



The Writer's Access

May-June 2007 2007

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

A Note from the Editor

This will be the last issue of *Writers' Access* that I'll be putting together. I started doing the newsletter in 2001. Although I'll still write about Windfall with Deborah Narin-Wells, I won't be coordinating the other pieces.

Mark Tritt has stepped up to the new position, and with Toni Van Deusen's help he'll start coordinating the pieces and doing the design and layout (which the talented Ling Chan has been doing for the past two years). If you like what you see, please let Mark know. We appreciate his energy and skill.

Laura LeHew, who has so ably served as our website manager, is also taking a break. If you or someone you know would care to handle updates to the Guild's website, please contact Laura at <laura@deer-run.com>.

Keep reading, keep writing ... and I hope to see you all at Windfall.

- Cecelia Hagen

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 Members

Lauren Jensen Hannah Thomassen

Renewing Members

Veronica Yates Jackie Melvin
Deb Mohr Lisa Rosen
Jerry & Martha Gatchell Karen McPherson
Harriot Wesst Claudia Lapp

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 or more for angels.

Is it time to renew? It is if you see a neon sticker beside the mailing label on this newsletter, saying Time to Renew.

Please mail checks to LLG, P.O. Box 11035, Eugene, OR 97440.

May Windfall

Armchair Traveling with Sullivan

William L. Sullivan shares tales from his new novel on May 15.



William L. Sullivan

What better way to spend a spring evening than seeing slides and hearing a good yarn? On May 15 you can do just that, when Windfall features William L. Sullivan. The free event starts at 7:00 pm in the downtown library's Bascom-Tykeson Room.

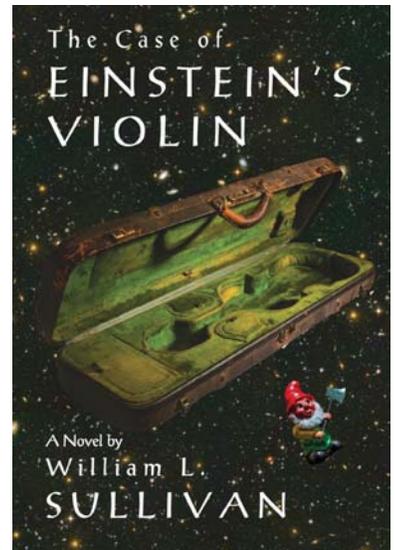
Sullivan is one of the most sought-after writers in Oregon for his informative, entertaining presentations. Whether it's a memoir about building a wood cabin by hand (*Cabin Fever*), or a fictional recounting of the "Poet of the Sierras" Joaquin Miller (*A Deeper Wild*), or one of his indispensable hiking guides, Sullivan delivers quality work that is impressively done.

His newest book, *The Case of Einstein's Violin*, is a novel steeped in intrigue. Ana Smyth inherits the great scientist's violin case. After she sells it on eBay, she becomes embroiled in an international spy ring that stretches from Oregon to a Greek monastery, a particle accelerator in Italy, the Slovenian Alps, and the German city of Einstein's birth.

Sullivan will show slides of the sites in which the book is set. Expect to learn about Europe's most interesting and least-known hiking trails, from Greece and the Pyrenees to Norway and the Alps. Learn what to expect at an alpine "hut," where to launch a tour of Slovenia, and where you can spend the night on an island with an active volcano that spews steam and fiery rocks every five to fifteen minutes.

A fifth-generation Oregonian, Sullivan began hiking at age five. After studying at Deep Springs College, receiving an English degree from Cornell University, and studying linguistics at Germany's Heidelberg University, he earned an M.A. in German literature from the UO.

Sullivan's hobbies include backcountry ski touring, playing the pipe organ, reading foreign language novels, and promoting libraries. Eugeneans can be



continued on page 2

...continued from page 1

grateful for his work on the campaign to build the city's new library. Sullivan continues to serve on the Oregon State Library Board, and is president of the Lane Library League, a citizen group whose goal is to extend library service to the 80,000 people in Lane County who currently lack service.

Sullivan and his wife, Janell Sorensen, live in Eugene and spend summers in a log cabin they built by hand on a roadless stretch of a remote river in Oregon's Coast Range.

The Windfall Reading Series is sponsored by Eugene Public Library, Lane Literary Guild, Friends of the Library, the Eugene Public Library Foundation, and a Community Arts grant from Lane Arts Council.

LLG Contacts

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

Membership: Toni Van Deusen, membership@laneliteraryguild.org

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

Newsletter: Cecelia Hagen, newsletter@laneliteraryguild.org

Craft Workshops: Toni Van Deusen, tonipoet@gmail.com

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

Red Sofa Poets:

Michael Hanner, 895-2236

Let Them Eat Cake Poets:

Laura LeHew, 683-8682

Guild Members in the News

Janice Rubin has three poems appearing in the anthology *Herstory*, published by elizaPress. She also had two poems accepted for the *New Beginnings Anthology of Poetry*.

Eileen Dawson Peterson will have a poem, and **Henry Alley** a story in the *Herstory* anthology, which features work by or about women.

Laura LeHew had two poems accepted by *Perigee*, and by *HeartLodge*, *Green Silk*, and *poetrydiversity*.

Colette Jonolopus won first place in the *HeartLodge* poetry competition.

Quinton Hallett has poems forthcoming in the next issue of *Hipfish*.

Bonnita Stahlberg read her prize-winning poem "Border Time" at the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Poetry Now Festival in Ireland in March. The poem is posted at www.dlrcoco.ie/library.

Four Guild poets placed in the OSPA Spring poetry contest: **Susan Kenyon**, 1st place in the New Poets category; **Michael Hanner** and **Toni Van Deusen**, 2nd and 3rd place in Members Only; **Sharon Munson**, 3rd place in the Elegy category; and **Toni Van Deusen**, 2nd place in Poet's Choice. The winning poems will be published in the next edition of *Verseweavers*.

Erik Muller's Traprock Books will release books by Tim Applegate of Gaston, Paula Lowden of Portland, and **Lisa Rosen** of Eugene in 2007. In 2008, Traprock has three Eugene poets lined up: **Nancy Moody**, **Gary Adams**, and **Anita Sullivan**, along with Bill Siverly of Portland. Traprock's next reading period for manuscripts will be early in 2008.

Toni Van Deusen had a poem accepted for the 2007 West Wind Anthology.

Deb Mohr won the William Van Wert Fiction Competition for 2006 for an excerpt from her novel, *Leaving Dark Rooms*. Mohr is donating the prize money to the Buckley Detox Center in Eugene.

Poetry Blooms in School at Crow

text and photos by Quinton Hallett

In the mid-nineties, Erik Muller was the College High Liaison for Lane Community College's English offerings. Part of his job was to make visits to several high school campuses and get acquainted with the teachers who were offering college-level classes.

Craig Gilbert, who was serving as president of the Guild at that time, began scheduling visits by Guild poets to read at two such classes: Dinah Galloway's "Introduction to Poetry" at Crow High School and a similar class at Elimira High School taught by Kathy Tritten.

After Gilbert guided the program for three years, Jackie Melvin volunteered to continue to take poets to Galloway's class at Crow for the next eight years.

A favorite memory for Gilbert is of one student memorizing Gilbert's poem "Country" to recite at graduation. Similarly, Melvin recalls taking poets to Crow that she



Lawson Inada and Crow students

had written as a senior in high school. A student chose one of those poems to read at graduation.

Since 2006, the poet visits have been part of the Oregon State Poetry Association's local chapter. Each spring Deborah Narin-Wells and Quinton Hallett drive the camas-studded roads to Crow, cycling a dedicated group of poets into Galloway's class.

continued on page 3

From Dislocation to Belonging

by Toni Van Deusen

When Eleanor Berry and her husband moved from Wisconsin to the north Santiam canyon, she made western Oregon her home slowly and with great intention, by walking its hills and forests, naming as she went: big leaf maple, Oregon grape, salal, and the ubiquitous epiphytes.

Book Review

Green November
by Eleanor Berry.
Traprock Books, 2007
64 pages, \$14

Green November chronicles how the poet's roots in her new home grew, almost imperceptibly, as she names and writes, writes and names.

She speaks of the sense of dislocation one feels when far from home:

...I keep
forgetting I can't go back
from here to there as easily
as into town for groceries....

While Berry's intimacy with nature grounds her poems in the landscape, her familiarity with great works of literature and art elevates many of the poems into the world of the human mind. In "The Mirror of this Landscape," she compares a forest thick with firs to the 'selva oscura' in Dante, *where / the straight way was lost....* and notes that *In such a forest, the mind / can recognize itself....*

Berry weaves references to the painters Delacroix, Van Gogh, and Rembrandt, and to poets HD, Marianne Moore, Ezra

Pound, Walt Whitman, and Berry's own chosen "poet father," Doctor William Carlos Williams. Berry's allusions bring the reader to a new recognition of the connections between art and ordinary life, which in Berry's poems is rarely ordinary at all.

In Berry's poems, dislocation and yearning are balanced by the slowly acquired feeling of belonging in a new landscape. Her restrained sensuality reminds me of the best Mary Oliver. "Oregon Grape and Salal" begins with *Disappointment in your mouth as bitter / as Oregon grape* and continues with the poet's discovery of salal berries:

...Pressing gently, gently
with your tongue a full-swollen berry
against your palate, holding its juice

long in your mouth....

When you hear Berry read her poems, you witness her passion, evident in the poems of *Green November*. She reads carefully, quietly—her small body seems at times to tremble with emotion. Her eyes close, as she has much of her work memorized. She delivers the poems as meticulously crafted gifts. There is nothing off-hand or casual in them. Berry brings everything she has to the table of poetry.

Green November is another gem brought to us by Erik Muller's Traprock Books, and is available at your local independent bookstore.

...continued from page 2

This April, the state's poet laureate, Lawson Inada, was one of the eight poets that Hallett and Narin-Wells accompanied to Crow. Visiting the students with Inada was Guild member Toni Van Deusen, his former student.

Van Deusen began by reading poems in different forms and involved the class in a writing exercise. Inada soon jumped in with riffs on the uses of poetry and the value of one's own heritage and experience.

On Inada's prompt, students wrote about a savored moment in high school. The poems they wrote



Toni Van Deusen

centered around various subjects, including a best friend, a last football game, a Bunsen burner disaster, and a cow in the parking lot.

Inada was impressed. "You know poetry already," he told students. "Poetry gives you a place to put yourself in the midst of what you're doing every day. Poetry is like music. Many different forms. Write it all down."

Poets who have visited Crow High School give kudos to Galloway for bringing poetry off the page for her students and offering them a sampling of the many poets working right in their own back yards.

*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 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.

About The Writer's Access

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



Readings & Events in May–June

Readings are free unless otherwise noted.

May

- 4 UO Creative Writing MFA readings. Tsunami, 8:00 pm.
- 8 Ken Ross, *Mathematician at the Ballpark*. UO Books, 5:30 pm.
- 10 Fiction writer Bret Lott. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, 8:00 pm.

Leonard Pitts, Jr. reads from *Becoming Dad: Black Men and the Journey to Fatherhood*. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, 4:00 pm.
- 11 Bret Lott lectures in the Ben Linder Room, EMU, 11:00 am, and leads a workshop in the same spot from 2:00 - 5:00 pm.
- 14 Sherman Alexie reads from *Flight*, 150 Columbia Hall, 7:00 pm.
- 15 Windfall presents William Sullivan reading from *The Case of Einstein's Violin* and showing slides about hiking in Europe. Eugene Public Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room, 7:00 pm.
- 16 Sally-Jo Bowman, *No Footprints in the Sand: A Memoir of Kalaupapa*, Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.

30th Anniversary of the HooHaw Poets. Tsunami, 2:00 pm.

- 20 Uttered Chaos open mic reading. Mother Kali's, 2–4:00 pm.
- 23 Matt Love reads from *Red, Hot and Rollin*. Knight Library, 7:00 pm.
- 24 Floyd Skloot reads from *Patient 002*. Knight Library, 7:00 pm.
- 30 Mount Pisgah Arboretum's monthly book discussion features *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. Call 541-747-1504 to preregister. \$5 fee, or free for Arboretum members. 7:00 pm.
- 31 Lauren Kessler reads from *Dancing With Rose: Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's*. Knight Library, 7:00 pm.

June

- 5 Jillian Robinson reads from *Change Your Life Through Travel*. Knight Library Browsing Room, 7:00 pm.
- 7 Oregon Quarterly Essay Contest winners read, with opening remarks by judge Molly Gloss. Gerlinger Alumni Lounge, 7:30 pm.
- 15 Mike Palacek reads from his new novel, *The American Dream*. Tsunami, 5:30 pm.