

Seattle City Council

**Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee Meeting**

2 p.m. Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Sibyl James**

Today's poet is **Emily Warn**

**Emily Warn's** latest of five poetry books is *Shadow Architect*, a spiritual journey through the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. Her essays and poems appear widely, including in *The Seattle Times*, *Poetry*, *Poetry Northwest*, *KUOW*, and *The Writer's Almanac*. She currently offers courses at Richard Hugo House, and after serving for five years as editor-in-chief of poetryfoundation.org in Chicago, she is now happily back home in Seattle where she grows onions, reads murder mysteries, and rows three days a week at 5:30 a.m. with the Conibear Rowing Club.

**Fog**

by Emily Warn

One day I will become fog  
and drift through spring trees  
    half in petal half in leaf.  
I will become the neighborhood,  
assuming outlines of trees and bungalows  
as grass assumes the broken ground  
of a bulldozed lot. I will clothe  
the body of the earth, the grey factory  
and the blossoming magnolia  
alike in their solitary communion with me.

I will return what fog gave me  
in the years of my despair,  
how I would sink into it  
until my spirits rose out  
of the half-hidden branches,  
lifting as the fog lifted, returning  
the world to itself as a gift.

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