

Whatcom Writers & Publishers

February 2011

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org



Our meeting place is

Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, 21 Bellwether Way

Wednesday, February 16 ~ 6:00 p.m.

RSVP: by Monday, February 14, to Carolyn, 714-8901 or cdleeper@hotmail.com

(You will order individually from the menu but we still need to give the restaurant a count for seating arrangements)

Speaker:

John Miles

Author of Komo Kulshan

Over the past thirty-plus years I have pursued many interests in my writing, and continue to do so. Over this span I've written many articles on everything from mountaineering history to environmental ethics. I've published many book reviews, written three books and edited three others.

: Fortunately I am employed as a teacher and don't have to make my living as a writer, though I do have to publish to get ahead in my academic home. So I have been able to indulge my interests without thinking about my bottom line, and have greatly enjoyed the writing journey – and still do.

My focus has been mostly on environment, education, the North Cascades region, wilderness, and national parks. I will share my writing and publishing experiences in pursuit of these diverse subjects, the rewards and frustrations along the way, and look forward to discussion with others in the business around this somewhat unorthodox career I have enjoyed.

BIO:

Born near Flat Rock, on the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River Valley, I enjoyed a childhood and youth of outdoor adventure and exploration (when not listening to Curt Gowdy call the Red Sox games). Early on I became interested in nature and conservation, and after Dartmouth College came west to explore the Big Outside and become an Oregon Duck (grad school). I've been adventuring on climbing boots, tele-skies, in canoes and kayaks, even on mountain bikes, ever since. Bellingham has been my home since 1968. My work has been at WWU the whole time, in environmental studies for most of it. My books are about Koma Kulshan, the history of the National Parks Conservation Association, and the history of the wilderness concept in "America's Best Idea" (as Ken Burns called national parks). I've also edited two books on adventure education, and a book of essays about the North Cascades and have several projects in the works. When I'm not working or biking around here, I'm gardening or reading.

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
Susan Colleen Browne: President
Fred Su: VP/Program Director/Webmaster
Linda Scott: Treasurer
Pam Beason: Membership Chair
Carolyn Leeper: Newsletter Editor
(submit items to: cdleeper@hotmail.com)

Calendar

March 16: ***Iris Jones*** and ***JoAnn Roe***,
travel writers
April 20: ***Sandy Bowens***,
Evolution of a Website
May 18: ***Priscilla Long***,
The Writer's Portable Mentor
June 15: ***Barbara McMichael***,
The Bookmonger,
reviewer of Northwest books

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.
See our website for more information: www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org.

Buying from Village Books using the WWP website

So, you're looking to buy a book from Village Books. Why not use the WWP website to place an order? It's easy to do and WWP gets 5% back as an affiliate. Moreover, you don't have to pay online. You can place an order and, when the book comes in, you can pick it up and pay for it there. And, don't forget, WWP members get a 10% discount too. (Some of the following instructions are from memory, so they may not be exactly as stated. But, the steps are easy to follow on Village Books' website.)

Go to www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org and click on "Buy at Village Books."

A new screen appears. Click on <https://www.villagebooks.com/aff/WWPwebmaster>, which will then take you to the Village Books website.

Search for the book you wish to purchase. Once the book description pops up, click on "Add to Cart" Then click on "Checkout"

Type in your email address and check the box that says

"I would like to pick this order up at the store." Hit "Continue"

A new screen pops up that says something to the effect of "I would like to pay at the store"
Check that box and type in your phone number, and submit your order.

That's it. You've just helped support WWP and Village Books!

Fred Su

WWP President's Message

Greetings, WWP Members and Friends,

To be a writer, as Laura Kalpakian pointed out in her stellar talk last month, means we can't hide up in our writer's garret, scribbling our stories without concern for the outside world. We writers are more likely to be managing multiple projects, in numerous writing arenas. For example, writing books, freelancing articles, editing for clients, giving workshops, marketing and publishing our work...the list goes on. If you're like me, you're always looking for ways to make the juggling act a little easier...and our speaker for February may provide just that opportunity! John Miles, whose prolific body of work as an author and editor has focused on topics that are most meaningful to him, will present "So Many Interests, So Little Time." Please join us for what promises to be an intriguing program.

Chuckanut Writers' Conference Update:

The CWC coordinators have now lined up a great slate of literary agents for the conference! Agents include: **Amy Burkhardt**, Kimberley Cameron & Associates, **Kate Folkers**, Martin Literary Management, **Andrea Hurst**, Andrea Hurst & Associates, and **Bree Ogden**, Martin Literary Management. Also, Early Bird Registration is now open! Conference Dates: June 24-25. Through May 1, the conference cost is \$215; after May 1, the cost is \$245. For the latest info on workshops and how to register, check out www.chuckanutwritersconference.com.

It was great seeing so many of you at the January meeting. With this kind of attendance, the opportunities for writerly support and networking in WWP continue to grow! To that end, I'd love to hear about the projects you're working on. Let me know the title and genre, and with your permission, I'd like to publish them in the newsletter in a "Members' Works-in-Progress" column!

Happy writing to you all, and I look forward to seeing you February 16 at Giuseppe's!

Susan Colleen Browne

"Adventures in Creative Writing: Completing Your Project"

Susan Colleen Browne is teaching "Adventures in Creative Writing: Completing Your Project," **February 8 & 15 at WCC**. Whether you're working on a novel, memoir, or short story, join Susan to help take your story to the finish line! In this fun, interactive workshop, we'll explore easy plotting techniques inspired by bestselling authors like Anne Lamott, Maeve Binchy, and Allison Brennan. And using tricks and tools to energize your project, we'll put the "creativity" back into creative writing!

Class activities include:

- Story Warm-Ups
- Brainstorming and Story Tools
 - ~Maeve Binchy's Easy Outlining
 - ~Crafting Scenes that Sing
 - ~Plotting a la Anne Lamott
- Short Assignments
- Bestselling authors' "Tricks of the Trade"
- Calendar Exercise: creating a writing schedule

Stone Soup

Miki Gilliland

*Rocky roads are no deterrents
The right time to write a book is always now*

First there were the prodigies:

Dorothy Straight was a four-year old from Washington D.C. when she wrote *How the World Began* for her grandmother. Pantheon Books printed it in 1964, making her the youngest published author to that date.

Dennis Vollmer wrote *Joshua Disobeys* in 1987 at age 6. The book and illustrations tell the story of a baby whale who doesn't listen to his mother and gets in trouble. The boy won The David Melton Memorial award for his efforts.

When **Christopher Beale**, son of a published author was six-years old, he wrote his 1,500-word, five-chapter novel *This and Last Season's Excursions*. Aultbea Publishing. gave this British child a contract the following year.

Canadian **Gordon Korman** who started writing when he was 12 -years-old is the author of more than 65 published books. His first was written as an English assignment. His career now spans more than 25 years.

Next are the productives:

Mary Faulkner, who lived from 1903 to 1973, wrote 904 books. A South African, Faulkner wrote under six pen names. Her novels include *There Is No Yesterday*, *Wind of Desire* and *Harvest of Deceit*. The Guinness Book of World Records ranks Faulkner as history's most prolific novelist.

Lauran Paine is almost her match. Paine used 70 pen names to write 850 books, mostly westerns, some mysteries and some romances.

British writer **John Creasey** who lived from 1908 to 1973, was the author of 564 books. **Gordon Ashe**, **Michael Halliday**, and **J. J. Maric** were among this mystery writer's many pen names. **Agatha Christie** wrote 78 crime novels that sold more than 2 billion copies. Bellingham's **Steve Martini** has written 66 works appearing in 356 publications in 18 languages that are in 46,261 library holdings

If writing takes forever, never mind that. Nobody cares how old the author is if the manuscript is well written. **Helen Hooven Santmyer** took 50 years to write *And Ladies of the Club*. The book was published when she was 88, two years before her death. Her main attribute was tenacity. Born in 1895, she attended Oxford University in England. When she returned to the USA with her first book published she expected fame and fortune and instead found the Great Depression. She wrote poetry that appeared in anthologies such as The Bookman Anthology of Verse. Her sonnet *The Prairie Town*, appeared in that collection. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 1996. **Doris Lessing** won a Nobel Prize for literature when she was 88 in 2007. Lessing was the eleventh woman and the oldest person ever to win the Literature Prize. In 2001, Lessing was awarded the David Cohen Prize for a lifetime's achievement in British Literature. **Alfred Tennyson** was 80 when he wrote *Crossing The Bar*. **Verdi**, 76 when he wrote *Ave Maria*. **Titan**, 83 when he painted *Christ Crowned with Thorns*.

No time like now to begin.

Poet's Corner

An Ode to Jane Kenyon

Fred Su

"The overarching distinction of the human species over every other animal species is . . . poetry." F.S.

In defining the role of the poet, I cannot do better than what Jane Kenyon wrote:

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

How Could You Not — for Jane Kenyon — by Galway Kinnell

It is a day after many days of storms.
Having been washed and washed, the air glitters;
small heaped cumuli blow across the sky; a shower
visible against the firs douses the crocuses.
We knew it would happen one day this week.
Now, when I learn you have died, I go
to the open door and look across at New Hampshire
and see that there, too, the sun is bright
and clouds are making their shadowy ways along the horizon;
and I think: How could it not have been today?
In another room, Keri Te Kanawa is singing
the *Laudate Dominum* of Mozart, very faintly,
as if in the past, to those who once sat
in the steel seat of the old mowing machine,
cheerful descendent of the scythe of the grim reaper,
and drew the cutter bars little
reciprocating triangles through the grass
to make the stalks lie down in sunshine.
Could you have walked in the dark early this morning
and found yourself grown completely tired
of the successes and failures of medicine,

of your year of pain and despair remitted briefly
now and then by hope that had that leaden taste?
Did you glimpse in first light the world as you loved it
and see that, now, it was not wrong to die
and that, on dying, you would leave
your beloved in a day like paradise?
Near sunrise did you loosen your hold a little?
How could you not already have felt blessed for good,
having these last days spoken your whole heart to him,
who spoke his whole heart to you, so that in the silence
he would not feel a single word was missing?
How could you not have slipped into a spell,
in full daylight, as he lay next to you,
with his arms around you, as they have been,
it must have seemed, all your life?
How could your cheek not press a moment to his cheek,
which presses itself to yours from now on?
How could you not rise and go, with all that light
at the window, those arms around you, and the sound,
coming or going, hard to say, of a single-engine
plane in the distance that no one else hears?

Otherwise by Jane Kenyon

I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless
peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.

All morning I did
the work I love.
At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.

I slept in a bed
in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day
just like this day.
But one day, I know,
it will be otherwise.

Poet's Corner

Flirting at the Neighborhood Bakery Betty Scott

I don't know what I want yet, he says
to the woman behind the glass case,

his words defying the authority
of his frontal stance before her

morning glory muffins, cinnamon twists,
strawberry and cream cheese sweet rolls.

She replies: *That's the way with people
these days. We don't know what we want.*

He laughs. She laughs. Years strip off them
easily, the way orange rinds peel off.

Her brown eyes widen. No longer a woman in polyester,
she dances in a velvet skirt and laced apron,

earrings swaying in the embrace
and swing of her blue-eyed lover.

He leans way back in his boots,
his jean-clad thighs thrust forward.

I'll take a latte and a bran muffin, he says.
May I warm the muffin? she asks.

He waits, pacing the length of the display case,
but facing her, his energy to her.

She puts a lid on the latte, slips
his muffin into a sack.

They move to the cash register. She rings up
the purchases, overcharges him, laughs,

rings him up again. His hand knocks the stem
of a spoon in a dish of shredded chocolate.

The spoon clangs to the floor. Around his boots,
bittersweet bits of chocolate scatter. He blushes,
she blushes, both caught doing something delicious.

Haiku

Susan Witter

*the sky is crying
roots gain courage underneath
wet, desperate hope*

Amy Kashiwa

A holiday inspired haiku:

solitary star
silent, sleeping, holy night
gifts of love and faith

A Skagit Valley winter:

quiet snowflakes fall
flight of the trumpeter swan
scent of Frasier fir

Exercise your creativity by writing a haiku

Haiku is one of the most important
forms of traditional Japanese poetry.
Haiku is a 17-syllable verse form consisting
of three metrical units of 5, 7, and 5 syllables.

For inclusion in next month's newsletter,
send your haiku to cdleeper@hotmail.com

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Romance Writers of America

RWA — More than Romance!

Writers of memoirs, non-fiction and fiction can find encouragement, support, business know-how, writing craft education, workshops and classes through an organization 10,000 members strong. Many respected writers and teachers of both literary and commercial fiction recommend the resources of RWA National membership, conferences and RWA local chapters for all writers.

A writer does not need to write, or even appreciate romance novels to belong to RWA, but can reap the benefits of first class teaching about writing a good story and the business end of writing. Local chapters, sponsored and monitored by the national RWA organization, offer writer's conferences, workshops and classes in addition to monthly meetings.

Non-members are welcome to attend two meetings, which provide a one-hour talk on subjects pertaining to writing craft or career issues.

The RWA National website: http://www.rwa.org/cs/about_rwa .
Discover more detail about the various genres included here:
http://www.rwa.org/cs/romance_literature_subgenres

Two RWA chapters are within an hour's drive of Bellingham, in Vancouver BC and Everett WA.

Anyone interested in carpooling to a meeting,
contact mspicher@hotmail.com

Greater Vancouver RWA, website www.rwagvc.com/
Meetings 3rd Sat of each month

Evergreen RWA, website <http://www.evergreenrwa.org/>
Meetings 3rd Sat of each month

Marion Spicher

Members' Announcements

Betty Scott

Poetry awakens, mystifies, and renews our spirits. Come explore words, their images, sounds, and rhythms with Betty Scott, in a 4-week community education workshop through Whatcom Community College, Wednesday nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. February 9 through March 2. Betty will inspire you to daily writing practice.



Nanette Davis

Report from Bucerias and Neuvo Vallarta, Mexico, January 26, 2011

Nanette Davis announces that despite the most compelling reasons to NOT write that second edition in Mexico--sunny skies, mariachi bands, great Mexican cuisine, lovely people, easy life---she is succeeding in doing just that. Throwing out the old, bringing in the new--more people-oriented stories and less academic commentary--Nanette is managing to retell the stories of elder caregivers who struggle mightily to offer love and consolation to their elderly loved ones, while learning new ways of coping and being in the world. She has one reminder: When you're facing that white blank page and can't think of a thing to say---try Mexico for an entirely inspirational and motivational experience. *The writing goes on....*



Carl Steiner

I recently spent one month in Thuringia, Germany exploring mines and doing research in WWII topics. Offered and completed a contract to translate 4 pages of Website text for a German music website ([Anja Bialas.de](http://Anja.Bialas.de)).

Attended two-day ALAN author's conference (Assembly on Literature for Adolescents), entitled "Looking for the Real Me: The Search for Self in Young Adult Literature." This conference was partly sponsored by Simon and Schuster, Scholastic, Random House, Candlewick, Disney-Hyperion and others. Over 100 YA authors were speakers in various sessions. They ranged from Gary Paulson (Hatchet), to Ned Vizzinni and Jewell Parker Rhodes (who did a delightful reading of her character, Mama Ya-Ya from her children's story about Hurricane Katrina, Ninth Ward).

Publishers provided several dozen complimentary, newly published novels to for us to take home. This was a very exciting opportunity to look into the writing craft of YA authors. I continue to work on structuring my YA adventure novel.

saintsteiner@earthlink.net



Members' Announcements

Village Books

Join us on **Wednesday., February. 2nd, at 7:00pm**, in our Readings Gallery for demonstrations of the iPad, Sony Reader, and Nook, and to have your questions about eBooks answered.

Village Books has partnered with Google to make available thousands of Google eBooks, many at the lowest prices available.

Laurel Leigh

Feb. 9, 5:00pm, Laurel Leigh is holding a free workshop called Knock-Out Editing. Here is the link: <http://www.villagebooks.com/village-books-knock-out-editing-02/09/11>. Details are below: **This event is a preview to a course that will be taught at Western.**

Develop editing skills for your own work or business.

The first draft of a story or essay can be wonderfully inspired—and unfinished. For many writers, the grueling stretch begins when it's time to revise—and rearranging a few commas isn't going to cut it.

- Learn developmental editing techniques successful writers and editors use to turn a good start into a great finish with minimal artistic pain
- Build revision endurance and decide when to elaborate, when to revise, and when to kill a line (or twelve)
- Get tips for defining your audience, shaping the work, and honing your creative prowess so you can knock out an awesome final draft

Laurel Leigh is a full-service editor for books ranging from whimsical to literary. A long-time project manager for Chronicle Books of San Francisco, she freelances internationally and has taught story writing classes in Whatcom County since 2005. She holds a master of fine arts in creative writing from San Francisco State University and a bachelor of arts in English from Gonzaga University.



Member's Websites & Blogs

Alma Alexander: www.AlmaAlexander.com,

Blog: www.anghara.livejournal.com,

www.heritageofclan.wordpress.com

Wendy Allex: www.inexpert.com

Pamela Beason: www:pbeditorial.com,

www.pamelasbeason.com

Janey Bennett: www.palesurfaceofthings.com,

www.janeybennet.com

Dina Berry: www.dinaberry.com

Sandra Bowens: www.apinchof.com

Susan Colleen Browne:

www.susancoleenbrowne.com,

www.littlefarminthefoothills.com

www.littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com

Nanette Davis: www.nanettejdavis.com

<http://nanettejdavis.blogspot.com>.

Barbara Gilday: www.BarbaraGilday.com,

www.ghanatogether.com

Taimi Gorman: www.gormanpublicity.com

Richard "Dick" Harris:

www.richardleeharris.net

<http://blog.richardleeharris.net>

Dave Michaelson: www.emjaypublishing.com

Mary Michaelson: Blog: <http://>

auntphoesbecorner.blogspot.com

Dorothy Morrow: www.TheGiftofRoots.com

Janet Oakley:

www.historyweaver.wordpress.com

Curt Remington: www.curtremington.com

Chuck Robinson: www.villagebooks.com,

www.facebook.com/villagebooks

JoAnn Roe: www.joannroe.com

Jennifer Karuza Schile:

www.commercialfishingmom.com.

www.jenkaruzaschile.com

Carol Cline Schultz:

www.CrossingTheVoid.com

Marion Spicher: www.marionspicher.com,

Blog: www.marionspicher.wordpress.com

Mary B. Stanton: www.siamwasourhome.com

Fred Su: www.bythewrite.com ,

www.stepbystepvolvo.com

Peggy Sullivan: www.love-prescription.com

Keith Turley: www.imagineds.com

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;
(Editors) www.editorialanonymous.blogspot.com;
(Misc.) www.mediabistro.com/galleycat

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Bookarmy.com, BookGlutton.com, BookBuzr.com

Judy Kleinberg: www.fridaville.com

Carolyn Leeper: www.poetry4kids.com

Mary Michaelson: www.writersdigest.com/101BestSites/,

<http://bloodredpencil.blogspot.com>

Carl Steiner: <http://www.maxbarry.com>

Conference **UnConfidential**

www.writeonwhidbey.org

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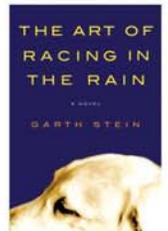
April 1-3, 2011

Whidbey Island Writers Conference

April 1-3, 2011 • Coupeville, WA

Featuring Keynote Speaker

GARTH STEIN



Plus

Deb Lund, Bob Mayer, Jennie Shortridge,
Jeff Kleinman and more than 30 other
authors, editors and agents

For more information, call
(360) 331-0307 or visit
www.writeonwhidbey.org

Early Bird Registration

December 1, 2010 - March 1, 2011

Friday Workshops/Classes

Fireside Chat Houses

Marketing/Publishing/E-Publishing

SUDDEN VALLEY WOMEN'S CLUB

GET READY TO

ROCK & ROLL!

Please Join us for our annual
Chocolates & Champagne Brunch
Featuring Live '50s Music
with Warren Palkin & his band

Alma Alexander will present her new book

Bob's Burgers & Brew in Sudden Valley

Wednesday, February 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Brunch - \$15.00

Raffles / Door Prizes / Fun

RSVP: Call Carolyn - 714-8901
or email: cdleeper@hotmail.com





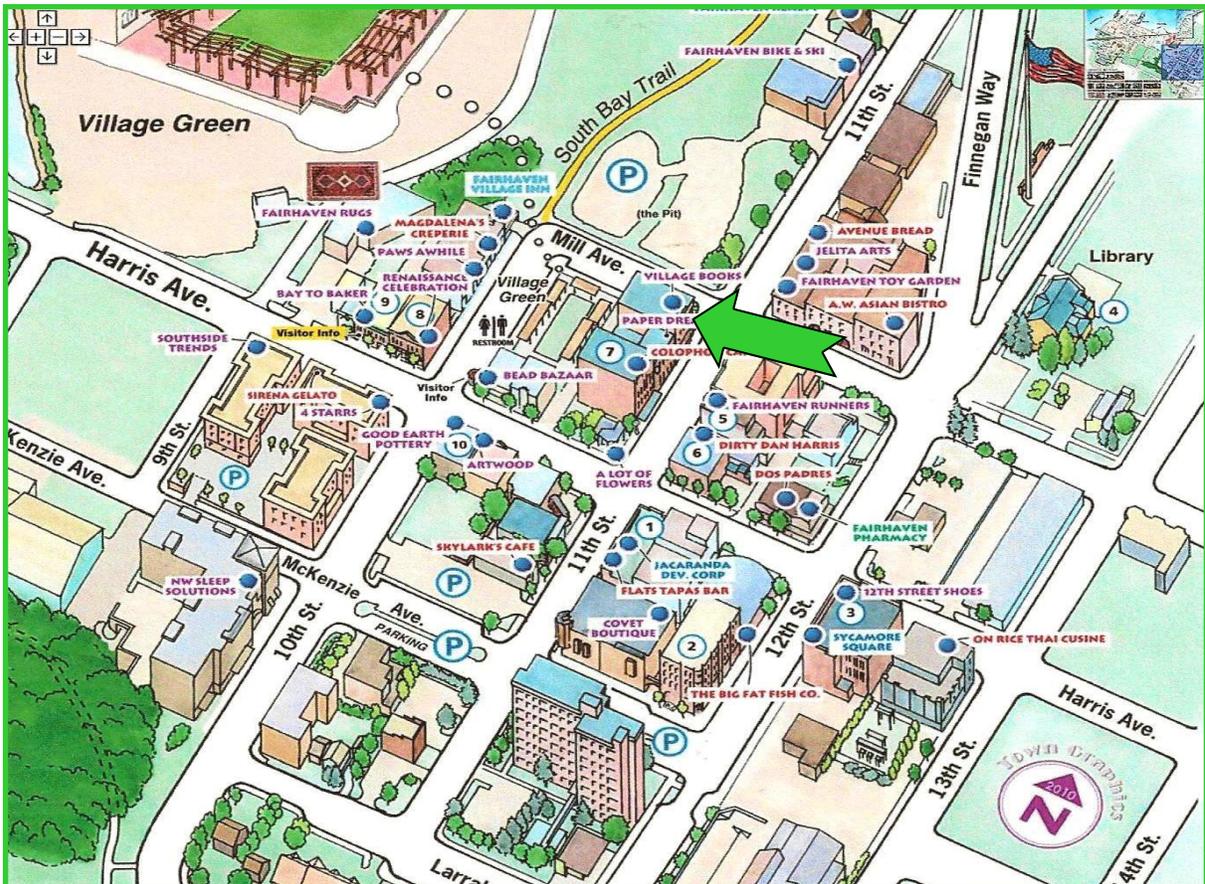
VILLAGE BOOKS WELCOMES W.W.P. MEMBERS



Chuck and Dee Robinson are
Extending an invitation for
Whatcom Writers & Publishers
Members to drive on down to
VILLAGE BOOKS

In historic Fairhaven for a 10% discount on *all of your purchases* (may not be combined with any other offer.) And keep them in mind when the time comes to publish that book you're writing. All of *Village Books'* EBM (Espresso Book Machine) packages are available to WWP members for a 10% discount (does not include the 3.5 cents per page charge.) These are some absolutely fabulous offers! So get in your car and head for **VILLAGE BOOKS**.

YOU KNOW THE WAY!
(BUT IN CASE YOU DON'T, HERE'S A MAP FOR YOU)



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