

Whatcom Writers & Publishers

April 2011

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org



Our meeting place is

Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, 21 Bellwether Way

Wednesday, April 20 ~ 6:00 p.m.

RSVP: by Monday, April 18, 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: Sandy Bowens

*Evolution of a Website
from inception to moneymaker*

Websites are a dime a dozen, and if you are trying to make money from a site, that's about what you will get--a dozen dimes. There are ways to profit from your passion. Find out how. We will look at the basics of launching a website along with what one webmaster has learned about affiliate programs, advertising services, and search engines.

Sandra Bowens is the creator and webmaster of the prominent aPinchOf.com website. The site that is "all about cooking with herbs and spices" generated more than 9 million hits in 2010. aPinchOf.com contains more than 125 articles, 160 original recipes, plus a popular 17-category Q&A section. A newsletter is delivered to 400 subscribers each month.

Sandy can tell you what has worked and what's been a waste of time, along with information about what your site's stats can tell you. Bring your burning website questions and, hopefully, you'll find the answer.

Her cookbook, "Spiced Right: Flavorful Cooking with Herbs and Spices" is currently in the production phase and should be available by summer.

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

Meetings: the 3rd Wednesday of the month, September through June (except December)

May 18: ***Priscilla Long***,
The Writer's Portable Mentor

June 15: ***Barbara McMichael***,
The Bookmonger,
reviewer of Northwest books

July & August — WWP Recess

September 21 ***Alma Alexander***
Author of *The Secrets of Jin-Shei*
and the YA series *Worldweavers*

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

Happy Spring!

I think of spring as a time for new beginnings. Maybe that's because I'm a gardener, but spring often brings us fresh ideas and energy, and thus is a great opportunity to try some new things! In the spirit of the season, WWP is embarking on a couple of new initiatives:

WWP is adding a **new feature/member benefit!**

The newsletter will publish a brief book excerpt from a different member each month. If you'd like to spotlight your work, please submit a short passage of your published book (you can include a description or lead-in as well, max. 800 words total) to Carolyn Leeper at cdleeper@hotmail.com.

Also, WWP is supporting the **Chuckanut Writers' Conference** as a sponsor!

The conference, which takes place at the WCC campus June 24-25, will be distributing a trade paperback-quality booklet to all conference attendees, including publishing professionals. Designed by the Village Books' staff and produced via the Espresso Book Machine, the conference booklet will display ads from all the sponsors.

The WWP board would like to use this opportunity to recognize and celebrate our published members. So, **if you have a book or article published that is available either in bookstores or online, and you'd like your name to appear in the ad, please contact me at your earliest convenience, jbrowne@telcomplus.net**. The deadline is mid-April, so please let us hear from you by Friday, April 8.

And on the subject of the conference, you have one more month to register to receive the Early Bird rate! 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.

Our April program featuring Sandra Bowens promises to be a standout! Whether you're thinking of launching a Website, updating your current site, or even monetizing it, you'll have the opportunity to get educated about your online presence. Don't miss hearing from this savvy Webmaster!

I look forward to seeing you April 20 at Giuseppe's!

Susan Colleen Browne

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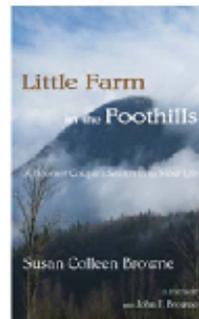


MOUNT VERNON CITY LIBRARY
CELEBRATES NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Susan Colleen Browne, author, creative writing
teacher and homesteader presents her story on

Tuesday, April 12th
6:30 p.m.

Turns out the search for a simple life can get awfully
complicated! Enjoy this inspiring, amusing tale of getting
back to the land in the Whatcom County foothills.



Mount Vernon City Library
360-336-6209

315 Snoqualmie St.
www.mountvernonwa.gov

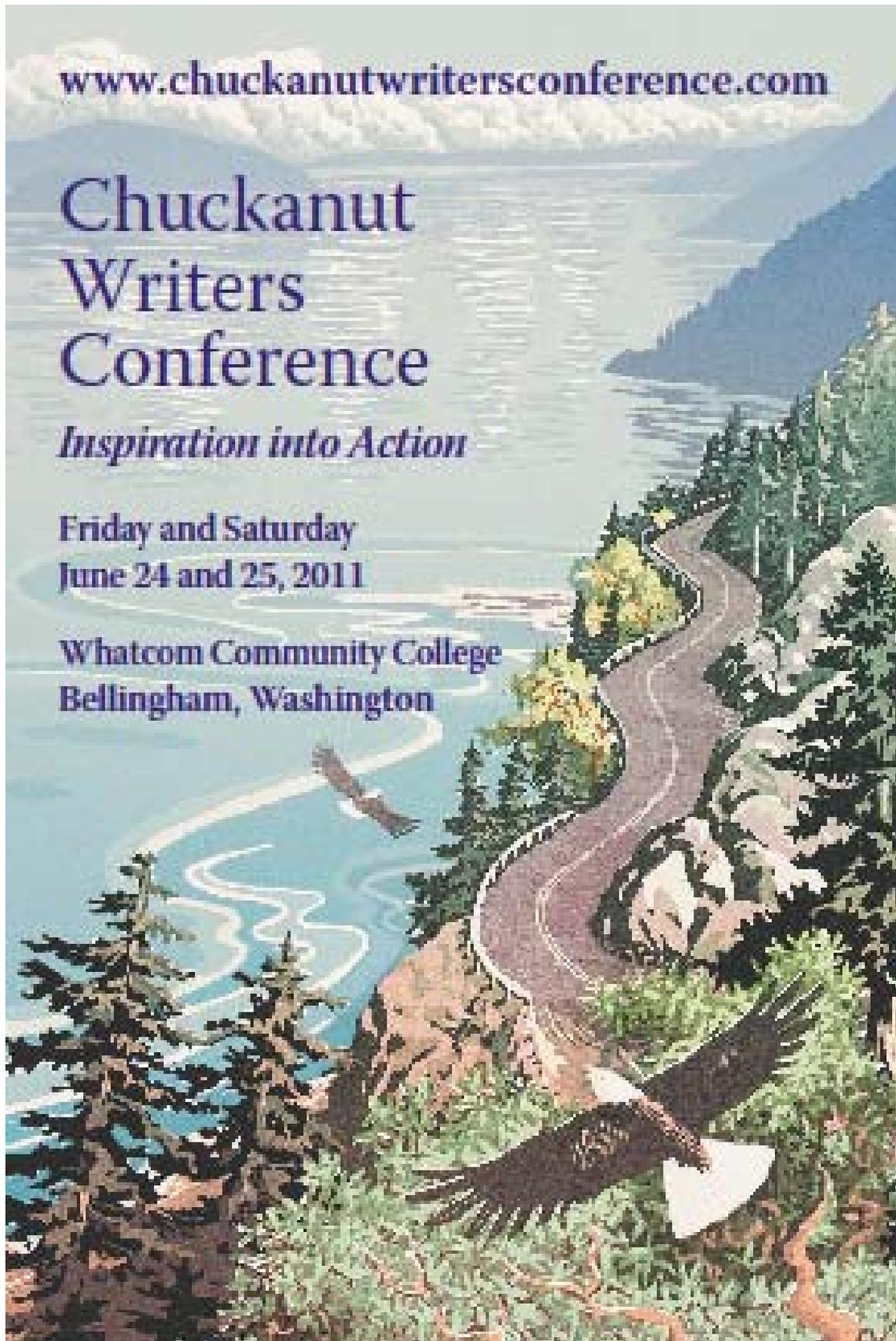
www.chuckanutwritersconference.com

Chuckanut Writers Conference

Inspiration into Action

Friday and Saturday
June 24 and 25, 2011

Whatcom Community College
Bellingham, Washington



Poetry

Reflections in the White Horse Pub

by Marion Spicher

If my life is but a day
The afternoon is waning
The evening's gulls sail through the mist
Time's momentum ... gaining.

As the sun dips slowly down
It sends arrays of light
Fills horizon's clouds with pink
To ward away the night.

How do I feel about this time?
Wanting still to give?
I slowly slip to join the twilight
Wanting so to live

I reach back but can't retrieve
The days that have gone by
I can only reminisce ..
Breathe nostalgic sigh!

Concurrent things do settle in
A sort of letting go
Accepting peacefully "what is"
And there I too can grow.

Is it that beauty comes with age?
The quiet gentle knowing?
Facing weakness with great grace ...
Is it the best of growing?

A streak of absent mindedness
A painful here and there
Ah, yes! Like birth, this death must come
We must begin ... prepare.

Relax and watch the growth and learn
Serenity sublime!
For we are not descending here
But instead we climb.

Towards we know not what, but trust
That Chaos has a plan.
Our lives the blueprint, Birth to Death
The making of a Man.

Stone Soup

Miki Gilliland

Avoid Reader Roadblocks!

If a writer wants to grab the reader's attention, he shouldn't put stumbling blocks in the reader's path.

Every story, fiction or non, must have a good beginning. The story's gist comes immediately. The action in the first sentence sets the story's tone and gives the angle of the piece. Convincing the reader to read the next paragraph happens when he receives information and wants more or he is titillated, is curious or entertained. It's like a hostess serving chocolate cake first in case there's a fire during dinner. Like the cake, the story's crumbs come after.

Perhaps the greatest mark of a novice writer is the question lead. Only a beginner does that. "Do you want to learn juggling?" That immediately stops all those who don't. For the rest, the question is redundant, wastes the reader's time, because the writer is going to tell the reader where and when the next class will be held. The question lead is a waste of space.

The P.R. beginning is another amateur beginning. "According to Mayor Pike, a new addition will be added to city hall creating 500 new jobs." Readers care more about where the building funds will be obtained, if this means new taxes, if the jobs are permanent and what workers will be doing, less about Mayor Pike. You can say who announced this conflicting news in the next paragraph.

The quotation lead is also another reader turnoff. If someone has to read something twice to find out who is saying what, they may not do so in a world of instant communications.

Keep unrelated words out. Leave out the incidental and play up what is important. A writer wants a reader to remember the story. Each person receives more than 3,000 messages daily: on pencils, from commercials, spouses, preachers and friends. At the end of the day, an average college-degree holder can remember about three. Avoid exaggeration as well because if the reader recognizes embellishment, he stops reading.

Avoid leads that have more than 20 words. The writer may be able to do this later in the story, but most people between the ages of 25 and 80 can only absorb 25 words in a sentence without a pause such as a period. Most people can only read for about seven minutes without looking up from the page. That's just under six pages without breaking concentration.

Think of all the good beginnings in fiction:

"Only three people were left under the red and white awning: Grady, me and the fry-cook."
Sara Gruen, *Water for Elephants*.

"A man with a wooden leg
walked along the corridor."
Ken Follett in *Hornet Flight*

"Let me guess. You want to know
why I tried to kill myself."
Mitch Albom in *For One More Day*.

Never but never begin with
"It was a dark and stormy night."
That one's already pounded into the pavement.

Author Excerpt **

From *An American Sin* by Frederick Su. (\$12 at WWP meetings.)

This novel is about an Asian American and Vietnam.

It is a story of war, racism, murder, sin, guilt, and the path toward redemption.

The antihero protagonist is David Wong. Erlandson is his psychiatrist.

Mercury is his girlfriend. The novel has garnered 4 awards.

“Wow! It’s so powerful!” Julie Ward, Bellingham.

More info at www.bythewrite.com.

From Chapter 26, where David Wong drives across country to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Music is his sole companion. The Seattle station he had been listening to fades in and out, like a ghost caught between two worlds, unsure of which one to dwell in. He switches to a Spokane station, hears the strong signal come in. “Rita MacNeil, ‘Why Do I Think of You Today?’” the DJ says, and he is at once caught by the beauty of the singer’s voice and the haunting melody.

It is music that grabs him by his soul. He feels himself being passed through a wringer, having the extraneous water squeezed out of the fabric of his life.

Only love remains. Love with all its myriad heartbeats, from a steady rhythm to palpitations to wild drum rolls. Romantic love, sibling love, parental love, filial love. Old love and new love. And he remembers Erlandson’s simple statement: “Love is beauty.” He did not know this as a young man, wrapped in his own arrogance.

The music has wielded its magic, putting him on another plane of experience, floating him out of body, like death, but for a few minutes. All at once he feels peace, regrets, tears—the nostalgia and pain of old, lost loves and the insecurity of new love. It bathes him in the pathos of his own existence.

He suddenly realizes that he is the maker of his own destiny, his own happiness, his own sorrow. Neither government nor God can mandate happiness and forgiveness for him. Only he is responsible for that. Still, the knowing and the doing are two different things. But, at least, all those months with Erlandson have helped him reach this point of knowing—an epiphany of sorts.

Suddenly, he has a passion for life. He wants to live. He wants to have more children, and goddammit! grandchildren for his old age. He sighs, and of all the women in his life, he thinks of Mercury as he drives, wrapped in his cloak of loneliness and music, down the long highway to Spokane before a dying sun.

**** To submit your book excerpt (400 to 800 words) email to: cdleeper@hotmail.com**

A Tip from Pam Beason

Free E-reader Applications Available for Your Computer

Don't have an e-reader but want to check out ebooks? If you have a computer, you can download Kindle and Nook formats to read on your PC. The downloaded applications create an interface that mimics (more or less) what the ebook would look like on the device. You can click Next and Previous buttons and use bookmarks, and so forth. When you download an ebook from a website, it will either automatically appear on your new 'bookshelf' or you can choose to open the ebook files with your new application. There are probably more apps available; I've included the most popular two—Nook and Kindle—below.

To download a free application that emulates a Nook on your computer

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/u/nook-for-pc/379002322/>

To download a free application that emulates a Kindle on your computer: [http://](http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=kcp_pc_mkt_lnd?docId=1000426311)

www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=kcp_pc_mkt_lnd?docId=1000426311

Member Announcements

Nancy Canyon will teach a free class based on her upcoming Whatcom Community College class: Novel Writing: Scene and Structure. Bring pen and paper to Village Books and learn to generate scene titles and organize your story by plot points. Then, sign up for Canyon's class at WWC: Tuesday evenings, April 26-May 24 from 6:30-8:30 PM and learn how easy it can actually be to write the novel of your dreams!

The Community Ed course will focus on "scene and structure" as we evaluate the scene for dramatic tension, list and organize key scenes and plot points, and more. Also discover how to map scenes in Microsoft Word, enabling you to easily move around within your novel to edit story.

Nancy Canyon holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Pacific Lutheran University. She has written three novels. Her short fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction are published in *Able Muse*, *Fourth Genre*, *Water~Stone Review*, *Main Street Rag*, and more. Thursday, April 14, 7pm:

<http://villagebooks.com/village-books-nancy-canyon-04/14/11>

Sandra Lucke: *“My poetry work was chosen in past years, choreographed into a dance for this performance. This is a delight for writers in all genres to experience how creativity and the written word has been expanded beyond the book. <http://www.bhamrep.org/calendar.html>. I found this from the Firehouse Performing Arts Center web site in Fairhaven where the performance takes place this weekend. Suggestion: phone to ask if tickets are available a.s.a.p. Arrive a bit early to choose seating (bleacher style). There are beverages and food available at intermission.”*

Member Announcements

Susan Colleen Browne
is teaching “The Frugal Author’s Guide to Self-Publishing”
offered by WCC Wednesdays, April 27 & May 4, 6 – 8 pm.

Are you intrigued by self-publishing? Or thinking seriously of taking the plunge? As the traditional publishing industry continues to downsize, self-publishing is looking more viable than ever. In this revealing workshop, the founder of an independent press and self-published author Susan Colleen Browne presents a candid overview of a wide range of publishing options: traditional, self-, print-on-demand, and ebooks. We’ll cover:

- *The pros, cons and finances of traditional publishing vs self-publishing
- *How to keep your costs down, where to sell your book, how you get paid, and what kind of profit you might expect.
- *Marketing your book without breaking the bank.
- *The rewards of taking control of your writing career.

You’ll leave with all the information you need to go from aspiring writer to author! In addition to her memoir, *Little Farm in the Foothills*, Susan is the author of a new novel, *It Only Takes Once*.

Class fee: \$45. For more information, contact Susan at jbrowne@telcomplus.net or www.susancolleenbrowne.com, or visit www.whatcomcommunityed.com.

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Susan Colleen Browne
presents a slide show at the Mount Vernon Library

In celebration of National Library Week, Susan will present “Creating a Foothills Homestead,” at the Mount Vernon City Library, **Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 pm**. Susan’s talk and slide show will focus on her experiences with backyard farming and share tips for getting your spring garden off to a great start.

The event is free. For more info:
jbrowne@telcomplus.net, www.mountvernonwa.gov,
or www.susancolleenbrowne.com.
See the Mt. Vernon Library Flyer on Page 4

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Member's Websites & Blogs

Alma Alexander: www.AlmaAlexander.com,

Blog: www.anghara.livejournal.com,

www.heritageofclan.wordpress.com

Wendy Allex: www.indexpert.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.susancoleebrowne.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>

David Jones: www.bigrivermeadows.com

Jack McKee: www.woodshop4kids.com

Dave Michaelson: www.emjaypublishing.com

Mary Michaelson:

www.auntphoesbescorner.blogspot.com

www.travelinlight.weebly.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

Deck Deckert: GoodReads.com, LibraryThing.com, RedRoom.com,
SheWrites.com, WorldofBooks.com, Bookazine.com,
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>



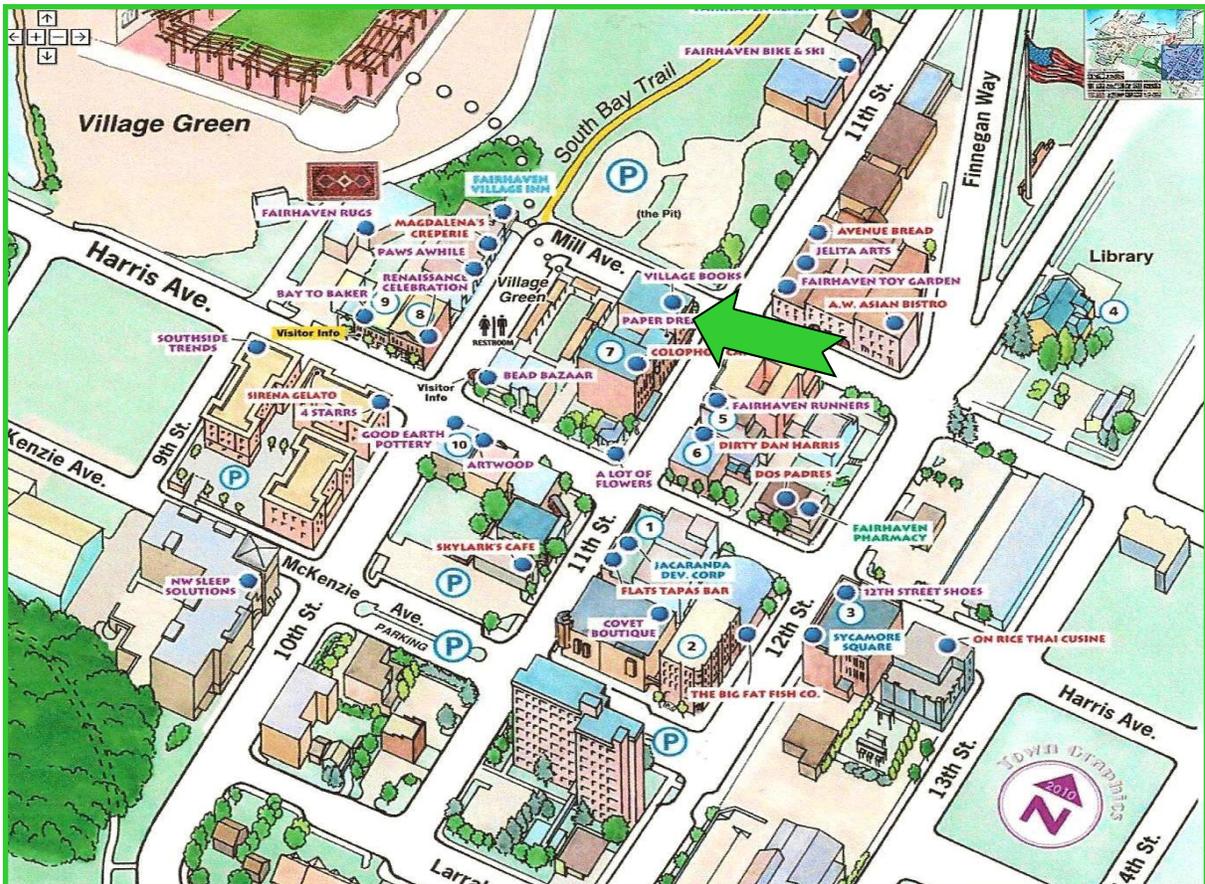
VILLAGE BOOKS WELCOMES W.W.P. MEMBERS



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)



www.villagebooks.com