



The Writer's Access

January-February, 2004

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

Biespiel and Clement Warm Up January Windfall

Come to the Eugene library Tuesday, January 20 and hear a poet and a fiction writer spin their word-magic out of memory, experience, and imagination. The free reading starts at 7:00 pm in the Bascom-Tykeson Room.

David Biespiel's newest book of poems, *Wild Civility*, was chosen by Linda Bierds in 2003 for the Pacific Northwest Poetry Series. His previous poetry collections are *Shattering Air* and *Pilgrims & Beggars*.

Born in 1964 in Tulsa, Biespiel grew up in Houston. He has degrees from Boston University and the University of Maryland.



His poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, and *Parnassus*. His list of awards includes the Wallace Stegner Fellowship and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship.

The University of Washington Press describes Biespiel's *Wild Civility* like this: "Biespiel has crafted a hip, melodic, elastic

language that travels the registers of expression: lush and coarse, gaudy and austere, pliant and rigidly tough. The civility of the poems is the form; the wildness is the bristling energy of the language."

Biespiel teaches at Oregon State University in Corvallis and is the director and writer-in-residence of The Attic Writers' Workshop in Portland. He writes a column on poetry that appears in *The Oregonian* on the first Sunday of each month. Biespiel lives with his wife and son in the Hawthorne district of Portland.

Alison Clement's first novel, *Pretty Is As Pretty Does*, tells the lusty and ultimately touching story of an independent woman trapped in the body of a small-town beauty queen. Clement takes on bigotry, infidelity, and the struggle for integrity through the darkly funny tale of the novel's main character, Lucy Fooshee. Says Clement, "Lucy's nature is completely at odds with the place she's from. What happens to someone who is born into the wrong family or the wrong town? What happens to a character who finds herself in a place that suppresses her imagination and passion?" According to *Booklist*, this author's answer is "wildly entertaining [and] ignites the pages."



Clement describes *Pretty Is As Pretty Does* as being a story "about character and place. It's about families and about what people want or think they want. It's about bigotry and small towns, and it's about finding out what matters."

A Southern-raised former waitress and bartender, Clement is now a Western Oregon elementary-school librarian whose work has appeared in *The Sun*, *High Country News*, and *The Alaska Quarterly Review*. Clement will be reading from her novel-in-progress, which is about waitressing. Clement's website includes a section called "Waitress with an Axe to Grind" that contains this Zen-like tidbit: "Each table is a clean slate and a chance for things to go right. You can't think of what you've done wrong, what you might do wrong, what you might forget, all the mistakes you've made or could make. You've got to have a clear mind."

New & Renewing Guild Members

Guild members support writing in Lane County by joining and renewing their membership. Thanks to all!

NEW: Becky Taylor
Anita Sullivan
Jill Leininger
Eileen Peterson
Melinda Sellers
Matthew Smith

RENEWING: Catherine Sibert
Tim Whitsel
Claudia Lapp
Norton Cabell
Marjorie Simon & George Hitchcock
Nan Phifer
Bill Sullivan

HOW TO JOIN OR RENEW:

Guild membership is open to anyone. Annual fees are \$25, \$35 for a family, \$15 for students, and \$50 for angels (you know who you are). Mail your check to the PO box listed on the back page.

February Readers Sandor and Tyau Share Themes of History and Family

On February 17, Marjorie Sandor and Kathleen Tyau bring their latest work to the Windfall audience. The reading is free and starts at 7 pm in the library's Bascom-Tykeson room.

Corvallis writer Marjorie Sandor's newest book is *Portrait of My Mother, Who Posed Nude in Wartime*. The book is a collection of connected stories that tie together like a novel. The *New York Times Book Review* says, "Sandor has an honest imagination and shares its discoveries with skill and care." Her writing has also been described as "sensuous" and "tangy and luscious as just-plucked fruit." *Portrait of My Mother* explores the notions of family, secrecy, and mystery.



Sandor is the author of two other books, *The Night Gardener* (essays) and *A Night of Music* (stories). Her stories and essays have appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Five Points*, and *The New York Times Magazine*, as well as several anthologies, including *The Best American Short Stories 1985 and 1988*, *The Pushcart Prize*

XIII, *The Best of Beacon 1999* and *In Brief: Short Takes on the Personal*. Her many awards include a 1998 Rona Jaffe Foundation Award for Fiction and the 2000 Oregon Book Award for literary nonfiction.

Sandor teaches creative writing and literature at Oregon State University and serves on the Board of Directors of The Associated Writing Programs.

Poetry 2 Goes Coastal

by Keli Osborn and Toni Van Deusen

The members of the Guild's Poetry 2 critique group enjoyed a relaxing and productive weekend at the Oregon Writers' Colony House in November. During our weekend, we consulted the wisdom of the great Persian poet, Rumi, shared by member Linda Mears. Toni Van Deusen offered a word list to spark new poems. Michael Hanner attempted to come up with a good photograph of everyone (not easy with seven people) for our next chapbook, *7 on Wednesday*, due out very soon. Other Poetry 2 members adding to the mix were Charles Farrell Thielman, E. Gail Parr, Sharon Lask Munson, and Keli Osborn.

Kathleen Tyau is the author of two novels set in Hawaii, *A Little Too Much Is Enough* (1995) and *Makai* (1999). Winner of the Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Association Award and the Barnes and Noble Best New Writers Award, Tyau is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Oregon Arts Commission, Literary Arts, Inc., and Fishtrap. Her stories and essays have been published in *Bamboo Ridge*, *Story*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Glimmer Train*, *Boulevard*, *American Short Fiction*, and *Left Bank*.



Tyau grew up in Waikiki and Pearl City, where her writing career began at the age of 13 with the publication of an essay in the *Honolulu Star Bulletin*. In 1992, Tyau's first published story, "How to Cook Rice," became the catalyst for her book *A Little Too Much Is Enough*, about growing up in a Chinese-Hawaiian family. Sherman Alexie described this book as "a feast of a novel, each story a separate course, each fragment an appetizer for the next."

Tyau lives on a 52-acre farm in northwest Oregon, where she and her husband grow trees, play bluegrass music, and stargaze. She is at work on another novel, currently titled *Mele*.

We spent time ocean-gazing on the beach, engaged in a bit of storm-watching, enjoyed a lot of wonderful chat in front of the fire and, of course, ate. We also found plenty of time to write!

Colony House is located on the northern Oregon coast and is available to members of Oregon Writers' Colony. More information about that organization can be found on their website, <www.oregonwriterscolony.org>.



Guild's One-Day Craft Workshops Focus on Poetry and Memoir Writing

Poetry Revision with Maxine Scates

Saturday, February 21, 10-3, Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th, Eugene.

In this one day workshop, which will begin with a craft talk, we'll explore the ways that a poet follows what demands to be heard in any given poem – the necessary process that leads her or him to both fully realize a poem's potential and recognize when that poem is finished.

Participants will submit one poem for workshop discussion (all participants will have access to all of the poems beforehand by e-mail). Ideally, the poem you submit will be a poem that you've been wrestling with or a poem in the early stages whose potential you recognize but don't quite know how to follow.

Maxine Scates is the co-editor of *Holding Our Own: The Selected Poems of Ann Stanford* (Copper Canyon Press). Her first book, *Toluca Street* (University of Pittsburgh Press), received the Starrett Prize and the Oregon Book Award. She is seeking a publisher for her second, *Black Loam*. Her poems have appeared widely in such journals as *The American Poetry Review*, *Agni*, *Antioch Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *ZYZZYVA*. She has been Poet-In-Residence at Lewis and Clark College and Reed College.

Memoir Writing with Debra Gwartney

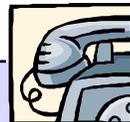
Saturday, March 13, 10-3, Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th, Eugene.

In this workshop, we'll explore the potency of memory and the symbols inherent within our own images of the past that can lead to powerful stories. Patricia Hampl writes that "stalking the relationship, seeking the congruence between stored image and hidden emotion – that's the real job of memoir."

We'll talk about how to begin that process, how to "excavate" memories for what they are trying to tell us about ourselves and then translate those realizations into writing.

Debra Gwartney is an instructor of writing living in Eugene.

She has taught in the UO Creative Writing Program, and in both Literary Arts and Oregon Council on the Humanities programs. She is currently teaching nonfiction at Portland State University. Debra has published memoir, essay, short stories, and journalism in a variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and books.



How to Register for the Workshops

The cost for each workshop is \$50 for Guild members. If you're not a member, joining costs as little as \$15. One scholarship is available for each workshop.

Contact tonipoet@cmc.net for information or to sign up, or send your check to LLG, PO Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440. Enrollment in workshops is limited to ensure personal attention for all.

Kudos to Guild Members

Debbie Mohr won first place in the *Register-Guard's* annual Holiday Fiction Contest.

Hannah Wilson received a grant from the Barbara Deming Foundation for her collection of short stories concerning older women.

Toni Van Deusen has a poem in the winter issue of *Manzanita Quarterly*.

Gary Adams will have poems in *Sunspinner*, an e-mag, and two of his poems appeared in the e-mag *Roguescholars*.

Cleo's Slow Dance, the sequel to *Preserving Cleo*, by **Jo Brew**, will be released February 15 by Publish America.

George Hitchcock was awarded the C.E.S. Wood Retrospective Award at the Oregon Book Awards ceremony. The award is given to an author in recognition of a distinguished career in Oregon letters.

LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

Contacts

Events:	calendar@laneliteraryguild.org Deborah Narin-Wells
Membership:	membership@laneliteraryguild.org Toni Van Deusen, Treasurer
Newsletter:	newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org Cecelia Hagen
Windfall Readings:	windfall@laneliteraryguild.org Cecelia Hagen & Tim Whitsel

Ongoing Workshops:

Literary Nonfiction	<i>on hiatus</i>	685-1087
Fiction	Steven Higgins	689-8306
Poetry 1	Deborah Narin-Wells	683-2086
Poetry 2	Michael Hanner	895-2236
Poetry 3	Gary Adams	461-0598
Writing Practice	Toni Van Deusen	685-1087
	tonipoet@cmc.net	




 Guild.
 the latest information about the
 find links to Windfall readers and
 is updated regularly. Log on to
 www.laneliteraryguild.org
 The LLC website
 newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org
 nouncements to
 calendar events, or other an-
 Please send member news,
 Lane Literary Guild.
 published bimonthly by the
 The Writer's Access is

 ABOUT THE WRITER'S ACCESS

Is it
 time
 to
 renew?

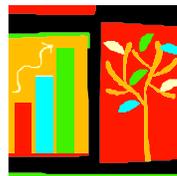


 Lane Literary Guild
 P.O. Box 11035
 Eugene, OR 97440

January - February Readings & Events

JANUARY

- 17 William Stafford birthday reading. Bring a favorite Stafford poem to read. Tsunami, 7:00 pm.
- 20 Poet David Biespiel and novelist Alison Clement. Windfall Reading Series, Eugene Public Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room, 7:00 pm.
- 22 Poet Joseph Millar. Browsing Room, Knight Library. 8:00 pm.



FEBRUARY

- 3 Kim Stafford reads from his newly edited version of William Stafford's *Every War Has Two Losers*. Browsing Room, Knight Library, 7:30 pm.
- 5 Diane Hammond reads from her first novel, *Going to Bend*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 pm.
- 7 The Poetry 2 group reads from their new anthology, *7 on Wednesday*. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.
- 17 Fiction writer Kathleen Tyau and essayist Marjorie Sandor. Windfall Reading Series, Eugene Public Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room, 7:00 pm.
- 19 Creative Writing Dept. hosts fiction writer Laurie Lynn Drummond, *Anything You Say Can and Will Be Used Against You: Stories*. Browsing Room, Knight Library, 8:00 pm.