A Celebration
of Poetry

MAY 15, 16 & 17
2008

LA CONNER
WASHINGTON
Congratulations to our beloved Samuel Green
Washington State’s First Poet Laureate

Some Reasons Why I Became A Poet

Because I wanted to undo each stitch in time, unravel the nine seams that inhibit remembering; because I wanted to roll a stone with such tenderness that moss would grow & hold light on all sides at once; because I wanted to teach every old dog I saw a new set of tricks; because I wanted to lead a blind horse to water & make her believe her thirst mattered; because I wanted to count the chickens of grief & gain before they hatched; because I never wanted to let sleeping cats lie in wait beneath the birdbath; because I wanted to close the barn door after the last horse went grazing & know that something important was left stalled inside; because I wanted to welcome all Greeks & the desperate bearing of their gifts; & because I couldn't stop keeping my poor mouth open in a sort of continual awe, trusting that flies, like words, would come & go in their own good time.

– from The Grace of Necessity

Welcome to the fifth biennial Skagit River Poetry Festival

Our Mission

The Skagit River Poetry Project brings students and poets together working to promote literacy, appreciation of language and participation in a culturally diverse community.

The Skagit River Poetry Project is a work of love founded in 1998 and sponsored by seven local school districts. A volunteer committee that is comprised of teachers, school administrators and community members who work together throughout the year coordinate the project. The program provides immersion in poetry first for teachers; allowing them to set the stage for poets to visit their classrooms and helping them prepare students for attendance at the biennial Skagit River Poetry Festival. The festival is the capstone public event to the yearlong appearances by poets in classrooms throughout Skagit and Whatcom counties and features Northwest, national and internationally known poets.

We are delighted you are here to celebrate the sharing of poetry with us.

Dedication

The Skagit River Poetry Festival owes its existence to the work of many people who have served on the board, taught in the schools, and volunteered time to help in countless ways. But Kathy Shoop, former assistant superintendent and drama teacher for La Conner School District, was responsible for much of what it has become. Until she moved on to become the assistant superintendent of ESD 189, she was the generous beating heart of the project. The Festival board of directors has unanimously voted to dedicate this year’s celebration of poetry to her. All of us – classroom teachers, poets, volunteers, administrators, parents, and students – need a Kathy Shoop in our lives. We’ve been lucky to have the real thing.

The Skagit River Poetry Board and poets send their heartfelt sympathy to David Huerta and his family after the tragic death of his beloved nephew. David’s poetic voice will be heard through his translator and friend, Mark Schafer.

Cover: “Sound Signs” by Anne Martin McCool

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PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

1. Channel Lodge - Dunlap Room
2. Country Inn - Conference Room
3. Museum of Northwest Art
4. Methodist Church
5. Oddfellows Hall
6. Garden Club
7. The Next Chapter Bookstore and Coffeehouse
8. Maple Hall / Maple Center
9. Sacred Heart - Mosman Hall
10. Sacred Heart - Church Hall

For your consideration...

- There is a hill to climb to reach the Methodist Church, Oddfellows Hall, and the Garden Club. The shortest way to get up the hill is to take the steps from South First Street (see map). You’ll find a sturdy bench midway for you to catch your breath, as there are 67 steps. The longer, more gradual ascent would be to use South Second Street on either side of town.

- Will-call tickets and onsite sales will be located:
  - Thursday Maple Center – 6:30 - 9:30 pm
  - Friday Maple Center – 1:00 - 9:30 pm
  - Saturday Maple Center – 7:00 am - 9:30 pm

- Please see accompanying map for site performance locations and parking spaces. Wheelchair accessible sites and handicapped parking areas are marked with a star on the map.

- Please do not use flash photography during the sessions.

- All events start on time. Capacities of the sites vary. We encourage you to have a second choice should you find your first selection full. With the exception of the lunch hour, there are only 15 minutes between sessions. Allow enough time to get to the next event.

- As a consideration to others, please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices.

- MoNA is a no-food and beverage facility. Please finish your lattes prior to attending sessions.

- For Lost and Found and other emergencies contact a Festival Board member at Maple Hall or call 360-840-1457.
FRIDAY SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

FRIDAY  Student only sessions

Session 1  9:00-10:00am
Poetry Samplers  Poets introduce their poetry in readings

Session 2  10:10-11:10am
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Poetry and Politics  The line between poet and activist
Does Poetry Need a College Degree?  Becoming a poet
Building a Poem  How do you begin?
The Life of the Poet  Making space in your day for writing
Cultural Legacies  How our ethnicity shapes our poems
En Espanol, por favor  Creating poetry in Spanish
Good Grief  How poetry can heal
Concert 3 Leg Torso  – Music from a hot Northwest band
Poetry Clinic  Bring a poem, consult a poet
Birds, Bees and Horny Toads  Writing the animal kingdom
Altered Images  Poetry and collage workshop
Sense of Place  Where do you feel at home?

Open Mike - Maple Hall Upper  11:00am-1:00pm

Session 3  11:00am-12:00pm
For the Love of Laughter: Not all poetry is serious
Playing with Words  Opening up to the playful side of writing
Call and Response  An oral tradition in poetry
Good Poem, Bad Poem  Some of the differences
Poetry and Wilderness  How our life outside influences our poems
Going Public with Private Feelings  What we learn and teach
Poetry and Science  There is poetry in science!
Songwriters' Workshop  Two songwriters on the literate edge of acoustic music
Poetry Clinic  Bring a poem  Consult a poet
"The Mess of Love" - D.H. Lawrence  Love lost, Love found
Page to Stage  Poetry as a spoken art

Session 4  12:50-1:50pm
Poetry Sampler  Poets read their poems

FRIDAY  Open to the Public

Session 5  2:00-3:00pm
Women Speak  "There is a lot of me, and all so luscious!" – Walt Whitman
Poetry and the Other Arts  Music, poetry, painting and how they interrelate
"Dreaming the End of War"  - Saenz  Poets and activism
Poetry and the Spirit  Religion and spirituality in poetry
The Life of the Poet  Making space in your day for writing
Technology and the Future of Poetry  From letterpress to the internet
Real Men Write Poetry  Poetry's male voice

Session 6  3:15-4:15pm
What is a Northwest poet?  Does region define the poet?
“The Mysterious Life Within Translation”  Poetry and Translation
Influences: Great Poets of our Past  What we learn from other poets
Narrative Poetry  Telling stories in poetry

Session 7  5:30-6:30pm
Concert

Session 8  6:30-7:00pm
Concert 3 Leg Torso  – Music from a hot Northwest band

Session 9  7:00-9:00pm
Evening Readings
Sam Green
Pattiann Rogers
David Wagoner
Robert Wrigley

Session 10  9:00-9:30pm
Concert 3 Leg Torso
SATURDAY SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

SATURDAY

Session 1 8:00-9:00am
Early Morning poems with Kurtis Lamkin and Pattiann Rogers  Two locations, two poets

Session 2 9:30-10:30am
Poetry and Politics  The line between poet and activist
Stop, Look and Listen  Developing Awareness
Poetry of Love and Loss  Relationships explored through poetry
East Meets West  The influences the East brought to Northwest literature and art
A Poet's Muse  What influences are important to your writing?
Poetry and the City  Not all poetry is nature poetry
Women Speak  "There is a lot of me, and all so luscious!" – Walt Whitman
Altered Images Poetry and Collage workshop  Put your inner artist to work

Session 3 10:45-11:45am
Poetry and Wilderness  How our life outside influences our poems
Sound Driven  Making your poem sing
Mark Schafer reads David Huerta in Spanish and English
What is a Northwest poet?  Does region define the poet?
Going Public with Private Feelings  What we learn and teach
Birds, Bees and Horny Toads  Writing the Animal kingdom
Concert  Music with 3 Leg Torso
“A Poet’s Obligation”– Neruda  Hearing the Call
Page to Stage  Poetry as a spoken art

Session 4 12:30-1:30pm
Inside Publishing  How do you choose a manuscript to publish?
Interview with a Poet  Sam Green interviews Pattiann Rogers
The Scars of War  Violence and the human condition
Bridging Cultures  What we learn from each other
Imagination and Mystery  Another reality beyond the visible order of things
Songwriters’ Workshop  Two songwriters on the literate edge of acoustic music
Generations  Family biography and memoir in poems: everyone has a story to tell

Session 5 1:45-2:45pm
Poetry Sampler  Four poets read their poems
“The Mess of Love”– D.H. Lawrence  Love lost. Love found
A Conversation: Two Poets Chat  Michael Wiegers interviews Patrick Lane
Quieting the Mind  Poetry and Meditation
Satire  Taking humor seriously
Narrative  Telling stories in poetry
Lost in Translation  The mysterious life of translation
Unplugged  Plein Air, poetry writing outside

Session 6 3:00-4:00pm
Talking Politics with Music  Poetry in lyrics
Protest Poetry  Activism and poetry
Writing Poetry for Children  A different voice
Selected Reading from The Robert Sund Trust Poet
Good Poem, Bad Poem  How do you tell the difference
Concert  Allen-Zito and Blake show their stuff

Session 7 4:15-5:15pm
Landscapes  A reading
Making a Place in Your Life to Write  Finding time
A Poet’s Notebook  The private notebook and the finished poem
Poetry and the Other Arts  Music, poetry, painting and how they interrelate
Poetry as Medicine  Healing with poetry

SATURDAY Evening Sessions

Session 8 6:30-7:00pm
Concert  Fidalgo Swing

Session 9 7:00-9:00pm
Poetry Sampler  Lorna Crozier
                    Patrick Lane
                    Thomas Lux
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<th>The Life of the Poet: Making Time for Poetry</th>
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<td>Tony Curtis</td>
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**FESTIVAL POETS**

**Elizabeth Austen** has worked as an actor and director all over the world. After traveling solo in the Andes region of South America, she recognized her true nature as an introvert, left the theater, and began writing poetry. Her meditations focus on the nature and interrelatedness of power, sexuality, and mortality. In 2007, Elizabeth served as the Washington “roadshow” poet, giving readings and workshops in rural areas around the state. She provides weekly commentary on Pacific Northwest poetry readings on KUOW public radio.

**Gloria Burgess** fuses memory and ancestral presences in her poetry and performances. Her most recent book, *The Open Door*, celebrates her Native and African-American heritage, integrating oral traditions and the rhythmic, evocative power of language. Her work has been featured on NPR’s *All Things Considered* and in a PBS film on social activism and the arts. She is an affiliate professor at the University of Washington. Her new book, *Dare to Wear Your Soul on the Outside*, will be available in the fall.

**Tom Crawford’s** five previous collections of poems include *If It Weren’t For The Trees* and *Lauds*, which won the Oregon Book Award. He has been the recipient of fellowships from the Oregon Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. His work has been widely published in journals and anthologies. He has lectured and taught at colleges and universities throughout the western United States, the People’s Republic of China, and at Chonnam National University, Kwangju, S. Korea. He lives in Seattle, WA.

**Lorna Crozier’s** book, *Inventing the Hawk*, received all three of Canada’s national poetry awards: the Governor General’s Award, the Pat Lowther Award for the Best Book of Poetry by a Canadian Woman, and the Canadian Author’s Association Award for poetry. In 2005, she read for Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate Saskatchewan’s centennial. She lives with her poet husband, Patrick Lane, on Vancouver Island, BC. Crozier is a Distinguished Professor and the Chair of the Department of Writing at the University of Victoria.

**Tony Curtis** was born in Dublin, Ireland. He studied literature at Essex University and Trinity College Dublin. The author of six collections, his book, *Days Like These: Three Irish Poets*, was recently published in America. His latest book is *The Well in the Rain: New & Selected Poems*. He is currently working on *An Elephant Called Rex: An A to Z of Poems for Children*. He has received The National Poetry Prize and is a member of Aosdana, The Arts Council of Ireland.

**Michael Daley** was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He earned his MFA from the University of Washington. He has worked as a laborer, taxi driver, waiter, tree-planter, editor, and Poet-in-the-Schools. Daley was a Fulbright exchange teacher in Hungary, and currently teaches high school English. Several organizations have awarded his work, such as the Seattle Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His latest collection is *Way Out There: Lyrical Essays. To Curve*, his second full-length book of poetry, will be available in July.

**Alice Derry** was born in Oregon and raised in Washington and Montana. She teaches at Peninsula College in Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula. She has co-directed the Foothills Writers’ Series since 1980. Derry has three collections of poetry and three chapbooks. *Stages of Twilight*, was chosen by Raymond Carver for the King County Publication Award. *Tremolo*, her fourth manuscript of poems is forthcoming. Currently, Derry is pursuing her interest in poetry and painting.

**Chris Dombrowski’s** poems have appeared in many periodicals including *Orion* and *Poetry*, and his work can be found in *Joyful Noise: An Anthology of American Spiritual Poetry*. He is the recipient of a Matthew Hansen Endowment and a Poetry Fellowship from the University of Montana. His chapbook, *Fragments with Duck in Them*, will be available this spring. He recently served as Writer-In-Residence at Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan. He lives with his family in Missoula, MT and when not teaching, works as a fly-fishing river guide.

**Anita Endrezze’s** most recent books are: *Throwing Fire at the Sun, Water at the Moon* and *At the helm of twilight*. She has published extensively in literary journals and textbooks. Her awards include the Governor’s Writers Award, Bumbershoot/Weyerhaeuser Award, and a GAP Award from Artist Trust. She participated as an Artist-in-the-Schools and a speaker for Inquiring Mind, sponsored by Humanities Washington. She is currently working on a multi-generational novel about her Yaqui ancestors during the Spanish Conquest in Mexico. She resides in Everett, WA with her family.

**Lorraine Ferra**, a native of the San Francisco Bay Area, is a visiting poet in schools throughout the country. Her poems, prose, and translations of Portuguese poetry have appeared in magazines for many years. She is the author of *Eating Bread*, a collection of eighteen poems, and *A Crow Doesn’t Need A Shadow: A Guide To Writing Poetry From Nature*. She lives in Port Townsend, WA.
Kathleen Flenniken’s first book, *Famous*, won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize in Poetry, was named a Notable Book by the ALA, and was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. Her poems have appeared in *Poetry Daily* and *American Life in Poetry*. She has earned fellowships from both the NEA and Artist Trust. Flenniken teaches with Writers-in-the-Schools in Seattle, WA. Her most recent collection centers on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. She is an editor at Floating Bridge Press, a non-profit dedicated to publishing Washington State poets.

Joseph Green’s poems have been highlighted in several magazines and publications such as *Greatest Hits: 1975 - 2000* and *The End of Forgiveness*, which won the Floating Bridge Press Poetry Chapbook Award. He was a PEN Northwest’s Margery Davis Boydren Wilderness Writer, in residence at the Dutch Henry Homestead in Oregon’s Rogue River Canyon, and a resident at Fundación Valparaiso in Mojacar, Spain. He lives in Longview, WA and collaborates with his wife, Marquita, in printing letterpress poetry broadsides through their Peasandcues Press. He teaches English at Lower Columbia College.

Samuel Green was raised in Anacortes, WA. A 30-year veteran of the Poetry-in-the-Schools program, he has taught in literally hundreds of classrooms, as well as at Southern Utah University and Western Wyoming Community College. He is currently the Distinguished Visiting Northwest Writer at Seattle University. His ten collections of poems include *Vertebrae: Poems 1972-1996* and *The Grace of Necessity*. He lives with his wife, Sally, with whom he is co-editor of the award-winning Brooding Heron Press. In December 2007, Governor Gregoire named him Washington’s first State Poet Laureate.

Sharon Hashimoto teaches writing and literature at Highline Community College in Des Moines, WA. Her poems and short stories have appeared in many publications such as *Poetry, The American Scholar*, and *Poetry Northwest*. She has been the recipient of several grants and fellowships including the National Endowment for the Arts. Her book, *The Crane Wife*, was co-winner of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize.

Jane Hirshfield’s poetry speaks to the central issues of human existence—desire and loss, impermanence and beauty, the many dimensions of our connection to others and to the creatures and objects with which we share our lives. Demonstrating with quiet authority what it means to awaken into the full capacities of attention, her work sets forth a hard-won affirmation of our human fate. She is the author of six collections of poetry, including *After, Given Sugar, Given Salt, The Lives of the Heart*, and *The October Palace*, as well as a book of essays, *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry*.

David Huerta has published more than ten books of poetry. He is currently a political commentator for the Mexico City newspaper, *El Universal*. He is also a member of the editorial board of *Letras Libres*, a monthly cultural magazine. Among his many distinctions, he was the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, a writer in residence at The Banff Centre, and the Xavier Villaurrutia Prize, Mexico’s most prestigious literary award.

Paul Hunter publishes fine letterpress poetry under the imprint of Wood Works. His own poems have appeared in many publications including *Iowa Review, North American Review,* and *Poetry Northwest*. The *New York Times* reviewed his first collection of farming poems, *Breaking Ground*, and he was a recipient of the Washington State Book Award. He recently published a second volume of farming poems, *Ripefruit*. A third volume, *Come the Harvest*, will be available this spring. He was recently featured on *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer*.

Kurtis Lamkin plays the kora, a twenty-one string West African harp/lute, and performs his poems internationally. He was Poet In Residence for two years at the New School University where he taught poetry, performance, and literature. He is currently working on a new kora-poem, *The Yam Seller*, and a handbook for oral poetry, *Live Poem: Composition, Performance and Improvisation*. Lamkin lives with his family in Charleston, SC.

Patrick Lane has written more than twenty books of poetry. His poetry tends to deal with humanity’s harsh treatment of the Earth and often touches on the frequent violence of human interrelations. He has received most of Canada’s top literary awards including the Governor General’s Award and two National Magazine Awards. Today, his poetry appears in all major Canadian anthologies of English literature. His memoir, *There is a Season*, received the British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. Lane lives near Victoria, BC with his wife, the poet Lorna Crozier.

Thomas Lux has received grants and fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, The Mellon Foundation, and the NEA. In 1994, he was awarded the Kingsley Tufts prize for his book *Split Horizon, God Particles* is the most recent of his eleven full-length collections. He is currently a Bourne Professor of Poetry and Director of the McEver Visiting Writers program at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is also a faculty member of two MFA programs: Warren Wilson College and Sarah Lawrence College.
David Mason has been making poetry out of his family roots even since his earliest collection, The Buried Houses. Mason grew up in Washington State but his ancestors were from Colorado. His latest verse novel, Lauflow, is a dramatization of the Colorado coal miners’ strike in the early 20th century. His stories, poems, reviews, essays, and translations have appeared in magazines around the world including Harper’s, The New Republic, and The Nation. Mason teaches at Colorado College and lives in the mountains with his photographer wife, Anne Lennox.

Tim McNulty is a poet, essayist, and nature writer. His publications include two collections of poetry and seven chapbooks. His most recent work is Through High Still Air, A Season at Sourdough Mountain. His award-winning books on nature include: The Art of Nature, Washington’s Wild Rivers, Olympic National Park: A Natural History, Washington’s Mount Rainier National Park and Grand Canyon: Window on the River of Time. Tim has received the Washington Governor’s Writers Award and the National Outdoor Book Award. He lives with his family on the Olympic Peninsula.

Bryan Patrick Miller was a former Writer-in-Residence at Richard Hugo House. He was a featured poet for Words’ Worth, the official poetry series of the Seattle City Council. His essays and poems have appeared in Seattle Magazine, Raven Chronicles, and Crab Creek Review. He is now the Abraham and Sylvia Geduld Fellow at New York University. He teaches poetry at NYU and at St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital on Long Island while finishing his MFA. He also curates the Emerging Writers Reading Series at KGB Bar.

Mike O’Connor is a poet, writer, and translator of Chinese literature. In 1979, he traveled to Taiwan, where he mostly lived until 1995. While in that country, he studied Chinese language and culture, and was a senior editor of the China Economic News, a branch of the major Chinese newspaper, The United Daily News. His articles on environmental issues, printed in English in Taiwan, were the first of their kind. He currently resides in Port Townsend, WA with his wife, Liu Ling-hui.

William O’Daly is a poet, translator, and fiction writer. His poems, translations, essays, and reviews have been published in a wide range of magazines and anthologies. Among his numerous publications, his work includes a chapbook of poems, The Whale in the Web, a historical novel, This Earthly Life, based on the Chinese Cultural Revolution recently completed, with co-author Han-ping Chin. Two more translations of late Nobel laureate Neruda, The Hands of Day and World’s End, are forthcoming from Copper Canyon Press in 2008.

Nancy Pagh was born in Anacortes, Washington. Her first collection of poems, No Sweeter Fat (2007), won the Autumn House Press book competition. Her writing has appeared in numerous journals, magazines and anthologies, including The Bellingham Review and Poetry Northwest. She has been nominated for the Pushcart literary prize and is a 2007 recipient of an Artist Trust/ Washington State Arts Commission Fellowship. A frequent and enthusiastic reader at Northwest venues, Nancy was also a headliner at the 2007 Gist Street Master’s Poetry Series in Pittsburgh. Her first book, At Home Afloat: Women on the Waters of the Pacific Northwest (2001), is a critical study of the language women use when traveling at sea. She teaches at Western Washington University in Bellingham.

Peter Pereira is a family physician in Seattle and a founding editor of Floating Bridge Press. He won a “Discovery”/The Nation Award and writing honors from Artist Trust, King County Arts Commission and the Seattle Arts Commission. His poems have been published in several periodicals including Poetry, Prairie Schooner, and Journal of the American Medical Association. Saying the World, published by Copper Canyon Press was awarded the Hayden Carruth Award in 2002. His recent chapbook of poems is The Lost Twin.

Pattiann Rogers has published ten books of poetry, a book-length essay, The Dream of the Marsh Wren, and A Covenant of Seasons, poems and monotypes, a collaboration with the artist Joellyn Duesberry. Her new book of poetry, Hayfare, will be available in April. Rogers has received two NEA Grants, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Lannon Literary Award for Poetry, and five Pushcart Prizes. She has been a visiting professor and writer at various universities. Rogers has two sons, three grandsons, and lives with her husband in Colorado.

Rachel Rose’s poems have been published in various journals including Poetry, Verse, and The Seattle Review. Her first book of poetry, Giving My Body to Science, won the Quebec Writers’ Federation A.M. Klein Prize for Poetry. Her poems, “What We Heard About the Japanese” and “What the Japanese Perhaps Heard,” were published in The Best American Poetry 2001. She is a dual U.S./Canadian citizen and she’s recently returned to Vancouver after living for many years in Montreal, Seattle, and Japan.

Mark Schafer’s translations have been honored ever since the beginning of his career. As a result, he is regularly invited to speak at universities around the country. He received a Translation Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, which allowed him to complete his translation of David Huerta’s poetry. Before Saying Any of the Great Words: Selected Poetry of David Huerta will available this November. When not translating, Schafer reassembles the world and questions traditional notions of representation in his map collages.
Robin Seyfried's poems have appeared in several literary journals including Poetry, The American Scholar, and Prairie Schooner. She was the managing editor of Poetry Northwest for nearly twenty years. Balancing Acts is her most recently published collection of poems. She enjoys flying, photography, Bull Terriers, and embarrassing her teenage daughters with random acts of dancing.

Professor Arthur Solomon began his career as a professional actor before his years as a teacher of speech at Western Washington University in Bellingham. His favorite courses included the improvement of voice and diction and the oral interpretation of literature. Over the years he has presented many poetry readings as well as teaching the important steps in reading poetry aloud. Join Arthur Solomon in From Page to Stage to hone your own presentation skills!

Michael Spence has been driving public transit buses in the Seattle area for over twenty years. His poems have appeared in many magazines including The New Republic, POETRY, and The Yale Review. His latest book, Adam Chooses, was published in 1998 by Rose Alley Press and his manuscript, Crush Depth, was a finalist for the New Criterion Poetry Prize. He lives with his wife, poet Sharon Hashimoto in Tukwilla, Washington.

Primus St. John is the poetry editor for Oregon Literary Review and a professor at Portland State University where he teaches literature and creative writing. St. John’s collection of poems, Communion, won the Western States Book Award as well as the Oregon Book Award. St. John helped to create the NEA’s Poets-in-the-Schools program. He is currently completing a collection of new poems based on historical and Caribbean themes where he continues his examination of human circumstances.

David Wagoner has won numerous prestigious literary awards, and enjoys an excellent reputation both as a writer and as a teacher of writing. Wagoner was selected to serve as chancellor of the Academy of American Poets in 1978 and was the editor of Poetry Northwest until its last issue in 2002. His play, First Class which explores the complex personality of Wagoner’s mentor, friend and colleague, Theodore Roethke, was recently performed at ACT Theatre in Seattle.

Michael Wiegers is the Executive Editor of Copper Canyon Press where he acquires and edits poetry. He has worked on award winning books by poets such as CD Wright, W.S. Merwin, Ruth Stone, Ted Kooser, Arthur Sze, and Alberto Rios. He also edits major works in translation and books by emerging authors. He edited two anthologies This Art and The Poet’s Child, and co-edited, with Mónica de la Torre, Reversible Monuments: Contemporary Mexican Poetry.

Robert Wrigley grew up in a coal-mining town, Collinsville, IL. He was the first member of his family to graduate from college and the first male in many generations who did not work in a coal mine. Wrigley attended Southern Illinois University. At the University of Montana, Wrigley studied with the late Richard Hugo. He currently teaches and directs the MFA in Creative Writing program at the University of Idaho. He lives with his wife, the writer Kim Barnes, and their children near Moscow, ID.

Join us for a special solo reading by acclaimed poet, Jane Hirshfield
Thursday, May 15, 2008 – Maple Hall – 7:30 PM
3 Leg Torso creates charming, elegant and daring modern chamber pop music infused with equal parts tradition and innovation. Since the ensemble’s humble start 10 years ago with spontaneous street performances, they have been featured on NPR’s All Things Considered, toured the east and west coasts, released four CDs, composed and recorded film and documentary scores, and performed their original music with several symphony orchestras. Influenced by tango, Eastern European folk and other world music traditions, their cosmopolitan musical style embraces with and humor within thoughtful, uncommon and beautiful musical arrangements. Founding members and principal composers Béla Balogh (violin, trumpet) and Courtney Von Drehle (accordion) are joined by percussionists/mallet players Gary Irvine and TJ Arko, with Michael Papillo on double bass.

Susan Pascal is a favorite in the Puget Sound jazz scene. She is featured on film soundtracks including The Wedding Planner and Eulogy, and was a guest artist in Singapore’s Jazz at Southbridge. Three of Seattle’s premier jazz artists join Susan to present an evening of contemporary jazz compositions: Dave Peterson, guitar; Chuck Deardorf, bass; Jose Martinez, drums.

Seattle songwriter Kristin Allen-Zito creates music that is harmonically and rhythmically complex. Both as a solo act and in the company of her band The Trucks, she has crisscrossed the country, playing in coffeehouses and notable venues such as New York’s Knitting Factory. Live or on her three albums, Kristin’s lyrics make an immediate and lasting impression on her audiences with razor-sharp wit and powerful emotions and insights. Her voice has been described as able to sound both sweet and innocent and yet somehow completely sophisticated at the same time.

Singing, writing, and strumming songs of lost loves, bicycles, old hotels, politics, and long hot drives, Robert Blake has rambled coast to coast singing in basements, bars, backyards, and holding cells. His musical and spiritual roots are in being a folksinger. What sets Blake apart from other songwriters is his ability to approach familiar strains with his speed-strumming guitar style, wry humor, and superior narrative sense and sensibility. Robert Blake splits time between writing songs in Bellingham and singing his songs everywhere else.

Fidalgo Swing is a band local to the Anacortes, Washington area and has played to a variety of audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest. The band stemmed from the passion of Allen Lewis. Besides being a talented guitarist and instructor, Allen has always enjoyed the songs of the swing era and the fun that swing music just naturally infuses in their audience. As the name implies, Fidalgo ‘Swing’ plays music that gets people up and on the dance floor! Please join Allen Lewis, lead guitar; Jake Baird, bass; Phillip Nakano, saxophone; Pete Smith, guitar for an evening of upbeat music.

Mike O’Connor
The Robert Sund Poets’ House Trust has sponsored poet Mike O’Connor for a Sund Memorial Reading at the Museum of Northwest Art on Saturday, Session 6, 3:00-4:00.

Museum of Northwest Art
Paul Horiuchi: East and West
Paul Horiuchi’s collages are celebrated for their vibrant colors and potent blacks, their joyful exuberance and subtle serenity, and their monumental power and poetic whisper. Horiuchi painted rice and mulberry papers in rainbow colors and the saturated blacks of sumi, then tore them into shapes to reveal their edges and fibers. Like the firing of ceramics, the tearing of papers invited nature into the making of art. Arranged on canvas or board, the compositions carry wide-ranging expressive capacity, evoking the rawness and rocky uplift of the Northwest landscape, the cultivated quietude of formal gardens, or the decorative elegance of Japanese textiles. Throughout his work, Horiuchi sought inspiration in nature and continually found renewal in its spirit and forms.

Altered Images: Collage and Poetry
The poet and collage artist, Anita Endrezze, offers two workshops as part of the Festival. See Session 2 on Friday and Saturday. Let your inner artist soar with scissors, paste and cutouts. Come prepared to use both sides of your brain!

Selling their books and broadsides Saturday 8:00 am to 9:30 pm at Maple Center, Lower Level:
Black Heron Press .................................................................Jerome Gold, Seattle
Brooding Heron Press ......................................................Sam and Sally Green, Waldron Island
Cedar House Books .........................................................Gary and Linda Thompson, Friday Harbor
Copper Canyon Press .......................................................Joseph Bednarik, Port Townsend
Floating Bridge Press ........................................................Kathleen Flenniken, Seattle
Rose Alley Press .................................................................David Horowitz, Seattle
Wood Works .........................................................................Paul Hunter, Seattle

The Next Chapter Bookstore
John & Sharon Connell will be selling books by participating poets at Maple Hall as well at their bookstore, The Next Chapter, across from Maple Hall.

The Moment Witnessed, an anthology of all 2008 participating poets and our Festival Poster may be purchased at The Next Chapter, as well as commemorative Poet Laureate bookmarks.
A special thank you to our mentor, Jim Haba, director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival in New Jersey.

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Don Misner and Cindy Ritchie for providing a home away from home
for our Poet Laureate, Samuel Green

And Especially to:
the generous host families for housing the Northwet poets and musicians
all the enthusiastic project teachers and our many priceless volunteers

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BENEFACTORS
The Anacortes, Bellingham, Burlington-Edison, Concrete,
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The Swinomish Tribe
For All The Sad Rain
from The Wind of Our Going

O my friends for all the sad rain in heaven
Filling our dinner plates you have ten fingers of honey
Which are your own, stretch them, stick them up
And then wave to me, put your arms around each other’s shoulders

When we meet in a field with no fences
The horizon is yours, and the books and all the opinions
And the water which is wine and the best bed
You can possibly think of to lie in.

long story short
from dance and be still

O God, Help us to be done did what you want us to do
give us the groove to make the house move
Let everything we say be real
Let everything we do be funky
Let us bow our heads
Let us moan
So the devil won’t know
What we’re talking about.
Whereas Governor Christine O. Gregoire has proclaimed the week of May 14-20, 2006 to be ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK, and Whereas, the Governor honors the "efforts and dedication of arts educators around the state" for their work in "broadening and strengthening the arts education focus in order to meet the goal of 'Arts for Every Student', "

The Skagit River Poetry Project is pleased to join in this celebration!

“Poetry...the passionate pursuit of the real.”
– Milosz

“To have great poets, there must be great audiences...”
– Walt Whitman