



The Writer's Access

March-April, 2004

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

Craig Lesley and Casey Kwang Visit in March

On March 16, Windfall presents an evening with noted Northwest novelist Craig Lesley and an up-and-coming poet from Ashland, Casey Kwang. The free reading starts at 7 pm in the Bascom-Tykeson room of the Eugene Public Library. Refreshments are served and books sold during intermission and after the reading.

Craig Lesley first hurtled onto the literary scene 20 years ago with his novel, *Winterkill*. Set in central Oregon, it tells the story of Danny Kachiah, a contemporary Native American rodeo rider, and his struggles to regain both his teenage son and a sense of his Nez Perce heritage. Raymond Carver wrote, "What strikes me first about Craig Lesley's book is the astonishing compassion he extends to the characters." In his subsequent novels – *River Song*, *The Sky Fisherman*, and *Storm Riders* – Lesley has maintained and deepened the noteworthy compassion that marked his debut.

Both *Storm Riders* and *The Sky Fisherman* were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Lesley's writing has received three Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Association Awards, The Western Writers of America Best Novel of the Year, and the Medicine Pipe Bearer's Award.



Craig Lesley and Casey Kwang

Lesley has been a recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Bread Loaf Fellowship in the Novel, as well as two National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships to study Native American literature.

In 1997, he toured France with a group of authors to promote their works on the American West and Native American cultures.

Lesley's novels explore the tenuous coexistence between whites and Native Americans in the northwest United States. They also deal with the tensions of small town life, the dynamics of male bonding, and the myriad ways that people both fail and succeed while trying to help one another. What Reynolds Price said of *Winterkill* is true for all of Lesley's novels: they present "a beautiful picture of family love and

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Maurya Simon Reading Marks National Poetry Month

Each April, Windfall celebrates National Poetry Month by doing something special. Recent years have brought Wanda Coleman and Marvin Bell to read at the library, and last year we featured five local poets whose work is heard too seldom on their home turf. This year, we're delighted to bring Maurya Simon to town.

Maurya Simon is an award-winning poet from California with several collections of poems to her credit. Sutton Hoo Press published her fifth volume, *A Brief History of Punctuation*, and Blackbird Press put out her sixth volume, *Weavers*. Red Hen Press is releasing her newest book of poems, *Ghost Orchid*, in

March 2004. Earlier volumes include *The Enchanted Room* (Copper Canyon Press, 1986), *Days of Awe* (Copper Canyon Press, 1989), *Speaking in Tongues* (Gibbs Smith Publishers, 1990), and *The Golden Labyrinth* (University of Missouri Press, 1995).



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March Windfall, *continued from pg. 1*

loyalty in a society from which we've had few such pictures."

Lesley is also the editor of *Talking Leaves: Contemporary Native American Short Stories* and *Dreamers and Desperadoes: Contemporary Fiction of the American West*. His short stories have appeared in *Massachusetts Review*, *Northwest Review*, *Seattle Review*, *Left Bank*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and others. He earned a master's degree in English from the University of Kansas and a master of fine arts in creative writing from University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Lesley, who lives in Portland with his wife and daughters, has served as the Hallie Ford Chair of creative writing at Willamette University and is currently the Visiting Writer at Whitman College.

Born in Seoul, South Korea in 1974, Kwang moved with his brothers to the U.S. when he was adopted at age four. Raised in southern Oregon, he received his Bachelor of Arts in English from Southern Oregon University.

About Kwang's first book, *On Blue Felix Paper*, Anne Waldman writes, "In the tradition of Charles Bukowski, Casey Kwang gives a tough verse account of life on the street. Drug trips, automobiles, pool games, tenuous friendships

and hard drinking provide an alternative reality, a sort of urban American purgatory, peopled by an alienated underclass of the young." *On Blue Felix Paper* was nominated for an Oregon Book Award in 1999.

In addition to street life, Kwang often writes about love in its various permutations, including his being startled by the surge of love he felt for his mother when, at age 20, he returned to Korea to visit her after being separated for many years. In poems that are bold, honest, and direct, Kwang re-connects his readers with surprise and truth so that they see the world, themselves, and their shortcomings through new eyes.

His second book, *Copia* (Pinball Publishing), was a finalist for the Oregon Book Awards in 2003. Lawson Fusao Inada describes *Copia* as "indeed a copious volume brimming with the wonders of life." In the introduction to the book, Walt Curtis claims "Kwang projects neoRomanticism in a bleak militarist wasteland."

Kwang has worked at gas stations, sushi counters, and desks. He studied with Dorianne Laux at the University of Oregon and with Lawson Inada at Southern Oregon University. Currently he lives in Ashland and teaches writing at Rogue Community College.



Maurya Simon, *continued from pg. 1*

Simon is chair and professor of Creative Writing at the University of California, Riverside and lives in the Angeles National Forest of the San Gabriel Mountains, in southern California.

She is the recipient of a 2002 Visiting Artists Fellowship from the American Academy in Rome, a 1999-2000 NEA fellowship in poetry, a University Award from the Academy of American Poets, the Celia B. Wagner and Lucille Medwick Memorial Awards from the Poetry Society of America, and a Fullbright-Indo-American Fellowship. She has also been a Fellow at Hawthornden Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland, as well as a Fellow at the Baltic Centre for Writers and Translators in Visby, Sweden.

Her poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *TriQuarterly*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *Grand Street*, *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *Shenandoah*, *The Los Angeles Times Book Review*, *Calyx*, *New England Review*, and in more than 30 anthologies.

The Copper Canyon Press's website describes Simon's debut collection, *The Enchanted Room*, as a book that reveals "a mind alert not only to the present but to the possible, to many traditions, and a deeply felt sense of history." Her poems in *Days of Awe* deal with diverse subjects, including Vermeer's women, a rabbi's pants, and nude mice. Each element is explored for its singular presence and made sense and coherence of through her strong, vibrant voice.

Maxine Kumin describes Simon's latest book, *Ghost Orchid*, as "lyrical, melancholic, humorous," containing "fresh, ambitious poems that take us literally into untravelled territory." B.H. Fairchild writes that Simon is "a true master of metaphor" whose poetry "performs the ultimate task—the alchemy of body and soul."

Maurya Simon reads for Windfall on April 20 in the Bascom-Tykeson room of the Eugene Library. The reading begins at 7 pm. After the free event, Simon's books will be available for purchase, snacks will be available, and gabbing encouraged until 9 pm., at which time we all have to leave.

Guild Members Make Good

Claudia Lapp lived in Montreal from 1968-79. During that time, she was one of seven young poets known as the Vehicule Poets. The group is having a reunion/retrospective in Montreal in April, sponsored by the Museum of Contemporary Art. The list of events includes a cabaret on April 8, a book launch, poetry readings on busses, and other forms of merriment. For information, write to <poet3@videotron.ca>.

Traprock Books has published a chapbook by **Carter McKenzie**, *Naming Departure*. The book is available at The Bookmark, the UO bookstore, and Tsunami. This is Traprock's fifth title, and Guild member and literary maven **Erik Muller** edits the imprint.

Hannah Wilson's short story, "Thieves," will appear in *Other Voices*.

In keeping with the release of the sequel, *Cleo's Slow Dance*, **Jo Brew's** web page has been updated (and glamorized). To see for yourself, visit <www.Jo-Brew.com>.

Henry Alley had fiction published recently in *Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Quarterly* and *Clackamas Literary Review*. His story, "The Rembrandt Brotherhood," received honorable mention at the Lambda Literary Festival in Provincetown, Massachusetts in October 2003.

Deborah Narin-Wells recently had poems accepted by *Many Mountains Moving* and *Plainsongs*.

Lisa Rosen's poems will soon be appearing in *Bellevue Review* and *Poetry East*

New & Renewing Members

RENEWING	ANGELS (Renewed with donation)
Dana Furgerson	Carter McKenzie
E. Gail Parr	Sharon Munson
Jo Brew	
Charles Thielman	NEW
Bean Comrada	Rachel Jackson
Patty Jacobs	Bonnita Stahlberg

Craft Workshop on Memoir Writing

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

In this workshop, participants will work with Debra Gwartney to 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 Workshop

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

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

To Join or Renew Guild Membership:

Lane Literary Guild is open to anyone. Annual fees are \$25, \$35 for a family, \$15 for students, and \$50 for angels (a self-selecting group). Mail your check to the PO box listed above.

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>	
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	




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March & April Readings & Events

MARCH

- 2 Leslie Leyland Fields shares her memoir, *Surviving the Island of Grace*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.
- 11 Dr. Kay Porter, *The Mental Athlete*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 pm.
- 14 Carol Stangler, author of *The Craft and Art of Bamboo*, leads a discussion on the uses of bamboo. Tsunami, 1:30 pm.
- 20 Poet Dorianne Laux and California poet Mark Turpin. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.

APRIL

- 3 Oregon State Poetry Association sponsors a poetry reading with local members. Tsunami, 5 - 7 pm.
- 4 Portland poet Ted McMahon reads from his first book, *The Uses of Imperfection*. Tsunami.

- 13 UO faculty member Hank Alley reads from *The Rembrandt Brotherhood*, a story that received an HM in the Richard Hall Memorial Contest. UO Honors College Library, 301 Chapman Hall. 7:30 pm.
- 17 Mt. Pisgah Earth Day Celebration reading. Tsunami, 3:00 - 4:30.
- 17 Members of Maxine Scate's poetry workshop - Deborah Narin-Wells, Michael Hanner, Hannah Wilson, Cecelia Hagen, Linda Mears, Sara Burant, Jenny Root, and Judith Montgomery - read. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.
- 18 The Write Connection: A Writers' Fair. Learn how to organize a writers' critique and support group, meet members of local writing groups, and learn about resources available for writers. Adults and teens welcome. 1:00 - 3:30, Eugene Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room. For information, call Bonnie Hirsch at 682-5123.
- 21 5th annual SASS poetry reading. Tsunami, 7:00 pm.
- 22 Frederick Busch, fiction reading, sponsored by UO Creative Writing. Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 pm.