

Local authors share visions of ‘Life on the North Coast’

This winter, the Cannon Beach Library encouraged writers from northwestern Oregon and southwestern Washington to submit a poem, story or essay on the theme, “Life on the North Coast,” for inclusion in a Writers Read Celebration.

From 49 submissions by 37 authors, a library committee selected 11 works by 10 artists from Clatsop and Pacific counties — the writers who read their literary responses to life on the North Coast. Although March entered more feline than ovine on Friday evening, readings by these local authors quickly took the chill off 59 people attending this celebration.

Local artists reading at Friday’s event included Katja Biesanz, John Ciminello, James Dott, Mindy Hardwick, Geno Leech, Jennifer Nightingale, Robert Pyle, Emily Ransdell, Debbie Simorre and Victoria Stoppiello.

The descriptions and metaphors embedded in their writings — as well as the emphases and comments inserted in their presentations — elicited smiles, applause and, at times, roaring laughter from an appreciative audience. Following the readings, authors received a writing jour-



Marianne Monson comes to the Cannon Beach Library on March 9.

nal, discussed the writing process and joined attendees for conversation, coffee, fruit, cheese and Wanda Meyer-Price’s homemade cookies.

The successful event has organizers are considering a similar reading next year. Which reminds me: For those who missed January’s “Evening with the Fisher Poets in Cannon Beach,” which

also had the joint jumping, the Fisher Poets will return for another library performance at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 25.

Also, Marianne Monson speaks Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m., as part of the library’s Northwest Speaker Series. In addition to several children’s books, Monson recently published two non-fiction books: “Frontier Grit: The

AT THE LIBRARY

JOE BERNT



Unlikely True Stories of Pioneer Women” (2016) and “Women of the Blue and Gray” (2018). Both present historical, biographical sketches based on women’s writings, speeches and letters. Monson’s historical novel, “Her Quiet Revolution: A Novel of Martha Hughes Cannon— Frontier Doctor and First Female State Senator,” is in press.

Monson — who earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Brigham Young University and master’s degrees in creative writing from Vermont College and in English pedagogy from Pacific University — was a managing editor for a publishing house.

She now teaches English and creative writing at Clatsop Community College.

Shawn Stephenson, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist at the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Newport, will present “The Puffin Study” at the Friends of Haystack Rock

meeting in the library, Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. He will discuss the ongoing tufted puffin study at Haystack Rock, a status assessment of a seabird experiencing declining population. Stephenson earned a bachelor of science degree in fisheries and wildlife from Utah State University and a master of science degree in biological science from the University of Alaska.

Participants in Cannon Beach Reads will discuss “Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis,” by J.D. Vance. In this national bestseller, Vance describes the decline of rural communities in the United States during the past 50 years. In this case, Vance focuses on the destruction of his own family in Appalachian Ohio and Kentucky.

Vance escapes the fate of many childhood friends in coal country through the support of his grandmother, who lived next door; his older sister; and four years of Marine Corps discipline. Kathy Bell will lead the Cannon Beach Reads discussion in the library, Wednesday, March 20, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. New participants are invited to attend, join in the conversation and sample Sandi Lundy’s cookies and other treats.

How rescue organizations shoulder the burden of animals left behind

This month is dedicated to all the 501(c)3 dog rescues who work so hard, often with very little financial support, to not only save the lives of the voiceless, but to ensure their well-being while in rescue and after. The best of the best rescues exemplify Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s timelessly-true words, “You become responsible forever for what you’ve tamed.” These charity rescue organizations don’t just carry the heavy weights of their own work; they also shoulder the responsibilities society leaves behind.

I’m not saying rescue groups are perfect. They are, after all, humans and members of the same society. Just as some dog guardians may be more careful than others, so may some rescuers be. I would love to see more rescues commit to anti-averse



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measures, for example, and so I hereby commit to helping them. Nevertheless, I daresay that most reputable dog rescuers have experienced more heartbreak than anyone else I know, and for nothing in return to themselves. Their only currency is the work itself, to help the helpless, innocent creatures lost, stolen, misunderstood, neglected, abandoned, or abused. This is a currency valuable to no one, except those who respect animals.

I invite you to join me in giving these people a true gift of the heart that will last forever. From this moment on, whenever you

talk, or write, about the dog you obtained from a rescue — or a shelter — before you choose your words, remember who rescued that dog from whatever s/he may have suffered. The rescue or shelter rescued that dog. Give them a gift of appreciation for their work and devotion by foregoing such phrasing as “We rescued our dog from...” in favor instead of the more accurate “We adopted our dog from...”

If this seems silly, try imagining yourself as a rescuer. You’re the head of All Dogs Kindred Rescue and you’ve spent the day saving dogs from horrible situations, you’ve seen unforgivable things, you’ve wondered where your mortgage money will come from, since you just paid a huge vet bill with your own money, and when you will find time to sleep between bandage changes,

medication times, and your paying job. Over the years you’ve spent tens of thousands of your hard earned personal dollars to ensure the best care and preparation for the dogs you’ve rescued and that the homes they get are safe, responsible, and loving. You’re completely devoted to doing the very best work for these dogs. Then you notice one, or a few, of the adopters posting about their dogs and you’re so happy, until you see “I just rescued this dog from All Dogs Kindred Rescue!” Or, perhaps worse yet, simply “I just rescued this dog!” One word can make a huge difference.

Rescue: To free from danger, violence, or evil; to save. Unless the rescue organization adopting out dogs is itself abusing or neglecting the dogs, it may be hurtful to the rescuers

involved to say that you “rescued” your dog from a rescue. If you have ever been a dog rescuer, you probably know that the very last thing a rescuer needs is more hurt, however small. This little change of phrasing is one way that even those who cannot afford to donate to charity rescues and who don’t have time to volunteer can still do something very kind and very helpful—you can do this yourself and you can tell everyone else you know to do it too: “I adopted my dog from [Name Rescue Group].” Or, if you really feel you want to specify that the dog is a rescue dog: [I adopted this amazing rescue dog from [Name Rescue Group].” You get the idea.

Rain Jordan, CBCC-KA, KPA CTP, is a certified canine training & behavior professional. Visit her at www.elevatedogtraining.com.

HAPPENINGS IN BRIEF

Fire Mountain Raffle Party

The Fire Mountain Raffle Party is set for Saturday, March 16, with live music by Seattle area band, Hot Club Sandwich.

The prize winner will receive a \$4,000 trip to a destination of their choice, the second-place prize is a stay at North Fork 53 and third-place prize is an Epic Surf Package by Oregon Surf Adventures that includes lessons for two.

Admission of \$40 provides raffle ticket and entry into the event for those 21 and older. The dance party includes gourmet food and a no-host cash bar.

Tickets can be purchased from a Fire Mountain parent or online at firemountain-affle2019.eventbrite.com.

For more information about the school or to register for the 2019-20 school year, please visit www.firemountainschool.org.

Community grants available

The city of Cannon Beach invites nonprofit organizations providing arts, educational, recreational, environmental, community or social services to apply for grant funding.

File an application with the Parks and Community Services Committee. P.O. Box 368, Cannon Beach, OR 97110. Applications must be received by 2 p.m., April 17.



Cannon Beach History Center and Museum

Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Moses Williams with Greg Shine

A little-known part of Oregon history will be explored at the Cannon Beach History Center and Museum 4 p.m., Thursday, March 14, with Greg Shine.

Shine has recently written an article on Buffalo soldiers in the Pacific Northwest and their time

in Washington and Oregon. His presentation will focus primarily on Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Moses Williams and his connections to Fort Stevens.

Born in rural Louisiana in 1845, Williams joined the U.S. Army in 1866 and embarked on a 31-year military career in the American West, leading troopers of the Ninth U.S. Cavalry’s Buffalo Soldiers and receiving the army’s highest award, the Medal of Honor. From his posting as ordnance sergeant at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, Williams petitioned the War Department for the honor of 15 years after demonstrating what the assistant secretary of war later called “most distinguished gallantry in action with hostile Apache Indian in the foothills of the Cuchillo Negro Mountains” in August 1881. Williams was posted at Fort Stevens on October 15, 1895, and served for three years.

Gregory Shine is a historian and author probably best known to Cannon Beach History Center and Museum members for his research, publications and 2009 presentation related to the US Schooner Shark,

believed to be the source of the carronade preserved at the History Center.

The Cannon Beach History Center and Museum is a private nonprofit located at 1387 South Spruce St. Admission to the museum is donation based. For more information visit www.cbhistory.org or call 503-436-9301.

Nehalem Historical Society events

Nehalem Valley Historical Society Presents “Telling it Like it Was,” four presentations in history, held on the second Saturday of March, April and May at 3 p.m. at the Pine Grove Community House, 225 Laneda Ave.

The events are free and open to the public.

On March 9, the series presents “Surveying Neahkahnie’s Treasure Rocks” presented by Phil Costaggini, researcher, author, and vice president of the Sir Francis Drake Association of Oregon and California.

Learn about the genesis of Costaggini’s three-year journey to produce his thesis: “Sir Francis Drake’s

Northwest Exploration: An Historical Discussion and Survey of Artifacts at Neahkahnie Mountain.”

On April 13, the topic is “Early 20th Century Timber Workers — Songs and Stories” presented by James Cook, Oregon vice president of the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association. Hear stories and enjoy photographs about Oregon’s north coast lumber camps and mills during the early decades of the 20th century.

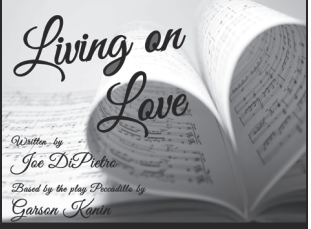
Special guests musicians Scott Butler and Mark Loring of the duo Audio Tattoo will perform songs of Oregon workers’ life in the woods and mills.

On May 11, the series concludes with “A. E. Doyle’s and Ellis Lawrence’s Beach Architecture” presented by Phil Niles, historian and author of “The Beauty of the City: A. E. Doyle, Portland’s Architect.”

Learn how two architects recognized the beauty of the north Oregon coast in the 1900s through their design of summer homes on Neahkahnie Mountain and

the once flourishing Neahkahnie Tavern that was perched above the beach in Manzanita. Introduction by David Wiegand, director of the North County Recreation District, an A.E. Doyle designed campus from the 1920s, and historical society board member.

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