

# THE FISHERPOETS GATHER

Cannon Beach Gazette

Fisherpoets will read poetry and sing tunes April 25 in the Cannon Beach Library. The gathering begins at 7 p.m.

Highlighting the evening will be former merchant seaman and poet Clemens Starck, whose latest book of his collected poems, "Cathedrals & Parking Lots," was released last fall.

Starck is a Princeton dropout, a retired union carpenter and construction foreman, and the author of seven books of poems—including the award-winning "Journeyman's Wages."

His other books are: "Studying Russian on Company Time," "China Basin," "Traveling Incognito," "Rembrandt, Chainsaw" and "Old Dogs, New Tricks."

A widower, he has three grown children and lives outside of Dallas in the foothills of the Coast Range in western Oregon. His website is [www.clemstarck.com](http://www.clemstarck.com)

Also appearing at the

event will be Jon Broderick, of Cannon Beach, and Jay Speakman, of Gearhart.

Broderick is a founder of the FisherPoets Gathering, which meets for a weekend every February throughout Astoria. A former high school teacher, he has been a commercial salmon fisherman for more than 40 years first in Kodiak, then in southeast Alaska and mostly in Bristol Bay where he and his family run a salmon set gillnet outfit each summer.

Speakman is a descendant of an old Maine seafaring family. After attending college in Hawaii, he began a lobstering career, weathering a dozen seasons in Maine. He spent several more fishing commercially in Alaska and British Columbia.

Speakman has worked aboard freighters and yachts, taught seamanship at an Outward Bound school, and worked as a marine mechanic and boatyard jack-of-all-trades. He gave up fishing full-time to become an architectural blacksmith in Santa Fe, New Mexico where he met his wife,



Sally Sheldon

Diane. Together they operate a small home-decor shop in Cannon Beach. They have two grown daughters and live in Gearhart.

Speakman's writings have appeared in The

Alaska Fisherman's Journal, Like Fish in the Freezer, and Moving Mountain. He performs each year at the FisherPoets Gathering in Astoria and has long been part of its planning committee.

## Reading Outreach in Clatsop County

By ESTHER MOBERG  
For Cannon Beach Gazette

As the library director of the Seaside Public Library, one of the things I am very proud of is our collaboration with the Astoria Public Library and Warrenton Community Library. Together we work with the five school districts in the County to provide free library cards for all children in Clatsop County and an annual countywide summer reading program. This program is called Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County, or, Libraries ROCC. We host an annual fundraiser every year at the Seaside Convention Center. This year's event, Write On Seaside! the third annual event, will be held on April 14 starting at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door. With your ticket you will have



Seaside Library

Little free libraries, including this one from Vintage Hardware, are among auction items on display at Libraries ROCC.

light bites and wine to enjoy. We will have 8 authors there who have written short stories that they will share excerpts from throughout the evening. You will have the chance to bid on naming the characters in their stories as well as the silent auction items and live auction for the chance to bid on one of

the six little free libraries up for auction to make one your very own. I've included an excerpt from one of the short stories below. Please join me at the Convention Center on Sunday, April 14. It promises to be a very fun evening.

2019 Libraries Reading Outreach Fundraiser story excerpt, "What Sets Us Free," by Dayle Nelson: Daily patterns shape and root each of us: seeing or touching the faces of those who know us best, the inexpressible joy of walking under leafy trees and feeling sunshine and raindrops, marveling at the profusion of stars on a clear night, holding someone's hand, the songs of thrushes and meadow larks, the taste of honey, the soft pillow as you fall asleep. When all that is familiar and loved is suddenly banished in one arbitrary stroke, it is as if an emergency surgery has occurred

and a limb has been amputated without your consultation or consent, and now you are expected to adjust and go on as if you are OK. But you are not okay. This was how Daria felt. Knowing she had an immigration court hearing in a month, that her parents had hired an attorney for her, that her university roommates were caring for her cat, and that her school advisor was advocating for her so she wouldn't get kicked out of the university — none of it lessened the trauma or lifted the black fog that enveloped her existence.

If you want to find out the rest of the story, join me at the convention center on Sunday, April 14. All proceeds from the event will benefit the Libraries Reading Outreach in Clatsop County program and the Seaside Public Library Foundation's long term goals for the Seaside Public Library.

## Annual library volunteer appreciation day

This column often mentions the important role volunteers play in providing library, information, meeting facilities and programs to Cannon Beach, Arch Cape and other North Coast communities.

The library members make a point of the contributions of volunteers frequently, but especially so at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon — this year held last Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce Community Hall.

Catered by Season's Café, library members and volunteers celebrated 102 volunteers, a record number, who contributed 8132.5 hours of their time and talents to keeping the library running smoothly while expanding available programming and services. The volunteers contribute the equivalent of what four fulltime paid employees might provide, which strains the budgets of many city governments.

In addition to a great lunch and conversations, volunteers won two tickets to Get



AT THE LIBRARY  
JOE BERNT

Lit in Cannon Beach, a program in which the library is participating this year. Others received two gift cards from the Driftwood and the Bistro and one gift card from The Irish Table and from Pelican Brewing.

Volunteering at the library brings benefits beyond the mythical "free lunch." Most volunteers — whether working on the desk with patrons, cataloging books, sorting shelves, stocking the book sale room or participating in programming communities — find the library a perfect introduction to a large group of area residents. This is especially the case for people new to the North Coast. At the library they quickly form lasting friendships in their new community.

Involvement at the library

introduces such local authors as Peter Lindsey who, as part of Get Lit, will read from his latest book, "Movin' the Water Around: Commercial Trolling with the Cannon Beach Dory Fleet." Catch his presentation from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m., Friday, April 5, at the library, 131 N. Hemlock St.

Or, again at the library, the Friends of Haystack Rock will host Joe Liebert, of the Portland Audubon Society, in a presentation on Oregon's black oystercatchers. Part of The World of Haystack Rock Series, Liebert will speak Wednesday, April 10, at 7 p.m.

Or, also at the library, the Northwest Author Series, presents Portland novelist and former journalist Dana Haynes reading from and discussing his many thrillers, Saturday, April 13, from 2 to

3:30 p.m. In 2010, "Crashers," Haynes' first thriller, received the Spotted Owl Award from Friends of Mystery as the best mystery or thriller by a Northwest writer.

Or, catch "FisherPoets Return" at the library, Monday, April 25, at 7 p.m. Clem Starck will read from his latest book and be accompanied by Jon Broderick and Jay Speakman, who also will present some of their songs. The last FisherPoets show earlier this spring rocked an overflow crowd at the library.

Finally, On Wednesday, April 17, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Cannon Beach Reads group will discuss John Steinbeck's "Cannery Row." The cast of characters in this classic contains well-intentioned scoundrels, misfits and deadenders, all of them trying to please Doc, the local collector of scientific specimens.

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## CEDR to hand out countywide business awards

Cannon Beach Gazette

To promote business creation, retention and expansion in Clatsop County, CEDR will recognize outstanding businesses at the annual awards reception and event on Thursday, April 11, at the Seaside Convention Center, from 5:30-7:30 pm.

Award selections will be based on merit, as demonstrated by the nomi-

nation form and letter(s) of support. Businesses of all sizes will be given equal consideration.

Businesses must maintain operations in Clatsop County to be eligible, and must be structured as a "for-profit" organization.

Visit the Clatsop Community College website at [www.clatsopcc.edu/community-resources/CEDR](http://www.clatsopcc.edu/community-resources/CEDR) and click on the nomination form link on the left side of the page.

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