

Seattle City Council

Culture, Civil Rights, Health, and Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, 2:00 PM, June 11th, 2008

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **John Burgess**

Today's poet is **J.W. Marshall**

J.W. Marshall's first book of poetry, *Meaning A Cloud*, won the 2007 Field Poetry Prize and was published in 2008 by Oberlin College Press. Along with Christine Deavel, his wife, he owns and operates Open Books: A Poem Emporium, a poetry-only bookstore in Seattle, one of only two such stores in the country. His poetry has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Cranky*, *Field*, *LitRag*, *Raven Chronicles*, and several other magazines. His two chapbooks, *Taken With* (2005) and *Blue Mouth* (2001) were published by Wood Works, and each was a finalist for the annual Washington State Book Award.

Let Across The Hood Canal

By J.W. Marshall

Like public funded art
it is a threat

Makes the traffic stop
because
a tender's opened up the bridge

The surfaced submarine is heading out
a tendon in
the global lurk and shove

At the railing oohs and ahs

The hills around
are green as stacked green towels

Children roar to life
like tassels yes the wind

will make you okay teary

A Trident sub
is canary black is
black is solitary as a mile marker

We have everyplace to be
and have to wait

Our Neighbor's Passed the Bar Exam
By J.W. Marshall

... but too many lawyers
now so she's
all ramen and Judge Judy.

Your honor
if I had his shoes on
I'd pay the alimony.

A job involving
personality and
smarts is all she's after.

Convivial
is not the kind of visitation
you have in mind the judge told him.

Next your news at five
criminal intent
in one local dealership.

-- end --