



# The Writer's Access

January- February 2006

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

## Ochsner and Estreich at January 17 Windfall

Windfall returns on January 17, with Gina Ochsner and George Estreich reading their work at the library. The free event is in the Bascom-Tykeson room, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



Gina Ochsner's two highly praised story collections, *The Necessary Grace to Fall* (University of Georgia Press, 2002) and *People I Wanted to Be* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005), explore the connections between the living and dead. Her fiction travels in myth and mischief and is filled with crossings, partings, and second chances.

Ochsner's work carries exotic flavors from locations such as the Czech Republic, Siberia, Hungary, Alaska, West Texas, even Oregon. But though her characters are strange, they are also ordinary. Ochsner says, "While humans as a whole may be inscrutable in some ways, really we are quite transparent and far more similar to one another than we may like to acknowledge."

Ochsner has won the Flannery O'Connor Award, the Oregon Book Award, the Raymond Carver Prize, the Chelsea Award, and others. Her stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*, *Kenyon Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Ochsner attended George Fox College and received her MFA from the University of Oregon. She lives in western Oregon with her husband and four children.



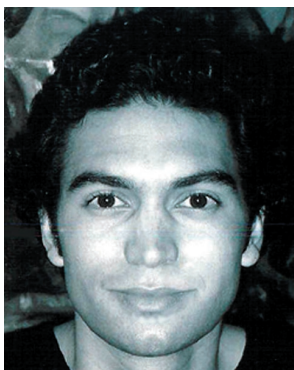
George Estreich's book of poems, *Textbook Illustrations of the Human Body* (Cloudbank Books, 2004) won the Gorsline Prize. Michael McFee calls *Textbook* "the best first book I've read in years, full of distinctive and powerful poems."

The title is a metaphor for digging into the layers of human relationships. For Estreich, the most compelling relationship is with his father. One section of poems is devoted to the memory of his father, poems of love, estrangement, and loss.

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## February 21 Windfall Features Poets Matejka and Brown

On February 21, Windfall features Adrian Matejka and Stacey Lynn Brown, two poets who write about their roots and their uprootings. The reading is free and begins at 7:00 p.m. in the downtown library's Bascom-Tykeson room.



Adrian Matejka's first collection of poems, *The Devil's Garden*, won the 2002 New York / New England Award from Alice James Books. *Black Issues Book Review* named *The Devil's Garden* one of the best poetry books of 2003, writing that it "sings the half-white-quarter-Delaware-quarter-black blues, using deft musical allusion and

metaphor, and juxtaposing history and autobiography to navigate a tri-racial, tri-cultural heritage."

Matejka splices his music metaphors with visual allusions that give his writing a painterly, multitextured feel. In "Tommy Johnson" he writes: "a constellation / of bug prints in a gypsy's / biography—loose-leaf, crayon / etchings and the sun shining / on my back door some day."

Matejka's poems and essays have appeared in journals and anthologies including *Callaloo*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Indiana Review*, and *Painted Bride Quarterly*. He is currently finishing a collection called *Tell 'em Who Your Man Is*, about an unsuccessful emcee who turns to poetry for comfort. Matejka and his wife, the poet Stacey Lynn Brown,

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## January Windfall

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Although the book is elegiac, the poems cover many moods—including poignancy, grief, wit, and humor. “Dear Sir, I need a field guide to my neighbors” begins the poem, “Letters to Roger Tory Peterson,” but the poem ends with “Dear Sir, I need a field guide to grief / Help me to recognize its pinpricks in night sky’s velvet.”

George Estreich has an MFA from Cornell, where he won the Sage Graduate Fellowship. His poems have appeared in the chapbook *Elegy for Dan Rabinowitz*, and in *Talking River Review*, *Atlanta Review*, and *Passages North*. In 2002, he won an Oregon Literary Fellowship and a residency at Caldera. He, his wife, and two daughters live in Corvallis.

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## February Windfall

continued

have just collaborated on a long-term joint venture—a baby girl born in November 2005.



Stacey Lynn Brown was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and attended Emory University and Oxford University before moving to Oregon. She received her MFA from the University of Oregon in 1996 and has taught Writing and Literature at Mt. Hood, Blinn, and Lane. Poems from her manuscript, *Song of The Knock-Kneed Grit*, have appeared in

*Crab Orchard Review*, *Natural Bridge*, and *Mot Juste Poetry*, and are archived in audio format at [fishhousepoems.org](http://fishhousepoems.org).

*Song of The Knock-Kneed Grit* describes growing up in and eventually leaving the South. The poems are about memories that are more bitter than sweet. In the most poignant ones, Brown writes about the nanny who raised her, and the terrible sadness at the end of each day when nanny leaves for her own home. There is an irony in the poems, but also deep longing. When Brown leaves the South to settle in Oregon, she hangs the Georgia flag above her bed, remembering something her father had said before she left: “If you can’t sleep / with red clay beneath your feet / at least you can see / the Stars and Bars above.”

The Windfall Reading Series is sponsored by Lane Literary Guild, Eugene Public Library, Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and the Cultural Services Division of Lane Arts Council.

## Stafford Celebration at the Library

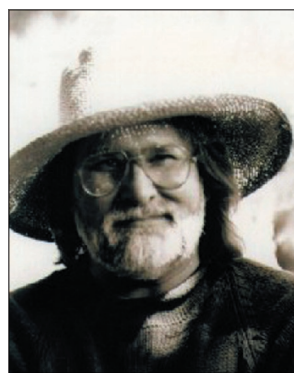
Celebrate the inspiring work of William Stafford, the late U.S. and Oregon Poet Laureate and peace activist, with readings from his collection *Every War Has Two Losers*, and a musical talk, “American Songs of Protest.” Plus, birthday cake! All at First Friday at the Eugene Public Library, January 6, starting at 6:00 p.m.

A conscientious objector during the Second World War, William Stafford moved to Oregon to teach at Lewis and Clark College in 1948, and made Oregon his home for the rest of his life. His first major collection of poems, *Traveling Through the Dark*, won the National Book Award. In addition to his writing and peace activism, Stafford was well known as a teacher and mentor.

In Stafford’s honor, historian and folklorist Twilo Scofield performs “American Songs of Protest.” This informative and entertaining Oregon Chautauqua talk is made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Contact the library at 682-5450 for more information.

### Last Chance to Sign up for Workshop with Robert Hill Long



UO creative writing professor Robert Hill Long will teach a poetry craft workshop on February 25, 2006, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Atrium Building, 99 W. 10th Avenue, Eugene. This may be our last chance to benefit from Robert’s many years of teaching about writing, because he plans

to leave the area next summer. A description of Robert’s accomplishments appeared in the November–December 2005 LLG newsletter.

This workshop will fill up fast, so get in touch with Toni at [tonivd@cmc.net](mailto:tonivd@cmc.net) or 685-1087 to reserve a spot. Cost is \$50 for members; nonmembers need to join the Guild to participate. If you need a scholarship, inquire about availability.

# Lane Literary Guild Membership Update

The Guild relies on membership to keep it going. Thanks to everyone for the support.

## NEW MEMBERS

John Groves  
Dawn Marlan  
Peggy Starr

## RENEWING MEMBERS

Toni Van Deusen  
Erik & Ann Muller  
Deb Mohr  
Rush Wayne  
Quinton Hallett  
Ingrid Wendt & Ralph Salisbury  
Steven Higgins  
Alan Contreras

## Kudos to Guild Members

**Laura LeHew** has poems coming out in the *Rattlesnake Review* and in *PMS*.

**Toni Van Deusen** has a poem appearing in volume 5 (September 2006) of *Margie*.

**Gary Adams** has a poem coming out in the spring issue of *Wild Goose Poetry Review*, both the print and the electronic editions.

**Karen McPherson** announces the publication of *Straightening Out the Record* (Oregon Sunrise Press, 2005), a book of poetry by her father, New York City poet James Lowell McPherson. The journals in which James Lowell McPherson has published poems include *Poetry*, *Exquisite*

*Corpse*, *Nostalgia*, *Chelsea*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *The Wallace Stevens Journal*. This is his first published volume of poetry. *Straightening Out the Record* (\$10.00 paperback) is available at Tsunami Books or from Two Herons Editions (541 West 21st Ave., Eugene 97405).

## New Guild Fiction Workshop

Good news for prose writers! John Groves, who is working on a novel and is a Guild member, is organizing a new ongoing Fiction Workshop. If you're interested in participating, call John at 345-2732 or email him at [jmartin8@efn.org](mailto:jmartin8@efn.org) for details.

## Future Windfalls

- March 21:** John Witte and Mary Szybist  
**April 18:** poets from the *Dona Nobis Pacem* (*Give Us Peace*) chapbook  
**May 16:** Lynn Trombetta and Marisela Rizik

### How to Join LLG or Renew Your Membership:

Membership in Lane Literary Guild is open to anyone. Annual membership fees are \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$15 for low-income or students, and \$50 for "angels."

To find out whether you need to renew, look at the mailing label on this newsletter. Is there a neon sticker beside it saying "Time to Renew"? That's our subtle way of reminding you.

Mail checks and gift certificates for hot tubs to LLG, P.O. Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440.



## LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

Events:	<a href="mailto:calendar@laneliteraryguild.org">calendar@laneliteraryguild.org</a> Deborah Narin-Wells	LLG Website:	<a href="mailto:laura@deer-run.com">laura@deer-run.com</a> Laura LeHew
Membership:	<a href="mailto:membership@laneliteraryguild.org">membership@laneliteraryguild.org</a> Tom Van Deusen, Treasurer	Newsletter Layout:	<a href="mailto:ling_c_chan@yahoo.com">ling_c_chan@yahoo.com</a> Ling Chan
Newsletter:	<a href="mailto:newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org">newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org</a> Cecelia Hagen	ONGOING WORKSHOPS	
Windfall Readings:	<a href="mailto:windfall@laneliteraryguild.org">windfall@laneliteraryguild.org</a> Cecelia Hagen & Deborah Narin-Wells	Fiction	Steven Higgins 689-8306
Craft Workshops:	<a href="mailto:tonivd@cmc.net">tonivd@cmc.net</a> Toni Van Deusen 685-1087	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 <a href="mailto:tonivd@cmc.net">tonivd@cmc.net</a>

**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 LLG website, [www.laneliteraryguild.org](http://www.laneliteraryguild.org), is updated regularly. Log on to find links to Windfall readers and information about the Guild.



**Is it  
time  
to  
renew?**

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



## Readings & Events in January-February

### JANUARY

- 6 William Stafford Birthday Party. Eugene Public Library. Call 682-5450 for more information. Free.
- 8 Rick Steber reads from his new novel, *Buy the Chief a Cadillac*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Poet George Estreich and short-story writer Gina Ochsner read for Windfall. Eugene Public Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Stringtown Publishers prose and poetry reading. Tsunami, 4:00 p.m.
- 24 Karen Fisher reads from her new novel, *Sudden Country*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Michael McCloskey, reading and discussion of *In the Thick of It: My Life in the Sierra Club*. 175 Knight Law, 7:00 p.m.
- 29 William Stafford Birthday Reading. Tsunami. 4:00 p.m.

- 3 Readin' in the Rain event. "The Flavors of *Crescent*; Feeding the Exile," a talk by Dr. Beth Aydelott on Diana Abu-Jaber's new book, *Crescent*. Eugene Public Library. 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Readin' in the Rain Book Discussion—open to everyone. *Crescent* by Diana Abu-Jaber. UO Bookstore, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Gordon M. Sayre, *The Indian Chief as Tragic Hero*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Poets Stacey Lynn Brown and Adrian Matejka read for Windfall. Eugene Public Library, 7:00 p.m.
- Readin' in the Rain event. Book discussion on *Crescent* at the Springfield Public Library. 7:00 p.m.
- 23 Readin' in the Rain event. Reading and book signing by Diana Abu-Jaber. Hult Center Lobby, 7:00 p.m.
- 24 Readin' in the Rain Book Reading and Signing by Diana Abu-Jaber. UO Bookstore, 1:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 2 Dorianne Laux reads from her new book of poems, *Facts About the Moon*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 p.m.

- 26 Poets Ingrid Wendt and Candice Favilla. Tsunami, 4:00 p.m.