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MASTERS TELL TALES AT 8TH ANNUAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL ON VASHON ISLAND

Vashon Wilderness Program sponsors a family friendly event on February 8 at the Open Space

Vashon Island, January 7, 2015 - VASHON WILDERNESS PROGRAM will host its 8th annual Coyote Tales Storytelling Festival on Sunday, February 8 at the Open Space for Arts and Community on Vashon Island. Starting at 2pm, storytellers Merna Hecht, Steve Jones, Janet McAlpin, and Gloria Two-Feathers will delight all with an imaginative evening of storytelling; complimentary dessert to be served during intermission. The proceeds will support the VASHON WILDERNESS PROGRAM mission to provide nature immersion experiences for Puget Sound youth.

“Storytelling is inseparable from human life,” explains Stacey Hinden, executive director of VASHON WILDERNESS PROGRAM. “For generations, we have been telling story - be it around a fire to convey lessons for survival; at the dinner table to relay a funny happening from our day; or snuggling up in the dark night to whisper a bedtime tale of wonder. The Coyote Tales Storytelling Festival will stir the imagination of all who listen, allowing our unconscious to take flight into sensuous realms of magic, myth and hero.”

Merna Ann Hecht is a poet, essayist, teaching artist and nationally known storyteller. She is a recipient of the National Storytelling Network 2008 Brimstone Award for Applied Storytelling. Merna founded and co-directs the Stories of Arrival Poetry Project with refugee and immigrant youth at Foster High School in Tukwila and she teaches creative writing, arts and humanities at the University of WA, Tacoma.

Steve Jones got his start in acting in Boston before working in LA and with San Diego’s Old Globe Theatre. He brings stories to life through deep character work, and loves finding stories everywhere and in everyone.

Janet McAlpin trained for two years at the School of Jacques LeCoq (Paris, France), co-founded UMO Ensemble (1987) and has been teaching, directing and performing physical theater for over 25 years. She has created and co-directed UMO in El Dorado, Body Inheritance, Fatal Peril, Red Tiger Tales, and Fail(ing) Better. Janet is also the co-founder and artistic visionary behind Open Space for Arts and Community on Vashon.

Gloria Two-Feathers, is Scottish with Native American bloodlines, and her body of work is influenced and enriched by her unique ethnic background and perspective. She was instructed by Lakota Elder, Buck Ghost Horse, for twenty years in spirituality, ritual and culture. Gloria is a gifted Storyteller and has written several original stories influenced by Native American mythology. She has told stories throughout the Puget Sound area.

Major sponsors for the Coyote Tales Storytelling Festival include Vashon Wilderness Program (VWP), Artisan Electric, Forest Halls, and the Genevieve Payne Family. VWP provides nature immersion experiences for Puget Sound youth, ages 4-17. More than 650 youth have been transformed through Coyote Mentoring, VWP’s approach to deep

nature connection mentoring touted by award-winning author Richard Louv as "good medicine for nature deficit disorder."

Tickets for the Coyote Tales Storytelling Festival are \$40/family & \$20/individual (advance) or \$45/family & \$25/individual (door). All tickets include complimentary dessert and beverage. Tickets can be purchased from [Brown Paper Tickets](#) and also at the Vashon Bookshop.

For more information about the Vashon Wilderness Program, visit the website:
<http://www.vashonwildernessprogram.org>

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