



# The Writer's Access

November–December 2006

News from the Lane Literary Guild

[www.laneliteraryguild.org](http://www.laneliteraryguild.org)

## Windfall Events for 2007

For those who like to plan ahead, get out your calendars and fill in these dates:

**January 16:** Jeff DeMark returns to present another engaging one-person show.

**February 20:** Portland poet Lisa Steinman and coast-range writer John Daniel.

**March 2:** La Grande writers and Eastern Oregon University professors Jodi Varon and David Axelrod.

**April 17:** Oregon's poet laureate Lawson Inada and poet Paulann Peterson.

**May 15:** William Sullivan reads from his new novel and shows slides of its locations.

## LLG Membership

Thanks to all the new and renewing members, whose dues support all the Guild's programs, and whose spirit supports so much more.

### New Member

Bobbi Hildebrand

### Renewing Members

Kake Huck	Jo Brew
Jill Leininger	Hank Alley
Leslie Relle	Skye Blaine
Janice Rubin	Nan Phifer
Catherine Sibert	

### Angels

Holeana Sapinsley (renewing)	Steve Golly (new)
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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.

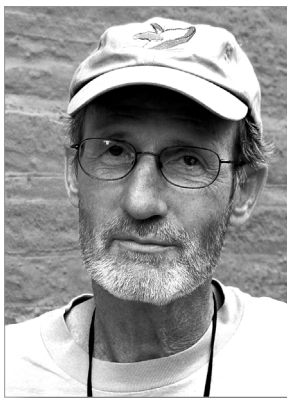
November Windfall

## A Pre-Thanksgiving Night of Stories and Poems

*Erin Ergenbright and Vince Wixon on November 21*



Erin Ergenbright



Vince Wixon

On November 21, Windfall brings Erin Ergenbright and Vince Wixon to the library to read from their works. Subjects you'll hear about are likely to include food, romance, childhood, and regional musings from here and beyond. The reading features free snacks at intermission, a chance to purchase books by the authors and have them signed, and an evening of great entertainment in the form of the written word spoken by the writers themselves.

*The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook: They Came, They Cooked, They Left (But We Ended Up with Some Great Recipes)* (HarperCollins, 2002) is a collection of recipes and stories that **Erin Ergenbright** wrote with her friend Thisbe Nissen. The two met at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and one day while they were planning a barbecue at their farmhouse, they realized they possessed between them a treasure trove of recipes from old boyfriends. They started trading stories, swapping photos and clippings and bits of letters, and ended up collaging them into a delightful and category-defying book.

*The Ex-Boyfriend Cookbook* is divided into six sections, with names like Slippery Things, Savory Things, Substantial Things, and Sweet Things.

Chapters include "Wimpy Eddie Plinkett's Manly Quiche," "Blackened Red Snapper James Said He Would Make and Never Did," and "Arrogant Neil's Stolen Lemon Custard." Readers swear the recipes work, and so does the wit and humor.

Ergenbright's writing has appeared in *Tin House*, *Indiana Review*, *Paste Magazine*, and *Portland Monthly*. In the eclectic magazine *The Believer*, she has written about The Pull'R Inn Motel in Kalona (Quilt Capitol of Iowa), the planet Mars, and the monarch butterfly migration as shown in a music video by The Shins doing their song "Saint Simon."

Some anthologies that feature her work are *The May Queen: Women on Life, Love, Work and Pulling It All Together in Your Thirties*; *Alone in the Kitchen With An Eggplant: On Cooking Alone and Dining For One*; and *After: Parenting Fiction from America's Top Writers*. She is also a co-founder of Portland's

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Loggernaut Reading Series. She earned her MFA at the Iowa Writers Workshop, where she was a James Michener–Paul Engle fellow. Ergenbright currently teaches writing workshops throughout greater Portland.

**Vince Wixon** has poems in various magazines and journals and in two anthologies, *From Here We Speak* and *Weathered Pages*. Working with Michael Markee, Wixon made two videos on William Stafford—*What the River Says* and *The Life of the Poem*—and one on Lawson Inada (current Poet Laureate of Oregon)—*What It Means To Be Free*.

With Paul Merchant, Director of the William Stafford Archive, Wixon has edited two of Stafford's books on writing—*Crossing Unmarked Snow* and *The Answers Are Inside the Mountains*. He has also worked on Stafford's selected poems, *The Way It Is* from Graywolf Press and *Every War Has Two Losers* (Milkweed Editions).

Wixon is the author of two books of poetry—*Seed* (May Day Press, 1993) and *The Square Grove* (Traprock Books, 2006). *The Square Grove* focuses on Wixon's early life in Minnesota—where he grew up on a grain and dairy farm—and his current life in the Pacific Northwest. Paulann Petersen says, "With simple diction, fine imagery and a voice as satisfying as a drink of pure well-water, Wixon creates poems of striking economy and force."

Using internal rhyme, humor, and poignancy, Wixon evokes memories of childhood, rich in the details of farm life and the natural world. Here fields breathe, "snow pushes against the cottonwoods," and "the maple trembles with yellow finches." As the boy, Wixon worked the fields, kicked back the corn and dreamed about baseball. *The Square Grove* is both beginning and end; as the child becomes an adult, the poems focus more on the passing away of things and loved ones. More than a few poems hint at our mortality. For instance, these lines, from "After Reading Rilke": "Rilke writes, 'We're all falling' / And the maple, trembling with yellow finches / drops its winged seeds / extends its green arms / to scratch our bedroom window. / Soon we'll have to admit it."

While teaching at Crater High School, Wixon was named Oregon Teacher of the Year in 1998. He retired from public school teaching in 2000. He and his wife Patty live in Ashland and are longtime poetry editors for *Jefferson Monthly*, the public radio program guide for Southern Oregon and Northern California.

*Windfall Readings are held from 7–9 p.m. in the downtown library and are sponsored by the Guild, the Library, the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and the Cultural Services Division of the Lane Arts Council.*

## A Report on the East/West Poets Gathering

by Erik Muller

On October 20–22 in La Grande, the Second Biennial East/West Poets Gathering brought together over 35 poets who read their work and discussed how to make Oregon poetry more visible and ways to increase its impact in the state. Poets included students from Eastern Oregon University (in La Grande) and from Coos Bay, Bend, Eugene, Portland, and Pendleton.

La Grande, a city of 12,327 whose motto is "The Hub of Northeast Oregon," is where David Memmott, the host of the East/West Gathering, runs his full-service publishing company, Wordcraft of Oregon. La Grande is also home to the poetry journals *Basalt*, *Oregon East*, and *Ronde Dance*. The city provided a microphone at Wee Mama's Sandwich Shop, performance space at The Gadfly, and meeting space at a downtown mall. La Grande book designers, publishers, editors, and poets—including Tom Madden, George Venn, David Axelrod, Jodi Varon, David Memmott, and Rick Mack—work together to form a vital literary community.

The third East/West Poets Gathering is planned for Eugene in 2008. For more information, contact [wordcraft@oregontrail.net](mailto:wordcraft@oregontrail.net) or [traprock@bossig.com](mailto:traprock@bossig.com).

## January Poetry Craft Workshop with Laton Carter

Laton Carter, Eugene native and winner of the 2005 Stafford-Hall Oregon Book Award for poetry, will lead a one-day poetry craft workshop for the Guild on Saturday, January 27, 2007.

The workshop will balance, in equal parts, a traditional workshop forum—where participants will read and openly discuss their own work—with a talk on poetic craft entitled "The Quiet Metaphor," in which the use and limits of the metaphor as a tool in contemporary poetry are examined and reviewed. Poems by Mary Oliver, Jorie Graham, Galway Kinnell, Wendell Berry, James McMichael, and others will be discussed for this portion of the workshop.

Participants of all levels are encouraged to join. The cost for the workshop is \$50 for LLG members, \$65 for non-members. Call 685-1087 or email [tonivd@cmc.net](mailto:tonivd@cmc.net) for more info.

## Kudos to Guild Members

The 2006/2007 Best of Eugene award for “Best Local Writer” went to **Sally Sheklow** for her monthly humor column “Living Out.” The column is syndicated nationally and appears every third Thursday in the *Eugene Weekly* ([www.eugeneweekly.com](http://www.eugeneweekly.com)).

**Bonnita Stahlberg** and **Veronica Yates** read their prize-winning poems on October 7 at the 2006 Artists Embassy International Dancing Poetry Festival, held at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco.

**Veronica Yates** was selected as a poetry finalist in the Pacific Northwest Writers' Association's 2006 Literary Contest for a group of three poems. The presentation for the ten finalists was made at the PNWA conference in Seattle. Veronica was also designated as a semi-finalist for her short story in the 2006 Katherine Anne Porter prize for Fiction, part of the Nimrod/Hardman Competition.

**Quinton Hallett** donated chapbooks and poems by Oregon writers to the Yeats Society Library in County Sligo, Ireland. Among the selections were the Guild's *Dona Nobis Pacem* chapbook and recent poems by Guild member **Kelly Terwilliger**.

**Erik Muller's** appreciation of and selection of poems by Corvallis poet Richard Dankleff appears in the fall issue of *Northwest Review*. Also, the latest poetry book from Erik's Traprock Books is *Perfect Mistakes*, by Portland poet D.H. Bleything.

On October 8, poets **Deborah Narin-Wells**, **Toni Van Deusen**, and **G.L. Morrison** read

at Mother Kali's Books.

**Deborah Narin-Wells** has poems forthcoming in *Sow's Ear Review*. In November, she'll read at Jackson's Books in Salem.

**Ingrid Wendt** and **Ralph Salisbury** gave readings during the month of October at Aurora University, University of Illinois, The Spirit of the Writer Conference, and Illinois Central College. Ingrid was also a featured speaker at the Illinois Association of Teachers of English, and is receiving a distinguished achievement award from her alma mater, Cornell College, in Iowa. Poems by Ingrid Wendt were finalists in both the *Runes* poetry contest and the Pablo Neruda Award from *Nimrod, International Journal*.

**Laura LeHew's** poem, “Showing Thong,” will appear in a future issue of *Elysian Fields Quarterly*, and “The Land of Wolves” will be published soon by *Tiger's Eye*.

**Alan Contreras** is the editor of *Birds of Lane County*, released in October 2006 by Oregon State University Press. In September of this year, OSU Press released a paperback edition of *Birds of Oregon: A General Reference*; Alan is one of three editors of that book.

**Hank Alley's** long short story, “Would You Mind Holding Down My Body,” published in the online journal *Stone Table Review*, is available under “Current Issue” at <http://www.stonetablereview.com/>.

**Nancy Moody's** poem “After The Dance” will appear in the *Chaffin Journal*.

## Long-range Planning

The fresh faces of those new calendars--fill them in! The UO literary events are:

February 15 - **Maxine Scates** reading at the Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 pm.

February 22 - **Cai Emmons** reading fiction, Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 pm.

April 12 - **Tess Gallagher** reading, location TBA, 8:00 pm. Gallagher will also give a lecture on April 13 at 11:00 am, location TBA.

May 10 - **Bret Lott** reads his fiction in the Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, 8:00 pm, and gives a lecture at 11:00 am on May 11 in the Ben Lindner Room (EMU).

## LLG Contacts

*Events:* Deborah Narin-Wells, [calendar@laneliteraryguild.org](mailto:calendar@laneliteraryguild.org)

*Membership:* Toni Van Deusen, [membership@laneliteraryguild.org](mailto:membership@laneliteraryguild.org)

*Windfall Readings:* Cecelia Hagen & Deborah Narin-Wells, [windfall@laneliteraryguild.org](mailto:windfall@laneliteraryguild.org)

*Newsletter:* Cecelia Hagen, [newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org](mailto:newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org)

*Craft Workshops:* Toni Van Deusen, [tonivd@cmc.net](mailto:tonivd@cmc.net)

*LLG Website:* Laura LeHew, [laura@deer-run.com](mailto:laura@deer-run.com)

*Newsletter Layout:* Ling Chan, [ling\\_c\\_chan@yahoo.com](mailto: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: Laura LeHew, 683-8682

Writing Practice: Toni Van Deusen, 685-1087

## An Opportunity to Get Involved with the Guild

The Guild's Steering Committee is looking for folks interested in helping out with Guild activities. No previous experience necessary--the only qualifications are enthusiasm and a willingness to pitch in. Come to a meeting or two (Steering Committee meetings are the first Tuesday evening of every odd-numbered month) and together we can figure out things you can do. For more information, call 685-1087.

*Is it time  
to renew?*



*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 support 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.

*About The Writer's Access*

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



## Readings & Events in November–December

*Readings are free unless otherwise noted.*

### November

- 2 Bob Welch reads from his new book, *A Literary Celebration of Sports and Life*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Mark Unno reads from *Buddhism and Psychotherapy Across Cultures*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Isabel Stirling reads from *Zen Pioneer: The Life and Works of Ruth Fuller Sasaki*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 p.m.  
  
Poets Barbara Ras (*One Hidden Stuff* and *Bite Every Sorrow*) and Eugene Gloria (*Hoodlum Birds* and *Drivers at the Short-Time Motel*). Tsunami Books, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Scott Nadelson, winner of the 2004 Oregon Book Award for Short Fiction, reads from *Saving Stanley*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 8:00 p.m. Sponsored by UO Creative Writing.
- 12 Portland poet Willa Schneberg reads from her new collection, *Story Telling in Cambodia*. Tsunami Books, 4:00 p.m.

*(November continued)*

- 13 Jane Rosen reads from *My Life as a Corporate Goddess*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.
- 16 The UO Art Department presents Keiko Hara, designer of *Distant Rain*, a book that records the conversation between poet Tess Gallagher and novelist and Buddhist nun Jakucho Setouchi about love, loss, and the role of writing in coping with grief.
- 21 Windfall Reading Series presents poet Vince Wixon and prose writer Erin Ergenbright. Eugene Public Library, 7:00 p.m.
- 30 Poet Joseph Millar reads from his new collection, *Fortune*. Tsunami Books, 7:00 p.m.

### December

- 2 Authors & Artists Fair at the Downtown Library. Good books, authors, artwork, gifts, musical entertainment, desserts, wine and coffee. 7:00 - 10:00 pm.