

Sara Miller

Sara Miller writes essays, poetry, an online journal, and lots of letters. She and her husband have often worked in remote places where letter writing is the best way to communicate. When they lived at Dug Bar, she sent letters via mail boat, which she says seemed luxurious.

Miller volunteered on the founding Fishtrap board and remembers arguing with fellow board member Alvin Josephy over his proposal to raise Summer Fishtrap registration from \$25 to \$50.

"I'm grateful for this opportunity to connect with people through Fireside. I'm writing new work to read because I want to honor and enjoy our time together," she said.

She kept writing during the pandemic, although extra work at her job and more family demands have meant she has less time. This year she began



www.fishtrap.org

experimenting with liturgy (writing for religious ceremonies), collaborating with a local pastor, an experience she describes as one of risk-taking, acceptance, and human connection.

Her work has appeared in newspapers, poetry journals

and anthologies. Every December she thinks of "Imogene's Answer," the story of her family being homeless in the middle of winter and being helped by a complete stranger. KWVR radio aired a reading of the story for a Christmas Day broadcast and now she shares the recording

with family and friends each year.

Miller is a herder and often feels kinship with other herders, both in this country and from other parts of the world.

"Even though I'm getting older, I still appreciate opportunities to create ritual and help with hard work, especially

babies and birth, death and love, ranching and wild lonely places," she said.

Marika Straw

Marika Straw is a Wallowa County-born queer, nonbinary Jew. After learning, exploring, and growing in the Midwest, India, and North Carolina with other queers, Jews, musicians, community organizers, and human rights activists, they returned in 2020 to deepen their relationships with Wallowa County and with themselves.

In addition to enjoying writing, they delight in playing music, exploring natural beauty, engaging in Jewish practice and community, petting cats, and celebrating queerness everywhere it occurs. You can find their music online at marikastrawmusic.com and learn more about LGBTQ+ identities on the Instagram account they co-moderate, [@wallowacounty-lgbtq](https://www.instagram.com/wallowacounty-lgbtq).

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