



The Writer's Access

May - June, 2005

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

May Windfall Hosts Simon and Miller

On Tuesday, May 17, the Windfall reading features Marjorie Simon and John A. Miller in the downtown library's Bascom-Tykeson Room.

Marjorie Simon's poems are laced with the hard sparkle of a hummingbird's determination to leave no bright throat unexamined. Her witzes and zags, by turns wry and self-deprecating. She finds her subjects in the pages of *The Wall Street Journal*, in memories of growing up in Brooklyn and North Carolina, and in her impressively wide-ranging imagination.

Simon is the author of two books of poems, *The Long-Distance Oatmeal Eater* and *Adam & Eve*, etc. Both books were published by Jazz Press. Her work was also featured in the chapbook *Poets of Santa Cruz*. Her poems have appeared in the magazines *Art Life* and *Solo*.

For more than two decades Simon worked as the associate editor of the much-loved and revered publication *kayak*, where she and her partner George Hitchcock helped many of today's best writers reach their first audience.

Simon started out in her writing career as a book reviewer for the *Louisville Courier Journal* in Kentucky. She now lives and works in Eugene.

Corvallis resident John Miller is the author of four novels (*Cutdown*, *Causes of Action*, *Tropical Heat*, and, most recently, *Coyote Moon*) and a collection of short stories (*Jackson Street and Other Soldier Stories*). Miller's story collection won the California Book Award for First Fiction in 1995. His short fiction has appeared in *The William and Mary Review*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *The Missouri Review*, *Crosscurrents*, *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, and other literary magazines.

Miller's fiction conjures a cast of unconventional characters that includes Vietnam vets, rural sheriffs, ecoterrorists, and easy-going lawyers. At least two of his novels also contain what one reader describes as "a very fully-realized cat" that plays an important role in the story. Miller's dialog is sharp and entertaining, and his situations keep the reader engaged and guessing.

Publishers Weekly called *Tropical Heat* "a finely crafted, superbly written novel that deserves wide readership." The *Chicago Sun-Times* described it as "an old-fashioned novel that offers a fine, affectionate portrait of a small Southern town." Miller's most recent novel, *Coyote Moon: A Novel of Love, Baseball, and the Heisenberg Uncertainty*, was described by *Publishers Weekly* as "a quirky romp through the mysteries of life, love, and science." *Kirkus Reviews* called *Coyote Moon* "some of the funniest sports spoofs since Ring Lardner. Superb." The book, a fine concoction for a spring evening, consists of equal parts quantum physics, humor, baseball, and trailer-park wisdom.

The reading is free and starts at 7:00 p.m. The series is sponsored by the Lane Literary Guild, the Eugene Public Library, the Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation, and the Lane Arts Council's Cultural Services Division.



Marjorie Simon



John A. Miller

Eugene Concert Choir, LLG, and Library Announce Collaboration for a Festival of Peace

In April 2006, Lane Literary Guild and the Eugene Public Library will join the Eugene Concert Choir in presenting a week-long Festival of Peace. The Concert Choir will perform Ralph Vaughn Williams' choral masterpiece, *Dona Nobis Pacem* (with words by Walt Whitman from the poems "Reconciliation," "Dirge for Two Veterans," and "Beat! Beat! Drums!") on April 22 at the Hult Center. In conjunction with this performance, the Guild will be making a chapbook of poems of peace and hope by Lane County poets. Please consider sending your best work for this wonderful, one-time-only event.

Call for Submissions

Lane County poets are invited to send their poems of peace and hope to be considered for inclusion in a special chapbook. Work will be selected by Judith H. Montgomery, a well-known Oregon poet who lives outside Lane County. The book, also called *Dona Nobis Pacem (Grant Us Peace)*, will be made available to those attending the Concert Choir performance and other Festival events, and be the basis for the April 18, 2006 Windfall reading at the library.

Guidelines:

- Lane County poets (living in the county or with close ties)
- Submit 1-3 original, unpublished poems, 40-line limit per poem, any form.
- Include a very brief cover letter with a 2-3 line bio.
- Send two copies, typed on letter-sized white paper. On one copy, include your name, address, phone, and email if you have one. The second copy should contain **only the poem(s)**, with no identifying information.
- Include SASE for notification only; poems will not be returned.
- Deadline: postmarked by September 15, 2005.
- Send to: **Poetry Book**
P.O. Box 11037
Eugene, OR 97440



We kid you not: The typical audience for a Eugene Concert Choir performance is 1500.

Report on a Reading in North Bend

by Erik Muller

Three Eugene poets, Toni Van Deusen, Jenny Root, and Claudia Lapp, representing years of service to the Eugene-Springfield poetry community and veterans of dozens of readings, traveled to Coos County on March 20 to read poetry at North Bend Public Library.

Toni is currently on the LLG board, active in Poetry 2, and e-mails literary news to one of the largest lists in the county. Jenny Root directed the LLG during a period when there was a Writers' Center affiliated with Lane Arts Council. A couple of summers ago, Claudia

created and hosted a successful weekly reading series in the outdoor court of Cozmic Pizza.

Each poet gave a 25-minute set, brought books and cards to sell and sign, and enjoyed the hospitality of North Bend Library Director Gary Sharp and of the people who attended. Especially with the aid of the newly formed Eugene-Springfield Chapter of the Oregon State Poetry Association, there will be more trips by regional poets to other parts of the state.

Membership Update

Our members keep us going – thanks for your support!

NEW

Janice Rubin
Brad Hachten

RENEWING

Dana Furgerson
Bean Comrada
Jo Brew
Leslie Relle
Marjorie Simon & George
Hitchcock – Angels
Carter McKenzie – Angel
Jackie Melvin
Lois Rosen
Ty Adams
Rosalind Trotter
Leola Jewett
Richard Howorth
Howard Robertson
Gail Parr & Charles
Thielman
Kit Siebert

Guild Members in the News

Laura LeHew had three poems accepted by Pemmican Press: “In the Aggregate,” “Rather Than True Solids,” and “When Did I Become So Unlike Other People?”

Deborah Narin-Wells and **Cecelia Hagen** have poems in the upcoming anthology from Little Pear Press, *Regrets Only*.

A poem by **Toni Van Deusen** won second prize in the Cholla Division, Chaparral Poetry Forum contest, and her poem “The Touch” won a first in the OSPA Spring 2005 contest.

A poem by **Sharon Munson** took First Honorable Mention in the OSPA Spring contest, Poet’s Choice category. Also, her poem “Anchorage Visitors” appears in the spring 2005 issue of *Windfall*.

How to Join or Renew:

Membership in Lane Literary Guild is open to anyone. Annual membership fees are \$25, \$35 for families, \$15 for low-income or students, and \$50 for “angels” – these could be the easiest wings you’ll ever earn! If you’re a member and wonder whether it’s time to renew, check for an alarmingly bright sticker next to your mailing label on this newsletter. We keep track!

Checks may be mailed to LLG, PO Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440.

Don’t be shy! Send notice of your successes to our PO box or e-mail it to the newsletter address listed in the masthead.

Annual Potluck/Meeting

No date has been set yet, but we’ll be sending announcements, so keep your eye out for this event, which will probably be in September.

What is the Annual Potluck Meeting? It’s a great place to find out about the Guild, if you’re not a member. If you are a member, it’s where you go to put faces to names, share some food, and enjoy the spoken word.



LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

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

Craft Workshops

Laura LeHew


laura@deer-run.com

ONGOING WORKSHOPS

Fiction	Steven Higgins	689-8306
Poetry 1	Deborah Narin-Wells	683-2086
Poetry 2	Michael Hanner	895-2236
Poetry 3	Gary Adams	461-0598
Poetry 4	Robin Saxton	343-2884
Writing Practice	Toni Van Deusen	685-1087

tonivd@cmc.net

ABOUT THE WRITER'S ACCESS




The Writer's Access is published bimonthly by the Lane Literary Guild, a not-for-profit group dedicated to fostering appreciation of the written and spoken word and providing workshops and support for writers in Lane County.

Send member news, calendar events, or announcements to newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org

The LLC website www.laneliteraryguild.org is updated regularly. Log on to find links to Windfall readers and information about the Guild.



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

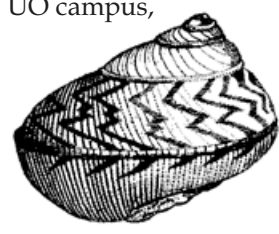
Readings & Events in May - June

MAY

1 George Hitchcock, Dorianne Laux and area students (Stacey Brownn, Jeff Schultz, Katie Westermann, & Lizzie Wolfram) read at a benefit for Oregon State Poetry Association student contest. Tsunami, 3:00 pm.

5 Poet Gerald Stern. 182 Lillis Hall, UO campus, 7:30 pm.

The Mid-Valley Willamette Writers present Clemens Starck, who will talk about "Poetry as Spoken Art." \$5-10 donation, free to MVWW members. Baker Downtown Center, 7:00 pm.



Ted Cox reads from *The Toledo Incident of 1925*, which chronicles three days of anti-Japanese bigotry and violence in Toledo, Oregon. Tsunami, 7:00 pm.

6 Gerald Stern gives a public lecture, "The Hurt Object." 177 Lawrence Hall, UO campus, 11:00 am.

10 Jordan Fisher Smith, author of *Nature Noir*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 pm.

14 Poet Maxine Scates reads from her new book, *Black Loam*. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.

15 "Swimming the Bosphorus." To celebrate Hannah Wilson's birthday, an afternoon of readings from her poetry and short fiction. Light refreshments. Tsunami, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

17 Poet Marjorie Simon and fiction writer John A. Miller read at the last Windfall Series Reading of the season. Refreshments. Bascom-Tykeson Room, Eugene Public Library, 7:00 - 9:00 pm.

18 Deborah Dash Moore, author of *GI Jews: How WWII Changed a Generation*. Gerlinger Lounge, 7:30 pm.

24 John Daniel reads from his new book, *Rogue River Journal: A Winter Alone*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.

JUNE

25 Roberta Price, author of *Huerfano: A Memoir of Life in the Counterculture*. Tsunami, 5:00 pm.