

Stroll Of Poets
Stroll of Poets Society
PO Box 35082, Oliver
Edmonton, AB T5K 2R8
<http://www.ccinet.ab.ca/stroll>

A Message from the Prez...

It came to me in a nightmare: **THE END OF POETRY**. One gnarled toothless poet was left standing. Sort of. Actually, he or she was propped against a wall. My heart pumping urgently in my throat, I awoke and realized something: I was the new President of the Stroll of Poets Society. Ah! So this was just a run-of-the-mill anxiety dream.

Actually, the Stroll's *real* nightmare, I believe, is that of becoming a shrinking and ultimately finite group. The passion I have – as Prez, as coordinator of Poetry Tuesdays 2000, as my alter ego The Alberta Beatnik, as host of the Grounds For Jammin' open stage at Grounds for Coffee – is fuelled simultaneously by fear and vision.

Here's the "vision" part: to make the year 2000 (the 10th anniversary of Stroll) a year for spreading The Word, for reaching out to experienced and younger, energetic novice poets alike and saying, "Hey, join the Stroll!"

The 10th Anniversary of the Stroll will indeed be one to remember... as memorable, indeed, as the inspiration-oozing Poetry Tuesday reading series (especially Dean McKenzie's Night of Jazz Poetry). We have a great Board with nifty new ideas, energy and individual expertise. As well, the work of last year's visionaries will be paying off this year during Stroll 2000 Festival of Poetry (October 1st thru 7th). Watch for this in the media, because it really IS worth hyping. The hope is to put on readings by "big ticket poets" like Jeffrey McDaniel, Derek Walcott and Lorna Crozier... and to put on "interactive" events like

a Poetry Slam, a Multi-Media Poetry Contest, even (gasp!) Triple-X Poetry.

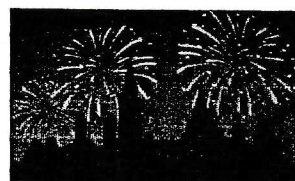
Yes, the standard Sunday Stroll will *still* be in effect on October 1st of this year. Jocko, Jonathan Meakin and Gordon McRae (from the Stroll 2000 committee) are just "jazzed" about doing something **BIGGER**, too. (And they'll need volunteers to make it all happen.)

Q: What else do I have to say? A: Too much. I will be as brief as bullets:

- The new Board is great. For a complete listing of titles, check out the Stroll web site.
- We're looking for more "media exposure" this year (Thomas Trofimuk, Volunteer Coordinator, is experienced at media relations and I, too, have some background in this area). Indeed, did anyone see the A Channel segment on A Night of Jazz Poetry?
- We're also keen on building more relationships with other arts organizations, possibly in the area of live performance, cross promotions, etc.
- The Stroll logo is in the process of being changed even though some people still dig the old one; have patience, however, because we're sure the new logo will be a jaw-dropper.

Here's my final statement: I state here and now that we are all, together, going to make 2000 the Year The Word Exploded.

Come on, man, support the poet
Mark Kozub (a.k.a. The Alberta Beatnik)
780-490-1414



STROLL OF POETS DIRECTORY:

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Mark Kozub
Vice President: Jocko
Past President: Nancy Mackenzie
Y2K Coordinator: Jocko
Secretary and Membership Secretary: Cindy-Lou Prokopy
Treasurer/WebMaster: Gordon McRae
Volunteer Coordinator: Thomas Trofimuk
Workshops: Linda Jennings
Members at Large: Beckie Garber-Conrad, Ronald Kurt

COORDINATORS

Stroll Coordinator: Vacant
12 Days Jury Coordinator: Vacant
12 Days Coordinator: Vacant
Reading Series: Vacant
Anthology Publisher: Vacant
Newsletter Design & Editing: Rusti Leahy
<rustilee@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca>
A note about e-mail: if you are not receiving sporadic e-mails from Rusti (that's me) and have e-mail, send me your address. :-> You'll hear what I hear about poetry and Stroll news as soon as I do!



*Hip Hip Hooray
for the New
Board*



*Coordinators
have power!*

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs // Volunteer, Volunteer, Volunteer

Please submit your written application to the
Stroll of Poets Society by May 31, 2000

Stroll Coordinator:

Responsibilities: Locate venues—make up poet roster—liaise with publicity committee, anthology publisher, & volunteer coordinator—take care of details apropos organizing the event (tickets, posters, hosts, brunch, guest poet, etc.)
Honorarium will be confirmed pending grant application acceptance.

Anthology Publisher:

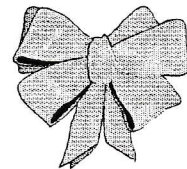
Responsibilities: Collect & collate Stroll submissions – enter submissions on computer & format anthology – liaison with: the graphic artist re: cover, anthology printer, publicity committee & volunteer coordinator. Honorarium will be confirmed pending grant application acceptance.

Anthology Cover Art:

Submit graphic art for consideration for the cover of the 2000 Anthology. Color photos or photocopies of artwork is acceptable for review. Please submit your graphic art for this year's Anthology cover by May 31, 1999. Honorarium will be confirmed pending grant application acceptance.

12 Days Coordinator:

Responsibilities: locate venues, make up poet roster, work with volunteers, take care of details apropos to organizing the event (tickets, posters, hosts, etc.). Honorarium will be confirmed pending grant application acceptance.



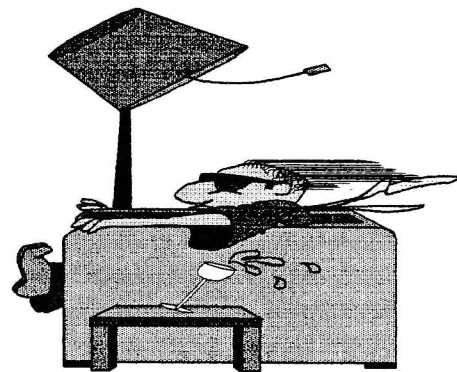
Reading Series Coordinator:

Responsibilities: Locate venues—make up poet roster—choose themes for poetry evenings—liaise with publicity committee and volunteer coordinator—ensure each evening is set up with a host and the sound system.

Stroll 2000 Coordinators:

The Stroll 2000 committee is looking for both coordinators and volunteers to help with what will be the biggest Stroll ever. The seven-day series of events (October 1-7) will include readings from out-of-town poets, readings from the history of poetry, and numerous other poetry events such as a poetry slam, an evening full of very, very bad poetry, an evening of edgy poetry (from the erotic to the rude), and the list goes on.

We are looking for coordinators to oversee individual events, hosts for each event, and volunteers who can help with venues and publicity. As well, the Stroll 2000 committee, consisting of Jonathan Meakin, Gordon McRae and Jocko, would more than welcome Stroll members who would like to have a hand in overseeing the entire festival. Please contact Jocko at 439-6816 if you are interested in helping out in any way with Stroll 2000. Please don't be shy! Rookie and veteran Strollers alike are needed for this undertaking. We can't pull this off without your help.



If you're this stuck to your chair, come on out and help. Give Jocko a call, soon. He's got plenty of reasons to get unstuck. ☺☺



More Chances To Be Involved

Why Be Involved? the payback is: **FEELING GOOD!**

- 1) The Board is looking for a 'well-connected' person (or persons) to be a 'Liaison With Other Arts Groups.' Doing the odd collaborative event with local artists, musicians, dancers, actors, etc. gives us potential for increased attendance (and potentially new membership), more dynamic events, and hey, cross-promoting with other arts groups certainly can't hurt us when it comes to getting grants or corporate sponsorship. Anyone interested? Call Mark Kozub, Stroll President at 490-1414.
- 2) Four Stroll poets will be needed to read during Youth Write, a class for young writers to be held during July of this year in Edmonton. If interested, e-mail Thomas Trofimuk, Stroll Volunteer Coordinator at trofs@planet.eon.net
- 3) The Stroll is looking for someone to help organize (and possibly teach) a September Workshop on How to 'Work On Your Performance Style' just in time for the October Stroll and the 12 Days! If interested, call Linda Jennings, Stroll Workshops Coordinator at 431-1501.
- 4) The Alberta Beatnik (Mark Kozub) and Thomas Trofimuk are looking to host & coordinate a monthly 'Open Stage' event down Whyte Avenue, starting in June or July. (The goal is simple: get new members.) If anyone has a lead on a funky Whyte Avenue venue that might need the extra business (and might even pay the Stroll a small fee to boost it), call Mark Kozub at 490-1414 ASAP.

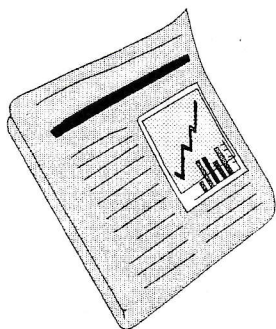
Events & Poets In The News

1. Several Stroll members are reading May 25, 7:30 PM Orlando Books Lucy Brennan—from Toronto—has a book of poetry called Migrants All, a CD called The Tellings & Mad Sweeney and has been anthologized in many places including Twentieth-Century Irish Women Poets. She will read with Alice Major, Shirley Serviss, Jannie Edwards, Kath McClean, & Nancy Mackenzie.

2. As you probably already know, two Edmonton stroll members "made it" to the top 50 in the League of Canadian poets National poetry competition: Jocko and Jannie Edwards. Congratulations!

3. National Post Saturday April 8th had a poetry column that gave our own Anna Mioduchowska a rave review.

4. Tim Lilburn was on Page C1 of Saturday, May 1, 2000 Edmonton Journal.



5. Dean McKenzie and his CD: Praire Hejira was written about by Mark Kozub on p12 of See Magazine in the April 27th-May 3rd edition. Check out the CD & article.

6. CBC RADIO: POETRY PLUS: To celebrate National Poetry Month, POETRY PLUS has commissioned new work from five of Canada's freshest poetic talents. Wayde Compton (Vancouver), Randy Lundy (Regina), Jeanette Lynes (Antigonish, NS) Anna Mioduchowska (Edmonton), and Bruce Taylor (Wakefield, PQ). Way To Go, Anna!!!!

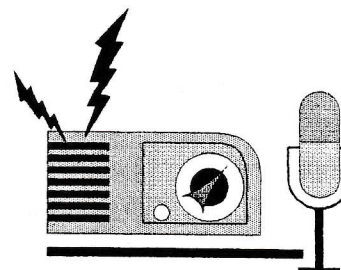
7. THERAPY by The Alberta Beatnik. The Alberta Beatnik has a CD, and it's now on sale at the following vendor locations: Alhambra Books (in the Bear section) or Athabasca Books and Grounds for Coffee. Just a note about what's ON the CD. Musically, I'd describe it as Jack Kerouac meets Lou Reed meets Johnny Cash drinking hard liquor with William S. Burroughs and swapping cigs with Tom Waits in a post-New Wave, jazz and folk-flavoured helping of inner neurosis. Oh, and it's far from pretentious. Actually, there's a lot of humour on it: sardonic and frat boy and eternally 12 years old. Hmmm.

8. As well, a reminder that The Alberta Beatnik is still hosting the GROUNDS FOR JAMMING Open Mike (with Poetry and Music) the last Saturday of every month at 3 p.m., at Grounds For Coffee (10247-97th St.). Anything goes: poetry, music, comedy, and more. Everyone is invited to come and spew their inner mind on awaiting ears. Next ones are May 27th & June 24th. Call Mark Kozub (a.k.a. The Alberta Beatnik) at 490-1414 for more details.

9. Tim Lander, the 1998 Stroll guest poet, has just published his first book, called the glass book (Ekstasis Editions). Incorporating both typeset and handwritten copy, as well as hand drawn ink drawings, Lander's book captures the flavour of many of his self-published chapbooks. From the back cover: Tim Lander is a national treasure, and The Canada Council has finally recognized his importance—he has only been writing for the last thirty years. "He is also a great performer; not only does he play the penny-whistle, he performs his poetry with the dramatic skill of a Shakespearean actor."

-- George Csaba Koller, Owner, Black Sheep Books.

10. June 9, 2000, 7P.M. there is a launch of Coffeestains On Want Ads, stories from the 124 St Reading Series. Call Tina @ 475-4012 or e-mail for more info, [<dmytry@planet.eon.net>](mailto:dmytry@planet.eon.net)



So much good stuff and it's bound to be far better than the radio. Turn them up. Get out & attend some.

Call For Submissions

1. Challenges of THE CHANGE; A Women's Mosaic Seeking creative women who are approaching, experiencing or, who have already lived, the mid-life journey with its accompanying questions, fears, challenges and rewards. We encourage you to share your experience related to the physical, spiritual, vocational or relationship realm of that journey for a proposed anthology. Submissions of fiction, non-fiction, memoir, poetry, photography, or art will be considered. Please send submissions with a SASE to: Shirley Serviss and Diane Buchanan, Editors at Box 31, Site 10, R.R.#6, Edmonton, Alberta, T5B 4K3. Deadline is June 30, 2000.

2. From: Kay Jorgensen <kjorgnsn@mail.pris.bc.ca> Kay Jorgensen helps to edit a small email newsletter for approximately 100 Canadian retirees. She asks: "Would any members of your writers' group be willing to submit some writing to this newsletter? Many of our members are silent readers, and I am trying to brighten up their lives a little bit. I know that some of them have health problems and are shut ins, and the computer access really opens up the world to them. We are a small volunteer group called --- naturally, Canadian Retirees On Line. The newsletter comes out every two weeks. We try to help people learn to use the internet, & computers in general, so there is a tech report in every issue. As sometimes happens in ventures such as this, our contributions have dropped off just now & I am trying to infuse some new enthusiasm into the project." Kay Jorgensen

3. Oolichan Books is calling for submissions to a proposed anthology of what have become to be known as conception poems, in which the poet imagines/remembers the moment in which s/he was conceived. For examples, please see such poems as: "The Night of my Conception" by Harold Rhenisch in Dancing With My Daughter & two poems called "The Night of my Conception" by Lorna Crozier in What the Living Won't Let Go & "I Go Back to 1937" by Sharon Olds in The Gold Cell. Poets whose work is selected will receive two copies of the anthology. Please send poems to: Ursula Vaira, Oolichan Books, PO Box 10, Lantzville, BC V0R 2H0 No email submissions please. Entries must include a SASE. Deadline: June 5, 2000. Proposed publication date is fall 2000. Phone or Fax (250) 390-4839 <oolichan@island.net>

4. Record Books and Shakespeare over the Net. We have just put a web site together that allows you to



record Books and Shakespeare over the Net. We have also just recently implemented the ability to record poetry over the Internet.

It's free, innovative and hopefully fun. We are especially looking for some female voices for the classic book "The Age of Innocence". The first book to be recorded over the Internet. We need folks like you to help us make our site a success, and have some fun in the process. It's easy to do. Just install "Shakespeare.exe" or "Age of Innocence.exe" or "Poetry.exe", and begin reading.

Get your friends together and record a complete play, or select parts recorded by others and assemble your own unique play. Also let people really hear your poetry. We believe we are the first to attempt this. Jeff Roehl <jeff@hearbooksnow.com> To learn all about what we are doing go to: <http://www.hearbooksnow.com>

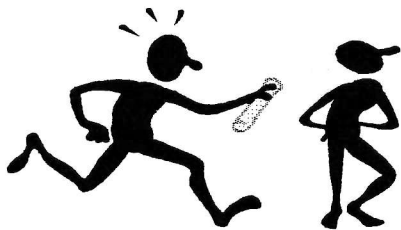


Thank You Notes

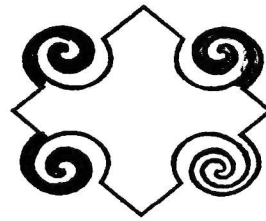
1. Thank you to Myrna Garanis for passing on these interesting book titles: A Grain of Poetry, how to read contemporary poems and make them a part of your life by Herbert Kohl. You Can Write Poetry by Jeff Mock, also includes a chapter on "the pleasure and illumination of reading poems". Just two recently received titles at the Edmonton Public Library. Check out what else we have on-line at www.publib.edmonton.ab.ca.

2. The Stroll of Poets wishes to thank Oliver Music's Joyce Oliver and Sherrilyn Jahrig, for creating and coordinating "Espresso", an afternoon of poetry and music that took place Feb. 26th at Oliver Music (10808-124 St.). The event was well-attended and enjoyable. Winners of the "Lines from the Heart" poetry contest were announced, and the audience was treated to a reading by Pierrette Requier, whose poem won second place. The winner of the contest was Catherine McLaughlin-Patrick. She received a \$100 gift certificate courtesy of Oliver Music. Thank you to everyone who took part: planning, performing, judging, coordinating, and attending. The Stroll was honored to be involved. Maybe this should become an annual event ??





Poetry Relay Contest Results - a Tie!



the women are lily pads
above the waterfall
their green-grey flesh
betrays no sign
no hint of scars beneath
scars from snags, currents
the last glance of the drowning
beneath the waves
last of the sun above
we have not served we
have not served notice, not yet, but watch
the syntax of eels, cursive around the wrecked sailors
their ribs like louvered blossoms

Authors: Nancy Mackenzie, Myrna Garanis,
Gordon McRae, Catherine Patrick, & Jannie Edwards

The Snows of Lethe

Overnight snow has turned the page
and night has written a new story

A potent sifting over yesterday's deeds
redeems the world
with the snows of Lethe

Forgetfulness had been her strong suit,
"memory cleansing", she called it

Merciless creeds melting --
a miasma of emptiness filling the river
with the run-off of the snows of Lethe

While the unsheltered Kaaba stone dons the old
she swallows deep, a sweet, cool revival.

Authors: Diane Buchanan, Dean McKenzie,
Jocelyne Verret, Dianne Bennett, & Rusti Leahy

Cheers!

Last Chance to Buy Your Membership Before the Stroll: Just a reminder to all members to purchase your membership and REGISTER for the Stroll by July 31, 2000. This year's strollers will have the opportunity to have their poems published in the Anthology, as well as entered into the 12 Days of Poetry Competition. The Competition is conducted in a similar fashion every year. Last year, for example, the jury coordinator was Myrna Garanis. Myrna put together a jury of 9 people, and collected the poems submitted to the Anthology at the Stroll. She distributed the poems to the jury members who chose their favourite 44 poems. These were the poets who read during the 12 Days of Poetry. The audience-chosen 4 favourite poets of the first 11 days were asked to read at the 12th day event. So remember, register for this year's Stroll. Please also remember to note on your membership form that you are available to take on some of the volunteer work associated with the Stroll!

Remember the Open Stage Guidelines

Open Stage, for those who do not register for the Stroll by July 31, 2000, will still be available, but performers on the Open Stage will not see their poems in the Anthology. You have until July 31st to register using the form below.

Stroll 2000 Registration Form Deadline: July 31st, 2000

Yes! I need to renew my membership and I want to perform in this year's Stroll on Sunday, October 1st. I also want to continue receiving the *Stroll Scroll*.

Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ FAX# _____

E-Mail _____

Would you like to perform in the Stroll on Oct 1st, 2000?

YES NO

Would you like your name, phone number, and e-mail address in a Stroll Directory?

Would you like to volunteer?

\$10.00 for renewals/membership. Donations welcome. Mail to:

Stroll of Poets Society, Box 35082, Oliver PO, Edmonton, AB. T5K 2R8

(This form and newsletter is available on the website. Tell your friends. Promote the Stroll.)



**YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE
YOU LOVE THE ARTS.**



SO ARE WE.



**The Alberta
Foundation
for the Arts**

Alberta
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURE AND THE ARTS