



Jericho Brown will perform a live poetry reading at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria Nov. 5.

Continued from Page 5

developed a curriculum to give to teachers interested in bringing his work into the classroom, and books will be available.

“Any MFA student in the country would be thrilled to have the opportunity our students will have,” she added. “We’re really excited to be able to expose so many young writers here to such an inspiring figure and his work that’s so profound and so relevant in so many ways.”

Much of Brown’s work involves his childhood and his relationship with his father. In addition to “The Tradition,” he has written two other books, won numerous fellowships and awards, including the National Book Award.

Monson appreciates Brown’s vulnerability in his poetry. When she interviews him onstage Nov.

5, she plans to ask if it becomes a burden to always write from such a vulnerable space.

“One of the things I like about his work is the contrast,” she said. “He really places beauty next to all the brutalities and just lets them be in conversation with each other, lets them hold space within the same poem. I find that juxtaposition to be really poignant.

There’s always a cost to write from such a personal place, and I admire his bravery.”

What the judges want

While “tradition” is the theme of the guild’s poetry contest, it can be taken in many directions, Monson said. “We’d like to see some pieces that aren’t necessarily in

response, but in conversation with Jericho’s work.”

The poetry will be judged by the Writer’s Guild of Astoria board; several members are experienced poets. They will look for artistry, word craftsmanship and relevance to Brown’s work. Whether those attending Brown’s reading have entered the contest or not, they should have a memorable night, Monson said.

“I think people will get a lot of inspiration, I think they will learn a lot about writing,

about the artistry and self-expression that goes into it, the risks we all take when we embark on creative work,” Monson said. “I think it will be a night people will remember for a very long time.”

Proceeds from the evening will help pay for the Writer’s Guild of Astoria events, including its artist-in-residence program.

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Marianne Monson,
author and organizer of the event

Willapa birdwatching canceled, but auction still set to proceed



OCEAN PARK, Wash. — Organizers of Wings Over Willapa, the annual Long Beach Peninsula birdwatching and wildlife educational program, have canceled all this year’s in-person activities because of the pandemic.

However, an online auction fundraiser will go ahead as planned. Bids will be accepted from Saturday until Sept. 24. Money raised will benefit the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge in south Pacific County.

This food-safe decorative live-edge bowl by wood artist Joe Cade is one of the items available in the Wings Over Willapa online auction.

CrosswordAnswers

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