

PROFESSIONAL WRITERS SERIES

Spring '09

Washington State University Vancouver

Thursdays, 6-9 p.m., January 15 – March 26

GUEST SPEAKERS

JANUARY 22

KEEPING POETRY ALIVE

In December 2007, Governor Chris Gregoire appointed **Sam Green** to a two-year term as the first Poet Laureate for Washington State.

The author of ten collections of poetry, his latest works are *Vertebrae: Poems 1972-1994* (2008) and *The Grace of Necessity* (2009). A 30-year veteran of the Poetry-in-the Schools program, he has engaged students in the act of writing in hundreds of classrooms as well as having taught at Southern Utah University, Western Wyoming Community College, and served six terms as Distinguished Visiting Northwest Writer at Seattle University. His poems have appeared in many publications, including in hundreds of journals, including *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Poet & Critic*, *Poetry East*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Puerto del Sol*. Green lives on Waldron Island, Washington where he is the editor and publisher of Brooding Heron Press.

February 5

WRITING ACROSS GENRES

Kim Stafford is a poet, essayist, and short story writer. He has worked as an oral historian, letterpress printer, editor, photographer, teacher, and visiting writer at a host of small towns in the Pacific Northwest, and at colleges in New York, California, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon. For many years, he directed the Northwest Writing Institute at Lewis & Clark College. His publications include *A Thousand Friends of Rain: New & Selected Poems* (1999); *Having Everything Right: Essays of Place* (1996); *Wind on the Waves: Short Stories* (1992); *Lochsa Road: A Pilgrim in the West* (a travel essay) (1991); and *Entering the Grove* (essays in celebration of trees) (1990). Stafford has received two creative writing fellowships from the

National Endowment for the Arts, and his book, *Having Everything Right*, won a Western States Book Award.

FEBRUARY 19

WRITING ABOUT POPULAR CULTURE

Shawn Levy has been the Film Critic of *The Oregonian* since 1997. Prior to that, he was Senior Editor of the late, great *American Film* magazine. He has written about film, pop culture, books and sports for the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Guardian of London*, the *Independent of London*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Movieline*, *Film Comment*, *Sight and Sound*, *Premiere*, the *Village Voice*, the *Hollywood Reporter* and many other publications. Levy's books on Popular Culture include *King of Comedy: The Life and Art of Jerry Lewis* (1996), *Rat Pack Confidential: Frank, Dean, Sammy, Peter, Joey and the Last Great Show Biz Party* (1998), *Ready, Steady, Go! The Smashing Rise and Giddy Fall of Swinging London* (2002), and *The Last Playboy: The High Life of Porfirio Rubirosa* (2005).

MARCH 5

MAKING A CAREER AS A FREELANCE WRITER

Tonight is a panel discussion among three highly successful freelance writers. **Rebecca Clarren** is an investigative journalist and a contributing writer to both *Salon.com* and *High Country News*. She also freelances for other national magazines such as *Mother Jones*, *Orion*, *Fortune*, *Ms.* and *Utne Reader* about topics like energy, environmental health, sustainability, and labor issues. Her work is frequently supported by the Fund for Investigative Journalism. A recipient of numerous fellowships, she has been named a finalist for both the Alicia Patterson Foundation fellowship and the Dorothea Lange-Paul Taylor prize.

David Wolman is a contributing editor at *Wired* whose work has also been published in magazines such as *Newsweek*, *Discover*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *New Scientist*, *Outside*, and *Forbes*. His first book, *A Left-Hand Turn Around the World: Chasing the Mystery and Meaning of All Things Southpaw*, was published in 2005.

His latest book, *Righting the Mother Tongue: From Olde English to Email-The Tangled Story of English Spelling* was published in 2008.

Julian Smith is an award-winning writer, editor and photographer specializing in travel, science and lifestyle topics. He is the author of the travel guidebooks *On Your Own in El Salvador*, *Moon Handbooks Ecuador*, *Moon Handbooks Virginia* and *Moon Handbooks Four Corners*, which won the Lowell Thomas Award for best guidebook from the Society of American Travel Writers. Smith's writing and photography have appeared in *Smithsonian*, *Outside*, *Wired*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *National Geographic Adventure* and other publications. The *New York Times* has syndicated his work worldwide.

MARCH 12

INTERSECTIONS: THE NOVEL AND THE MEMOIR

Cheryl Strayed debut novel, *Torch* (2007) garnered glowing reviews and was selected by *The Oregonian* as one of the top ten books by Pacific Northwest authors. Her award-winning essays have been selected for inclusion in *The Best American Essays* collections (2000 and 2003). She has published in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Washington Post Magazine*, *Allure*, *Self*, and *DoubleTake*. Joyce Carol Oates singled her out in *The Best New American Voices 2003*. Strayed has just completed a memoir.