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Join The Seattle Public Library for Seattle Poet Populist "Candidates Read Off" July 31

Join 12 local poets nominated for the title of 2005-2006 Seattle Poet Populist at a "Candidates Read-Off" at 2 p.m. Sunday, July 31 at the Central Library, 1000 Fourth Ave., in the Microsoft Auditorium on Level 1. This program is free and everyone is welcome.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Parking in the Central Library garage will be available for the \$5 Sunday rate.

The event will feature readings by Seattle poets who were nominated by 12 Seattle literary organizations for the post of Poet Populist: Christa Bell, Nancy Dahlberg, Irene Drennan, Rajnii Eddins, Peshya Joyce Gertler, Paul Hunter, Ann Batchelor Hursey, Donald Kentop, Frances, McCue, Brian McGuigan, Cathy Ruiz, and Kary Wayson.

Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata, Bumbershoot, and The Seattle Public Library invite members of the public to vote for their favorite poet to become Seattle's Poet Populist. To vote, visit the Poet Populist Web site at <http://www.cityofseattle.net/council/licata/poetpop/>. Voting ends at 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15, 2005. The site also includes brief biographies of each candidate.

The four candidates receiving the highest number of votes will give a reading on Monday, Sept. 5, at Bumbershoot, on the Starbucks Literary Stage, Alki Room. The one poet with the most votes will then be announced and awarded a cash prize of \$500.

The winning poet will be commissioned to write one original poem and to perform readings throughout the city during the Poet Populist's 2005-2006 term.

Councilmember Licata initiated the Poet Populist program in 1999. Barnard Harris, Bart Baxter, and Tara Hardy have served.

The Poet Populist is expected to represent and promote the principals of populist poetic expression when performing in and around Seattle during his or her one-year term.

For more information contact:

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