

Literary Arts supports Oregon authors

By Anne Hendren

Among the most generous awards open to Oregon-based authors are the Oregon Book Awards and Oregon Literary Fellowships, sponsored by Literary Arts, which also hosts Portland Arts & Lectures.

Several Oregon Writers Colony members have received grants or awards from Literary Arts, including Gina Ochsner (2013 and 2002), Maya Muir (2001) and Larry Bingham (2011). OWC founder Marlene Howard won the Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award (2008), an award named for one of the Pacific Northwest's foremost storytellers.

The awards offer more than monetary support. Maya Muir notes that the award legitimized her writing and gave her the "hope that can be scarce when you're just toiling alone with your computer day after day." She added, "On those dark days when you wonder if it's worth keeping going, an award like the fellowship can make a difference."

Linda Leslie, OWC member and former board president, is active in Literary Arts. As a member of the Literary Arts Advisory Committee, she has watched Oregon become a place for writers to read, writers to write and writers to gather.

Gina Ochsner is the recipient of two Oregon Book Awards, a Literary Arts writing grant and a grant extended to female authors. Gina also leads workshops for OWC and Literary Arts. She advises applicants to carefully read the application and include only what is requested. "Don't submit anything beyond. . . what is asked." She suggests that writers submit their strongest work. Judges "want to see your best work," not work that you're improving.

Gina also advises applicants to focus on their cover letters if requested, and application responses. Here applicants can state the case for their project – why it's worthy of funding and how it differs from similar projects. The applicant can describe the status of work. She suggests making a strong case that you'll use funding wisely. For example, you might explain

how you previously completed research before applying for grants.

"Don't lose heart if you don't receive the grant," Gina said. "Many times a proposal that is rejected one year, if revised and resubmitted, is accepted at a later date."

Larry Bingham echoes Gina Ochsner's optimism and compares writing to a perfect game of baseball. "I applied five years in a row before I won. So my best advice is to keep entering! It's subjective, right? Maybe your story and material will be right across the plate for one year's judge and not the next. Who knows? All we can do is keep swinging."

Literary Arts was founded in 1984 to bring leading authors and artists to Portland. Susan Dennings, Literary Arts program and events director, notes that their annual six-part lecture series attracts more than 2,000 people and is "one of the largest lecture series in the U.S." Past speakers have included Calvin Trillin, John Updike and Stephen Sondheim. The lecture series helps to support the nonprofit book awards and fellowships.

The Oregon Book Awards had their start with the Oregon Institute of Literary Arts (OILA). Founded in 1986 by Brian Booth and Gwyneth Gamble Booth, the awards were created to honor Oregon's literary history and celebrate Oregon writers.

In 1993, Literary Arts merged with OILA to manage the Oregon Book Awards. Since 1998 Literary Arts has promoted award winners in seven genres with readings and events throughout Oregon. In 2008 Literary Arts established the Oregon Writers' Endowment, which awards writing fellowships and grants.

Literary Arts Deadlines

2015 Oregon Literary Fellowship, June 27, 2014

2015 Oregon Book Awards, Aug. 29, 2014

Visit www.literary-arts.org for applications and information.

Twenty-seven years and counting

Holly Franko, Executive Director

Twenty-seven and counting. For me, this was only conference number six, but for twenty-seven years, Oregon Writers Colony members have gathered for our Annual Conference at the Sylvia Beach Hotel in Newport.

And what a spectacular gathering place it is. The magnificent beach is a stone's throw from the hotel's expansive windows, if the ferocious wind doesn't throw that stone right back at you. The hotel is filled with the accumulated creative energy of writer guests who have preceded us, much like Colonyhouse. (At the Sylvia Beach, though, the rooms are more stylish. This year I stayed in the colorful Alice Walker room – a welcome contrast to the John Steinbeck room next door, which houses plenty of Cannery Row creepy crawlies.)

Beginning with the Friday evening wine and cheese reception and continuing through Sunday lunch, close to forty writers and a few patient spouses filled the rooms, the library, the dining room, and the hallways – all sharing stories and creating community. We took the elements of story – setting (a charming hotel), plot (instruction from an expert), characters (OWC members) – and made the weekend into our own story.

That's the value of a twenty-seven-year tradition. Writers, including me, know that conference participation can refresh and invigorate our writing. We leave more knowledgeable than when we arrived, and we're ready to get back to our desks. I write mysteries, but I didn't hesitate to sign up for this year's conference featuring Karen Karbo's nonfiction workshop. I knew I would learn something about writing that would help me. And I did.

Karen's workshop, "The Way I See It: Writing Creative Nonfiction As Only You Know How," provided pointers for telling our personal stories. Karen helped me see the practical value of personal essay writing. I'll give it a try. After Friday's group introductions revealed a number of fiction writers among participants, Karen generously devoted a part of Saturday's workshop to fiction. The nonfiction writers graciously yielded the floor.

That's the other thing I like about this twenty-seven-year tradition: we're all in this together. The critique groups overflowed with writers willing to share their stories and feedback to truly help one another – no posturing, patronizing, or false praise. Next year we hope

to expand the critique groups so more people can take part – and get to bed before midnight!

Agent David Forrer provided a lifeline to writers seeking representation. We can keep our fingers crossed that someone who pitched will have the project he's looking for. As a bonus for Colonygram readers, Bob Zimmer and Kathleen Chapman shared the recipe for the delicious Pimento Cheese spread they served at the reception. Bob is famous for sharing his treats at board meetings, conferences and workshops. If we're lucky he may provide treats again on Founders Day (Sunday, Aug. 10 at Colonyhouse). That's another OWC tradition that I expect to repeat, twenty-seven times.

Hope to see you there.

Bob's Pimento Cheese Spread

- 1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (12 oz.) jar roasted red peppers, drained
(Dunbar's is good)
- 1 (4 oz.) jar pimentos, drained
- 2 (8 oz.) packages/bars extra-sharp Cheddar cheese, shredded
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red or cayenne pepper

1. In the work bowl of a food processor, pulse cream cheese until smooth. Add mayonnaise, and pulse to combine. Add peppers and pimentos, pulse until coarsely chopped.

2. Add Cheddar, hot sauce, Worcestershire, sugar, salt, black and red pepper, pulse until mixture reaches desired consistency.

3. Cover and refrigerate up to five days.

Note from Bob Zimmer: Don't use packaged shredded cheese - consistency is better if you grate your own, particularly if you like this a little chunky.

Recipe appeared in Taste of the South magazine, July-Aug. 2013, "The Ultimate Southern Summer Sandwich," by Josh Miller, pp. 54-56.

Annual OWC Conference . . .



Agent David Forrer



Featured speaker Karen Karbo



At left: Alison Moore, Kirsten Telander, conference co-chair Carol Cole and Sue Parman.



Kirsten Telander and Morgan Rosemarin

Colonyhouse July 4 weekend winner

Stephanie Sarver is the lucky winner of the Colonyhouse raffle announced at the OWC Annual Conference on April 27. She won the use of Colonyhouse over the upcoming Fourth of July holiday weekend (July 3-6).

Literary Lounge offers publishing pointers

The April 9 Literary Lounge featured Mary Rosenblum, aka the Literary Midwife; Laura Stanfill, founder and publisher of Forest Avenue Press; and Carolyn Martin, VoiceCatchers board president. They shared their wisdom on publishing paths and opportunities. Breakout sessions allowed members and guests to explore their publishing questions. Ed Goldberg moderated the event.



Carolyn Martin, Laura Stanfill, Mary Rosenblum and emcee Ed Goldberg



Laura Stanfill chats with group about small press publishing.



Cindy Brown, Carol Sundstrom and Martha Ragland



Many discussions bloomed after speakers explained their programs.

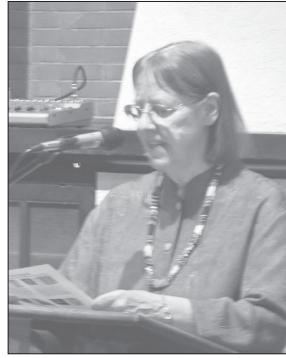


Mary Rosenblum shares her wisdom with group.

Verse of Ages ~ Poetry for Everyone

Emerging and seasoned poets read at May 14 event

A new OWC tradition is growing in popularity. The second OWC Verse of Ages event was held on May 14 at Tabor Space, attracting poets and poetry lovers. Sue Parman introduced the nine poets who ranged from their teens to their nineties. If you're interested in reading, see the article below for information about the September event.



Emcee - Sue Parman



Teen - Alexis Cannard



20s - Oscar Oswald



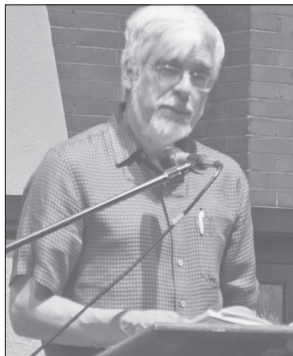
30s - Tiah Lindner-Raphael



40s - Nancy Slavin



50s - Renee Soasey



60s - Don Colburn



70s - Emily Pittman-Newberry



80s - Doreen Gandy



90s - Elizabeth Wilson

Call for poets at September event

Share your poetry and join a new OWC tradition. Verse of Ages is a multigenerational poetry reading held twice a year. This event features poets whose work and ages span decades of life.

Our next Verse of Ages reading is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 10 at Tabor Space, 5441 S.E. Belmont St. in Portland.

If you would like to participate, please let us know by July 31. Send your name, contact information and

age category with a brief note to beckykjelstrom@oregonwriterscolony.org. Explain why you would like to participate. No need to submit poetry or birthdates!

Kids 1-9
Twins & Teens 10-19
Twenties 20-29
Thirties 30-39
Forties 40-49
Fifties 50-59

Sixties 60-69
Seventies 70-79
Eighties 80-89
Nineties 90-99
Centuries 100-109

Save the Date!



Oregon Writers Colony is hosting Stumptown Lit for Northwest writers, publishers and readers. The all-day festival will be held in Cheatham Hall at the World Forestry Center on Sunday, Oct. 19.

The morning kicks off with a workshop on new avenues for publishing led by Mary Rosenblum, aka the Literary Midwife, and a children's story hour featuring picture-book authors.

Starting at noon, local publishers, writers and booksellers will display and discuss their books, and authors will read from their work throughout the afternoon.

The festival will culminate with an evening reception honoring Oregon's own Jean Auel for her generous contributions and unparalleled achievements over three decades on the world literary stage.

This fundraising event will enable OWC to continue its support of Colonyhouse, a writers retreat in Rockaway Beach, and its commitment to the needs of the Northwest writing community.

More info at oregonwriterscolony.org.

Mark your calendars for July 23

for a gastronomical Literary Lounge at the Delta House. We'll be featuring food writers.

5940 N. Albina Ave.,

*across from Peninsula Park Rose Garden,
in Portland*

...

Sunday, Aug. 10 is annual OWC Founders Day

at Colonyhouse in Rockaway Beach.

It's a great time to greet old OWC friends and meet new ones. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to use Colonyhouse for a Writers Week or Weekend, here is your chance to see the house and see the neighborhood.

Watch for details in the e-Blast and on the OWC website.

OWC presents a 'Small Press Semi-Summit' at Colonyhouse

Oregon Writers Colony is pleased to be hosting two writers and small-press publishing mentors, Matt Love of Nestucca Spit Press and Laura Stanfill of Forest Avenue Press, the weekend of June 6-8, 2014, at the OWC Colonyhouse in Rockaway Beach, Ore.

The spring Writer(s) in the House weekend is a chance for writers of all levels to enhance their writing, hone their writing platform, and learn to publish, distribute and promote their work. The Writer in the House program is a uniquely intimate opportunity for writers to be inspired, and experience camaraderie and quiet space for their creative writing process.

For more information visit the OWC website:
<http://oregonwriterscolony.org/events/event/>

Colonyhouse Beautified by Weekend Workers

Volunteers put their backs into improvements

Over the last weekend in March, a group of die-hard volunteers convened at Colonyhouse to tackle exterior improvements to the eastside steps and the westside garden. A team started on Friday and worked through Sunday to remove and replace the log stairs. Woody Richen furnished the logs. Spud Howard, Adam Loose, Stan Matthews, Joe Sullivan and Woody provided the labor. They were joined on Sunday by volunteer gardeners Jill Elliott and Carol Stout, who labored for three days pulling weeds and adding new plants to the ocean-facing rock garden. The results are superb! Thanks to everyone for their help.



The Work Party Guys: Adam Loose, Stan Matthews, Joe Sullivan and Woody Richen



Joe, Woody and Stan repairing the lakeside stairs.

The lakeside stairway is built with hand-hewn logs.



Colonyhouse garden, overlooking the ocean.

Member News . . .

Christine Finlayson was a featured debut author at Left Coast Crime in Monterey. Christine delivered a 50-second pitch for “Tip of a Bone” at the New Authors Breakfast, and appeared on a panel entitled Day at the Beach: Murder at the Seashore. While at the March conference she also hobnobbed with mystery authors including Sue Grafton, Louise Penny, Marcia Muller and Jacqueline Winspear. Christine’s favorite conference feature was the opportunity to connect with writers and mystery fans—plus watching the seals, sea lions and otters in Monterey Bay.



Chris Scofield announced that her debut novel “Shark Curtain” has been sold to Johanna Ingalls at Akashic Books, a Brooklyn-based independent press. Chris is represented by literary agent Carrie Howland at Donadio & Olson.

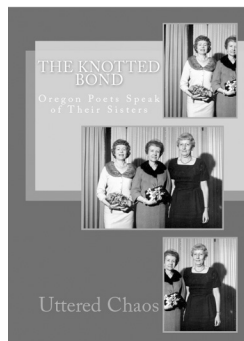
Robyn Parnell’s “Looking Up” generates interest. Robyn Parnell was interviewed by WIPS: Works (of Fiction) in Progress. She reports that she completed her novel, “Looking Up” shortly after submitting the excerpt to WIPS. She recently received a request from a publisher who would like to review the novel.

AWARDS

Andrine de la Rocha’s poem “Schrödinger’s Mother” was awarded third-place in the free verse category of the Oregon Poetry Association’s spring contest. Award winners were recognized in April at the OPA Spring 2014 Conference in Bend.

NEW RELEASES

Sharon Wood Wortman reports that two of her poems will be included in “The Knotted Bond: Oregon Poets Speak of Their Sisters” forthcoming from Uttered Chaos Books in Eugene.



Lisa Alber’s debut novel, “Kilmoon” (Muscraat Press), evokes a world where ancient tradition collides with modern village life. She captures the moodiness of the Irish landscape in a character-driven mystery that explores family secrets, betrayal and vengeance.



The book has received glowing reviews from RT Book Reviews and Kirkus Reviews. See <http://lisaaalber.com/books/kilmoon/> to learn more.

Californian Merrit Chase travels to Ireland to meet her father, a celebrated matchmaker, and hopes to mend her troubled past. Instead, her arrival triggers a rising tide of violence. Merrit finds herself a suspect and victim, an accomplice and pawn, in a manipulative game that began thirty years earlier. When she discovers that her father’s treachery is at the heart of the chaos, she must decide how far she will go to get what she wants.

Jill Kelly, past Oregon Book Award finalist, has a new book. Her first thriller, “Fog of Dead Souls” (Skyhorse Publishing), illustrates the powerful resilience of the wounded human heart.



Professor Ellie McKay’s clouded past has left her with a trail of death and shame. When she walks into the Maverick Bar, she plans to get drunk, not engaged. Within 30 minutes, she’s met and agreed to marry local rancher Al Robison. Al knows that Ellie is attractive, vulnerable and single; he doesn’t know that she has been on the run from Pennsylvania to Paris to Texas. She lands in New Mexico as she flees the psychopath who killed her surgeon boyfriend and raped and tortured her. Ellie also harbors secret feelings for detective Doug Hansen, who still tracks the killer. Now Ellie has joined her fate with Al’s, whose own dark past is complicated. Can Hansen find them before the killer does? And can he let Ellie go to this other man?

Read Jill’s book at <http://www.jillkellyauthor.com>.

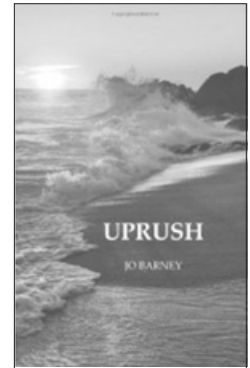
Member News . . .

Jo Barney announced the publication of “Uprush,” a rewrite of a novel originally issued as an e-book. She said the new paperback edition has a new title, cover and text.

In “Uprush,” four friends meet at a beach house to drink wine, complain about husbands, or the lack of them, and compare upper arm flab—the usual stuff old friends do. This time Madge, a writer, asks the other three to help her commit suicide. She has a good reason, and when her friends learn of it, they agree to help despite their misgivings. No matter what happens Madge has a gift for each: her take on their past forty-some years, her

last novel, and stories that will change their futures. See also <http://www.amazon.com/Uprush-Jo-Barney-ebook/dp/B00JHVUSLY>.

Jo also reports that her first book, “Graffiti Grandma,” has received positive reviews from Kirkus and Publishers Weekly.



Writing at Colonyhouse

Access to Colonyhouse at Rockaway Beach is a great benefit of OWC membership. Only current members are granted access, either with a writers group using the whole house at our regular rates (summer or off season), or by signing up for a room during specially priced Writers Weeks or Writers Weekends.

These opportunities are reserved on a first-come/first-served basis. The house has 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms. Writers are provided a private room and access to the shared kitchen, living room and bathrooms. Rules are: silence unless otherwise agreed on and respect for others in use of shared spaces.

Off-Season rates begin Sept. 1

The Fall 2014 Colonyhouse calendar is open for reservations. Summer rates are in effect from June 1 to Aug. 31. Off-season rates are in effect from Sept. 1 to May 31.

Writers Weeks: begin on Sunday at 4 p.m. and end Friday at 2 p.m. The cost is \$125 per person.

Writers Weekends begin Friday at 4 p.m. and end Sunday at 2 p.m. Cost is \$100 per person.

Colonyhouse can also be reserved for groups.

Reservations

Submit your request to Marlene Howard by email (marlenehow@comcast.net) or postal mail (P.O. Box 15200, Portland, OR 97293-5200). Telephone reservations are not accepted. Marlene will provide a reservation form, which you return to OWC with a \$50 deposit.

Payment

Full payment to OWC is required 21 days prior to the reserved dates. On receipt of the balance, the house

key will be sent to you by mail with instructions for opening and closing the house.

The \$50 deposit is nonrefundable, but may be transferred if the cancellation is received 21 days before the reserved date. Oregon Writers Colony does not accept Paypal payments for house use. Please send checks or money orders only.

June - November 2014 availability & rates (members only)

Summer:

June: 14-15, 16-20

July: 1-4, 5-6, 10-11

Aug: 19-22, 30-31

Off-season:

Sept: 1-5, 6-7, 20-21, 27-28

September Writers Week: 8-12

September Writers Weekend: 13-14

Oct: 18-19, 25-26, 27-31

October Writers Week: 20-24

November is NaNoWriMo all month!

Watch OWC website for details!

For more information about availability, rates and using Colonyhouse, contact Marlene Howard at marlenehow@comcast.net.

July 1 deadline for 2014 OWC Writing Contest

Time is running out to submit your best fiction and narrative nonfiction to the OWC Writing Contest. Entries of 2,500 words or less will be accepted until July 1. The contest is open to OWC members and nonmember residents of Oregon and Washington.

Entries will be judged in two rounds. An OWC judging panel will review all entries and select seven finalists in each category for review by our final judges: Stevan Allred for Fiction and Jen Weaver-Neist for Narrative Nonfiction. The final judging will be completed in late September. First-place winners will be awarded \$250, second place \$100, third place \$50.

First-place winners will be invited to read their work at OWC's Stumptown Lit on Oct. 19 in Portland. See <http://oregonwriterscolony.org/writing-contest/> for details.



Stevan Allred



Jen Weaver-Neist



Miller Foundation awards OWC \$5,000 grant

A hearty thank you goes to the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, which has awarded Oregon Writers Colony a \$5,000 grant.

This money will help support OWC's efforts to bring new services and events to our members.

We have more Literary Lounges coming up this year, and Stumptown Lit, our big festival for readers and writers, takes place Oct. 19 at the World Forestry Center. Plus, November is NaNoWriMo month at Colonyhouse!

Stay tuned for details on flexible writing opportunities at our retreat house in November.

Send us **your** news
so we can share your **successes!**

Have you published? Got a book coming out soon? Is your poetry on the bookshelves?
Or on the web? Are you reading or performing your writing for the public?
Have you been awarded a prize or placed in a contest?

Send your news to:
membernews@oregonwriterscolony.org

- Include your name, address, and phone number.
- Include the title of your work, the publisher and a short description of the story, poem, article or essay
- If you can, send us a digital cover photo in color or black/white, from 170 to 300 dpi.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Oregon Writers Colony Membership
P.O. Box 15200
Portland, OR 97293-5200

membership@oregonwriterscolony.org

Member Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I wish to join Oregon Writers Colony at the following membership level:

- ☐ REGULAR membership: \$40 per year \$_____
You will receive four issues of the Colonygram, email updates, and member rates at workshops and conferences. Subject to availability you will also have use of the Colonyhouse at Rockaway Beach, the OWC writer's retreat, at rates below market value.
- ☐ COUPLES (two people at the same residence): \$70 per year \$_____
You will receive one copy of the four issues of the Colonygram, email updates to one email address, member rates at workshops and conferences, and access to the Colonyhouse.
- ☐ STUDENT (must be a full-time student): \$25 per year \$_____
- ☐ RENEW my membership: (at any of the above rates) \$_____
- ☐ LIFETIME membership: \$500 (no membership reminders) \$_____
- ☐ GIFT membership: (at any of the above rates) \$_____
Please fill out contact information for gift recipient(s).
- ☐ ADDITIONAL DONATION: \$_____

Total Enclosed: \$_____

Areas of writing interest: _____

Published works: _____



A Community of Writers
PO Box 15200, Portland, OR 97293-5200

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Oregon Writers Colony is a nonprofit organization representing and nurturing professional and novice writers. OWC is a place for people working together to provide opportunities whereby writers are supported and encouraged in a community of their peers.