

Long Beach writer debuts poetry collection

Book is local author's latest release

BY ZOË BUCHLI

In many ways, author Jan Bono's latest book reads like a biography.

The book, "Fisher Girl, Fisher Wife, Fisher Poet" features a collection of poems inspired by Bono's relationship with fishing, spanning from her childhood, to her life now.

Using old black and white photos alongside her poems, the book weaves her life's moments together through the lens of fishing.

"I've always been a dock rat," Bono said. "I was always hanging out there, and all of these things about fishing and the sea have become ingrained in me."

The first section of the book, "Fisher Girl," explores Bono's childhood memories of fishing. Her family's connection to fishing started nearly a century ago when one of her grandfathers worked as a fisherman on the Mississippi River. Bono's father continued the family fishing line working as a



Jan Bono

Buying Bono's work

Jan Bono can be reached at 360-642-4932 to purchase books from her directly. Books are also available to order at janbonobooks.com.

fisherman in the rivers of northern Washington. He would often bring Bono along on his adventures.

"I wasn't quite two years old when my mom made my dad take me fishing. He had to tie a rope around my waist so that if I fell in he could reel me in before I drowned," Bono said. "I loved it. I loved learning to fly fish. I remember catching my first steelhead was an amazing moment."

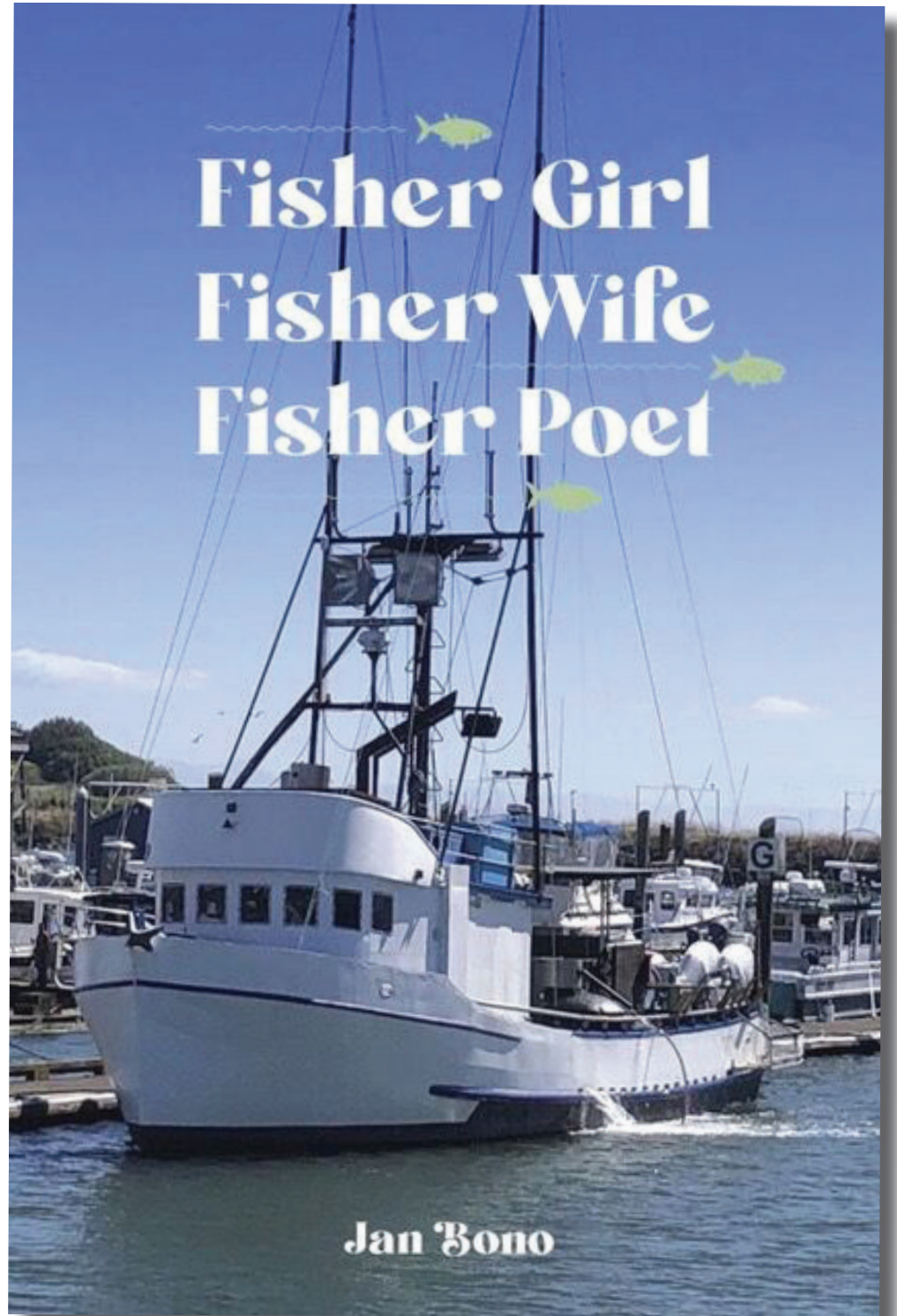
The following two sections, "Fisher Wife" and "Fisher Poet" shift to poems influenced by Bono's more recent links to fishing, including being married to a commercial fisherman after moving to the Washington coast in 1977.

"I had fresh fish coming in all the time. The freezer was always full of seafood," Bono said.

Following Bono's separation from him, she still found herself surrounded by "fisher friends" and an overarching love for the sport.

Fast forward to the FisherPoets Gathering last year, where Bono found her lightbulb moment for the book. While talking with friends at the event, one of them asked her point-blank: "Well Jan, when's your book coming out?"

"(I remember thinking,) I have all the stories. All my life I've had fishing stories. If I brainstormed right now I bet I could



The Illahee Apartments



*As good as it gets
in Downtown
Astoria!*

1046 Grand Avenue
Astoria, OR 97103

503-325-2280



come up with 30," Bono said.

Immediately, she began crafting poems on a paper towel while listening to other poets perform.

"Of course, it was the one time in my life where I didn't bring my notebook with me," she said.

Dave Densmore is a longtime friend and mentor of Bono's. In addition to work-

ing as a fisherman in Astoria and having his own career of poetry writing, Densmore regularly emcees and performs at the FisherPoets Gathering.

"I'm her mentor but she doesn't need any help," Densmore said. "She's a very talented writer and one of the best known in

See Page 7