

Washington Poets Association

Summer 2006 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

Seeking an E-Newsletter Editor
Poets at the Port
Loganberry Festival Poetry Stage
Calling All Poets: Submit Moon Poems
Moon Viewing & Poetry Event
News from WPA Members
June Events and More
2006 WPA Awards Event Recap
Burning Word '06 Says Thank You!
Discovering the History of the WPA
Jack Straw's 10th Anniversary Celebration
Renew Your WPA Membership Now

An Opening to Consider

We are currently without a newsletter editor. If you are interested in learning more and possibly taking on this project, please email Victory Lee Schouten at victory@greatpath.com

Check out our freshly updated website: <http://washingtonpoets.org/>

Upcoming WPA Events

Poets at the Port by Jane Alynn

WPA in collaboration with the Anacortes Arts Festival presents **Poets at the Port**, on **Saturday, July 29**, in **Anacortes** at **6:30 p.m.**

Headliners **Madeline DeFrees**, **Jim Bertolino** and **Bart Baxter** will be joined by Dustin Fox, Matt Gano, Barbara Bowen, Stephen Roxborough, Lorraine Healy Shannon Borg, and Sarah Zale. Your MC Jane Alynn will keep things rolling.

For more information go to the WPA Website: <http://www.washingtonpoets.org/>
and the Anacortes Arts Festival Website: [http://www.anacortesartsfestival.com./](http://www.anacortesartsfestival.com/)

Loganberry Festival at Greenbank Farm,Whidbey Island
(Admission free)

Poetry & Open Mic Stage by the Jim Davis House

Saturday JULY 29TH - 12 noon to 3:30 pm.

Sunday JULY 30TH - 12 noon to 3 pm

WPA presents poets from around the Puget Sound and an open mic reading at Greenbank Farm's annual LOGANBERRY FESTIVAL which is open 10 am to 5 pm both days and includes wine tasting, music and art extravaganzas in addition to food booths, a play area for children, loganberry pie-eating contests, and the Main Stage which will be filled with music all day.

Calling All Poets: [Submit Moon Poems](#)

WPA and the **Seattle Japanese Garden** invite your submission of poems about the moon, stars, or night sky.

The 10 selected poems will be included in a reading as part of the garden's **Moon Viewing Festival** on **Saturday, September 2, 2006**, at the Japanese Garden in Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum.

For more information and entry details, go to www.washingtonpoets.org

News from WPA Members

June Poetry Readings

Take a Poem From Your Heart reading at **Bookworm Exchange** every 3rd Friday 7-9 pm in Seattle's Columbia City neighborhood, 4860 Rainier Ave S. with host Christopher Jarmick. OPEN MIC signups at 6:45.

Friday, June 16th: Michael Dylan Welch, David Rizzi and Vivienne Williams.

Poets & Writers at Barnes & Noble University Village, Seattle, every 3rd Tuesday at 7 pm with host Dobbie Norris.

Tuesday June 20th: Irene Drennan, Aaron J. Silverberg, M. Anne Sweet and Christopher J. Jarmick

P&G Speakeasy Cafe Poetry (www.pandgspeakeasycafe.com) 15614 Main St., Duvall every 4th Monday at 7 pm with host Katherine Grace Bond. Open mic sign-up starts at 6 pm.

Monday June 26th: Margaret D. Smith If you were here last August, you remember Margaret D. Smith's lyrical and evocative work. Many of you have been asking when she will return. Good news! Margaret is trekking from Astoria to celebrate publication of her new poetry collection, *Barn Swallow*, with us. You might even persuade her to sing a few songs.

Many poetry readings are featured at: www.poetswest.org/venues.htm such as:

Saturday, June 24 at 7:30 pm, **Anacortes Public Library**, 1220 10th St., Anacortes WA (360.293.4277) **Watermark Book Co.** hosts **Tess Gallagher** reading from her new poetry collection, *Dear Ghosts*. Free event. Contact: Mary Matze 651.641.0077 or <mailto:matze@graywolfpress.org>.

From R. R. Seitz hanpi@seanet.com,

Saturday August 12 , 12:30 - 3:30, Index Arts Festival, Index, Washington

The third annual poetry read in Index. J. Glenn Evans called last year's "amazing"; "the best ever" Poets TBA Remember: Index ain't that far away.

2006 WPA AWARDS EVENT RECAP

By Karen Havnaer, Contest Chairperson

Poets from across the state converged on the northern edge of downtown Tacoma on June 3 to celebrate and hear the winners of the WPA 2006 Adult Contests.

Chris Jarmick, WPA exec V.P., kicked off the festivities by acknowledging, among others, Tacoma poets Betty Fukuyama and Homer Henderson, founders of WPA in the early seventies along with Tom Erdman of Seattle.

Ruth Yarrow, our lively Francine Porad (haiku) judge who has published over 500 haiku in major journals as well as four books of haiku, recognized her slate of winners - first place, Ernest Berry of Picton, New Zealand; second place, John Barlow of Liverpool, U.K., third place, Christopher Herold of Port Townsend, as well as honorable mentions Mara Mills of Somerville, MA, and Marie Summers of Excelsior Springs, MO. Ruth read their winning entries, highlighting the strengths of each.

Although none of the Porad winners were able to be with us, they each communicated their delight in having their work recognized and all knew Ruth's work which she then shared with us.

Deborah Brink, former WPA board member and teacher of Creative Writing, Literature and Journalism at Lower Columbia College, next presented Pieter Zilinsky, our first place Carlin Aden (traditional form) Award winner who gave a stunning reading of his villanelle, THE BELL RINGER. Shira Richman of Seattle followed with two evocative poems, her second place piece, THE SHOW KEEPS GOING ON, and her honorable mention, A PRIEST'S CONFESSION. A.B. Hursey was with us to read her RENEWING VOWS. Deborah read in their stead

third place Janet Knox's pantoun, COCOONED WHITE SHEETS SLIP FEET, a lovely "sound poem" and Jeanne Lohmann's SHUT-IN. Deborah then got a chuckle from the crowd by introducing a reading of her own work as "free verse."

Between the Aden and Proctor presentations, Paul Nelson, WPA board member, excellent poet, writer and radio personality, introduced Judith Roche, this year's Faith Beamer Cooke award recipient. Widely known for her poetry, Judith is the newly retired former director of the wildly successful Seattle Arts Festival, Bumbershoot. Later in the program, Chris Jarmick and Judith each read one of her poems.

Proctor Award judge, Connie Walle, of the Puget Sound Poetry Connection, explained to us in her introduction of the Proctor (humor) winners, that she had read all the entries out loud to be sure that their work was funny. Her favorites included Glen Turner of Conway, who performed his first place winner THE CRITIC, about a young girl's "review" of a piece of abstract art, as well as his honorable mention entry, VOWS SACRED AND NEARLY PROFANE with wit and élan. Jane Paige, who told me that her poem WEASEL WORD DANCING was the first she'd written and considered publishing since the sixth grade, took second place. Dave Cryan, who traveled cross state from Medical Lake to read his NORMAN NEVER HAD A CLUE, took third. Connie then entertained us with some of her own serious and humorous work.

The Stafford Award (any form) is our most competitive category and Kelli Russell Agodon, who placed first last year in the Carlin Aden and second in the William Stafford and was this year's Stafford judge, introduced her winners by acknowledging all the good poetry she'd read and enjoyed and the hard choices she'd had to make picking winners. First place went to Ronda Broatch, who read her powerful entry WHAT SHE TAKES FROM THE RIVER. Todd Davis, who teaches Creative Writing at Penn State in Altoona wasn't able to be with us and Kelli read his second place THE SECRETS OF BAKING SODA. Kelli also read third place winner from Colma, CA, Eileen Malone's MAKING LACE as well as honorable mentions Heather Hummel's KINDLING and Dina Moreno's lively THANKSGIVING. Barbara Bowen of Port Townsend read her excellent MY MOTHER TALKS TO CROWS. Kelli concluded our very full and rich experience with a few of her own poems.

A WPA membership meeting preceded the awards and reading. New and renewing board members Christopher J. Jarmick, Clarice Keegan, Jed Myers, Dan Peters and Rebecca Pirtle were voted in and welcomed.

Thanks to King's Books for hosting us, Thomas Hubbard, who produced a program of the winning poems and all the good WPA poets responsible for this event.

Burning Word Says "Thank You!"

By Victory Lee Schouten, Burning Word Co-Chair

We may have endured "the perfect storm" on Saturday, April 29th, but spirits were not at all dampened at the Washington Poets Association's annual celebration of poetry and community, Burning Word. In spite of a workshop tent which threatened to take flight, horizontal rain and soaked feet, hundreds of poets and poetry lovers gathered at Whidbey's Greenbank Farm to savor a day of workshops, open mics, small press displays, book signings and notable main stage talent. Over fifty musicians and poets, including such talents as Caroline Kizer and Tess Gallagher, performed and presented over the eleven hour festival, and they were all amazing.

This flagship WPA event, Burning Word Poetry Festival, is entirely produced and run by volunteers and I think that spirit of generosity is tangible. We are proud to pay our performers and presenters a modest stipend in appreciation of their time and talent. Poets are too rarely paid, and it seemed important to us to put our money where our hearts were! The rest of us are inspired volunteers.

This year I was slowed down right before the festival by surprise hip surgery and many people stepped quickly forward to make sure it all went on without me just as we'd envisioned. Everyone did a superb job and the festival ran beautifully in spite of the challenging weather!

Thanks to the volunteer festival staff, particularly my hardworking co-chair, John Burgess. Lead volunteers included Mary Brencisk, Patsy Burgess, Fredde Butterworth, Nancy Dahlberg, Karen Havnaer, Connie Hutchison, Christopher and Azi Jarmick, Don and Carol Kentop, Paul Nelson, Stephen Roxborough, Rob Schouten, Ed Stover, Michael Dylan Welch, and Jane Winslow. And thanks to all of the rest of the WPA board who all pitched in generously to help.

And to all those who helped quietly behind the scenes by hosting traveling poets, hosting open mics, arranging flowers and details, taking tickets, selling books and keeping it all running smoothly. We couldn't do it without you.

And thanks also to the outstanding Small Presses who came with their fine poetry books, broadsides, CDs and materials to expand our skills and knowledge. They added so much to the day. The wonderful Whidbey Pie Cafe kept the poets happily well fed, and the Festival Bookstore was a great source of irresistible poetry books and CDs. It was a day to remember.

Burning Word Poetry Festival is becoming known as a world-class event with a generous and inclusive spirit. Mark your calendars now for **Burning Word 4**, featuring Naomi Shihab Nye and coming **April 28, 2007**. If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to have your help.

FILING AWAY TIME: Discovering the History of the WPA

By Karen Havnaer

When I volunteered to work on the 2006 Adult contests, I had no ideas about how to organize a contest. It occurred to me that board members needed a handbook—a detailed compilation of board activities and duties—since our personnel is constantly changing. So, despite the fact that I didn't even know how to organize a contest, let alone very much about all the other board activities, I volunteered to do a handbook.

I was ecstatic when Karen Bonaudi, illustrious past president and still active member, brought me four boxes of WPA files when we met on Whidbey Island for Burning Word. The files were a collection of correspondence, newsletters, financial and project reports and minutes; and I figured they'd help me with my handbook.

I read the Articles of Incorporation, signed April 7, 1971 - It was exciting!- and correspondence, like a letter from Betty Fukuyama, a WPA founder and past officer, describing the first WPA contest. The then three categories were Adult - Stafford; Senior High Students - Homer Henderson and Junior High - Totem.

I haven't found out the winners yet for that first year but a letter from William Stafford, dated May 19, 1972, lists the winners and honorable mentions for that year's Stafford. First Place - Tess Gallagher for BLACK MONEY (that name sounds familiar!) Bill's comment: "...delivers a sustained realization of life..." Second Place went to Frank Maloney for IN HOO SIGNO VINCES. Bill's comment: "...draws around us a whole world..." Third Place went to Virginia Horton for LINES TO A DOMINEERING MOTHER. Bill's comment: "...etches...(a) relationship with a coherent-horrifying-intensity."

The honorable mentions were picked for their "consistency and focus": William H. Ransom, Jana Fuller, Debra Anderson and Carolyne Lee Wright.

Another letter was perfunctory but fun, a "sorry but my schedule won't permit me" letter from Poet Laureate, Rita Dove, dated February 22, 1995, and addressed to Teresa Bachman.

Perhaps this spirit of going for the best was instilled early. In a newsletter dated February 18, 1972, President Homer Henderson topped his front page with the question: WHY? Followed by this: "Why is Yevtushenko in New York and California and not in Washington? I have read poetry from New York and California and we're as good as they are. Dammit, let's get off our duff!"

That first newsletter is titled simply WASHINGTON POET'S ASSOCIATION, centered at the top of a more or less two column mimeographed sheet. Early

issues included news of the current poetry market and poems by members. Here's the first verse of FORT ROCK, OREGON by Faith Beamer Cooke:

The petals of nine thousand years fall
In dust that thonged sage sandals wore.
Timeless, the lake of sage, a silver pall,
Washes across the bed, shore to shore,
Where cloud shadows swim and dart and halt.

By January 1975, the newsletter had a name: SCRAMBLED EGGS, circulation 630, with this introduction: "Though I may be cracked, beaten and fried when this...issue...reaches its reader's plates (er...I mean mailboxes), I accept that splattering risk (rotten egg that I am)..." As far as I was able to discern, Judith Schmidt was guilty of the title and the yolks (I mean jokes.)

By the late '70's, the bound, chapbook-style newsletter was called YAWP in honor of the father of most of us - Walt Whitman, "I sound my barbaric yawp over the rooftops." Maybe Walt had read SCRAMBLED EGGS.

The Autumn '78 issue (President, Margo Reinsch) featured board business and an announcement of the names of those chosen for the Washington State Arts Commission Honors Program—Jack Cody and Laura Jensen, a Burning Word headliner in 2005. Other honorees were Mark Halperin, Sam Hamill and Garrett Hongo.

Other news included announcements of events: a Poetry Festival in Ellensburg, National Poetry Day (October 15!), readings at Castalia (Nelson Bentley was an early board member), poems by Phil Garland and William Stafford, and a review of GILLNETS by Samuel Green. The review was written by Richard Speakes, managing editor at SEATTLE REVIEW.

By July 1980, YAWP had become YIPE (meaning a small YAWP). The ninth annual award winners were announced: Ten winners in the Homer Henderson senior's category, eight of whom were from Commodore High School on Bainbridge Island. A hot year for some English teacher on Bainbridge Island. The Stafford honored, besides first through third place winners, nine honorable mentions. The haiku judge picked eight honorable mentions. Charlie Proctor had just been elected to the board, Faith Beamer Cooke was hosting poetry festivals in Ellensburg, Wallula (!?) and Richland, Peter Davison and David Waggoner were reading in Tacoma and Richard Hugo was reading in Longview.

We are looking for a donated four-drawer metal filing cabinet to store WPA history and records. Please contact Karen Havnaer <karenh@harboret.com> if you can help.

Jack Straw Writers Program 10th Anniversary Celebration
Central Library Auditorium, Downtown Seattle, Sunday, June 25, 2pm

The Washington Center for the Book and Jack Straw Productions <http://www.jackstraw.org/> are pleased to present a 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Jack Straw Writers Program. Join us for a reading and reception featuring 10 writers from the program's last decade, and help us honor the 146 writers and curators who have participated in the Jack Straw Writers Program.

Writers for the event were selected by the program's curators: Rebecca Brown, Charles Mudede, Shalin Hai-Jew, Sonia Gomez, Stokley Towles, Peter Pereira, Nancy Rawles, Belle Randal, John Mifsud, and JT Stewart.

This is a rare opportunity to hear readings by some of the Northwest's finest writers on one stage: **Donna Miscolta, Trisha Ready, Bharti Kirchner, Kevin Miller, Barbara Thomas, Laura Gamache, Nu Quang, John Olson, Anna Balint, and John Burgess.**

BE SURE AND RENEW YOUR WPA MEMBERSHIP!
Don't Miss any of the Fun!

Nancy Dahlberg, WPA Membership Chair, will send out renewal notices to those whose memberships expire in July. We urge those members to renew by July 28 to avoid being removed from the WPA rolls. If you are not sure if you need to renew, contact Nancy <nancydahlberg@earthlink.net>

The membership period will be one full calendar year from the date of payment, just like a magazine subscription. Renewal notices are sent out each month to those whose membership will expire the following month.

Whenever you receive a renewal notice, please send your \$15 dues to Nancy Dahlberg, 1757 NW 59th Street, #301, Seattle, WA 98107.

Why do you want to renew? Your membership supports WPA's mission to empower and support the creation and appreciation of poetry; to reach across borders of land, time, style and ideas, to celebrate diversity and community; and to create educational and inspirational opportunities. Your membership also supports our annual BURNING WORD FESTIVAL, an amazing celebration of poetry and community. We know you will want to be a part of all of this!

BENEFITS INCLUDE

- WPA Members Web Directory ([coming soon!](#)) --FREE
- WPA Membership E-Newsletter --FREE

- Discounts to Burning Word 2007
- Ability to submit to WPA Anthology
- One FREE copy of the Anthology
- Discounts on additional copies of WPA Anthology
- Advance notification of contests, events, reading and publishing opportunities.

SUPPORT

The WPA's Inclusive and Empowering Vision of:

- Burning Word, The Celebration of Poetic Fire
- Poetry on the Road - Bringing Poetry Across the State
- Poetry Awards, Contests, Performances, Workshops

If you're a poet, a fan of poetry, or interested in becoming more involved in the thriving Northwest poetry community, you want to be a WPA member!

And remember, we are currently without a newsletter editor. If any of you feel interested in learning more and possibly taking on this project, please be in touch with Victory Lee Schouten at victory@greatpath.com