

"All right," he said. "Okay!  
I'll start using brief cover letters."

Since then he's been awarded several grants  
& his poems have been getting into magazines  
that are sending my stuff back,

so recently I made a decision  
to start shortening  
the length of my cover letters.

#### TURKISH DELIGHT

My wife leaps out of bed at 5 in the morning  
to drive 6 miles to the community pool  
for an 18-lap workout & a sauna  
with

Dick & Marilyn, Don & Doris,  
J.D. & Kathy, Tom & Sherry, John & Kim, Dan  
& Maureen, Bob & Diane, Ken &  
Nancy, George & Sylvia,  
Richard & Shirley, Paul  
& Liz, Art & Virginia,  
Ted &  
Tot,  
Johnny & Kascha, Robert & Merri,  
Bruce & Jean, Carter & Lynn,  
Toby & Alicia,  
Russell & Connie, Jay & Joan, Jerry &  
Margot, Virgil & Lona, Tony & Babs, Kurt  
& Sheila, Arnie & Carolyn,  
Dave & Jody, Howie &  
Jeanne, Tad & Joyce,  
Emile &  
Alice,  
Ed & Anita, Doc & Florrie,  
Mike & Pat....

I salute them all,  
as I turn over & go back to sleep  
with Sultan the cat.

— Richard M. West

Bainbridge Island WA