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Prairie Gate Literary Festival Welcomes Author Anne Panning

Summary: Morris will welcome author Anne Panning on Friday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the McGinnis Room of Briggs Library. Panning will read from her new novel, <em>Butter</em>.

(October 19, 2012)-The University of Minnesota, Morris will welcome author Anne Panning on Friday, November 2, at 7:30 p.m. in the McGinnis Room of the Rodney A. Briggs Library. Panning will read from her new novel, <em>Butter</em>. This event will also feature preview readings of works by authors attending February’s Prairie Gate Literary Festival. Light refreshments will be served, and all are welcome to attend.

Panning’s fiction has been described as warm and original by Publishers Weekly, intelligent and humorous by the Boston Globe, graceful and wry by Booklist, and infectious and enchanting by the New York Times. Her last collection of short stories, <em>Super America</em>, was a New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice.

Released in October by Switchgrass Books, Panning’s latest book is said to be her best work yet. Set against the backdrop of small-town Minnesota during the 1970s, <em>Butter</em> is a coming-of-age tale told from the perspective of eleven-year-old Iris as she learns that she is adopted. Passionate, lyrical, and disquieting, this intensely moving novel is a rich exploration of a crucial theme in American literature.

Panning’s other works include <em>Super America</em>, which won The Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, as well as <em>The Price of Eggs: Stories</em>. Four of her essays have received notable citation in The Best American Essays series. Panning teaches creative writing at State University of New York-Brockport.

The mission of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival is to provide unique opportunities to learn from and interact with published writers and professionals in the field of literary arts through such activities as readings, workshops, and panel discussions. Invited authors are chosen, in part, for the diversity of their backgrounds and styles and are hoped to appeal to a wide variety of audiences.

This activity is funded by Friends of the Prairie Gate Literary Festival, Briggs Library, Briggs Library Associates, the UMM English Discipline, Friends of the Morris Public Library, the International Programs Committee, the UMM Division of Humanities, the UMM Alumni Association, the Imagine Fund, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs.

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