Sign Language

By Bob Sacksteder

From the third row,

I tried to see

vibration of wires

reflected by the bottom side

of the top of a Steinway.

I didn’t hear a note.

Worse than naivete is cynicism;

better is unflinching curiosity.

I jump when startled,

avoid handling live fish,

retreat from reptiles.

Do black holes remember?

Over a quarter of the matter

in our universe is dark.

Scientists call much of it WIMPS,

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles.

Some cultures believe naming

gives the namer power.

Categories and hierarchies,

like analogies and maps,

create illusions of mastery.

A polyglot knows a lot.

One way to lose friends

and discover new territory

is to develop a habit of getting lost.

Avoid wandering in Canyonlands

or Boundary Waters without

GPS or a map and compass.

People die out there.