

COCC celebrates Oregon poet, William Stafford

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Kit Stafford, daughter of Oregon poet William Stafford, will present the keynote address at a birthday celebration honoring the late national poet laureate with a reception at 7 p.m. and a program at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the rotunda of Central Oregon Community College (COCC) Library.

Judith Montgomery, COCC's poet-in-residence last year, is hosting the event. Readings will be presented by Neil Browne, assistant professor of English Oregon State University-Cascades; Ellen Santasiero, writer and this year's Scholar in Residence; John Martin, author of "The Nick of Time;" and Stacey Donohue, professor of English at COCC. Refreshments will be served.

Oregon poet William Stafford, 1914-1993

William Stafford served as poetry consultant to the Library of Congress (poet laureate) and wrote more than 60 books of prose and poetry. Born in Kansas in 1914, he was a conscientious objector and worked in the civilian public service camps during the World War II, an experience he recorded in the memoir "Down My Heart." In 1948 Stafford moved to Oregon to teach at Lewis and Clark College in Portland. Though he traveled and read his work widely, he taught there until his retirement in 1980. His first major collection of poems, "Traveling through the Dark," won the National Book Award in 1963. He died in 1993.

The event is sponsored by the COCC Library and the Deschutes County Library. For information, call 383-7564.

Anyone wishing to attend this event who has special needs resulting from a physical disability should contact Gene Zinkgraf, ADA coordinator, at least three days in advance of the event. He can be reached at 383-7775 or through the college's TTY number, 383-7708.

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