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## WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE ANNOUNCES TOUR AND NEW BOOK FOR NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

SPOKANE— For April---National Poetry Month---Washington State Poet Laureate Tod Marshall has announced the release of a collection of poetry gathered from the people of Washington State, as well as a series of upcoming events across the state.

The book, *WA 129*, features poems by professional writers as well as amateur poets, and includes work by nationally acclaimed Washington State writers Sherman Alexie, Tom Robbins, and Tess Gallagher. The collection includes 129 poems—one for each year of statehood. The work is being published by Sage Hill Press and a [public launch party](#) will take place at the Washington State Capitol on April 13 at 5:00 p.m.

"*WA 129* celebrates the ways Washington State inspires us---all of us," said Marshall. "We include work from first-time poets and professional writers, from young students and retirees, and from big and small towns from the Pacific to the Palouse. I'm hoping this book captures the voice of our state at this moment in our history."

Marshall's engagements during National Poetry Month include writing workshops, poetry readings, and a "hike and write" on the Olympic Peninsula. His events criss-cross the state, and include visits to Ellensburg, Seattle, Spokane, Kennewick, Bellevue, Moses Lake, Bellingham, Forks, and other locations. Most activities are free and all are open to the public.

*Upcoming appearances (all except the Bainbridge Island event are free):*

**Friday Harbor, April 1**

Reading at San Juan Island Library, 2:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Friday Harbor, April 2**

Reading at San Juan Island Library, 7:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Friday Harbor, April 2**

Reading at Mount Grant Preserve, 1:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Eastsound, April 3**

Reading at Orcas Center, 7:30 p.m.

[More](#)

**Spokane, April 4**

Reading at the Shadle Library, 6:30 p.m.

[More](#)

**Spokane, April 5**

“Tod Marshall Presents Poetry: Six Poems That Can Change Your Life”

North Spokane Library, 6:30 p.m.

[More](#)

**Moses Lake, April 6**

Reading at Moses Lake Museum and Arts Center, 7:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Ellensburg, April 8**

Reading as part of Ellensburg Poetry Prowl, 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Kennewick, April 9**

Reading at the Barnes and Noble Columbia Center, 1:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Olympia, April 13**

Book launch of WA129, Washington State Capital Building, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Bainbridge Island, April 20**

Reading with Lina Bierds, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10

[More](#)

**Forks, April 21**

Reading at the Forks Library, 6:00 p.m.

**Port Angeles, April 22**

“Hike and Write” on the Olympic Peninsula, 11:00 a.m.

**Bellingham, April 23**

Lecture at the Bellingham Library as part of WCLS SkillShare, 2:00 p.m.

**Vancouver, April 26**

Reading at Clark College, Cannell Library, 12:00 p.m.

Reading at Washougal Community Library, 7:00 p.m.

**Vancouver, April 27**

Workshop at Vancouver Library, 4:00 p.m.

**White Center, April 28**

A Celebration of Poetry, White Center Library, 1:00 p.m.

[More](#)

**Auburn, April 28**

Reading with former Washington State poets laureate Elizabeth Austen and Sam Green, time TBA

**Tacoma, April 29**

“Louder Than a Bomb” panel and reading, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[More](#)

More details and events will continue to be added at [wapoetlaureate.org](http://wapoetlaureate.org).

**ABOUT TOD MARSHALL**

Marshall is the author of three poetry collections: *Dare Say* (2002), *The Tangled Line* (2009), and *Bugle* (2014), the latter of which won the Washington State Book Award in 2015. Marshall also published a collection of interviews with contemporary poets, *Range of the Possible* (2003), and an accompanying anthology of the interviewed poets' work, *Range of Voices* (2005). He is also the recipient of the 2015 Humanities Washington Award for Scholarship and Service. Tod Marshall earned an MFA degree from Eastern Washington University and a PhD from the University of Kansas. He succeeds previous poets laureate Elizabeth Austen (2014–2016), Kathleen Flenniken (2012–2014), and Sam Green (2007–2009). He currently lives in Spokane, where he is a professor of English at Gonzaga University.

**ABOUT THE WASHINGTON STATE POET LAUREATE**

The Washington State Poet Laureate position was established in April 2007 when the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that recognized the value of poetry to the culture and heritage of the state. Washington joined several other states in appointing an official state poet laureate position. The poet laureate is sponsored by Humanities Washington and ArtsWA, with the support of Gov. Jay Inslee. The position is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and Humanities Washington.

**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](http://humanities.org).

**ABOUT ARTSWA**

ArtsWA, the Washington State Arts Commission, was established by the legislature in 1961. Its mission is to collaborate with artists and arts organizations statewide to conserve, promote, and develop artistic resources. For more information about ArtsWA, visit [arts.wa.gov](http://arts.wa.gov).

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