History of Nature
By Dennis K. Rollins

History is a vein in sorrow.
It is a shallow ending
It is a day given too quickly
First it's noon, then it's midnight
Two skills you learn in a day:
How to speak and how to walk
Never fight.

Years gone by
Days turned into months
Time goes quickly
For the essence of a raindrop is the value of the rain
It's a circle of faith for it dries up the next day
When the sun comes out.

For the price we pay is in vein
Just a solid bit of history
For the sky has a value in it
Like dirt has a value
Dirt is gravity like the sky
Its gravity is the clouds
Deep, high above the mountaintops

Yearning for enchantment not plague
The trees are radiant to the dirt
To bring poisons out of our air we breath
For history is only a beginning but an ending
Of Nature.

Transition Projects

Congratulates our own

CHRIS AIOSA

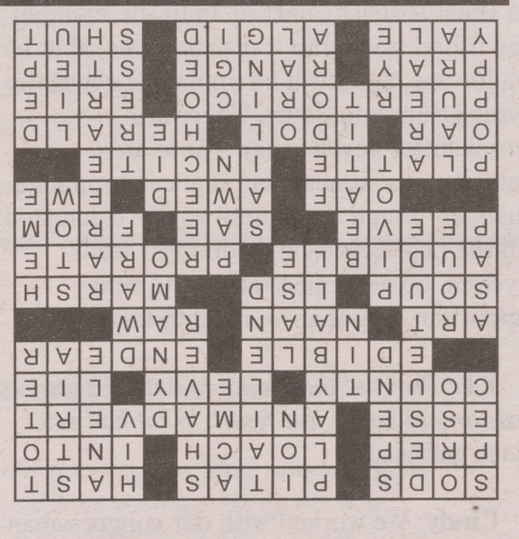
veteran's case manager

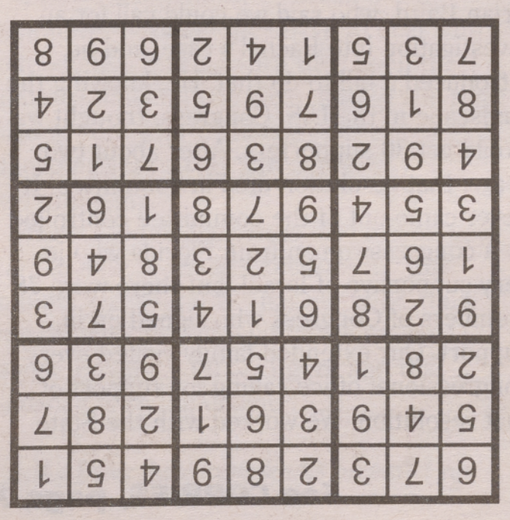
2012 Skidmore Prize Winner

Chris housed 102 homeless veterans last year

Transition Projects

Answers to puzzles on page 15





Writing group offers safe place to share

BY COLE MERKEL
STAFF WRITER

The Street Roots creative writing group has been meeting every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. for the past year with a simple mission: to create a safe, inclusive space for anyone who wants to join – for one meeting or many – to discover the transformative power of writing. The rules are easy: After reading a selected poem or short story, participants can write whatever they want, even if it doesn't follow the prompt, and then share their work with the group.

The results have been profound with writers discovering new voice every week through poetry and short stories on subjects ranging from cats to patriotism to the holidays. Each participant brings his or her own unique experience and point of view and uses these perspectives to compose poem and narrative that reflects his or her place in life on a particular day. The group is often a safe place to escape: one hour every week where participants can put aside the harsh realities of living on the streets, enter the open, non-judgmental atmosphere of the Street Roots office and connect human-to-human over the basic, healing power of writing and personal reflection. This page features a sampling of some of the word composed in the group.

In celebration of National Novel Writing Month, the four meetings in November will focus on aspects of novel writing, including outlines, setting and character development. All are welcome to join.

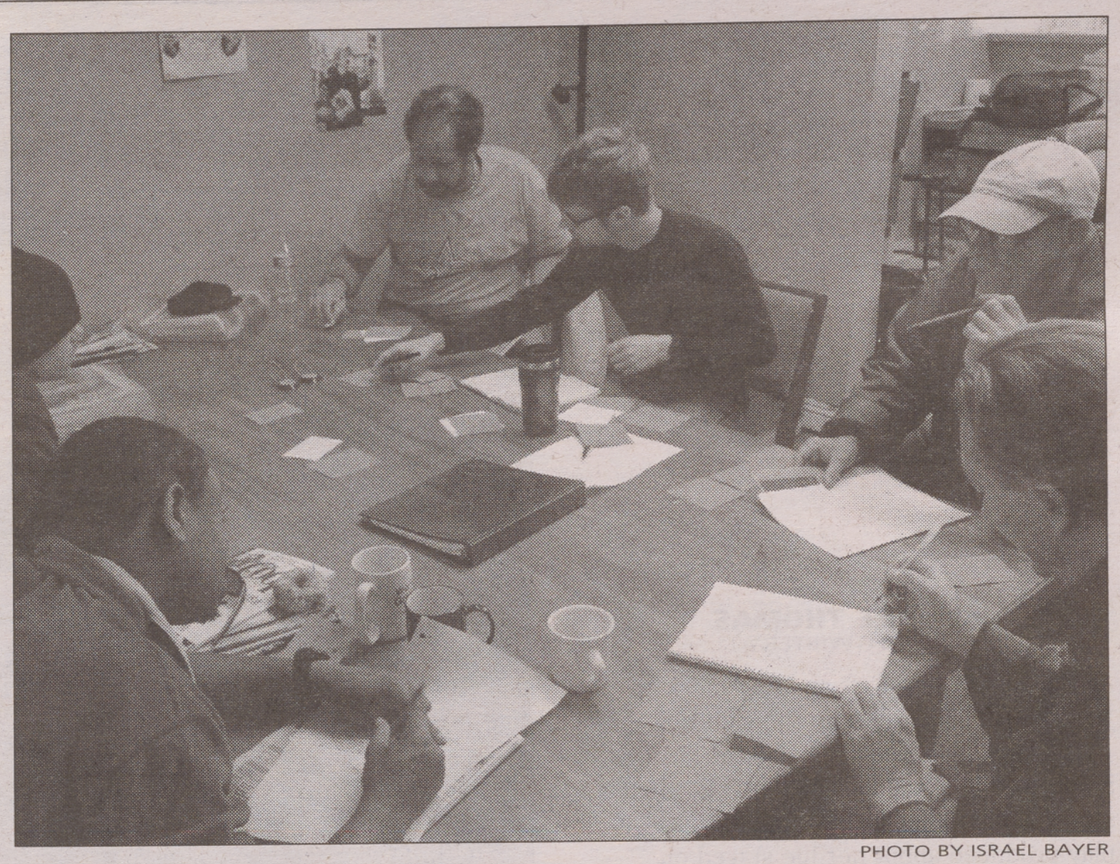


PHOTO BY ISRAEL BAYER

Come The Rain
By Denny Walker

Rain seeks the embrace of mother earth
journeys the path of least resistance
Flows untiringly to the sea by many tributaries
destiny unfolding moment by moment
foretold by the ages
Never resting, never questioning
obeys only its own instincts
Pounding rocks to dust, carving gashes
on the face of its matriarch
Pulling, pushing, carrying, un-tethered,
and eroded victims to another abode
to await the coming of another rain.

Fallen Angels
By Ray Vaughan

Falling down
Can you tell me what is going down?
As sand of times flow through my veins
Is it reality or is it insane?
As sands of times flow through me
Tell me, fallen angels, what do I see?
People living in the streets,
Hungry, cold; no shoes on their feet.

Fallen angels, are you there?
Tell the truth, you just don't dare.
Police harassing most they see
People imprisoned without need.
More for power, self, gain, and greed.

Fallen angels, tell me why.
All you say is one Big Lie.
President says "Let's fight a war."
Tell me, Mr. President,
"What are we fighting for?"

Is it for liberty? Freedom?
Rights we need?
Or is it for oil? Religion?
Money, power, and greed?

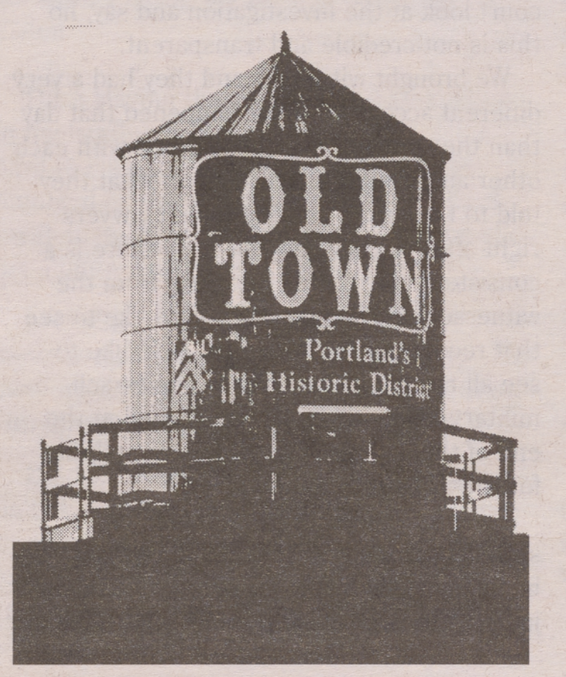
Fallen angels, fallen down
Fallen angels hit the ground
Sands of times flow through my veins
Telling me, all's insane.

Fallen angels
you know what else I see
as sands of times flow through me.

CORRECTIONS

Street Roots strives for accuracy, but we're human. So we also strive to correct errors in our paper whenever possible. Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write to joanne@streetroots.org

Don't miss a single issue! Visit our web site at www.streetroots.org, friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to get regular updates.



Portland Hearing Voices
embrace mental diversity
www.portlandhearingvoices.net

This man works.
So does
Street Roots.