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Photos will be available at <http://www.literary-arts.org/public>

Oregon Book Awards Author Tour Visits Eugene and North Bend in January

Readings Feature Four First-Time Authors

Portland, Ore. – Literary Arts is pleased to announce the first two events of the 2007 Oregon Book Awards Author Tour, featuring recent Oregon Book Awards honorees. Readings will take place in **Eugene** on **Thursday, January 25** at 7:00 p.m. at **Tsunami Books** (2585 Willamette), and in **North Bend** on **Friday, January 26** at 7:00 p.m. at the **North Bend Public Library** (835 California Street). Conversation, book sales and a signing follow each reading. The events are free and open to the public.

All of the readers at the Eugene-North Bend tour are **first-time authors**:

- **Andrew Bernstein** of Portland, winner in **general nonfiction** for *Modern Passings: Death Rites, Politics, and Social Change in Imperial Japan*. Bernstein is currently an associate professor in the History Department and East Asian Studies Program at Lewis & Clark College, where he has taught for the past seven years.
- **Kristin Kaye** of Portland, finalist in **creative nonfiction** for *Iron Maidens: The Celebration of the Most Awesome Female Muscle in the World*. Kaye's storytelling adventures began on stage where she developed her one-woman show, *What Is Done Is Done*, shown in New York and Chicago.
- **Geronimo Tagatac** of Salem, finalist in **short fiction** for *The Weight of the Sun*. Tagatac's fiction has appeared in *The Northwest Review*, *Alternatives Magazine*, *Orion Magazine*, *The Clackamas Literary Review* and *The Chautauqua Literary Review*. He has received fellowships from Literary Arts and Fishtrap.
- **Matt Yurdana** of Portland, finalist in **poetry** for *Public Gestures*. Yurdana's awards include a Pushcart Prize, an Oregon Literary Fellowship from Literary Arts, and a recent National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.

For complete author biographies or event information, please contact Susan Denning at 503.227.2583.

For 20 years, the **Oregon Book Awards** program has honored our state's most accomplished authors in the genres of fiction, poetry, nonfiction, drama and young readers literature. After the awards ceremony in Portland, the **Oregon Book Awards Author Tour** brings writers and readers together in libraries and independent bookstores across the state.

The **Oregon Book Awards Author Tour** is sponsored by the Oregon Cultural Trust and Tonkon Torp LLP. Additional support is provided by Brian Booth & Gwyneth Gamble Booth, Betty Bradshaw, Leslie Bradshaw Endowment, The Collins Foundation, John & Julie Dixon, Gray Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Robert H. and Cecelia Huntington, The Ruth Manary Fund of The Samuel S. Johnson Foundation, Keller Foundation, Walt Morey Endowment, Multnomah County Library, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Center for the Book at the Oregon State Library, PacifiCorp Foundation, Regional Arts & Culture Council, Rick & Halle Sadle, Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust and U.S. Bank.

Local support is provided by Books by the Bay, Friends of the North Bend Public Library, Lane Arts Council, Lane Literary Guild and Tsunami Books.

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Oregon Book Awards is a program of Literary Arts, a nonprofit organization that enriches 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