"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.

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.

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Revised May 2008

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