

EVOKING A SENSE OF THE NORTHWEST

BY BY PATRICK WEBB

Writers descend on Long Beach for book festival

The best authors capture a “sense of place.”

For Pacific Northwest readers, there is nothing better than writers whose work evokes the familiar scenery and landmarks of their much-loved, rain-swept home.

Ragan Myers has been working to assemble many of them under the same roof.

The city of Long Beach events coordinator is among those excited about the prospect of multiple authors descending

on her hometown Oct. 5.

They will gather for a Pacific Northwest author showcase and book fair at the Chautauqua Lodge, 304 14th St., N.W., just north of downtown Long Beach.

The third-annual “Books at Long Beach” will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Varied

The authors represent genres from sci-fi to historical fiction to “paranormal romances.”

Some from the North Coast offer varied writing experience.

For example, Jan Bono, a retired Long Beach Peninsula teacher, is a prolific award-winning writer whose work spans humor, poetry, cozy mysteries and tales featuring the Old West. She is one of the most published contributors to the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” books.

In contrast, long-time poet Jennifer Nightingale of Astoria has just published her first novel, “Alberta and The Spark,” a coming-of-age story about a 13-year-old girl living in a community that appears remarkably similar to Willapa Bay in the 1970s.

“My voice as a writer and a poet is inexorably linked to the flora and fauna of the Pacific Northwest watershed,” Nightingale said. “The rain, the rust, the dreamers and the oyster farms are tough and yet fragile. The coastal wild places and communities inform me and give me context.”

“I hope I can bring attention to this battered place, with its determined and resilient communities. Its mudflats, tidal rivers and estuaries are sacred places to me,” Nightingale said.

‘Perfect’

Portland resident Amy Cissell feels a

similar connection. She writes urban fantasy and paranormal romance novels. Her first series, the Eleanor Morgan Novels, was in part inspired by the Northwest.

Her second series, the Oracle Bay novels, are set in the fictional Oracle Bay, which she calls a mix between Oysterville and Ocean Park. “The crew of psychics and friends regularly take trips down to Long Beach and occasionally Astoria,” she said.

The Peninsula’s ambiance convinced her.

“The first time I visited, I knew that’s where they lived,” she said. “I’d been checking out spots up and down the Oregon Coast, and then on a whim decided to visit Long Beach. It was perfect.”

“I love the feel of the towns, the scenery and wildlife, the availability of good

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If You Go

Books at Long Beach — Pacific Northwest Author Showcase and Book Fair

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 5

Chautauqua Lodge, 304 14th St., N.W., Long Beach, Wash.

For a list of authors, visit facebook.com/Books.at.Long.Beach

Free.