

The FisherPoets Gathering thanks its 2016 supporters

Clatsop Community College, since the beginning, for its abiding, visionary staff support and for equipment,

KMUN Coast Community Radio for book-keeping, for being our nonprofit home, for promotion, and for broadcasting live Friday and Saturday nights,

The Daily Astorian for donating, since 2013, the publishing, printing and distribution of our programs,

The City of Astoria for its \$1,500 grant from the Arts and Cultural Fund to Promote Tourism,

Judi and Milt Stewart, longtime supporters, for their generous \$1,000 donation to the 2016 FPG in honor of Judi's brother, Jack Connaway, west coast fisherman and skipper of the Adios,

Fishpeople Seafood for contributing \$500 toward FPG venue expenses,

The Meyer Memorial Trust for contributing \$500,

Englund Marine for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership to help with travel expenses for individual fisherpoets from afar,

Fishhawk Fisheries for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership,

Salmon for All for sponsoring since 2009 a \$250 Distant Waters Readership,

Bornstein's Seafood for becoming a \$250 Distant Waters Readership sponsor,

Coffee Girl for becoming a \$250 Distant Waters Readership sponsor,

The Patricia Friedland Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation since 2001 for its annual \$250 support grant,

The **Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce** for national and regional press releases,

The Oregon Folklife Network for its partnership and documentation support,

Kyle Johnson for donating space for the 2016 FisherPoets Gearshack,

The **Cannery Pier Hotel** and the **Astoria Riverwalk Inn** for donating rooms to the FPG,

Columbia River Coffee Roasters for providing hot joe at the Gearshack and Farewell Mic,

Our venues the **Wet Dog Café**, the **Voodoo Room**, the **Columbian Theater**, **Fort George Brewery and Public House**, the **Astoria Event Center**, **KALA** and the **Columbia River Maritime Museum** for inviting us all in,

Friends and businesses who donated to our silent auction,

Scores of volunteers for greasing the FPG gears and, as always,

Our fisherpoet friends who come, sometimes from very far away and always mostly on their own dime, to gather this weekend in Astoria with us.

Navigating the 2016 FisherPoets Gathering

This weekend every fisherpoetry fan will face the same pickle that every skipper faces during the season when a radio partner announces that fishing's pretty good somewhere he or she isn't.

But every fisherpoetry fan can relax. There are no wrong choices at the FisherPoets Gathering.

Whether you hunker down like a setnetter or race around like a nervous herring seine skipper, you'll find a reason to enjoy any of the FisherPoets Gathering evening venues. There's a great evening waiting for fans and poets at each one.

The Wet Dog Café, alternately raucous and rapt, has been the spiritual home of the FisherPoets Gathering since the beginning in 1998. The Wet Dog seats 250 fans and offers its own beers and local, wild seafood and shellfish. Minors are welcome until 10 p.m.

The Voodoo Room — intimate, quirky and often crowded — seats fewer than it sometimes holds and offers pizza and drinks to fisherpoet fans over 21. Everyone loves to read at the Voodoo.

The Columbian Theater, cozy yet spacious, the site of so many quintessentially Astorian events, offers beer, wine and simple eats and seats 250 in nostalgic comfort. Minors are welcome.

The Astoria Event Center, from which KMUN broadcasts live both nights, boasts the most seats, raised theater seating in the back and a big stage. Minors are welcome always.

KALA, host of the annual FisherPoets Dance (this year on Friday night), seats about 70 in an intimate but lively setting and offers a full bar for fans this weekend. Minors are allowed.

At Fort George Brewery's Lovell Showroom, fans can enjoy wine or Fort George's own brew with their fisherpoetry in a performance-focused venue. Minors are welcome, here, too.

If you haven't gotten your button elsewhere, pick it up at the FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack, 1254 Commercial St. Show your support for the FisherPoets Gathering, and buy an enameled highliner pin. Wear it with pride.

We get underway sooner than you think. At noon Friday, drop in on the brown bag writing workshop at Clatsop Community College with Toby Sullivan, CCC college students and other fisherpoetfans. Everyone is welcome.

Back at the Gearshack, have a bid at something quirky or tasty or useful among this year's



The Wet Dog Café, alternately raucous and rapt, has been the spiritual home of the FisherPoets Gathering since the beginning in 1998.

Silent Auction items. Browse fisherpoets' books and CDs, and visit, between 2 and 3 p.m., with Brittany Retherford, whose thoughtful photo essay there remembers the victims of the F/V Investor murders.

Before you take a seat for Friday evening's fisherpoetry, though, drop in at the Columbian Theater at 3:15 p.m. where three short films show how work is our joy. If you miss Friday's show you can try again Saturday afternoon.

Then, if you hurry, before evening readings begin, you can grab a moment with photographer Corey Arnold at Imogen Gallery during his artist's reception there. You'll recognize images from his show projected on the sides of Astoria buildings at night.

Saturday morning, after fisherpoetry Friday night, and dancing late at KALA, get up early enough to join others at the Columbia River Maritime Museum (where your button gains you entry to the Kern and Ford rooms but not beyond) to inform yourself further on the health of our Columbia River and of the very oceans themselves. Decide how to respond

intelligently.

Or, at other workshops, simply learn how to tie a couple of really useful knots. Or contribute to the community poem we'll read Saturday night at the Poetry Contest finale. Or try the songwriting or singing workshops at the Barbey

There's a
great evening
waiting for
fans and
poets at
each of the
FisherPoets
Gathering
evening
venues.

Maritime Center with its lots of hard walls there to bounce sound off of.

If you prefer, have coffee with fisherpoet Dave Densmore on the Coldstream at Pier 39. Visit the historic Hanthorn Bumble Bee cannery while you're there. Have coffee again at Coffee Girl, and enjoy the river as it rolls by beneath you.

As the afternoon begins, if you've brought your children, or if you'd just like a dose of someone else's, join Emilie Springer at Baked Alaska FisherKids, our first kid-centered Gathering event.

Or catch photographer Karen Ducey's reception at KALA where John Van Amerongen will be playing, too. Columbia Riverkeeper is hosting a drop-in reception there a little later.

Mid-afternoon, visit the Event Center to enjoy a pleasant earful at the annual Story Circle where it doesn't take much coaxing to draw a good tale from veteran fishermen and women.

Gather your courage and a few friends and read something of your own at WineKraft, our open mic venue.

And if, after Saturday night's readings, you're ready to have a go at a bigger stage, bring it to the umpteenth annual on-site poetry contest. Don't be shy. It's a gathering, not a slam.

Stickin' and stayin'? We'll see you Sunday morning at the Event Center. There'll be coffee. Arrive a little early and practice three-part harmony with us before a short, friendly gospel sing, followed by a lot of short, friendly fisherpoems as we say so long until next year.

It's going to be a good weekend together in Astoria. We're glad you've joined us.

*Jon Broderick
Gearhart, OR*