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BRidges

The Bamboo Ridge Press Member Newsletter

To foster the appreciation, understanding, and creation of literary, visual, or performing arts by, for, or about Hawai'i's people

BRidges, the official member newsletter of Bamboo Ridge Press, is published two times a year. Bamboo Ridge Press is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts, and the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

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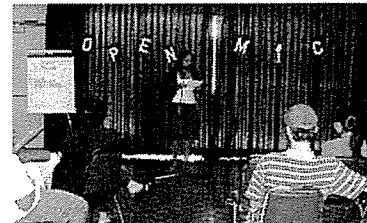
NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS

Newsletter staff: Joy Kobayashi-Cintrón,
Darrell Lum and Normie Salvador



Try 4 Write!

Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute 2006



Friday, October 13 & Saturday October 14, 2006 UH Mānoa Campus Center

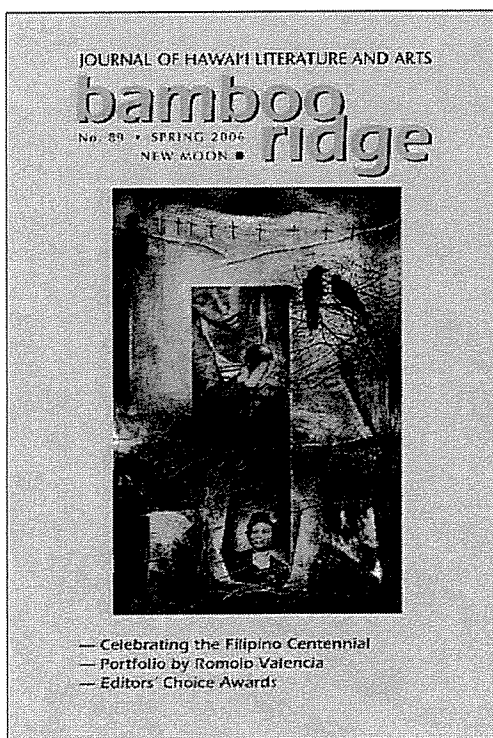
The fourth biennial Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute (BRWI) kicks off on Friday evening with a free reading by BRWI presenters Kealoha, Brenda Kwon, Chris McKinney, and Lois-Ann Yamanaka. Two of the islands' best performance poets and two of our finest fiction writers will perform and read from their work.

The next morning, over forty-five other local authors, poets, playwrights, screenwriters, and teachers will present thirty panels, workshops, and Master Workshops that make up the day-long Institute. Throughout the day, there will be open mic readings and a book fair with author signings. The opening session will feature a keynote by Lee Cataluna, who will also do a workshop on finding and developing characters for storytelling in different genres.

A special lunchtime treat will be a reading celebrating the Filipino Centennial in Hawai'i by Amalia Bueno, ChristyAnne Passion, Normie Salvador, and Michelle Cruz Skinner. And the closing reading by the Pidgin Guerilla himself, Lee Tonouchi, will leave us rolling in our seats. Tonouchi will also be conducting a master workshop "Buss Laugh: Stand Up Poetry." The choices are varied and exciting: Juliet S. Kono conducts an important workshop on Meditative Writing, John Griffin and Craig Howes talk about creating writing from history, Warren Nishimoto conducts an Oral History master workshop, Cedric Yamanaka helps us adapt a short story to film, writing tips from Chris McKinney, ideas on teaching children to write with Joe Tsujimoto and three published poets explain their muse and the writing process. Check out the schedule of panels and workshops at <http://bambooridge.com/brinstitute.asp> A registration form is enclosed.

TIP: Some of the Master Workshops have very limited seating, so early registration is encouraged.

BR Issue #89 Celebrates the Filipino Centennial



Join us for two free public events:

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

7:00 p.m. reception • 7:30 p.m. reading
University of Hawai'i Campus Center Ballroom

Sunday, November 26, 2006

4:00 p.m. reception • 4:30 p.m. reading
Ward Centre • Native Books/Na Mea Hawai'i

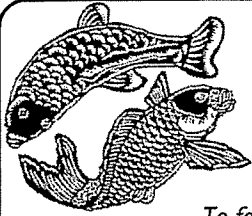
Bamboo Ridge Issue #89, scheduled for release in November, will feature a special section celebrating the centennial of Filipino immigration to Hawai'i.

Included will be a portfolio by cover artist Romolo Valencia, a short story by Editors' Choice for Best Prose, Amalia B. Bueno, and poems by Editors' Choice for Best Poetry, R. Zamora Linmark.

Other featured Filipino-American writers are Joseph O. Legaspi, Veronica Montes, ChristyAnne Passion, Elmer Omar Pizo, Normie Salvador, Michelle Cruz Skinner, Lara Stapleton, and Eileen R. Tabios. Winner of the Editors' Choice Award for Best New Writer is Alexei Melnick.

Also included in this issue, new work by J. Freen, Jody Helfand, Juliet S. Kono, Michael Little, Wing Tek Lum, Michael McPherson, Joseph Stanton, Joe Tsujimoto, and John Wythe White.

TIP: Start your subscription now and get *Ian MacMillan's* The Seven Orchids and issue #89 for \$25 (\$30 value, postage paid).



Vol. 9, No. 2, Nov. 2006

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Newsletter staff: Joy Kobayashi-Cintron, Michael Little, Darrell Lum, & Micheline Soong. Photos by Masami Usui & Darrell Lum.



BR Issue #89 Features Filipino-American Writers & Editors' Choice Awards

JOURNAL OF HAWAII LITERATURE AND ARTS

bamboo ridge
No. 89 • SPRING 2006
NEW MODN ■



— Celebrating the Filipino Centennial
— Portfolio by Romolo Valencia
— Editors' Choice Awards

Two readings of poetry & fiction celebrating Bamboo Ridge issue 89!

Tuesday, November 21, 2006

7:00 p.m. reception • 7:30 p.m. reading

University of Hawai'i Campus Center Ballroom

Free and open to the public

Editors' Choice winners:

Amalia B. Bueno* & Alexei Melnick

Also: **Marie Park Fujii, Jody Helfand, Ann Inoshita, Michael Little, ChristyAnne Passion,* Elmer Omar Pizo,* Normie Salvador,* Michelle Cruz Skinner,* Joseph Stanton, and Joe Tsujimoto.**

The issue celebrates the Filipino Centennial with a portfolio by cover artist **Romolo Valencia** and a special section of work by Filipino-American writers:*

Amalia B. Bueno

Joseph O. Legaspi

R. Zamora Linmark

Veronica Montes

ChristyAnne Passion

Elmer Omar Pizo

Normie Salvador

Michelle Cruz Skinner

Lara Stapleton and

Eileen R. Tabios.



Sunday, November 26, 2006

4:00 p.m. reception • 4:30 p.m. reading

Ward Warehouse • Native Books/Na Mea Hawai'i

Clint Frakes, Wing Tek Lum, Lori Misaka, Gene Parola, and Ken Tokuno.

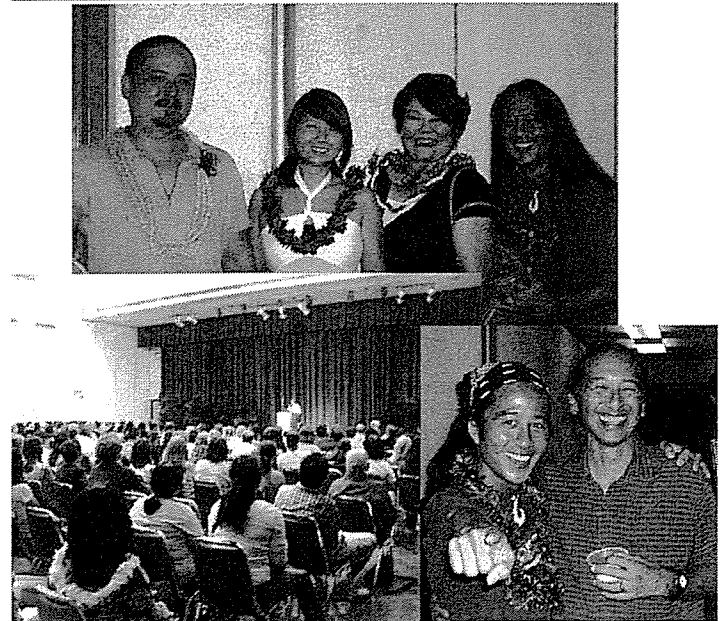
Po'okela Award—Lee's *Longs da Bes'*

Try4Write! Writers Night Out



Photo by Sarah Young

Folks You Meet in *Longs* received the Ka Palapala Po'okela Award of Excellence in Literature and **Lee Cataluna** received the Award of Excellence in Writing Literature from the Hawai'i Book Publishers Association in a ceremony at the Mission Memorial Auditorium on Oct. 27, 2006.



The kick-off reading for the BR Writers Institute drew a crowd of 230 and featured **Chris McKinney, Brenda Kwon, Lois-Ann Yamanaka, and Kealoha.**

Try4Write! Students Speak

The BRWI awarded 38 scholarships to young high school and college writers. We asked them to share some of their unforgettable moments of the Institute:

Try4Write!

Bamboo Ridge Writers Institute 2006

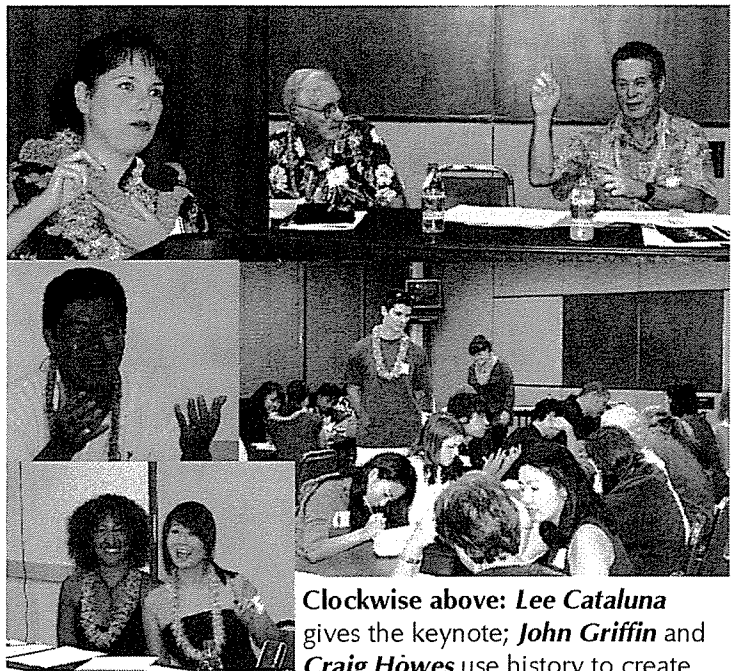
Single most unforgettable moment is when Kealoha performed. It was my first time watching him perform, and he was absolutely amazing. He definitely inspires me. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend this institute. It broadened my horizons for my written work and also my spoken word performances. I plan on attending the next BRWI and I am looking forward to it.

There were actually two unforgettable moments. The first was being introduced to Lee Cataluna by my speech coach when I first arrived. I read her book "Folks You Meet at Longs" and thought it was brilliantly done and had that trueness to it that makes books worth reading. I am even using her book for a piece in speech. She was very nice and friendly towards me, but I barely said much because I was elated in disbelief. (I also saw Lois-Ann Yamanaka, except I was too shy to go up to her). The second was Lee Tonouchi's closing reading. I never even heard of the guy, but when he began his performance, I instantly knew I was going to hunt down anything he has written. I couldn't tell if he as writer or a stand-up comedian. I found his stories original and downright hilarious. It was a great day from start to finish.

For me, the single most unforgettable moment of the institute that I experienced was signing in, finding a seat in the ballroom, and then looking around to realize that the room was full of people who gathered in this one place to celebrate the passion we all have for writing, which is the most fulfilling, rewarding, and freeing action that exists.

There were so many good moments that I can't identity one. I enjoyed talking to Elmer Pizo about his experiences in Saudi Arabia, listening to the varied reading and writing styles of the Filipino Centennial Readers, hearing Lee Tonouchi perform his work, the wonderful food from Fukuya's and the wonderfully discounted and diverse book fair. Thanks for organizing such a wide-ranging and exciting event. It was a truly meaningful way to spend the day and helped me focus on my writing techniques and goals.

There isn't one single most unforgettable moment for me. Rather, the institute gave me a wonderful, unforgettable realization: It can be done. Excellent writing in Hawai'i can be done. The story doesn't have to be about some distant land, it can be about familiar settings with familiar faces. Hearing and looking at the works of so many Hawai'i authors gave me hope and inspiration.

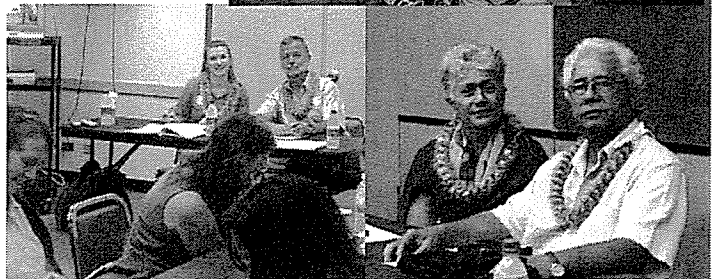


Clockwise above: Lee Cataluna gives the keynote; John Griffin and Craig Howes use history to create

new writing; Tyler Miranda & Wendie Burbridge turn Truth into Lies; Allison Francis & Brenda Kwon "Talk Taboos;" Cedric Yamanaka talks about "Sand Island Drive-In Anthem," an award-winning film based on his short story.

Below clockwise: The Bookbook panel: Rose Cruz Churma, Normie Salvador, Michelle Cruz Skinner, & Elmer Pizo; Caroline Sinavaiana & Albert Wendt talk about culture and identity in writing;

Lynn Harris & Michael Little lead the "Shut Up!" writing dialog workshop.



Try Come!

Please visit us at these other events and holiday sales:

Saturday, November 18 - Cane Haul Road Sale, Kuhio School, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 6 - "Christmas in Honolulu" Faire, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

STILL GET! Limited edition Try4Write t-shirts are available at the readings and the book tables while supplies last.

Write Fast, Write Swift! One-Page Contest

Michael Little, head of the open mic and the writing contest judge also created and tabulated the evaluations of the BRWI. Participants gave the conference a resounding 3.6 (of 4.0) overall and the scores in 11 categories ranged from 3.2 to 3.7. If you didn't get a chance to share your thoughts about the BRWI you can still do so online at www.bambooridge.com. Create a login and click on "BRWI Discussions" at the bottom of the homepage.

Winners of the Write Fast, Write Swift / One-day, one-page writing contest were:

Grand Prize—"Not Skinny, But(t)" by **Sarah Imamoto**
 Runners-up—"Inside the Bento Box" by **Davin Kubota**,
 "Marlin" by **Tess Satsuma**, "Local Boys" by **Ilima Stern**.

Here's a little of Sarah's winning poem:

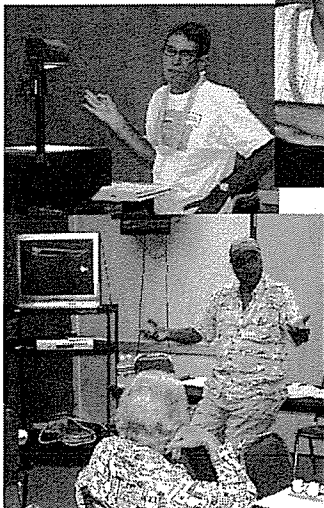
...
 My Hawaiian grandfather shakes his head,
 pshing that fed-up psh
 with eyebrows low & a glare.
 He says: You seven-eighth Japanee
 but dat one-eighth Hawaiian in you
 makes one hell of a difference.
 No tell me you like bones as small as dat
 'Cause I no need tell you

Dat those will snap as quick as dat.
 He snaps his fingers loud and fast.
 But Hawaiian bones, dey strong, he
 whispers.
 He shares this secret with me.
 You get jus enuff flesh to cover dem.
 You not fat. You one beautiful wahine.

I am a daughter, a grand-daughter,
 a mixture of Japanese and Hawaiian
 an aspiring writer, a listener
 just too wide, too much to be contained
 in a model ideal.

Clockwise below: Playwrights **Y York**, **Tammy Baker** and **Vicky Kneubuhl** answer the "9 Questions on Playwriting;" Editors **Tim Denevi**, **Susan Schultz**, and **Brandy Nalani McDougall** talk about publishing in Hawai'i; closing session reader/performer

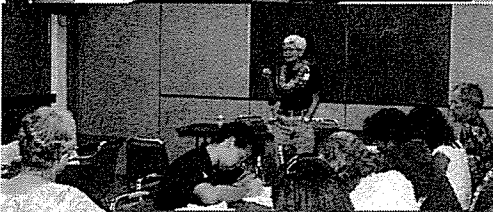
Lee Tonouchi auto-graphs a fan's book; **Robert Olague** shares tips on screenwriting and getting your movie made; **Michael McPherson** sifts through pages and pages of poetry drafts.



The lunchtime reading celebrated the Filipino Centennial and featured (clockwise)

Amalia Bueno, **Normie Salvador**, **Christy-Anne Passion**, and **Michelle Cruz Skinner**.

Juliet Kono leads the workshop on writing mediating grief; **Mari Hatta & Eleanor Nakama-Mitsunaga** (R) along with **Lois-Ann Yamanaka** & actor **Mie Omori** remember filmmaker Kayo Hatta in the "Fishbowl-A Tribute to Kayo Hatta" panel; **David Penhalow**, **Robbie Shapard**, & **Wendy Miyake** talk about the trials of getting published.



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