



Friends of **WILLIAM STAFFORD** NEWSLETTER

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LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

SPRING 1997

FIRST GATHERING SET FOR AUGUST 24

Friends of William Stafford plan a picnic for their first event. The Gathering of members is set for Sunday, August 24, from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. by the Templeton Center at Lewis and Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road, Portland, Oregon. Please bring a picnic. Soft drinks and fruit juice will be provided.

The program will be informal with several poets reading poems by William Stafford and making brief comments. There will be opportunities for you to share your recollections of William Stafford with others. During the evening, Board members will review projects currently under consideration and seek your ideas.

RECOMMENDATION BY SUSAN STAMBERG, NPR

Susan Stamberg, internationally recognized commentator on National Public Radio, was interviewed May 29 on NPR's "Talk of the Nation." This program's focus was on NPR staff members' recommendations for summer reading. Stamberg talked about being given a book of Wm. Stafford poetry when she was in Oregon this spring, and also described his poems on road signs in Washington. She enthusiastically recommended reading poems by William Stafford.

NATIONAL ADVISORS ANNOUNCED

Friends of William Stafford announces the official formation of the group as a non-profit organization committed to providing on-going education in literature, particularly in poetry, in a way that will encourage and broaden the community of poetry readers. National Advisors to the group have also been named and include several long-time literary friends of William Stafford:

- *Marvin Bell
- *Robert Bly
- *Kurt Brown
- *Lucille Clifton
- *Ursula LeGuin
- *Denise Levertov
- *Chris Merrill
- *W. S. Merwin
- *Naomi Shihab Nye
- *Gary Snyder

The idea for the organization began two years ago when fifteen friends gathered to discuss ways to keep William Stafford's literary legacy alive for his long-time readers and those new to his work. This meeting led to forming the non-profit Friends of William Stafford. Jeff Cronn of Tonkon, Torp, Galen, Marmaduke & Booth, provides legal counsel. Oregon Community Foundation serves as the parent group while Friends of William Stafford awaits official non-profit designation.

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, 427 SW

Madison, Suite D-222, Corvallis, OR 97333 or e-mail: vpwixon@jeffnet.org

"STAFFORD ROOM" AT CONFERENCE ATTRACTS VISITORS

Many participants at the National Council of Teachers of English Regional Conference in Portland, Oregon, in March, found an oasis for calm and reflection in the Marriott Hotel's Eugene Room. For four days the Eugene Room became the "Stafford Room" --site of an exhibit of 26 broadsides from the collection of Dorothy and William Stafford. Most of the works were part of a show titled "Like Frost on a Window: The Beauty of the Written Word," curated by Visual Arts Resources, Eugene, Oregon, and originally on display at The Gallery at the Airport, Eugene, March through June, 1996.

The original exhibit displayed seven broadsides of poems by William Stafford, plus broadsides of sixteen other writers, including Barry Lopez, Ursula LeGuin, James Welch, Gary Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, Kim Stafford, Edward Abbey, and Sallie Tisdale. Additional pieces from the Stafford collection, such as poems by Denise Levertov and Primus St. John, expanded the show for the NCTE Regional Conference.

Broadsides by other nationally-known poets are being added to the exhibit for a 3-year national tour of galleries, museums, and cultural centers. The premier event for this national show is scheduled for the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, October, 1997. For more information, contact Dena Brown, Director, Visual Arts Resources, 164 W. Broadway, Eugene, OR 97401 (541) 485-1230, e-mail: visarts@efn.org

GARRISON KEILLOR and OTHERS CONTRIBUTE to FRIENDS OF W.S.

Garrison Keillor of Minnesota Public Radio made an important contribution to Friends of William Stafford by recording his reading of Stafford's Methow River Poems for production of an audio cassette and video tape. Original music is by Todd Barton, music director and composer for the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. The proceeds from these two tapes will benefit FofWS.

Jim Hepworth, Lewiston, Idaho, publisher of several books by William Stafford, donated 14 copies of Even in Quiet Places (Confluence Press, 1996) to FofWS. These books were sold at the NCTE Conference with proceeds going to Friends of William Stafford.

Mike Markee, Salem, Oregon, filmmaker and photographer, produced the Methow River Poems video to benefit Friends of William Stafford. Footage taken on location where the Stafford poems appear on permanent road signs along the Methow River in the North Cascades in Washington state is combined with footage of William Stafford taped in 1991. Poems are read by Garrison Keillor, Naomi Shihab Nye, and William Stafford. To purchase the Methow River Poems audio tape or video tape, phone 541-482-0543 or email: vpwixon@jeffnet.org

Katie Radditz, of Looking Glass Bookstore in Portland, Oregon, donated time and materials to print 1200 broadsides of Wm. Stafford's poem, "How These Words Happened," illustrated by Barbara Wilson Stafford. The broadsides were distributed at the NCTE Conference as gifts from Friends of William Stafford.

