# Whatcom Writers & Publishers

## May 2011

www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org



# Our meeting place: Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant Wednesday, May 18 ~ 6:00 p.m.

**RSVP:** by Monday, May 16, 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: Priscilla Long**A Writer's Habits: Five Steps Toward Virtuosity

Five practices can catalyze art that is more realized, craft that is more skilled, and greater visibility in the world for this more accomplished work.

The speaker has studied the habits of virtuoso creators for a dozen years and will touch on:

- 1. The practice of productivity,
- 2. The uses of past art, the practice of gathering language consciously,
- 3. The practice of using sound and other techniques of poets in prose, and
- 4. The practice of acquiring new craft skills on a regular basis.
- 5. Finally she will explore more efficacious ways of getting the work into the world.

Priscilla Long is a widely published author of essays, fictions, poetry, creative nonfictions, science, and history. Her new book is **The Writer's Portable Mentor: A Guide to Art, Craft, and the Writing Life.** Her awards include Los Angeles and Seattle Art Commissions awards and a National Magazine Award.

She is author of Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry and serves as Senior Editor of <a href="www.HistoryLink.org">www.HistoryLink.org</a>, the online encyclopedia of Washington state history.

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

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)

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 <a href="https://www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org">www.whatcomwritersandpublishers.org</a> and click on "Buy at Village Books." A new screen appears. Click on <a href="https://www.villagebooks.com/aff/WWPwebmaster">https://www.villagebooks.com/aff/WWPwebmaster</a>, 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!

If you've started to attend WWP meetings regularly, you've probably encountered people who have given you a publishing tip, inspired you about a craft issue, or who have provided some informal mentoring. In my years of involvement with WWP, I have not only made many friends, but I have connected with numerous mentors who have helped me on my path to publishing.

This month, WWP is pleased to continue that mentoring tradition in presenting **Pricilla Long**, an accomplished writer, manuscript editor, and mentor.

The author of **The Writer's Portable Mentor**, **Priscilla** will speak on the topic of **A Writer's Habits: Five Steps Toward Virtuosity.** It's a program that's sure to help you take your writing craft to the next level—and I hope you'll be able to join us!

#### **Chuckanut Writers' Conference Update**

In April, the conference coordinators announced a special conference rate: If you've taken a **writing class from WCC's Community Education** program from Spring 2010 - Spring 2011, you're eligible for the conference rate of **\$199!** 

## WWP will have a marketing table at the conference.

If you're a WWP member, and you'd like to display your marketing materials at the conference, please plan to bring your materials to the WWP meeting on **June 15**.

## WWP is seeking volunteers!

WWP cannot exist in a vacuum...to keep our organization vibrant, we need the support and energy of our membership. We are currently seeking a **new treasurer and/or board members**. Please consider stepping up to lend a hand!

I look forward to seeing you at the May 18 meeting!



# **Stone Soup**

#### Miki Gilliland

# **Watching Words Grow**

Editors want material written in the most modern words available, yet those understandable, readable, that will reach the greatest audience. This is not always an easy task. Using older words can either out-date material or create a mood for the period in which the author sets the story. Nobody likes meaningless words.

English is the planet's second most spoken language, yet most people use less than one percent of available words. Most spoken words are technical terms. Sometimes entities have their own special jargon until words spill over into general usage. Because language is living, words change meaning, fall from use as new words are adapted. New words sometimes become so common that they are added to traditional dictionaries Last June the millionth English word joined the list

Linguists argue which language has the most words, but there's really no way to tell. English speakers generally assume it's English. More than 14 words are added to English every day, according to the Global Language Monitor.

There are approximately 6500 languages in the world: not all have dictionaries. Any language has base forms that can be inflected, declined, suffixed or prefixed in various ways.

Sometimes writers and certainly speakers coin new words. The word 'muggle; used in the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling has become so widespread that it's now in dictionaries. The word refers to a person who lacks any sort of magical ability, was not born into the magical world: certainly not the grown people who stood in line at Village Books wearing pajamas and pointed hats, waiting to buy the books.

Even dates and times are important to words as the word 'she' did not exist until the 12<sup>th</sup> century when women began to be noticed as entities. The Vikings recognized women first with 'seo', their word for feminine reference. As they invaded England, so did their language.

Newest additions added in 2010 include: *Low-rise* - very low cut jeans that girls wear. *Piercing* - holes in parts of the body, other than the ears, to wear jewelry, rings or studs. *Senior moment* - a temporary loss of memory often attributed to getting old.

Before that it was ack-ack, apartheid, atom bomb, baby-sit, barf, bazooka, cheeseburger, crash-land, flying saucer, gobbledygook in the 1940s.

A decade later aerospace, alphanumeric, brainstorming, car wash, cha-cha, digitize, do-it-yourself, in-house, meter maid were the words in vogue.

In the 1960's, new words were area code, biohazard, brownie points, crib death, doofus, disco, glitch, microwave oven, sexism

In the 1970's airhead, bean counter, biofeedback, deadbeat dad, diskette, electronic mail, junk food, surrogate mother came into usage.

In the 1980's AIDS, boom box, caller ID, channel surf, dis, greenmail, sandwich generation, trophy wife, voice mail, wannabe were the latest thing to say. By the 1990's anatomically correct, bad hair day, digerati, granny dumping, medicide, netnanny, olestra, soccer mom, step aerobics, uptalk, World Wide Web were new words.

The world's most used language? Mandarin Chinese

# Book Review

# There Has To Be More Than This

Keith Turley (\$7.00 at WWP Meetings)

This is a collection of writings meant to encourage readers to encounter God in a busy and sometimes overwhelming world. As we listen to music, read the news, watch television and movies, there can be a disconnect from God. There doesn't need to be. In his book Keith encourages the reader to reflect--first by example, then by inspiration and blank space. This book is to help readers to stop and listen with wonder to the world around them, to ask questions, and to look for answers. To make connections. To realize that God is in everything, but sometimes we have to be willing to stop and wonder.

Keith is working on a follow up book that will be a 365-day devotional based on the same premise. For more information visit Keith's blog at <a href="https://www.ourwonderroom.com">www.ourwonderroom.com</a>.

"He that seeks God in everything is sure to find God in everything. When we thus live wholly unto God, God is wholly ours and we are then happy in all the happiness of God."

-- William Law



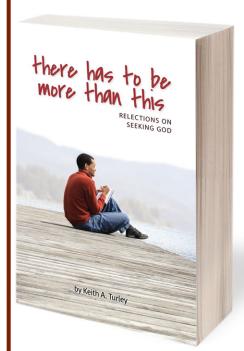
"None of us has gotten where we are solely by pulling ourselves up from our own bootstraps. We got here because somebody bent down and helped us."

Thurgood Marshall

I am not sure that Marshall was thinking of Him, but maybe he was. That is a thought that I often have. May it never be my assumption that someone's words are devoid of His hand. God has and will use people along my journey that are not believers. One of my roles should not be to judge the worthiness of others to help me grow closer to God.

"In the faces of men and women I see God."

Walt Whitman



# **Blessed** is She

## Nanette J. Davis, Ph.D.

**Blessed is She** ... draws its title from Psalm 41 —

"Blessed is she who has regard for the week; the Lord delivers her in times of trouble" — which suggests the spiritual power available to elder caregivers who are caring for the weakest among us. What prompted me to write this book are the host of women (and men, as well), who urged me to speak out on behalf of those sacrificing their lives and hopes. My aim was to raise the level of awareness about



longevity and the aging process, which has inherent rewards, but also pains, that all families must address. I interviewed 60 women, mainly from Whatcom County, whose stories provide the core of the book.

The first section explores the caregiving journey, as well as the heart of altruism that beats within these remarkable women. Also included are a profile of older Americans and a discussion of caregiving on a national level.

More than 44.5 million Americans take care of sick and dying elders—one of every four U.S. households. Caregivers struggle to support their chronically ill or dying elder, but their efforts remain largely unsupported by public policy and invisible in an indifferent health care system. The bills are staggering—averaging more than \$25,000 annually for home care and \$60,000 annually for nursing home care. For most families, financial resources are too limited to hire the necessary assistance for home health care. The U.S. Government has estimated that the value of care provided by families ranges from \$148 billion to \$188 billion annually.

However, as the next part of *Blessed is She* demonstrates, the personal price these women pay cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Loss is to be expected, but sometimes they didn't bargain for losing their health, identity and sanity. These caregivers' stories embrace a wide spectrum of challenges, requiring innovative, even ingenious choices. Many liken their plight to being "in combat." One woman said, "My entire life has been given over to him...I no longer exist." Despite hardships, nearly all embrace caregiving as a major commitment in their lives. Their voices echo those of countless other caregivers across country.

How, then, do these women endure the months and years of daily care? Their stories show how they gained a sense of having overcome their everyday, limited view of who they thought they were. Many express astonishment at their own courage and fortitude, their humor and compassion, their joy and love for themselves and others, and above all, their appreciation of their sick elder for allowing this experience.

A final section of *Blessed is She* looks at caregiving as an opportunity for healing and personal growth. The author presents strategies for joyful living and insights into becoming a different, more enlightened, caregiver.

**Blessed is She** closes with The Alphabet of Spiritual Affirmations and the Caregiver Invocation for raising spiritual awareness.

What makes *Blessed is She* different than most books on caregiving? Because the book explores not only the negative aspects of caregiving, which are carefully documented, but also its positive and life-affirming features. Two final chapters propose spiritual guidelines for hope and renewal, drawn from both Christianity and Buddhism, such as keeping the heart open and developing sound spiritual practices.

# Window on my World

## Nanette J. Davis (from the Bellingham Herald)

After retiring briefly in my early 60s, I decided to resume teaching, this time at Western. It wasn't long before I was faced with an entirely different kind of role—that of caregiver. When I began looking after my dying husband, I could not begin to understand the depth and breadth of what was before me, although I had raised six children. My life was no longer my own.

Days became months. Months became years. Between the demands of work and caregiving, I felt as though I might drown. Yet, a longing stirred within me. I needed to connect with others who had shared my journey. I soon realized that the common threads of our life-changing experiences would create a fascinating tapestry. Blessed is She...Elder Care: Women's Stories of Choice, Challenge and Commitment is the result.

Drawing its title from Psalm 41—"Blessed is she who has regard for the weak; the Lord delivers her in times of trouble" —*Blessed is She* includes the stories of more than 60 Northwest women providing care for frail elderly loved ones. I like to think of this book as a "wake-up" call for our youth-centered society to take action on behalf of those who cherish, watch over and labor for the aged and dying among us.

Unlike my other eight books written largely for professional and student use, *Blessed is She* interweaves intensive interviews and scholarly material with my own personal story. After speaking with countless women in all walks of life, my story no longer seemed so very personal. Instead, my voice is simply one among 34 million other caregivers who bear the burden of caring for their elderly loved one at the end of life.

I feel humbled and uplifted by so many shared stories. Most women I spoke with experienced a similar process: moving from a sense of being imprisoned within the confines of elder caregiving to a deeper level of love, appreciation and even joy. Especially for those of us serving the dying, our sense of purpose and peace was incredibly fulfilling. I discovered that becoming at ease with illness and death was a tremendous gift that could only be earned by participating in the mystery.

Focusing on spiritual solutions, *Blessed is She* offers a recipe for happiness that allows us to step into a different stream of thinking and being. In this new perspective, we can experience freedom, love and peace, regardless of the external state of our lives.

I am deeply indebted to the women in the study who shared their personal stories of choice, challenge and commitment. To these women I say: I hope your stories will both mobilize greater public and government support for caregivers for the elderly and provide knowledge and relief for those caught up in the caring process.

Blessed is She readers, as well as family, friends and colleagues who supported me throughout the original book writing, have inspired me to continue telling the caregivers' stories. With this in mind, I'm now revising Blessed is She, as both memoir, and a heart-centered, practical guide to caregiving.

Now that I'm nearly eighty, the adventure of launching my own small press is losing its luster. I'm optimistic that my latest attempt to tell the caregivers' stories, *Love's Last Measure*, will attract the attention of a larger publishing house with greater marketing capacity to reach those who most need my helpful strategies and message of hope. And, I continue working on yet another project, *The Little Book of Caregiving*—while teaching, speaking and participating in Whatcom Writers and Publishers events, as well as caregiving conferences throughout the region.

My life has come full circle. I look forward to embracing my favorite experiences—family, friendship, writing, travel, photography—and enjoying the life I've made with my second husband, Burl Harmon, a local guitar and vocal performer. Imagine an 87-year-old who spreads smiles wherever he goes with his renditions of American standards at care centers around Western Washington. He never ceases to inspire me, and is my greatest cheerleader in all that I do. I used to think the best was yet to come... now I know the best is here!

# **Member Announcements**

#### **Rod Burton:**

AMRE, the American Museum of Radio & Electricity, is looking for a writer who would try to get article(s) about the museum, or it's collection, in magazines such as *Wired, Omni, National Geographic, Popular Science*, etc.

The museum has a world-class collection of artifacts going back to the beginning of the discovery of electricity through the present era. The collection includes such items as the first Edison light bulbs, the telephone used to make the first transatlantic call, the wireless room from the S.S. Titanic, and more. The museum would work with the writer to provide background material and images for the article(s). This would be speculative work on the part of the writer. Their compensation would be from the article(s) that were published.

For more information, please contact John Jenkins at AMRE, 360.738.3886 or johnj@amre.us. The museum is located at 1312 Bay Street in Bellingham.

Submitted by graphic designer Rod Burton, (rod@rcburton.com). Rod has designed many books and book covers, his latest book project is Under the Red Roof - 100 years at Northern State Hospital'by M.J. McGoffin. Which is being printed on the Village Books Espresso Book Machine.

#### **Nancy Canyon:**

I offer an ongoing writing class held every Tuesday, 1 PM, at Studio #9, in the Morgan Block Building in Fairhaven, entrance between Artwood and Good Earth Pottery. Take the stairs to the third floor and turn right. I charge 20/ month or 7/drop in. Call me at 710-7139.

I will be teaching at Chuckanut Writers Conference in June. My class will be creating story with collage. I'll demonstrate making a collage and will hand out color copies of my collages to write story from. If you've taken any writing class at the college since summer last year, you are entitled to enroll in the conference for the special price of \$199.

Also, I'm teaching for Whatcom Community College this summer, holding a writing marathon on July 8th--Cascade Hall, 105. We will write and read and write and read from 9-1. This experience is meant to break through blocks, to unlock story, to build community. It's a wonderful experience. <a href="http://canyonwriter.blogspot.com">www.nancycanyon.com</a> . . <a href="http://canyonwriter.blogspot.com">http://canyonwriter.blogspot.com</a> . . "A Terrible Storm", <a href="http://www.AbleMuse.com">www.AbleMuse.com</a>. See my story "Take Down & Escape" at <a href="http://www.waterstonereview.com">www.waterstonereview.com</a>

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#### **Janet Oakley**

has made a book trailer for her historical novel, *Tree Soldier*.

Another learning curve that was totally fun.

<a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njoPh1U1hQc">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njoPh1U1hQc</a>.

At her Amazon Author page and on YouTube.

Janet was also in the Bellingham Herald on April 25th.
<a href="http://www.bellinghamherald.com/">http://www.bellinghamherald.com/</a>
2011/04/25/1976321/bellingham-writer-recounts-depression.html.

She'll be speaking at a Brown Bag at the Whatcom Museum at noon on May 19th and at the Bellingham Senior Activity Center on the 26th.

# **Member Announcements**

Alma Alexander: Midnight at Spanish Gardens,

will be released on August 1st, both as a paperback and in e-book form.

The story involves five friends who meet on the eve of the end of the world -- Dec. 20, 2012 -- in Spanish Gardens, the restaurant where they had celebrated their college graduation 20 years before. Over Irish coffees, they reminisce – and reveal long-held and disturbing secrets.

Each friend in turn is given a curious set of instructions by an enigmatic bartender named Ariel:

"Your life is filled with crossroads and you are free to choose one road or another at any time. Stepping through this door takes away all choices except two -- the choice to live a different life, or return to this one."

For various reasons – as a lark, or simply because they are dissatisfied with their present lives -- each in turn passes through the portal and into a drastically changed life. All change occupations; one changes gender; a woman falls in love with another woman.

In the end, four choose to return to their original lives.

One doesn't.

# WWP member, Sandra Lucke, has received a Merit Award in the Sue Bovnton Poetry Contest.

The Sue C. Boynton Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony will be held on Thursday, May 12, at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal, 355 Harris Street in Fairhaven. The ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m.

The 25 winning poems (10 Walk Awards and 15 Merit Awards) will be assembled into a chapbook, which will be for sale (\$5.00) at the awards ceremony. All proceeds benefit the Sue Boynton Poetry Contest. Two copies of each poem/placard will be on display inside Whatcom Transportation Authority buses for a year. www.boyntonpoetrycontest.wordpress.com.

All qualifying poems will be on display at Mindport Exhibits, 210 W. Holly Street, from Wednesday, April 20 through Sunday, May 8, 2011. You may support local writers by stopping by Mindport to read their creative works.

# 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.susancolleenbrowne.com, www.littlefarminthefoothills.com

www.littlefarminthefoothills.blogspot.com

Nanette Davis: www.nanettejdavis.com http://nanettejdavis.blogspot.com. Jo Dereske: www.jodereske.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.auntphoes be scorner.blog spot.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.bytewrite.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

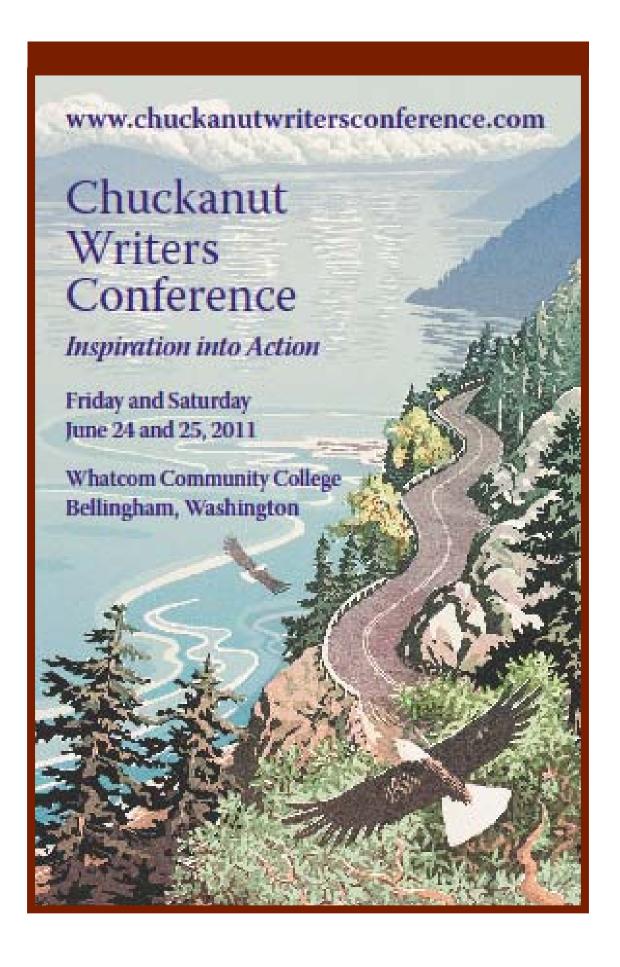
**Deck Deckert:** GoodReads.com, LibraryThing.com, RedRoom.com,

SheWrites.com, WorldofBooks.com, Bookazine.com, Bookarmy.com, BookGlutton.com, BookBuzzr.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





imagine Design Studio can build you a new web site or blog or help with a new direction for your current web site.

For writers, editors and publishers having a web site is a critical way to communicate with your audience. Your web site should interact with your existing audience as well as attract potential readers. If you have been putting off creating a web site for yourself or your latest book, we can help.

We can also help you reach your audience through Facebook, Twitter, Tumbir and more—plus get those tools interacting with your web site!

# new book?

Imagine Design Studio also provides graphic design services for the cover or interior layout of books, as well as promotional materials such as posters, flyers, business cards, etc.

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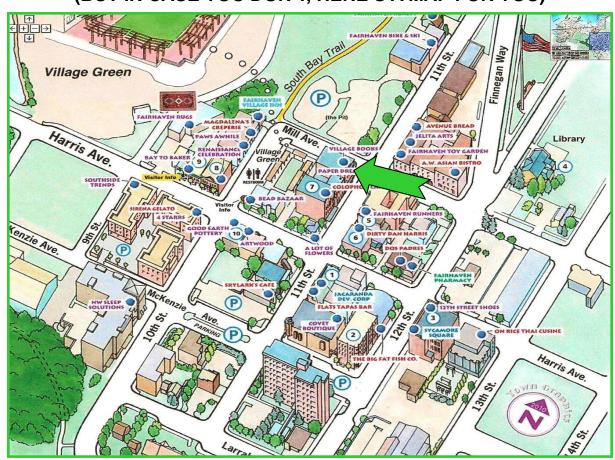
# VILLAGE BOOKS WELCOMES W.W.D. MEMBERS

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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