

H2 SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2008

BOOKS

ASHEVILLE CITIZEN-TIMES • CITIZEN-TIMES.COM

A unique form of drama

Jo Carson molds plays from the salt of the earth

Rob Neufeld
COLUMIST

Johnson City, Tenn., and historical and dramatic to Carson is coming to Appalachian State University on Thursday to bring her special brand of grass-roots history-telling. Her latest book, "Teller Tales," presents two of her plays: "What Sweet Lips Can Do," an account of the Overmountain Men at the Battle of Cowpens ("Sweet Lips" is the name of a rifle), and "Men of Their Time," a look at Cherokee-European relations.



AUTHOR EVENT

Jo Carson, author of "Teller Tales" and "Spider Speculations," will read from her work at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Piemmons Student Union's Table Rock Room, Appalachian State University, Boone. In addition, Carson will present the talk "A Physics and Biophysics of

formances elsewhere and calls Carson to see if she wants to try her literary art on their plight or plight. "Ordeal or no deal," one might call the selection process for songs in the prerequisite for progress.

Carson's upcoming book, "Spider Speculations: A Physics and Biophysics of Stories," reveals the secrets of transforming people's lives through stories. "The brain doesn't distinguish between an event and the memory of an event," Carson advises. And so, when we tell ourselves certain stories, they generate chemical as well as emotional and conceptual reactions.

Harlan, Ky., called Carson, and she created a play called "Higher Ground" that helped the desperate town rid itself of its drug-selling underground economy. Memnonites in Newport News, Va., engaged her, and she wrote six plays that boosted the residents in their efforts to hold onto farms and resist suburban development. Santee, N.C., called her, and she wrote six plays that boosted the residents in their efforts to hold onto farms and resist suburban development. Santee, N.C., called her, and she wrote six plays that boosted the residents in their efforts to hold onto farms and resist suburban development.

Communities calling
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BOOK NOTES



Actress Barbara Bates Smith rehearses her American Sign Language performance of Willa Carter's "My Antonia" with Marilyn Edwards of the N.C. Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing. Smith will stage her storytelling -- in sign, voice and dramatics -- in the Rutter Center, UNC Asheville, 2:30 p.m. today. Afterward, she'll be joined by Edwards for a discussion about the production.

Robert Bly coming to Diana Wortham Theatre
ASHEVILLE — Award-winning poet and celebrated storyteller Robert Bly will perform at 7:30 p.m. March 28 at Diana Wortham Theatre. He will present an evening of love poetry and spiritual poetry, accompanied by music from Asheville-based group Free Planet Radio. The world-famous group features Grammy award-winning bassist Eli Wadopian, percussionist Steve Glover, Guerguerian, and multi-instrumentalist Chris Rosser. Tickets cost \$15 and are available at www.dtheatre.com or 257-8250.

Celebrated poet to lead writers' workshop
ASHEVILLE — Following his March 28 reading at Diana Wortham Theatre, Robert Bly will lead a writers' workshop 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 29 at Unitarian Church, One Edwin Place. The workshop is titled "The Poetic Imagination: A Writer's Workshop." It will be followed by a luncheon with the author.

The Big Read continues 'My Antonia' programs
ASHEVILLE — Willa Carter's novel about immigration, love and landscape, "My Antonia," will be the subject of a book discussion at 6 p.m. March 26, there will be a book discussion of "My Antonia" at McDowell County Public Library, 90 W. Court St., Marion (66-3958).

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ASHEVILLE — Willa Carter's novel about immigration, love and landscape, "My Antonia," will be the subject of a book discussion at 6 p.m. March 26, there will be a book discussion of "My Antonia" at Polk County Library, 1289 West Mills St., Columbus (894-8723).

LITERARY CALENDAR

Your guide to author and literary events in Western North Carolina March 16-22:

- TODAY**
HOMAGE TO CELSO POET: Accent on Books honors the memory of Celso Poet and mythic John O'Connell who died in January, by inviting a sharing of O'Donoghue writings, hosting a reception, and presenting the posthumous book, "In Bless the Space Between Us" at the bookstore, 854 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, 2 p.m. Call 252-6255.
- 'MY ANTONIA' IN SIGN:** Actress Barbara Bates Smith performs "My Antonia" in sign and dramatics with the Rutter Center, UNC Asheville, 2:30 p.m. There will be a post-show discussion with Marilyn Edwards, N.C. Division of Services for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing, the program is part of the Big Read, announced by Together We Read, Call 505-1973.
- LOCAL WRITERS:** The "Writes at Home" regional writers series, hosted by Tommy Haas of UNC Asheville's Great Smokies Creative Writing Program, features UNCA writing scholarship winners Elhan Bradley, Joanna Knowles, Kristen Marshall and Jeremy Rios at Malaprop's Book Store, 55 Haywood St., Asheville, 3 p.m. Call 254-6734.
- WOMEN OF PROSE:** Outspoken Books at 721 Haywood Road, West Asheville, hosts an open mic for women writers of prose, 5 p.m. Call 225-6677.
- MONDAY**
REDMOND FOR SANDBURG: Post Dennis Redmond is the featured speaker at the Friends of Carl Sandburg at Cornemara's annual meeting at the Flat Rock Village Dues Hall, 110 Village Center Drive, Flat Rock, Call 891-1606.
- BOOK DISCUSSION:** "The Johnson Flood" by David McCullough is the subject of the Northeast Book Club at Carolina Bookeries at 184 N. Main St., Waynesville, 7 p.m. Call 455-8052.
- TUESDAY**
BOOK DISCUSSION: "The Carter" by Ann Patchett is the subject of a discussion at Ashe County Public Library 148 Cherry Drive, West Jefferson, 1 p.m. Call 236-246-2041.
- BOOK DISCUSSION:** "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini is the subject of a discussion at North Asheville Library, 1230 Merrimon Ave., 2 p.m. Call 251-4991.

GUERRILLA GIRLS EXPO: Nancy Sautter, adult program manager at the Asheville Art Museum, shows the film, "Guerrilla in Our Midst" and leads a discussion about it and the book, "The Guerrilla Girls: Badass Companion to the History of Modern Art" at Rock Memorial Library, 67 Haywood St., Asheville, 5 p.m. Call 250-4720 or visit www.ashevilleart.com.

MYSTERY DISCUSSION: "A Dirty Deed" by Rebecca Tate is the subject of a mystery book discussion at Black Mountain Library, 105 Daugherty St., Black Mountain, 7 p.m. Call 250-4756.

WEDNESDAY
DINOSAUR WORLD: Author and illustrator James Gurney presents the latest volume in his bestselling Dinosauria series, "Journey to Chondrodon" at Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood St., Asheville, 7 p.m. Call 254-6734.

THURSDAY
PLAYWRIGHTS' CRAFT: Appalachian playwright, poet and fiction writer Jo Carson gives a talk in the Piemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University, Boone, 2 p.m. Call 262-2337.

WOMEN POETS WORKSHOP: Malaprop's Bookstore hosts "Women on Words," a poetry workshop for women, open to new members, at 55 Haywood St., Asheville, 5:30 p.m. Call 254-6734.

BOOK DISCUSSION: "Heart of the Matter" by Goggin Green is the subject of a discussion at South Rutherford/Skyland Library, 240 Riverside Road, Asheville, 2:30 p.m. Call 688-1827.

COMEDY FILM: Chief from Flatfishes will discuss comic books made into movies at North Asheville Library, 1030 Merrimon Ave., 7 p.m. Call 251-4991.

JO CARSON: playwright, poet, and fo-

BEST-SELLERS
See Page 164 for the best-selling fiction and nonfiction for the week.

For writer Jo Carson, author of "Teller Tales," reads and talks in the Piemmons Student Union, Appalachian State University, Boone, 7:30 p.m. Call 262-2337.

FRIDAY

WRITERS' GUIDE: Best Author Johnson, Harvard director of creative writing and noted author, presents his book, "Naming the World: And Other Dangerous Acts" at Malaprop's Bookstore/Cafe, 55 Haywood St., Asheville, noon. Call 254-6734.

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