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SPOKANE AUTHORS TO UNVEIL NEW WORK AT BEDTIME STORIES FUNDRAISER

*Literary event on October 28 features Shawn Vestal, Stephanie Oakes,
Laura Read, and New York Times bestselling author Jess Walter*

SPOKANE – Prominent Spokane writers will debut new work on October 28 as part of Bedtime Stories, Humanities Washington’s annual fundraising event. Jess Walter (*Beautiful Ruins, Citizen Vince*), Shawn Vestal (*Godforsaken Idaho*), Laura Read (*The Chewbacca on Hollywood Boulevard Reminds Me of You*), and Stephanie Oakes (*The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly*) will unveil short stories based on the event’s theme “Wildest Dreams.” The evening will be emceed by Gary Graham, former editor of the *Spokesman-Review*.

Funds raised from the event support Humanities Washington’s Prime Time Family Reading program in Spokane.

The night will also include the presentation of the Humanities Washington Award for philanthropy and leadership to media executive and a host of KSPS Public Television’s “Saturday Night Cinema” Shaun O’L. Higgins for his outstanding contributions to the public humanities. The award is given annually in memory of Heather C. Frank of Yakima.

Authors

Jess Walter

Walter is the author of six novels, most recently *Beautiful Ruins*. A finalist for the National Book Award in 2006 for *The Zero*, Walter won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for *Citizen Vince* in 2005 and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Award in 2007, and has been a finalist for the LA Times Book Prize and the PEN USA Award in both fiction and nonfiction. His stories have appeared in *Harper's*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Best American Short Stories*, and *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, among others.

Shawn Vestal

Vestal made his literary debut with *Godforsaken Idaho*, a story collection that won the 2014 PEN Robert W. Bingham Prize and was shortlisted for the Saroyan Prize. Vestal's first novel, *Daredevils*, was published in 2016. A graduate of the Eastern Washington University MFA program, his stories have appeared in *Tin House*, *Ecotone*, *McSweeney's*, *The Southern Review*, and other journals. He is also a columnist for the *Spokesman-Review*.

Laura Read

Read is the poet laureate of Spokane and the author of *The Chewbacca on Hollywood Boulevard Reminds Me of You* (winner of the 2010 winner of the Floating Bridge Chapbook Award). Her collection *Instructions for My Mother's Funeral* was the 2011 winner of the AWP Donald Hall Prize for Poetry.

Stephanie Oakes

Oakes's debut novel, *The Sacred Lies of Minnow Bly*, was published in 2015. Her second novel, *The Arsonist*, will be published in 2017. She currently works as a library media teacher in a combined middle and elementary school, and holds an MFA in poetry from Eastern Washington University.

At A Glance

What: Bedtime Stories Spokane literary fundraiser, featuring the presentation of the Humanities Washington Award to Shaun O'L. Higgins

When: Friday, Oct. 28, 2015 | 5:30 p.m.

Where: The Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside, Spokane, WA

Tickets: Tickets, event sponsorship, and information about purchasing a table are available at

<http://www.humanities.org/programs/bedtime-stories/>

The event is sponsored by The Hagan Foundation Center for the Humanities, PEMCO Insurance, and the *Spokesman-Review*.

About Humanities Washington

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across our state. For more about Humanities Washington, visit humanities.org.