



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 25, 2014

Registration Now Open for 4th Annual Chuckanut Writers Conference
*Notable Northwest authors Bruce Barcott, Karen Finneyfrock, Thor Hanson, Jim Lynch
and Lidia Yuknavitch part of esteemed faculty*

Bellingham, Wash. – Registration is now open for the 4th annual Chuckanut Writers Conference held Friday and Saturday, June 27-28, at Whatcom Community College (WCC). The conference, with the theme *Inspiration into Action*, is a joint venture between WCC's Community & Continuing Education program and Village Books of Bellingham. This intensive craft-focused, cross-genre symposium is designed to inspire writers of all experience levels by spotlighting both talented authors who are distinguished writing teachers, and respected agents who will share industry insights and hear pitches.

This year's teaching faculty members include returning favorites Karen Finneyfrock and Thor Hanson, authors of "The Sweet Revenge of Celia Door" and "Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle," respectively. Bruce Barcott, author of "The Measure of a Mountain: Beauty and Terror on Mount Rainier," and "The Chronology of Water" author Lidia Yuknavitch will be the keynote speakers. Claire Dederer, Brian Doyle, Elaina Ellis, Kristiana Kahakauwila, William Kenower, Joanna Kenyon, David Laskin, Jim Lynch, Rose McAleese, Peter Mountford and Anastacia Tolbert round out the impressive roster. Publishing and marketing specialists Alice Acheson, Felicia Eth, Gary Luke and Elizabeth Wales will be available for pitch and marketing sessions, which require pre-registration and an additional fee.

Check-in opens 9 a.m. Friday, June 27. The conference begins at 10 a.m. with featured speakers and multiple breakout craft sessions, extending into an early evening reception with readings and signings by faculty author presenters. The program continues Saturday, June 28, with a full day of author sessions, panels, and an additional book signing. The conference concludes Saturday evening with concurrent open mics for conference attendees at venues in Bellingham's historic Fairhaven district. The public is invited to attend to hear some of the West Coast's freshest new work. The Chuckanut Radio Hour will also host a special episode of its radio variety show in WCC's Heiner Theater 7 p.m. Thursday, June 26 with conference presenter Brian Doyle. Admission is included in conference registration.

To register, visit the conference website at www.chuckanutwritersconference.com or contact Community & Continuing Education at (360) 383-3200 or comed@whatcom.ctc.edu. Register by May 22 for the early bird rate of \$229. After May 22, the rate will be \$259. To qualify for the \$159 student rate, students must register in person with a current student ID

at WCC's Community & Continuing Education office. Conference participants who need hotel rooms are encouraged to reserve accommodations as soon as possible. As a conference sponsor, Western Washington University will provide affordable dorm rooms (6 miles south of WCC's campus) for conference participants. Travel and accommodation information is included on the website.

The Chuckanut Writers Conference was launched in 2011 to strengthen connections among WCC's talented Community & Continuing Education writing faculty, the region's strong base of published authors, and aspiring writers seeking inspiration and education. Approximately 200 people attend the annual event. Aligned with the organizers' shared vision of giving back to the community, this year's conference proceeds benefit Whatcom Young Writers, a Bellingham nonprofit devoted to developing the writing of young people age 8-18.

About Whatcom: Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college with an accomplished faculty and staff who serve 11,000 students annually. On its campus in Bellingham, Wash., and through online courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional and technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills, and Community & Continuing Education classes. For more information, visit www.whatcom.ctc.edu.

About Village Books: Founded in 1980, Village Books is a community-based, independent bookstore located in the historic Fairhaven district of Bellingham, Wash. Its mission is "building community, one book at a time," which it does daily through a dedicated staff, by collaborating with numerous community organizations and through its Literature Live author event series, through which it hosts more than 250 authors each year. Supporting and co-presenting the Chuckanut Writers Conference fits perfectly with Village Books' mission.

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