

Seattle City Council

Neighborhoods, Arts, & Civil Rights Committee Meeting

Thursday, 2 PM, March 2, 2004

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Terrilynn Towns**

Today's Words' Worth poet is **Terrilynn Towns**

Terrilynn Towns, from Colorado, graduated from New York University. She was a professional actor for ten years in New York, Ashland, Denver, Los Angeles and Seattle. Four years ago she retired and now writes through Higher Terrain, her Christian publishing house. The following piece is from Terrilynn's first book of poetry, waterfall.dew.

A Moment Worth Its Weight

by Terrilynn Towns

It was summer
and a woman made her way
to the post. She wasn't old,
she was past that
She was in that ageless zone,
somewhere between ninety
and a hundred and ten
And she read the blue letter box

She read the times for pick-up
but then she began to read
the longer message written in red.
She stood in the light of a sunny day
with people mulling around her
off 47th and 9th
and she stood there running her finger
along every word

She took such care
and she took such time
that as I sat behind her

against the large window
of an Italian bistro
I could have cried
Time meant something else
to this lady. And she was taking it
She must have seen so much
She must see
every day she opens her eyes
so differently than the rest of us

And the days
would be filled with hours
and the hours
would be filled with minutes
and the minutes
would be filled with moments
and I saw her filling those moments
the way Martha Graham
or Eleanora Duse
might have filled an auditorium

She took time
or perhaps time fell away
It was a magnificent thing
to behold

-- *END* --