



# The Writer's Access

Jan. - Feb., 2003

News from the Lane Literary Guild

[www.laneliteraryguild.org](http://www.laneliteraryguild.org)

## January Windfall Brings Ursula Le Guin to Eugene

Ursula K. Le Guin begins the Lane Literary Guild's Windfall Reading Series for 2003 with a free reading at the new Eugene Public Library.

A prolific and versatile writer, Le Guin has published five books of poetry, seventeen novels, ten volumes of short stories, two collections of essays, eleven books for children, and two volumes of translation – with more on the way. Very few writers have done work of such high quality in so many forms.

Several of Le Guin's major titles have remained continuously in print for over thirty years. Her best known fantasy works, the first four Books of Earthsea, have sold millions of copies in America and England, and have been translated into sixteen languages. Her first major work of science fiction, *The Left Hand of Darkness*, is considered epoch-making in the field for its radical investigation of gender roles and its moral and literary complexity.

Margaret Atwood, in the Sept. 26, 2002 *New York Review of Books*, writes that Le Guin's giant list of accomplishment "make one suspect that the writer has the benefit of arcane drugs or creative double-jointedness or ambidexterity... She never loses touch with her reverence for the immense *what is*. All her stories are, as she has said, metaphors for the one human story; all her fantastic planets are this one, however disguised."

In November 2002, Le Guin won the PEN/Malamud Award for excellence in short fiction. She was also awarded the 2002 World Fantasy Convention award for her novel, "The Other Wind," beating an impressive list of finalists that included Neil Gaiman and Ray Bradbury.

Le Guin's next book, *Changing Planes*, is a collection of short stories that will be published by Harcourt in July 2003. In spring 2003 the University of New Mexico press will release a translation by Le Guin of a 163 of Gabriela Mistral's poems.



The reading will be held in the Bascom/Tykeson room of the Eugene Public Library on January 21 from 6:30 until 8 pm. Seating is somewhat limited, so feel free to come early. Please note that no books will be signed or sold at the reading, but Ms. Le Guin will be at Tsunami Books to sign books from 12-1 pm. on January 22.

## Journeys in Prose and Poetry for February Windfall

The February Windfall features two writers who look at their surroundings and find their souls. Carol Ann Bassett's first book, *A Gathering of Stones: Journeys to the Edges of a Changing World*, is a collection of personal narratives based on the author's wide-ranging travels throughout western North America and three other continents, from the Canadian sub-arctic to southern Chile, and from Botswana to Nepal. Bassett takes readers on an intimate journey into the communities, ceremonies, and lives of traditional peoples struggling to survive in the face of rapid change.

As much an inner journey as one to far-flung places, *A Gathering of Stones* shows the wisdom and fears of people living close to the land. With her keen writerly

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## February Windfall – continued from page 1

curiosity, eye for detail, and sensitivity toward the people she meets and comes to know, Bassett chronicles some of the world's last wild places and records the rich lives and cultures that are in danger of being lost forever.

Carol Ann Bassett spent 16 years as a full-time freelance writer, publishing numerous articles in places such as *The New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, *The Nation*, and others. Her work was selected for inclusion in the books *American Nature Writing 2000* and *American Nature Writing 2001*. She is now a professor at the University of Oregon, where she teaches Environmental Writing, Advanced Magazine Writing and Literary Nonfiction. *A Gathering of Stones* is Bassett's first book.

Corvallis poet Steven Sher is the author of nine books, including two new poetry books: *Thirty-Six* and *Flying Through Glass*. This winter Solo Press will release *At the Willamette*, a series of poems inspired by the river of that name.

Sher's poems and prose are often concerned with ritual and faith, the Jewish-American experience, family and community, and spirituality, with a nod to Woodstock, the '60s, and alternative living issues. His work has recently appeared in *Hubbub*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Witness*, *The Jerusalem Review*, *American Book Review*, *European Judaism*, and *Santa Barbara Review*. Sher's *Traveler's Advisory* was an Oregon Book Awards finalist in 1994.

Sher and Bassett will read in the Eugene Public Library's Bascom/Tykeson room on February 18 from 6:30–8:00 pm.



Carol Ann Bassett and Steven Sher

## January – February Readings

All events are free.

### JANUARY

- 19 William Stafford Birthday Celebration: Protests and Affirmations. This is a community reading, so bring a poem by a poet you admire. Tsunami, 4:00 pm.
- 21 Ursula K. Le Guin reads for the Lane Literary Guild's Windfall Series at the Eugene Public Library. 6:30 – 8 pm.
- 22 Ursula K. Le Guin signs books at Tsunami, 12-1 pm.
- 23 Sylvia Hart Wright, author of *When Spirits Come Calling: The Open-Minded Skeptic's Guide to After-Death Contacts*. UO Bookstore, 7:00pm.
- 30 Melissa Hart reading from her first novel, *Long Way Home*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 pm.
- 31 Alan Siporin Lecture/Discussion. Learning In Retirement Center, 1:30 pm.

### FEBRUARY

- 1 John Reed and Elizabeth Cratty. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.
- 2 The members of Lane Literary Guild's Poetry II Workshop read from their newly issued chapbook. Tsunami, 4:00 pm.
- 3 Poet Ellen Bass reads from *Mules of Love*. Sponsored by Creative Writing and the UO Bookstore. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.
- 6 Cai Emmons, Visiting Professor and Graduate advisor in Creative Writing, reads from his first novel, *His Mother's Son*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:30 pm.
- 11 Local award-winning author Alan Siporin reads from *Fire's Edge*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.
- 13 UO History Professor Matthew Dennis reads from *Red, White, and Blue Letter Days: An American Calendar* at UO Bookstore, 7:00 pm.
- 18 UO Journalism Professor Carol Ann Bassett and Corvallis poet Steven Sher read for Windfall. Eugene Public Library, 6:30 – 8:00 pm.
- 25 Laurence Ricou, Professor of English at the U of British Columbia, reads from *The Arbutus/Madrone Files*, a meditation on the land, people and literature of the U.S. and the Canadian Pacific Northwest. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.

## Opportunities to Read, Publish, & Discuss

**Mixed Voices** brings young writers and “mature” poets together to read their work on the air. Lane Literary Guild is helping Young Writers Association find the mature poets for the spot. There is a theme each month and the writing can be loosely related to the theme. Upcoming topics are: sky (January), wild beasts (February), shape a poem or story from an interview with someone in an older generation (March), mothers (April), fathers (May), and invitations (June).

The writing must be appropriate to be read on the radio and short—about 90 seconds. Readers are taped at KLCC a week before the pieces are aired on the last Monday of the month. If you’d like to strut your stuff, contact Toni at 685-1087 or <tonipoet@cmc.net>.

**Denali**, Lane Community College’s Literary/Arts Magazine, has a deadline of February 3 for the fall/winter edition. Any Lane County resident may submit written or visual arts for possible selection. Pick up a submission form in Building 18 Room 213 at LCC or get it on the web at <www.lanec.edu/denali/>.

For the **William Stafford Celebration**, anyone is welcome to bring a poem to read—by Stafford or another poet you turn to in times of trouble. (The organizers are asking that you please refrain from reading your own poems this time.) This annual gathering is a great way to remember Oregon’s Poet Laureate on his birthday and share poems of protest and affirmation. It will be held January 19 at Tsunami from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. For information call 343-5101 or 344-1053. Refreshments will be served.

Eugene’s second community-wide Readin’ in the Rain will feature *Fire’s Edge* by local writer and public-radio commentator Alan Siporin. Set in Oregon, this thoughtful suspense story is a perfect (and timely) focal point for discussions about prejudice and bigotry

in our own communities. Readin’ in the Rain 2003 includes a host of events throughout Eugene-Springfield between January 27 – March 1. A complete calendar of Readin’ events, reviews of the book, and more are available at <www.lanec.edu/library/rir.htm>.

## Poetry 2 Workshop Makes News

Lane Literary Guild’s **Poetry 2** critique group will read from their new chapbook, *Poetry Cafe*, at Tsunami on February 2 at 4 pm. Copies will be available for purchase. The readers are Michael Hanner, Gail Parr, Charles F. Thielman, Tracye May, Sharon Munson, Keli Osborn, and Toni Van Deusen. The reading will be followed by an open mike.

**Sharon Munson’s** essay about friends “dropping in” was published in the *Register Guard’s* Write On column in December. Earlier in the year, two of her poems, “Tea Time” and “Coming Home,” appeared in the anthology *A Cup of Comfort Cookbook*. Sharon is a devoted member of Poetry 2 and the Writers Practice Workshop.

## New & Renewing Members

Welcome and welcome back to all! New members are Dewey Woodland, Diane Alderman, Liz Alders, Karin Edla, and Rebecca Childers.

Renewing members are George Hitchcock and Marjorie Simon (family membership), Claudia Lapp, Norton Cabell, Jose McCarthy, M.D., Tim Whitsel, Debbie Mohr, Nan Phifer, Cecelia Hagen, Robin Saxton, Dana Furgerson, Bill Sullivan, Carter McKenzie, Bean Comrada, Sharon Munson, Keli Osborn, E. Gail Parr, and Kelly Terwilliger.

To join the Guild or renew your membership, send a check and your contact information to the Guild’s PO box. Regular membership is \$25 a year, student/low-income rate is \$15, family memberships are \$35, and donors give \$50 or more.

### LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

#### Contacts

Windfall: windfall@laneliteraryguild.org  
Cecelia Hagen & Tim Whitsel

Events: calendar@laneliteraryguild.org  
Deborah Narin-Wells

Membership: membership@laneliteraryguild.org  
Toni Van Deusen, Treasurer

Newsletter: newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org  
Cecelia Hagen

#### Ongoing Workshops:

Literary Nonfiction	Deborah Merskin	485-7246
Fiction	Steven Higgins	689-8306
Poetry 1	Hannah Wilson	343-5386
Poetry 2	Michael Hanner	895-2236
Writing Practice	Toni Van Deusen	685-1087
	tonipoet@cmc.org	



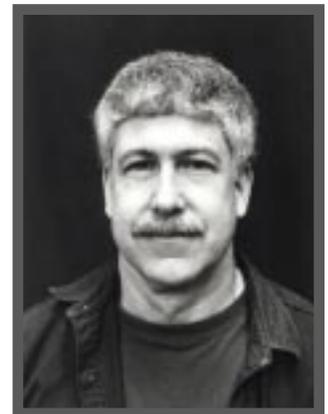
  
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## Lane Literary Guild Offers Craft Workshop with John Daniel

John Daniel, whose latest book, *Winter Creek*, was published by Milkweed Editions this fall, will lead the next Guild craft workshop, "Turning Losses into Language." Everyone experiences loss—a broken relationship, a death in the family, a favorite place ruined by development, a sense of security shattered on September 11th. Loss is painful but can also provide fertile ground. To imagine it in language – put it into images on the page – can yield a paradoxical wealth, what Emily Dickinson called a "sumptuous destitution." Through brief readings and writing exercises, participants in this one-day workshop will shape prose narratives about a significant personal loss and develop these writings in a session of constructive workshop critique.



John Daniel has earned the reputation of a wonderful writer who is also a great and generous teacher. His work includes the memoir *Looking After*, a book of nature essays (*The Trail Home*), two collections of poetry, and critical and personal essays that have been published in a long list of journals and anthologies. Writing about *Winter Creek*, Barry Lopez says, "John Daniel's voice is perfectly modulated, his judgments restrained, his sense of self dead level."

The workshop will be held Saturday, February 8 from 10 am to 3 pm. To enroll, send a \$50 check to LLG, P.O. Box 11035, Eugene OR 97440. If your phone number or email address is not on your check, please include it so that we can let you know the place and other details for the day. The workshop is open only to Guild members. Membership costs \$25 or \$15 for low-income. For each workshop, the Guild offers one scholarship. If interested, please send a note to the above address with that request.