



The Writer's Access

March- April 2006

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

March Windfall Brings Szybist and Witte

On March 21, Windfall presents Mary Szybist and John Witte, two poets who look at the things of this world in an attempt to gain clarity about what might exist beyond.



Many of Szybist's poems seem to be spoken out loud by someone who cannot help but observe ordinary events, such as "headlights sliding across the wall," in the midst of unusual questions ("when the gnat-like courtship rattled out, did you feel the courtship end?" in the poem "What If I Could Look At You").

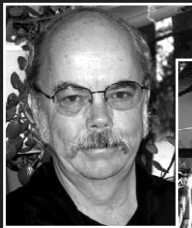
The distractions of the physical world merge with philosophical and religious searchings to create a sense of constant shifting. This is heightened by Szybist's use of repetition and her tendency to pull a word apart and string it together differently, as if trying to find the solid ground of a single meaning.

Poet Donald Justice writes of Szybist's work: "This is poetry of a rare fine delicacy. Its very modesty testifies to a great ambition—to overcome by the quietest of means." And poetry maven Jorie Graham says of Szybist: "Her work's ambition is the creation of a free human in the midst of the seemingly endless tetherings of desire. Great spiritual courage is sometimes almost inaudible. When one leans in to listen, it almost shocking to hear this gorgeous soul sing."

Mary Szybist grew up in Pennsylvania and holds degrees from the University of Virginia and the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her first book, *Granted*, published by Alice James Books, won the 2002 Beatrice Hawley Award and was a finalist for the 2003 National Book Critics Circle Award. She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writing Award and the 2004 winner of the Great Lakes Colleges Association's New Writers Award in Poetry. Szybist is now teaching at Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

continued on page 2

Five Local Poets, Three Words: *Grant Us Peace*



(l-r): Charles Thielman, Madronna Holden, Colette Jonopolous, Deb Casey, and Michael Hanner

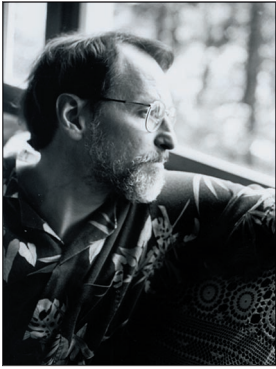
The April 18 Windfall reading brings together five local poets, all of whom have work in *Grant Us Peace* (*Dona Nobis Pacem*), a chapbook of poems of peace and hope published by the Lane Literary Guild. The book will be available for free at the 7 p.m. reading in the Eugene Public Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room, thanks in part to a grant from the Lane Arts Council Cultural Services Division.

Nearly 20 Lane County poets have work in the book. The project began when Diane Retallack, Artistic and Executive Director of the Eugene Concert Choir, invited the Lane Literary Guild to collaborate with the choir by engaging local writers in a project related to her group's performance of

continued on page 2

March Windfall

continued



John Witte's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Antaeus*, *American Poetry Review*, and in several anthologies, including *The Norton Introduction to Literature*. He has received two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships, as well as numerous other grants and awards. Witte is the editor of *The Collected*

Poems of Hazel Hall (Oregon State University Press) and the author of two poetry collections, *Loving the Days* (Wesleyan University Press) and *The Hurling* (Orchises Press).

The Hurling, which came out in 2005, contains poems written in three-line stanzas that use little punctuation and "rush forward, hurtling through space and time in a hushed breathlessness" (Gina Myers, *Octopus Magazine*). The first poem, "The Soloist," describes a violinist straining to bring forth music, painful as birth, weighted with memory and longing. This typifies the intense awareness of innocence and experience and the themes of longing, cruelty, and mortality that imbue all of Witte's poems.

Although his poems are dark, there is wonder here as well—light and shadow, life and death. In the poem "Wake Up"—which describes the poet asleep on the beach while his young daughter builds a sand castle—the speaker is a "troubled giant" who "travels alone" while the castle wall crumbles, the gate collapses, and the "secret tunnel fills with water."

Witte teaches contemporary literature and literary editing at the University of Oregon and edits the *Northwest Review*. He lives with his family in Eugene.

The free reading begins at 7 p.m. in the Eugene Public Library's Bascom-Tykeson Room.

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 to LLG, P.O. Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440.

April Windfall

continued

Ralph Vaughan Williams' cantata *Dona Nobis Pacem*, which uses three poems by Walt Whitman in the text.

The Guild sent out a call for submissions and received enough entries to fill a number of chapbooks. With the guiding hand of Toni Van Deusen, the submissions were sent to Judith H. Montgomery, author of *Passion* and *Red Jess*, who judged the anonymously submitted entries.

We thank all who volunteered and supported this unique and exciting project, and invite everyone to come hear what Deb Casey, Michael Hanner, Madronna Holden, Colette Jonopulous, and Charles Thielman have to say.

Deb Casey is a former fiction editor for *Northwest Review*. Her work has appeared in *Calyx*, *Chicago Review*, *Epoch*, *Graham House*, *Kenyon*, *Massachusetts Review*, *North American Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Ploughshares*, *River Styx*, & *Zyzzyva*, as well as *Dare-Devil Research*, *For A Living*, and *Reading & Writing for Literature*.

After a 30-year hiatus, **Michael Hanner** returned to writing poetry in the mid-1990s. His principle themes are love, family, loss, and remembrance, often with a jigger of surrealism and sometimes even a little architecture thrown in. Hanner has been a member of Poetry 2 in the Lane Literary Guild for several years.

A professional storyteller who also regularly contributes essays to *Parabola*, **Madronna Holden** has taught at the State University of New York, the University of Oregon, and BirZeit University in Palestine. Holden currently teaches mythology and folklore at Linfield College and courses on culture and nature at Oregon State University.

Colette Jonopulos is the author of two nonfiction books, *The One Thing Needful* and *Living Waters for a Parched Land*. Her poetry has appeared in *Clackamas Literary Review*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *PDQ*, *In the Arms of Words: Poems for Disaster Relief*, and is forthcoming in *Under Our Skin: North American Poetic Responses to Fernando Pessoa*. She is currently co-editor of *Tiger's Eye: A Journal of Poetry*.

Charles F. Thielman is a Eugene poet-member of the Lane Literary Guild. He is honing a book-length manuscript under the working title "writing upright outside the lost and found". His poems root in and rise through layers of experience, perceptions, and dreams.

Lane Literary Guild Membership Update

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

NEW MEMBERS	RENEWING MEMBERS	ANGELS
Suzanne Linqvist	Patricia Gripp	Many thanks to
Terry Brix	Tim Whitsel	the anonymous
Diane Conrad	Lisa Rosen	donor who gave
Mary Peterson	Karen McPherson	\$50 to be used
Harriot West	Gary Adams	for a future
Veronica Yates	Katherine Chase	Guild Craft
	Cecelia Hagen	workshop.

Kudos to Guild Members

Kelly Terwilliger received an honorable mention in the Ruth Stone Poetry Contest. Her poem will appear in the spring issue of *Hunger Mountain*.

Deborah Narin-Wells and **Quinton Hallett** are coordinating visits by poets to Crow High School in April and May, a program of the Oregon State Poetry Association's Eugene-Springfield Chapter. Guild members reading in Crow include: **Sara Burant**, **Toni Van Deusen**, **Craig Gilbert**, **Cecelia Hagen**, **Carter McKenzie**, **Jenny Root**, **Lisa Rosen**, and **Kelly Terwilliger**.

Two poems by **Laura LeHew** will be in *Rattlesnake Review*.

A chapbook by **Deborah Narin-Wells**, *Birds Flying Through*, has just been released by Traprock Books, an imprint by **Erik Muller**. The book is at local independent bookstores.

Hank Alley was one of 20 local citizens to participate in a reading of the play *Guantanamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom*. Alley's story "The Rembrandt Brotherhood" was runner-up in the Richard C. Hall Short Story Contest and accepted by *Harrington Gay Men's Quarterly*. His literary

article, "Mrs. Dalloway and Three of its Contemporary Children," was accepted by *Papers on Language and Literature*. His short story collection, *The Sojourners*, was a semifinalist in the Spokane Prize short fiction competition, and a story, "The Dahlia Field," was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Carter McKenzie's poem "September 11" has been developed as a performance piece by Cherry Blossom Musical Arts. The piece will be included in a production at Lord Leebrick Theatre on April 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.

Two poems by **Ingrid Wendt**—"Starting from Scratch" and "Prego"—will be read by Garrison Keillor on his NPR radio program, *The Writer's Almanac*.

Sara Burant had a poem accepted for a peace-themed exhibition of poems and art at Trinity Cathedral in Portland. The show exhibits from March 2 to April 2.

Cecelia Hagen is reading with **Candice Favilla** on March 11 at the North Bend Public Library. Hagen has three new poems forthcoming on the webzine *Caffeine Destiny*.

Howard W. Robertson has won the 2006 Elizabeth R. Curry Prize awarded by *SLAB* of Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. The winning poem is titled "The life of trees, birds, and stones." The prize includes publication in *SLAB*, a \$500 cash prize, and a recording of the author on the Internet.

Toni Van Deusen has won 1st and 2nd prize in The Writer's Haven poetry contest. Van Deusen also has a poem in the 2006 *West Wind Review* anthology.

Terry Brix has a poem ("Pulp Town") published in the Winter 2006 issue of *Antioch Review* and another ("Departure of Parts") in the winter 2006 issue of *Main Channel Voices*.

In Memoriam: Katherine Chase 1933 – 2006
Her gracious and fiery spirit will be missed by many.



LANE LITERARY GUILD INFORMATION

Events: Deborah Narin-Wells,
calendar@laneliteraryguild.org

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

Windfall Readings: Cecelia Hagen &
Deborah Narin-Wells,
windfall@laneliteraryguild.org

Newsletter: Cecelia Hagen,
newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org

Craft Workshops: Toni Van Deusen,
tonivd@cmc.net

LLG Website: Laura LeHew,
laura@deer-run.com

Newsletter Layout: Ling Chan,
ling_c_chan@yahoo.com

Ongoing Workshops:

Fiction 1: Steven Higgins, 689-8306

Fiction 2: John Groves, 345-2732

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

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

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

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

ABOUT THE WRITER'S ACCESS



Is it
time
to
renew?

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



Readings & Events in March-April

MARCH

- 2 UO Creative Writing Professor Ehud Havazelet reads from his newest collection of interrelated stories, *Like Never Before*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 p.m.
- 3 Bob Welch talks about *My Oregon: The State through the Eyes and Words of a Native Son*. Eugene Downtown Library First Fridays, 7:00 p.m. Music by the City Singers starting at 6:00 p.m.
- 7 Joseph Lieberman reads from *Shooting Game: An In-Depth Analysis of School Shootings*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Suzanne Matson reads from her novel, *The Tree Sitter*. UO Bookstore, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Poets Deborah Narin-Wells and Anita Sullivan. Tsunami, 5:00 p.m.
- 21 Windfall reading with poets Mary Szybist and John Witte. Bascom-Tykeson Room, Eugene Downtown Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 8-9 Eugene Library's 28th Annual Book Sale at the Lane County Fairgrounds Performance Hall (note new location). 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Sunday.
- 18 Windfall reading with Charles Thielman, Deb Casey, Colette Jonopolous, Michael Hanner, and Madronna Holden. Music provided by Robert Hill Long. Bascom-Tykeson Room, Eugene Downtown Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 22 Tim Tingle, Choctaw storyteller, shares the lore of his people. Eugene Downtown Library, 2:00–3:00 p.m.
- 25 Poets Robert Hill Long, Toni Van Deusen, and Nancy Moody read at the Springfield Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Paul Dresman and Jesus Sepulveda celebrate the 10th anniversary of the bilingual magazine, *Helicoptero*. Tsunami, 7:00 p.m.
- 27 Tobias Wolff reads at UO Knight Library, 8:00 pm.

APRIL

- 1 Paul Chasman reads from his novel, *The Book of Bob*. Tsunami, 5:00 p.m.
- 29 Glitterary Word Festival, a family event sponsored by the Young Writers Association 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m., Eugene Downtown Library. For a full schedule, visit <www.ywalane.org>.