

## Established & Emerging Writers to Read at Juniper Bends

Since 2009, the quarterly Juniper Bends Reading Series has been a free event featuring established and emerging readers. The next Juniper Bends Reading Series event will take place on Friday, August 1, at Downtown Books & News, 67 N. Lexington Avenue in downtown Asheville. The reading will begin at 7 P.M.

Lockie Hunter, Dana Middleton, and Robert Reid Drake are Juniper Bends' curators. "Since there are three curators—all three of us also poets and writers—we bring our own designs and sensibilities to the production of each event," says Lockie.

Established writers Catherine Reid, Charles Dodd White, and Elaine Bleakney will headline the August event. Catherine directs the undergraduate Creative Writing program at Warren Wilson College. Her latest nonfiction book *Falling into Place: An Intimate Geography of Home* was reviewed in the March issue of *O, The Oprah Magazine*. She is also the author of *Coyote: Seeking the Hunter in Our Midst*. This past year, she received fellowships in literature from the North Carolina Arts Council (NCAC) and the National Endowment for the Artists.



Catherine Reid (Photo by Will Breedlove)

Charles' latest book, *A Shelter of Other*, was released last month. The recipient of the Jean Ritchie Fellowship for Appalachian Writing, he has also been awarded an individual artist's grant from NCAC. Charles has written two other novels—*Lambs of Men* and a story collection titled *Sinners of Sanction County*.

Elaine Bleakney is the author of *For Another Writing Back* and *20 Paintings by Laura Owens*. Her work has appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Kenyon Review*, *Verse Daily*, and *The Volta*, among others.

"But it is equally vital that we nurture the voice of emerging writers," says Lockie. "It is (they) who may be reading their words to an audience for the first time, and we value being a venue that brings their words to the community." Among the emerging writers who will be reading that evening is Drew Benbow.

At the conclusion of the last Juniper Bends reading, Lockie quoted Joyce Carol Oates who said, "Reading is the sole means by which we slip, involuntarily, often helplessly, into another's skin, another's voice, another's soul." Lockie adds, "Juniper remains a free space of prose and poetry where the audience can slip into the skin of the writer, the experience of the writer. That's a wonderful community union."

Juniper Bends will also host a queer erotica event (subtly titled "Queererotica") on Friday, July 11, at the Crow & Quill, 106 N. Lexington Avenue. Juniper Bends is also partnering with the ongoing Queer Girls series on Queer Girls Reading to be held at 6 P.M. on Sunday, August 24, at The Mothlight in West Asheville.

For more, follow Juniper Bends on Twitter ([JuniperBendsAVL](#)), Facebook, or email [juniperbendsavl@gmail.com](mailto:juniperbendsavl@gmail.com).

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