

To Swim with the Salmon:
Spirituality and Ecojustice in the Pacific Northwest
ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

It is the dream of the conference planners to host a conference which does not rely on talk alone, but also honors other ways of experiencing Creator and creation. To this end a select group of artists will display their work and share their wisdom about spirituality and ecojustice. Art and artists will be available all day in the LaSells Center gallery. Here also is where conference-goers can meet and learn from our conference musician who will showcase some of his instruments and demonstrate playing techniques of flutes and drums.

Painter Sandy Roumagoux - According to Sandy, "My Paintings are my interpretation of the ever relevant paradoxes of faith, war and nature. Much of what I do is predicated upon a personal fundamental acceptance of the "divine absurdities" of existence, and the duality's in our existence of love/hate, violence/peace, silent/sound, night/day. I focus on our cultures' abuse of the environment, our love affair with greed, our throw away consumerism and our sanitizing of violence. These abuses are glossed over with religious platitudes. I've been called political, but I don't know how to separate politics from art. Both ask something of us, something that challenges us to a responsibility. Painter or politician, we come as candidates. We want our message to resonate with the body politic, with the voters. We make promises. I was born in Yakima, WA in 1940 and raised on a farm near Camp Adair in the Willamette Valley, OR. After completing my B.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, I returned to Oregon and Newport in 1985. The subjects from my paintings are influenced by my growing up experiences on a farm where I was raised by a family consisting of avid environmentalists and gun lovers. My father's gun cabinet was part of my parents' bedroom furniture." For more information about Sandy and her art please visit <http://webpages.charter.net/sroumagou/>.

Poet David Brauer-Rieke - David was elected bishop of the Oregon Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2007. Besides his ecclesiastical role, however, he's a parent, pastor, poet and spouse. In describing himself he says, "Some things in life are really fun. I enjoy scripture study, teaching, visiting with people, learning from young adults, writing poetry and riding my bike. As bishop of the Oregon Synod (<http://www.oregonsynod.org/whoweare/leadership/bishop.htm>) it is my privilege to search with you for answers, opportunities, joys and fellow seekers. If you're a member of a church participate fully, pray frequently and invite your friends to join you. If you're not a member of a church give one a try. Things aren't always what they seem." When still pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport, OR David actively experimented with making his own biofuels. Recently he was appointed by Governor Ted Kulongoski to the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

Photographer Heather (Leklem) Wells <http://www.hljphotography.com/> was born and raised in Oregon and has been doing photography for over ten years. "I received an art education at the Central Oregon Community College earning an A.A. in Art and then a fine arts education at the Pacific Northwest College of Art earning a B.F.A. in Photography. My work is an ongoing exercise in exploring the beauty of life and the rivers of Oregon. Primarily I am interested in the relationship between light and water and the infinite number of colors it can reflect from its surroundings. I hope the viewer is left with a certain emotional or sensual response from seeing my work. If it's successful, the viewer will feel it. My tools are relatively simple, natural light, tripod, camera and color film. I use Fuji film for its unsurpassed sharpness and color saturation. My exposures range from one sixtieth of a second to two seconds, the average being about one second. Since August of 2007 I have been experimenting with using my digital Nikon D50. The results have been very satisfying and colorful, especially the images of the Wilson River, in the Tillamook Forest. Selected images have been professionally printed on metallic paper which has a glossy finish and metallic appearance that creates an image with exceptional visual interest and depth."

Filmmaker Colin Stryker is the founder of Sawgrass Productions

<http://www.sawgrassproductions.com/>. A graduate of Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts with a combined degree in Drama and Computer Science, Colin seemed pre-destined to one day combine his interests in the theatrical and the technical. After a brief and unsatisfying stint as a computer programmer for a large software firm in Massachusetts, Colin returned to school to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Film Production from the University of Miami in 1997. There he wrote, produced, directed, and edited a number of short films in and out of the classroom, ranging from hazy experiments in existential apathy to affectionate documentary profiles of some of Miami's local eccentrics and their parrots. The culmination of his grad school endeavors was his thesis film, the haunting black comedy, *Motospeaking*, which went on to enjoy a successful run in a number of art-film festivals, including the Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, North Carolina, the Seattle Underground Film Festival, and the New York Lower East Side Film Festival.

Colin moved to Los Angeles in 1999, where he immediately set about preparing for his ultimate goal of producing an independent film. Having become increasingly drawn to environmental issues, Colin came across the very controversial issue of the Snake River dams in Eastern Washington State. Instantly recognizing the far-reaching human and cultural implications of the topic, Colin began, in 2000, a series of self-funded trips to the Pacific Northwest: researching the issue, meeting with representatives of the various interest groups involved, and developing a keen visual sense of the place and its people. A year later, in 2001, Colin made his final decision to move to Portland and pursue the production of a documentary about this topic.

The Lutheran Fine Art Center was founded in 1968 by an anonymous donor who left funds in a trust for the purpose of awakening persons to the importance of fine art in their religious lives. The Center is charged with providing enrichment in the fields of art, music, and drama, thereby deepening the commitment to Christian faith. Since 1968 other anonymous donors have assured the continuing financial support of the Center. Selected pieces from the Lutheran Fine Arts Center are exhibited during this conference. They are chosen for their artistic quality and connection to the Pacific Northwest through the artists who created them, the materials used, or the themes conveyed. The LFAC is open Mondays and Wednesday from 9-12 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR (790 Marion St. NE) where art can be borrowed for a limited time at no cost. For more information visit <http://www.saintmarklutheran-salemor.org/LfaMain.htm>.

Musician Benjamin Grimes is an accomplished Native American Flutist, Oregon Native of the Willamette valley, and instructs Native American Flute courses at Oregon State University's Music department. With an ethnic mix of Native American, Celtic, and Germanic traditions, Ben's approach to the flute is one of unity through diversity. "Our differences give us strength through our knowledge and understanding of what makes each of us unique; Learn about others, and learn about yourself, but never forget that everyone is equal and that we all have the same value."

<http://eccentricacres.com/home.php>