

The Stroll Scroll

Published by the Stroll of Poets Society, 10523 - 100 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 0A8

March 1994

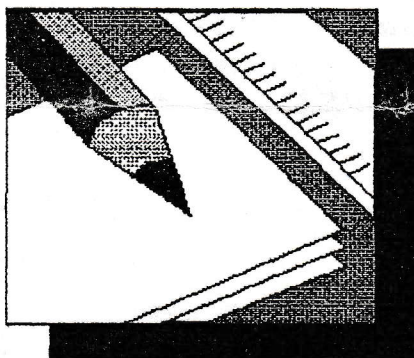
President's Message

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**March 26, 1994, 1:30 p.m.
at the First Baptist Church
10031 - 109 Street**

Year Three of our unique poetry corporation is coming to a close. Our society seems to be in good health, and poetry certainly seems to be alive in Edmonton, if the attendance at The 12 Days of Poetry is any indication. A total of 560: 400 over the first 11 days, and a record-setting 160 patrons at the 12th day revel of poetry, dance, music, and conviviality.

Please come to the AGM, take out a new membership, register for the 4th annual Stroll of Poets festival, and submit a poem and bio to the Stroll



Anthology. Since space may be limited in the festival, poets will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, starting at the AGM. (The enclosed Stroll brochure includes registration forms.)

Please come to the AGM and help determine the tone and substance of the upcoming year for the Stroll of Poets Society. There will be discussion of general plans, nominations for officers and directors, elections, coffee and treats and time for visiting. Everyone is welcome.

Many thanks are due to all the people responsible for The 12 Days of Poetry this year. Anna Mioduchowska, the coordinator; Doug Elves and Myrna Garanis,

mega volunteers; Jocko, 12th Day host; the nine community jurors; all the hosts; all the volunteers; the venue owners and workers; the 44 poets; Don McKay, guest poet; Debra Shantz, dancer of poems at the 12th day; Mary Howes, voice of danced poems; Thomas Trofimuk and Kathleen Henderson and their band. Poets in numbers got up and danced at the 12th Day, and proved unequivocally that poets can party. Thanks also go to our sponsors: Canada Council, The Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and The Edmonton Journal.

Please think about The 12 Days of Poetry and bring ideas and suggestions to the AGM. We would like to assess the desire of the membership to continue this reading series.

Ivan Sundal

THE VISION RETREAT

On February 5, 10 members of the board met for five hours of business, pot-luck feasting, and sharing of visions and concerns. At the end of the meeting everyone was asked to write down three proposals. Here are some of the more representative proposals.

It was proposed that:

- the Stroll develop links between poetry and other disciplines; we could develop performances using dance, music, sign language, visual art, etc.

- the Stroll schedule and organize workshops for poets throughout the year.



- every executive member have a list of responsibilities.

- the board members who volunteer to form committees involve some people from outside the board.

- the executive offer a lecture/workshop describing its work, to help members know if they want to become involved.

- every member be encouraged to promote the Stroll. [We may have to cut back on our publicity budget.]

- the Stroll be held in October as before, and that it be the core activity of the society, along with the anthology.

In Summary: the board was enthusiastic about all our creative events, but had concerns about spreading the work out.

THE STROLL OF POETS OUTREACH

On February 12, twenty-some poets met at WordWorks for a four-hour workshop on giving a poetry workshop. Ideas positively hummed in every cubic inch of the sloped-ceiling boardroom.

Glen Kirkland led us through the stages of a generic poetry workshop, and Alice Major led us through work-and-discussion sessions regarding our individual outreach workshops. Several rounds of applause went up for our professional, experienced workshop leaders.

In March, 28 poets, in pairs, will make two visits to quite a variety of groups and places:

Moira Izaat

Russell Johnston

Start House
(Youth Emergency Shelter)

Myrna Garanis
Anna Mioduchowska

Changing Together
(for immigrant women)

Isabel Miller
Louis Munan

The Waterford of
Summerlea
(retirement home)

Sandra Mooney Ellerbeck
Meredith MacInnis

St. Albert Alliance
(Adventure in Words Workshop, with youth)

Anna Marie Sewell
Marilyn Dumont

Metis Child and
Family Services
(Metis junior high students)

Ken Wilson
Ivan Sundal

The Learning
Centre Literacy Association
(adult literacy class)

Gerry Hill
Theresa Shea

CBC Edmonton PM
(on air, then with respondents)

Rebecca Luce Kapler
Susan Walsh

Community Services, St.
Albert (with adolescent girls)

TDL Turner
Ah Mui Cheong

Sprucewood Public
Library (interested writers in
the community)

Stephen Humphrey

Gary Lee

Strathcona Books (new
writers)

Shirley A. Serviss

Mary MacDonald

Garneau United Church
(women's issues group)

Gail Sidonie Sobat

Carolyn Pogue

Canturbury Court and
Manor (seniors)

Alice Major

Doug Elves

Space and Sciences
Centre (arts and sciences
volunteers)

Frances Bernard

James Thurgood

CNIB (blind people)

If you know of people who
would like to be participants in
any of the above outreach
workshops, you could phone
the pertinent poets or Ivan (421-
0227) or Anna Marie
(434-2711).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMING ATTRACTIONS

There are places still available
at the WRITERS GUILD
SPRING RETREAT at Black
Cat Ranch, March 16-20. For
information call WGA, 426-
5892.

ALBERTA BOOK FAIR At

the Convention Centre, March
20, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Stroll
of Poets, as a member of
WordWorks, will have an
information/registration bro-
chure available at the
WordWorks booth. Pick up a
spare for your friends! Copies
of the Stroll Anthology should
be available from several of the
participating booksellers.

VI'S FOR PIES reading series,
13408 Stony Plain Road, the
last Sunday of every month, 4-6
p.m. Poetry, fiction, non-
fiction. If you are interested in
reading, please contact the
CWA office, 424-0287. (Not
restricted to women.)

LATTE CAFFE reading series,
every Thursday evening at 8
p.m. Four featured readers,
followed by Open Stage. Last
Thursday of every month is
SWEATSHOP LIVE night.
Entry fee \$4, cash prizes. Feb.
24 saw Phil Jagger emerge
victorious from a fierce race
among seven poets at the first
Sweatshop, hosted by Jocko.
To get involved in Poetry Live,
call Candace Bamber at 435 -
4360.

SUBMISSIONS SOUGHT
from prairie authors for an
anthology, *Our Fathers*. Poems
or short prose pieces about your
father, 1 to 5 pages. Quality
will be the main selection
criterion. Open to sons and
daughters (all others disquali-
fied). Please include a
photocopy of an available

photograph of your father, and
a biographical sketch, perhaps
with observations, of your
father (100 words). Contribu-
tors will be paid \$150 if
sufficient grant funds are ob-
tained. **Deadline: May 31st.**
Send, with SASE, to Ivan
Sundal, 11309 - 102 Ave.,
Edmonton, T5K 0P6.

THE MAY STUDIO

The Stroll is proud to
sponsor a May series of work-
shops and reading with Don
McKay and Jan Zwicky.

Many poets have ex-
pressed the desire to gain from
the expertise of Jan and Don
before they leave Edmonton at
the end of Don's term as Poet in
Residence at the U of A. The
problem is that their departure
will be upon us before most of
us get around to looking into
speaking to him. (Or to Jan,
whose experience in the field is
also impressive.) Besides:
even if we don't get around to
picking their brains, we would
like to hear them recite once
more and to say farewell before
they leave.

The solution? Sign up for
The May Studio, a two-part
workshop with Don and Jan.

The dates are:

Wednesday, May 18 and
Saturday, May 21 The Satur-
day session will be followed
later the same evening by a
reading given by both poets

... continued

and a sendoff in relaxed surroundings.

The details of location and exact nature of the evening celebration are presently being determined, but will be announced at the Stroll Annual General Meeting on March 26.

The Workshop

The purpose of this two-part workshop is to enhance our craft by learning to edit the work of others. During the first session on Wednesday evening, Don and Jan will present techniques for editing and revising. They will assist participants in learning to identify characteristics of voice and style in the work of other poets, and suggest helpful exercises and readings. At least one poem from each participant will be discussed.

Between Wednesday and Saturday, participants will edit the poems submitted by other members of their workshop, in order to present their comments at the Saturday sessions. During the workshops on Saturday, the remaining poems from all participants will be considered by the group as a whole. Emphasis will be placed on the development of editing, as well as writing, skills. At the conclusion of Saturday's workshop, Zwicky and McKay will return all work submitted, with editing suggestions.

Registration will not be complete without the submission of 4 to 6 poems each of

one or two pages in length, no more than 6 pages in total. All poems should be typed clearly for photocopying and distribution

Participants should note that all poems submitted will be considered work-in-progress for the purpose of the workshop. (Do not submit work which you consider "untouchable.") Published work is acceptable as long as the author is willing to consider revision.

The enrolment of The May Studio is set at no more than 20 participants, so make sure that you submit your registration and poems well before the May 6 deadline.

To Register:

The deadline for registration and submissions is May 6 (but try to register earlier -- first-come, first-served to a maximum of 20). The workshops are on May 18 from 7 to 10 p.m. and May 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Submit 4 to 6 poems and enclose the fee of \$25 to the May Studio, Stroll of Poets Society, 10523 - 100 Ave., Edmonton T5J 0A8

General funding for Stroll programs has been received from both the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and Canada Council Explorations. We thank the Canada Council for special funding for the readings by Don McKay and Jan Zwicky.

Stroll of Poets Membership

The annual membership fee is five dollars. Members are entitled to perform in the Stroll of Poets if they so wish, for which they receive a free copy of the Stroll Anthology and a small performance fee. Members also receive The Stroll Scroll newsletter.

Membership is valid until the 1995 Annual General Meeting. The \$5 payment can be made either directly at the Annual General Meeting or by mail.

Name _____

Address _____

Postal Code _____

Telephone _____

Date _____

**The first annual
Calgary Stroll of
Poets takes place
June 5, 1994.**

**More information
at the AGM. Find
out how you can
take part!**