



# W friends of WILLIAM STAFFORD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1 NO. 2

LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

AUTUMN 1997

## AUGUST 24 GATHERING PROVIDES TIME TO REMEMBER

More than fifty friends of William Stafford gathered on the Manor patio at Lewis & Clark College August 24, to hear poets read and friends tell recollections, and to offer ideas for projects for *Friends of William Stafford*. Margaret Slovak, Portland composer and recording artist, provided guitar music for the event. Poets Ralph Salisbury and Ingrid Wendt led the opening of the program by reading favorite poems by William Stafford plus two of their own poems. Other poets who also read Stafford works and their own were Harold Johnson, Paulann Petersen, and Kim Stafford.

Another popular part of the program was the report by the staff of the Literary Archives of William Stafford. Paul Merchant, Kim Stafford, and Vince Wixon related work in progress during the past year. (See next page for items reported.)

Peter Sears moderated the recollections, leading off with Bob Dusenbery's telling of conversations with Stafford while they were colleagues at Lewis & Clark College. Others relating experiences were Kathy Chisholm, Nan Atzen, Harold Johnson, Dorothy Stafford, Peter Sears, Betty Burke, and Phyllis Kerns.

The program concluded with people offering project ideas for *Friends of William Stafford*. Three of these ideas: 1) Support installation of road signs of William Stafford

poems, similar to the seven signs along the Methow River Highway in Washington state. The intention would be to begin with "Traveling Through the Dark," placed on the Wilson River Road near Tillamook. 2) Invest in the on-going writing life of young writers. Patricia and Avi Meir Lev told how important such a commitment has been to their son, Nathan Furr, who received a graduate study grant to investigate William Stafford's writing. 3) Expand access to information on William Stafford on the internet.

## STAFFORD ROOM ESTABLISHED IN WATZEK LIBRARY

Later this year, Lewis & Clark College will host a formal dedication gathering for the William Stafford Room in the Watzek Library. The Stafford family is currently selecting copies of poems, manuscripts, and photographs for display in the room, which is being richly refurbished thanks to generous help from the Dusenbery and Booth families.

## JAMES DEPREIST JOINS NATIONAL ADVISORS

*Friends of William Stafford* announces an addition to its National Advisors. James DePreist, Music Director and Conductor of the Oregon Symphony, is an international supporter of the arts, and also a published poet. Other National Advisors are Marvin Bell, Robert Bly, Kurt Brown, Lucille Clifton, Denise Levertov, Ursula LeGuin, Chris Merrill, W. S. Merwin, Naomi Shihab Nye, and Gary Snyder.

---

*Friends of William Stafford Board of Directors: Brian Booth, Portland, OR; Bob Dusenbery, Portland, OR; Ceil Huntington, Lake Oswego, OR; Harold Johnson, Portland, OR; Beverly Partridge, Portland, OR; Dorothy Stafford, Lake Oswego, OR; Patty Wixon, Ashland, OR, Chair. Peter Sears, Corvallis, OR, Executive Director. FRIENDS OF WILLIAM STAFFORD NEWSLETTER will be published periodically for members. We invite you to send your ideas for the next issue to Friends of William Stafford, P.O. BOX 1223, Corvallis, OR 97339 or e-mail: vpwixon@jeffnet.org*

