




The Stroll Scroll

January 1996

Message from the Prez

 wish to take advantage of the new year to wish each and every one of you the best of WORDS for 1996. As poets, we never end our quest for just the right one. May many "right ones" come your way in the future!

The Stroll of Poets Society has been very busy this fall, and the projected winter activities indicate that we are indeed a very active group. I would like to thank each and every one who participated in the Stroll on Sept. 24, whether it was to read or to volunteer time in making the event a success. Thanks also to the City of Edmonton for making the City Room beneath the Pyramid available to us free of charge.

Since we live in an age of information overload, I will be brief. Here are the main activities your board is

offering in 1996:

1. Twelve Days of readings by Stroll poets. Please consult the timetable in this newsletter. It should reach you in time for the second half of the readings. Those of you who could make it to our Anthology launch at City Hall on Dec. 3 already have the full schedule in hand. Hope to see many of you there.

2. On Jan. 19, the Princess Theatre is showing the movie *Total Eclipse* at 9:30 p.m. Brian Paisley has asked Paul Pearson to coordinate a reading in Rimbaudesque style, to be held at 9 p.m. Five live poets will read before the movie about a departed one!

3. The World Figure Skating Association's Feel the Spirit Committee has invited the Stroll of Poets to be part of the

World Village at the Agricom during the World Figure Skating Championships to be held March 20-23 inclusive in Edmonton. We do not have all the details yet, but should have them by the beginning of February. We will have a space in the Trade Show section of the Agricom. A mike and podium will be available. The times when we would be



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featured have not as yet been determined. More about this in early February. One thing to remember is that the theme of the World Village is **Good Living**. We hope to feature as many of our poets as possible, so get that **Good Living** theme running through your mind, words and fingers. Be prepared to give a yes or a no to a reading request when a board member calls you in early February. Our presence at the World Village reflects the Feel the Spirit Committee's commitment to presenting to the world a balanced image of the rich artistic life in our capital city: writers as well as figure skaters. This activity would replace the winter reading series, Poetry Night in Canada, that the Stroll held last year. Entrance to the Agricom World Village will be free of charge.

4. Writing circles are vibrant. See schedule elsewhere in this newsletter.

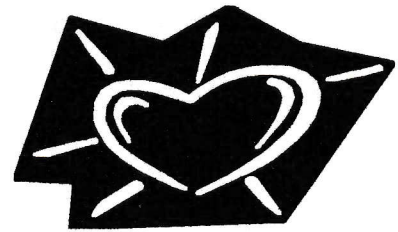
5. A two-day writing workshop, **Writing Magic**, is in the works for June 8 and 9, 1996. Di Brandt, writer in residence, would be directing this workshop. Limit: 12 participants. Cost is \$50 per person for members of the Stroll, \$75 for non-members. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. If you wish

to participate in this workshop, please send a short note to our membership secretary, Ivan Sundal, and include your cheque made out to the Stroll of Poets Society, Box 35082, Oliver Postal Outlet, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2R8.

6. And last, but not least, the Stroll welcomes Katherine McKee back as editor of our newsletter. She has graciously volunteered her services, and we have accepted "with empressement et reconnaissance," which loosely translated means we accepted with gratitude and hurriedly, giving her no time to change her mind. Please send material for the newsletter to the address in item #5, above.

I'll sign off for now and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the Twelfth Day.

Jocelyne Verret



Heart Beat Poetry

(Love/Relationship Poems)

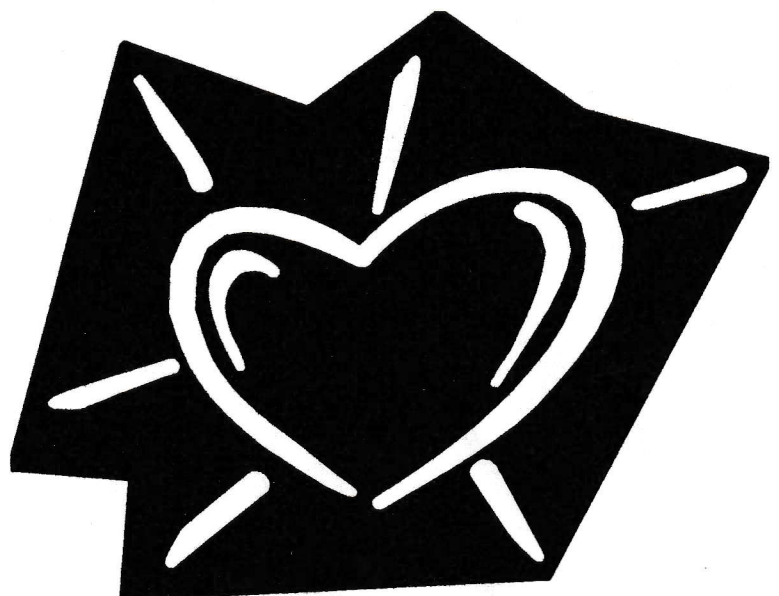
A Stroll Writers' Circle Special Valentines Presentation

Tuesday, Feb. 6
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Idylwylde Library Branch

Everyone is welcome to
come out and listen!

Writers' Circle Schedule:

Jan. 9 & 25
Feb. 6 & 22
March 5 & 21
April 9 & 25
May 7 & 23
June 4 & 20



A Halloween Harvest of Poetry

A big thank you goes to Barbara Bulat, manager of the Idylwyld Library, for supplying us with Writers' Circle space. She also distributed information about our Society and gave us space in the Edmonton Public Library publication *The Source*, featuring poems by three Stroll poets.

We also thank Barbara for asking us to do a library reading, A Halloween Harvest of Poetry. Held on Oct. 19, it featured Stroll poets from the Thursday night Writers' Circle group. Ten poets each read for five minutes, adding up to about an hour of non-stop poetry. Thanks also goes to the poets who participated; the audience; Tony Sartorelli and other library staff for the Halloween atmosphere and refreshments.

The library was so pleased with the results, we have planned another reading, Heart Beat Poetry on February 6.

For information about being part of the Stroll Writers' Circle, please call Sandra at 459-4669.

Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck



A Halloween Harvest of Poetry featured (back row) Sandy Sprinkle, Nicole York, Barb Williamson, Marline Kalin, T.S. Owen (middle row) Jocko, Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck, Alison Clarke (front row) Carmen Sylva Lindsay (not pictured) Karla Woloshyn



Before the presentation, Toni Sartorelli (library staff) does some editorial slicing with Sandy Sprinkle, our poet dressed for the occasion.

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Days of Poetry

There's still time to take in one of the Stroll's Twelve Days of Poetry!

6th Day

Jan. 9 7 p.m. Commissary 11750 Jasper Avenue
Host: Evita McConnell *Readers:* Olga Costopoulos,
 Jo-Anne Godfrey, Katherine McKee, Sandy Sprinkle

7th Day

Jan. 11 7 p.m. Buy the Cup Cafe 8615-109 Street
Host: Joyce Pinckney *Readers:* Myrna Garanis, Russell
 Johnston, Shirley Serviss, Andrew Thompson

8th Day

Jan. 12 7 p.m. Commissary 11750 Jasper Avenue
Host: Jocko *Readers:* Tim Bowling, Mary T. McDonald,
 Geraldine Matus, Susan Walsh

9th Day

Jan. 14 3 p.m. Martini's Bar and Grill 9910 109 Street
Host: Ken Wilson *Readers:* Doug Elves, Jocko, Marianne
 Hang, T.S. Owen

10th Day

Jan. 16 6:30 p.m. Upper Crust Cafe 10909 86 Avenue
Host: Virginia Gillese *Readers:* Ruth Anderson Donovan,
 Lorna Huff, Ken Wilson, Paul Pearson

11th Day

Jan. 17 6:30 p.m. Upper Crust Cafe 10909 86 Avenue
Host: Tom Emmens *Readers:* Beckie Garber-Conrad,
 Valdis Gislason, Barbara Curry Mulcahy, William J. Nichols

12th Day

Jan. 20 7 p.m. City Media Club 6005 103 St. (basement of
 CKER building.) Featuring poets selected by popular vote
 and guest band *James Thurgood and Salty Dog*, tickets \$5
 at Gramophone Records (Manulife Place) and at the door.
 Stroll logo T-shirts available for \$15 that evening!

e-poem

(the electronic
 journal of the Stroll
 of Poets Society)

<http://www.ccinet.ab.ca/stroll/>

There is a child in Houston, Texas who writes poetry. She wants to talk to other poets. She used her school computer to e-mail a film maker in Dallas who had just produced a TV documentary on Texas poets. He surfed the net and found **e-poem**. He e-mailed me. I directed him to an on-line writers' circle in Albany. Now, some adult educators in upstate New York are helping a primary class in Texas. Along this trail, dozens of people paused to look at our home page and our poems. That's Internet!

Want to get your work out there on the net? I offer the following advice: (1) keep poems short and "think screen" — nothing longer than a sonnet.; (2) most "web browsers" left justify everything and ignore double spaces — we can't control this; (3) kids will find this so don't write things you would be embarrassed to say to a 10-year-old. Submit six or eight poems if you can, so we can choose three or four and give the reader a good idea of who you are. E-mail me your submissions — **nichols@supernet.ab.ca**
 Snail mail to 10782 165 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5P 3T5.

William Nichols