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www.gftbooks.com

BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (2.16.26)

**Author (as it should appear on the book):** James K. Papp

**Title:** *Blessings of the Waters*

**Subtitle:** *From Glaciers to the Sea*

**Contributors:** with essays by Rena Priest, Margaret Baumgartner, and Captain Mike Moore

**Partner:** Published in association with the Center for the Study of Place

**Distributor:** Casemate/IPM

**Book pages:** 160

**Number and type of illustrations:** 90 photographs by the author (reproduced as tritones)

**Trim size:** 11.0" x 10.0" (landscape/horizontal)

**List price:** \$45.00

**Discount:** Trade

**ISBN (book):** 978-1-960521-17-0

**ISBNs (electronic):**

**Edition:** Hardcover/PLC

**E-book?** TBD

**Jacket:** Yes (French fold)

**Edition size:** 750

**Publication date:** November 2026

**Advances due:** September 2026

**To warehouse:** October 2026

**Printed in:** TBD

**Bookstore categories (list three):** Nature/Photography/Pacific Northwest

**Audience:** Anyone interested in the connections between human life and water of any kind; in beautiful photographs; and books about the environment and the Pacific Northwest.

**Selling points (list three):** The book showcases the sublime beauty of the waters of the Pacific Northwest; it offers compelling perspective on climate change in the Pacific Northwest and how it is affecting vital industries as well as communities; and it gives a call to action to consider how to conserve water for future generations.

**Tagline:** An unforgettable journey into the waters of the Pacific Northwest!

**Related GFT titles:** *Where Our Food Comes From: The Magic of Skagit Valley*, (2026) by Craig J. Barber; *Florida's Changing Waters: A Beautiful World in Peril* (2019) by Lynne Buchanan, *Tidal Rhythms: Change and*

*Resilience at the Edge of the Sea* (2017) by Steve Strom; and *West Coast: Bering to Baja* (2012) by David Freese.

**Description of the work:**

*Blessings of the Waters: From Glaciers to the Sea* is photographer James K. Papp's stunning and deeply felt homage to the waters in and around Washington state, where he has lived and worked for several decades. In addition to being a celebration of the waters' beauty, *Blessings of the Waters* is an effort to alert residents and others to the perilous situation of Washington's water as well as illustrate its vital importance to the diverse communities that depend on its abundance.

The book includes informative and heartfelt essays by the author, who also has had a long career in the maritime industry, award-winning poet and writer Rena Priest, a prominent member of the Lummi tribe, Margaret Baumgartner, an environmental advocate, and Mike Moore, the former longtime Captain of the Port of Puget Sound. Together they provide historic as well as contemporary perspectives on water in Washington, and illuminate the complex issues caused by the continual reduction in annual rain and snowfall, both of which are the direct result of climate change. Cities and towns large and small as well as industries ranging from subsistence to corporate agriculture and fishing to maritime commerce and trade are all adversely affected.

*The Blessings of the Waters* is an essential book for our times. Not only is it a beautiful book of stunning photographs and essays that inform and enlighten, but also a clarion call to readers no matter where they live to consider their own relationship to this essential resource and how they might find effective means to conserve it at a time when demand is on the rise and availability is on the decline due to a changing climate.

**Blurbs:**

[TC]

**About the Author:**

*James K. Papp* is a photographer and writer who is inspired by the mystery and awe of the natural world, especially water. Water has been a major theme in his life from his childhood near the Chena River in Fairbanks, Alaska, to his college years in Seattle, where he earned a B. A. in the Geography of Trade and Transportation at the University of Washington, which led to a forty-year career in marine shipping. His work involved coordinating the many services needed to move deep sea cargo ships in and out of Pacific Northwest ports. Starting out as a ship agent, he eventually became president of his company, overseeing offices on the West Coast, Gulf Coast, and Hawai'i. He spent much of his free time hiking and camping along the mountain streams, lakes, and snowfields of the Cascade Mountain Range. He began photographing his adventures in Kodachrome to share in slide shows back home, eventually becoming interested in digital cameras and fine art photography.

He honed his technical skills at workshops in Washington, California, and the Southwest. He also became a student of Mayan spirituality, studying with Indigenous teachers in Mexico, Guatemala, and the United States. Centered around universal values such as humility, non-judgment, and gratitude, their practical teachings have deeply informed his approach to life. This wisdom is his compass as well as the aesthetic that inspires and flows throughout *Blessings of the Waters*, as well as other books that he has published with Lisa Papp, his wife of more than 40 years. His work has been shown at the Jansen Art Center, Lynden, WA, Village Books and the Lucia Douglas Gallery, Bellingham, WA, Black Box Gallery, Portland, OR, and in publications including *Adventures Northwest Magazine* and *Outdoor Photographer*. [www.jameskpapp.com](http://www.jameskpapp.com); [InquireWithin.com](http://InquireWithin.com).

Medium bio:

*James K. Papp* is a photographer and writer inspired by the mystery and awe of nature—particularly in the waters around Washington State, where he has lived for many years. During his 40-year career in marine shipping running a company with offices on the West Coast, Gulf Coast, and Hawai'i, he spent his free time hiking and camping along the streams, lakes, and snowfields of the Cascade Mountain Range. For him, the camera's lens is a magical portal to connect more deeply with the world. The result is *Blessings of the Waters: From Glaciers to the Sea*, which pays homage to his love of water, the practical aspects of working in the multi-faceted maritime industry, and to the spiritual teachings of Mayan spirituality in which he has been trained. Together with his wife of forty years, Lisa Papp, he creates and publishes inspirational books at [InquireWithin.com](http://InquireWithin.com) and his Website is [www.jameskpapp.com](http://www.jameskpapp.com).

Short bio:

*James K. Papp* is a photographer and writer inspired by the mystery and awe of nature—particularly in the waters around Washington State, where he has lived for many years. For him the camera's lens is a magical portal to connect more deeply with the world and has provided a wonderful balance between his long career in the maritime industry and his love of nature. He holds a B.A. in Geography from the University of Washington and has shown his work widely in the Pacific Northwest.

### **About the Contributor(s):**

*Rena Priest* is a citizen of the Lhaq'temish [Lummi] Nation. In a historic appointment, she was named Washington State's sixth Poet Laureate (2021–2023), becoming the first Indigenous person to hold the position. In this role, she championed poetry that celebrated the ecological gifts of her ancestral homelands, the bioregion. She is an Academy of American Poets Fellow, an Indigenous Nations Poets Fellow, a Maxine Cushing Gray Distinguished Writer, and a winner of a Washington State Book Award for poetry. Her new essay collection, *Positively Uncivilized*, was published as the inaugural winner of the Keepers of the Fire Award from Raven Chronicles Press (October 2025). From 2021 to 2024, she periodically toured the country as part of an all-Indigenous

ensemble in a show called *Welcome to Indian Country*. She is a Seattle City of Literature grantee, selected to participate in an international literary exchange co-sponsored by the Melbourne City of Literature and the UNESCO City of Literature Network. She holds an M.F.A. in Writing from Sarah Lawrence College and her poetry and non-fiction appear widely online and in print. Her Website is [www.renapriest.com](http://www.renapriest.com).

*Medium bio:*

*Rena Priest* is an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She served as the sixth Poet Laureate of Washington State (2021–2023) and is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2024 Washington State Book Award, the 2018 American Book Award for her first collection, *Patriarchy Blues* (Amazon, 2017), and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets and Indigenous Nations Poets. From 2021 to 2024, she periodically toured the country as part of an all-Indigenous ensemble *Welcome to Indian Country*. In 2024, she served as a judge for the 50th annual National Book Award. Her poetry and non-fiction appear widely online and in print. She holds an M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College.

*Short bio:*

*Rena Priest* is an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation. She served as the 6th Washington State Poet Laureate (2021–2023) and is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the 2024 Washington State Book Award. In 2024, she served as a judge for the 50th annual National Book Award. Her poetry and non-fiction appear widely online and in print. She holds an M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College.

*Captain Mike Moore* retired in 2002 from the U.S. Coast Guard as Captain of the Port, Puget Sound, Washington, after a long and distinguished career. He then served as Executive Director for the Puget Sound Steamship Operators Association, now called Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), for which he currently serves as Vice President. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Vice President Gore Hammer Award, which recognized federal teams that improved government efficiency, reduced costs, and eliminated bureaucracy, two Legacy Awards from the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force, the 2018 Puget Sound Maritime Achievement Award, and the Legion of Merit. He holds an M. A. in Marine Affairs from the University of Washington and is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where he later directed the Marine Science program. After college he competed internationally in the decathlon and in the U.S. Olympic Trials, and was later inducted into the Coast Guard Academy Athletic Hall of Fame. Capt. Moore currently serves as Chair of the Emergency Response Towing Vessel Compliance Group and Vice Chair of the Alaska Chadux Network, which was previously known the Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network. In addition, he is a founding board member of the Washington State Maritime Federation and serves on harbor safety, pilot safety, whale protection, oil spill prevention, ballast water, and air emission reduction committees.

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*Margaret Baumgartner* is a writer based in Washington state who channels her passion for nature and journalism into pieces on environmental concerns and scientific research that are accessible to everyone. Her work has been published in the *Salish Current*, as well as in two publications from Western Washington University, the newspaper, *The Front*, and *Klipsun Magazine*. She holds both a B.S. in environmental science and a B.A. in news journalism from Western Washington State University.

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