

Let's Talk About It – Program Scholar

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Paula Marie Coomer has been a Visiting Scholar for the Idaho Commission for Libraries' "Let's Talk About It" series for over a decade. A former RN and Commissioned Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, her fiction, non-fiction, and poetry have been published in dozens of journals, anthologies, and online publications. She is the author of the short story collection *Summer of Government Cheese* (2007, 2nd ed. 2011), two poetry collections--*Devil at the Crossroads* (2006) and *Nurses Who Love English* (2013)--and *Road*, a single-poem chapbook (2006). Her first novel, *Dove Creek*, which aired early in 2009 over radio station KRFP in Moscow, Idaho, was a featured title at the 2011 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Fall Tradeshow. Her newest book and first non-fiction attempt, *Blue Moon Vegetarian: Reflections, Advice, and Recipes for a Plant-based Diet* is scheduled for a November 2013 release from Booktrope. A second novel, *Jagged Edge of the Sky*, is under consideration. Coomer is a Pushcart Prize nominee and a former Writer-in-Residence for Fishtrap, Oregon's much-loved advocacy program for literature in the West. Ms. Coomer teaches English at Washington State University and lives in the Lewis-Clark Valley, where she is at work on a new novel.