



TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR  
Post Office Box 219 • Friday Harbor, Washington 98250  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 2023(revised May 2023)

**Poetry Garden Contest Winners Announced**

The Town of Friday Harbor and Friday Harbor Arts Commission (FHAC) have announced the winners of their second Poetry Garden Contest. A blind judging process was used to review 104 poems submitted by San Juan County residents. Final selections were made by former Washington State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna.

Winning poems will be published in a booklet as well as engraved for display at four outdoor "poetry gardens" located in Friday Harbor including at the San Juan Community Theatre and Mullis Community Senior Center, next to the post office, and in the waterfront viewing area below Downriggers. All poets and interested community members are encouraged to visit the gardens now for a last look at the previous winning poems before they are replaced with the 2023 winning poems in April.

This was the second time the FHAC partnered with a committee of local citizens on a public art project. The FHAC was formed in November 2014 by the Town of Friday Harbor to advise the Town Council on the selection, placement, and maintenance of public art.

Contest winners: Judith Azrael ("Serenity"), Eliza Bishop Steinbacher ("The First Things"), Madeleine S. Butcher ("Field" and "How the Field Lies"), Nita Couchman ("Fresh Snow" and "Pastel Morning"), Susie Foster Hale ("A November Afternoon" and "About Longing"), Emily Geyman ("The Sea"), Sandora Hedrich ("Silence" and "Wilding Wonderment"), Ladd Thomas Holroyd ("Working Cedar"), Lowell Jons ("News of the Week" and "Tracks"), Amber R. Lewis ("The Eagle"), Lynne Mercer ("Only Trees Can Provide"), Tara Mesalik MacMahon ("Haiku Gardens 1 and 2" and "Gratitude"), Jeff Otis ("Life On The Ferry"), Cynthia Rogers ("Our Final Test"), Wendy Smith ("Prehistoric Now"), Keri Talbott ("Rumors"), Marianne Tynan ("In the Gloaming" and "Saving the Island Marble Butterfly"), Paul S. Walsh ("Color" and "Surprise"), William Weissinger ("The Sea Breathes Out the Gentlest of Sighs"), and Ed Wilson ("A Garland of Thyme" and "September Lace")

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 27, 2023**

**Town installs 2023 Poetry Gardens and publishes book of winning entries.**

The Town and its Friday Harbor Arts Commission (FHAC) invite the public to enjoy new poems now on display at the four Poetry Gardens located next to the Post Office, in the waterfront viewing area below Downriggers, and in front of San Juan Community Theatre and Mullis Center. The 30 poems were written by San Juan County residents and selected by former Washington State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna in the Town's second Poetry Garden Contest.

The Town has also published a limited edition booklet of the winning poems, *Friday Harbor Poetry Gardens 2023*, available free at Town Hall. An e-book is in production for the Town website, and celebratory poetry reading is being planned for later this year.

Authors of the poems installed in the original gardens have been invited to donate their plaques to the San Juan Islands Sculpture Park for a future installation. "The public will continue to enjoy these poems for many years to come," said Town Councilmember and poetry committee member Mason Turnage. "The Town appreciates the generosity of the poets and the Sculpture Park as well as the efforts of our Poetry Garden citizen committee members Rebecca Cook and Boyd Pratt and arts commissioner David Jenkins." For more information on the Poetry Gardens and the Friday Harbor Arts Commission, go to [www.fridayharbor.org](http://www.fridayharbor.org).

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## *Town of Friday Harbor*

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### **For immediate release**

April 2024

### **Poetry reading from *Friday Harbor Poetry Gardens* April 20th**

The Town and its Friday Harbor Arts Commission invite the public to celebrate National Poetry Month with a reading by local poets of their works currently on display in the Town's poetry gardens. The reading will begin at 12:30 pm Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at San Juan Islands Museum of Art, 540 Spring Street, Friday Harbor. Admission to the museum will be free during the event.

The four poetry gardens display 30 poems selected from over 100 submitted by San Juan County residents in the Town's 2023 poetry gardens contest. A limited-edition booklet of the winning poems, *Friday Harbor Poetry Gardens 2023*, will be available at the reading courtesy of the Town. An e-book with map to the gardens is available at [www.fridayharbor.org](http://www.fridayharbor.org) under Friday Harbor Arts Commission.

Winning poems were chosen through a blind-judging process with final selections made by former Washington State Poet Laureate Claudia Castro Luna. This is the second poetry garden contest and installment by the Friday Harbor Arts Commission and the first formal reading by its published authors.

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