

Announcing Columbia City's 2009 Seattle Book Fest

Remember the old Northwest Book Festival on the waterfront? How much fun it was? Well, it's about to happen again. Seattle's Columbia City neighborhood is bringing it back October 24-25 at the Columbia City Event Center, a former school that's one block from the new Columbia City light rail station.

Seattle has long been well-known as a book and author-friendly city but unlike Northwest neighbors Spokane and Portland, it has not had a major citywide book festival since 2003 when the extremely popular Northwest Book Festival lost its funding and folded. Writers, readers, bookstores and small presses have missed the annual literary bash ever since and there has been lots of talk over the years about reviving it. Now the talk has become a reality. On October 24-25, the Columbia City community will present the new 2009 Seattle Book Fest in the old Columbia School, renamed Columbia City Event Center for the occasion.

The fair will feature over 60 local authors, among them best-selling publishing phenom Garth Stein, mystery writer Mike Lawson, literary maven Nancy Pearl, women's fiction celeb Jennie Shortridge and national award winning poets Sam Hamill and Judith Roche. In addition, the fair will showcase over fifty exhibitors ranging from bookstores like Third Place Books and Fremont Place Books to nonprofits like Friends of the Library, to small but influential publishers like Copper Canyon Press, Black Heron Press and Fantagraphics. There is also a long list of panels, workshops and special events including a Scrabble tourney, spelling bee, bookbinding demo and a how-to-write-a-novel-in-a-month workshop.

The event is produced by Columbia City Cinema and co-sponsored by the Columbia City Business Association and the Rainier Chamber of Commerce. Lacking corporate sponsorship, the event became a grassroots effort, with funding and volunteer support coming from the community, the Seattle School District, the Seattle Public Library and enthusiastic exhibitors. Like the earlier festivals, admission is free with a suggested donation of \$5. The festival runs from 10am to 6pm on Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25. Over 20,000 people attended the earlier festival each year it was held.

The book fair is located in the Columbia School at 3528 South Ferdinand, in the heart of the Columbia City Historic District, a block from Rainier Avenue and a block from the light rail station on MLK Way. The festival website is at www.seattlebookfest.com.

Contact:

***Festival Coordinator
Molly Horne-Brine
206 721 3157
seabookfest09@gmail.com***