

Jane Alynn

Jane Alynn is a poet and photographic artist. She is the author of *Necessity of Flight* (Cherry Grove, 2011), a full-length poetry collection, and a chapbook, *Threads & Dust* (Finishing Line Press, 2005). Her poems have won awards, have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, and those written in collaboration with visual artists have been exhibited in galleries. "As a poet, my primary task is to create new perceptions through language. My tools are words and sounds, their musical invocation and resonance, rhythm and movement, texture and emotional tone, as well as images that body forth the felt-idea of an experience, deepening the meanings and connections. Though my influences are diverse, the natural world with all its vicissitudes and contradictions provides my greatest inspiration. Trees in particular have long captivated my attention and reverence."

Solstice Black

Queer writer, speaker, and artist, Solstice Black (they/she), is a Junior at Western Washington University who is currently pursuing their degree in creative writing, with a passion for gender studies and good stories. They were runner-up in the Washington State Inspirational Speech Championship, came first place in the Moth StorySLAM, and are forthcoming in The Moth GrandSLAM in Seattle. Their work has appeared in journals such as Chautauqua and The Fantastic Other. They wrote this poem, which initially takes the form of a birth certificate, to connect a line through them and the women who came before, and the line "crunch and grind" pays homage to their mother Tennison's 2023 book, *Survival Strategies*.

Jodie Buller

Jodie Buller is the sexton for White Eagle Memorial Preserve, a wilderness cemetery in southern Washington, and she serves on the board for the Conservation Burial Alliance. She studied writing at the UW and has self-published 6 collections of poems. She has written for local papers in Whatcom and Skagit and hosted a variety of interview shows and documentaries for KSVR community public radio. When she is not at work in ponderosa and oak forest, she lives in a pocket of cedar forest on Swinomish land.

Michael Daley

Michael Daley retired from teaching at Mount Vernon High School 12 years ago; he has published poems in *American Poetry Review*, *Hudson Review*, *Ploughshares*, *New England Review*, *Rhino*, *North American Review*, *Writers Almanac*, *Raven Chronicles*, *Seattle Review*, *Jeopardy*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Cirque*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Cascadia Review*, and elsewhere. Founding editor of *Empty Bowl*, publisher of the Dalmo'ma anthologies, former Poet-in-Residence for the Washington State Arts Commission, Skagit River Poetry Foundation, Massachusetts Cultural Council, his reviews and essays have appeared in *Pacific Northwest Review of Books*, *Raven Chronicles*, *Port Townsend Leader*, and *Book/Mark Quarterly Review*. His collections of poetry include: *The Straits* (Empty Bowl, Port Townsend, 1983), *To Curve* (Wordtech Communications, Cincinnati, 2008), *Moonlight in the Redemptive Forest* (Pleasure Boat Studio, NYC, 2010), *Of a Feather* (Empty Bowl, Port Townsend, 2016) and *Born With* (Dos Madres, Loveland Ohio, 2020). His work has been awarded by the Washington State Arts Commission, Seattle Arts Commission, Artist Trust, Fulbright, and the National Endowment of the Humanities. Pleasure Boat Studio published his essays, *Way Out There* (2007) and his translation of *Alter Mundus* (2013) by Italian poet Lucia Gazzino. In 2022, he published three books—*Reinhabited: New & Selected Poems* (Dos Madres, Loveland OH), *Telemachus*, a novel (Pleasure Boat Studio, Seattle), and *True Heresies* (Cervena Barva, Somerville MA). He is managing editor for *The Madrona Project*, an anthology series (Empty Bowl, 2019-2024).

Randy Dills

I am a former academic and day laborer, living in a small converted barn on a wooded farm off Snee-Oosh Road. My work has appeared in national publications, such as Terrain.org, and in the recent volume of Washington poets edited by past poet Laureate, Rena Priest, *I Sing the Salmon Home*. In February 2023, FutureCycle Press published my first collection, *The Universe at the Point of Contraction*. My work is firmly rooted in this place, the Skagit Valley and the Salish Sea, and has been referred to as “Pacific Northwest Gothic.” Michael Daley has described my poems as “music that at times spins, or cries out, but then whispers in the storm-winds over the Flats.”

Duane Kirby Jensen (MC)

Duane Kirby Jensen is a painter and a poet. He is the host of Everett Poetry Night. He has exhibited and performed at numerous venues throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1989.

Adam Lafayette

I am a poet and a writer who lives near the confluence of the Skagit and Sauk rivers. When I write poetry, I hope to express my spiritual condition.

Natalie Lahr

Natalie Lahr is a queer poet, student, and journalist. She began performing her poetry as a student poet laureate for the Skagit River Poetry Foundation in a series of poetry readings at Pelican Bay Books in Anacortes. She has worked alongside KUOW Puget Sound Radio to produce multiple stories for their station, and her work has been featured on All Things Considered and Morning Edition. In 2022, she won a national award for Excellence in Literary Poetry while attending a writing conference in San Francisco. Her work centers on themes of generational trauma, identity, and womanhood. She writes primarily in free verse and prose, and is currently working on her first poetry anthology. She has lived in Washington state her entire life.

DJ Lee

DJ Lee is a writer, scholar, artist, and regents professor of English at Washington State University and a scholar-fellow of the Black Earth Institute. She grew up in Seattle and currently divides her time between Bellingham and Moscow, Idaho. She has published over a hundred articles, essays, and prose poems, the memoir *Remote: Finding Home in the Bitterroots* (Oregon State), and eight scholarly books, including *The Land Speaks* (Oxford). A hand papermaker and photographer, Lee often combines image and text. Artist residencies include the Arctic Circle Artist Residency, Women’s Studio Workshop, and the Wilderness Art Collective.

Stephen Roxborough

Stephen Roxborough is the author of six full-length collections of poetry and two CDs. An award-winning performance poet, he's also been nominated for three Pushcart Prizes. His newest collection, *Songs of the Psychic Seahorse*, launched January 2024.

S. Salazar

Raised in the Pacific Northwest, S. Salazar has always felt at home in the mountains. As an English teacher, she strove to show students that success isn’t defined by background. S. is published in *Harpur Palate*, *The Acentos Review*, *Booth Journal*, *Poet Lore*, and elsewhere. She's an MFA candidate currently juggling multiple poetry and young adult fiction manuscripts that explore generational trauma, identity, Latinx heritage, diaspora, and mental health. Her debut poetry collection *Raíces, Relics, and Other Ghosts* (Kelsay Books, 2023) examines topics of disconnection and reconnection to her Puerto Rican roots through trial and error, genealogical exploration, and the search for long-separated familia. When she isn’t writing, she can be found hiking with loved ones, talking to her parrot, Gizmo, and gushing over every dog she sees. @writessalazar on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter/X, and TikTok.