

E-MAIL COMMENTS:

From **Peter Pereira**, poet-performer-physician (also Floating Bridge Press/ Pontoon founder):
I just wanted to thank you all for your hard work. I had a great time at Burning Word. Good readings, good food; the Sam Hamill award was very poignant. And I loved the Poetry Doors out in the field: how creative!

From: **Gayle Kaune**, poet-conference director:
What I liked most and found most exciting is how WPA was able to combine such an eclectic and far-reaching group of poets at one event, especially the young poets along with the grey-haired ones and everyone in between. That is an inspiring and unusual thing WPA is doing and WPA has really broken some new ground with their ability to draw this wide-ranging an audience. Finally, I loved the "Door Project" from the Dharmic Engineers. Thanks for a wonderful day!

From **Cindy Williams Gutierrez**, performance poet-director:
Thank You! I brought a small Portland contingent and a few new folks from Seattle who hadn't been before. All were so impressed and had a wonderful time. It was highly provocative in the best of ways. I have no doubt that Burning Word attendees are changed by the experience there is no greater accomplishment or contribution. Heartfelt congratulations to the entire WPA team that grace the Northwest with this inspiring event.

From **bill bissett**, poet-artist-author-performer-Burning Word Headliner:
i lovd being part uv burning word such a beautiful epik brilliyant giving raging time thank yu sew much 4 inkluding me evreething raging n thanks yu n thanks yu n hope yu ar dewin brilliyant n totalee rocking lots n lots uv love 2 yu n thanks encore bill lightning n magik rainbows xcellent

From **Sarah Singer**, poet-WPA board member-performer-legend:
Congratulations. You've done a great job, all of you who saw to it that all the scheduled events ran smoothly. I was very much taken with the fact that several people came up to me to tell me they had heard me read last year, and actually remembered names of specific poems I had read. I'm sure that other readers must have had similar experiences. It tells me that people who attend are indeed lovers of poetry who approve of the varied programs and styles presented in such profusion. I am indeed proud to be a participant in such an endeavor.

From **Christin Chaya**, poet:
I just wanted to let you know that this was my first Burning Word, and I enjoyed it thoroughly. I read my poetry for the first time aloud at the open mic, and had a good experience. I loved hearing other poets read, and loved the Doorgan artwork. All in all, an inspirational day. Thank you!

From **M. Anne Sweet (and Project Z)** poet-performer-photographer:
Thank you, thank you, thank you ... for inviting me/us to perform AND for all your hard and dedicated work!!! I also really enjoyed seeing the art installation.

From **Jack McCarthy**, poet-author
I think the open mike is the heart of the spoken word movement, and I love seeing it honored. I sincerely hope it will be an indispensable, non-negotiable feature of every future Burning Word festival. Thank you for all the hard work you did to make it such a success.

From **David Horowitz**, poet-publisher (Rose Alley Press):
Thank you for the opportunity you offered to share my work--and to hear so much good work from other poets. I thought the 'open mic' session I participated in was an unusually good one. The verse and the performances were consistently worthy.

From: **Mary Lou Sanelli**, poet-author-dancer-performer:

Wow, just wow! Truly a well-run festival in the perfect atmosphere. Thank you for letting me be a part but most of all thank you for all of the hard work so that others can shine.

From **Ed Stover** of the Yakima Herald-Republic:

I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed Burning Word Saturday. I hated to leave early. It was extremely well organized and most educational/entertaining. Nice going!

From **Elizabeth Austen**, poet-performer:

I drove back to Seattle Saturday evening feeling utterly full, and so grateful to have spent the day with poets and poetry in such a beautiful setting. THANK YOU to all who made Burning Word happen - I know it's a huge amount of work. I was honored to be a part of it.

From **Ellen Elizabeth**, poet-performer:

Thank YOU! I enjoyed it all tremendously-- and for icing on the cake, a few copies of my book sold! I too am humbled by the "courage, beauty and passion standing naked on stage." Tears brimmed to the rim and over several times. I'm 50 years old and just LOVE what these gutsy younger women are doing.

From **Bill Yake**, poet-author:

Thank you. The festival was impressive; and yes, Sam's reading was the highlight of day for me. Also, I especially appreciated Tim McNulty's workshop.

From **Scott Galasso**, author-poet:

I was very pleased to attend Burning Word, and I'm glad the poetry community was so well and ably represented. I know we all enjoyed the setting, readings and workshops immensely.

From **Jennifer Becker**, poet:

Well done and many thanks to you for organizing this AMAZING day of poetry!! We stayed up half the night debating art and sharing exciting finds from the day!

From **Jed Myers**, poet and poetry reading organizer (Nana's Soup House):

Thank YOU! Sam Hamill was awesome, and I really dug the energy/presence/heart of Tara Hardy! And Koon Woon read beautiful poems!

From **Gloria Burgess**, poet/author/performer:

Thanks again for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing celebration of the word & the soul. And thanks for all of your efforts & others' who made this year's Festival a bonfire!