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Media Alert, Thursday, April 16, Downtown Salem, Noon & 7 PM

Poet Laureate Lawson Fusao Inada's April 16 Readings in Salem Celebrate National Poetry Month and Oregon 150

Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Fusao Inada will make two appearances in Salem on Thursday, April 16: at the Oregon State Library at Noon; and at the Salem Public Library at 7 PM. The appearances celebrate National Poetry Month (April) and Oregon's 150th birthday.

Governor Ted Kulongoski named Lawson Inada Oregon's fifth poet laureate in February 2006. The position had been vacant since 1989, following William Stafford's 15-year tenure. The restitution of Oregon's poet laureate program is a collaborative project of the state's five cultural partners, with funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust.

At the State Library, Inada will honor Oregon's rich and varied poetic tradition with "Poets Laureate & Poets of Oregon: Readings and Reflections." His commentary includes brief readings, discussion of the lives of the poets, and their creative perspectives on the cultural and historical landscape they experienced.

At the Salem Public Library, Inada will collaborate with Willamette University Professor Linda Tamura on the world premiere theatrical reading of *The Topaz Public Library*, based on Toyo Suyemoto's World War II experience as a Japanese-American internee at the Topaz Relocation Center in Utah. While there, she organized a lending and reference library for the community, taught high school English and Latin, and wrote poems that eventually were incorporated into her memoir, *I Call To Remember*. The library program is part of the Oregon 150 "Oregon Reads" project, *Stubborn Twig: Three Generations in a Japanese-American Family* by Lauren Kessler.

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Noon

Oregon State Library, Room 103

250 Winter St. NE, Salem

Admission: Free

7 PM

Salem Public Library, Loucks Auditorium

585 Liberty St. SE

Admission: Free