

Lowell Jaeger – Montana Poet Laureate 2017-2019

Project Title: “Poetry 101: *Poems Across the Big Sky*”

Project Goal: 101 Events

- Classrooms
- Discussions/ Conversations
- Readings
- Workshops

Project Objectives:

- Educate and entertain diverse Montana audiences
- Share the stage with other Montana poets
- Acknowledge and promote:
 - Flathead Valley Community College
 - Humanities Montana
 - Montana Arts Council
- Distribute and promote Montana poetry anthologies:
 - Poems Across the Big Sky* (2007)
 - Poems Across the Big Sky II* (2017)

Classrooms: I enjoy bringing poetry to students of all ages and backgrounds. Everyone likes to laugh, and poetry can help us do that. Poetry can also nudge us toward meaningful discussion concerning important personal and social topics. I can customize my visit to fit the needs of your curriculum, your classroom, your students. Let’s talk and plan together.

Discussions/ Conversations: Poetry can be employed in a variety of ways to stimulate thoughtful reflection and discussion. I am a trained and experienced discussion facilitator. It’s all about encouraging people to think and share. It’s all about learning from each other and respecting diverse perspectives. These conversations are of proven value to an amazing array of community meetings and organizations. Give it a try; discover what’s possible when people get together, share ideas, listen, think, grow.

Readings: At my readings, expect humor, expect serious reflection, expect to examine the “human condition” in all its marvelous complexity. I enjoy interacting with audiences. I enjoy sharing the stage with other Montana poets. In between reading from my own work, I enjoy reciting from memory the poems of Robert Frost, Donald Hall, Richard Wilbur, and others. Let’s light up the evening with the splendid magic of the spoken word!

Workshops: Everyone can sing, everyone can dance, everyone can paint, and everyone can write poems. Poetry, like any art, is a mode of human expression. Sure, some of us are more accomplished than others, but all of us have a right to give it a go. Poetry happens when words surprise each other. I love best of all to witness writers in my workshops surprising themselves. Let’s plan together to serve your groups’ particular groove.

Book Now! email

ljaeger@fvcc.edu

or call

(406) 261-1766

Bio: Lowell Jaeger is founding editor of Many Voices Press and has edited two anthologies of Montana poets, *Poems Across the Big Sky I* (2007) and *Poems Across the Big Sky II* (2017). He also edited *New Poets of the American West*, an anthology of poets from western states. Lowell has taught writing classes at numerous conferences and workshops and is currently Professor of English/Creative Writing at Flathead Valley Community College (Kalispell, Montana), where he also serves as Humanities Division Chair. He is a graduate of the Iowa Writer's Workshop, winner of the Grolier Poetry Peace Prize, and recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Montana Arts Council. Lowell was awarded the Montana Governor's Humanities Award for his work in promoting civil civic discourse. He is the author of seven collections of poems.

Books:

War On War (Utah State University Press, 1988)
Hope Against Hope (Utah State University Press 1990)
Suddenly Out of a Long Sleep (Arctos Press, 2009)
WE (Main Street Rag Publishing, 2010)
How Quickly What's Passing Goes Past (Grayson Books, 2013)
Driving the Back Road Home (Shabda Press, 2015)
Or Maybe I Drift Off Alone (Shabda Press, 2016)

Edited:

Poems Across the Big Sky (Many Voices Press, 2007)
New Poets of the American West (Many Voices Press, 2010)
Poems Across the Big Sky II (Many Voices Press, 2016)

* * * all titles are available for purchase at

www.amazon.com

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