



CAROLYN SERVID

Carolyn Servid moved to Sitka in 1980 after falling in love with Alaska's wild country on a trip the previous summer. Her interest in the literary arts quickly connected her to Old Harbor Books where she and three other employees co-founded the Sitka Symposium. That program began in 1984 and gave birth to the Island Institute, a small nonprofit organization. As the Sitka Symposium continued its successful engagement with writers and thinkers from around the country, Carolyn took the lead on expanding the organization to include a residency program for writer and the literary journal *Connotations*. In 1992, her husband Dorik Mechau joined the Institute staff as her co-director and, together, they developed the organization's community sustainability interests which grew to include collaborative civic engagement initiatives in the Sitka community. Her work with the Institute has been the center of her life for almost thirty years, and has earned her the 2001 Governor's Award for Distinguished Humanities Educator and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of Alaska Southeast.

Carolyn's memoir/essay collection *Of Landscape and Longing* chronicles her childhood in India and her unexpected attraction to Alaska as a place that would become her home. It was that move that galvanized her interests in issues of place, community, and the natural world, and the ways that stories link those things together.

Her other publications include the award winning anthology *From the Island's Edge: A Sitka Reader* (Graywolf Press, 1995); *The Book of the Tongass*, co-edited with Don Snow (Milkweed Editions, 1999); and *Arctic Refuge: A Circle of Testimony*, co-edited with Hank Lentfer (Milkweed Editions, 2001). She was a contributor to *Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape*, edited by Barry Lopez and Debra Gwartney. Her essays have been published in a variety of literary journals including *Northern Lights*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Nimrod*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*; and in several anthologies, among them *Crosscurrents North: Alaskans on the Environment* and *A Place On Earth: An Anthology of Nature Writing from Australia and North America*.