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# Espy Foundation

January 2008 Newsletter

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## Save the Date: Espy 2008 Art Auction

Mark your calendars for the Espy Foundation annual auction—to be held at the Ruins in Seattle on Sunday, March 2nd at 1:00 p.m. The auction will feature art, books, and adventures with auctioneer John Curley. Email us if you'd like to receive an invitation or make a donation to the auction!



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## Espy Alumni Update

### Ferenc Barnás 2004

Espy has recently received a copy of Barnás' third novel, *A kilencedik*, or *The Ninth*, published in Budapest in 2006. It is this novel that Barnás worked on during his memorable retreat in Oysterville. *The Ninth* is a story of the 9-year-old ninth child of a poor Catholic family in Communist Hungary of the 1960s. It was hailed by critics as portraying "the unmistakable, throat- and gut-wrenching quality of distress that everyone remembers from his or her own childhood..." Barnás has been awarded two of Hungary's highest literary honors: the Marai Prize (2001) and the Déri Prize (2006). Currently Paul Olchvary is completing his translation of this book with funding from a PEN Translation Grant.

### Joan Stuart Ross August 2006



Joan is an encaustic painter, an art form that originated from the Greeks boat repair techniques.

Molten beeswax, damar varnish and colored pigment are painted onto the surface in layers, and each layer is "burned in" with a torch. Joan reflects that the Willapa Bay light that she was exposed to during her residency changed the way she sees and how she paints. "It transfixes me as I try to absorb

its particles and inspires me to seek an evocation of that experience in my work." Joan is now living part-time in Nahcotta near the Bay, where she is building a painting studio.

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## Arts Education in Ocean Beach Schools

**Marita Dingus** exhibits at the Francine Seders Gallery in Seattle. She will come to the Peninsula in February to conduct visual art workshops in which students will build sculptural self-portraits using found objects and meaningful personal artifacts.

“I make mixed media sculpture out of discarded materials. The sculpture takes the form of relics from the African Diaspora. I use discarded materials because I see people of African descent as being used during the institution of slavery and then discarded.”



**Polly Buckingham** of Spokane will arrive February 4 for her second of three workshops with Peninsula youth. She leads creative writing workshops with the theme of personal narrative. Polly is the editor of *StringTown*, an annual Northwest literary magazine, and the founder of Stringtown Press. She is a published writer and poet as well as a writing instructor who has taught at Eastern Washington University and at Clatsop Community College. Polly is devoted to the Northwest community of writers, and her locally networked publications are widely popular.

## Residency Program: January 2008

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Six graduate students (use 2 sentences from annual letter) and Steven Fidel...

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## Espy Event Report: Steve Jensen & Vincent Lipe Studio

On January 16, the Espy Foundation **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** hosted prospective major donors at artist Steve Jensen's Seattle studio for an evening with trustees and past residents. Presentations included a DVD tour of Espy at Oysterville and **Architect George Suyama presented the drawing of and concepts behind the new residency complex at Oysterville. This gathering is the first of a series for prospective donors.**

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