

From the Director

Dear Friends,

Since the first Summer Fishtrap in 1988 (Western Writers/Eastern Publishing), we've chosen a theme to help inspire conversations and fuel writing. Early in 2023, we got an email from Fishtrap co-founder, mentor, and friend Rich Wandschneider:

... And it occurred to me that we might have a Fishtrap focused on love. How do we respond to this world of hate? How do we answer Memphis and Minneapolis, Sand Creek and Wounded Knee? ... How do we get on with the good life—or at least a better life? Love of course is more than romantic love... the love of parents and children, children of parents, friends, siblings.. I am older and am upset with the world's enmities, and think we should use all opportunities to focus on the alternatives—which is tolerance and brother-sisterhood, which in the end is love.

The theme resonated with the staff right away. We tossed around other ideas for awhile, but we just kept coming back to Love. Love is at the center of our lives, our families, and our creative work. Love is a noun, verb, adverb, and adjective—refusing to be categorized. We love, are loved, act lovingly, pursue and run from love. Love is paradoxical and primal, antagonist and protagonist, call and response.

What does *love* mean to you? How is *love* relevant to your writing life? How do you incorporate *love* into your creative work? What can you learn about *love* from the stories you hear from your fellow writers? From romantic *love*, to self-*love*, to *love* of family, community, and the land, we plan to spend time together—in this lovely place—examining the many aspects of *love* and its impact on our creative lives.

I deeply encourage you to take the time to learn some of the stories of this remarkable place. Listen to the stories of this land, and the *love* of the Nimiipuu people who have called it home for thousands of years, and the Wallowa County community who welcome you here today.

Welcome to the 37th Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers!

Shannon McNerney Executive Director



Fishtrap Staff



Mike Midlo
Program Director



Janis Carper Media Coordinator



Jennifer HobbsDevelopment &
OutreachManager



Devon MaxwellOffice Administrator



Fishtrap Governing Board

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Fishtrap History

It was in the mid 1980s when Wallowa County bookstore owner Rich Wandschneider attended a Western writers conference in Portland, Oregon, but something didn't feel quite right. Rich told conference organizer Kim Stafford that it seemed the event wasn't really a gathering of writers of the West, but of Willamette Valley "I-5 writers." Kim agreed, then issued a challenge: "Why don't you host the next one in Wallowa County?" In 1988, Wandschneider, Stafford, and the award-winning journalist and historian, Alvin Josephy organized a gathering at Wallowa Lake with the theme "West Coast Writers and East Coast Publishers."



Fishtrap's founding director, Rich Wandschneider with Alvin M. Josephy, Jr.

The Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers was born.

So began an annual tradition. Every July, readers, writers, journalists, historians, publishers, and lovers of the arts from all over the world gather at Wallowa Lake to write, to explore issues important to people of the West, and to make connections. The weeklong conference has provided thousands of writers the opportunity to work with some of the best authors and teachers in the West, including Ursula K. LeGuin, Luis Alberto Urrea, Bill Kittredge, Laura Pritchett, Anis Mojgani, Kathleen Dean Moore, Beth Piatote, and many, many others.



Fishtrap's new home in the Bowlby Building on Main Street, Enterprise.

Over the years Fishtrap grew to add new programs like Winter Fishtrap, The Big Read, and the Outpost wilderness writing program. More recently, Fishtrap has expanded to include youth programming, the Fishtrap Fireside reading series, and a growing partnership with Eastern Oregon University's MFA in Creative and Environmental Writing program. Fishtrap founders Rich Wandschneider and Kim Stafford continue to be closely associated with Fishtrap as Advisors, and since 2015, Shannon McNerney has led the organization as Executive Director, building on Fishtrap's mission to "cultivate clear thinking and good writing in and about the West."

Take a bit of Summer Fishtrap home with you!

Check out our fine selection of merch at the Summer Fishtrap Store, open every day from 8:30am-9pm in the Lodge lobby.



2024 Summer Fishtrap Schedule

The 37th Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers offers a variety of daily activities throughout the week. All events take place or begin at Wallowa Lake Lodge except for morning writing workshops, which take place at your instructor's cabin or another agreed upon location.

Monday, July 8 – First Day of Summer Fishtrap!

2:00-4:00pm Check-In

4:00pm Welcome to Summer Fishtrap 4:30-5:30pm Workshop Orientation

5:30-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Opening Night Kickoff with Fishtrap's Executive Director Shannon McNerney and

Fishtrap co-founder Kim Stafford, followed by author book signing

Tuesday, July 9

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00am-Noon Morning Writing Workshops

Noon-2:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Trees are Lovers Walk - Explore the amazing old growth trees of the Wallowa Lake Lodge

grounds with **Dr. David Mildrexler**, Systems Ecologist with **Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands** and **Wallowolgy Natural History Science Center**. We'll talk about the complex form and function of these ancient living beings, and processes that occur both deep in root systems and in the

highest canopies that ensure the viability of our planet.

3:00-4:00pm Craft Talk with Sharma Shields: Love is a Fairy Tale

4:00-5:00pm Open Mic Readings

5:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings: **Aaron Abeyta, Perrin Kerns, Sam Mills**, followed by author book signing

9:00pm Star Party at Wallowa Lake State Park

Wednesday, July 10

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00am-Noon Morning Writing Workshops

Noon-2:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Craft Talk with Perrin Kerns - Spooky, but Interesting: Can We Learn to Love AI as Writers?

Perrin will share her own and her students' experiences using AI for research, editing, brainstorming, prompts, project descriptions, and more. You will also have the opportunity to share what you have learned as we explore this topic together. Is this "tool" our friend, our foe,

or both?

3:00-4:00pm A Community Art Project Celebrating Love - Join Arianna Olsen from The Josephy Center

for Arts and Culture as we collaborate on three large canvases, a triptych of our collective expression of love. Whether you're drawn to painting, drawing, writing, or printing, there's a space for your unique contribution. Let's fill these canvases with colors, words, and images

that reflect the love that binds us as a community.

4:00-5:00pm Open Mic Readings

5:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings: **Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Eliot Treichel**, plus the 2024 Summer Fishtrap

Fellows—Autumn Bettinger and Isabelle Eastman, followed by author book signing

Thursday, July 11

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00am-Noon Morning Writing Workshops

Noon-2:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Craft Talk with Laura Pritchett: Out of the sheets, onto the page....sex scenes! - Let's face it:

Sex scenes can be outrageously bad—there's even an award dedicated to them. And yet, they shouldn't be skipped or avoided in writing just because of performance anxiety! Come explore

ways to include real and honest intimacy.

3:00-4:00pm Panel Discussion: Whose stories can we tell? Writing from the Voice of Another moderated by

Shannon McNerney; panelists: Nina McConigley, Tim Z. Hernandez, Eliot Treichel

How can we authentically and respectfully create characters who come from different ethnic, cultural, gender, or identities? What should we consider? Are there rules, or should we only

write from our own lived experiences?

4:00-5:00pm Open Mic Readings

5:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings: Amy Irvine, Rena Priest, Sharma Shields, followed by author book signing

Friday, July 12

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00 am-Noon Morning Writing Workshops

Noon-2:00pm Lunch

1:30pm Craft Talk with Sam Mills: Stories with Pictures and Words - Yes, you can create comics!

Cartoonist and author Sam Mills will demystify the form and share some basics for how effort

and open-mindedness can lead to fun, engaging visual stories.

3:00-4:00pm Love and Ancestral Homelands: The Connection Between Homeland and Identity in

Indigenous Culture with Jacy Sohappy from the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland

4:00-5:00pm Open Mic Readings

5:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Faculty Readings: **Tim Z. Hernandez, Nina McConigley, Laura Pritchett, followed** by author

book signing

Saturday, July 13

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

9:00am-Noon Morning Writing Workshops

Noon-2:00pm Lunch

1:30–3:00pm Yearlong Writers Workshop Readings

3:00-4:00pm Craft Talk with Kim Stafford: Writing Love for What is Broken "Life is not all honey and roses,"

an old lady told me once. Writers know this, but what to do? The first stage of love for a dark

world is simply to notice, to take a hard look. We go from there.

4:00-5:00pm Open Mic Readings

5:00-7:00pm Dinner

7:30pm Love: Keynote Address with Aaron Abeyta and music from the Bad Penny Pleasure Makers

Sunday, July 14

7:00-9:00am Breakfast

Let's talk-a listening session with Fishtrap Executive Director, Shannon McNerney

10:00-11:00am Wrap up your Summer Fishtrap experience with readings from Eastern Oregon University's

Master of Fine Arts Students in Creative Writing

11:00am-Noon Hellos and Goodbyes

Summer Fishtrap Open Mic
Tuesday-Saturday from 4-5pm
Sign-up opens at 8am in the Lodge

Steps to a Successful Open Mic Reading

Be brave! Got some writing done? If it resonates with you, it will with someone else.

Edit, edit. Open mic readings are no more than five minutes, including any introductory remarks. A good rule of thumb is to plan on 125-150 words per minute, or no more than 600 words total with an introduction.

Time yourself: Know how long five minutes feels.

Practice, practice: Read it out loud to a friend. Read it out loud to your dog. Read it out loud to your dog's friend.

Bring a legible copy to read: Double-spaced print outs with 12-14 pt font sizes are great. If you're reading from a digital device, check your display settings.

Have fun: You made the list! Breathe deep. You're prepared, and most importantly, you're among friends.

Stop on time: We'll help you out if you start to go over time. Respect your audience, the other readers, and leave them wanting more.

Take a break: If you've already read at open mic this week, please refrain from signing up multiple times. We have lots of writers wanting to share their work. Relax, listen, and be inspired to...

Get some (more) writing done!

Surround Yourself with Tranquility

Situated among some of Oregon's most remote undeveloped areas—a million acres of which is designated wilderness—EOU lies in a valley surrounded by the Wallowa, Elkhorn, and Blue Mountain Ranges.

Low Residency Mentorship

A two-week summer residency in Joseph and La Grande, Oregon connects you with award-winning faculty who mentor you online and one-on-one.

Affordable Experience

Estimated tuition and fees are \$29,310 compared to the average tuition and fees on the West Coast of \$38,400.



800.452.8639 | 541.962.3859 eou.edu/mfa



2024 Fishtrap Fellows

Since 1990, Fishtrap has awarded more than 140 Fellowships to new and emerging writers, many of whom have gone on to publish and succeed in full-time careers as writers and teachers. A Fishtrap Fellowship includes full registration to the Summer Fishtrap Gathering of Writers, lodging, meals, and a featured reading during the week. Fishtrap is able to provide Fellowships through generous support from individuals and foundations.

We are pleased to announce the 2024 Summer Fishtrap Fellowship recipients:



Autumn Bettinger is short-form fiction writer and full-time mother of two living in Portland, Oregon. When not folding laundry or slinging snacks, she can be found writing in the wee hours of the morning before her children wake up. She has won the Tadpole Press 100-Word Writing Contest, the Silver Scribes Prize, and has been highly commended in the Bath Flash Fiction Awards. Her work has been audio adapted for The No Sleep Podcast and her stories can be found in The Journal of Compressed Literary Arts, The Good Life Review, On The Run, and others.

Isabelle Eastman is a fiction writer from Cape Cod, Massachusetts. She is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst and currently

lives in Spokane, Washington, where she is an MFA candidate and composition instructor at Eastern Washington University. Her work explores haunted houses, motherhood, and the magic of whales.





2024 Fishtrap Fellowship Judge: Derek Sheffield

Derek Sheffield is the author of Not for Luck, selected by Mark Doty for the Wheelbarrow Books Poetry Prize, and Through the Second Skin, runner-up for the Emily Dickinson First Book Award and finalist for the Washington State Book Award. He is the co-editor, with Simmons Buntin and Elizabeth Dodd, of Dear America: Letters of Hope, Habitat, Defiance, and Democracy and, with Elizabeth Bradfield and CMarie Fuhrman, Cascadia Field Guide: Art, Ecology, Poetry. His awards include a special mention in the 2016 Pushcart Anthology and the James Hearst Poetry Prize judged by Li-Young Lee. Derek lives on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains in Central Washington and is the poetry editor of Terrain.org.

2024 Summer Fishtrap Faculty



AARON A. ABEYTA - Poetry

The Poem(s) for Which We Are Grateful

Aaron A. Abeyta is a Colorado native, Professor of English and the former Mayor of Antonito, Colorado, his hometown. Abeyta is also the co-founder of The Justice & Heritage Academy. He is the author of five collections of poetry and one novel. For his book, *colcha*, Abeyta received an American Book Award and the Colorado Book Award. His most recent book, *Ancestor of Fire*, was shortlisted for the Reading the West Book Award. His novel, *Rise*, *Do Not be Afraid*, was a finalist for

the 2007 Colorado Book Award and El Premio Aztlan. Abeyta is the former Poet Laureate of Colorado's Western Slope. Learn more: aaronabeytapoet.com



STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST - Nonfiction

Elevating Life Into Art

Stephanie Elizondo Griest is a globetrotting author from the Texas/Mexico borderlands. Her five award-winning books include the memoirs: All the Agents and Saints; Mexican Enough; Around the Bloc: My Life in Moscow, Beijing, and Havana; and the best-selling guidebook 100 Places Every Woman Should Go. Distinctions include a Henry Luce Scholarship to China, a Margolis Award for Social Justice Reporting, and a Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Gold Prize. Currently the Professor of Creative Nonfiction at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, she has

performed on five continents in capacities ranging from a Moth storyteller to a literary ambassador for the U.S. State Department. Learn more: StephanieElizondoGriest.com



TIM Z. HERNANDEZ - Nonfiction

Love: The Experiments

Tim Z. Hernandez is an award-winning author, research scholar, and performer. He is the recipient of the American Book Award, the Colorado Book Award, and the International Latino Book Award. In 2011, he was named one of sixteen New American Poets by the Poetry Society of America, and most recently, he was recognized for his research on locating victims of the 1948 plane wreck at Los Gatos Canyon chronicled in his book, All *They Will Call You*. Hernandez is an

Associate Professor with the University of Texas El Paso's Bilingual MFA in Creative Writing. He lives in El Paso, Texas with his two children. Learn more: timzhernandez.com



NINA MCCONIGLEY - Fiction

Only Connect: or What's Love Got to Do With It?

Nina McConigley was born in Singapore and raised in Wyoming. Her short-story collection Cowboys and East Indians was the winner of the PEN Open Book Award and a High Plains Book Award. In 2019-2020, she was a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University and is a 2022 recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Orion, and Oprah Magazine, among

others. Her play based on Cowboys and East Indians premiered at the Colorado New Play Summit in 2024. She teaches at Colorado State University. Learn more: ninamcconigley.com



RENA PRIEST - Poetry

The Secret Medicine

Rena Priest is an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She served as Washington State's 6th Poet Laureate (2021-2023). Her work has been recognized with an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets and Indigenous Nations Poets among others. Her debut collection, *Patriarchy Blues*, received an

American Book Award. Her most recent book, Northwest Know-How: Beaches, includes poems, retellings of legends, and fun descriptions of 29 of the most beloved beaches in the Pacific Northwest. She is also the editor of two anthologies, The Larger Voice: Celebrating the Work of Native Arts and Cultures and I Sing the Salmon Home: Poems from Washington State. She lives in Bellingham, Washington, on Lhaq'temish homelands. Learn more: renapriest.com



LAURA PRITCHETT - Fiction

Lovin' on Mother Earth through Imagination

Laura Pritchett is the author of seven novels. Known for championing the complex and contemporary West and giving voice to the working class, her books have garnered the PEN USA Award, the Milkweed National Fiction Prize, the WILLA, the High Plains Book Award, and others. She's also the author of two nonfiction books, one play, and was editor of three environmental-based anthologies. She directs the MFA in Nature Writing at Western Colorado University and when not writing or teaching, she's generally found exploring the mountains of her home state of Colorado. Learn more: laurapritchett.com



SHARMA SHIELDS AND SIMEON MILLS – Illustration and Graphic Storytelling

Visual Storytelling

Sharma Shields is the author of a short story collection, Favorite Monster, and two novels, The Sasquatch Hunter's Almanac and The Cassandra. Sharma's short stories and essays have appeared in The New York Times, Electric Lit, Catapult, Slice, Slate, and elsewhere and have garnered such prizes as the 2020 PNBA Award, the 2016 Washington State Book Award, and others. She received her BA from the University of Washington and her MFA from the University of Montana. Sharma has

managed a small press, Scablands Books, and is a contributing editor for Moss. Learn more: sharmashields.com

Simeon (Sam) Mills studied architecture at Columbia University, creative writing at the University of Montana, and cartooning on his own. He's published a graphic novel, Butcher Paper, and a prose science-fiction novel, The Obsoletes. His logos, illustrations, and cartoons have appeared in The Inlander, Smoke Long Quarterly, Scablands Books, Okey Panky and other venues. At Eastern Washington University, he teaches classes in drawing, visual storytelling, and imaginary worlds. He embraces the unplanned, unexpected elements that find their way into his drawings and stories and he's committed to inspiring his students to encounter those elements in their work, too. Learn more: simeonmills.com



KIM STAFFORD - Cross Genre

How to Love Your Reader through Revision

Kim Stafford is the founding director of the Northwest Writing Institute, and a founding director of Fishtrap. He served as Oregon Poet Laureate 2018-2020, and is the author of some twenty books of poetry and prose, including As the Sky Begins to Change, and and he co-edited The Art of Revising Poetry: 21 U.S. Poets on Their Drafts, Craft, and Process. Learn more: kimstaffordpoet.com



ELIOT TREICHEL – Cross Genre (Virtual)

Find Your Love

Eliot Treichel is a writer, runner, and river enthusiast. His work includes the young adult novel A Series of Small Maneuvers and the story collection Close Is Fine. A past Fishtrap Fellow, he is also the recipient of the Reading the West Award, the Oregon Book Awards Readers' Choice Award, and the Wisconsin Library Association Literary Award. Originally from Wisconsin, he now lives in La Grande, Oregon, where he is an Assistant Professor of English/Writing at Eastern Oregon University. Learn more: eliottreichel.com



Yearlong Workshops

PERRIN KERNS - Generate: A Year of Creative Nonfiction Practice and Production Yearlong 2023-24

Perrin Kerns has been teaching creative writing for over 30 years. For many of those years, she served as the Director of Writing at Marylhurst University. More recently she has been teaching literature, creative nonfiction, and digital storytelling at Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies, Prescott College, PNCA's MFA, Portland State University, Literary Arts, and Fishtrap. Her own creative work has taken her from the lyric essay to digital storytelling to personal narrative documentaries based on her lyric essays.





AMY IRVINE - It Runs Like a River: Finding the Flow and Staying the Course of a Book-Length Story Yearlong 2024-25

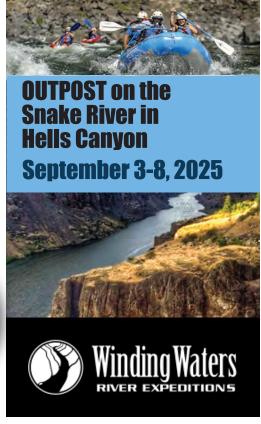
Amy Irvine's memoir, Trespass: Living at the Edge of the Promised Land, received the Orion Book Award, the Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Award and the Colorado Book Award. Desert Cabal: A New Season in the Wilderness, is a feminist response to western wilderness icon Edward Abbey's Desert Solitaire and was included in Orion Magazine's 25 Most-Read Stories of the Decade, Outside's Adventure Canon, Backpacker's New Wilderness Classics, and Recommended Reads from Stanford University's climate scientists. Irvine's essays have appeared in Best American Science & Nature Writing and Best American Food Writing series, and she is a contributing editor for Orion. For over a

decade she has taught fiction and nonfiction in the Mountainview MFA Program at Southern New Hampshire University; she has also taught for Fishtrap's Outpost, Whitman College's Semester in the West, Freeflow Institute, and Orion's Environmental Writing Workshops at both the Omega Institute in NY and the American Museum of Natural History's Research Station in Arizona. Irvine will be the William Kittredge Distinguished Visiting Writer for University of Montana's Environmental Humanities Program in spring of 2024. She lives and writes off-grid on a remote mesa in southwest Colorado. Her second memoir, Almost Animal, is forthcoming by Spiegel & Grau.



Spread the word about our evening readings open to the public this week!

7:30 M-F, FREE
Saturday Keynote Tickets:
\$25/\$20 for Fishtrappers
at fishtrap.org



Be a Fishtrapper!

Make a difference in Fishtrap's future today!

Your monthly donation helps us continue to:

- Provide writers with high quality workshops
- Provide readers, writers, and thinkers with forums for expression and conversation
- Provide teachers and students with literary resources
- Provide opportunities for connection in Wallowa County and beyond



Fishtrappers support programs like:

- Summer Fishtrap Gathering
- Outpost
- Winter Fishtrap
- The Big Read
- Online Writing Workshops
- Community Theater
- Fishtrap Fireside
- Writer-in-Residence

ALL Fishtrappers—and ONLY
Fishtrappers—will be entered in our
July 13 drawing for a free registration to
the 2025 Summer Fishtrap Gathering!
Jump in!

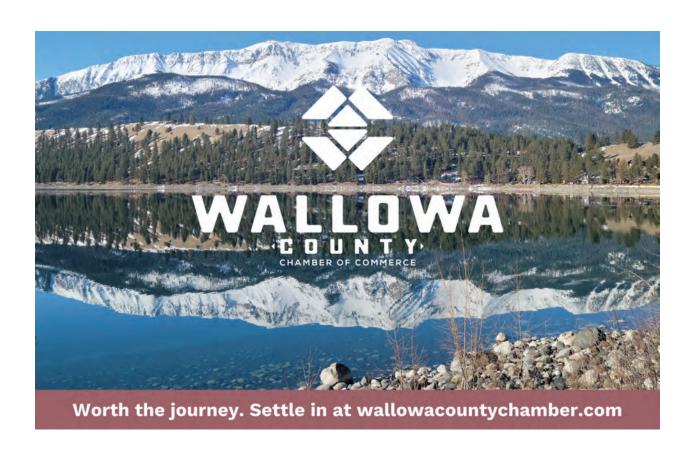
We thank our Fishtrappers with:

- Fishtrap Stickers
- Fishtrap Journal
- 10% off Fishtrap workshops (excluding Outpost and Yearlong) and merchandise
- Special Fishtrapper-only mailings and online/in-person events

Sign up to be a Fishtrapper today at www.fishtrap.org/fishtrapper. Click the option for a Monthly gift. Memberships start at just \$5/month.

























ART CENTER EAST





Bank of Eastern Oregon









































Keynote: "LOVE" Aaron Abeyta





Summer Fishtrap is possible thanks to generous support from the following foundations and partners:

The Bookloft
Eastern Oregon University
The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation
The Kinsman Foundation
Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation
Oregon Arts Commission
Roundhouse Foundation
The Silver Family Foundation
Terminal Gravity Brewing
Wallowa Lake Lodge

Summer Fishtrap continues to thrive because of the love and support of our Wallowa County Community. To the many local volunteers, writers, businesses, family, and friends who help us throughout the year, we send our heartfelt thanks!



PO Box 38, Enterprise, OR 97828 541.426.3623 fishtrap.org

Fishtrap Programs 2025

The Big ReadJanuary

Winter Fishtrap February 14-16

Outpost on the Zumwalt June 23-28

Summer Fishtrap July 7-13

Outpost in Hells Canyon September 3-8

First Fridays, October-April