



The Writer's Access

News from the Lane Literary Guild

November - December, 2008

www.laneliteraryguild.org

November 18 Windfall Reading Features John Witte and Stephanie Lenox

*Meet and hear the writers in person, with refreshments at intermission;
authors' works available for purchase and signing.*

The Rush and Swerve of Life

Life happens fast. Poetry can help us slow down enough to notice what we might otherwise miss. It can also take a long look at things that fascinate us, but that remain on the periphery. Take a break from the routine and come listen to these poets ponder life's deep and delightful mysteries.

John Witte's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *American Poetry Review* and elsewhere. He has received two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and has three books of poems: *Loving the Days*, *The Hurling* and *Second Nature*. Witte is also the editor of *The Selected Poems of Hazel Hall*.

Poetry Daily says of Witte's poetry that it "sweeps the reader into its crosscurrents, its passionate engagements, and its ambivalence." The poems, intimate and energetic, carry the reader forward in a rush of movement, sound and images. In one poem Witte describes his lines as "...these quick whiplash triplets the first / line breathless / then a rustle of wings spilling out / a long tumbling exhalation..." As in *The Hurling*, many of the poems deal with loss and mortality. Yet there is in these new poems a gladness, even joy. When plum blossoms are falling "you have to begin / singing..." even while "the perishable stars sting our face and hands."

The poems in *Second Nature* cover a wide range of experiences and eras, from glimpses back into the poet's childhood to the birth of his first daughter, or from the Latin poet Ovid to Janis Joplin. These are poems that enter the heart and spirit, poems about immediate family and the larger human family, about memory and history, love and loss, with bits of gladness and hope in-between the lines.

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Windfall Authors' Books at the Library

If you're interested in the Windfall readers, check the library's holdings. The Eugene Public Library has made an extra effort this year to get the readers books on the shelves before the reading, so you can become familiar with the work before you hear it.

Books by Candice Favilla, John Witte, Tom Crawford, and Stephanie Lenox are among the many by past and future Windfall readers that you'll find by checking the EPL catalog. Check them out!

Save the Dates

On January 20, the Windfall reading will host authors from the Oregon Book Awards tour. This annual reading is part of Windfall for the first time, and always features an astonishing assortment of voices.

On February 17, non-fiction writer Melissa Hart will share her stories, as well as bringing a few feathered friends from the Cascades Raptor Center, where she and her husband spend many volunteer hours. Poet Erik Muller, the founder and editor of Traprock Books (which has fledged many Oregon writers) will also be reading his poems.

Windfall 2008 - 2009

Looking Forward

November • 18

John Witte &
Stephanie Lenox

January • 20

Oregon Book Award
Nominees

February • 17

Melissa Hart &
Erik Muller

Windfall readings are co-sponsored by the Eugene Public Library, the members of the Lane Literary Guild, and the Cultural Services Division of Lane Arts Council.

CRAFT WORKSHOP

Lamb Cottage, Skinner Butte Park
November 15 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



The witty and wise Charles Goodrich will conduct a poetry workshop Saturday, November 15, from 10-3 at Lamb Cottage in Skinner Butte Park. Cost of the workshop is \$50 for paid-up Guild members and \$65 for non-members.

Here's what Charles has to say about the workshop's possibilities "Animating Language: Writing the True Lives of Animals, Plants and (In)animate Objects"

Attributing human characteristics to nonhuman creatures can sometimes lead to silly comparisons. But presuming that animals have no feelings, no inner life, and no conscious intelligence has made for a world of hurt. In this workshop, we will practice some strategies for creative anthropomorphizing, giving the animate world the respect it deserves. Our main goal will be to generate new work, though we might stretch our psyches in the process. To jumpstart our writing exercises, I'll bring examples of marvelous poems that view the whole world as alive and aware. Coming ten days after the general election and a month into autumn, this workshop will deliver a shot of inspiration to boost us clear through the rainy season. Poets, prose writers, and genre benders are equally welcome.

About Charles

Charles Goodrich is the author of a volume of poems, *Insects of South Corvallis* (Cloudbank Books, 2003), and a collection of essays about nature, parenting, and building his own house, *The Practice of Home* (Lyons Press, 2004). His essays and poetry have appeared in magazines including *Orion*, *Willow Springs*, *Zyzzyyva*, *The Sun*, and *Best Essays Northwest*, and a number of his poems have been read by Garrison Keillor on the National Public Radio program, "The Writer's Almanac." He recently co-edited *In the Blast Zone: Catastrophe and Renewal on Mount St. Helens* (OSU Press, 2008).

Charles worked for twenty-five years as a professional gardener, and has also worked as a Corrections Work Crew supervisor, a short-order cook, and a carpenter. He now serves as the Program Director for the Spring Creek Project for Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word (<http://springcreek.oregonstate.edu/>) and teaches poetry and essay writing workshops throughout the region. He lives with his family near the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers in south Corvallis.

For more information: www.charlesgoodrich.com

To register, send a check with "workshop" on the memo line of your check.

LLG Craft Workshops
PO Box 11035
Eugene OR 97440

Guild Members

in the news

Ingrid Wendt has been busy – she has given workshops in Newport, Oregon and in her home state of Illinois where she was also inducted into the Fox Valley Arts Hall of Fame. She has a book review in *Calyx* and one in the on-line journal *Poemeleon*. She has poems published or reprinted in several journals including *Surgeonfish*, *Babel Fruit*, and the anthology *Across the Threshold, Into the Questions*, from Morehouse Publishing. And if that's not enough, she will be the "featured poet" in the forthcoming issue of *Valparaiso Poetry Review*.

Jason Lee Smith's book *The Truth of Rain* is out and available at Barnes & Noble. Jason says the book is "science fiction – Sin City with the tone of Blade Runner."

Alan Contreras wrote an essay on the death of poet Reginald Shepherd which appeared on-line in *Inside Higher Education*. Alan's memoir *Afield: Forty Years of Birding the West*, will be out from OSU Press in the spring of 2009.

Janice D. Rubin has had poems published in *Flutter Poetry Journal*, *Rattlesnake Review*, and *American Poets Abroad*.

Laura LeHew broke through the 100 poems published mark with poems accepted by *The Tonopah Review*, and her very timely poem "The Great and Powerful Sarah Palin" will be published in the *New Verse News*, as well as another poem accepted by *New Verse News*.

Henry Alley read "The Water Ghost: Story," as part of the Qliterati: Monthly Panel LGBTQ Reading Series at the Q Center in Portland in September.

Ralph Salisbury has poems published in *Many Mountains Moving* and in a new anthology from the University of New Mexico Press. He's had a short story translated into French and published in an anthology called *On Turtle's Back*. He has also had an essay published in *Yellow Medicine Review* and will read his

Member News continued on next page

Member News continued

poetry November 6 at Southern Oregon University in Ashland.

Deborah Narin-Wells was a finalist in the 2008 Comstock Review Poetry Contest!

Jud Hyatt will read his poetry at The Celebration of the Human Spirit production at the Angus Bowmer Theatre on November 8 in Ashland. This is an annual, multi-venue event with singers, dancers, musicians, actors, and poets and draws an audience of over 300 folks.

Carol Ann Bassett is home from her Galapagos journey and is working on a book, *Galapagos at the Crossroads: Pirates, Tourists, Creationists, and Biologists Battle for Darwin's Cradle of Evolution*, due out next summer with National Geographic Society Books.

Lois Rosen has her first fiction publication, with her short story, "The Sons of Judea's Chanukah Dinner" appearing in this fall's issue of *Raven Chronicles*. Her short story, "Polio Pioneers" won an honorable mention in this fall's Oregon Writers' Colony Prose Contest. AND as if that were not enough, *Calyx* has accepted two of Lois' poems!

Catherine McGuire recently had poems accepted by *Main Street Rag* and *Plain-songs*.

The following poets won prizes or Honorable Mentions in the Fall 2008 OSPA Poetry Contest: **Toni Van Deusen, Catherine McGuire, Joan Dobbie, Michael Hanner, Anita Sullivan, Joyce Baker, Kathleen Pyle, Sandy Jensen, Bonnita Stahlberg, Carter McKenzie,** and **Eleanor Berry**.



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Witte lives with his family in Eugene and works at the University of Oregon, teaching contemporary literature and editing the *Northwest Review*.

Stephanie Lenox's chapbook, *The Heart that Lies Outside the Body*, won the 2007 Slapering Hol Press Chapbook competition. Written mostly in the voices of record holders from the Guinness Book of World Records, the poems are odes to human superlatives, to ludicrous acts, and to our common strangeness. Denise Duhamel writes that the chapbook is "euphoric, generous, gracefully obsessive. There is intense personal depth in all of these poems, which are intimate, skillful, shimmering with complexity and awe." Lenox handles the obvious quirkiness of her subjects with a matter-of-fact approach, so that what we take away from the poems most often is an appreciation for our own strangeness, not for the oddness of others.

Lenox's poems have appeared in *Best New Poets 2006*, *AGNI*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Seattle Review*, among others. In 2007 she received a grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, and her work has been nominated four times in five years for a Pushcart Prize.

Currently, she is working on a manuscript of poems inspired by office work. Early glimpses from this book prove that there is more excitement to be found in office work than many would assume.

Lenox works as the Promotions Director for A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village, a children's museum in Salem. She is also the co-editor of *Blood Orange Review*, an online journal of literature and art.

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

LLG Contacts

connect with us

Events

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Windfall Readings

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Ongoing Workshops

Fiction 1

Steven Higgins - 746-8306

Poetry 1

Cecelia Hagen - 345-7386

Poetry 2

Michael Hanner - 681-9681

Poetry 4

Laura LeHew - 683-8682

LLG Membership

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

Renewals

Cathy McGuire, Amy MacLennan,
CZ McKenzie, Timothy Volem

New

Jennifer Kuglin, Richard Hofmeier

Events & Readings

November

1 **Tsunami Books**
7:30 p.m.

Ed McClanahan reads from his newest "autobiography" O The Clear Moment.

4 **Living Learning Ctr Performance Hall**
UO Campus
7:00 p.m.

Ed McClanahan reads from O The Clear Moment.

6 **Tsunami Books**
4:00 p.m.

Monthly meeting of the Willamette Valley Writers.

11 **UO Knight Library Browsing Room**
7:00 p.m.

Bob Welch reads from Pebble in the Water.

13 **UO Knight Library Browsing Room**
8:00 p.m.

Creative Writing and the Literary Duck present Matthew Dickman reading from Dismantling the Hills and Michael McGriff reading from All American Poem.

14 **Tsunami Books**
8:00 p.m.

UO Creative Writing Masters students read works in progress.

18 **Eugene Public Library**
7:00 p.m.

Windfall presents John Witte & Stephanie Lenox.

18 **Springfield Public Library**
7:00 p.m.

Jan Eliot discusses her book, This Might Not Be Pretty.

20 **Thor Hanson to Read**
Location TBA
7:00 p.m.

Thor Hanson reads from The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda.

December

2 **UO Knight Library Browsing Room**
7:00 p.m.

Vincenza Scarpaci reads from The Journal of the Italians in America.

13 **Tsunami Books**
4:00 p.m.

Nicki Scully book release party.

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Lane Literary Guild

PO Box 11035
Eugene OR 97440

Time to Renew?

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.

Membership is open to anyone and annual fees range from \$25 for individuals, \$35 for families, \$15 for low-income or students, and \$50 or more for angels. To find out if you need to renew, look at the mailing label above. Checks can be mailed to the address above as well.

The LLG website is updated regularly. Visit to find links to Windfall readers and information about the guild. Send member news, calendar events, or announcements to: www.laneliteraryguild.org