

Nearly Thanksgiving 2022

Fisherpoet Friends,

The dirty pandemic weather has come down so we're going to pull the anchor up, our raingear on, motor out around the cape and have a go at an in-person 2023 FisherPoets Gathering. We hope you'll join us and other kindred spirits to celebrate again commercial fishing and its community through song, story and poetry.

We expect our routine to be largely the same, but recent changed circumstances and future health protocols could limit it.

Everyone should take every best precaution to protect their health and others' this year. Each of us agrees to follow whatever health protocol is posted by each venue.

The 2023 FisherPoets Gathering will start Friday, February 24 and wrap up about noon Sunday, February 26. We anticipate another traditional no-host pre-function dinner and open-mic Thursday evening.

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, probably Friday and Saturday evenings both.

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 a Friday or Saturday workshop you'd like to present or see presented, let us know. We'll consider that, too.

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.

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.

Planning a happy late-pandemic 2023 FisherPoets Gathering is going to be tricky. Our most important task now is to understand who will be coming. Can you help give us an idea? Amanda has included a quick survey here.

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.

We're looking forward to being together in Astoria again or for the first time. Best wishes to you and yours until then.

For the FisherPoets Gathering Committee,

Jon Broderick