

Fishtrap Fireside celebrates Women's History Month

Virtual event goes live on March 4

Go! staff

ENTERPRISE — Fishtrap Fireside celebrates Women's History Month with readings from three Willamette County writers: Debbie Carson, Talia Filipek and Toni Marie Jones.

The episode goes live Friday, March 4, at fishtrap.org and on Fishtrap's YouTube channel. It may be viewed at any time.

Fishtrap Fireside is a monthly reading series that features diverse voices from local and regional writers.

"Every year Fishtrap Fireside makes a point to celebrate Women's History Month by featuring three women writers who have unique stories and life experiences to share," said Mike Midlo, Fishtrap's program director.

The March episode of Fishtrap Fireside is sponsored by Alder Slope Nursery.

DEBBIE CARSON

Carson was born in Philadelphia, where the science museum's Giant Heart's pulsating walls and cobwebs in its darker corners fascinated and terrified her. It took



Debbie Carson

her until age 5 to finally muster up the nerve to walk through it by herself. That same year, her family moved to Connecticut, where surrounding dairy farms gave way to insurance company campuses.

In the recession of 1973, her art degree netted her work as short order cook, an MIT temp, and as a transferrer of dead fish from old bottles to new at Harvard's Ichthyology Department. Clearly, it was time to head West.

In Eugene, when an old friend asked, "Want to visit treeplanting camp?" she joined Hoedads Reforestation Co-op, making lifelong friends while earning just about zilch planting trees. She fared better working as a USFS temp, but eventually returned to college. She's now retired from school librarianship and teaching art.

TALIA FILIPEK

Filipek resides in Enterprise,



Talia Filipek

ogling at the mountains with a cup of cocoa in one hand and a baby in the other arm. Growing up, she visited here with her Eastern Oregon-based family to camp and explore, and then returned as a young adult to work for the USFS as a ranger. Her professional career has taken her to Corvallis, Culver, Estacada, Bend and tall buildings for work in design, editorial, photography, outdoor ed and social sciences.

Though she loves variety in her adventures, she always knew that near the Willamettes would be her base camp one day. By trade, she captures the delight of humanity, love, untold stories and local products with her camera. Beyond park ranger blogging and



Toni Marie Jones

college literary zines, her writing has often been a practice of personal reflection, so this reading at Fishtrap Fireside will be a world premiere of some inner workings. Learn more at taliajean.com

TONI MARIE JONES

A Willamette County native, Jones is of both European and Native American Heritage. Her Irish immigrant great-great-grandparents homesteaded in 1880 on what is now called the Zumwalt Prairie. Her direct Indian lineage includes Cayuse, Assiniboine, Northern Cree and Muskego Cree. Two of her third-great-grandfathers were interpreters for the Nez Perce and the Cayuse during the 1855

Treaty negotiations. She has five great-grandfathers who were chief traders for the Hudson's Bay Company. Two were posted at Fort Nez Perce.

Jones is a mother of two adults, a fiber and beadwork artist, and a wildflower enthusiast. She has a liberal studies degree with an anthropology minor specializing in Oregon Indians.

After a career working for the Oregon University System as a secretary, program manager and graphic artist, and another working as a marketing director and consultant for nonprofit air ambulance companies, she is happily retired.

Jones is the co-editor of the Frenchtown Historical Foundation newsletter, a publication focusing on the Native American, French-Canadian and Metis families' history of the area. Her work has appeared in two Fishtrap Outpost chapbooks, and she is a member of the Write Women and Sheep Creek Word Herders, local writing groups headed up by Janie Tippett.

Hosted by the Island City Lions Club

Locked & Loaded 2022

La Grande Gunshow

Sat. March 12 • 9 to 5 & Sun. March 13 • 9 to 1
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Background checks will run and ATM on site.
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