



# \$helfLife

WINTER 2008

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## Happy New Year!

**T**hank you for a very successful 2007. We wish you top-notch professional service, the best possible collection, and a 2008 Library that brings you pride of ownership. Speaking of that 2008 Library, if all goes according to plans, we should be ready to open those doors in November/December.

You may know, former Mayor Chuck McLaran and his wife Kathy have agreed to cochair a Fund-raising Steering Committee, and the kick off to this campaign is Thursday, January 17, 2008, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the new Library meeting room.

As a part of this Committee, my New Year's resolution is to raise \$2 million for the new Library. This is a unique resolution in that it involves the whole city of Albany! The way I see it, roughly 15,000 members of the community borrowed materials last year. Conservatively and collectively, those borrowers last year saved themselves over \$14 million just in borrowed materials, not to mention free programs, Internet, and professional service. Each borrower saved approximately \$975 last year. It sounds crazy, but if each family donated \$100 per borrower from those savings, we would pretty

much reach the goal. I think this will be one part of our fund-raising campaign. We have already begun writing and submitting grants to various foundations, and plan to seek funding from local businesses, individuals, and library card holders.

Thank you to the Friends of the Albany Public Library for its willingness to partner with the Steering Committee by collecting all the donations.

It will be a very exciting, busy, and thoroughly rewarding year ahead.

I've already made my personal pledge to the campaign, and I hope you will not only do the same, but encourage the community to join this historic effort. It's as easy as writing a

check to the Friends of the Albany Public Library.

As we begin the next century of library services, let us commit ourselves even further to ensure the next hundred years will build upon our proud past. Thank you.



### Director's Message



# The New Bookies



**Janine Spencer** migrated west along with her family as her husband became Refuge Manager at the William L. Finley Wildlife Refuge. Prior to the move, Janine had been Library Coordinator at an elementary school in Michigan. She likes to think she has the best of all possible worlds as she is able to split her time between the Library, substituting as a Special Education Assistant with GAPS, and still having time for home and family.

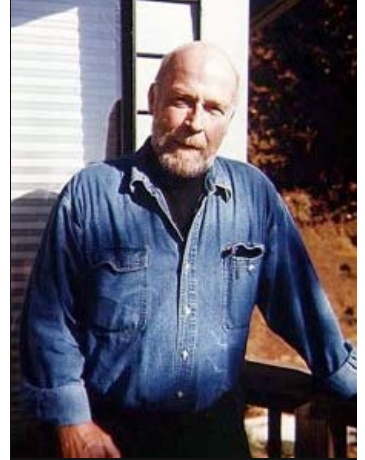


**LaRee Bates** joined the Albany Public Library staff in September. Originally from Oregon, Bates spent the last 10 years in Arizona working as a curator at the Heard Museum of Native Art and Culture in Phoenix. She has a B.A. in English and will soon complete her Ph.D. in Anthropology. Bates lives on her family's ranch outside of Scio.

# William Stafford's Birthday

Clemens Starck, a 1998 Witter Bynner Fellow and poet-in-residence at Willamette University, has supported his literary and intellectual interests for more than forty years by working with his hands, mainly as a carpenter and construction foreman. A collection of his poems, *Journeyman's Wages* received both the William Stafford Memorial Poetry Award and the Oregon Book Award in Poetry. A book of verse and prose, *Studying Russian on Company Time* was also a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. Starck has three grown children and lives with his wife in the foothills of the Coast Range in western Oregon.

## Clemens Starck



...with local poets reading William Stafford poems and their own or very favorite poems:

Peter and Sandy Jensen  
Ruth Perkins  
Linda Varsell Smith  
Roberta Sperling  
Michael Malan  
Linda Gelbrich  
August Baunach  
Greg Darling

**William Stafford's  
Birthday Celebration  
Wednesday, January 16, 2008  
6:30 p.m.  
Albany Public Library ~ Main**

William Stafford was Oregon's gift to poetry. He was Poet Laureate of the United States, and we wish to celebrate his birthday with his poems.

Join area poets who will read Stafford poems and other favorites. Clemens Starck - winner of the Oregon Book Award - will MC.

Check Library's Web site for more details and information. Bring your favorite William Stafford poem to read and share, or just come and enjoy.



My people, now it is time  
for us all to shake hands with the rain.  
It's a neighbor, lives here all winter.  
Talkative, yes. It will tap late  
at night on your door and stay there  
gossiping. It goes away without a goodbye  
leaving its gray touch on old wood.  
Where the rain's giant shoulders make a silver  
robe and shake it, there are wide places.  
There are cliffs where the rain leans, and  
lakes that give thanks for miles  
into the mountains. We owe the rain  
a pat on the back—barefoot, it has walked  
with us with its silver passport all over the world.

From *Wovoka's Witness*, by William Stafford