

Join us for our first . . .

**Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute**  
**Friday and Saturday, October 19-20, 2001**  
**UH Campus Center**

Friday evening, October 19, 2001, 7:30 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom  
Celebrate the release of *Bamboo Ridge Issue #79*, Reception & reading, free

Saturday, October 20, 2001, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Campus Center Meeting Rooms  
Panels and workshops, open mike  
Fee: \$50, \$40 students, \$30 Bamboo Ridge members\*

**Panel Topics include:**

- *Pidgin: need or no need?* With Lee Tonouchi, Lee Cataluna, and Cedric Yamanaka.
- *So you wanna make a movie?* Jon Brekke, Eric Nemoto, AA Atanasio.
- *Local Theater Tag Team: playwrights and directors.* With playwrights Lee Cataluna, Vicky Kneubuhl, Yokanaan Kearns & Ed Sakamoto.
- *Writing History: using local, personal, & oral history.* Wing Tek Lum, Miyoko Sugano, Fuku Tsukiyama.
- *GLBT: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Writing* Jody Helfand, Rae Watanabe, Donna Tanigawa, Scott Whitney.
- *Winning and Losing the HONOLULU Magazine Contest.* With winners Wendy Miyake & Cedric Yamanaka, editor John Heckathorn.
- *Women Writers: transforming personal experience* Marie Hara, Gail Harada, others.
- *Lighting Fires: Teaching Writing to Adolescents.* With teacher/writers Joe Tsujimoto, Michelle Skinner, Jim Harstad.
- *Reading, Writing, and Scholarship: developmental & 2<sup>nd</sup> language perspectives* Chris Planas, Masami Usui, Mavis Hara.
- *Incorporating Writing in the Curriculum* Leila Naka, Shel Hershnow, Edna Hussey.
- *Local Literature in Speech and Performance.* With teacher/performers Keith Kashiwada, Nyla Babb, Bill Teter.
- *Other Worlds: Writing Science Fiction & Fantasy.* A. A. Atanasio and others.
- *Already Famous: getting the book contract* With Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Nora Okja Keller, Deborah Iida.
- *Technology and Local Literature.* Peter Li, Jhoanna Calma, others.

**Writing Workshops include:**

- *Food & the Writing Process* – Lani Uyeno
- *The Poetry Bag* – Eric Chock
- *Playwriting: adapting stories to plays* – Y York
- *Writing Local Plays* – Ed Sakamoto / Darrell Lum

**Master workshops:**

limited enrollment (additional \$40 fee)

3-hour small group manuscript critique conducted by the following local writers:

- *Fiction* – Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Nora Okja Keller, Gary Pak, Marie Hara, Michelle Skinner, Deborah Iida.
- *Fiction/Play writing* - Darrell Lum (full manuscript critiques by Ed Sakamoto)
- *Poetry* – Cathy Song, Eric Chock, Gail Harada.
- *Adapting Literature for the Stage* – John Wat & Keith Kashiwada

For more information call 626-1481 or e-mail [brinfo@bambooridge.com](mailto:brinfo@bambooridge.com) to be put on our mailing list.

\*To become a member of Bamboo Ridge, send a \$10 or more donation to Bamboo Ridge Press, PO Box 61781, Honolulu, HI 96839-1781. Members receive a newsletter, book discounts, and priority registration for the BR Writers Institute. Donors of \$100 or more become Special Members and receive 20% book discounts, newsletter, and invitation to special events. Bamboo Ridge is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Your donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Bamboo Ridge Press ([www.bambooridge.com](http://www.bambooridge.com))**  
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**Honolulu, HI 96839-1781**  
**phone/fax (808) 626-1481**

Name _____	Phone / Cell / Pager _____
Address _____	E-mail _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	

**REGISTRATION**

- \$50, regular registration
- \$40, student (currently enrolled secondary or college student)
- \$30, Bamboo Ridge member registration (current members). You may become a member for a \$10 or more donation/year. Members receive the BR member newsletter and book discounts. Indicate amount of your donation here and add to total below: \_\_\_\_\_.

**PANEL & WORKSHOP CHOICES**

To help us ensure sufficient seating, please indicate your 4 session preferences below. You may attend any of the sessions listed with your paid registration. You may change your choices at any time. (Note: Panels, indicated P-1, P-2, etc. consist of 3 or 4 speakers. Writing Workshops, indicated W-1, W-2, etc., consist of a "hands on" writing activity)

___ P-1 Lighting Fires: teaching writing to adolescents	___ P-6 Technology & Local Literature	___ P-11 Local Theater Tag Team, part II	___ W-1 Eating your words: food & the writing process
___ P-2 Reading, writing, and scholarship: developmental & second lang. perspectives	___ P-7 So You Wanna Make a Movie . . .	___ P-12 Winning & losing the HONOLULU Magazine Fiction contest	___ W-2 The Poetry Bag: poetry using Poets In the Schools techniques
___ P-3 Incorporating Writing in the Curriculum	___ P-8 Pidgin: Need or no need?	___ P-13 Women Writers: transforming personal exp	___ W-3 Playwriting: adapting stories to plays
___ P-4 Local Literature in Speech & Performance	___ P-9 GLBT: Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Issues	___ P-14 Already Famous: getting the book contract	___ W-4 Writing Local Plays
___ P-5 Writing History: using local, personal, oral histories	___ P-10 Local Theater Tag Team: playwrights/directors	___ P-15 Other Worlds: Science Fiction & Fantasy	

**OPEN MIKE**

Would you like to participate in the open mike session (5 minute reading from your own work) 11:45-12:45 p.m.?

- Yes, assign me a time to read.

**MASTER WORKSHOPS**

\$40 fee. Master Workshops are 2 ½ hours long featuring writing exercises, critiques of your own work, and discussion of writing issues in a small group and require an additional fee. You must also be a registered participant in order to enroll in a Master Workshop. Workshops may be cancelled or combined due to enrollment. You will be notified of your Master Workshop assignment by Sept. 15th. **Indicate your first, second, and third choice:**

___ MW-1 Fiction - Lois-Ann Yamanaka	___ MW-5 Fiction - Marie Hara	___ MW-9 Poetry - Eric Chock
___ MW-2 Fiction - Nora Okja Keller	___ MW-6 Fiction - Michelle Cruz Skinner	___ MW-10 Poetry - Gail Harada
___ MW-3 Fiction/Playwriting - Darrell Lum (full-manuscript critique by Ed Sakamoto)	___ MW-7 Fiction - Deborah Iida	___ MW-11 Adapting Lit for the Stage - John Wat & Keith Kashiwada
___ MW-4 Fiction - Gary Pak	___ MW-8 Poetry - Cathy Song	

**LUNCH**

- \$5, bento lunch + drink.       \$5, vegetarian bento + drink

**TOTAL** Make checks payable to Bamboo Ridge Press.

For credit card payment: \_\_\_VISA \_\_\_MasterCard

Account number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# BRidgers

The Official Member Newsletter of Bamboo Ridge Press

## One Down, Many More To Come

We did it! Bamboo Ridge Press successfully completed our most daunting task of the year—hosting the first ever Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute (BRWI). All of the brainstorming, planning, hard work, and patience of those involved really paid off.



Founding editors Eric Chock & Darrell Lum flank BRWI chair Juliet Kono. (youngPHOTO.com)

The Institute kicked off on Friday evening October 19<sup>th</sup>, at the UH Campus Center Ballroom. A free reading was held to celebrate the release of our latest issue, *BR #79*. Guests were treated to music by Likeke Littlejohn and friends as they munched on food provided by ASUH.

A total of 22 writers from issue #79 appeared before a crowd of over two hundred people. They had the opportunity to read their work from the issue or to speak about the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. A few opted for the first choice. Kimo Armitage got the ball rolling, combining his reading of "Uncle's Drum"

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## Ka'ao Kaua'i: Pele Mā

The stories of *Ka'ao Kaua'i: Pele Mā*, the first theatre production of the year for the Mid-Pacific School of the Arts, are like a journey that begins with Pele's arrival in Hawai'i on the island of Kaua'i.



Frederick B. Wichman and Christine Fayé at Mid-Pacific Institute.

So perhaps it's appropriate that the production itself has been a journey. Some time last year at one of the BRP editorial board meetings, I was happy to learn that our new release would be Frederick B. Wichman's latest *Kaua'i Tales* collection, *Pele Mā: Legends of Pele from Kaua'i*, a book of stories about Pele and her companions. Having worked with Mr. Wichman's other collections in my classes and having helped put together BRP's tape of *Poli-hale*, I immediately thought that these stories might make a terrific performance for my actors at Mid-Pac. And the thought that we might be able to time the performance

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## 4 Da Luv of Pidgin Bamboo Ridge 2002 Member Event

- One reading celebrating pidgin by
- bradajo (Jozuf Hadley)
  - Lee Cataluna
  - Lisa Linn Kanae and
  - Cedric Yamanaka
  - wit da Pidgin Guerrilla himself, Lee Tonouchi as da M.C.

Monday evening, February 4, 2002  
Kumu Kahua Theatre

46 Merchant Street, downtown  
(parking in Harbor Court)

7:00 p.m. reception & music by Chris Planas  
7:30 p.m. reading

\$15, Free to Bamboo Ridge members

Regular members are entitled to one ticket. Special members may receive two tickets. Seating is limited; reservations are recommended. Tickets not claimed 10 minutes prior to the reading will be released to others. For reservations and more information, please call 626-1481.

Being a BR member never has been so good. Those of you who attended this year's event "For the Love of Words"—featuring Nora Okja Keller, Juliet Kono, Cathy Song, and Lois-Ann Yamanaka—will remember it was an evening of great fun shared with great writers. The 2002 event promises to be equally good fun as we've assembled writers who have worked with pidgin and have new work to share with BR members. You bettah reserve your ticket now, bumbye no mo', and poho if you miss out. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2002, you can do so with the enclosed envelope. If you can't remember if you're a member or when you expire, call Joy at 626-1481. Or you can just send us money...only ten bucks a year for regular members, \$100 a year for special members. Good deal. (Of course, your donation is tax-deductible and we hope you will consider giving as much as you are able. Printing and mailing two newsletters a year and giving away a \$15 ticket to the reading doesn't exactly mean that we make any money on the deal!)

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*One Down* continued

with the accompaniment of Hawaiian instruments. Many chose to express their feelings about the incident that befell our nation. One of the most moving readings came from Lois-Ann Yamanaka's students, who read a piece they had written called "Conversation—September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001" (see *Building BRidges* for poem).

Many volunteers were up bright and early for the all-day "Try Write!" conference on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. People began drifting in at 7:30 a.m. to register on-site, pick up their packets, and enjoy the book fair.



Ryan Ozawa, Jhoanna Calma, & Peter Li made up the Technology & Local Literature panel. (youngPHOTO.com)



Wing Tek Lum & Fuku Tsukiyama conducting the Writing History workshop. (youngPHOTO.com)

Everyone gathered in the Campus Center Ballroom for the opening session, where five Hawai'i writers shared how September 11<sup>th</sup> impacted their lives and the lives of those around them. Marie Hara spoke of her phone conversations with her two daughters who live in New York. Juliet Kono shared poems about the wall of missing people and her students being called upon to help defend their nation. Joy Harjo read a poem about facing fear. Cathy Song took a spiritual view on terror

### Rekindling the Flame: BRWI Response

I've never been much of a writer, but I've always loved poetry. After high school, life kind of took over, hence I forgot the simple pleasures in life, such as reading and writing poetry. I guess my soul must have felt the same way because when my aunt asked me to volunteer at the Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute, I leapt at the opportunity. I knew then if I went to the Institute, I would familiarize myself with my creative juices. While I sat at the book table during the sessions, I had an opportunity to read some of the poetry which was on sale. It astounded me how a lot of the poetry identified with me and my life; e.g., books on women who grew up in Hawai'i with multi-racial backgrounds. Not only was the Institute enlightening, but the participants and volunteers were very caring and supportive.

I want to say thank you for letting me be a part of the whole experience. Because of it, I was bitten again—I have begun to set aside a couple hours each week to read and write poetry. It's not worthy of printing, but it releases the creative side of my soul—it makes me feel alive again. Helping at BRWI was enormously beneficial to me and to my aunt who also enjoyed it. I hope to participate in another of your uplifting and challenging events.

—Renee Rolland, BRWI volunteer

and healing in her poem. Eric Chock wrote about his wife, a French Canadian, whose Christmas weavings evolved into American flags.

After the moving reading, the crowd dispersed to attend their respective sessions. The registrants had 20 different workshops and panels to choose from, featuring 57 writers and presenters from across the state. They also had a chance to participate in Master Workshops, which provided them with an environment to work closely with some of most Hawai'i's notable writers.



Lois-Ann Yamanaka, Deborah Iida, & Nora Okja Keller discuss getting the book contract. (youngPHOTO.com)



Eric's Master Workshop. (youngPHOTO.com)

We would like to thank everyone who made "Try Write!"—our first ever Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute—possible. Mahalo to the Atherton Family Foundation and the State Foundation for Culture and the Arts for their generous support; the UH Campus Center Board Activities Council, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i, and the UHM English Department for their sponsorship; the Hawai'i Literary Arts Council for providing neighbor island travel; to Wes Young for his photographs; and of course, to all of the wonderful volunteers for their hard work and dedication.

—Lan Tu

### BRWI Evaluation

BRWI volunteer Joan Wylie reported an average score of 3.75 (out of 4) on the nearly 90 evaluation forms we received from the Institute participants. Here are some of their comments:

- "The Master Workshop was the best part, because I had the chance to write and receive input on my writing"
- "The panels and workshops will help me finish my manuscript"
- "Candid insights and interaction...personal backgrounds shared by authors in transforming experience"
- "They gave me an entire new level of thinking...& now I have some better ideas where to get started in my writing"
- "...balance of topics and workshops...many different themes"
- "Open discussions, sharing of experiences...opened me up to new aspects of my story"
- "Speakers were generous with advice and life experiences"
- "I appreciated the accessibility of panelists"
- "Workshop [has] low writer-to-audience ratio"
- "I liked the friendliness—local people and local subjects"