



The Stroll Scroll

March 1996

Fun times, time flies

*By Jocelyne Verret
President*

How time flies when one is having fun! Our 12 Days series was a rousing success, thanks, in part, to the organizational skills of Jannie Edwards whom I wish to publicly congratulate on a job extremely well done, and also to everyone's participation, in spite of our now legendary cold snap.

AGM Time Again

Here it is AGM time once more. Please come to the Stroll of Poets Society Annual General Meeting to be held at 2 p.m. on March 30 at First Baptist Church, 10031 109 Street. Those present will have a chance to vote for those poets they would like to hear during our next readers' series.

Figure Skating Readings

Stroll poets will read at the Agricom March 20, 21 and 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. during the World Figure Skating Championships. (Look for our booth in Hall C, near Sportchek.) A timetable is included in this newsletter. I have tried to schedule people at the times they requested. It was however not possible in all instances. If you have indicated you wanted to read, please check the schedule. No further notice will be forthcoming. Plan to be at the Agricom by 6:45 p.m. and stay on, if at all possible, to cheer your fellow poets. It is our chance to share with the rest of the world another cultural aspect of our vibrant capital. If you cannot read on the date and at the time indicated on the schedule, please call and leave me a message at 432-0991.

Planning

Your Board has gone through two Saturdays of planning in order to set priorities and timelines for the Stroll's numerous activities. New projects will be presented by the Board members with a notice of motion at a previous meeting. The presenting member will also submit a detailed plan: timeline, venue, cost, financing, etc. This has become necessary in view of the many ideas worthy of development that have come up during the year and the difficulty with implementing some of them when submitted at the last minute.

Congrats Ron!

Congratulations to Edmonton poet Ron Kurt! Reference West Press launched his chap-book *Closing the book on darkness* on March 4 in Victoria, B.C.

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ZOOT & ZAZA & ZOOT & ZAZA & ZOOT &

Message from the Prez continued

Writing Magic

There are only two spots left for anyone wishing to register for the Di Brandt "Writing Magic" workshop to be held June 8-9 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fee is \$50 for Stroll members, \$75 for non-members. Participants will be informed of the location in the next newsletter.

Newsletter Poems

In this newsletter, you will also find a poem, *The Silence within the Words*, by Lamont poet Pritam Atwal, who unfortunately had to miss last year's Stroll. Since the object of the Stroll of Poets Society is to have poets read their works in public, and in order to treat all poets who did not read during the Stroll in the same manner, the Board regretfully decided not to publish in its Anthology those poets who were absent from the Stroll. However, we have agreed to carry, when space allows during the year, a poem by those poets who notified ahead of time. No-shows during the Stroll had created havoc at some of the Stroll venues in previous years. We know this solution is not perfect, but it is the one your Board felt treated everyone fairly.

Final Note

Another item of interest during the month of March is the

following. Edmonton poet and playwright Inge Israel is having the French version of her play *Clean Breast/Seins innocents* produced by L'UniTheatre at the Varscona Theatre (formerly the Chinook) on March 29 and 30 at 8 p.m. and on March 31 at 2 p.m. and again at 8 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$10 for students and seniors. For reservations or information, please call 438-7303.

Phenomenal Woman

*Celebration of Women
in the Arts presents
the 1996 mixed-media
exhibition.*

March 24, 1996

Figg's Cafe
12520 102 Avenue

7 pm - 12 am

In lieu of an admission fee,
CWA requests
a donation to cover costs.
RSVP at 424-0287.



**The Stroll of Poets Society
Annual General Meeting**

March 30, 1996 2 p.m.

First Baptist Church 10031 109 Street

- 1 Call to order
- 2 Minutes of the last AGM
- 3 President's report
- 4 Treasurer's report
- 5 Membership secretary's report
- 6 Membership motion re: membership fees
- 7 Choosing Stroll date
- 8 Voting for readers of Stroll's next reading series
- 9 Elections
- 10 Other Business
- 11 Adjournment & Refreshments



Membership Memo:

To: Stroll Members

From: Ivan Sundal

Subject: Membership Fees

If you joined the Society since the Stroll last September, you will not have to pay for your 96/97 membership (although donations are most welcome, since grants are becoming more difficult to obtain).

New members, and any 95/96 members who have renewed prior to receiving this newsletter, should check to see if the enclosed registration form has PAID marked on the membership line. (If there are any mistakes, please call me at 488-9647.)

Note: If you want to register in the Stroll festival in the fall, fill out and return the registration form, whether you have paid already or not.

Got e-mail? Send your address to William Nichols:

"wnichols@ccinet.ab.ac"

*Next deadline for e-poem:
May 30, 1996*

World Figure Skating Championships Edmonton Agricom

All Readings from 7-9 p.m.

10 minute readings in the order indicated

Reminder 1: The theme of the World Village activities is GOOD LIVING!

Reminder 2: Bring a short bio for your host's use in introducing you.

Wed., March 20 Host: Jocelyne Verret

T. Virginia Gillese

Ron Kurt

Katherine McKee

Lothar Krampol

Jocelyne Verret

Carol Hornby Brodeur

Tom Emmons

Kim Sedgewick

Russell Johnston

Thurs., March 21 Host: Vanna Tessier

Tanya Mackie

Andrew Thompson

Jonathan Meakin

Vanna Tessier

Mary-Anne Sinkovics and Joanna Wright

Jacqueline Bell

Richard Davies

Janet Bates

Michael Penny

Seija Charles

Friday, March 22 Host: Pritam Atwal

Mary T. MacDonald

Wendy McGrath

Tracy Murray

Pritam Atwal

Jo-Ann Godfrey

Shirley Serviss

Becky Gerber-Conrad

Paul Matwychuk

Joyce Pinkney

Genevieve Boyer

Ruth Anderson-Donovan





STROLL OF POETS

Introducing **ZOOT & ZAZA**

Created by Evita McConnell, these confidently-strolling, unabashedly-reciting poets — you have already met them on the Anthology cover, posters, newsletter and t-shirts — are now named Zoot and Zaza. Thanks to Lothar Krampol for naming Zoot (male) and Ruth Donovan for naming Zaza. May they confidently stroll and recite unabashedly into the next century!

Dear Strolling Poets,

I am writing to commend Jannie Edwards and anyone else who was involved in promoting the 12 Days. It was absolutely amazing to see so many people coming out in the cold to warm their hearts with poetry. There was a sense of instant community as strangers shared tables, leaned together against walls, sat together on floors. People who had never been to readings in their lives discovered the pleasure of hearing writers share their words.

Stroll Writer's Circle

March 5 & 21

April 9 & 25 *7th Apr*

May 7 & 23

June 4 & 20

Jdylwylde Library

An opportunity for poets to meet, socialize and get feedback on their work. Most Thursday evening sessions include episodes of laughter: as Sandy Sprinkle puts it, "Stop, I'm going to hurt myself!" What does this mean? Drop in and find out!

If you are interested in a "Poetry Critiquing Workshop" by Glen Kirkland, phone Sandra at 459-4669.

In Anna Mioduchowska's lovely introduction to this year's anthology, she said she looked forward to a time when a community cherished by its poets will cherish them in return. I sensed that happening during the 12 Days as Edmonton poets breathed life into a long cold winter. My thanks to the hard-working board of the Stroll and the volunteers who are putting poets in front of the public, on the front page, on the airwaves, and in front of the television cameras.

Sincerely, Shirley A. Serviss

The Silence within the Words
Pritam Atwal

The loud day's statements
go quietly in the night
into the state of my
desire to be with you.

Peacefully mute about

visages of our meeting
without taking any place
in a carved out world of men,
my words are dying

to come to life

in a poem's silence -
the silence that lives
within the words,
inviting the soul

to their stillness.

By the breath that you are
of the silence in my speech,
I am able to create
the very willing space

of your absence

into my earliest "thou",
now wholly present
to entwine limb
to limb with me

a purely human you.

Poetry for Pritam acts almost as an elixir. He reads and writes it for a fresh lease on life in his years of retirement from teaching English at NAIT. He has always found the Stroll very uplifting for his spirits.