Thanksgiving 2019

Fisherpoets!

Winter solstice is on the horizon and beyond it somewhere steams our way the 23rd annual FisherPoets Gathering. Our planning machinery, like our old wood stove, is fired up.

We hope you who've earned a living in the commercial fishing industry will join us and other kindred spirits here in Astoria, either again or for your first time, the last weekend of February as always, to creatively celebrate some more the work we love mostly.

The 2020 FisherPoets Gathering starts Friday, February 28 and winds up Sunday March 1 around noon but, if you can make it to town by Thursday evening, join us then for our traditional no-host, pre-function dinner and open mic.

If you haven't been on the schedule before, it's important that you send us a sample of your stuff. Keep commercial fishing in mind and don't stray far from our working roots. If you've been strictly a prose writer, in the best spirit of the Gathering, have a go at a poem anyway. You'll never find a more empathetic audience and we don't want to change our name.

Plan on fifteen minutes at the mic on Friday and Saturday evenings both. If you aren't available for both, please tell us.

If you know people who may not write but who, with some encouragement, can tell a good story, let us know. We'll consider asking them to participate in Saturday's Story Circle.

If you've an idea for Saturday's workshops you'd like to present or see presented, let us know. We'll consider it.

Bring your chapbooks, cards, artwork, CDs and so forth. You can sell these, thanks to our volunteers, at no cost as always, at our FisherPoets Gathering Gearshack.

Consider offering an item or a service to the Silent Auction this year. Contact Jamie Boyd who organizes that for us: azure100@icloud.com.

Those who've performed at previous FisherPoets Gatherings who haven't already done so, ought to climb aboard In the Tote, our on-line anthology of fisherpoetry painstakingly curated by Pat Dixon. Reach him at dixonphoto@comcast.net.

Those of you in the commercial fishing community who are visual artists can anticipate a general call for submissions from graphic artist and FPG planner Jamie Boyd. She has ideas of publishing a fisherpoets' art book in the future. Spread the word among your commercial fishing friends. Reach Jamie at azure100@icloud.com to find out more.

The Astoria-Warrenton Chamber of Commerce has plenty of lodging information at http://www.travelastoria.com. If you have special needs or requests, give us a shout. We'll see what we can do.

After we pay our bills, we'll divvy up the gate as always and send participants a modest travel stipend, graduated in consideration of those who travel farthest.

Let us know by the New Year if you're coming so we can build a happy schedule in a timely fashion. This has become a considerable challenge and we appreciate hearing from you sooner rather than later. We'll keep a running official list of confirmed participants at our FisherPoets Gathering website www.fisherpoets.org.

Check to see your name is there if you're coming. If you are and it's not, to avoid our terrific embarrassment at leaving you off the schedule, we need to know. Thanks.

More from here after the New Year for you who will join us.

We're looking forward to seeing you in Astoria pretty soon. Best wishes to you and yours as the days grow shorter, then longer.

For the FisherPoets Gathering Committee,

Jon Broderick
www.fisherpoets.org
jbroderick@fisherpoets.org

P.S. At the suggestion of Amanda Gladics and Erica Clark, voices of youth and efficiency on the planning committee, a bulleted summary of this invitation follows.

The 2020 FisherPoets Gathering is Friday, February 28 to Sunday, March 1.

- *Join our no-host pre-function open-mic for fisherpoets* Thursday evening, February 27. Reservations not required. Details to follow.

- *R.S.V.P. to participate by January 4* to jbroderick@fisherpoets.org.

- *Verify your participation* by checking the list of participants at the FisherPoets Gathering website.

- *New fisherpoets, send sample* to jbroderick@fisherpoets.org

- *Expect both a Friday and a Saturday performance*. Please *communicate* any constraints.

- *Limit performances* to fifteen minutes each.

- *Please honor* the Gathering's emphasis on life and work in the commercial fishing industry.

- Prose writers, *please offer a poem*, too.

- *Sell chapbooks*, cds, art and such at our pop-up Gearshack free of charge.

- *Publish you fisherpoetry* at the on-line anthology "In the Tote." Contact Pat Dixon at dixonphoto@comcast.net .

- *Consider offering* an item or service to our silent auction. Contact Jamie Boyd at azure100@icloud.com .

- *Visual artists, contact* Jamie Boyd about a possible fisherpoet art book.

- *Find lodging information* at www.travelastoria.com.

- *Expect more information* for performers in January.