6th Biennial
Skagit River Poetry Festival
A Celebration of Poetry

May 20, 21 & 22
La Conner, Washington
2009 KCTS GOLDEN APPLE

KCTS 9 Honors Skagit River Poetry Project~ Students at the Heart

This awards initiative honors successful teaching models and programs among Washington state educators and the public at large. For the eighteenth year, the Golden Apple Awards honored a mix of ten individuals and school and community programs. The Skagit River Poetry Project was one of these recipients.

The Skagit River Poetry Project Board thanks all the teachers, students and benefactors who have made this honor possible.

“Poetry gives us music, a tune to live by” Esther Shang, student, Anacortes High School
WELCOME

to the sixth 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 comprised of teachers, school administrators and community members work together throughout the year to 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.

COVER: “Running Against the Current” by John Simon
PERFORMANCE LOCATIONS

1. Museum of Northwest Art  
2. Waterfront Cafe  
3. La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib  
4. Methodist Church  
5. Garden Club  
6. Gaches Mansion  
7. Gallery Cygnus  
8. The Loft  
9. Maple Hall / Maple Center  
10. Sacred Heart Mosman Hall  
11. Sacred Heart Church Hall  
12. Skagit County Historical Museum  

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.

• Tickets & will-call tickets:
  Thursday  Maple Center – 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
  La Conner Middle School – 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
  Friday  Maple Center – 1:00 - 9:30 pm  
  Saturday  Maple Center – 7:00 am - 8:00 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. There is 30 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 360-840-1452.
Poets’ Table Dinner Kick Off Fund Raiser
Maple Hall • 5:30 - 9:00 pm
Join Festival Poets for a sumptuous Northwest dinner featuring local wines and food. Chat with Festival poets at tables set up to promote conversation. Whether it is with former U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, Ted Kooser, Irish poet Tony Curtis or our very own inaugural poet laureate, Samuel Green, the evening will be filled with interesting conversations and enriching insights. Our chef has promised culinary delights as well. After dinner we will all find our reserved seats for a raucous evening with “Sherman Alexie Unplugged.”

Sherman Alexie Unplugged
La Conner Middle School Auditorium • 8:00 - 9:00 pm
Join writer, poet, social critic and comedian Sherman Alexie for an evening of raucous and biting entertainment. Known for his deep well of humor and sharp wit, Alexie made his stand-up debut at the Foolproof Northwest Comedy Festival in Seattle in April 1999. This evening is not suitable for children.

FRIDAY May 21

Session 1 9:00 - 10:00 am  HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY
Poetry Sampler  Poets introduce their poetry in readings

Session 2 10:10 - 11:00 am  HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY
First Poems: Poems that Changed My Life  Poets share and discuss poems and their influence
Telling Stories: Changing Lives  Workshop with a storyteller
Birds and Beasts: The Earth as Muse  A reading
Inspiration from the Arts  Art and poetry
Life of the Poet  Creating time for poetry
Coming of a Age  Poetry as we grow up
Songwriters’ Workshop  Two songwriters on the literate edge of acoustic music
En Espanol, por favor  Creating poetry in Spanish
Haiku Targets  Writing Haiku with a master
Jumpstarting Your Creativity  Techniques to get going
Family Ties: Family Legacies  How families play a part in our poetry

Lunch and Open Mic  11:10 - 11:40 am
Session 3  11:40 am - 12:40 pm  HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Poetry Slam  Come prepared to do battle!
Down and Dirty: Images of Nature  Workshop
Art of Losing: Poetry of Grief and Healing  How poetry can heal
Taking Humor Seriously  The lighter side of poetry
“The Mess of Love”  Love lost. Love found
Writing to Change the World, One poem at a time  Can poetry change the world?
Songwriters’ Workshop  Two songwriters on the literate edge of acoustic music
Poetry Aloud: From Page to Stage  Poetry as a spoken art
Other Cultures: Other Worlds
Haiku Targets  Writing haiku with a master
Bring a Poem: Consult a Poet  Poetry Clinic
Fooling with Words: Fiddling with Poetry  workshop with two poet-musicians

Session 4  12:50 - 1:50 pm  HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY

Poetry Sampler  Poets introduce their poetry in readings

Session 5  2:00 - 3:30 pm  OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Poetry Sampler  Poets introduce their poetry in readings
The Line Between Poet and Activist  Lane, McNulty, Roche
Speaking Pictures – Using Fine Art to Inspire Poems  3 hour workshop: Susan Rich
Valley Voices: Poems by Skagit Valley Poets  Bertolino, Johnson, Luckmann, Palmer
You Are Here -- Poetry and Place  3 hour workshop: Lorraine Ferra
The Mess of Love  Alexie, Michael Dickman, Howell, Mort
When a Poem Fails: Good Poem, Bad Poem  Austen, Kooser, Wrigley
Family Matters  Cornish, Curtis, Matthew Dickman, Sanelli

Session 6  4:00 - 5:30 pm  OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Making Time for Poetry: A Poet’s Life  Curtis, Mort, Hallingstad, Welch
Speaking Pictures Workshop  Continued
Poems as Prayers, Poems as Weapons  Dombrowski, Hornyak, Roche
Valley Voices: Poems by Skagit Valley Poets  Daley, Hawley, Pagh, Voigt
You Are Here  3 hour workshop: Lorraine Ferra, continued
How Poetry Helps Men Live Their Lives  Hayes, Howell, McNulty, Rios
Messages From the Natural World: Reading  Green, Lane, Smoker, Wrigley
How Poetry Helps Women Live Their Lives  Austen, Lieberman, Ostriker
In the Hall of Light: The Work and Life of Robert Sund  Movie Premier

Session 7  7:00 - 9:30 pm  OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A Gathering of Voices With a Musical Interlude  Festival Poets and Bar Tabac
SATURDAY  May 22

Session 1  8:00 - 9:00 am
   In the Hall of Light: The Work and Life of Robert Sund  Movie Premier
   Early Morning Poems  Green, Curtis
   Women in Praise of the Sacred  Cornish, Ostriker

Session 2  9:30 - 11:00 am
   Roundtable: How Poetry Helps People Live Their Lives
      Samuel Green, moderator, with poets Lane, McNulty, Ostriker, Rios
   Fine-Tuning Metaphors  3-hour workshop with Ted Kooser
   City Lights: City Living  Matthew Dickman, Howell, Rich, Roche
   Elizabeth Austen Interviews Terrance Hayes and Robert Wrigley
   Tale Spinning with Will Hornyak
   Valley Voices: Poems by Skagit Valley Poets  Daley, Pagh, Johnson, Voigt
   The Mysterious Life Within Translation  Hallingstad, Mort, O’Daly, Schafer
   Family Matters  Michael Dickman, Crozier, Lieberman, Smoker
   Fooling With Words: Fiddling with Poetry  Curtis, Tenenbaum

Session 3  11:30 am - 1:00 pm
   All Creatures Great and Small  Dombrowski, Ferra, Howell, Lane
   Fine-Tuning Metaphors  3-hour workshop with Ted Kooser, continued
   Other Cultures, Other Worlds  Lieberman, Rich, Sanelli
   The Poet and Art: Images, Stories and Feelings  Cornish, Roche, Schafer, Tenenbaum
   Tale Spinning with Will Hornyak
   Writing to Change the World  Austen, Rios, Smoker
   Life of a Poet: Neruda in Translation with William O’Daly
   “Oranges, cabbages, celery and beets”  Crozier, Matthew Dickman, McNulty
Session 4 1:30 - 3:00 pm

Poetry Sampler  Crozier, Michael Dickman, Rios, Wrigley
Going Public with Private Feelings  Austen, Dombrowski, Hallingstad, McNulty
M.L. Lyke Interviews Patrick Lane and Valzhyna Mort
Poetry as the Pathway to the Spiritual  Cornish, Ferra, Green
Valley Voices: Poems by Skagit Valley Poets  Bertolino, Hawley, Luckmann, Palmer
Moving Poems From Imitation to Innovation  3 hour workshop with Terrance Hayes
Stories, Myths and Legends in Prose and Poetry  Curtis, Hornyak, Smoker
Haiku Targets: Writing Workshop  3 hour workshop with Michael Dylan Welch
Poetry and Performance – From Page to Stage Workshop  3 hour workshop Mary Lou Sanelli
In the Hall of Light: The Work and Life of Robert Sund  Movie Premier

Session 5 3:30 - 5:00 pm

“What Man Has Made of Man”  Green, Hallingstad, Lane, Roche
Beauty and Violence  Dombrowski, Howell, Mort, Wrigley
M.L. Lyke Interviews Ted Kooser and Alicia Ostriker
Finn Wilcox, Robert Sund Scholar reads from his poems and selected readings from poet Robert Sund
Poems as Prayers, Poems as Weapons  Austen, Curtis, Michael Dickman, O’Daly
Good Grief: Poems of Love and Loss  Cornish, Ferra, Lieberman, Rich
Moving Poems from Imitation to Innovation  3 hour workshop with Terrance Hayes continued
Poetry on the Lighter Side  Crozier, Matthew Dickman, Hornyak, Tenenbaum
Haiku Targets: Writing Workshop  continued
Poetry and Performance – From Page to Stage  3 hour workshop with Mary Lou Sanelli, continued

Session 6 MAPLE HALL 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Poetry Sampler  Samuel Green, Terrance Hayes, Alicia Ostriker, Ted Kooser

SPECIAL EVENTS

Salon: Time for Reflection and Personal Writing
Quilt Museum, Gaches Mansion  –  All Day Saturday

Poet Finn Wilcox – Robert Sund Memorial Reading
Sponsored by the Robert Sund Poets’ Trust House
Museum of Northwest Art  –  Saturday Session 5 from 3:30-5 pm

Movie Premier – In the Hall of Light, The Work and Life of Robert Sund
Directed by Maggie Wilder  –  shown at Gallery Cygnus
Friday Session 6 at 4 pm / Saturday Session 1 from 8-9 am / Saturday Session 4 from 1:30-3 pm
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<th>Maple Hall</th>
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<th>Maple Center Upper Level</th>
<th>The Loft Across from Maple Hall</th>
<th>Museum of Northwest Art</th>
<th>La Conner Prime Rib &amp; Seafood</th>
<th>Methodist Church</th>
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**FRIDAY Session 1** 9:00 - 10:00 am  **STUDENTS ONLY**

- Poetry Sampler
  - Alexie, Crozier
  - Michael Dickman, Smoker
  - Reading

- Poetry Sampler
  - Matthew Dickman, Hayes, Koozer, Mort

**FRIDAY Session 2** 10:10 - 11:10 am  **STUDENTS ONLY**

- First Poems: Poems that Changed My Life
  - Austen, Ferra, Tenenbaum, Wrigley
  - Conversation/Reading

- Telling Stories: Changing Lives
  - Will Hornyak
  - Workshop

- Birds and Beasts: The Earth as Muse
  - Dombrowski, McNulty, Roche
  - Reading

- Inspiration from the Arts
  - Cornish, Curtis, Rich, Sanelli
  - Conversation/Reading

- Life of the Poet: Creating Time for Poetry
  - Michael Dickman
  - Lane, Rios
  - Conversation/Reading

- Coming of Age
  - Matthew Dickman
  - Howell, Smoker
  - Conversation/Reading

**LUNCH** 11:10-11:40 am  **OPEN MIKE AT MAPLE HALL**

**FRIDAY Session 3** 11:40 am - 12:40 pm  **STUDENTS ONLY**

- Poetry Slam
  - Alexie, Smoker
  - Workshop

- Down and Dirty: Images of Nature
  - Howell
  - Workshop

- The Art of Losing: Poetry of Grief and Healing
  - Hallingstad, Lane, Roche
  - Conversation/Reading

- Taking Humor Seriously
  - Crozier, Hornyak, Wrigley
  - Conversation/Reading

- The Mess of Love
  - Cornish, Ferra, Green, Rich
  - Reading

- Writing to Change the World: One Poem at a Time
  - Hayes, McNulty, O’Daly, Ostriker
  - Conversation/Reading

**FRIDAY Session 4** 12:50 - 1:50 am  **STUDENTS ONLY**

- Poetry Sampler
  - Matthew Dickman, Hayes, Koozer, Mort
  - Reading

- Poetry Sampler
  - Alexie, Crozier, Michael Dickman, Smoker
  - Reading

**FRIDAY Session 5** 2:00 - 3:30 pm  **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- Poetry Sampler
  - Green, Leiberman, O’Daly, Tenenbaum
  - Reading

- BOOKS FROM SMALL PUBLISHERS

- The Line Between Poet and Activist
  - Lane, McNulty, Roche
  - Conversation/Reading

- Speaking Pictures: Using Fine Art to Inspire Poems
  - Rich
  - 3 hour Workshop

- Valley Voices
  - Bertolino, Johnson, Luckmann, Palmer
  - Reading

**FRIDAY Session 6** 4:00 - 5:30 pm  **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- BOOKS FROM SMALL PUBLISHERS

- Making Time for Poetry
  - Curtis, Mort, Hallingstad, Welch
  - Conversation/Reading

- Speaking Pictures: Using Fine Art to Inspire Poems
  - (Continued)

- Poems as Prayers: Poems as Weapons
  - Dombrowski, Hornyak, Roche
  - Reading

- Valley Voices
  - Daley, Hawley, Pagh, Voigt
  - Reading

**DINNER** 5:30 - 6:30 pm

**FRIDAY Session 7** 7:00 - 9:30 pm  **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- A Gathering of Voices & a Musical Interlude
  - All Festival Poets
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<th>Workshops</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY Session 1</td>
<td>9:00 - 10:00 am</td>
<td>STUDENTS ONLY</td>
<td>Garden Club 70, Sacred Heart Mosman Hall 15, Sacred Heart Church Hall 75, Gaches Mansion 25, Waterfront Cafe 25, Skagit County Historical Museum 100</td>
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<td>FRIDAY Session 2</td>
<td>10:10 - 11:10 am</td>
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<td>Songwriters’ Workshop Blake, Nelson Workshop, En Español, por favor: Creating Poetry in Spanish Hallingstad, Schafer, O’Daly Workshop, Haiku Targets: Creating Haiku Welch Workshop, Jumpstarting Creativity Lieberman Workshop, Family Ties: Family Legacies Crozier, Green, Kooser, Ostriker Workshop</td>
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| SATURDAY     | 8:00 - 9:00 am | Maple Hall Lower Level | **Early Morning Poems**  
Green, Curtis  
Reading |
| SATURDAY     | 9:30 - 11:00 am | Maple Center Upper Level | **Roundtable: How Poetry Helps People Live Their Lives**  
Moderator: Sam Green, McNulty, Ostriker, Rios  
Conversation/Reading |
| SATURDAY     | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm | Maple Center Lower Level | **All Creatures Great and Small**  
Dombrowski, Ferra, Howell, Lane  
Conversation/Reading |
| SATURDAY     | 1:30 - 3:00 am | Maple Center Upper Level | **Poetry Sampler**  
Crozier, Michael Dickman, Rios, Wrigley  
Reading |
| SATURDAY     | 3:30 - 5:00 pm | Maple Center Lower Level | **“What Man Has Made of Man”**  
Green, Hallingstad, Lane, Roche  
Conversation/Reading |
| SATURDAY     | 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Maple Center Upper Level | **Dinner**  
5:00 - 6:30 pm |
| SATURDAY     | 7:00 - 8:30 pm | Maple Center Lower Level | **Poetry Sampler**  
Crozier, Michael Dickman, Rios, Wrigley  
Reading |
|            |         | Maple Center Upper Level | **Other Cultures, Other Worlds**  
Lieberman, Rich, Sanelli  
Conversation/Reading |
|            |         | Maple Center Lower Level | **Songs as the Pathway to the Spiritual**  
Corns, Ferra, Green  
Conversation/Reading |
|            |         | Maple Center Upper Level | **Poems as Prayers: Poems as Weapons**  
Austen, Curtis, Michael Dickman, O’Daly  
Reading |
|            |         | Maple Center Lower Level | **Good Grief: Poems of Love and Loss**  
Corns, Ferra, Lieberman, Rich  
Reading |

**BOOKS FROM SMALL PUBLISHERS**

- **Fine Tuning Metaphors**  
U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner Ted Kooser  
3 hour Workshop  
Reading
- **City Lights: City Living**  
Matthew Dickman, Howell, Rich, Roche  
Reading
- **Elizabeth Austen Interviews**  
Tarek Hayes and Robert Wrigley  
Reading
- **M.L. Lyke Interviews**  
Patrick Lane and Valzhyna Mort  
Conversation/Reading
- **ML Lyke Interviews**  
Ted Kooser and Alicia Ostricker  
Conversation/Reading
- **Selected Readings from the Robert Sund Trust Poet**  
Finn Wilcox  
Reading
- **Poems as Prayers: Poems as Weapons**  
Austen, Curtis, Michael Dickman, O’Daly  
Conversation/Reading
- **Good Grief: Poems of Love and Loss**  
Corns, Ferra, Lieberman, Rich  
Reading

**OTHER EVENTS**

- **Early Morning Poems**  
Green, Curtis  
Reading
- **City Lights: City Living**  
Matthew Dickman, Howell, Rich, Roche  
Reading
- **Elizabeth Austen Interviews**  
Tarek Hayes and Robert Wrigley  
Reading
- **M.L. Lyke Interviews**  
Patrick Lane and Valzhyna Mort  
Conversation/Reading
- **ML Lyke Interviews**  
Ted Kooser and Alicia Ostricker  
Conversation/Reading
- **Selected Readings from the Robert Sund Trust Poet**  
Finn Wilcox  
Reading
- **Poems as Prayers: Poems as Weapons**  
Austen, Curtis, Michael Dickman, O’Daly  
Conversation/Reading
- **Good Grief: Poems of Love and Loss**  
Corns, Ferra, Lieberman, Rich  
Reading
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<td>Workplace &amp; Personal Writing In the Hall of Light The Work and Life of Robert Sund Maggie Wilder, director</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Mosman Hall</td>
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<td>Skagit County Historical Museum</td>
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<td>Gallery Cygnus</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>The Mysterious Life Within Translation Hallingstad, Mort, O’Daly, Schafer</td>
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<td>Session 2</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Mosman Hall</td>
<td>Family Matters Michael Dickman, Crozier, Lieberman, Smoker</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Church Hall</td>
<td>“Oranges and Cabbages, Celery and Beets” Crozier, Matthew Dickman, McNulty, Rich</td>
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<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>Moving Poems from Imitation to Innovation: A Workshop with Terrance Hayes</td>
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<td>1:30 - 3:00</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Mosman Hall</td>
<td>Stories, Myths and Legends in Prose and Poetry Curtis, Hornyak, Smoker</td>
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<td>3:30 - 5:00</td>
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<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>Stories, Myths and Legends in Prose and Poetry Curtis, Hornyak, Smoker</td>
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<td>5:00 - 6:30</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Mosman Hall</td>
<td>Conversation/Reading</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Church Hall</td>
<td>Salon: Time for Reflection &amp; Personal Writing</td>
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<td>Gaches Mansion</td>
<td>Haiku Targets: A workshop with Michael Dylan Welch</td>
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<td>Waterfront Cafe</td>
<td>Poetry Aloud: From Page to Stage Workshop with Mary Lou Sanelli</td>
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<td>DINNER</td>
<td>Garden Club</td>
<td>Poetry on the Lighter Side Crozier, Matthew Dickman, Hornyak, Tenenbaum</td>
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<td>Session 8</td>
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FESTIVAL POETS & MUSICIANS

Sherman Alexie  He’s a novelist, screenwriter, stand-up comic – but first of all, Sherman J. Alexie Jr. is a poet. He grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington and began reading serious literature at an early age. Alexie’s first poetry collections, The Business of Fancydancing and I Would Steal Horses, were published shortly after he graduated from Washington State University. Recent poetry and short stories appear in War Dances, (2009), and Face (2009), one of last year’s top 10 selling poetry books. Alexie was screenwriter for Smoke Signals (1998) and author of the National Book Award-winning The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, (2007). He lives in Seattle, Washington with his wife and two sons.

Elizabeth Austen  spent her teens and twenties working as an actor and director. After a six-month solo walkabout in the Andes region of South America, she began writing poetry. Her poems have appeared online and in journals, including Verse Daily, Willow Springs, Bellingham Review, Swivel, the Seattle Review, DMQ Review, and the anthologies Poets Against the War and In the Telling. She served as the Washington “roadshow” poet for 2007, giving readings and workshops in rural areas around the state. Her author interviews and recordings of Seattle-area poetry readings can be heard on KUOW, 94.9 FM, public radio. She works as a communications specialist at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

James Bertolino’s tenth volume of poems, Finding Water, Holding Stone, was published in 2009 by Cherry Grove Collections. He has received the Discovery Award, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, two Quarterly Review of Literature book awards and, in 2007, the Jeanne Lohmann Poetry Prize for Washington State Poets. He taught creative writing fourteen years at Western Washington University and, in 2006, retired from a position as Writer-in-Residence at Willamette University in Oregon. He lives in Bellingham, WA.

Mary Cornish  A writer and illustrator of children’s books, Mary Cornish decided to explore new literary forms after developing a progressive illness in her drawing hand. At the age of 50, she went back to school at Sarah Lawrence College in creative non-fiction, then continued her studies at Stanford University on a Wallace Stegner Fellowship. She has published works in Poetry magazine, Poetry Northwest, and the New England Review. Former national poet laureate Billy Collins writes of her work: “...her poems can braid together sight and feeling so as to produce a delicacy rarely found in contemporary poetry.” Cornish teaches creative writing at Western Washington University and lives in Bellingham, Washington.

“Poems come out of wonder, not out of knowing”  
Lucille Clifton
One of Canada's most popular poets, **Lorna Crozier** is known for her keen insight and ready wit. Her first collection, *Inside in the Sky*, was published in 1976. Since then, she has authored 14 books of poetry. *Inventing the Hawk*, published in 1992, 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 Authors’ Association Award for poetry. Crozier teaches writing at the University of Victoria, where she is a Distinguished Professor and the Chair of the Department of Writing. She lives on Vancouver Island with her poet husband, Patrick Lane.


**Michael Daley**, born in Boston and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, acquired an MFA from the University of Washington after working as a laborer, taxi driver, waiter, tree-planter, editor, and Poet-in-the-schools. He teaches high school English, and has been a Fulbright exchange teacher in Hungary. His writing has been awarded by several organizations, including, the Seattle Arts Commission and twice by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2007 Pleasure Boat Studio (New York) published *Way Out There: Lyrical Essays* and in July of this year Word Press in Cleveland will release his second full-length book of poetry, *To Curve*, twenty-five years after his first book, *The Straits*, was published by Empty Bowl of Port Townsend.

A remarkable young writer, **Matthew Dickman** won American Poetry Review’s Honickman First Book Prize for his work *All-American Poem* (2008). “We turn loose such poets in our culture so that they can provoke the rest of us into saying everything on our minds,” said Tony Hoagland, judge for the American Poetry Review prize. Dickman’s poems have appeared in such publications as The New Yorker and Tin House. He has received fellowships from the Michener Center for Writers, the Vermont Studio Centers and the Fine Arts Work Center. Dickman has been profiled in Poets and Writers and The New Yorker with his twin brother, poet Michael Dickman. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

> “Writing poetry is like finding your way home and you didn’t know you were lost.”
> Diane Lockward
Michael Dickman’s first poetry collection is titled *The End of the West* (2009) from Copper Canyon Press. Poet Franz Wright calls him a young poetic genius with a “style like no one else’s.” The young poet has received fellowships from the Michener Center for Writers, the Fine Arts Work Center and the Vermont Studio Center. He won the 2008 Narrative Prize, and his works have appeared in *The New Yorker, The American Poetry Review, Field, Tin House, Narrative Magazine*. He has been profiled in *Poets and Writers* and *The New Yorker* with his brother Matthew. He lives in Portland, Oregon, and has been awarded a Hodder Fellowship from Princeton for 2009-2010.

Chris Dombrowski is the author of *By Cold Water*, a collection of poems, and *Fragments With Dust in Them*, a chapbook. His poems have appeared in the *Colorado Review, Denver Quarterly, Poetry* and *Orion*, and have been anthologized in *Joyful Noise* and *Making Poems*. Recipient of the Intro Award from the Associated Writing Programs, he has taught poetry at the University of Montana and Interlochen Center for the Arts, where he served as writer-in-residence. A native of Michigan, Dombrowski has also worked as a freelance writer, poet-in-the-schools and river guide. Chris lives with his family in Missoula, Montana.

A native of the San Francisco Bay area, Lorraine Ferra was a nun in California for seven years, majoring in theology and education. After leaving the convent, she pursued seminars in poetry and creative writing under the directorship of Robert Mezey at the University of Utah. She has served as a visiting poet in schools throughout the country. Her poems, prose and translations of Portuguese poetry have appeared in journals such as *Bellowing Ark, CutBank, the Florida Review* and *Quarterly West*. She is author of *Eating Bread*, a chapbook of eighteen poems, and *A Crow Doesn’t Need A Shadow: A Guide To Writing Poetry From Nature*. Ferra lives in Port Townsend, Washington.

The first Poet Laureate for Washington state, Samuel Green is one of the hardest-working poets in the nation. He travels throughout the state promoting poetry, and, through the Skagit River Poetry Project’s poetry-in-the-schools program, has taught in literally hundreds of classrooms. His evocative poems have appeared in *Poetry, Poetry Northwest, Poet & Critic*, and in January 2009, Green was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. Green’s collections include *Vertebrae: Poems 1972-1994* and *The Grace of Necessity*, winner of the 2008 Washington State Book Award for Poetry. He lives off the grid on a remote San Juan Island. There he and his wife Sally co-edit the award-winning Brooding Heron Press, which produces fine, letter-pressed volumes.

“If a nation loses its storytellers, it loses its childhood.”

*Peter Handke*
Jean Hallingstad was born and raised in Anacortes and lives with her family in a house her grandparents built. She says, “I have an overgrown garden full of ducks & chickens – but no slugs, thanks to the ducks! I’m obsessed by mushrooms in October, and in February I’m obsessed by tomatoes, so there’s a lot of that sort of thing in my poetry.” She received her MFA from Warren Wilson College and is published in several magazines and in the Eleven Skagit Poets Anthology. She has taught high school Spanish for the last twenty-four years at Anacortes High School and has a small farm with a lemon orchard in Ecuador, where she and her family go whenever they can.

Patricia Hawley is a former Oak Harbor High School drama and English teacher who also taught at Skagit Valley College. Her writing and her large family are at the center of her life, but acting and musical performances provide inspiration that fuels both her writing and everyday living. She continues to portray notable women in the arts during “Women’s History Week” in local schools. She recently received an “Honorable Mention” award from Passagers magazine. Her poetry has appeared in Jeopardy and other Northwest publications.

Terrance Hayes, born in South Carolina in 1971, is the author of Wind in a Box (2006), named one of the best 100 books of 2006 by Publishers Weekly. Other works include Muscular Music (1999), which won the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, and Hip Logic (2002), which won the National Poetry Series Open Competition. His most recent work is Lighthead (2010). He has been awarded a Whiting Writers Award, three Best American Poetry selections, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is a professor of creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University and lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with his family.

Storyteller Will Hornyak blends powerful performance with an intuitive feel for the rhythm and music of language in his retelling of myths, fables, folk and fairytales from around the world. The Oregonian newspaper described him as an artist of “ready wit and boundless imagination” who can take listeners “across a spiritual threshold.” A former newspaper reporter in Latin America, Hornyak has used storytelling for personal and social empowerment, community building and conflict resolution. He teaches storytelling in professional communication at Marylhurst University and was awarded the 2005 Brimstone Grant by the National Storytelling Network for his environmental storytelling program: Living Streams: Stories for Healthy Watersheds. He lives in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Lucas Howell received his MFA from the University of Idaho in 2007 and has had poems published in The Atlantic, Poetry, Slate.com, and other publications. Author of the chapbook The Lonesome Crowded West (2006), Howell grew up in Tacoma, Washington, with a “hard-working and hard-playing family,” and spent time fishing, backpacking, and doing physical labor and mechanical work in Big Sky country. A student of nature, he turns grit and sweat into art, meditating on gutting fish by a riverbank, hauling in grain from half-cut fields or the “steely purl” of pumping oil rigs. A member with Teach For America, Howell is currently teaching fourth-grade language arts in Greensburg, Louisiana.
Georgia Johnson still believes is patience, pressure and surprise and is influenced by Mark Doty, Tess Gallagher, Denise Levertov, Pablo Neruda, Naomi Shihab Nye and Seiku Sundiata these days. She is a student of Robert Sund, James Bertolino, Alice Derry, Sam Green and Joseph Green, whether they know it or not. She is occasionally published in local anthologies and has one chapbook, *Finding Beet Seed*, published in 2000 by Dessert Rose Press, now out of print. She is working on another book. She fuels her passion for poetry by teaching culinary arts, believes in the oral tradition, loves a good open mic and lives with her family in La Conner, Washington.

Ted Kooser, one of the nation’s most highly regarded poets, served as the United States poet laureate consultant in poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. During his second term he won the Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems, *Delights and Shadows* (2004). *Poetry Daily* commented: “Throughout a long and distinguished writing career, he has worked toward clarity and accessibility, making poetry as fresh and spontaneous as a good watercolor.” A Presidential Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Kooser is the author of twelve full-length collections of poetry. He lives with his family on acreage near the town of Garland, Nebraska.

Patrick Lane is a prolific poet, with more than twenty books to his name. He has received most of Canada’s top literary awards, including the Governor General’s Award and two National Magazine Awards. His poetry appears in all major Canadian anthologies of English literature. Lane’s poetry often deals with humanity’s harsh treatment of the earth, as well as the harsh realities of human interrelations. His memoir about struggles with drug and alcohol addictions, *There is a Season* (published in the US as *What the Stones Remember*) received the 2005 British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction. Poetry collections include *Last Water Song* (2007) and *Syllable of Stone* (2006). He lives near Victoria, British Columbia, with his wife, poet Lorna Crozier.

Kim-An Lieberman is a writer of Vietnamese and Jewish American descent, born in Rhode Island and raised in the Pacific Northwest. *Breaking the Map*, her debut collection of poetry, was published in 2008 by Blue Begonia Press. Her poems and essays also appear in journals and collections including *Poetry Northwest, Prairie Schooner, CALYX, ZYZZYVA, Threepenny Review* and *Poets of the American West*. Kim-An earned an M.A. in Creative Writing and a Ph.D. in English from the University of California, Berkeley. She has received awards from the Mellon Foundation, the Brittingham/Pollak Prizes and the Jack Straw Writers Program. She teaches writing and literature at Lakeside School in Seattle.

Charles “Chuck” Luckmann is the author of *The Blackgoats: A Participatory Biography of a Navajo Family; Voices along the Skagit: Teaching the History of the First People in the Skagit River Watershed*, with Robert Mierendorf; and, with Paul Piper, *X Stories: The Personal Side of fragile X syndrome*. Many of his poems seek a mythos of place from landscapes as varied as Labrador, the Yukon, Dinetah, and the Salish Sea. Currently, he’s finishing a book of poems, *X Poems*, about autism, fragile X, and other disabilities.
M.L. Lyke has won numerous national awards for strong, lively, fact-packed features that have appeared on the front pages of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Washington Post. She’s versatile to the extreme, writing about everything from fly-fishing the Louisiana bayou and wine-tasting in the Willamette Valley to PCB toxicity in killer whales. As a former books reporter at the Seattle P-I, she has interviewed such literary luminaries as Toni Morrison, Jim Harrison, Russell Banks, and Isabelle Allende. M.L.’s varied career includes stints as a newspaper managing editor for weeklies, as assistant city editor and arts editor for dailies, as news reporter, feature reporter, photographer, writing instructor, university publications editor, writing coach for a major metro daily, and as a freelancer for numerous national magazines and newspapers. She has just completed a novel about a renegade sea lion. It’s titled Blood Soup.


William O’Daly is poet, translator and fiction writer. His highly regarded translations include eight books of Chilean Nobel Prize Laureate Pablo Neruda, and he has collected his own poems into a chapbook titled The Whale in the Web. A National Endowment for the Arts Fellow, he has worked as a literary and technical editor, a college professor, and an instructional designer. He is a board member of Poets Against War and co-founder of Copper Canyon Press. With co-author Han-ping Chin, he recently completed a historical novel, This Earthly Life, based on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. He lives in the Sierra Nevada foothills of northern California.
Alicia Ostriker, poet and critic, has published twelve volumes of poetry, including No Heaven (2005) and The Volcano Sequence (2002). Her anti-war sequence The Mother/Child Papers (1980, 1986) was recently re-issued. She took on six essential Biblical texts in her 2008 For the Love of God: The Bible as an Open Book. Her poetry has appeared in The New Yorker, American Poetry Review, The Atlantic, Paris Review, Ontario Review, and The Nation. She has received awards from the Poetry Society of America, the San Francisco Poetry Center and the Paterson Poetry Center. She lives in Princeton, New Jersey, and teaches in the low-residency Poetry MFA program of Drew University.

Nancy Pagh is the author of No Sweeter Fat (Autumn House Press, 2007) and After (Floating Bridge Press, 2008), and her poems appear in many publications, including Crab Creek Review, Prairie Schooner, Rattle, Fourth River, The Bellingham Review, O magazine, and When She Named Fire: An Anthology of Contemporary Poems by American Women. She is the recipient of an Artist Trust Fellowship and has been the D. H. Lawrence Fellow at the Taos Summer Writers Conference. She teaches at Western Washington University.

Thelma Palmer recalls having written poetry most of her life. Much of her poetry is about the gardens, fields and people of Guemes and Fidalgo Islands. Her most recent book, High White Moon, includes poems about the Japanese island of Honshu where she visits her foster daughter, Izumi. Palmer’s other poetry books are a chapbook entitled Seven Poems and The Sacred Round; Poems from an Island Garden. She also wrote Long Journey to the Rose Garden about the life of John Tursi and co-authored Enchantment of the World; France with British writer/historian Peter Moss.


Born in Nogales, Arizona, in 1952, Alberto Álvaro Ríos is author of ten books and chapbooks of poetry, three collections of short stories and a memoir. His poetry collection The Theater of Night was winner of the 2007 PEN/Beyond Margins Award. His most recent poetry collection is The Dangerous Shirt (2009) and recent short story collections include The Curtain of Trees, Pig Cookies and The Iguana Killer. His memoir about growing up on the Mexico-Arizona border – Capirotada – won the Latino Literary Hall of Fame Award. He is recipient of six Pushcart Prizes in poetry and fiction, and is included in The Norton Anthology of Modern Poetry. He is a Regents’ Professor at Arizona State University and lives in Chandler, Arizona.
Judith Roche is the author of three collections of poetry, the most recent of which, *Wisdom of the Body*, won an American Book Award. She has edited a number of poetry anthologies and has worked in collaboration with visual artists on several public art projects which are installed in the Northwest area, including an installation about salmon at the Chittenden Locks. She is Literary Arts Director Emeritus for One Reel, and teaches poetry workshops throughout the country. She was Distinguished Northwest Writer in Residence at Seattle University in 2007 and is a Fellow in the Black Earth Institute.

Mary Lou Sanelli works as a poet, writer, speaker, and performer. She has earned a solid reputation as a performer of the written word through a steady commitment to writing and through twenty years of successful public readings, speaking engagements, talks, and performances. Her recent collection of poetry, *Small Talk*; of essays, *Falling Awake*; and her latest book, a memoir, *Among Friends*, are in bookstores now. She also contributes to *The Seattle Times, Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*, *NPR*, and is a regular columnist for *City Living* magazine. She is heard monthly on KSER FM and is widely published. She performs her staged reading of her poetry collection, *The Immigrant’s Table*, throughout the country.
Sanelli divides her time between Port Townsend and Seattle.

Mark Schafer is a literary translator and visual artist who lives in Roxbury, MA and teaches Spanish and Translation at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. Schafer edited and translated the anthology *Before Saying Any of the Great Words: Selected Poems of David Huerta*, which was published in 2009 by Copper Canyon Press. Schafer has translated novels, short stories, essays, and poetry by other Latin American authors including Gloria Gervitz, Alberto Ruy Sánchez, Jesús Gardea, Eduardo Galeano, and Antonio José Ponte. Among the grants and awards he has received are the Robert Fitzgerald Prize and two NEA translation fellowships. His translation of Belén Gopegui’s novel *La escala de los mapas* (*The Scale of Maps*) will be published by City Lights in January 2011. Schafer is also a visual artist.

M.L. Smoker belongs to the Assiniboine and Sioux tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation in north-eastern Montana. Her family’s home is on Tabexa Wakpa (Frog Creek). She holds an MFA from the University of Montana in Missoula, where she was the recipient of the Richard Hugo Fellowship. She is also a graduate of Pepperdine University, and attended UCLA and the University of Colorado, where she was a Battrick Fellow. Her first collection of poems, *Another Attempt at Rescue*, was published by Hanging Loose Press in the spring of 2005. Her work has been translated for *Acoma*, an Italian literary journal published by the University of Rome. M.L. Smoker currently resides in Helena, Montana, where she works for the Office of Public Instruction, in the Indian Education Division.

“Good poets are explorers of the world. Out on the frontiers they send back bulletins.”
_Eamon Grennan_
Molly Tenenbaum is the author of *Now* (2007) and *By a Thread* (2000). Her chapbooks are *Blue Willow, Old Voile,* and *Story.* She was a 2007 resident at Hedgebrook, a 2007 Jack Straw Writer, and is the recipient of a 2009 Artist Trust Fellowship. She plays old-time Appalachian string-band music with her band, The Queen City Bulldogs, and has a CD out entitled *Instead of a Pony.* Tenenbaum, whose father and grandfather had stints as professional ventriloquists, teaches English at North Seattle Community College, and gives music lessons at home. She lives in Seattle.

Jeremy Voigt has a MFA from Bennington College. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Beloit Poetry Journal, Willow Springs,* and *Washington Square.* His chapbook *Neither Rising nor Falling* was published by Finishing Line Press fall 2009. He teaches English in Western Washington.

Michael Dylan Welch is first vice president of the Haiku Society of America, a director of the Haiku North America conference nonprofit corporation and webmaster for the American Haiku Archives at the California State Library in Sacramento. He’s also editor of *Tundra: The Journal of the Short Poem,* contributing editor to *Spring: The Journal of the E. E. Cummings Society,* and founding associate of The Haiku Foundation. He has his own small press, Press Here, specializing in books of haiku, senryu, and tanka. His books include *100 Poets: Passions of the Imperial Court* (2008) and *Fifty-seven Damn Good Haiku by a Bunch of Our Friends* (2010), co-edited with Alan Summers. He lives with his wife and two children in Sammamish, Washington.

Poet Finn Wilcox is the author of *Here Among the Sacrificed* (1984), *Nine Flower Mountain* (2002) and *Lesson Learned: Love Poems* (2010), which inspired poet Glenn Hughes to write that Wilcox can write a genuine love poem “that is neither sappy nor without the perspective that time gives.” Finn, who worked in Northwest forests for more than twenty years, is also coeditor, with Jerry Gorsline, of *Working the Woods, Working the Sea: an Anthology of Northwest Writing.* He is past editor of Empty Bowl Press in Port Townsend, Washington, and has lived there with his wife for the past thirty-two years. A friend of the late poet Robert Sund, Finn will give the Robert Sund memorial reading at this year’s festival.

Robert Wrigley was born in 1951 in East St. Louis, Illinois. He was the first member of his family to graduate from college and the first male in many generations never to work in a coal mine. His collections of poetry include *Earthly Meditations: New and Selected Poems* (2006), *Lives of the Animals* (2003), *Reign of Snakes* (1999), winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award, and *In the Bank of Beautiful Sins* (1995), winner of the San Francisco Poetry Center Book Award. Wrigley, who studied with the late Richard Hugo, directs the MFA program in creative writing at the University of Idaho. He lives with his wife, the writer Kim Barnes, and their children near Moscow, Idaho.
FESTIVAL MUSICIANS

For the past five years Bar Tabac has been honing their cinematic sound performing in Bellingham, Seattle and Portland. Eastern European exotica and South American yearnings mingle to create haunting moods underpinned by pulses reminiscent of sordid dancehalls.

Sarazin Blake Singing, writing, and strumming songs of lost loves, bicycles, old hotels, politics and long hot drives, Sarazin Blake has rambled coast to coast singing in basements, bars, backyards, and holding cells. He currently has seven full length albums, two in the works and is about to catch a train for a gig.

Kristi Nelson, prolific singer songwriter has been called “refreshingly honest” for her ability to craft beautiful and diverse soundscapes. Her songs have been gaining increasing popularity with a variety of audiences worldwide thanks to the youtube and word of mouth. Kristi has traveled all over the Pacific Northwest playing music and introspectively scribing the happenings of everyday life to unveil them at her shows with a charming and luminous presence on stage. Kristi hosts a weekly open mic at the Green Frog Acoustic Tavern and plays often in the Bellingham area where she currently resides. She is currently wrapping up her first solo release, You and the Yous, and can also be seen playing with the band Timmy Sunshine and the Conductors.

Skagit Valley College Jazz Ensemble This outstanding group under the direction of Vince Fejeran performs a wide variety of jazz from Coltrane to Cole Porter. They recently competed in the Lionel Hampton International Jazz Festival. The group consist of Kyle McInnis on alto sax, Hanna Eger on tenor sax; Aaron Elder and Charlie Hickmott on percussion, Aleks Kazakov on bass and John Milas on piano.

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“Poetry is born of speech and silence. So it is a form of music.”
Paul Duncan
**BOOK SALES, BROADSIDES & SMALL PRESS PUBLISHERS**

**Book Sales at Maple Hall**
- The Next Chapter Bookstore is selling books from the Festival poets
- *Into the Open* Poets’ Anthology, a collections of poems from all Festival poets
- Anthology of Student Poems from Skagit River Poetry Project students

**Special Edition Broadsides at Maple Hall**
Two limited edition broadsides, printed by Sally Green of Brooding Heron Press, Waldron Island, are on sale. These broadsides of previously unpublished poems, will be signed by the poets:

- *Straightening Pictures* by Ted Kooser
- *The New Day* by Lorna Crozier and *What Language Can’t Reach* by Patrick Lane

**Small Press Publishers at Maple Center, Lower Level**
Selling their books and broadsides during the Festival

- Black Heron Press .................................................................Jerome Gold, Seattle
- CALYX, A Journal of Art and Literature by Women ........................................Corvallis, Oregon
- Copper Canyon Press .............................................................Joseph Bednarik, Port Townsend
- Floating Bridge Press ........................................................................Kathleen Flenniken, Seattle
- Rose Alley Press ................................................................................David Horowitz, Seattle
- Wood Works ........................................................................................Paul Hunter, Seattle

“Poetry...is ultimately mythology, the telling of the stories of the soul.”
*Stanley Kunitz*

---

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and

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Friends of the Skagit River Poetry Project 2009-2010 fund raising campaign
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Special Thanks to:
Our partners at: Museum of Northwest Art, the Skagit County Historical Museum, La Conner Quilt and Textile Museum, the La Conner Chamber of Commerce, the Town of La Conner, the La Conner Prime Rib and Seafood Restaurant, the Waterfront Cafe and How It Works
Joanne Carrigan, La Conner School District Business Office
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Shirley Gladish, Poets’ Anthology Editor
Lyle Johnson, Site Coordinator
Don Misner and Cindy Ritchie for providing a home away from home
for our inaugural Washington State Poet Laureate, Samuel Green

And Especially to:
the generous host families for housing the Northwest poets and musicians,
all the enthusiastic project teachers and our many priceless volunteers
We remember John Simon...

JOHN SIMON’S FINAL SHOW
by Anna Ferdinand
Excerpt from La Conner Weekly News

John Michael Simon, a master Skagit Valley wildlife artist who portrayed most notably the salmon’s journey, the heron’s flight, the eagles’ splendor and the valley’s luminosity, died Wednesday, February 24, of complications from cancer. He was 63.

Kevin Paul, a noted Swinomish carver and Native American drummer and singer, was one of the barn show artists. “My first encounter with John was in ‘97 in La Conner at the Shell station,” Simon asked Paul if he would like to be in the group show in his barn studio. At the time, Paul didn’t know that by showing his work in a barn, “I would be introduced to ‘the family’...the family of artists of Skagit County,” Paul said. “Being part of that community made me get better and better.”

THE ARTIST BEHIND THE POSTER
Running Against the Current
by ML Lyke

Salmon, the iconic fish of the Northwest, have a powerful draw for John Simon, this year’s poster artist. “Every time I paint them, I dream of their ability to survive,” the artist wrote in a calendar dedicated to saving the Northwest’s revered king salmon.

Simon’s 2010 Skagit River Poetry Festival poster portrays the fish in their glorious fall spawning colors, strokes of red and green hurling into turbulent white. The fish maneuver upstream through rocks and rushing water, seeking their native streambeds, the birthplace where they will reproduce and die. The river is swift, its path compressed, and droplets spatter Pollock-like across the surface of the canvas, testament to the forces at play.

It is a difficult journey, to run against current – a metaphor for the life of many artists. “This upriver journey of the salmon, it seems like a battle, but it’s just a natural way for some people to get to their best – they have to keep pushing on,” says Simon. “It’s a long, hard road, and it doesn’t come easy, not for some of us. Poets know it, as well as artists like me.”

“Here, we have always been nature-oriented,” says the artist. “Nature is our main essence, our inspiration.”
“Prose is walking; poetry is flying”
– Galway Kinnell

“If I knew where poems came from, I’d go there.”
– Michael Longley