

Stroll Scroll

December 1998

Stroll of Poets Society
Box 35082, Oliver BC
Edmonton, AB T5K 2K8
ph. 403-467-2924



Fellow Strollers,

I want to put a bug in your ear today. Ever since the first Stroll 8 years ago, I associate winter with poetry. I refer to spoken poetry, as in the 12 Days of Poetry and the Tuesday Night Poetry Reading Series; and also printed poetry as in the *Stroll Anthology*, and the various collections the Stroll members bring into the world. That association makes the shoveling a lot lighter, the streets less slippery and the hoarfrost I see outside the windows this morning so much more magical against the sky.

The bug? Somebody has to organize those events. The Board, you say? Yes, the group of volunteers who comprise the Board does most of the work, including procuring grants, finding coordinators, producing this newsletter, keeping records, printing brochures, running a Web page, liaising with the media and other organizations, finding volunteers for all the little and not so little jobs that crop up, stepping in when emergencies arise, etc, etc.

Some of the Board members have been doing this for years, however, and more than half of the Board will retire this year. Will you step forward, to take their place? Before saying you're "too busy", will you at least consider some of the benefits you might have reaped in the past from the Stroll? The audience you have found to cheer you on, the books you have sold, the inexpensive workshops you have attended, the publicity that poetry has received in the wider community?

So much for the bug. Now, a big thank you to anyone and everyone who has contributed even 10 minutes to the Stroll. Special thanks this month to two individuals who were generous enough to take on the bigger jobs: Pierrette Requier, who coordinated the 7-member jury this summer and fall, and Myrna Garanis who put in several hours at the Stroll information table - shared with the Writers' Guild of Alberta - at the book fair in October.

— Anna Mioduchowska

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The Twelve Days of Poetry 1998-1999: A Work in Progress

THE STROLL OF POETS 8TH Annual 12th Day of Poetry moves back to a familiar location: The Strathcona Legion, 10416 – 81st Avenue, on January 16, 1999, 8PM.

"This year's 12th Day, like every other, will have its own distinctive atmosphere," promises 12 Days Coordinator David Huggett. Among the twists this year look for displays of visual art by participants in Art From the Unknown by local artists living in poverty.

"Art From the Unknown is a step out of the mainstream of the art world," Huggett says. "The intention is to liven up the venue and provide opportunities for communication between some remarkably creative people."

At the heart of the 12th Day, as always, are the 4 poets chosen by the audiences at the preceding 11 readings. The series opens at the Breadstick Café (December 28, 29, 30), moves to Grounds for Coffee (January 2, 4, 5), then to La Boheme (January 6, 7), and the Upper Crust (January 11, 12, 13). All readings start at 7PM.

"The 12th Day celebrates poetry but it is also a good time to catch up with friends, brainstorm, and let our hair down on the dance floor," Huggett says. Featured musician, Dale La Douceur, will treat the audience to her unusual but versatile instrument, the Chapman Stick. She and her friends will warm us up with jazz and blues, and get us on our feet when we are ready to dance.

La Douceur toured Europe with Bruce Cockburn and performed on mainstage at the Edmonton Folk Fest in 1991. She is known locally for her collaboration with The Mavens and Painting Daisies.

Guest speaker and M.C. for the evening, Srdja Pavlovic, is a translator and contributing editor to the international literary journal, *Stone Soup*. Published in London, UK, *Stone Soup* has become a champion of Alberta writers. Pavlovic will contrast the popular perception of Alberta writing with the realities facing most writers. He is presently completing an anthology of contemporary writing in Alberta to be published by The University of Alberta Press.

Since 1991 the Stroll has helped dozens of Edmonton poets to gain recognition. For some of them, the 12th Day has been a significant step toward publication and awards. This year promises its own discoveries.

Tickets: \$8.50 Advance.

\$10.00 at the door.

\$5.00 Students/Seniors/Fixed Income

Advance purchase recommended.

Tickets available at the readings and at Orlando Books, 10123 – Whyte Avenue.

Contact:

David Huggett: 414-1534.

STROLL OF POETS DIRECTORY

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Anna Mioduchowska

Vice President: William Nichols

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Nancy Mackenzie

Member: Marilyn Hooper

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Membership: Ivan Sundal

Stroll Coordinator:

Marilyn Hooper

12 Days Jury Coordinator:

Pierrette Requier

12 Days Coordinator:

David Huggett

Reading Series: Vacant

Volunteer Coordinator: Vacant

Anthology Publisher:

Nancy Mackenzie

Anthology Christmas Party

THIS YEAR the *Anthology* will be launched at a Christmas get-together. The venue is the same as it has been in years past – City Hall. Tracy Brown, harpist, will be playing while you pick up your *Anthology*, and, if you want, you may buy extras for your friends! Come on out to celebrate the publication of the *Anthology*. The date also begins the final stage of the Stroll year: the 12 Days of Poetry.

As you know, everyone who pre-registered for the Stroll, and then read in the Stroll, and finally submitted a poem for the *Anthology*, also had the choice to be considered in the 12 Days of Poetry Competition. While the poems were being compiled for publication, they were also being carefully considered by a 7-member jury who chose 44 of the best poems. These 44 poets will take part in the 11 days of poetry, with 4 poets reading per night. On the 12th night, the favorite 4 will perform at the best poetry and party night of the year! See page 2 for more information about the 12 Days of Poetry.

The Stroll of Poets 1998 Anthology Launch

2:30 – 4:30 PM

December 12, 1998

City Hall

Please bring a plate of good eats to share

Announcements

GERRI SHIELDS is pleased to announce the release of her first chapbook *The Pendulum Swings*, published by Plowman Publishers Box 414, Whitby, Ontario, L1N 5S4, Tel: 905 668 7830. Copies are also available through myself 430 8648.

MARIJAN MEGLA launched his book *Violin* on November 26, 1998 at Orlando Books. *Violin*, published by Slipstream Books tells the stories characters from a European village of the 1950s – stories which begin in this village and move with their author to the new land.

Something New!

PLEASE LOOK OUT for upcoming information, regarding the "Poetry in Motion" event to be held at the Edmonton Bahai' Centre. This event is presently in the early planning stages, but will combine poetry, music, and art displays in a respectful coffee shop atmosphere. All proceeds will go to the Women's Shelter. Please phone Gerri Shields at 430 8648 if you would like to be on the reading list and/or for more information.

Kudos

DOUG ELVES' poem "Recruits in Physical Training Outside the Prince of Wales Armoury, 1940" has been published in the "Twice Told Tales" column of *Legacy, Alberta's Heritage Magazine*, vol.3 no. 4, 1998.

Save the Tuesday Night Reading Series?

THE IDEA OF A Tuesday Night Reading Series for this winter has generated 40 poets who want to read, and ZERO poets who want to organize it. It is a lot of work to organize a reading series, but not so much as you might think, given all the people who have volunteered to help - as hosts, with PR, and so on. Truth is, somebody needs to step forward to pull it all together, to make some decisions and coordinate the volunteers, or there won't be a reading series this year.

I'll speak personally. I think providing a place to read is the most important thing the Stroll does. When I found the stroll, it was a Godsend. There were poems I wanted to get out of me, and here was a place to speak them. I got an audience, support and feed back. I've become a better poet in the 5 years I participated in the series. I organized the series a couple years ago. It was work and there were issues to deal with, but it was no worse than an average day at the office. Anybody who has ever been able to hold down a job probably has all the skills necessary to coordinate the reading series (or do most any job in the Stroll) - particularly with all the help available and experienced people to draw on.

Those of us who have some skills need to keep Stroll events happening! (as a volunteer for some little task, or as a coordinator for a bigger one) That's what I think. Call me - William Nichols - 483-2032 - or any other board member - if you think you've got what it takes to do this job. I hope to see you some Tuesday night.

Winter Offerings from the Writing Centre Grant MacEwan Community College

All courses are held at City Centre Campus. Please call 497-5346 for information or to register. Numerous writing and editing courses are offered at the Writing Centre -- please ask for our Winter 1999 brochure when you phone.

WRITING ON . . . WRITING LIFE (ON-LINE) -
Visit the world of prose, poetry, dialogue, letter writing, and any other form of writing imaginable.

Jan. 25 - Mar. 15.

Instructor: Reineke Gerding-Lengle.

WORD BY WORD - Learn how to draw creative inspiration from your life and shape it for the page.

Jan. 26 - March 16; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Shirley Serviss

PERFORMANCE POETRY - In addition to writing instruction and exercises, classes will help prepare you for a reading of your work.

Jan. 27 - Mar. 17; 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Kathryn MacLean

A WEEKEND OF FREEFALL WRITING - Free Fall helps you get to the point where the writing will flow smoothly and effortlessly.

(10 hours) April 17 and 18; 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Cora Taylor

Courses from Continuing Education

Courses are held at a number of locations around the city. Please call 428-1111 for information or to register. Through the Creative Writing and the Business departments, writing, editing, and publishing courses are available. The Winter Class Calendar is now available.

Interesting courses this winter include **THE WORLD OF LITTLE MAGAZINES - NOT A COURSE FOR LILLIPUT INHABITANTS**

BREAKING OUT OF YOUR WRITING SHELL - PURSUING REALISTIC DREAMS

LIGHTEN UP - NOT A DIETING COURSE with Marty Chan

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

the 12 DAYS OF POETRY

DECEMBER 27 TO JANUARY 17 1998

the 1st DAY OF POETRY

Saturday, December **27** at 7 p.m.

Station X Cafe, 7704 - 104 St.

Jocko

Jennie Frost

James Thurgood

Anne Le Dressay

the 2nd DAY OF POETRY

Sunday, December **28** at 3 p.m.*

Station X Cafe, 7704 - 104 St.

Ian Gough

Anne Marshall

Lothar Krampol

Pierrette Requier

the 3rd DAY OF POETRY

Monday, December **29** at 7 p.m.

Station X Cafe, 7704 - 104 St.

Kathy Fisher

Gerry Brown

Pieter de Vos

Mary T. McDonald

the 4th DAY OF POETRY

Friday, January **2** at 7 p.m.

Grounds for Coffee, 10247 - 97 St.

Joe Rizzuto

Geoff Kuziw

Joyce MacDonald

Ruth Anderson Donovan

the 5th DAY OF POETRY

Saturday, January **3** at 7 p.m.

Grounds for Coffee, 10247 - 97 St.

Myrna Garanis

Jenine Dumont

Joyce Pinckney

Geraldine Matus

the 6th DAY OF POETRY

Sunday, January **4** at 3 p.m.*

Grounds for Coffee, 10247 - 97 St.

Toni Owen

Phyllis Shuell

Jannie Edwards

Carmen Sylva Lindsay

the 7th DAY OF POETRY

Monday, January **5** at 7 p.m.

La Bohème, 6427 - 112 Ave.

Linda Jennings

Terence Harding

Thomas Trofimuk

Laurie O'Shaughnessy

the 8th DAY OF POETRY

Tuesday, January **6** at 7 p.m.

La Bohème, 6427 - 112 Ave.

Mari Bergen

Pamela Young

David Huggett

Richard Davies

the 9th DAY OF POETRY

Wednesday, January **7** at 7 p.m.

La Bohème, 6427 - 112 Ave.

Audrey Whitson

William Nichols

Fabian Jennings

Rebecca Schellenberg

the 10th DAY OF POETRY

Friday, January **9** at 7 p.m.

Sariena's Cafe, 10158 - 97 Ave.

Lyle Weis

Trevor Dekort

Jo-Ann Godfrey

Anna Mioduchowska

the 11th DAY OF POETRY

Saturday, January **10** at 7 p.m.

Sariena's Cafe, 10158 - 97 Ave

Sally Ito

Candyece Neill

Marcia O'Connor

Anna Marie Sewell

the 12th DAY OF POETRY

Saturday, January **17** at 7 p.m.

Hellenic Cultural Centre,

10450 - 116 St.

Poets: audience favourites of the
first eleven days of poetry

Dance band: Rault Brothers Band

Tickets \$5 advance at Orlando Books,
10640 Whyte Ave.; \$8 at the door

Admission to the first eleven days is free, but please observe a reasonable minimum charge

*Note that Sunday performances are at 3 p.m.

Don't miss the big finale:

the 12th DAY OF POETRY

Saturday, January 17 at 7 p.m. at the
Hellenic Cultural Centre, 10450 - 116 Street

- ♦ five audience favourites of the first eleven days of poetry;
- ♦ then dance to the

Rault & Brothers

- ♦ food and beverage concessions operated by The Commissary Bistro & Deli;
- ♦ tickets still only \$5 advance at Orlando Books, 10640 Whyte Avenue; \$8 at the door.

Sponsored by the Stroll of Poets Society
Oliver Post Box 35082, 11229 Jasper Ave.
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2R8
<http://www.ccinet.ab.ca/stroll>

- Assistance received from:
- Alberta Foundation for the Arts
 - Edmonton Arts Council
 - The Writing Centre of Grant MacEwan Community College
 - Orlando Books
 - The venues as listed and
 - The Commissary Bistro & Deli

WINTER 1998

the writing centre



Creative Writing Courses

Improve your writing with these courses, and more!

A Weekend of Free Fall Writing

EN 360.0 (70) Apr 18 & 19, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$67 Instructor: Cora Taylor

Writing Women's Lives

EN 185.0 (70) Wed., Jan. 21 - Mar. 11, 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$134 Instructor: Cora Taylor

Writing Romances - NEW!

EN 560.0 (70) Wed., Jan. 28 - Apr. 1, 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$164 Instructor: Tracy Cooper-Posey

Characters Make Them Live and Breathe

EN 572.0 (70) Thurs., Jan. 29 - Apr. 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$164 Instructor: Tracy Cooper-Posey

Writing the Short Story

EN 175.0 (70) Thurs., Jan. 22 - Mar. 12, 6 - 9 p.m. \$154 Instructor: Dianne Linden

A First Taste of Writing Life On-Line

EN 301.0 (70), Jan. 26 - Mar. 16 \$148 Instructor: Reineke Gerding-Lengle

Writing as Prayer

EN 195.0 (70), Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. \$84 Instructor: Shirley Serviss

Writing Out of This World - NEW!

EN 567.0 (70), Thurs., Feb. 19 - Mar. 26, 6:30-9 p.m. \$104 Instructor: Candace Jane Dorsey

Career Management for Writers

EN 580.0 (70), Mon., Jan. 26 - Mar. 16, 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$138 Instructor: Tracy Cooper-Posey

Writing Magazine Articles

EN 369.0 (70), Mon., Jan. 26 - Mar. 2, 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$84 Instructor: Curtis Gillespie

For more info or to register call

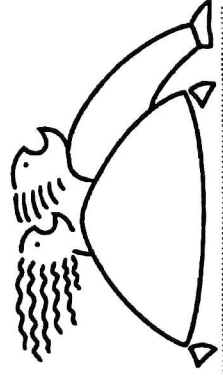
497-5354



Grant MacEwan
Community College

the 12 DAYS OF POETRY

DECEMBER 27
TO
JANUARY 10



STROLL OF POETS



The Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts

