

Whatcom Writers & Publishers

January 2012

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org



New Meeting Place: Windows on the Bay

2625 S. Harbor Loop (Bellingham Yacht Club Building)

Wednesday, January 18 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: \$16.00 (Includes tax & gratuity)

Reservations required:

Contact Carolyn Leeper by Friday, January 13

714-8901 or cdleepeer@hotmail.com

MENU:

Caprese Appetizers

(small mozzarella balls with tomatoes and basil, drizzled in olive oil)

Chicken Picatta with Wild Rice

(boneless, skinless chicken breast in a light lemon caper white wine sauce)
Caesar Salad with Soft Bread Sticks brushed olive oil and seasonings.

Grilled seasonal green vegetable

Brownies & Lemon Tarts for dessert — Coffee & water

(Bar serves beer, wine and soft drinks. Cash only)

**In keeping with the tradition of WWP offering a low-cost alternative,
for paid-up members, a maximum of 8 non-eaters will be allowed.**

These beverage-only attendees can pay \$5 *cash at the door* for coffee
or soft drinks or as credit toward an alcoholic drink. First come, first served.

If you don't make the list of 8 people, you can be put on the waiting list to see if
someone cancels. If not, and you still wish to attend, you must pay the full price for dinner

SPEAKER

William Dietrich — Constructing a Writing Career

William Dietrich is a full-time novelist who has also written nonfiction and journalism. He'll share his publishing experiences, suggest ways to develop a career, and answer what he can on the psychology of being a writer, getting published, agents, editors, contracts, publicity, and so on. The emphasis of the presentation is on career, not 'how to write.'

Bill is the author of 10 novels (with another on the way in June) and 5 nonfiction books, working with HarperCollins, Warner Books, Simon & Schuster, University of Washington Press, and Sasquatch. He has sold into 28 languages and won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award and Washington Governor Writer's Award. As a reporter at the Seattle Times, he shared a Pulitzer for covering the Exxon Valdez oil spill. He is a WWU alum and has taught at Western, was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, and won two National Science Foundation fellowships to Antarctica. www.williamdietrich.com.

Whatcom Writers and Publishers

serves the local writing and literary community in Bellingham, Washington, and the surrounding area. WWP is professional association of writers, freelance professionals, book authors, self-publishers, publishers, editors, proofreaders, book designers, booksellers, web designers, and others, all of whom are dedicated to promoting the written word, whether through fiction, nonfiction, or poetry.

Whatcom Writers and Publishers

P.O. Box 2342
Bellingham, WA 98227
www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org

Fred Su: President

Pam Beason: Membership Chair

Carol Schultz: Treasurer

Kathy Brown: Publicity

Carolyn Leeper: Newsletter Editor
(submit items to: cdleeper@hotmail.com)

Calendar

February 15 — Gary McKinney -
“*Establishing a Small Press*”

March 21 — Dawn Groves
“Social Media for Writers and Publishers”

April 18: — Pam Beason
“From Self-Publishing to
Traditional Publishing, plus E-Books.”

2012 Membership Dues! \$25.00

You can pay the dues at the meeting or mail your check to:

Whatcom Writers and Publishers, P.O. Box 2342, Bellingham, WA 98227.

WWP Membership Form:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Website(s): _____

Briefly describe your writing interests and activities: _____

President's Message

Happy New Year!

Two things are kicking off our new year. One, for the first time in our history, in our current and all previous incarnations, WWP will have a Pulitzer Prize winner as our speaker. William Dietrich, who shared the prize while working at the Seattle Times on the Exxon Valdez disaster, will speak on "Constructing a Writing Career."

Next, we are trying a new venue, Windows on the Bay, in the Bellingham Yacht Club building. A number of participants complained that Jalapeno's was too small or that they didn't like Mexican food. Windows on the Bay is a larger venue, located in Squalicum Harbor with a view of the waterfront, and the menu varies. This month's menu sounds great, and appetizers will be available for a social gathering before the 6:00 PM meeting.

Details of the menu, price, and contact info are included elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our line-up of speakers so far for the new year (third Wednesdays) are February: Gary McKinney, "Establishing a Small Press"; March: Dawn Groves, "Social Media for Writers and Publishers"; April: Pam Beason, "From Self-Publishing to Traditional Publishing, plus E-Books." Note that the titles are preliminary and tentative. I will soon be aggressively pursuing speakers for the May and June time slots.

So, come celebrate the new literary year for Whatcom Writers and Publishers. And, may 2012 be a banner year for you as author/publisher.

Fred Su

Stone Soup

Miki Gilliland

Punctuation that Sells

If a writer wants to sell a story or magazine, write a professional newsletter, that author must know the Associated Press style, a mandate for those wanting a newspaper job. Nothing makes a harried editor reject a manuscript quicker than if he sees too many parenthesis or exclamation marks in a sentence.

There are a plethora of reasons. AP style tries to be totally accurate, clear to any reader with an eighth grade education, while writing as tersely as possible. It's an inoffensive way of writing, avoiding the vulgar and profane. It's not the same way of writing taught in English classes. By following this usage style, the writer chooses the correct word. Words are clear, the grammar and punctuation are always the same.

There are two books written decades ago that every non-fiction writer needs.

One is the AP Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law. The other is a book called Watch Your Language by **Theodore M. Bernstein**, a former assistant managing editor of the New York Times for 25 years. Although he died in 1979, the book still is sold today and the advice is just as current.

The rules are stringent for punctuation. Start with commas as you will never see a comma before the word and unless the reporter is untrained.

Quotations are next. Don't use quotation marks around a word or phrase that is not a direct quote. Do not use quotation marks around a word or group of words that are directly quoted when the meaning is clear, regardless of the claim made or the slang used. Only use notable quotes or else paraphrase. AP style tries to avoid slang except when used in a direct quote. Even then the quote is cleaned up unless the reporter wants to make the person doing the talking look stupid. A good reporter gets on the phone to that person and asks if the quote is what the person meant to say.

Let the reader exclaim. Exclamation marks tells everybody to exclaim altogether. Only use an exclamation mark in a direct quote. If it's not a direct quote, put a period at the end of the sentence. The Fowler brothers said in their book The King's English that if a writer puts an exclamation mark after a mere sentence, that writer is lost in his own impressiveness.

An old journalism professor, Howard Briar, said that a writer should think of exclaiming as costing \$1000 and to spend the money wisely.

The Stylebook presents many other rules that are contrary to the way people write on the internet. Look before you submit.

CLASSES

Community
Education
383-3200



Whatcom
Community
College

Winter 12

For the Love of Poetry: A Winter Retreat with Betty Scott

NEW!



Devote a weekend to explore and celebrate poetry: its rhythms and music, images and ideas, heartbreak and love. We'll read, write, imagine, and be inspired by poetry's structure and styles. Please bring a few of your favorite poems to share, either written by you or a poet you admire. Published poet and teacher Betty Scott has an MA from WWU. In 2011, she was featured at the World Poetry International Festival in Richmond, Canada. She welcomes beginning and experienced writers. Saturday lunch break: Noon-1:00 PM.

W8220 / 2 sessions
SAT: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
SUN: 1:00-4:00 PM

\$89
SAT/SUN: 2/11 & 2/12
WCC - Foundation 201C

COMMUNITY EDUCATION REGISTRATION

Name _____
Street _____
City/State/Zip _____
Day Phone _____ Male Female
Evening Phone _____ Have you ever attended WCC?
Date of Birth _____ Yes No

Class No.	Class Title	Start/End Dates	Fee

Total Payment Enclosed: _____

Payment Method: Check payable to Whatcom Community College
 VISA MasterCard (Please do not send cash)

Account No. _____ Expiration Date _____
Name on Card _____
Note: VISA & MC payments also accepted by phone, 360.383.3200 or fax, 360.3201.

Mail to: Whatcom Community College,
Attn: Business Office
237 West Kellogg Road, Bellingham, WA 98226

Five Ways to Register!

1. PHONE IN:
Call Community Education at 360-383-3200 (Credit Cards only)
2. ON THE WEB:
www.whatcomcommunityed.com (Credit Cards only).
3. FAX IN the Registration Form to 360-383-3201 (Credit Cards only)
4. MAIL IN the Registration Form and Payment Attn: WCC Business Office, 237 W. Kellogg, Bellingham WA 98226
5. WALK IN: Register in person in the Foundation Building, Suite 101 (Credit Cards only).

Poetry

The Rock Elements

The rock elements are ancient,
they are found in the pathways
leading to higher ground,
mountain time, elevated,
difficult to reach, yet
available; stability and routine
built upon habits, traditions,
renewal and experiments
with self and nature.

What's in front of you
and the thing you stand upon,
is a mountain of evidence.

Pastures where many seeds
have been planted and grown.

Situations were harvested,
molded, folded, caressed,
placed in the fire, dancing—
we come out alive and when
tired—rest; we are restored
and rejuvenated. Placing our
hands in water in the stream,
we catch a glimpse of energy
which connects our ocean. We
met a long time ago, touch my
palms, hold the good memories.

— Sandra Lucke

Whatcom Community College

Nancy Canyon — Introduction to Creative Writing

How long have you been saying, “Someday I’ll write that book”? Why not start now! Participate in exercises designed to grow your writer’s voice as well as your confidence: developing details of setting, character, sense imagery and exploring different points of view. Five fun-filled evenings packed with writing tidbits and exercises. Bring pen and notebook. Whatcom Community College. January 26 — February 23. 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. \$139.00

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Betty Scott — For the Love of Poetry: A Winter Retreat

Devote a weekend to explore and celebrate poetry: its rhythms and music, images, ideas, heartbreak and love. We’ll read, write, imagine and be inspired by poetry’s structure and styles. Please bring a few of your favorite poems to share, either written by you or a poet you admire. Beginning and experienced writers are welcomed. Whatcom Community College. Sat., Feb. 11, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, and Sun. Feb. 12, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. \$89.00.

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Dawn Groves — Writing and Publishing Essentials: Non-Fiction

Explore writing and selling non-fiction works in this fascinating, real-world course. Course covers topics such as the marketplace and how to crack it, components of a successful non-fiction book, query letters, on-line resources, e-publishing versus traditional publishing and more. Whatcom Community College. — February 28 — March 6 — 6:30 to 9:00 pm. \$59.00.

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Susan Colleen Browne — Memoir Writers Retreat at WCC this Winter!

Treat yourself to a day of writing about your life! Join Susan Colleen Browne for “Memoir Writers Retreat,” Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9 am – 3:30 pm, and make real progress with your life story. In a relaxing setting, you’ll explore your memories through writing prompts, with fun, creative exercises to help you transform your experiences into a compelling storyline. We’ll discuss favorite memoirs you can use as a model or inspiration for your project, and work on strategies to keep you writing long after the retreat. Class activities also include:

- *Exploring ways you can organize your life story
- *Drafting an outline to bring out your important life events and interactions
- *Mapping your story trajectory
- *Connecting your setting and storyline, and
- *Designing your own unique writing practice.

Come with pen and paper or laptop, and leave with manuscript pages and a clear plan for your story! One hour lunch break provided; you are welcome to bring a sack lunch. Susan Colleen Browne is the author of a memoir, *Little Farm in the Foothills*.

Member Announcements

Carol Schultz

Aphasia (uh-fay'-zhah) n. – without speech. When a stroke caused Carol Schultz to lose her ability to speak, read and write, she became uniquely qualified to describe the aphasic life and explain the learning process that enabled her to become an author. Spirited readings from her book, *Crossing the Void: My Aphasic Journey*, will lead you through her recovery.

Friday, Jan 13, 10:00am — Bellingham Senior Activity Center

315 Halleck Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, (360)733-4030

Christine Smith's first book, *More Faster Backwards: Rebuilding David B*, was published December 1, 2011. Christine takes her readers through the wilds of the Inside Passage on the *David B's* maiden voyage to Alaska, while she weaves in tales of restoring the sixty-nine year old boat.

More Faster Backwards is available locally at Village Books, Pacific Marine Exchange and Gallery, and Vis Seafoods.

It's also available on my websites:

<http://morefasterbackwards.com/> and <http://northwestnavigation.com/>

Christine will be giving a talk to the Whatcom Maritime Association on January 11, and doing a book signing at the Pacific Marine Exchange on January 21, from 2-4pm.

For more information - <http://morefasterbackwards.com/calendar/>

Rae Ellen Lee will be the featured writer at a gala/auction event on St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, on March 10. Every year, hundreds of islanders change out of their flip-flops, shorts and t-shirts to dress in "island fancy" and raise money for a private school. Many artists are involved, and this is the second year for a writer. Rae Ellen says, "I lived on St. John from 2001 - 2007. This is an opportunity to sell my earlier two books, a memoir, *If the Shoe Fits-- the Adventures of a Reluctant Boatfrau* and a novel, *The Bluebird House*. I'll also introduce my new memoir, set on the island, *My Next Husband Will Be Normal*. Now, what to wear."

Alma Alexander: "*River*," an anthology put together by Alma Alexander, is filled with new work by SF/fantasy greats. You can order a copy here:

<http://www.darkquestbooks.com/store/product-info.php?pid109.html>

A new story by Alma Alexander, '*Dreamshare*,' which has been called luminous by the editor, will appear in the anthology Absolute Visions, <http://absolutewrite.com/absolute-visions/>.

Another story by Alma will be in the magazine, *Fantastique Unfettered*.

<http://www.fantastique-unfettered.com/>

Alma's latest novel, *Midnight at Spanish Gardens*'s about to become available as a paperback. Contact the author via her website at www.AlmaAlexander.com if you would like to reserve a signed copy. The ebook editions are available at Smashwords and Amazon.

Book Review

by Fred Su

***The Best Day the Worst Day, Life with Jane Kenyon*, by Donald Hall. \$13.95, Mariner Books**

The poet's job is to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, in such a beautiful way that people cannot live without it; to put into words those feelings we all have that are so deep, so important and yet so difficult to name. The poet's job is to find a name for everything; to be a fearless finder of the names of things; to be an advocate for the beauty of language, the subtleties of language. I think it's very serious stuff, art; it's not just decoration. The other job the poet has is to console in the face of the inevitable disintegration of loss and death, all of the tough things we have to face as humans. We have the consolation of beauty, of one soul extending to another soul and saying, "I've been there too."

Jane Kenyon

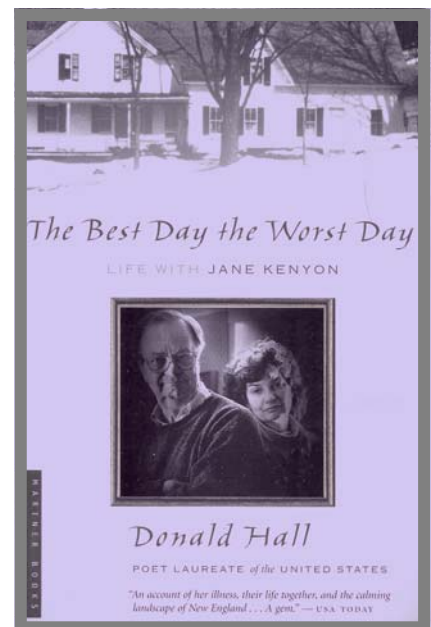
That description of what a poet does was run in the pages of this newsletter before, alongside Jane Kenyon's poem "Otherwise" (actually written for Donald Hall) and Galway Kinnell's "How Could You Not--for Jane Kenyon." Those two poems capture the essence of life and death, the human condition, and the beauty and power of words in the face of "inevitable disintegration."

Jane Kenyon was Donald Hall's poetry student at the University of Michigan. Hall had just gone through a divorce and Kenyon had just broken up with her boyfriend. Hall was 19 years older, but these soulmates of poetry found each other. Kenyon convinced Hall to leave academia behind and move back to his grandparents' house in New Hampshire. There, they lived the life of freelance writers, book authors, and poets. They had the talent and verve to write and make a living at it. Once in the shadow of her husband (who was Poet Laureate of the United States), Jane came into her own as poet and even outshone her husband. The book captures what it is like to be a top-tier writer, mingling with other well-known writers, and recounts their paid travels to other countries as representatives of the American writing community. Theirs was a remarkable relationship, akin to Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning.

This is a difficult memoir to read because it is mainly about the disintegration and death of Jane Kenyon from leukemia. She died at age 47, at the height of her powers as a poet. From the first diagnosis of leukemia, Jane had 15 months to live. She underwent a bone marrow transplant at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle. She said, "I hate this city." No wonder, all she ever got was pain, suffering, and false hope in Seattle.

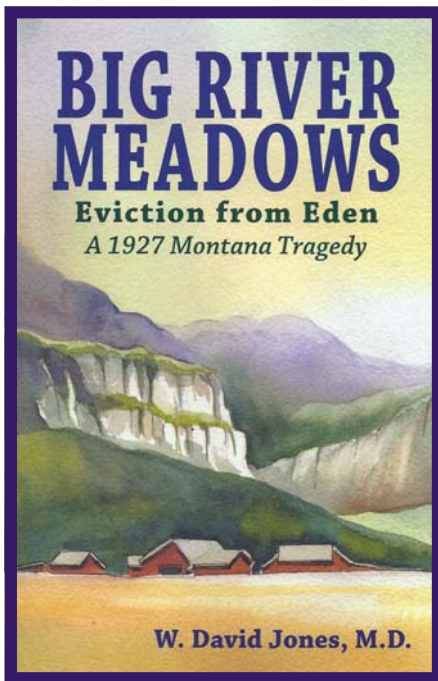
This book forces you to gaze at your own mortality. As writers, we wish to leave something of worth behind. Jane Kenyon did.

[See <http://eaglepoundgallery.com/zoom/984x588/997952.html>, "The Wish," by Donald Hall.]



Book Review

by Carolyn Leeper



Big River Meadows

Eviction from Eden
A 1927 Montana Tragedy
by W. David Jones, M.D.

** Available at Village Books
on Amazon and Kindle*

This novel, based on a true life story, brings the reader into the life and emotions of 12-year old Billy Jones who witnesses an encounter between his mother and the hired man, Jack Dougan. Stunned and confused, Billy tells his father, Sandy what he saw. When Sandy is killed, Billy blames himself but keeps his involvement and guilt feelings a secret.

In the fall of 1912, Sandy Jones met the local homesteader-teacher Minerva Burton, "Burt" to all who knew her. Though Sandy was ten years younger than Burt, he was handsome, ambitious, rich and educated. After a two year courtship, Sandy and Burt married. Burt gave up teaching to help run the ranch and raise her family but couldn't give up dreams of romance and adventure.

In mid-March, 1927, an unkempt stranger arrived, needing a job until he could earn enough for a ticket "back to civilization." Directed to Sandy Jones' ranch, Jack Dougan was hired to stay through harvest time. What followed changed everyone's life.

A fascinatingly detailed account of ranch life, horses and cows, plowing, planting, harvesting, Big River Meadows is a refresher for those who lived that life style and a window to that life for those raised in towns and cities. The mountain pack trip into Big River Meadows lets us experience the difficulty of the trails with the exhilaration of the high mountains.

Excerpt from Chapter I:

David pulled into the driveway and stumbled up the steps to Isabel's adult family home. He rang the night bell and a frazzled Isabel welcomed him with a hug.

"I so sorry to call you at midnight, Dr. Jones, but he is wild. I afraid he will hurt himself or somebody."

They walked together into Bill's little room. Pictures of his ranch, cattle and horses were on the walls. His favorite candy dispenser was on the night stand. The old cowboy was hobbling about the room crying and wailing, "My daddy was murdered and it's all my fault."

David tried to console his father. "Calm down dad. Tell me what happened."

"Who are you? Do something; my daddy was murdered."

Isabel pleaded, "Beel, this is your son David."

"Where's David? He should hear this."

"Dad, it's me David. I'm here."

Bill took David's hand. "I guess you're David. You don't look like David."

"Dad, tell me what's the matter. Tell me what happened."

Bill's eyes were wide and terrified. He glanced about the room focusing on the pictures or to the shadows. He collapsed in a chair and started crying—"O mother, why did you do it? Why did I tell? It's all my fault."

David sat next to Bill and held his dad's gnarled rancher's hand—a hand that told of a lifetime of hard work. Each bulbous knuckle or askew joint was another story. David realized that he was talking with Billy Jones, the 12-year-old boy who had just lost his father. "Tell me your story, Billy."

Bill sobbed and choked out the story of August 12, 1927.

Member's Websites & Blogs

Alma Alexander: www.AlmaAlexander.com
Blog: www.anghara.livejournal.com
www.heritageofclan.wordpress.com
Wendy Alex: www.indexpert.com
Pamela Beason: www:pbeditorial.com
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Taimi Gorman: www.gormanpublicity.com
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www.richardleeharris.net
<http://blog.richardleeharris.net>
David Jones: www.bigrivermeadows.com
Jack McKee: www.woodshop4kids.com

Rae Ellen Lee: www.raellenlee.com
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Jerry Watson: www.JerryLWatson.wordpress.com
Kate Weisel: www.weiselcreative.com
Lorraine Wilde: www.lorrainewilde.com
Susan Witter: www.mysoundideas.us

Member Favorites:

Dina Berry: (Literary Agents) www.jetreidliterary.blogspot.com, www.pubrants.blogspot.com,
www.guidetoliteraryagents.com/blog, www.cba-ramblings.blogspot.com;
(For Writing) www.fictionmatters.com, www.storyfix.com;
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Carolyn Leeper: www.poetry4kids.com
Mary Michaelson: www.writersdigest.com/101BestSites/, <http://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com>
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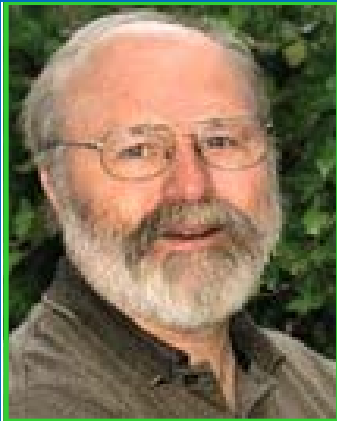
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Besides, by going through the WWP website, WWP gets 5% cash back. I recommend the *pick up and pay at Village Books options* because you can then use your regular Village Books discounts: (birthday up to 39% off, and 10% off for WWP and Smart Trip members). You cannot use these discounts when you actually pay online.

- 1) Click on “Buy at Village Books” on the [whatcomwritersandpublishers.org](http://www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org) website.
- 2) Click on “<ahref=<https://www.villagebooks.com/aff/...>>.”
- 3) You’re now on the Village Books website. Search for your book by author or title.
- 4) Once your book pops up, click on “Add to Cart.”
- 5) Continue shopping or check out.
- 6) At checkout, enter your email address.
- 7) Click on “I would like to pick order up at the store.”
- 8) Click on “I will pay for this order at the store.”
- 9) Enter contact information of name and phone.
- 10) Add any comments to the order, if desired.
- 11) Click on “Review Order.”
- 12) New screen pops up. Click on “Submit Order.”

*When your order is ready,
you will either get a phone call or email.
Use your regular Village Books discounts
when you show up at the store.*



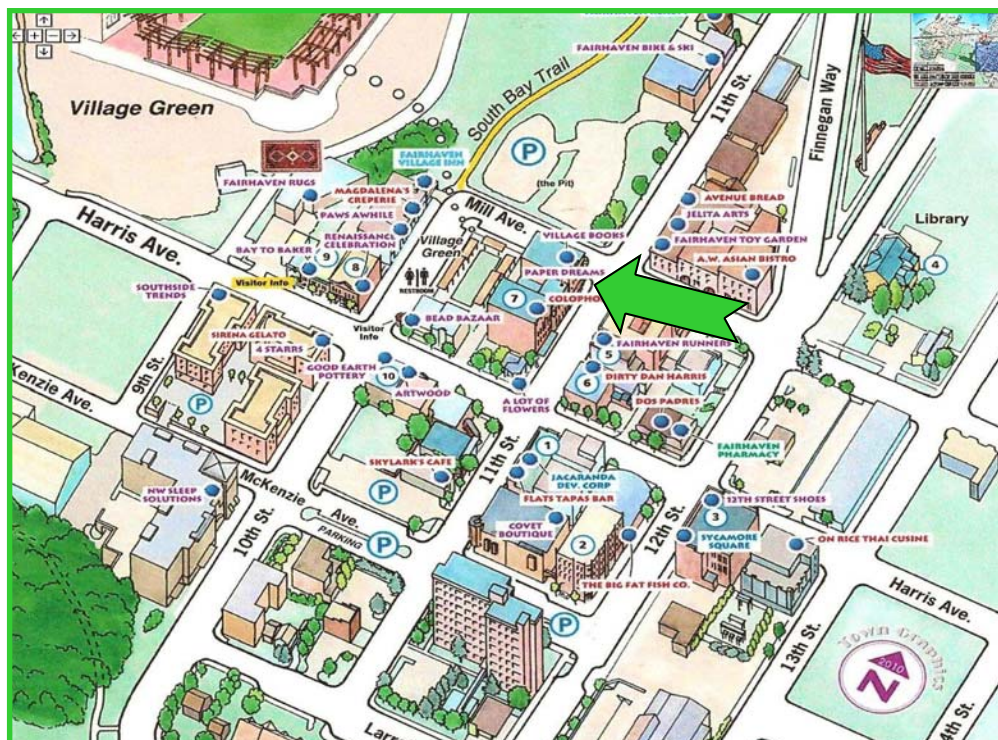
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Extending an invitation for
Whatcom Writers & Publishers
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(BUT IN CASE YOU DON'T, HERE'S A MAP FOR YOU)



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