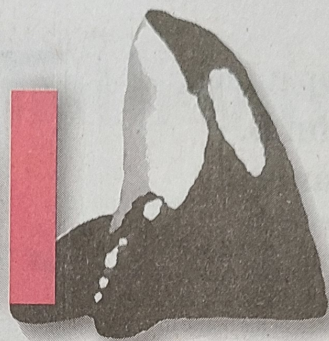


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## Four local writers join for belated book launches

BY HEATHER SPAULDING  
Editor

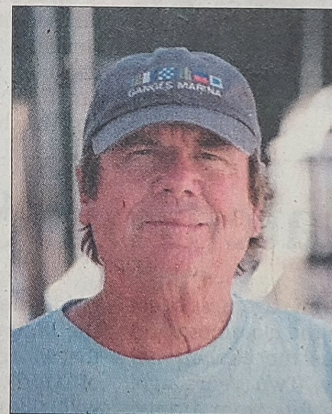
*Editors note: Editor Heather Spaulding is the daughter of Nancy McDonnell Spaulding, one of the authors in this article.*

Local authors Tara Mesalik MacMahon, Boyd Pratt, Nancy McDonnell Spaulding and Gary Thompson will be reading from their recent books Sept. 8 at the San Juan Grange Sept. 8 at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The event, "Four Island Writers for a much-belated Book-Book-Book-Book Launch," is co-sponsored by the San Juan Island Library and Griffin Bay Bookstore.

"We've billed it as a much-belated book book book book launch because all four of our books came out during COVID," Pratt said. "This is the first real launch for us all. But we mainly want to have a celebration where we can share our work with our neighbors and fellow islanders."

Copies of each of the books will be for sale at the event, and refreshments will be provided.

Pratt will be reading from his



Boyd Pratt, Tara Mesalik MacMahon, Gary Thompson and Nancy McDonnell Spaulding.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

"Pratt said. The importance of the Salish Sea, not just in island life, caught his attention while researching the book.

"First, and foremost, was the centrality of the San Juans, in terms of the Salish Sea as a geographical, environmental, and cultural concept," Pratt said. "For instance, many, if not most, of the salmon in the Salish Sea and as far north as Alaska spend some time in the San Juans."

ecosystem," he said. "One of the major resources for researching the book is government reports on the fisheries, and that has multiplied rapidly in both scope and depth in recent times. The more we know, (hopefully) the better we act."

Mesalik MacMahon's journey into the world of the written word began as a child. "I have always loved reading poetry, even as a child I loved the way poetry made me feel," she said. "I wrote poems

and print literary journals including Poet Lore, Nimrod International, Dogwood, "New Moons" from Red Hen Press and others. Not one to keep away from writing long, Mesalik MacMahon has two more projects in the works, "Wings & Danger Bones," a second collection of poetry, as well as a children's book, "Closet of Dreams," a children's chapter book co-authored with her brother, Mark Ukra and illustrated by Friday Harbor artist,

Speaking of surprise, when asked what, if any surprises she learned through the process of writing "Barefoot Up the Mountain," Mesalik MacMahon replied, "I guess 'surprise' is the word! I am continuously surprised by what finds itself on the page during my writing process. A favorite quote of mine is from Robert Frost, 'no surprise for the writer, no surprise for the reader.' For me, this letting go and not controlling the outcomes