

The Stroll Scroll February 1998

Stroll of Poets Society, Box 35082, Oliver P.O., Edmonton,
AB, T5K 2R8 403-467-2924

President's Greeting – Dear Fellow Strollers:

Another Stroll year coming to an end, what to say that won't be cliché? How about: we gained weight this year. That's right, a lot of weight, and for once it's a good thing. Our membership passed the 200 mark, which is reflected in the size of the Anthology. Our activities attract an appreciative audience, we host and organize fascinating, writing/performing workshops. All that remains... is to make all better of course. One of the Board's goals for next year is to make sure more Stroll members get involved in the planning of and carrying out activities. The first step is for everyone to show up at the Annual General Meeting in March (see below) in the same numbers they showed up at the 12th Day gala. How about it poets? We will have coffee and goodies.

Anna Mioduchowska amioduch@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Annual General Meeting AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM AGM

Date: March 21

Time: 12:30-3:30 pm

Place: Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church Bsmt. 9809-76 Avenue S.E. door

Agenda: should we raise membership fees?, electing new board, annual reports, renewing memberships, pick-up '97 Anthology, etc.

Refreshments will be served. Come one, Come all.

Do You Want To Be A Board Member

February 24, 5 pm -- the board will meet with anyone interested in becoming a board member at the Upper Crust Cafe before the reading series starts.

The 12th Day

A great success, with excellent poetry by James Thurgood, Anne Le Dressay Anna Mioduchowska, Anna-Marie Sewell, Mary T. McDonald. We were fed by Commissary Bistro and Deli, and entertained by The Rault Brothers Band. A marvelous bash! Thanks to Doug Elves, our 12 Days of Poetry Coordinator, and to Brian Paisley our MC.

Writer in Residence

Alice Major at Grant McEwan Community College from February 17 to April 30. This free service gives any writer the opportunity to consult with a professional about their work. Alice is a widely published poet, and the winner of the Fourth Alberta Writing for Youth competition for her fantasy novel "The Chinese Mirror." She will give a reading at Grant McEwan's downtown campus on February 23 at noon.

1997 Anthology

Contributors get your complimentary copy from Jo Ann Godfrey (467-7087) at the AGM or any night of the Tuesday Reading Series. The deadline for pick up is the AGM, Mar.21.

Poetry Workshops

The January 16 & 17 workshop lead by Ted Blodgett, Shirley Serviss, and Gerry Potter was appreciated by all. It is a privilege for Stroll members to have such high caliber writers to work with. If you haven't attended a workshop yet, plan to do so. You will be amazed. We will keep you posted.

Chapbook Workshop

Are your poems begging to be organized into a good looking book that did not cost a fortune to produce? You can indulge them this spring at the "How to Publish a Chapbook" workshop. Organizers: Ivan Sundal, Myrna Garanis, Jocko, and Anna Mioduchowska, all who have recently published their own books and would like to share the skills/knowledge gained from the experience.

Workshop will cover:

1. Cut and paste method for handmade books.
2. General formatting for those who prefer to use the computer.
3. Printing: do it yourself at the nearest copy shop or working with the professionals.
4. Cover design.
5. Binding.
6. Promotion/sales.
7. Finances

Date: April 25, 1998

Where: Heritage Rm. City Hall

Time: 12:00--4:00 pm

Cost: \$15

For more information call Anna 436-4427 or Jocko 439-6816

Writing Course in Guatemala

Merna Summers, one of the 1994 jurors, will be teaching a writing course called "The Ways of Fiction" at the Art Institute of Guatemala in Antigua, Guatemala from March 28 to April 6, 1998. The cost is approximately \$1840.00 and includes: air fare, tuition, lodging, field trips, some meals. The course is timed to include the start of Antigua's famous Holy Week celebrations. Edmonton artist Irene Klar will be teaching a course in water color painting at the same time. For information: phone or fax Merna 483-6869, or the Art Institute's web sit at <http://www.d.umn.edu/~pedstrom/guat/>

Stroll Writer's Circle

Free & Open to any Stroll member. Drop in 7-9 p.m. at Idlywylde Library 8310-88 Ave. Poets meet each month to share their work & help each other develop as poets.

Next meeting dates: February 19, March 19, & April 16.

Customer Appreciation Reading Feb. 14, Idlywylde 1:30--2:00 pm

Several Stroll members have express a wish for a daytime Poetry Circle to meet the needs of members who have time during the daybut cannot participate in the on-going Poetry Circle meeting at night. The 1st Tuesday of each month has been proposed, starting February 3 from 1-3 pm. Jennie Frost (433-2932) will host, contact her if you are interested.

E-Poem

E-poem is the electronic poetry journal of the Stroll of Poets Society. Check out the site!
<http://www.ccinet.ab.ca/stroll>

If you would like the opportunity to run the e-poem web page, call William 483-2032 or wnichols@ccinet.ab.ca

E-poem is currently read by about 200 surfers a month. The National Library of Canada now archives e-poem as part of its electronic collection, assuring e-poem's wider distribution & permanent availability. <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/eppp-archive/e-poem/stroll/home.html>

Please make your poetry submissions to: wnichols@ccinet.ab.ca

Editing Course

The Essential Editor: A two-part workshop: learn to distinguish three levels of editing: proofreading, copy-editing & substantive editing.

Presenter: Nancy Mackenzie, '97 Stroll of Poets Anthology editor, has been editing books & journals since 1981 for scholarly, educational & literary publishing houses.

Where: Continuing Education, Edmonton Public Schools, Downtown Boardwalk location

Dates & Time: Two Tuesdays: March 3 & March 10, 1998, 7-10 p.m.

Fee: \$55.00

Register: call 428-1111

A Launch!!

February 27, 7:30 pm Latitude 53 Gallery, 10137-104 St. Local poet & artist Gerry Dotto My Tongue All Thumbs, Slipstream Books, \$17.95. 112 color pages of visual poetry, bizarre, funny entertaining weirdness. Refreshments and refreshing ideas to be served.

Stroller Readings & Publications

- ⇒ John King-Farlow Words Rise Up Like Fireflies: Alberta and Beyond Bear Cat Press, \$5.95
- ⇒ Nancy MacKenzie Soul's Flight, Ekstasis Editions, \$12.95
- ⇒ Anne LeDressay Sleep Is a Country Carlton U Press, \$14.95
- ⇒ February 15, CBC 740 AM Radio airs the CBC Alberta Anthology production of Louis Munan's poem "By the North Saskatchewan I sat down and sang."
- ⇒ Jannie Edwards The Possibilities of Thirst Rowan Press, \$12.95
- ⇒ Jocko An Anarchist Dream; "poetry for insomniacs who aren't worried about a cure"
- ⇒ Tim Bowling Dying Scarlet, Nightwood, \$10.95

Kavanaugh Prize

Micheal McCarthy winner of one of Ireland's prestigious literary awards, the Kavanaugh Prize, replied with to our inquiry --- "We have a Church in the next village. It is situated in the woods by a lake. I walked there yesterday in the bright sun, and can you believe there were 50 Canadian Geese there to greet me. It seems a good omen. I did miss the stroll in the New Year, and wanted to be there, so please give them all my very best regards and wish them well in their writing. . . . The Kavanaugh Award is given annually. It works like a competition. Submissions are invited for a manuscript of: up to 30 poems of not more than 40 lines, by a poet born or living in Ireland, who has not had a collection published. It has a very high profile in Ireland. Kavanaugh was one of our best loved poets."

This is some of the citation:

"Because the principal judge, Gabriel Rosenstock, was so enthusiastic about this year's winner, Fr Michael McCarthy, it was decided to break with tradition of non-disclosure of the judges and let him describe the poet's work in his own words. He described Fr McCarthy's collection, Birds' Nests and Other Poems as a work of wonderful pace and fascinating variety. The collection displayed a glowing poetic intelligence, sometimes reminiscent of the dizzying fusions of earth and spirit, the crazy connections made by the great mystic poets Rumi et. al. At times excruciatingly vivid it is a poetry that soars to a grandeur missing from so much poetry in English today. An extraordinary achievement -- the authority of the voice and vision is unquestionable. A collection that is bound to take the poetry world by storm."

Michael's manuscript is off to the publishers and he will keep us informed.

Call for Submissions

OTHER VOICES will celebrate its TENTH ANNIVERSARY with the Spring 1998 issue, "EXTREME ALBERTA." Snowboarding, frostbiting, protesting, investing, bearhunting, cowtipping, broncobusting, costcutting, biblethumping, bookburning--this special issue will focus on Alberta and Alberta writers in all their extremes. We also welcome non-theme submissions. We consider high-quality work from any perspective, from both new and established writers, particularly women. We are interested primarily in poetry and creative prose (fiction and non-fiction), but also welcome essays, reviews, photographs, and artwork. Submissions should be in standard format, with SASE (legal-size preferred) and short bio.

Deadline: March 15, 1998. We pay a small honorarium and one year's subscription. Send your extreme expressions to: Other Voices, Box 52059, 8210-109 Street, Edmonton AB, T6G 2T5.

Website: <http://www.ualberta.ca/~kpress/OtherVoices.html>

Call for Submissions continued

ROWAN BOOKS 1999 ANTHOLOGY ON DEPRESSION (untitled)

Rowan Books, an imprint of The Books Collective, is seeking submissions from women for a new publication to be released for its 1999 season. . . . The sense of isolation experienced with depression is often profound. This book will provide a format for the stories women would share over coffee or over the phone if they were able to speak freely about their experiences. . . . If you have had depression or have a story to tell because you are connected in some way to person(s) with depression, this format is for you. . . . Rowan Books welcomes works of not more than 3000 words in length, in the form of essays, short stories, or poetry. Photographs or line drawings may also be accepted. If you wish your work returned, enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Contributors Payment: \$50/ poem, drawing, photo -- \$100/ story or essay

Deadline: for Submissions: Mar. 31, 1998.

Send entries to: Rowan Books, 214-21 10405 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3S2

THE CANADIAN POETRY CHAPBOOK COMPETITION

1st Prize \$1,000 & publication

Deadline: March 1, 1998

Open to Canadian citizens or landed immigrants.

Manuscript of 15-24 pages; not more than one poem per page; previously unpublished poems; any subject matter, type or style.

Format: typed, single-sided, plain paper 8 1/2 "x 11", pages titled and numbered, -- entrant's name, address, phone number on a separate sheet of paper.

Entry fee: \$15 per chap-book payable to Canadian League of Poets. No limit to number of entries. copyright remains with the poet.

Submit: Canadian League of Poets, 54 Wolseley Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1A5

Membership Renewal

The 1997 Stroll memberships expire on March 21, 1998.

Members may renew their memberships and sign up for the 1998 Stroll festival either at the Annual General Meeting or by mail. Please find a membership form enclosed (unless you have already filled out a 1998 form).

Membership List: Notice: Stroll Policy

The membership mailing list is confidential and the property of the Stroll, and the facility of the mail-out is available to members at the discretion of the Stroll newsletter editor for subject matter pertinent to the literary activities of Stroll members.

aRe YoU InTeReSteD?

in setting up an outreach program for the "under 30" -- perhaps organize an evening of reading by high school poets? If so call Anna M. 436-4478

amioduch@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

12320-52 Ave., Edm., AB, T6H 0P4

Making Contact

For answers about The Stroll of Poets activities, policies, or who is doing what, write to: Stroll of Poets Society, Box 35082, Oliver P.O., Edm., AB, T5K 2R8 or call: 467-2924

Newsletter items ??

Contact Geraldine 439-6782, e-mail: matusg@oanet.com