

ART

JANE WAGGONER DESCHNER is an artist whose medium is the found photograph. For over twenty years, she worked in collage. Recently, facilitated by increasingly sophisticated digital technology and the age-old art of needle-in-hand, she has been exploring new ways of seeing vernacular photos, those ubiquitous, but often overlooked, products of mass culture. Currently her work is traveling throughout Montana and Wyoming as part of their ArtMobile programs. Opening January 2008, her work will be seen in “Speaking Volumes: Transforming Hate,” a national juried exhibition organized by Helena, Montana’s Holter Museum of Art and the Montana Human Rights Network. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Visual Art from Vermont College in February 2002. In 2006, she co-authored and designed the book, *Artists-In-Residence: The Creative Center’s Approach to Arts in Healthcare* with The Creative Center in New York City. In addition to creating her own artwork, she works as a curator; teacher; consultant to arts in healthcare programs; coordinator of large public art projects; and freelancer in advertising, marketing, editing, publishing and graphic design. Her work is in the collections of Federal Reserve Banks in Minneapolis, MN and Helena, MT; University of Montana; Montana State University-Billings Foundation; Yellowstone Public Radio; Nicolaysen Art Museum, Casper, WY; Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, Helena, MT; and individuals internationally.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: A photo collage artist uses images (most often taken from catalogs and magazines) to create from many parts a new, individual statement. Deschner shows slides and examples of her own work to model how an artist thinks and works, and briefly discusses the art historical background and significance of collage-making, a new 20th century art form. It is a wonderfully equalizing medium because there is little need for traditional, often intimidating, artistic skills (i.e., ability to draw). Virtually every student enjoys creating a successful, unique artwork. One popular photo collage project Deschner uses is to ask each young artist to make a self-portrait--not in the traditional image of a face, but to choose and combine images which are personal and express what he/she knows and/or feels about him/herself. Three other collage projects, an exercise in abstraction, button/pin making and/or a collaborative surrealist game, are options she will discuss with the teacher contact.

Grade levels	2nd - 12th grade; the depth of explanation and length of hands-on increases in the higher grades.
# Students	Up to 20-25 per class for hands-on experience
Time required	1 hour - 1 ½ hours per workshop (1/2 hour slides; ½ - 1 hour for hands-on)
# Workshops per day	2 slide shows; 4 technique explanation and hands-on (can combine classes for slide show then instructor will spend time in each classroom for hands-on)
Advance preparation	Schools provide scissors, gluesticks, tagboard and a big selection of magazines (in subjects of interest to students).

ART

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: Becoming an Artist. The life of an artist is challenging—what’s it like to live your life as an artist? How does one combine self-expression with making a living? Using a slideshow of images of her work, Deschner will discuss her journey from deciding to go to art school at age 33 to earning a Masters of Fine Art twenty years later. She has used making art to help her through personal difficulties. Her work has evolved from hand-made photomontages to work interpreting found photographs on the computer. She has learned other skills (graphic design, picture framing, teaching) as part of her art practice and to support herself.

Grade levels	6 th to 12th
# Students	regular class size, 20-25
Time required	.45-50 minutes
# Workshops per day	around 4
Advance preparation	locate a projector that can show a powerpoint from a CD

WRITING

Award-winning poet **DONNA DAVIS** teaches writing workshops to aspiring poets ages 8 to 80. An award-winning actress as well, she brings an open and energetic style to her sessions. Donna is a 1997 recipient of the Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship in Literature. Her work appears in various journals and daybooks. She was named a 2001 *New Letters* finalist in poetry and a 2002 Artist in Residence with the Holter Museum of Art and the Helena National Forest.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

In her workshops, Donna engages the students as participants in an exciting adventure--poetry. Students do poetry in their time with her - her workshops are interactive and active. Donna loves poetry and teaching, and that love shows in her animated give-and-take with her students and fellow writers. Teachers and students alike give her rave reviews.

This year, Donna also offers a Lewis and Clark option, with a focus on the amazing journey that transformed our nation, its landscape, its inhabitants, and its ethos.

THIS WORKSHOP IS AVAILABLE ONLY WITHIN 150 MILES OF HELENA.

Grade levels	3rd grade - adult. If grades/ages are to be combined, please consult with Donna in advance.
# Students	about 15 maximum in order to give each student individual attention and a chance to share. Donna can also do presentations for assemblies.
Time required	1 1/2 to 2 hours (again, so each student receives individual attention and has a chance to shine)
# Workshops per day	2 <i>plus</i> a short in-service for teachers or a reading.
Availability	She is not available in December and January, although some exceptions may be arranged. She is not usually available on Fridays.
Advance preparation	She will need chalkboard or flip chart with markers. Students should have writing materials.
Collaboration	Donna is willing to collaborate with other Poets on the Prairie for workshops based on themes chosen by the artists or teachers at the schools. Her previous collaborations have been very well received.

MUSIC

TINA NELSON earned a B.A. in music from the University of Montana with continuing classes at MSU-Billings and Rocky Mountain College. She is a French hornist in the Billings Symphony, Billings Community Band, Billings Brass Quintet, and has played in numerous musical productions and as back-up for guest soloists and ice shows. She has given instrument presentations in schools throughout Billings, has taught band at 3 county schools, and is currently a private music teacher. Schools say: “We love her hands-on approach and her personality is so warm and bubbly! She is very patient. She allows the children to try all of her instruments, and she is very good at teaching the kids key concepts and vocabulary.”

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

Introduces the brass family of instruments and demonstrates the French horn through a mini-concert with literature expanding 300 years from familiar to classical. Students are encouraged to listen to the range, style, tone color, etc. Students will be able to “buzz” on a collection of mouthpieces and a few old indestructible tubas, trumpets, etc.

Grade levels	K-8
# Students	25-30
Time required	45-60 minutes
# Workshops per day	5
Availability	She is available Monday - Friday.

WRITING

SHEILA RUBLE, poet and photographer, earned a B. A. in English Literature from Colorado College. Her primary interest lies in exploring through writing and photography the natural landscape and the ways in which it reflects our interior landscape. In July, 2004, Pronghorn Press published her collection of poems, *Listening to Stones*. An avid horsewoman, she teaches English riding out of her barn north of Billings, judges regional dressage schooling shows, and serves as a US Pony Club instructor. For the past 28 years, she has also taught the 4-H dog obedience program for Yellowstone County's Extension Service. Both her poetry and photographs have received state, regional, and national awards. Her poetry has been published in four regional anthologies and *IntermountainWoman*. She is a contributor to *Highlights Magazine* for children. She was years 2000 and 2002 winner of the Hard Ground writing contests. Prize winning photos have appeared in *Horse and Rider*, *Equus*, the *Brayer*, the *Ranch Dog Trainer*, and other publications. She has exhibited and sold photographs at the Toucan Gallery and the Wellness Center in Billings, has done the candid photos for several weddings, and had two photographs selected for publication in the book, *A Day in the Life of Billings*. She is an active member of the Soapweed Sisters Salon, a Billings-based poetry writing group whose work has been read at The Writer's Voice, Barnes and Noble, the Wellness Center, and on KEMC public radio and Community Channel 7 TV.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS: 1. POETRY Teaching students to sharpen their powers of observation and to translate what they see and feel as a part of daily life into some form of written artistic expression. Use will be made of natural objects, photos, and various writing exercises as 'triggers' to stimulate the students' own writing abilities. Reading and discussion of age-appropriate poetry to demonstrate that poetry can be for everyone. Depending upon the classroom teacher's goals for the workshop, emphasis can be placed on either introducing the basic elements of poetry or writing poetry. For younger children, collaborative class poems will replace individual writing exercises.

2. HOW TO TAKE GOOD PICTURES EVEN WITH A LOUSY CAMERA:

Photography workshop for 8th through 12th grades. The workshops will concentrate on elements of good composition, learning to see as the camera sees and what makes a good photographic subject. Kids should bring their own cameras to the workshops and be knowledgeable about how to use them. Ideally, the group would be able to walk around the school or school grounds and take some pictures to put into practice what is being discussed.

Grade Levels	3rd through 6th grades for the poetry workshop. She will teach an <u>honors</u> English class for high school students who would like to do some poetry writing.
# Students	Preferably 15 to 25, genuinely interested in writing or photography
Time required	1 to 1 ½ hours (1 ½ gives time for writing exercises)
# Workshops per day	3 or 4 maximum
Availability	Any day except Wednesday. She will not be available until January, 2008.

ART: CHAINMAIL, WOODCARVING, OR DRAWING

TODD KINTZ is an artist who received a B.A. in sculpture and drawing at MSU-Billings. His biggest influence has been his life-long fascination with the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Since 1991, he has been making chainmail armor and jewelry along with wood carving and drawing. He has taught at the junior-high through adult levels. His work is displayed regionally and in private collections from Tokyo, Japan to Dayville, Connecticut.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: Todd’s goal in teaching is to develop in the students a good grasp of fundamentals from which they can explore their creative ideas as far as possible. With **chainmail**, the first thing taught is the “4 in 1” weave which is the foundation of many patterns of armor and jewelry. At the end of the class, the students generally have a bracelet or a necklace of their own construction. Other weaves and ring making can be taught as time allows. Todd can also teach **wood carving** or **drawing**.

Grade levels	5 - 12
# Students	Up to 20. Small groups are ideal.
Time required	Normal class period
Availability	Monday - Friday
# Workshops per day	2-4
Advance preparation	Chainmail; two pairs of pliers/student. Artist will bring some extra. Wood carving; pencil, knife and wood. Drawing; paper, pencils.
Collaboration	Todd is willing to work with other artists and teachers to fit the class within existing lesson plans.

ART

MANA LESMAN is a long time professional painter and art instructor. Having studied art, architecture and product design at Denver University, Kansas State University and Kansas City Art Institute, she spent seven years as a product designer in Chicago before returning to painting and teaching. Recipient of three Chicago Fine Arts Council independent artist projects grants, she instructed children in Chicago's West Side neighborhoods and in numerous after school programs there and in Montana since 1985. She is currently arts instructor for the Billings Parks and Recreation Cultural Enrichment Program as well as teaching at the Billings Community Center.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

1. Watercolor painting is a struggle and a mystery to most novice artists. This workshop will introduce students to basic techniques and fundamentals of watercolor. Students will receive a hands-on experience in paint application and then complete a small painting with guidance from the instructor.

2. Drawing: For beginners, this includes sketching techniques, perspective, and black and white shading and rendering.

3. Basic elements of drawing and rendering would be presented to students and a hands on experience in drawing would help them put into practice the techniques presented. Students would complete a drawing of objects in a still life set up and learn shading and shadowing of the subject. Each participant should have a #2 pencil, 3-4 sheets of 11x14 inch drawing paper and a kneaded eraser (1/2 of a regular size kneaded eraser will be quite adequate).

Grade levels	3rd - 12th
# Students	15-20
Time required	1 □ hours
# Workshops per day	3
Availability	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
Advance preparation	Watercolor paint sets, watercolor paper, pencils, water containers, 3/4 " flat ferrule watercolor brushes (instructor can furnish brushes if necessary), 3/4 " masking tape.

DANCE

JULIA MARBLE began her early dance training in Billings. She then attended and graduated from a performing arts high school, National Academy of the Arts, in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. She attended Cornish Institute of the Allied Arts for two years and then moved to NYC to further her training in Ballet, Modern, and Jazz. Julia danced professionally with various dance companies including Mathews-Masters Dance Company. She has taught many disciplines and styles from infants to adults around the United States. She is certified to teach the Zena Rommett floor-barre; the Tempo, Level, Energy, and Shape Syllabus; and the Creative Movement Center Syllabus. Ms. Marble also served as Administrator and Artistic Director of Dance Arts Los Alamos, a non-profit organization for two years. Julia loves children and teaching them dance and creative movement. It is her desire to make dance available to all children around the world.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: “The Concepts of Dance” I

Space, time, and energy exploration make up the focus of the classes. These classes are developmentally appropriate and are structured after Seattle’s Creative Dance Center syllabus. Workshops will include use of some props and instruments. Workshop participants will be:

- *Developing problem-solving skills through the experience of solving movement problems.
- *Increasing learning in other curriculum areas since both creative and logical mental faculties are engaged.
- *Learning to cooperate with others through partner and group work.
- *Practicing self-discipline through sharing space and interacting safely with other dancers.
- *Increasing self-esteem through positive and non-competitive experiences.
- *Strengthening the ability to listen and follow directions.
- *Releasing energy through positive physical activity.
- *Becoming more self-aware by expressing feelings through movement. (Contrasting movements help define feelings.)
- *Feeling the joy and satisfaction of expressing his or her own thoughts through movement.

Grade levels	All levels of classes. Possible grade combinations 1st-2nd;3rd-4th;5th-6th;7th-8th;9th-12 th
# Students	Maximum 30
Time required	1 hour
# Workshops per day	3-4
Availability	<i>In or very near Billings only.</i> Monday through Friday
Advance preparation	Participants should wear loose suitable clothing for moving at all levels and lying on the floor.
Materials required	Room large enough to move freely in and a floor suitable for lying on / Audio System preferred.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: “The Concepts of Dance” II

Space, time, and energy exploration make up the focus of the classes. These classes are developmentally appropriate and are structured after Seattle’s Creative Dance Center syllabus.

Workshops will include use of some props and instruments. Workshop participants will be:

- *Developing problem-solving skills through the experience of solving movement problems.
- *Increasing learning in other curriculum areas since both creative and logical mental faculties are engaged.
- *Learning to cooperate with others through partner and group work.
- *Practicing self-discipline through sharing space and interacting safely with other dancers.
- *Increasing self-esteem through positive and non-competitive experiences.
- *Strengthening the ability to listen and follow directions.
- *Releasing energy through positive physical activity.
- *Becoming more self-aware by expressing feelings through movement. (Contrasting movements help define feelings.)
- *Feeling the joy and satisfaction of expressing his or her own thoughts through movement.

Grade levels Grades 1 - 8

Students Maximum 30

Time required 30 minutes

Workshops per day 6-8

Availability Monday through Friday

Advance preparation Participants should wear loose suitable clothing for moving at all levels.

Materials required None. Classroom space is OK.

ART

SUSANN LAVOLD studied art at the University of Montana. She spent a year in Europe doing Independent Studies on cross-cultural influences on folk art, symbolism in Renaissance painting, and on the techniques of the old masters. Susann continued her studies by visiting archeological digs in Greece, Italy, France, England, Scotland, Norway, Mexico, Belize and the U.S. Lavold worked for ten years as a draftsman for the federal government, as a photo editor for a book publishing company, and for the last 6 years as a visual display artist for a national retail chain. On the job, she created murals, faux-painted walls, columns and props. Lavold tutors young artists, and is currently working on a series of educational paintings that deal with the major influences on this region. Susann's art has appeared in Montana Magazine, won regional awards and has been used as special drawing awards during the prestigious Patron's Ball fundraiser for the Buffalo Bill Historic Center in Cody. Susann lives on a ranch outside of Big Timber. She works in a rural school. Last fall (2005) she illustrated Charlie Williams' book of poetry, "Time Capsules." She has been teaching adult art classes at the Depot Gallery in Red Lodge and at the Big Timber High School. This summer (2006) she taught drawing classes in Big Timber through the PTA and also at the Depot in Red Lodge and other communities.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION:

"Drawing the Human Face" learn how to use shading, proportion and contrast to develop life-like, realistic portraits of the people that you know and love.

"Drawing Animals" - Learn the basic geometry of the bone structure of animals and how to use it to get the right proportions in a drawing, use shading and contrast to create a three dimensional look in your drawing.

Grade levels: 3-12

Students: 8-25

Time required: Half day to a full day. Longer workshops can be arranged.

Workshops per day: 1-2

Availability: Fridays only

Materials required: Poster board or watercolor quality paper. Rulers, pencils, gum erasers, paint, sponges, access to computer or encyclopedia for research.

Advance preparation: The teacher(s) can have the students research the local birds and bugs as well as different folk patterns for ideas on geometric shapes.

WRITING

Former president of Little Big Horn College in Crow Agency, **HENRY REAL BIRD** is a Native American cowboy poet, rancher, and educator. Real Bird is featured in the award-winning documentary “Why the Cowboy Sings.” Produced by the Western Folklife Center, the video was awarded the Gold Special Jury Prize for documentary television productions at the 35th annual WorldFest-Houston International Film Festival, 2002. Henry has written and illustrated twelve children's books. He still speaks Crow as his primary language and feels this has helped in his writing of poetry. Real Bird appears annually at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada. He performed in New York City in February, 2004.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: Real Bird can write poems and songs with students from kindergarten through grade 12. He usually tells stories from picture books and/or flannel boards to younger students and writes essays with older ones. He is eager to show them how to write and how to enjoy thinking, stressing the emerging of self. Henry will bring out emotions good and bad. He can also perform or sing in traditional Crow language.

Grade levels	All
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WRITING

WILBUR WOOD is a widely published poet, essayist and journalist (both in print and on public radio), as well as an editor and part-time college teacher. He has conducted writing workshops for many years, in many settings, for students of all ages. For Poets on the Prairie, Mr. Wood offers three workshops.

1. Creative Writing. Short, vibrant pieces of writing - usually poems - are used to inspire candid student responses and allow certain issues or themes to arise (examples: how place forms character, how loss can turn to gain, how people respond to a perceived “other”). Out of these discussions Mr. Wood spins writing exercises. The aim is for every student to produce at least one first draft. (If the schedule leaves enough time amidst classroom presentations Mr. Wood will write comments on each students’ piece of writing, suggesting ways to improve it. If the schedule leaves insufficient time between classes, the task of commenting is left to the teachers.)

2. Newspaper or Literary Journal Production. Meeting with student journalists or creative writers (and, if desired, their advisors), Mr. Wood suggests in-depth, practical approaches to produce high quality student newspapers or literary-arts journals. This can involve developing stories, co-editing existing manuscripts with students, surveying layout and design strategies, generating promotion and advertising techniques, and dealing with difficult or controversial subject matter.

3. Tips for Writing Teachers. This workshop focuses on inspiring student writers to work in various genres, from private journals to more public forms -- poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction -- and from informal essays to formal research papers. Teachers are encouraged to bring actual student manuscripts from all these genres for discussion and co-editing. Grammar and usage, inappropriate subject matter, privacy and free speech are all subjects worth exploring. After the initial contact with Writer’s Voice, Wilbur Wood can be reached by e-mail: rewood@midrivers.com or by phone: 406-323-2542 or at P.O. Box 12, Roundup, Montana 59072

WRITING AND MUSIC

TJ CASEY is passionate about preserving our heritage, and sees young people as a crucial link. His special skills as an educator and communicator spark students to discover innate talents and ignite their imaginations. He then teaches them to link into the age-old chain of cowboy poetry as a form of artistic and historic expression. This multi-faceted artist has played guitar since he was five. He continued to develop his musical talent and at age fourteen discovered another avenue of expression through writing cowboy poetry. Naturally, the two things combined into successful songwriting, and in 2002 his *Trickling Water* was published by International Water Education for Teachers (WET), Discover a Watershed Series. Also in 2002, TJ was selected to the elite group of 140 cowboy poets honored through publication in the anthology *The Big Roundup*. His latest release, the decidedly traditional CD *Pure "D" Cowboy*, rose to #6 on the Western Music Charts, with the song *Cowboy Don't Change Your Ways* topping out at #1 and another song, *It's In My Blood* nominated for a Native American Music Award. TJ has spent two thirds of his life in the saddle, growing up on a ranch and later working on ranches all over the west. That makes him first and foremost a cowboy - which in turn equips him to be a writer of cowboy poetry and composer of cowboy songs. Tying that to his musical, vocal and performance talents opened many doors in the entertainment world, where TJ has accumulated more than three decades of experience, and countless fans across America who clamor for his unique stage presence and performing skills. Happiest when he's in "cowboy country," TJ has centered his Artist in Residence work through Arts Councils in Montana, North and South Dakota, Nevada and Alaska along with Arts Northwest and Wyoming Arts Alliance; but his heart for young people and devotion to Western and Cowboy Culture and Cowboy Poetry will take him wherever the opportunity calls to convey his love of all things cowboy. He currently serves as Montana 4-H Project Leader for Cowboy Poetry in Yellowstone County.

SAMPLE RESIDENCY PROJECTS: TJ is a singer/songwriter and cowboy poet with a passionate love for, and dedication to, the preservation of America's Western and cowboy culture. Oral tradition is venerated in varied cultures worldwide for generational survival and perpetuation of tradition and heritage. TJ sees the art of cowboy poetry as the perfect vehicle for portraying and passing on the enduring morals and values he was fortunate to be reared with, which is part of the Code of the West. In addition to helping students develop their individual talents for composing and performing cowboy poetry, he imbues them with the importance of their participation in this ancient chain, in which they are significant links. "I believe in our roots and heritage," says TJ. "I've got a story to tell. We all need to stand up and protect the traditions and legacies we've inherited. I want to be an image for kids to look up to; and hope to instill in them this same love of country and customs I know and respect. Without our heritage, our children lose focus. Without our children's focus, we lose our world." To accomplish this purpose, TJ's main objective is to utilize cowboy poetry to inspire the natural talent and imagination kids possess, while building their self-confidence and belief in themselves through self-expression. In a one-day residency, TJ describes the history of the American Cowboy, Western Heritage and Culture; and Cowboy Poetry's role in preserving this part of American History. Examples of TJ's own work and familiar examples of Cowboy Culture from various media sources help develop this precept and offer ideas to students for beginning a poem of their own. TJ's final goal for the day is teaching the class how they can turn their personal poetry into song. He will teach grade levels 4-12.

DRAMA

TERESA TAFOYA is a Managing Director of Arts Partners Unlimited, which promotes and produces a variety of shows across the state of Montana. Trained in the theater arts, she has performed in theater and television in the Billings area for over 20 years. Teresa and Lisa Day started an after school theater program involving young children teaching expression through acting.

LISA DAY trained in theater in New York City and is an accomplished actress, director and experienced teacher. She has taught creative drama for kids at Rocky Mountain College and the Billings YMCA. Lisa worked as the Assistant Ticket Office Manager at the Alberta Bair Theater in Billings for several years.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: Their classes involve charades, pantomime, improvisation, characterization as well as script writing. Teresa and Lisa work separately or together; for one day or week long workshops. You may choose to focus on one particular activity, try them all or put on a short play! They are willing to work with all ages.

WRITING

DAVE CASERIO is a former recipient of a Fellowship in Poetry award from the New York State Foundation of the Arts and has worked in various outreach programs such as the Dodge Poets in the Schools in New Jersey and Goldwater Memorial Hospital for the Disabled in New York City. A member of Seattle's 1998 National Slam team, Dave has been an invited poet to the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival, Bumbershoot, The Seattle Poetry Festival, The Seattle High School Poetry Festival at NOVA, The High Plains Book Festival and The Montana Festival of the Book. His work has appeared in *Crab Creek Review*, *The Salmon* (Ireland), in the anthology, *Children Remember their Fathers*, in the anthology of Montana poets, *Poems Across the Big Sky*, and on the *Red Sky at Night: poets Live in Seattle* and *The Seattle Poetry Slam: Live!* CD anthologies. He has been a keynote speaker on Poetry for the NEA-MFT Montana Educators' Conference and recently organized and performed in "A Feast for the Hunger Moon: An Evening of Poetry, Music, and Art," as part of the Venture Theatre's Independent Artist Series ('08 and '09). At present, he conducts writing workshops at the Billings Cancer Center for cancer survivors and their families. His CD of poetry and music, "Wisdom for a Dance in the Street," is available from Gazoobi Tales. Dave earned his B.A. in Theatre and English from Vermont College and his M.A. in English (Poetry) from New York University. He currently lives in Billings, Montana and is a member of the Yellowstone Writers Collective.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION: Poetry, Writing, Storytelling, Performance Poetry

The writing workshops are flexible and can be adapted to a teacher's current classroom curriculum. I have no set workshop method or syllabus but can employ various techniques and writing exercises to a given situation. What I try to do is to help the student writers to connect with their experiences and emotions and to guide them in their discovery of language for such expression. We all have stories to tell, poems inside of us, from a sixth grader in math class to a red-winged blackbird. In general we will address the basic elements of poetry, sound and sense and imagery. I am interested in various subjects from oral poetries and cultures to history. I have a background in theatre and performance poetry and can instruct students in their presentation of poetry as well.

Grade levels: 4-12

Workshops per day: 2-3

NATIVE AMERICAN SIGN TALKING/STORYTELLING/DANCE

A Metis of Cree, Cherokee and European heritage, **RON GARRITSON** was adopted by families of the Crow and Gros Ventre Nations and grew up on and around the Crow Indian Reservation. For the past six years, he has been on a personal mission to preserve, restore and maintain the Plains Indian Sign Language. With a vocabulary of over 1,200 signs, he's served as a consultant and coach for theater productions and documentaries. Garritson has conducted workshops, presentations and symposiums across Montana as a way to bring the Plains Indian Sign Language back into everyday use. During his lifetime, Garritson has witnessed the near disappearance of sign language among the Native American Indians. He said it was common to see elders using it as late as the 1970s and '80s, but now it's seldom used. Garritson has worked as an interpretive park ranger at Pompey's Pillar National Monument for the past seven years. He is a professional musician, actor in film and theater, and crafter of buckskin clothing, Native American dolls and old West gun leather. He was awarded the 2010 Eugene T. Carroll Historic Preservation Award for his work on Plains Indian Sign Language.

Actor, director, choreographer and playwright **JANE LIND** (Aleut) is a trained professional in the classics, contemporary and traditional theater. She has worked with the Native American Theater Ensemble with Hanay Geiogamah, Greek Trilogy with Andre Serban, Theater workshops with Peter Brook, Ellen Stewart and John Vacarro. Jane has performed in film, television and on stage throughout the world. Recently returned from Cherokee, North Carolina after performing as the female lead, Selu, in "Unto These Hills" and "Raven's Odyssey" with Perseverance Theater in Juneau, Alaska, Jane also does cultural outreach through theater workshops with schools throughout the United States.

Ron and Jane are available either together or separately, but feel they are most effective together.

Their presentation is approximately ½ hour.

Availability: Mondays only, Jane Lind is not available in April.

Workshops per day: 2

Students per workshop: Maximum 35