

NAVIGATING THE 2019 FISHERPOETS GATHERING

It's another big return to the 2019 FisherPoets Gathering. No scratchy fishing or lumpy weather here. And you won't miss 'em because a great evening awaits fisherpoets and fans at every venue each night.

Here's a brief heads-up on what to expect:

The Astoria Brewing Company (formerly 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 21 and older. Everyone loves to read at the Voodoo. New England's Larry Kaplan plays in concert here, late Friday evening.

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. Stick around late Friday for the second annual Poetry at the Line Slam and late Saturday night for Ray Troll and the incomparable Ratfish Wranglers.

KALA, host of the annual FisherPoets Dance Friday night, seats about 70 in an intimate but lively setting and offers a full bar for fans this weekend. Minors are allowed. The Brownsmead Flats will play a little longer here Saturday night.

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.



COLIN MURPHEY

A participant in the annual FisherPoets Gathering performs at the Liberty Theatre in 2018.

The magnificent Liberty Theatre seats plenty in Venetian splendor. Beer and wine purchased in the lobby are allowed inside. KMUN will broadcast live Friday and Saturday nights. Stick around Saturday night for our friendly umpteenth annual poetry contest. Emcees will announce the rules Friday. Everyone wearing this year's button is welcome to have a go.

This year the Labor Temple Cafe, a former union hall diner and bar, pitches in both evenings. In the back, past the refurbished bar, are seats and bar tables for 80 or so fans over 21. Beerman Creek plays on here, late Friday evening.

This year a dozen thought-provoking, creative FisherPoets Gathering workshops and special events are scattered among

some of Astoria's most treasured venues. The Special Events Schedule offers more information.

It's a pleasant walk, in good weather, east to Pier 39, out the dock to the former Bumble Bee Seafoods plant, now the Hanthorn Cannery Museum. Find workshops in the northwest corner. If you've driven, you can park inside the cannery or, to enjoy the boardwalk, back on 39th Street.

The Columbia River Maritime Museum's Barbey Maritime Center, the restored spacious and airy former train depot, sits at the east end of the museum's parking lot. Enjoy lots of sunlight even on a cloudy day in there.

Clatsop Community College, a FPG supporter from the beginning 22 years

ago, invites us Friday afternoon to the top of 16th Street, where sparkling still-new Patriot Hall commands a sweeping view of the Lower Columbia. Take a stroll around the elevated indoor track before you go downstairs to workshops in Room 206.

Jamie Boyd invites you to share her Studio 11 space for Duncan Berry's fish-print making workshop. Sign up in advance, though, at the Gearshack. The workshop has a \$25 materials fee.

Wander downtown into Imogen and Astoria Visual Arts galleries and South Bay Wild Seafood Market to enjoy visual art and photography by several of this year's fisherpoets.

WineKraft overlooks the water on the pier at the foot of 10th Street. It's hard to imagine a more inviting place to enjoy open mic in the afternoon or a more cozy one to sing ballads together late after Saturday evening's scheduled readings.

Finally, the FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack, our pop-bookstore at 1312 Commercial St., and the closest thing we have to a central office, offers you a chance to take a piece of the FPG home. Pick up your favorite fisherpoets' chapbooks, CDs and art. Bid on some of the remarkable contributions the community has made to our silent auction. Bids close at 4 p.m. Saturday. The Gearshack won't be open Sunday.

Our fisherpoets.org website has more information for you about workshops, and has the schedule as current as we know how to make it. Beyond that, do what fishermen do. Ask around. Take some chances. Play some hunches. Answer some questions.

Check the chart. Watch the weather. Keep your net wet. Catch all you can. Have fun.

— Jon Broderick, Cannon Beach, Ore.



The 2019 FisherPoets Gathering Thanks Its Supporters



Clatsop Community College for 22 years of abiding, visionary staff support and for equipment,

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

The City of Astoria for its \$3000 grant from the Arts and Cultural Fund to Promote Tourism,

The Clatsop County Cultural Coalition for its \$1,250 grant in

2019 towards providing quality sound at all venues,

Judi and Milt Stewart for their faithful support and \$1,000 donation in honor of Judi's brother Jack Connaway, West Coast fisherman and skipper of the Adios,

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Michelle Abramson for \$500 in memory of Alan Abramson,

27 years a Kodiak seine skipper, setnetter and Dungie fisherman,

Jamie Jones and Katie Wood for \$500 in support of the Gathering,

Readership supporters for their \$250 donations for distant fisherpoets (**Englund Marine, Fishhawk Fisheries, Sen. Betsy Johnson, Merry Time Bar & Grill, Pier 39, Salmon For All**)

KMUN Coast Community Radio for bookkeeping, for

being our non-profit home, for promotion and for broadcasting live Friday and Saturday nights,

Diane Speakman for designing our 2019 FPG logo and **Jamie Boyd** for our poster's graphic design,

Liz Harris for providing space for the 2019 FisherPoets Gearshack,

The Oregon Folklife Network for its partnership and documentation support,

The Astoria Riverwalk Inn for donating rooms to the Gathering,

Our evening reading venues: **Astoria Brewing Co.**, the **Voodoo Room**, the **Columbian Theater**, **Fort George Brewery + Public House**, **KALA**, the **Liberty Theatre** and **Labor Temple Bar** and

Our special event venues: the **Barbey Maritime Center**, **Pier 39 Hanthorn Cannery**

Museum, **Clatsop Community College's Patriot Hall**, **Studio 11** and **WineKraft** for inviting us all in,

Friends and **businesses** who donated to our silent auction,

Volunteers who grease the Gathering's 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.