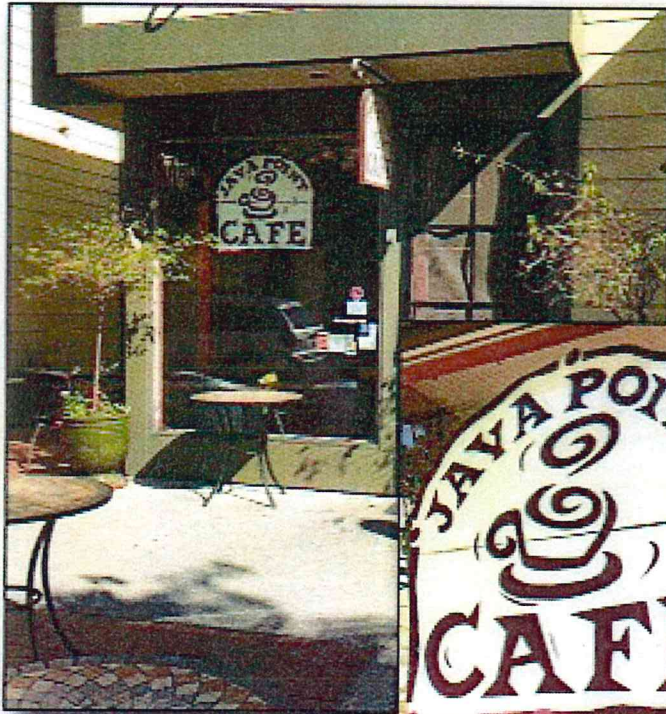


“Keep Smiling” – Reading Joel’s Poems at Java Point Cafe

*366 First Street, Benicia, California
Sunday, October 9, 2016, 2-4 pm*

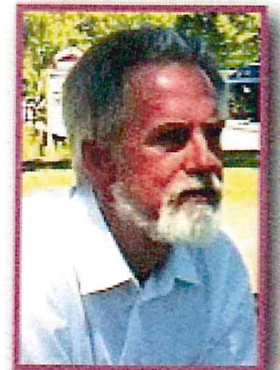


Benicia First Tuesday Poets will read their favorite poems of Benicia's First Poet Laureate **Joel Fallon**, 1931-2016.

The public is invited.



A First Tuesday Poets event, organized and MC'd by poet-artist Tom Stanton –



My Town by Joel Fallon

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 October 2, 2004
Revised May 2008*