

Ten Oregon Authors Read to Raise Money for Hungry at 24th Annual Magic Barrel

Fundraiser features award-winning writers, local musicians, food, drink and community connection.

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CORVALLIS, Ore – Among the 10 Oregon authors reading at the 24th annual **Magic Barrel: A Reading to Fight Hunger** on Friday, October 19 will be a National Book Award-winning poet, a university professor who moonlights as a cartoonist, a writer whose new novel is poignant in the #MeToo era, a writer with Chinese and Philippine roots who creates large installations of his artwork, a fly-fishing writer whose newest novel is being made into a film series, and others.

Live music will be served up before the show and during intermission by Perkins, Bliss, Brassfield, and Pfender Quartet, which includes Audrey Perkins (vocals), John Bliss (guitar and mandolin), Ray Brassfield (bass) and Bill Pfender (clarinet).

The doors open and music starts at 6:00 p.m., with the readings beginning at 7.

The annual event, which raises approximately \$10,000 for Linn Benton Food Share, takes place at the historic Whiteside Theater, an 800-seat, 1920s Italian Renaissance movie palace in downtown Corvallis.

"During these times that seem fraught with issues that divide and distract people – issues ranging from homelessness and racial injustice to partisan politics, immigration and climate change, the Magic Barrel offers an evening of storytelling and human connection, and it's a wonderful way to support the hungry among us," said Gregg Kleiner, Corvallis writer who serves on the Magic Barrel's all-volunteer steering committee.

This year's emcee is **Jon Raymond**, the author of three novels -- *Freebird*, *Rain Dragon*, and *The Half-Life*, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2004 -- and the short-story collection *Livability*, a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and winner of the Oregon Book Award. He is also the screenwriter of the film *Meek's Cutoff* and co-writer of the films *Old Joy* and *Wendy and Lucy*, both based on his short fiction, and the film *Night Moves*. He also cowrote the HBO miniseries *Mildred Pierce*, winner of five Emmy Awards.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and can be purchased online at <https://magicbarrel.org>. If seats are left on the day of the event, tickets will be sold at the door for \$15 (cash only).

All proceeds go to Linn Benton Food Share, which welcomes additional donations online during ticket purchases, as well as at the door.

Squirrel's Tavern will offer beer and wine for sale. The authors will greet listeners and sign books, which will be available for purchase from Grass Roots Books and Music. Both Squirrel's and Grass Roots donate all profits from book and beverage sales to Linn Benton Food Share

The event takes its name from a short story by Bernard Malamud, a major American fiction writer who taught writing at Oregon State from 1949 to 1961.

The Magic Barrel is supported by the Oregon Center for the Humanities at Oregon State University, by cash and in-kind donations from local merchants and restaurants and by hundreds of generous patrons.

This year's readers include:

JOSÉ ANGEL ARAGUZ: author of *Everything We Think We Hear*, *Small Fires*, and *Until We Are Level Again*.

NICK DYBEK: author of *When Captain Flint Was Still a Good Man* and *The Verdun Affair*.

OMAR EL AKKAD: author of the debut novel, *American War*, winner of the Pacific Northwest Booksellers' Award and the Oregon Book Award for fiction.

JOHN LARISON: author of *Northwest of Normal* (2009), *Holding Lies* (2011), and *Whiskey When We're Dry* (2018), which is being developed for a feature film.

DIONISIA MORALES: author of the essay collection, *Homing Instincts*.

CHAD MURPHY: author of *How to Appear Normal at Social Events: And Other Essential Wisdom* — a series of lightly satirical cartoons, poems, and single-panel comics.

ELENA PASSARELLO: author of the collections of essays *Let Me Clear My Throat* and *Animals Strike Curious Poses*, which won the 2018 Oregon Book Award for Creative Nonfiction, made the 2017 best-of lists in the Guardian, Publisher's Weekly, and The New York Times.

SAM ROXAS-CHUA 姚: author of the books *Saying Your Name Three Times Underwater*, *Echolalia in Script – A Collection of Asemic Writing*, and the chapbook *Fawn Language* (Tebot Bach).

MARY SZYBIST: author of author of *Incarnadine*, winner of the 2013 National Book Award for Poetry.

LENI ZUMAS: author of *Red Clocks*, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, an Indie Next List selection, and a Publishers Weekly Top 10 Literary Fiction pick.

EMCEE - JON RAYMOND: author of three novels — *Freebird*, *Rain Dragon*, and *The Half-Life*, a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of 2004 — and the short-story collection *Livability*, a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection and winner of the Oregon Book Award. He is also wrote the screenplay of the film *Meek's Cutoff*.

MUSIC - Perkins, Bliss, Brassfield, & Pfender Quartet: Audrey Perkins on vocals, John Bliss on guitar and mandolin, Ray Brassfield on bass, and Bill Pfender on clarinet