

Remembering Joel Fallon...



August 11, 2016

Dear Friends,
It is so hard for me
to write this...
I must bring you
the sad news that
Benicia's first and
most beloved Poet

Laureate, Joel Fallon, died this morning at the age of 85. Joel was a wonderful poet and mentor to many, who gave so much of his wisdom and energy to our community. He will be missed beyond words, and his absence will be greatly felt.

Joel's family plans to be present at our Poets' Picnic in the City Park this Sunday, August 14th, 1-4 pm. This was an event that Joel started as first Poet Laureate. Please come and bring your poetry, or bring one of Joel's poems to read. He would want us to have a good time and celebrate life, and our love of poetry.

A memorial planned by the family will take place in December. I will let you know when the details are in place.

Sincerely, Johanna

Johanna Ely,
Poet Laureate of Benicia, 2016-2018

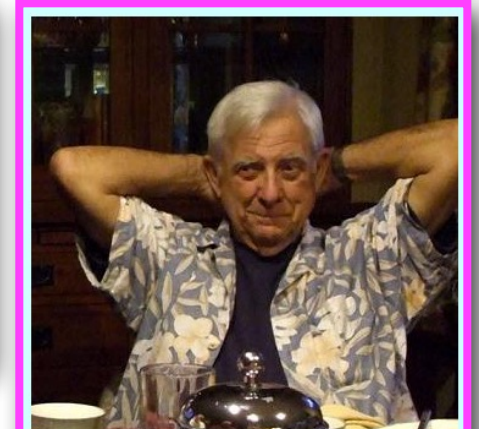
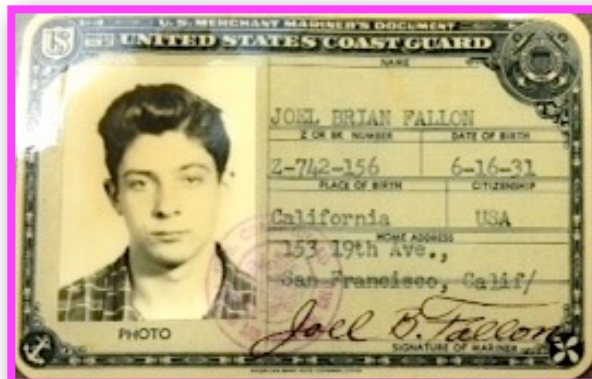


Image by Eden Hirsh
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My Town...

My town is a river town at the edge of land,
where Sierra water, tired from working in rice fields,
meets the Pacific – then swirls off
in current, fog and cloud.

My town's front yard is three miles wide
with fishing boats and deep draft tankers.
Seals play here, barking and calling at night,
each to each. That sound sweetens the silence.

The arsenal of my river town supplied rifles
and cannon for skirmishes along the Snake
and Feather rivers and Guadalcanal,
and Yong Dong Po.

In its time, an Army town,
a ship building town with
whores and hooligans,
a town of rough edges,
not yet all smoothed down.

My river town is quieter now
and almost all the silvery shopping carts
return to nest outside the grocery stores
at night – when streetlights
drip buttery pools onto
the tilty sidewalks.

*Joel Fallon Copyright © 2 October 2004
Revised May 2008*



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