest Fund, both of which have renewed their commitments since then.

The Press currently publishes about 18 titles a year with an active backlist of 160. It has published works by Nobel Laureates Pablo Neruda, Odysseas Elytis,

Octavio Paz, Vicente Alexandre, and Czeslaw Milosz; Pulitzer Prize-winners Carolyn Kizer, Maxine Kumin, and W.S. Merwin; and National Book Award winners Hayden Carruth and Lucille Clifton.

The Press is renowned for its commitment to poetry in translation, producing almost one-fifth of poetry books in translation published last year in America. Since the 1975 edition of Ezra Pound’s *Great Digest of Confucius*, the Press has published 42 translations from Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Sanskrit, French, Spanish, Hungarian, Greek, Hebrew and Estonian, often in bilingual editions.

Its plan for growth includes an expanded publication list, a larger staff, major capital improvements, technology upgrades, and redesigned financial systems.

– **Jenny Manza, Publicity Coordinator**

[www.coppercanyonpress.org](http://www.coppercanyonpress.org)

## OSPA plans Poetry Month events

The Oregon State Poetry Association (OSPA) will celebrate National Poetry Month with readings Saturday April 13 at 2 p.m. in six of Oregon’s eight Barnes & Noble stores, and Bookfair benefits in all. Featured readers include Judith Barrington at Lloyd Center, Primus St. John at Tanasbourne, Michele Glazer at Jantzen Beach, Peter Sears at Eugene, Jarold Ramsey at Bend, and Sara Jameson and Mitzi Miles-Kubota at Medford. Open mike readings follow.

During Bookfairs, from noon to 5 p.m., a percentage of sales will be donated to OSPA. In past years, more than \$9,000 has been raised for OSPA’s youth programs, the Oregon Student Poetry Contest and the Family Poetry Workshop Project. The Clackamas and Washington Square stores will have Bookfairs but not readings.

For the third year, Portland’s Heathman Hotel will host OSPA’s Spring Poetry Festival. On April 27, festivities start at

9:30 a.m. with a round-robin reading, and conclude with the spring contest awards ceremony. At 2 p.m., the 40 winners of the statewide student contest will be presented with checks, engraved bronze ribbon medals, certificates and anthologies featuring all 40 winning poems. The hotel will cater dessert for winners, their families and teachers, and those poets attending the spring festival. For more information, see [www.oregonpoets.org](http://www.oregonpoets.org) or phone 503-655-1274.

# 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

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 Events

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

### Payment:

Please 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

**Memberships (except for Lifetime) are due and renewable each January. Please copy or use this form to renew and let us know your current address, or to give a membership to someone else. Our January events yielded 23 new members and 56 renewals! Thank you!**

### Lifetime Members

Todd & Marinhah Prendergast – 2002  
 Penelope Scambly Schott – 2002  
 Robert & Kerstin Adams – 2002  
 Karen Braucher – 2002  
 Bill Howe – 2002  
 B.J. Seymour – 2002  
 Pierre Rioux – 2001  
 Carlos Rivera – 2001  
 Jane B. Glazer – 2001  
 Erland G. Anderson – 2001  
 Brian & Gwyneth Booth – 2001  
 Ceil Huntington – 2001  
 Elizabeth Rogers-Wallace – 2001  
 Linda Hathaway Bunza – 2001  
 Philip Miller & Colleen Cain – 2001  
 R. Virgil Ellis – 2001  
 Shelley Reece – 2001  
 Patty & Vince Wixon – 2001  
 Marilyn S. (Marsh) Noll – 2001  
 George & Elizabeth Barton – 2001  
 Sulima Malzin – 2000  
 J. Alma Tedrow – 2000  
 Linda Richard – 2000

### New Members: January - March 2002

Greg Simon • Ellen Greenlaw  
 Elisabeth Meyer • Paul W. Baxter  
 Claire Sykes • Alan Dick  
 Jacqueline Lenea • Barbara P. Dills  
 Nan Narboe • Paul Keller  
 Jill Y. Turner • Joan McMillen  
 Susan Metz • Virginia Mullen  
 Brad Tisdell • Bob & Dar Young  
 Marcia Austin-Zacharias  
 Jessica Johnson

### Renewals: January - March 2002

Tim Dalrymple • Kathleen Worley  
 Betty Burke • Rosemary DaCosta  
 Michael Stubbs • Alice Hardesty  
 Dennis & Helen Schmidling  
 Bonnie Minden Ward • Tony White  
 Melanie S. Green • Ralph Hammond  
 Joan Peterson • Joseph Fitzgibbon  
 Don Comer • Ann Staley  
 Rebecca & Richard Turnock  
 Nan Norene • Beverly A. Butterworth  
 Don Colburn • Beverly Partridge  
 Elizabeth Harper Neeld • Phoebe Olsen  
 Doug & Margaret Stow  
 Confluence Press/Linda Vacura  
 Donald & Linda Schafer Emblen  
 Alice Lindsay Price • Carol Thomas  
 Sabine & John Wild • Ivy Dempsey  
 David Brooks Andrews • Gary L. Aho  
 Roland Bartel • Jeanne A. Lohman  
 Karen & Paul Maughan  
 Virginia & C. Herald Campbell  
 Peter H. Paulson • Patricia Carver  
 Joan Maiers • Paulann Petersen  
 Ronald Rasch • David Rutiezer  
 Joseph Soldati • Barbara Engel  
 Howard G. Franklin • Jean S. Hamar  
 Jim Hanlen • Tim Barnes  
 Clifford & Doris N. Carlsen  
 Sue & Ed Einowski  
 Donna & Frank Lawrence  
 Grover & Dorothy Bagby  
 Marjorie A. Crew • Hideo Hashimoto  
 Judith & Charles R. Wold  
 David Campiche & Laurie J. Anderson  
 Verne A. "Van" Dusenbery

## News and Notes

### ROBERT DUSENBERY 1915-2002

Robert "Bob" Dusenbery, 86, a colleague of William Stafford's and close friend of the Stafford family, died Friday, March 29. Bob was Professor Emeritus and former chair of the English Department at Lewis & Clark College. Aspecialist in 19th Century American literature, he helped build the department, recruiting his friend and fellow poet William Stafford. Since his retirement in 1984, he worked with the Lake Oswego Adult Center and Oswego Heritage Center. He was a former board member of FWS.

Acelebration of his life will be held in June. The family suggests remembrances to Lewis & Clark College, Lake Oswego Adult Center, or the William Temple House. We extend our sympathies to all of his friends and family.

### SILVERTON POETRY FESTIVAL

During the week of April 20-27, the Silverton Poetry Festival will offer a series of workshops and readings for all ages. This ambitious program is planned to enrich the town of Silverton and pull together downtown as an art center. See the Spring Calendar on Page 4 for specific events. For further information, contact the Poetry Festival at the Silverton Art Association at (503) 873-2480 or e-mail [PoeFest2002@msn.com](mailto:PoeFest2002@msn.com).

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

Our official website has been updated. Now you can read the past 4 newsletters or download printable versions. We invite members and others to submit their literary news for inclusion on the website to [news@williamstafford.org](mailto:news@williamstafford.org)

### WRITERS IN THE SCHOOLS

Literary Arts is holding a series of readings by high-school students. Students will present work written during residencies with local authors through the Writers in the Schools program. Intensive, three-week residencies are the core of the program which also offers a host of literary services to both students and faculty. The student readings are free and open to the public. See the Spring Calendar on Page 4.

### FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD

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Send comments, letters, news, and information on poetry events, etc. to: FWS, P.O. Box 492, Lake Oswego, OR 97034 or [friends@williamstafford.org](mailto:friends@williamstafford.org)

Please notify sender of change of address.

*April is  
National Poetry Month  
Share a poem  
with someone you love!*



*Profiles:  
Naomi Shihab Nye  
Madelaine DeFrees  
Page 5*

*Friends of  
WILLIAM STAFFORD  
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