

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPEN  
FOR CHUCKANUT WRITERS CONFERENCE**  
*Whatcom Community College and Village Books host 3<sup>rd</sup> annual event*

Bellingham, WA, March 6, 2013 - Registration is open for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Chuckanut Writers Conference to be held Friday and Saturday, June 21-22, at Whatcom Community College's scenic campus. The conference, with the theme *Inspiration into Action*, is a joint venture of Whatcom's Community and 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.

Register by May 15 for the early bird rate of \$229. After May 15, the rate will be \$259. A limited number of reduced-rate student enrollments is available. To qualify for the \$159 student rate, students must register in person with a current student ID at WCC's Community & Continuing Education office. Although there is no age requirement, parents or guardians should use discretion when considering registering a minor. The conference format and content are designed with adults aged 18 or older in mind.

To register, visit the conference website at [www.chuckanutwritersconference.com](http://www.chuckanutwritersconference.com). Conference participants who will need hotel rooms are encouraged to reserve accommodations as soon as possible. The conference dates are during Bellingham's busy summer season when hotels are often fully booked. 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.

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## **Register now for Chuckanut Writers Conference**

### **Page 2**

This year's teaching faculty members are Alice Acheson, Bruce Beasley, Jeff Bender, Wendy Call, Karen Finneyrock, Waverly Fitzgerald, Kathleen Flenniken, Mary Hammerbeck, Thor Hanson, Gary Luke, Frances McCue, Suzanne Paola, Brenda Peterson, Naseem Rakha, Natalie Serber, Jennie Shortridge, and Garth Stein. Literary agent Elizabeth Kracht rounds out the roster. Faculty members include an American Book Award winner, a recipient of the 2012 International Latino Book Award for Best History/Political Book, a winner of the John Burroughs Medal Award, multiple Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association award winners, a recipient of multiple Pushcart Prizes, a Tobias Wolff Award winner, and the Washington State Poet Laureate.

Registration and check-in begins at 9 a.m. Friday June 21. The conference kicks off at 10 a.m. with featured speakers and multiple breakout craft sessions. The program will continue 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday June 22 with a full day of author sessions, panels and an additional book signing. Participants may also join optional 8 a.m. sessions on Saturday. The Chuckanut Writers Conference will conclude 7-8:30 p.m. Saturday with conference attendees presenting their work at concurrent open mics at venues in Bellingham's historic Fairhaven district. The public is invited to attend to hear some of the freshest new work in the West.

The Chuckanut Writers Conference was launched in 2011 to strengthen connections among WCC's talented Community and 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, conference proceeds will benefit the WCC Foundation that supports student scholarships and College initiatives.

For more information about the Chuckanut Writers Conference, including sponsorships, contact Whatcom's Community and Continuing Education at (360) 383-3200 (9 a.m.-5 p.m. PST weekdays), "friend" the conference on Facebook, visit the conference website at [www.chuckanutwritersconference.com](http://www.chuckanutwritersconference.com), or send an email to [comed@whatcom.ctc.edu](mailto:comed@whatcom.ctc.edu).

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**Register now for Chuckanut Writers Conference**  
**Page 3**

Whatcom Community College is an accredited, comprehensive two-year college with a committed, accomplished faculty and staff who serve more than 11,000 students a year. On its beautiful 71-acre campus in Bellingham, WA, and through on-line courses, Whatcom offers transfer degrees, professional and technical training programs, as well as basic education, job skills and Community Education classes. For more information about WCC, please visit [www.whatcom.ctc.edu](http://www.whatcom.ctc.edu).

Founded in 1980, Village Books is a community-based, independent bookstore located in the historic Fairhaven district of Bellingham, WA. 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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