

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA  
WESTVIEW



---

Volume 21  
Issue 1 Fall/Winter

Article 14

---

11-15-2001

## Celebration for the Cold Snap

Carolyne Wright

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

 Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Wright, Carolyne (2001) "Celebration for the Cold Snap," *Westview*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 1 , Article 14.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol21/iss1/14>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).

**SWOSU**<sup>TM</sup>

# Celebration for the Cold Snap

by Carolynne Wright

Pre-dawn's pilot lights  
glow under the burners  
like the vigil lamps of runways. Not one  
but has kept the faith all night.

At six the window squares  
go blue, the first commuter  
trains clang by, full  
of people with bills to pay,  
important telephones to answer,  
custom-made ornaments  
for their office tree.

I labor alone, draping tinsel  
on my foot-high pine,  
turning the world news  
down to a simmer. I parse words  
together, make lists of things  
I can do without: gifts  
and their impossible demands.

Old lovers' faces rise and set  
in my dreams. Their hands  
reach for me, toadstools  
that spring up in one rain.  
I glue their greeting cards  
to the windows, the year's  
discarded printouts.

I wrap presents to myself.  
Free of the Big World  
and its confusion of envies,  
I stand at the window,  
watch trains crawl past: everyone  
I've had to let go of,  
sleepwalkers lost in the heart's  
subzero weather.

©1981 by Carolynne Wright;  
from *Poetry*, December 1981

