



The Writer's Access

September-October 2007

News from the Lane Literary Guild

www.laneliteraryguild.org

An Invite to the Annual Potluck

Come one, come all to the Guild's annual meeting/picnic/potluck/open mike/bookswap.

Saturday, September 15, 4-6 pm.

Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park.

Bring a dish or non-alcoholic beverage to share and your best writing for the open mike (5-minute limit, please). We'll also have our popular book-trade table, so bring white-elephant books to grace someone else's bookshelves for a while and pick up some new ones for yourself.

For details call Toni at 255-9136.

Windfall Sponsors

Windfall readings are made possible by support from Guild membership, the Eugene Public Library, Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and a Community Arts grant from Lane Arts Council.

LLG Membership

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

New Members

Amy Miller Colette Jonopulos

Renewing Members

Susan Kenyon Nancy Moody
Ginny Starr Doug & Nancy Hickey

Angels

Sharon Munson

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.

To find out whether you need to renew, look at the mailing label on this newsletter. A neon sticker beside it saying Time to Renew? is our reminder for you.

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

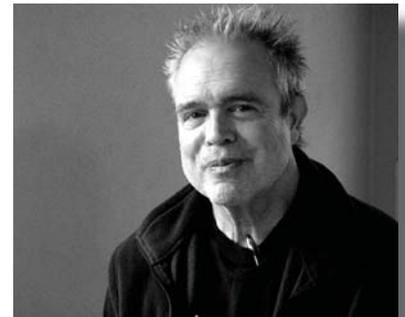
September Windfall

The Unvarnished, Beautiful Truth

Local luminaries Dorianne Laux and Joseph Millar read together

On September 18, Windfall returns from its summer break, bringing two local poets to the lectern. Joseph Millar and Dorianne Laux are first-class storytellers who weave their tales into poems that stick in your head and strike your heart.

Joe Millar's second book of poems, *Fortune*, features a clean lyric voice and stark, unsparring narratives. Here are poems about work and family, about loss, alcoholism, and love. Millar can neither look away from our failures nor ignore the bright whims of fortune. "Poetry should be about feeling," he says. "If it doesn't make you feel anything, I don't care how clever or well-worded it is, or what verbal gymnastics and fireworks the writer is able to show."



Joseph Millar

Overtime, Millar's first collection, was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award. He grew up in Pennsylvania, received an MA from Johns Hopkins University, and spent 25 years in the San Francisco Bay area working at a variety of jobs, from

continued on page 2

October Windfall

Exploring the Boundaries

Two authors go to the outer limit and report back in their writings



Kathleen Dean Moore

On October 16, the Guild's Windfall reading features Kathleen Dean Moore and Duane Ackerson. The reading is at 7:00 p.m. in the library's Bascom-Tykeson Room.

Kathleen Dean Moore is best known as the author of three award-winning books of nature essays that explore our connections to the natural world. By combining personal narrative with natural history and philosophical inquiry, Moore brings environmental philosophy to a general audience. Her most recent book, *The Pine Island Paradox*, won the 2005 Oregon Book Award and explores the Alaskan island where her family regularly vacations. *Library Journal*

says: "Moore's intense love for and close observation of nature combine with a keenly philosophical mind, reminiscent of the work of other fine philosopher-naturalists such as Thoreau and Muir."

continued on page 2

September Windfall . . . continued from page 1

telephone repairman to commercial fisherman. Millar's blue-collar experiences influence his work. A Santa Cruz reviewer called *Overtime*: "the grease of the auto mechanic and the sweat of the telephone repairman practically rub off the page."

Millar's poems can convey emotional transcendence, as in these lines from "Telephone Repairman": "He thinks of the many signals / flying in the air around him, / the syllables fluttering, / saying please love me, / from continent to continent / over the curve of the earth."

Millar's poems have appeared in *TriQuarterly Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *DoubleTake*, and *Ploughshares*, and many other places. He has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Oregon Literary Arts. He teaches at Pacific University's Low Residency MFA Program and yearly at the Esalen Institute in Big Sur.



Dorianne Laux

Dorianne Laux is "a believer in desire," Tony Hoagland says. "She takes her stance as a hero of the ordinary, with both feet firmly planted in the luminous material world."

That "luminous material world" informs much of Laux's fourth book of poems, *Facts about the Moon*, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics' Circle Award and the winner of the 2006 Oregon Book Award. The poet Ai, who judged this year's awards, praised *Moon* for its "enchanted poems that make one feel the 'lunar strength and brutal pull' of love that exists in spite of our human frailty." Short-listed for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize, *Facts about the Moon* was also chosen by the *Kansas City Star* as one of the ten best books of poetry published in 2005.

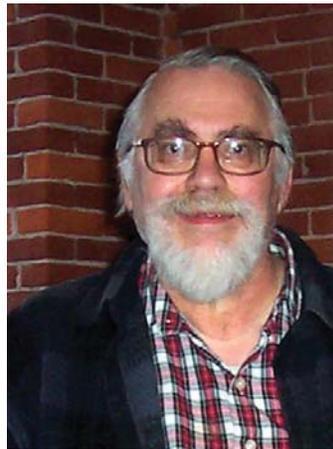
Laux is author of three previous collections of poetry: *Awake*, *What We Carry*, and *Smoke*. Red Dragonfly Press will release *Superman: The Chapbook* later this year. Laux also co-authored, with Kim Addonizio, *The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry*. She is the recipient of two Best American Poetry Prizes, a Pushcart Prize, two fellowships from The National Endowment for the Arts, and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Her work has appeared in the *Best of the American Poetry Review*, *The Norton Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *Orion*, and *Ms. Magazine*. Laux has waited tables and written poems in San Diego, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Petaluma, California and Juneau, Alaska. In 1994 she moved to Eugene, where she lives with her husband Joe Millar and works as a Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Oregon.

October Windfall . . . continued from page 1

Moore grew up in Berea, Ohio. She remembers long sunny Sunday afternoons wading in the river, looking for anything that moved, learning the names of every flower in a meadow and locating every bird's nest and each snake hole.

Moore has a Ph.D. in the philosophy of law, and her particular interest is in the nature of forgiveness and reconciliation. She is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at OSU, where she teaches Environmental Ethics as well as Philosophy of Nature, a field course that meets in the High Cascades. She is founding director of the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature and the Written Word. Her earlier books are *Holdfast: At Home in the Natural World* and *Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water*. Her essays are widely published and anthologized, appearing in such magazines as *Orion*, *Discover*, *Field and Stream*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Audubon*. Moore and her husband, Frank, an OSU biologist, have two grown children.



Duane Ackerson

Poet, editor, and teacher **Duane Ackerson** attended George Washington University and received his MFA in creative writing from the UO. He has taught English in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, been the Director of Creative Writing at Idaho State University, and the writer-in-residence at Willamette University.

His poems are often short, carrying a double meaning and a kind of alternate universe. For example, his poem "Mirror": "Is a bank

in which we deposit / our faces each day. // No matter how much we put in / all we get back is change."

Ackerson coordinated Idaho's first poetry-in-the schools program in the early 1970s, and started the poetry magazine *Dragonfly*. During *Dragonfly's* eight-year lifespan, it achieved several "firsts" for little magazines, including an anthology of prose poems, another anthology of one-line poems, and a speculative poetry anthology called *Rocket Candy* (1977).

Ackerson has received two Rhysling awards from the Science Fiction Poetry Association, a creative writing fellowship from the NEA, and has worked for a term in arts administration at the NEA in Washington. His work has appeared in *Strange Horizons*, *Yankee*, *Rolling Stone*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the *Northwest Review*. Book-length collections of his poems and prose poems include *The Eggplant & Other Asburdities* (Confluence Press) and, most recently, *The Bird at the End of the Universe* (TM Press).

Ackerson and his wife Cathy live in Salem.

Craft Workshop: A Congress of Unruly Voices



David Axelrod

On Saturday, October 6, the Guild will offer a day-long craft workshop. Eastern Oregon poet and essayist David Axelrod will lead the group in re-examining the way we approach nature in writing.

This workshop is for poets at all levels. The cost is \$50 for LLG members and \$65 for nonmembers. Please either call 255-9136 or send an email to

tonipoet@gmail.com for more information or to register.

Axelrod describes his workshop this way:

Since at least the time of Emerson and his "I become a transparent eyeball" in nature, we Americans have tended to elevate nature over what Thoreau belittled as "wearisome and dissipating," that is, the company of other human beings.

Nature is authentic and therefore holy, we tell ourselves, full

of metaphor to guide our conduct toward a nobility of soul that is most often at odds with a synthetic and therefore corrupt society. Our fetish for nature leads writers astray, though, when it isolates us in a narrow definition of the beautiful witnessed in solitude. We can quickly find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of endlessly repeating the familiar tropes that follow from living in awe of the "scenic." It seems to me that there are other, far more surprising (and enlivening) approaches to making poems than these now well-worn paths to the same old dignified place where we will be admired by our readers.

In this workshop we'll take a critical look at the problem, discuss some alternative models, and try to suggest some ways to reintegrate our creative work into a larger field of human experience. And this (let's hope) will demand that we learn to imagine beyond the borders of our own isolate experience and become – each of us – a congress of unruly voices.

Axelrod and his wife, Jodi Varon, read for Windfall in March 2007. His third collection of poems, *The Cartographer's Melancholy*, was a 2006 Oregon Book Award finalist.

Guild Members in the News

Gary Adams' poem "Crawdad" was in e- and print editions of *Cherry Blossom Review*, and he has three other poems forthcoming in other magazines.

Henry Alley's short story "Carter's /Aida/" recently appeared in *HIMS*, an anthology of writings by and about men.

Cecelia Hagen was chosen as the 2007 Passenger Poet by *Passager Journal* in Baltimore. The most recent issue includes four of her poems and an interview.

Michael Hanner's poem "The Mouth of the Rhone" will be published in **Margie**.

Laura LeHew had six poems accepted by *The Arabesques Print Review*, a poem accepted for the first issue of *Third Wednesday*, and six more poems for the October issue of *34th Parallel*. She also has poems forthcoming in *Writer's Post Journal* and *The Cherry Blossom Review*.

Two poems by **Sharon Munson** were published in the recent double issue of *Earth's Daughters*. Sharon also won two Honorable Mentions from the National

Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Deborah Narin-Wells' poem "Birds Flying Through" won first place in *Tiferet Journal's* 2007 competition, judged by Alicia Ostriker.

Eileen Peterson has three poems in the globalization issue of *The Arabesques Review Press*.

Howard Robertson read his poems at Jack Straw Productions in Seattle last May, and at Burning Word on Whidbey Island in April. His new book, *The Bricolage of Kotegaeshi*, is out from The Backwaters Press.

Kelly Terwilliger has had a chapbook accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press in Kentucky.

Toni Van Deusen has a poem in the current issue of *Tiger's Eye* and her poem "1968" will be published in the 2008 *Alehouse* anthology. She also had a poem in the *Eugene Weekly* in July.

Veronica Yates' poem "Wake Me Extra Crisp" appeared in the spring 2007 issue of *Rosebud*.

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

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

LLG Website: Mike Lee, mike@mikeleeandme.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

*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 or the LLC website, www.laneliteraryguild.org. 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



September-October Events

September

- 8 Poet, painter, and publisher George Hitchcock reads at Tsunami Books, amid a show of his paintings and brief readings by other local poets. Tsunami, 5:00 p.m.
- 15 LLG Annual Potluck. 4-6 pm, Lamb Cottage, Skinner's Butte Park. Bring food or drink to share, a short piece to read, and maybe books to swap.
- 18 Windfall presents Dorianne Laux and Joseph Millar. Eugene Public Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room, 7:00 p.m.

October

- 9 UO Bookstore hosts a reading by Ellen Bass, Dorianne Laux, and Joseph Millar. Details available soon at <http://www.uobookstore.com/generalbooks/index.cfm>
- 16 Windfall presents poet Duane Ackerson and essayist Kathleen Dean Moore. Eugene Public Library, Bascom-Tykeson Room, 7:00 p.m.
- 20 Cai Emmons reads from her new book *The Stylist*. Tsunami, 5:00 p.m.

Submissions Wanted

Lane Community College's *Denali Literary Journal* is producing a large, perfect-bound anniversary edition that will showcase the best writing of not only LCC students but all Lane County residents. This special edition will be placed in local bookstores.

Denali is seeking submissions of poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, one-act plays, and photography, and will be happy to run reprints—so if you have a piece that appeared elsewhere, you can send it, along with acknowledgement of where the piece first appeared.

The deadline for the Spring '08 issue is December 31, 2007. Please submit all media via a digital copy (DOC, RTF, or JPG formats). Word count must not exceed 5,000. Simultaneous submissions permitted.

Email questions and submissions, along with a brief cover letter, to denali@lanecc.edu