



BROADWAY  
BOOKS

# Broadway Review

April 2009

## APRIL EVENTS

**Tuesday April 7 at 7 pm** – In celebration of National Poetry Month, **Judith Arcana** and **Judith Barrington**, two Portland poets and friends of the late, great **Grace Paley**, will be here to read from Paley's posthumously published collection of poems, ***Fidelity***. Offering some of her most personal work, this collection includes poems about family, friendship, aging, death, and her longtime homes in New York and Vermont. As always in Paley's work, these poems present the complicated politics of poetry and the fierce poetry of politics. The two Judiths will also play a recording of Grace Paley reading one of her best-loved poems.

**Tuesday April 14 at 7 pm** – Portland mystery writer **Lono Waiwai** will join us to read from his fourth book, the recently published ***Dark Paradise***. This is indeed a dark tale of two enterprising Hawaiian "businessmen" (competitors, actually) who get in over their heads in the methamphetamine trade on the Big Island of Hawaii. Fans of this author's three previous books know that life in Waiwai-land is graphic and violent, but also brimming with social commentary about racial and ethnic differences in underground cultures. This novel deals with an L.A.-based Mexican drug cartel, a firmly-entrenched Japanese criminal consortium, and two native-born Hawaiian opportunists whose ambitions lead to nothing but trouble.

**Thursday April 16 at 7 pm** – Tonight we will welcome **Beverly Butterworth**, who will be reading from her new poetry collection, ***Where the Blackberries Grew***. The 26 accessible poems in this chapbook touch on relationships in the broadest sense of that word. They are about memories, experiences and observations of the world around us. This is the author's second collection of poems. She honed her observational skills as a reporter and columnist for *The Oregonian* for many years.

**Tuesday April 21 at 7 pm** – **Richard Engeman's** comprehensive and enlightening volume, ***The Oregon Companion: An Historical Gazetteer of The Useful, The Curious, and The Arcane*** is an A to Z encyclopedia of more than 1000 people, places, and Oregon things. There's at least one surprise on every page! Do you know the connection between Ken Kesey and Nancy's Yogurt? The difference between a hoedad and a webfoot? How Rooster Rock got its name? Please join us as the author dips into this delightfully meticulous compendium to entertain us with little-known facts about the place we love to call home.

**Tuesday April 28 at 7 pm** – **John Daniel's** much-anticipated new collection of essays, ***The Far Corner: Northwestern Views on Land, Life, and Literature*** has finally arrived and we are so happy to have John in the store on this date to read from it! These essays are tied to the land the author inhabits – the beaches, the old-growth forests, sagebrush steppes, and deep river canyons. They are about wild places, and places scarred by human use. They are about inner terrains as well – mortality, creativity, and spirituality. By turns playful and serious, awed and cantankerous, these tender pieces welcome the reader to join the author as he journeys through some of the puzzlements and sadnesses and small glories of living. Please join us.

## APRIL POETRY SALE

April is National Poetry Month, and consequently we get a bit potty for poems during this time. For the entire month, our entire poetry section is on sale! Here's the deal: buy one book of poetry at regular price, and you'll get a second volume of poetry (of equal or lesser value) for HALF PRICE. Repeat as desired, all month long. Don't you deserve a few new books of verse? Or twelve?



## NEW BOOKS WE LIKE

One of our best-loved poets (and a longtime favorite of Broadway Bookers) is Mary Oliver. The author of more than two dozen books (including eighteen collections of poetry as well as volumes of essays and memoir) she has won both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. Her newest collection, ***Evidence***, has just been published. It's a collection of forty-seven new poems on all of her classic themes. She writes perceptively about grief and mortality, love and nature, and the spiritual sustenance she draws from their gifts. Ever grateful for the bounty that is offered to us daily by the natural world, Oliver is attentive to the mysteries and the beauty of the flora and fauna, the rivers and stones, the sounds and smells of our planet. And she reminds us that, in spite of anguish and loss, to have loved is everything. "The work of Mary Oliver is one of those rare and lovely convergences. She is a lyric artist with a riveted eye and an enormous heart, one of the nation's great spiritual sentinels." – Brian Doyle

Also newly available is the paperback version of her previous book, ***Red Bird***, offering sixty-one poems – the most ever in a single volume of her work. This book includes poems for the many people she has loved in her seventy years, as well as for her disobedient but well-loved dog, Percy. This is a quintessential collection of Oliver's finest lyrics. Here's a thought: if you buy ***Evidence*** in April, you can get ***Red Bird*** for half price!

Three new literary biographies have hit the shelves in the past few days – all three of them about 20<sup>th</sup> Century American writers who specialized in short stories:

Brad Gooch's book ***Flannery: A Life of Flannery O'Connor*** chronicles the life of one of the most talented and peculiar (in a good way) short story writers we know. Miss O'Connor, a Southerner who died in 1982, is probably most well known for her collection ***A Good Man is Hard to Find***, which still has the power to knock our socks off. And she raised peacocks. This look at her life, which uses newly available letters, is very welcome.

Blake Bailey has just published ***John Cheever: A Life*** to much critical acclaim. Cheever, a writer from the Northeastern literary establishment who died in 1982, was known for his many short stories and novels. Sadly, he was a truly unhappy and tortured man whose public life was the very picture of a happy family man of great accomplishment. His private life, however, was one of secret assignations, abuse of his wife and children, and debilitating bouts of self-loathing. He was a compulsive chronicler of his life, and Bailey has used Cheever's diaries to illuminate this biography.

Oregon State University professor Tracy Daugherty has written ***Hiding Man: A Biography of Donald Barthelme***. Barthelme, who died in 1989, published 126 short stories in *The New Yorker* and sixteen books in his lifetime (four novels as well as short story collections). This biography is "a richly detailed, full-length portrait of the artist at all stages of his too-short life." – John Barth



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