



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL Island Treasure Awards

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ARTS & HUMANITIES COUNCIL NAMES GEORGE SHANNON AND MICHELE VAN SLYKE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2012 ISLAND TREASURE AWARDS

The Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council is pleased to announce that children's book author George Shannon and metal artist Michele Van Slyke have been named recipients of the **2012 Island Treasure Awards**.

"Michele and George embody the spirit of the Island Treasure Award," Executive Director Barbara Sacerdote said. "Their talents and achievements in the literary and visual arts, respectively, have made an indelible impact on the culture of Bainbridge Island, and the vibrancy of their work is matched only by a consistent generosity in sharing it, and themselves, with the community. We couldn't be more excited to honor them as Island Treasures."

About George Shannon

Known internationally, George Shannon is a beloved author who has published more than 40 books, including 30 picture books. He has taught writing workshops both nationally and internationally, is a professional storyteller, and is the recipient of a "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the Pacific Northwest Writers Association. He serves on the board of the Bainbridge Public Library and has given countless hours as a writing workshop leader and conference planner, master of ceremonies, and member of the Field's End Board of Directors. George generously shares his own writer's journey on his website, [The World of George Shannon](#), a treasure trove for writers of all ages.

About Michele Van Slyke

Even if they don't know her name, the people of Bainbridge Island know Michele Van Slyke's work. The sliding walls of steel and aluminum for our City Council Chambers, the metalwork on the Town & Country Market's reader board, the entry bench and the "Reading Hands" computer-back screens at the Bainbridge Public Library, the windvanes at the Hillandale development, numerous public benches around Winslow, the donor recognition wall at IslandWood, and the steel swimming fish in the entry of Sakai Intermediate School, created from student designs, are all examples of her lasting work and community commitment. In addition to her public art installations on Bainbridge, Michele's work can be found at Children's, Swedish, and Virginia Mason Hospitals in Seattle; the University of Washington Bothell; The Washington Park Zoo in Portland, Ore., and in Edmonds, Lynnwood, Auburn, Kent and, further afield, Japan and China.

A ceremony and reception to honor the recipients will be held at 5 p.m. February 25 at IslandWood. Tickets will be available in January and through the Arts & Humanities Council office. For more information about the recipients, [view their profiles](#) on our Island Treasure pages.

The Island Treasure Award Process

Each year the Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council honors two Bainbridge Island residents who have made outstanding contributions in the arts and humanities in the community.

Conceived in 1999, the Island Treasure selection process is modeled on the MacArthur Genius Awards Program. Ten nominators chosen from a pool of community members representing a broad range of arts and humanities organizations on Bainbridge are each asked to anonymously nominate one or two outstanding candidates. Candidates' names and descriptions of accomplishments are then submitted to a five-member jury comprised of individuals drawn from every sector of the Bainbridge Island community, ensuring representation of a wide range of experience. The names of the two award recipients are then approved by the Arts & Humanities Council Board. Complete anonymity of nominators, jurors, and recipients is maintained throughout the process.

Each Island Treasure Award recipient receives an unrestricted \$4,000 cash award and an Island Treasure Candle Holder Trophy designed by Island artist Kent Van Slyke.

Past Island Treasure Award winners include:

2011: Ann Lovejoy and Sally Robison
2010: Kathleen Alcalá and Frank Buxton
2009: Alan Simcoe and Kathleen Thorne
2008: Alice Mendoza and Kristin Tollefson
2007: David Guterson and George & David Lewis
2006: Gayle Bard and Barbara Helen Berger
2005: Jenny Anderson and David C. Korten
2004: Maggie Smith and Hidde Van Duym
2003: Janice Shaw and Richard Stine
2002: Kim & Ela Esterberg and Frank Kitamoto
2001: Norma Edens and Bob McAllister
2000: Jerry Elfendahl and Joel Sackett

About the Arts & Humanities Council

For a quarter century, the Arts & Humanities Council has nurtured Bainbridge Island's cultural community with programs, services, and collaborations that form the core of our mission: *to create an environment on Bainbridge Island in which the arts and humanities flourish*. Last year we engaged 2,200 young people in a full range of quality arts and humanities programs; provided support services to local artists and cultural organizations; awarded \$55,000 in grants and scholarships to outstanding members of the cultural community; and engaged people beyond our island in the creative milieu that is Bainbridge.

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