



15th Annual
Northwest Teachers Conference

Sunday, July 4th to Friday, July 9th 2010

Camp Brotherhood, Washington

*Professional
development &
personal renewal
for educators who
want to think for
themselves*

- Explore the challenge of sustaining your own voice amid increasing pressure to standardize curriculum, classrooms, and children's needs
- Reclaim the energy that comes from being proud to be a teacher
- Envision learning environments where finding meaning matters
- Make time and space for the satisfactions and struggles of the creative process
- Identify personal/community resources needed to broaden and transform your work

" NWTC is the missing piece—it gets to the heart and soul of teaching that is never addressed at how-to conferences... Camp helped me not to be stuck in my resentment of standardized education but instead to focus my energies on making my classroom a refuge where the real work of becoming human happens."

--Bernadette Omri, NWTC participant

Founded in 1996 by Tom Hunter and Richard Scholtz, Northwest Teachers Conference (a.k.a. Teachers Camp) reflects the belief that education works best when individuals and groups define their own questions and search for their own answers. NWTC participants include teachers, administrators, and specialists from across the United States and Canada who work with ages ranging from birth to adult in many different settings. At NWTC, participants are acknowledged for their courage and energy and are invited to take risks, to collaborate in creative efforts, to enrich their own sense of self. We have room for 75 participants, with limited space for children of participants. The daily schedule gives practical shape to our intention that participants help create the program.

- Each morning staff members lead a group session for adult participants. These sessions are interactive and end with time for reflection.
- Afternoons are open for participant-initiated discussions, activities, exploration, collaboration, or personal free time.
- In the evening all adults and children gather for fun and reflection with stories, games, skits, and songs. Informal gatherings continue into the night



**“NWTC is like drinking Chicken Soup for the Soul
through a Krazy Straw.”
-- Mat Freeman, NWTC participant**



Our staff has years of experience and a lot to offer. We talk together throughout the year to explore possible directions for morning sessions. Here is a brief bio and a question each person is wondering about right now.

JUDY BIERMAN believes whole-heartedly in planting the arts and imaginative work/play in the center of learning activities. For the past 25 years, she has taught classes for both children and adults in a wide variety of settings. She is passionate about helping students to find their own voices. She lives on Whidbey Island in Washington, where she shares life and land with her partner Chris, three goats, six chickens, a dog, a cat, and many trees.

Q: “How does my relationship to the woods differ from my relationship to the garden? Which situations call for stewardship, which for cultivation, which for neither? How could we have this conversation with children?”

JACKIE BROWN’S teaching has spanned all elementary grades. She has taught in the Pacific Northwest and in Ireland, and currently teaches fifth grade in the Bellingham Public Schools. She brings an international consciousness to her fifth graders while encouraging and enabling them to get actively involved in local issues and events. She enthusiastically includes sustainability and social justice education in her classroom and routinely concocts active co-curricular evenings and outings with parents, local artists, community members and, most importantly, kids.

Q: “What does “courage” mean, and how do we foster its development in ourselves and the children?”

KATE GRAY’S sunrises are filled with golden retrievers and writing. Her poems and stories chronicle her path on many rivers, some in Oregon, where she’s lived for twenty years. Her chapbook, *Bone Knowing*, won the 2006 Gertrude poetry contest, and her first chapbook, *Where She Goes*, won the 2000 Blue Light Poetry Prize. In fall 2007 Cedar House Press published her first full-length collection, *Another Sunset We Survive*. She teaches at Clackamas Community College and is part of Portland’s Dangerous Writing community. More at www.kategraywriter.com

Q: “What is the duty of the artist?”

BILLIE OGNENOFF has the joy of spending her days with "littles" in her family childcare program. She has worn many hats in the early childhood field over the past 30 years and considers reflective practice, mentoring, relationships and wonder (for kids and adults) to be her primary areas of interest. She resides in Milwaukee, WI with her family where she enjoys writing, encouraging human connections, and learning (slowly) to play an instrument for the first time in her life!

Q: “How do we bring our real selves to our work in ways that matter for the long haul?”

CHRISTIAN SWENSON is a Seattle-based performing artist who articulates his enthusiasm for life with his body and voice. His pioneering "Human Jazz" work (an improvised fusion of singing, acting and dancing) has been seen throughout this country and in Canada, Europe, and Asia. Presently, on the Drama faculty at Seattle University, his diverse training includes dance, mime, voice, as well as work with Korean shaman, Hi-ah Park, and the late Pakistani master-singer, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. His web site is www.humanjazz.com.

Q: “If we ever outgrow the Puritan work ethic, what will our lives be like?”

KAREE WARDROP’S collage-of-a-life pulls together interpreting (ASL/English), writing, practicing theatre, creating music, and encouraging conversations that move local schools towards further honoring creativity – theoretically, artistically and practically. Karee believes in the deep, long-lasting and powerful influence of caring teachers and wants to help create a place where the well-seasoned and the newest of teachers can find ways to best support and challenge each other. She lives in Bellingham with her magnificent family.

Q: “What could happen if we valued self expression and creativity as deeply as we value fact-based knowledge?”

Other returning staff this year include Aeden Hunter (childcare), Dale Oddson (arts resource), and Flip Breskin (music resource). Joining us for the first time as a vocal music resource – Mary K. McNeill!

NWTC 2010 begins Sunday July 4th at 2 PM and ends Friday July 9th at 1PM.

Participant Tuition: \$725.00 (USD) Tuition includes the program, room and board.

Children, ages 4-12: \$400.00. (USD) (Space is limited, please call us.)

We make **scholarships** available to all who need them, because a lack of money should not be the thing that prevents you from coming. **Request scholarship info when registering.**

Your name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Your work place: _____



Mail your \$225.00 deposit check (US funds) to:

NWTC c/o PSGW 1503 E St, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Make checks payable to: Puget Sound Guitar Workshop.

Credit and Clock Hours available through WWU.

Please contact us for details.

Camp Brotherhood is located an hour north of Seattle in a beautiful wooded farm setting.

www.campbrotherhood.org

NWTC is a project of the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop.

E-mail us: NWTeachersConference@gmail.com . Or call us: 360-647-0741. More information available at nwteachersconference.org.

"The NWTC community challenged and nurtured me. How often do you get to use both of those verbs in the same sentence?"

-- John Knowles, Artist-at-Large & past NWTC staff