

# The Stroll Scroll

## a message from the prez

Hi everybody. This is the last *Scroll* before the Stroll on September 24, so PLEASE read it carefully! There are some changes this year to the "usual" methods, so it's important to check out the "new rules" Two key changes: The hosts for this year's event are all people who have never hosted before. In some cases, they are new strollers. That means that we are asking experienced Strollers to help out by providing whatever encouragement the host might need. Second, remember to bring your poem for the Anthology to the readings and give it to your host. If you don't bring it on the day of the Stroll, your poem will NOT appear in the Anthology.

The rough schedule is included in this newsletter. As you can see, we have 10 venues and a full schedule, and as usual, the "overflow" open stage. This year the open stage will take place at Café Soleil. This is going to be a great day and I'm really looking forward to participating, as well as listening to all the great talent we have here in Edmonton.

You may have noticed a new look to the newsletter - a new logo. The board is really excited about the new look and what it represents to us as a society and as poets. Many thanks to Evita McConnell, of Evita McConnell Graphics Inc., who has put together an entire package for us - logo, poster, anthology, ads, etc. And, while in this process, we discovered that she writes poetry! So Evita will be reading with us on September 24!

Now on to a subject that is much more difficult for me to write about. At the last board meeting (August 16), I regretfully submitted a letter of resignation as President of the Society to the Board of Directors. Things have happened very quickly, and the upshot is that I'm relocated to Burlington, Ontario as of August 24. So by the time you read this, I will have already moved. There are many, many people in this organization I would have liked to say goodbye to in person. Please accept my apologies. This move came so suddenly it was all I could do to tie up a few loose ends and get packed. I will however be in town for the Stroll on the 24th, and expect to talk to everybody then.

Leaving Edmonton and leaving the Society is more difficult than I expected. The people in this organization have come to mean more to me than I can say. I was absolutely stunned by the talent and commitment (and sheer number!) of poets here in the city when I first became involved with the Stroll. Having gotten to know



## STROLL OF POETS

everybody, at least a little, I can say that as I am leaving, I'm equally stunned by the warmth, respect, and simple liking I feel for so many very diverse individuals. Surely, I will miss this community and my place in it.

One of the things that struck me when I first became society "figurehead" was the warm and enthusiastic welcome I received by both the board and the membership. I hope everyone will join me in extending this welcome to the recently appointed Acting President, Jocelyne Verret. Jocelyne is a poet, playwright and prose writer who composes and publishes in both French and English, and who's calm competence and exceptional organizational abilities will be of great benefit to the Stroll of Poets. She's friendly, outgoing, and articulate, and I can't think of anyone who would make a better spokesperson and ambassador for our society. Leaving is much easier for me knowing my role will be so well filled.

I hope you will also join me in a moment of appreciation for your Board of Directors. These folks are tireless. It's a tremendous amount of

work to put on our programming through the year: Stroll, 12 Days, Reading Series, Writer's Circles, Workshops, Outreach, special performances and events, newsletter, and anthology, plus conduct the business of the society under increasing financial pressure. These are a great bunch of people with too many good qualities to list. When I became prez, I quickly realized that I would NEVER have to worry about the work getting done - the society's leadership is incredibly competent and committed, and certainly didn't need me to tell them what to do! What surprised me the most is that, although very diverse in background, attitudes, and artistic sensibility we manage to work together so well and to so much benefit. And best of all, they became friends. I'm going to miss them terribly.

Two, last, short points before I close: The first is that I will continue to edit the newsletter until the AGM in March unless someone steps forward who wants to do it. Although I would appreciate the opportunity to stay in touch, it would be much easier for everyone for the *Scroll* to be produced in Edmonton. This brings me to the second point, staying in touch. I answer ALL mail - I'm good that way. I hope people will feel free to write, and that you'll look me up if you're in the Toronto area. My new address is:

Candace Bamber  
276 Alexander Court  
Burlington, ON  
L7R 4G1  
phone 905-333-4905

So everyone, it's been great! See you on Stroll Day. ❖

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## The Stroll of Poets Society

The Stroll of Poets Society is a registered non-profit corporation. It was founded in 1991, following the first Stroll of Poets festival. Our main goal is raise the stature of poetry in the community. To that end, we stage two major poetry events in Edmonton each year - the Stroll of Poets Festival in the fall, and the 12 Days of Poetry in December and January. We also organize reading series and workshops throughout the year, and publish an anthology of members' poetry.

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## The Stroll Scroll

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**SUBMISSIONS:** The Scroll prints unsolicited announcements and events, reviews, letters to the editor, poems (members only), opinion pieces, writing tips and profiles of poetry societies. Send submissions to:

Newsletter Submissions

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## a message from the acting prez

by Jocelyne Verret

By now, many of you will already have learned that Candace Bamber, our erstwhile president, has returned to Ontario. I will be filling her mandate as president until the next annual general meeting, sometime next spring. Filling her shoes will be another matter. As a new member of the Board, I will cheerfully rely on the expertise and experience of other board members who have so generously entrusted me with the stewardship of the great happening that is the Stroll of Poets Society of Edmonton.

On behalf of the Stroll, the first thing I would like to do is to offer the warmest possible thanks to Candace for a job extremely well done. Under her keen stewardship, the Stroll of Poets Society of Edmonton has grown by leaps and bounds, in numbers, in activities, and in visibility. We are going to miss her sharp and open mind, infectious laughter, innovative spirit, and generous heart, not to mention the gazillion hours she spends on *The Stroll Scroll*.

I am one of the many Maratimers who have made Alberta their home. Born in Québec City, but raised in New Brunswick, I lived in Africa for three years before wending my way to Alberta nearly 19 years ago. I am now happy to call Alberta home. As befits my Québécois/Acadian/Maratimer background, I learned our country's two official languages at a very tender age, a fact for which I am very grateful since I now write and publish in both French and English.

As I complete Candace's mandate, I will concentrate on the activities that The Stroll of Poets Society of Edmonton has already undertaken, and will coordinate our participation in the "Feel the Spirit" portion of the World Figure Skating championships to be held in our city in March of 1996. More details to follow in our next newsletter.

I work from my home, am writing a series of plays for students of French Immersion for Les Éditions Guérin, give workshops, and am completing a video as well as a Master's Program in creative writing, so if I do not answer when you call me at 432-0991, please leave a brief message and I

will be happy to return your call as soon as I am free. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the Stroll Brunch on September 24th. - Jocelyne❖

## a message from the stroll festival coordinator

by Paul Pearson

Hello everybody! How are you doing? I hope you're all excited about the fifth Stroll of Poets festival. I sure am. It's only a few short weeks away, and since this is the last newsletter before the Stroll, I just want to say "hi!". Well, okay, I'll be honest, I also want to stir up some excitement.

This is going to be a very nifty festival. We've got a couple of new venues this year that are going to be great places to read. No, I'm not going to tell you what they are yet, it's a surprise. Graphic designer Evita McConnell is giving us an image make-over and let me tell you, our posters kick butt this year! Evita also joined the Stroll, and will be reading, perhaps in your group. So if you see her, say hi. Another nifty thing this year is having ALL NEW hosts. We are going to hear a lot of new voices! The brunch and bar are back at the Legion this year, with a surprise host for the sweatshop and Di Brandt reading at the brunch. I can hardly wait!

The biggest change this year is the Anthology and how we're doing it. By having you submit your poem at the festival itself (with your name on the back), we're hoping to make the Anthology more of a transcript of the Stroll itself than it has been in previous years.

All this information, and more, is in this newsletter, so please read it carefully; especially the host instructions and anthology submissions guidelines. Even if you are not a host, we'd still like you to read the host stuff. It's important the everybody know what's supposed to be going on. I'm looking forward to meeting you on Sunday, September 24th and if you have any questions before then, don't hesitate to call me at home (438-3992)

One last thing before I go, something I've left to the end because I don't want to do it. I don't want to say good-bye. But if I must, I'll make it short. Good-bye Candace, and good luck. You will be sorely missed. I'm glad you're coming back for the Stroll.❖



## two poems

by Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck

**Fertile Poetry**

I heard  
 It's absurd to  
 work with words -  
 no one gets rich writing poetry  
 and very few survive on verse  
 alone  
 but I can't help being fertile -  
 producing seeds -  
 giving birth to  
 poems out of love -  
 I can't abort them  
 can't give them up  
 for adoption  
 can't even leave them orphans -  
 they are my life support  
 and have the chance  
 to be  
 suspenders for  
 others -  
 And when they grow up  
 who knows  
 what they may do  
 where they may go  
 what they may  
 conquer or challenge -  
 they may even give birth to one  
 of their own.

**Grains of Character**

As I sift through  
 past moments  
 many grains of character  
 can be found:  
 Some with rough edges  
 needing to be refined  
 Some soft easy to  
 crumble  
 Some like nuggets reflecting in  
 the sun  
 Some rained on  
 mucky  
 Past moments are not like hand  
 prints on a wall -  
 they are an imprint of moments  
 lived  
 and each grain of character  
 sifts into the mould  
 of my  
 being.

❖

## the way i write

by Jacques Benoit

One piece of advice I have noticed turning  
 up in interviews with poets is that poets  
 must lose themselves in what they are  
 writing and go where the writing takes  
 them. To follow the emotions and the  
 inspiration of the moment to an unexpected  
 conclusion. To leave ideas and arguments  
 and conflicts up in the air. Poetry is often a  
 scattering of who we most often like to  
 pretend to be. When I write I try to throw  
 who I am to the wind and see where I land.  
 But combine this tendency with my belief

that poetry is like baseball- you're only as  
 good as your last poem- and writing poetry  
 is really deeply unsettling. I have nothing  
 but respect for poets who can go from one  
 poem to the next just like that, without ever  
 pausing to take a breath or go quietly insane.

To give myself a reason to go on living, I  
 have to take these isolated moments of  
 perfectly clear ambiguity and put them in a  
 larger context- a collection or series of  
 poems. Each poem suddenly becomes one  
 face or side of a larger subject. This compul-  
 sion of mine fulfils the part of me that needs  
 to create some order out of the self-imposed  
 chaos individual poems. And it's a very  
 handy way to come back again and again to  
 a theme or emotion or subject or place or  
 relationship and see yet another layer or  
 level that I didn't see before.

I remember seeing Lorna Crozier reading  
 from her series of poems, "The Garden  
 Going On Without Us", a series of poems  
 about the sex lives of common garden  
 vegetables. She said that she was extremely  
 happy about coming up with the idea for the  
 series because that meant she could just  
 write to add poems to the series rather than  
 having to come up with any new original  
 ideas for awhile. I suppose I write a bit like  
 that because once I come up with an idea for  
 a longer series after having written a few  
 poems that create the initial connections, I  
 'direct' my thinking- that normal between-  
 activities thinking that poets are supposed to  
 be doing twenty-four hours a day- towards  
 that subject or theme. Mind you, I keep a  
 handful of collections going at any one time  
 so that any idea I can possibly come up with  
 almost naturally fits into something I'm  
 working on. I still write a number of poems  
 I have no idea what to do with, but I put  
 them aside in the hope that someday they'll  
 help inspire a new idea for a collection. It

really is an obsessive thing with me.

One recent collection, for example, is about  
 an obsession of mine- the illuminati and the  
 world of conspiracies. We can all name out  
 favourite conspiracy theories or the various  
 THEMES who are behind every single  
 problem in the world, but as I began writing  
 about these ancient and/or world-wide  
 organizations I started noticing the smaller  
 conspiracies around me everyday- normal  
 workings in normal human relationships  
 that we would never consider conspiratorial.  
 Then I started wondering about the nature of  
 conspiracies. How do they start? Are they  
 more imagined than real? What about those  
 times when I've 'conspired' against a friend  
 who my other friends just didn't want to  
 have around? Are these conscious acts or  
 glaring omissions of basic human decency  
 and understanding? That's where the  
 collection stands now- all over the place, but  
 bit by bit leading to one final basic sugges-  
 tion about the necessity of never seeing  
 anybody as part of a THEM (even though I  
 still do exactly that all the time).

No matter how many times I throw myself  
 into other characters or even write in the  
 voice of a character who is a near clone of  
 myself, I have to find some meaning from it  
 all, and creating larger collections does that.  
 It is an act of gathering after the original  
 scattering that began the individual poems. I  
 think I'm compelled to do it because I'm not  
 capable of living in the perpetual storm of  
 the emotions and I need to feel poetry is an  
 act of both the heart and the intellect. To me  
 poetry is a matter of rejecting old terms and  
 coming to new ones. It's a matter of using  
 question marks as the main building blocks  
 of an odd but nonetheless structured  
 imagination that not even the builders  
 imagined would ever stand. ❖

You are invited to attend the launch of

Madame Bull's Tavern

on

September 14 at 7 pm

at the

**Black Dog Free House**

**10425 Whyte Ave.**

Featuring readings by

**Alice Major**

**Anna Mioduchowska**

**Ken Wilson**

**Niel Scotten**



# IMPORTANT STROLL INFORMATION!

## READ THIS!!!

### first time strollers

If this is your first Stroll, or even your first ever poetry reading, take heart. Although it may look complicated, strolling is really easy.

First of all, your host should call you - but may not. If they do, they'll confirm everything - the names of the people in your group, your times and your venues. If your host doesn't call, SHOW UP ANYWAY. Go to your venue about 5-10 minutes before the time shown on the schedule. Your group will be there. You'll be able to recognize them by the raft of poems they're nervously clutching.

#### Bring with you:

- your poems to read
- your poem for the anthology
- a short bio on a card that you can give to the host so he or she can introduce you.

Think seriously about coming to the brunch - it's only \$8 advance \$10 at the door. You get to hear Di Brandt, you fortify yourself with food before you hit the streets, and if you're bold enough to ask somebody who seems to know what's going on if they recognize any members of your group in the crowd, you can introduce yourself, and then you'll even know somebody before you get started.

#### When you read:

- **remember to breath.** If you get a bit breathless when you're nervous, mark your breaths on your poems.
- **read slowly.** The shorter the poem, the more slowly you should read it. Remember it takes the audience a moment to get with you.
- **pronounce your words distinctly,** especially the final consonants. It might sound funny to you, but your audience will appreciate being able to understand every word.
- **look at people** in the audience. Make eye contact.
- **remember the audience is NOT your enemy.** They are there because they want to enjoy hearing your poems, not

because they want to heckle you, or have a bad time.

- **try to relax and have a good time!** This is supposed to be fun.

### stroll hosts

#### Hosts with the Most - Notes to the unwary and terrified

Relax — it'll all be over before you know it.

For those of you who have never hosted before, a few words are in order: do not panic. This is actually very easy and you may find the ham in you emerging. Control it. With great power comes great responsibility. Here are your duties in brief:

Contact each member of your group in advance of the Stroll to confirm the times and places, discuss introductions and to become acquainted with any special plans the poet may have for his/her performance. Be sure to remind each poet of the five-minute time limit.

Pick up the honoraria and signature sheet from Doug Elves at the Brunch. When you meet your group at your first venue, give each poet their \$10 and ask them to sign the sheet. The sheets should be returned to Doug at the No Bards Barred Bar.

Collect one Anthology poem from each poet in your group. Check the back of each poem to ensure the poet has written their name on the poem. The poems should be given to Paul Pearson, the Stroll Co-ordinator, at the No Bards Barred Bar.

At each venue, the host asks the staff where to set up the reading space. In cafes, bistros and pubs, special arrangements may need to be struck with the staff to minimize noise during the readings. Try to give a "five-minute warning" to the audience so they can place orders, and so the staff can finish off whatever they're doing with the cappuccino machine before the readings start. Make every effort to co-operate with the staff at your venues so that the people who come to hear and the

poets each have an enjoyable experience.

The host introduces each poet, thanks the venue and staff, and our sponsors, and announces the No Bards Barred Bar.

Last, but not least, remember to relax and swing with the spirit of the event. You are Strollers as well as hosts — don't make an effort that robs you of your own good time.

Any questions?

Call Andrew at 429-5616. ♦

### anthology

## submissions

This year, the Anthology will be put together a little differently than it has been in previous years. Instead of being published BEFORE the Stroll, it will be published after. Please read these submission guidelines carefully! To submit your poem to *Stroll of Poets: The Anthology, 1995*:

- Type your poem on one side only of standard letter-sized paper (8 1/2 x 11 inch) Do NOT type your name on the front of your poem.
- On the BACK of your poem, type your name, current address and a bio. The maximum length for bios is 75 words.
- The maximum length for poems is 28 lines in length, 65 characters wide.
- Poems that do not follow these guidelines will NOT be accepted.
- Submit your poem to your host, or give it to Paul Pearson at the No Bards Barred Bar.

September 24, Stroll Day, is the ONLY day on which submissions to the Anthology will be accepted. Only poets who perform in the stroll are eligible to submit a poem to the Anthology. All poets who DO perform in the stroll are expected and encouraged to submit a poem. ♦



## Di Brandt to read at stroll brunch

by Ivan Sundal and Candace Bamber

The Stroll of Poets Society is very pleased to present poet, and U of A Writer-in-Residence Di Brandt as our featured reader at the Stroll of Poets Brunch on September 24.

Di has published four books of poetry, including her newly released *Jerusalem, beloved* (Turnstone, 1995) and a book of literary criticism. In 1990, Di received the McNally Robinson Prize for Manitoba Book of the Year for *Agnes in the sky*, 1990. In 1987, *questions i asked my mother* won the Gerald Lampert Award and was short-listed for the Governor General's Award and the Dillons Commonwealth Poetry Prize. *mother, not mother* was also short-listed for the Pat Lowther Award in 1992 and *Wild Mother Dancing* (literary criticism) for the McNally Robinson Award for Manitoba Book of the Year in 1993.

Di Brandt is an editor as well - co-editor of *Contemporary Verse 2* from 1985-88, fiction editor of *HERizons* from 1985-86 and poetry editor of *Prairie Fire* from 1989-1993.



Di's term as Writer-in-Residence begins in early September. Poets who would like to discuss their work with her may obtain further information by calling the Department of English at 492-3258. Di says that she sees her role as giving permission, support and affirmation to those who are writing, as well as editorial feedback and advice about how and where to publish.

So we hope everyone will join us in

welcoming Di to Edmonton, and will come out to hear her read at the brunch on September 24. ❖

## who's who anyway?

by Candace Bamber

**Isabel Miller (1908-1995).** This is so difficult - I've started this paragraph five or six times - perhaps to be blunt - the Stroll of Poets Society has lost a member who will be remembered with affection and respect by all who knew her. Isabel Miller died on June 12, at the age of 87.

Yes, 87! Who would have known. People



who are 87 aren't supposed to be energetic and active in the community and in the arts. They aren't supposed to be focused on the future. They aren't supposed to make you wish you could keep up with them. They're supposed to be OLD. But Isabel wasn't.

Isabel is a long-time Edmonton resident who was born in Carmen Manitoba. After completing Bachelor's degrees in Arts and in Education, Isabel taught first in rural Saskatchewan before teaching with the Edmonton Public School Board until her retirement in 1974. Upon retirement, she worked as a substitute teacher and served as President of the Edmonton Substitute Teachers Association.

Isabel participated on the arts through her poetry, prose, journalism and playwriting, and through song as a member of the Strathcona Sunshine singers. Keenly interested in the Seniors

experience, she examined the subject in a Senior's column for *The Edmonton Journal*, on Cable TV producing *Sage and Time* and as a commentator for the *Alberta Seniors' Games* and most recently in her play, *The Ladies are Sleeping*.

The Stroll of Poets Society is going to miss Isabel for her ideas, as well as for her simple presence and the richness her poetry brought to our gatherings. We are also going to miss her ideas. Whenever I published a newsletter exhorting suggesting suggestions for how something should be handled, the phone would ring, and sure enough, it would be Isabel, with yet another constructive idea for fund raising, streamlining activities, improving a reading series or event. Although I could never convince Isabel to join the board (because had too much else to do), her influence is nevertheless felt in many of our activities, and she will be greatly missed. ❖

## STROLL OF POETS BRUNCH

at the

**Strathcona Legion**

**Sunday September 24, 1995**

**at 11 am**

featuring

**Poet**

**and U of A Writer-in-Residence**

**Di Brandt**

**Advance tickets (\$8) available at**

**The Gramophone**

**The Strathcona Legion**

**or at the door (\$10)**



## reviews

### by Andrew Thompson

Robert Bringhurst *The Calling : Selected Poems 1970-1995* (McClelland & Stewart, 1995)

So, is my first thought, another accumulation of selected poems. Gee, it scarcely seems like thirteen years since the last one and, since that last one was *The Beauty of the Weapons* (a book that was powerfully resonant with images drawn from human history around the world), my first question has to be 'why?' This is not easily answered since so much of this collection replays the earlier selected. So what are you getting in this book that you might not otherwise have? Other than the relentless 'thinkering' that Bringhurst seems driven to do, there are the new and challenging *New World Suite No. 3*, *The Blue Roofs of Japan*, and *Lyell Island Variations*. All of these selected live up to the premise I have always had that the selected poems of any poet should represent a healthy 'letting go' for the poet of past achievements - marking a boundary, if you will, between periods of evolution. Bringhurst has, however, in this collection, teased the best parts of his reactions to life and experience to give all of us the fruits of that experience. His voice is sharp and simple, betraying no frailty but exposing with a scalpel the truths he has seen in common speech. I found particularly engrossing his *New World Suite* in this collection, since it closely parallels an endeavour of my own, but the richness in this volume is also evoked by the material from the earlier collection. (I may be cynical in this, but I suspect that part of reason for publishing this volume is that the earlier one has gone out of print — this a great shame since poems like "Bone Flute Breathing", "The Stonecutter's Horses", and "Deuteronomy" (among others) are powerful and reward every re-reading) There are few poets writing today with the passionate intensity, spare use of language and insight to rival Bringhurst. Of course, I recommend this book highly for, if the essence of communication is to make certain that what one speaker says is accurately interpreted by the listener, then Bringhurst's work is the essence of communication.

\*\*\*

Helen Potrebenco *Walking Slow* (Lazara Publications, 1985) *Life, Love and Unions* (Lazara Publications, 1987)

Poets who do not make themselves a

necessary part of the scholarly and book-publishing world seem to spend much their lives publishing in small presses and not being widely heard. One of these seems to be Helen Potrebenco, who writes about ordinary life and ordinary working people. Those who read Tom Wayman and believe in his dream of including the world of work in the poet's sphere of awareness would do well to read Helen since her work epitomizes this inclusiveness. Her lines are well-formed and sparkle with a humour and anger that are accessible and touching. We would, I suspect, benefit from reading a writer who does not revere too many sacred cows and is as capable of skewering as she is of enlightening. Her facility with language aside, the questions asked by most readers are, 'does she have anything worthwhile to say?' and 'is this worth my time?' Happily I can definitely say 'yes!' Helen's roots in the oral tradition enhance her accessibility but her interests in the labour movement and women's rights give her poems a strong sucker punch. Social issues may not be 'top 40' poem material for many these days but this is her strength and drives her work. Try this one: I can't stand books about people who don't pay rent — you know what I mean? Those books where people just carry on and never once do they pay on a mortgage or pay rent — you know what I mean? Then there's books where people don't eat. Movies, too. They have this earnest or dramatic or some such conversation over dinner which furthers the plot line but they don't eat. You know what I mean? ...

Do pick up Helen Potrebenco's work. The labour unions will thank you and perhaps you will see another perspective on life in this country and in our time ♦.

## writers circles schedule

Drop in at the Idylwyld Library for  
writer's circles:

**Tuesdays** (7-9 pm): September 5, November 7 and December 5.

**Thursdays** (7-9 pm) September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 14.

**Saturdays** (1:30-3:30 pm) August 26, September 30, October 28, November 25, December 16. ♦

## wanted: coordinators

### 12 Days of Poetry

The 12 Days of Poetry is a 12-day reading series and celebration, featuring 44 poets chosen by community jury and culminating in the 12th Day - where the five readers who receive the most ballots read. After the readings (and other entertainment) the evening is rounded off with a dance party and general silliness.

As the Coordinator you will:

- contact the poets & schedule the readings
- find venues and hosts for each reading
- coordinate publicity
- arrange festivities including venue, host, music, bar, ticket sales, special guest(s)
- tally votes and contact the 5 12th-Day readers
- delegate jobs to volunteers
- organize and chair a debriefing session
- write a concluding report

### 12 Days Jury Co-ordinator

I wonder whether there's a JURY COORDINATOR out there anywhere? The jury coordinator:

- contacts and invites the 12-day to participate in the selection process for the 12-Days.
- arranges to have blind copies of the poems made and distributes them to the jury members, along with instructions.
- arranges to pick up/collect the poems and the votes from the jurists.
- writes thank-you letters to each jurist on behalf of the society.

If you would like to be Jury Coordinator, or if you would like more information about the job, call Paul Pearson. ♦

To apply: FIRST CALL DOUG OR JOCELYNE, then submit a one page letter stating why you want the job, why you think you can do it, and your vision or goals for the job to Doug Elves, Chair, Coordinator Selection Subcommittee, c/o The Stroll of Poets Society, Box 35082, Oliver Postal Outlet, Edmonton, AB, T5K 2R8

\*\*\*\*honoraria available (pending funding approval)\*\*\*\*



# scenes and 'zines

## The Isabel Miller Award

This award is to be held annually in recognition of Isabel Miller (1908-1995), longtime member of and participant in Celebration of Women in the Arts. Isabel was an active writer until her death at 87; she was involved in many of CWA's literary and dramatic events. In 1993, she wrote of herself: "[I have] picked scarlet strawberries and purple saskatoon berries along riverbanks, and [have] never ceased to be amazed at the world's beauty.... [I hope] to capture in words some of the wonder of this world."<sup>1</sup> It is our wish that this award reflect the spirit and evoke the memory of Isabel Miller.

The First Annual Isabel Miller Award 1995

First Prize: \$300

Second Prize: \$200

Third Prize: \$100

We invite you to submit poetry (max 1500 words) or fiction (max. 3000 words) on the following theme:

"The world is a very strange place and the dice are always rolling."

(Tom Robbins, Skinny Legs and All)<sup>2</sup>

Rules:

1. Entrance fee is waived for members of Celebration of Women in the Arts; non-members \$20.00 (which entitles you to a one year membership and receipt of our newsletter, Celebrate!)
2. Submissions previously published or accepted for publication elsewhere cannot be considered.
3. Entrant anonymity is preserved throughout the judging. Your name, address, telephone number, entry title, category and word count should appear on your title page only.
4. Entries must be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2" by 11" paper, clipped but not stapled.
5. Manuscripts will not be returned, but if you wish to be notified by mail of the results, please enclose a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage.

Deadline: Submissions for the First Annual Isabel Miller Award (1995) must be postmarked no later than October 31, 1995.

Address your entry to:

The Isabel Miller Award,  
Celebration of Women in the Arts  
#905, 10136-100 Street,  
Edmonton, AB, T5J 0P1  
Tel. (403) 487-1582

Please make cheque or money order payable to Celebration of Women in the Arts.

<sup>1</sup>Isabel Miller. *Stroll of Poets: the Anthology*, Ed. Peter J. Cole. Edmonton: The Stroll of Poets Society, 1993. 70.

<sup>2</sup>qtd in Isabel Miller. *Stroll of Poets: the Anthology*.

## Dress Code [Clothing]:

the Inside Story

*The Fiddlehead's*

1995 Writing Contest

Poems and short stories in which an item of clothing, or clothes generally play an important part.

\$300 for best poem (+ publication)

\$300 for best short story (+ publication)

**Submissions:** 10 pages maximum. Please type name and address on a separate sheet.

**Deadline:** December 15, 1995

**Judgment:** Blind, by writers with impeccable sartorial style (including underwear and toques)

**Entry Fee:** \$18, includes a year's subscription to *The Fiddlehead*.

Send entry, fee and SASE to:

Dress Code  
The Fiddlehead  
UNB PO Box 4400  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3

## Vanishing Breeds

*The Amethyst Review's*

4th Annual Writing contest

Poems and Short Stories about Vanishing Breeds: rain forest species, east coast fishermen, honest politicians, workers being replaced by technology, whales, blues musicians, etc. Interpret the theme as you wish.

**Entries** must be original, unpublished work not currently being considered elsewhere. Type on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. The writer's name must not appear on the manuscript. Use a pseudonym on a cover letter along with the author's real name. The pseudonym should appear on each page of the manuscript.

**Categories:** Fiction (to 5000 words) Poetry

(to 200 lines per poem)

**Entry Fee:** \$12 Canadian (\$14 US, \$24 International) includes a one-year subscription. Cheques or money order should be made payable to: THE AMETHYST REVIEW or Marcasite Press. An entry is one short story or up to five poems per fee.

Entries should be post-marked no later than January 31. Only manuscripts with SASE will be returned.

Winners will be announced May 1996.

**Winning entries** and runners up will be published in *The Amethyst Review* in May, 1996. \$50 first prize for each category.

Honourable mention for the first two runners up. Entries will be judged by THE AMETHYST REVIEW editorial board.

**Send entries to:**

THE AMETHYST REVIEW  
23 Riverside Ave.  
Truro NS B2N 4G2

*The Amethyst Review* publishes semi-annually. Submissions are accepted all year. Deadlines are January 31 for the May '96 issue, and August 31 for the November '96 issue. *The Amethyst Review* is a bound publication containing quality contemporary poetry, prose and black ink art. Subscriptions are \$12 per year (\$14 US and \$24 International).

## Contest

### WHISKEY ISLAND

Cleveland State University's Literary Magazine, is hosting a contest for poetry and fiction. In each category there is a \$300 first prize, \$200 second prize, and \$100 third prize, as well as publication in Whiskey Island's prize issue, Summer 1996.

**Submissions:** Poetry: up to ten pages, single, double, or one and a half spaced. Fiction: 600 to 6,000 words, double spaced.

**Entry Fee:** \$US10 money order or check (American banks only) per story or collection of poems. Multiple entries will be accepted with an additional \$10 fee for each additional story or collection of poems. Publication date is scheduled for June of 1996. Make checks payable to *Whiskey Island*.

**Deadline:** Postmarked no later than January 31, 1996.

**Notification:** Winners will be notified by May 30, 1996.

**Other Rules:** All entries must be original



and not previously published or simultaneously submitted elsewhere. Submissions must be clearly typed with a good dark ribbon (printouts and photocopies are acceptable, if readable). The author's name, address, phone number, and fax or email address should appear on a cover sheet only. Please include a brief bio. If possible, enclose 3.5" disk with your work in ASCII format. *Whiskey Island* receives first publication rights to winning entries; subsequent rights revert to the author. *Whiskey Island* staff and family members are ineligible. Decision of the judges is final. Please keep a copy of your manuscript because no entries will be returned.

Send entries to:

Whiskey Island Prize  
WHISKEY ISLAND MAGAZINE  
University Center  
Cleveland State University  
2121 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Questions? email  
aa751@cleveland.freenet.edu or call  
(216) 687-2056

### CBC & SATURDAY NIGHT MAGAZINE,

CBC and Saturday Night magazine seek English language entries in Short Story, Personal Essay and Poetry (one long or a suite) categories, 2000-3500 word max or 15-20 mins read time. Open to all Canadian residents.

Prize: Cash and Broadcast on CBC Radio.

Deadline January 9, 1996. SASE for MSS return.

Send submissions to:

CBC/Tilden Canadian Literary Awards,  
CBC Radio Performance,  
Box 500, Stn A,  
Toronto, ON,  
M5W 1E6

### Interrobang

Interrobang is a new print zine/e-zine. The first issue comes out in September, and it will feature the best examples of quality writing in today's "subject-centered" writing market.

There will be absolutely no restrictions on content!! Write about whatever you want — the point here is how you choose

to communicate — NOT what you choose to communicate about.

We are accepting fiction, articles, essays, poetry, and art. Submissions should not exceed 3,000 words. If you would like more information about this exciting new publication, visit our home page:

<http://www.moscow.com/homepages/hhoffman@ucla.edu.html>

or drop us some email:

hhoffman@ucla.edu

What is an INTERROBANG, you ask?

A punctuation symbol that artfully combines an exclamation point and a question mark. The readers of INTERROBANG should react with this healthy mix of curiosity and enthusiasm when they read any one of the various pieces of quality writing that we will choose to publish.

### Original Creations

A small magazine of poetry, short stories, essays, photography and artwork is now accepting submissions. We need submissions of all types, and any styles. Please contain your work to a G to PG format, with no gratuitous cursing without meaning to the text. Writing and artistic tips will also be printed. Photos or artwork should be good originals or copies that may be easily scanned. Files of artwork may be sent in on 3.5 disks in any file format. If you are mailing disks, please use a disk mailer or mark your envelope "fragile", as disks can be damaged in the mail. All colour artwork will be printed in gray-scale. Any work published will remain the property of its creator. Work may be submitted via email or sent by conventional mail. When sending submissions via email please include your conventional mailing address. When sending submissions via conventional mail please include a self addressed stamped envelope for return. Payment at this time is only one copy of the issue in which work is printed. There will be upcoming contests and subscription information available... send SASE for details. The magazine will be professionally desk-top published in an 11x17 format, have an ISSN number, and be registered with the U. S. Copyright Office.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the month prior to publication. This issue will be 16-20 pages, or more.

Submit to:

Original Creations  
P.O. Box 1178  
Mableton,  
Georgia 30059  
j-conley@ix.netcom.com

First issue is available for \$2.50.

### Madame Bull's Tavern

*Madame Bull's Tavern* is a literary magazine and review published four times a year and distributed across Canada, US and worldwide. New and experienced writers are encouraged to submit:

Fiction — up to 5000 words  
Poems — up to 8 pages  
Creative Non-Fiction — up to 5000 words  
Cartoons — single panel  
Artwork — black and white  
Serials — up to 15 000 words

Standard and experimental forms in all genres are welcome.

We are looking for work that explores public or "outer" life in a way that exposes and possibly subverts stereotypes, propaganda and the status quo. Some subjects of interest include the media, the arts, politics, economics, popular culture, culture and cultural institutions, social movements, advertising, etc. Satire and humour encouraged. We are also looking for good spy stories.

We are NOT looking for introspection!

Please send typed submissions, a short bio and SASE to:

Madame Bull's Tavern  
PO BOX 60369  
U of A Postal Outlet  
Edmonton, AB  
CANADA  
T6G 2S9

or submit by email to:

MBT@netaccess.on.ca  
(type your last name in the subject line)  
do NOT uuencode submissions

Subscriptions cost \$24 for one year, plus applicable taxes and (outside of Canada) postage. Direct inquiries to either of the above addresses. ♦