

Seattle City Council

Neighborhoods, Arts, & Civil Rights Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 2 PM, April 22nd, 2003

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Christopher J. Jarmick**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Diane Westergaard**

Diane Westergaard received a BA in anthropology from the University of Washington and later studied theology at Northwest Theological Union. She currently serves as the Sr. Customer Service Representative in the Account Executives office at Seattle City Light. Her work has appeared in many literary publications, both local and national. With guitarist Garylee Johnson she co-produced and co-wrote *Ghost in the Garden*, a chapbook and audiotape of poetry, music and song. In 1997 she received a GAP grant from Artist Trust. She was one of the poets in the 1999 Jack Straw Writers Program. She is a board member of Red Sky Poetry Theater, the longest continuously running poetry reading series in the area.

Looking into the Devil's Churn at Cape Perpetua

By Diane Westergaard

The cormorants are not here today
riding the surf into this crack
in the crow-colored rock,
a weak place where the ocean
presses its advantage striking
an improvised bass line against basalt walls.
Occasionally, a sneaker
will roll in a note so deep
that only the heart can hear its true center.
Algae, green as new rice, stains places
on the rock where it finds shelter.
With ancient arms the ocean's call,
come to me, wraps itself in every wave.
And like the cormorant you want to ride

its foamy back in and out, in and out.
It says, *I need someone to sing with me*,
a higher voice. The birds could tell you
a higher voice needs to fly first.

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