

# WHAT'S NEW AT THE 2019 FISHERPOETS GATHERING

**A**t last, on the occasion of our 22nd annual FisherPoets Gathering, we celebrate our 21st birthday. That infant who was in your friend's arms when we started in 1998 can buy you a beer today and beat you to the next set and probably break your arm-wrestling wrist.

What else is new?

The FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack, as it often does, has a new location. You'll find it a block east of last year's still on the sunny side of the street, at 1312 Commercial St.

We have new readers. We thank Josh Wisniewski and Kim Menster for coming clear from Alaska and Karen Gimbel from Alberta to be here with us. We welcome Ray Roberson from Idaho who has traveled only a little less far. And we're glad George Esveldt and Laura Hartema have come down from Puget Sound, Jack Molan over from Central Oregon, Todd Waterfield up the Oregon Coast, Conrad Gowell, Erick Olsen and Carlos Reyes, down the Willamette and the Columbia to give us a read in Astoria, each for the first time.

Since fisherpoet photographer Corey Arnold pioneered it a few years ago, our nighttime outdoor video projection has become a striking addition to the



Astoria Visual Arts

**Gyotaku fish prints by Duncan Berry will be on display at Astoria Visual Arts during the FisherPoets Gathering.**

FisherPoets Gathering. This year Jeff Daly is projecting the world premiere of "Horse Seining on the Columbia River," a 12-minute film he produced from forgotten 1939 National Geographic footage, shot by Frank Hoagland, vice-president of Bumble Bee Seafoods and found recently by Tai Gohl in his grandmother's attic. Linger awhile at Commercial and 11th after dark.

For 2019, in addition to George Wilson's watercolors at Imogen Gallery, two other galleries are showing fisherpoets' visual art. South Bay Wild Seafood Market is displaying Pat Dixon's and Veronica Kessler's photographs of the Astoria Marine Construction Co. and the Astoria Visual Arts gallery is showing Gyotaku fish prints by Duncan Berry and others.

Other news, though, is unhappy. We've lost fisherpoet and friend Sue Hanson who passed unexpectedly last summer. Sue was a generous soul, a delightful reader, a frequent and gracious emcee. She leaves us a good ghost and a thoughtful poem as we enjoy the 2019 FisherPoets Gathering together.

Thanks for coming.

## 'AS I BEND OVER MY PEN FISHING FOR SOMETHING GLISTENING'

By Sue Sutherland-Hanson, fisherpoet

More often than not I follow a gull soaring across my mind with its irresistible arch. Then I miss the subtle tug from the depths. It gets away. Sometimes I snag a dogfish with its back cracked by the last fishermen who caught it, or a ball of tangled kelp becomes the slippery catch of the day. Fishermen and poets will tell you that what we do is a lot about being present to possibilities and surprises. I pull line from the reel, yarding more and more until a long line of words bends with the currents before becoming that plumb line stretching down straight to the dark below. I stare into water with layers of translucence melting into black. I stare imagining what swims below. I feel the cutting skin of the shark, tumble round in the displaced water swirling after a whale's fluke, marvel at the grace of the jelly fish and the wily wisdom of octopi. After a while poetry feels like breathing under water, a life line holding me to the air of my mystery.

## The 2019 FisherPoets Gathering thanks its silent auction donors

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