

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available

**Ursula K. Le Guin, Paulann Petersen
and John Monteverde to Receive
Oregon Book Awards Special Awards**

PORTLAND, Ore. – Literary Arts is pleased to specially honor **Ursula Le Guin, Paulann Petersen** and **John Monteverde** at the 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards. The honorees will receive their awards at the Oregon Book Awards ceremony, which will take place on **Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.** at the **Portland Art Museum** (1119 SW Park Avenue). National Book Award winner Barry Lopez will serve as Master of Ceremonies. Tickets are \$15 at www.literary-arts.org or by calling 503.227.2583.

In addition to recognizing the finest achievements of Oregon authors in several genres, Literary Arts recognizes individual contributions with three special awards: the **Charles Erskine Scott Wood Distinguished Writer Award**, the **Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award**, and the **Walt Morey Young Readers Literacy Legacy Award**.

The Charles Erskine Scott Wood Distinguished Writer Award, presented to an author in recognition of a distinguished career in Oregon letters, will be given to **Ursula K. Le Guin** of Portland. Le Guin is an internationally acclaimed author of dozens of books of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, translation and children's literature. She has received literary awards and accolades since 1968, when she won the *Boston Globe-Horn* Book Award for *A Wizard of Earthsea*. Her other awards include the Newbery, Nebula, Hugo, Locus, and National Book Award, and at least five lifetime achievement awards. Locally, she has served on the boards of the Multnomah County Library, Literary Arts and Soapstone Writer's Retreat.

"We are thrilled to finally have the chance to honor Ursula in this way, during this special year of the Oregon Book Awards program," says Literary Arts executive director Elizabeth Burnett. Le Guin's service as a Literary Arts board member has made her ineligible for the award in the past.

The Stewart H. Holbrook Literary Legacy Award will be given to **Paulann Petersen** of Portland. Petersen serves on the Board of Trustees for Friends of William Stafford, a nonprofit organization committed to continuing the legacy of Stafford's poetry. Since 1998 she has organized the Stafford Birthday Celebrations, which take place throughout

the country in the month of January. David Hedges, President Emeritus of the Oregon State Poetry Association, said, “Over the years, I have watched the seed Paulann planted grow from a good idea to a national phenomenon, with events all over Oregon and SW Washington and throughout the country.”

Petersen has been the recipient of a Wallace Stegner fellowship and two Carolyn Kizer Poetry awards. The author of three books—*The Wild Awake* (2002), *Blood-Silk* (2004) and *A Bride of Narrow Escape* (2005)—Petersen has taught for the Oregon Writers Workshop, the Mountain Writers Center and other organizations.

This year’s **Walt Morey Young Readers Literacy Legacy Award** honors **John Monteverde** of Portland. Monteverde was one of the founders of Northwest Children’s Theater (NWCT) in 1993, and served as its artistic director for 13 years. Many of the plays he directed for NWCT were adaptations of children’s books, including the first stage production of Beverly Cleary’s *Henry Huggins* and J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Hobbit*. Monteverde has written adaptations of *Swiss Family Robinson* and *A Christmas Carol* for performance. During his tenure as artistic director of NWCT, 64 of the 89 shows performed were adaptations of children’s books.

Monteverde is being honored for the many educational opportunities he has provided for young readers throughout the state that have increased their excitement for literature. His newest venture is Blue Monkey Theater Company, a theater that is “committed to expanding the vision of what theater for young children is and can be.”

Oregon Book Awards Special Awards candidates are nominated by the public, and reviewed by the Oregon Book Awards Advisory Committee and the Literary Arts Board of Directors. For more information, please visit www.literaryarts.org.

Important dates for the 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards include:

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| October 2 | Oregon Book Awards finalists announced
Visit www.literary-arts.org |
| November 8 | Readings by Oregon Book Awards Finalists
6:30 p.m., Japanese Garden
(611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland)
Hosted by <i>Portland Monthly</i>
and author Chelsea Cain
Tickets: \$10 at 503.222.5144 x133 |
| November 15 | Readings by Oregon Book Awards Finalists
6:30 p.m., Japanese Garden
(611 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland)
Hosted by <i>Portland Monthly</i>
and author Marc Acito
Tickets: \$10 at 503.222.5144 x133 |
| December 1 | 20th Annual Oregon Book Awards
7:30 p.m., Portland Art Museum
(1119 SW Park Avenue, Portland)
Tickets: \$15 at www.literary-arts.org |

The Oregon Book Awards is sponsored by the Oregon Cultural Trust, investing in Oregon's arts, humanities and heritage. Additional support is provided by Betty Bradshaw, Leslie Bradshaw Endowment Fund, The Collins Foundation, Gray Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, The Heathman Hotel, Robert H. and Cecelia Huntington, The Ruth Manary Fund of The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, Walt Morey Endowment Fund, Multnomah County Library, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Center for the Book at the Oregon State Library, Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust and Viviano Design.

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The Oregon Book Awards is a program of Literary Arts, a statewide, nonprofit organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Oregonians through language and literature. Other programs of Literary Arts are Oregon Literary Fellowships, Portland Arts & Lectures, Poetry Downtown, Poetry In Motion®, Writers in the Schools and Delve: Readers' Seminars. For more information about Literary Arts, please contact Barbara Verchot at 503.227.2583 or visit www.literary-arts.org.