

Poet featured at First Draft Writers' Series

Penelope Scambly Schott lives in Dufur, where she leads an annual poetry workshop

Go! staff

PENDLETON — Penelope Scambly Schott is the featured speaker at the First Draft Writers' Series, a monthly event at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

The gathering is Thursday, July 21, 7 p.m. There are two options: attend in person at the art center, or join via Zoom (access the Zoom link at pendletonarts.org/first-draft).

ABOUT THE WRITER

Schott has published a novel and several books of poetry. She was awarded four New Jersey arts fellowships before moving to Oregon, where her verse biog-



Penelope Schott/Contributed photo

Poet Penelope Scambly Schott is the featured writer at the First Draft Writers' Series on July 21 at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

raphy "A is for Anne: Mistress Hutchinson Disturbs the Commonwealth" received an Oregon Book Award for Poetry.

When asked about specific themes in her work, Schott said she's "always been guilty of over empathy."

FIRST DRAFT

Thursday, July 21

7 p.m.

Pendleton Center for the Arts

214 N. Main St.

Also on Zoom

pendletonarts.org

To illustrate, she shares the poem she wrote when she was about 6 and living in Manhattan. It was inspired by her view from her 13th story window at the six-story walk-up across the street.

Sad little skyscraper on a New York City street,

*If only it could grow a few more feet
Then it would be tall and could
reach the sky
and wouldn't be thought of as small
at all.*

She now lives in Dufur, a town of 635 south of The Dalles.

"I write about Dufur — about the land, people I know, lizards in my rock pile," she said.

She's led an annual poetry workshop in Dufur for several years, and she and her

husband host the White Dog Poetry Salon in Portland.

Her recent books are "On Dufur Hill" (2020) and "Sophia and Mister Walter Whitman" (2021), co-written "with her equally enthusiastic and devoted dog." Releasing this year is "Waving Fly Swatters at Angels."

Her poetry, she said, is accessible to all — even those who don't care for poetry.

"My poems are clear and understandable," she said. "You will know what I mean and you may either cry or grin. I am telling you the stories I would tell a friend and hoping that makes you and me friends — at least on the page and perhaps also in person."

Her talk will be followed by a Q&A session that includes discussion on the craft of writing.

OPEN MIC

Those who would like to share an original piece can sign up for the open mic session that follows the Q&A. Up to 10 people can sign up for a time slot (3-5 minutes). For information, go to pendletonarts.org or call 541-278-9201.

SUPPORT

First Draft is made possible through the support of Oregon Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Astronomy Outing!

Tuesday, July 26
9 pm - 1 am

for participants under age 16, adult supervision required

At a dark sky location close by

Free! • Beginners encouraged!

To sign up and receive details,
pre-register at info@wallowology.org

The evening session will include a short introduction to astronomical observation and guided help in using a telescope to view planets, star clusters, nebula, and galaxies.

In partnership with Ida B. Wells High School Astronomy Club

Wallowology!

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