

La Sociedad Para Las Artes Reading Series at NMSU Spring 2008

Tony Hoagland -- Feb. 8 with Nathan Graham

Tony Hoagland was born in 1953 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His chapbook, *Hard Rain* was published by Hollyridge Press in 2005. His other collections of poetry include *What Narcissism Means to Me* (Graywolf Press, 2003), a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; *Donkey Gospel* (1998), which received the James Laughlin Award; and *Sweet Ruin* (1992), chosen by Donald Justice for the 1992 Brittingham Prize in Poetry and winner of the Zacharis Award from Emerson College.

Hoagland's other honors include two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, a fellowship to the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, the O.B. Hardison Prize for Poetry and Teaching from the Folger Shakespeare Library, as well as the Poetry Foundation's 2005 Mark Twain Award in recognition of his contribution to humor in American poetry.

In 2002, the American Academy of Arts and Letters praised the poet's work with a citation stating, "Tony Hoagland's imagination ranges thrillingly across manners, morals, sexual doings, kinds of speech both lyrical and candid, intimate as well as wild." His poems and critical writings have appeared in such publications as *Ploughshares*, *Agni*, *Threepenny Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *American Poetry Review*, *Harvard Review*, and the 1991 Pushcart Prize anthology. He currently teaches at the University of Houston and Warren Wilson College.

Peter Turchi – Feb. 22 with Dana Kroos

Peter Turchi is the author of *Maps of the Imagination: The Writer as Cartographer*; *Suburban Journals: The Sketchbooks, Drawings, and Prints of Charles Ritchie*, in collaboration with the artist; a novel, *The Girls Next Door*; a collection of stories, *Magician*; and *The Pirate Prince*, co-written with Cape Cod treasure hunter Barry Clifford, about Clifford's discovery of the pirate ship Whydah. He has also co-edited, with Andrea Barrett, *The Story Behind the Story: 26 Stories by Contemporary Writers and How They Work* and, with Charles Baxter, *Bringing the Devil to His Knees: The Craft of Fiction and the Writing Life*.

Peter Turchi's stories have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Story*, *The Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *The Colorado Review*, among other journals. "Night, Truck, Two Lights Burning," was listed as one of 100 Notable Stories of 2002 by the editors of *Best American Short Stories* and one of 15 Recommended Stories by the jury for the *O. Henry Prize Stories*. He has received Washington College's Sophie Kerr Prize, an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award, North Carolina's Sir Walter Raleigh Award, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Born in Baltimore, he earned his BA at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, and his MFA at the University of Arizona. He has taught at Northwestern University and Appalachian State University, has twice been on the faculty of the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, and in 2006 served as a Visiting Professor in the Department of English at the University of Houston. Since 1993 he has taught fiction in and directed The MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina.

Don Kurtz – March 7 with Nicky Pessaroff

Don Kurtz is the author of *South of the Big Four* and *Churchgoers*. He was born in Urbana and raised in the farm country of Illinois and Indiana. He won a 1992 Fellowship in Creative Writing from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has published short fiction in the *Iowa Review* and *Puerto del Sol*. He now lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico

Jenny Bouilly – April 4 with Melanie Viramontes

Jenny Bouilly's *The Body* was published in 2002 by Slope Editions. In May, Tarpaulin Sky Press will publish her second book, [*one love affair*]*. *The Book of Beginnings and Endings* is forthcoming from Sarabande in 2007. Her chapbook *of the mismatched teacups, of the single-serving spoon* is forthcoming from the Coconut Chapbook Series. Her work has been anthologized in *The Best American Poetry 2002*, *Great American Prose Poems: From Poe to the Present*, and *The Next American Essay*. She is currently a Ph.D. student in English at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. About "22": "I wrote '22' a couple of years after realizing that being 22 was probably one of the worst, most bizarre experiences that I had lived through. I was trying to make art out of people, places, and events that I otherwise wanted to tuck away and never see again. At the same time, that year still seems so fresh, vivid and sensual to me. I think I might write another piece soon about being 22."

Kathleene West – April 18 with Sara Thomas

Kathleene West is a professor and Poetry Editor of *Puerto del Sol*. She received her B.A. from the University of Nebraska, her M.A. from the University of Washington, and Ph.D. in English Literature and Icelandic Studies from the University of Nebraska. She received a two-year Fulbright fellowship to research and write in Iceland. She was active in the Poet-in-the-Schools program in both Washington and Nebraska, and received the first Artist-in-the-City grant in Seattle. She worked with Copper Canyon Press in Port Townsend, WA and Abattoir Editions at the University of Nebraska/Omaha as a printer and book designer.

Connie Voisine – May 2 with Lecroy Rhyames

In 1987 I graduated from Yale University with a major in American Studies, with a concentration in film. While there, I was part of a theater company that took its plays to housing projects and prisons. As a member of that company, I taught playwriting and acting at Greenhaven Maximum Security Prison (for men) for a summer, discovering that I was energized by the way that art and activism could coincide, and that I loved to teach. During school, I took what creative writing classes I could (few were offered) and was part of the oldest creative writing workshop in America through a class called Daily Themes. Because I grew up in a Maine border town with few creative outlets, I moved to New York City once I graduated. I began studying writing with poets Nicholas Christopher and Philip Schultz at The New School, the Poetry Society of America and Writers Studio. New York launched me on a wonderful apprenticeship as a poet and I worked flexible jobs--from bartender to development researcher at The Brooklyn Museum--to facilitate poetry study and summer travel to Europe and Central America. Besides attending as many poetry readings as I could, I developed into an avid dance and music performance attendee, became interested in the visual arts, often going to five or six events a week. Overall, my immersion in the avant-garde art world of the 1980s allowed me to understand the benefits of a vibrant art community and the role of an artist within one. I got an MFA at University of California at Irvine and a Ph.D. in English at University of Utah. Before teaching here at NMSU, I taught for two years at University of Hartford in Connecticut. Currently I live in an old adobe house with my husband, the writer Rus Bradburd and our daughter Alma.