

President's Message

The reviews are mixed. Following the finale of 12 Days of Poetry (January 20th at the Sidetrack Café), I received messages of high praise and sour criticism. Some felt the 12th Night greatly increased the Stroll's credibility with the general public and the media, that putting our poets in a coveted roadhouse turned our bards into stars for a night.

Others felt there was something distinctly "alienating" about holding the 12th night in a bar.

In hindsight, it was a brash move. The goal (and certainly part of the Stroll's original mandate) was to bring poetry to the public. I truly believe it would be a shame to let the beautiful voices and brains of the Stroll keep hiding away, safely tucked in the Strathcona Legion.

Being in the Sidetrack was great in some ways. We sold some Stroll product to non-Stroll members. A stranger(!) with long hair and a black leather jacket later said it was "cool" what we did "with poetry and guitars, eh." On the other hand, I personally apologize for anyone who suffered bad service at the hands of entirely green personnel at the Sidetrack.

LISTEN, I WANT YOUR FEEDBACK. Not just about the 12 Days of Poetry but about the entire year, period! Sometimes it's easy for a President (and an entire Board, for that matter) to be insular. We think everything is rosy, great, a triumph. For instance, I feel 2000 was a great, inspiring and fiery year filled with the usual fine events (Poetry Tuesdays, the October Stroll, 12 Days and the Anthology launch) and more: a full week of poetry with Stroll 2000, a CD (Raving Poets) getting airplay on CJSR and CKUA and two successful Raving Poets "open stage" runs at the Backroom Vodka Bar. The latter event(s) gained us new members and a venue that now loves Stroll so much its manager wanted us back for two months of Poetry Tuesdays. It also got the Stroll fantastic media exposure with excerpts on A Channel's WIRED show and, in April, a full hour-long documentary called "Backroom Beat" on the Bravo Network. (This will give some of the Stroll's "performance poets" the chance to be seen all over the country!)

On the other hand, long-time members might feel "snubbed" by such new and bold adventures, or that I, as President, have favoured too much the goal to recruit new, young voices. The few people whose poems ran afoul in the otherwise beautiful Stroll 2000 Anthology might also attribute such mistakes to this year's Board taking on too much.

Let us know where YOU stand. Come to the Stroll AGM, March 24th, 2 p.m. at the Heritage Room

in City Hall. The future - not of the planet but of poetry and, man oh man, which one is really more important? - depends on you and your passion to keep this wonderful group alive, kicking and (to paraphrase Walt Whitman), "sounding its barbaric yawps over the roof (tops) of the world."

Mark Kozub
The Alberta Beatnik

(780) 490-1414

P.S. Although a writer, I cannot express in words what a THRILL it was for me to be voted one of the top four poets during the 12 Days of Poetry. If you voted for me, thanks, thanks, thanks.

STROLL OF POETS DIRECTORY: BOARD MEMBERS

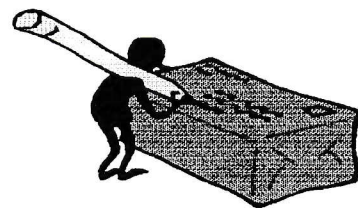
President: Mark Kozub
Vice President: Jocko
Past President: Nancy Mackenzie
Y2K Coordinator: Jocko
Secretary and Membership Secretary: Cindy Lou Prokopy
Treasurer/WebMaster: Gordon McRae
Volunteer Coordinator: Thomas Trofimuk
Workshops: Linda Jennings
Members at Large: Beckie Garber-Conrad, Ronald Kurt



COORDINATORS

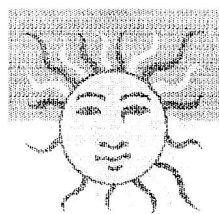
Stroll Coordinator 2000: Rusti Leahy (2001 Vacant)
12 Days Jury Coordinator, 2000: Thomas Trofimuk (2001 Vacant)
12 Days Coordinator, 2000: David Huggett (2001 Vacant)
Reading Series: Ben Murray (Feb.), Audrey Whitson (Mar.), Philip Jagger (Apr.)
Anthology Publisher 2000: Nancy Mackenzie (2001 Vacant)
Newsletter Design & Editing: Rusti Leahy (Soon to be filled by ???)
<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!



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Spring sun is on its way!

Hot News Cold off the Presses

VUE Modern/Traditional results, cold off the presses!
Jacqueline Bell, 1st, Adam Dickinson 2nd, Ben "Nails"
Murray, 2nd (tie), Jannie Edwards, 3rd Delvina Greig,
Carmen Locke, Marijan Megla, Philip Sarsons, Gerald
St. Maur, Honorable Mentions.



Hey, over
here, please!

Stroller's Opinion Corner

(If you have something to say, please forward it to the editor.)

It was good to hear about the Grant MacEwan
boosts to writers, but once again the hoary slimy
head of ageism pokes up un-noticed. There is
help for young writers and money for those
middle of the road writers advanced enough to
write a book. But what about talented older
writers, seniors, who've not had a chance to
follow their star before? Some of these might

prove to be the Grandma Moses of writing. One lady
of eighty had her first book published and it was a
winner. Grant MacEwan himself was a feisty senior
who could hardly have been judged worthy of putting
to pasture in a Bingo parlor. He would have been the
first to advocate the support of elderly aspiring writers.
To make a point, let me say that Grant MacEwan
read one of my pieces and said I had a talent for satiric
humour. We seniors scraped so that our present young
people would have advantages. We gave time, money,
and energy to raise and teach the young. Now in all
fairness, maybe it should be our turn to get a helping
hand.

Dolores Ewen

Dolores invites a dialogue about seniors who are beginning
a new career... that of a writer. <dewen@silvercrest.ab.ca>

Events

1.) Spring Reading Series Schedule Brochure Attached



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2.) Vile times or valentines: an
erotic & xxx rated poetry
reading at the Naked Cyber Café
10442- Whyte Avenue 8:00
February 14th.

3.) T.A.L.E.S Edmonton and T.A.L.E.S.
Strathcona invite you to "Living,
Laughing, Loving: An Evening of Stories" on
Friday, February 16th at 7:30 at the Stanley A. Milner
Library Theatre.

Listen to a variety of stories told by 6
accomplished tellers. Leslie Aitken used to be an
itinerant teller for the Library Bookmobile Service.
Colette Frohlich likes to tell stories of courage and
hope from her Jewish heritage. Jennifer Kennedy
will be telling an old Scottish tale, The Black Bull of
Norroway. Roberta Kennedy tells stories from her
Haida culture. Marie Anne McLean often tells
stories she has written about Thumbprint, a little
town she has added to Saskatchewan. Kerby
Yamamoto is going to tell a tall tale about love and
powerful women.

Enjoy free refreshments. Maybe you'll win a
door prize. Tickets are only \$5.00, and are available
from Jennie Frost (433-2932), from Tix on the
Square, or at the door.

Remember, storytelling is not just for children.
Storytelling for adults can employ a wider range of
themes and more complex stories. Treat yourself to
a new kind of imaginative experience. Join us at the
downtown library theatre on Friday, February 16.
T.A.L.E.S. is very grateful to the Edmonton Public
Library for sponsoring this event.

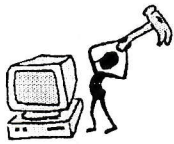
4.) The Songs of the Street Art Foundation will be
holding a coffee house and poetry night starting 7
p.m. on February 21 at the Bissell Centre. This is a
night to come and share poetry or music, and to sign
up for membership if you are interested. At present,
Songs of the Street holds a poetry contest every 18
months and publishes the winning poems in a poetry
anthology that is sold by Our Voice vendors.

5.) Annual General Meeting March 24th, 2001, 2:00
P.M. City Hall Heritage Room. Come to Discuss:

- i) The possibility of MORE grant money.
- ii) The possibility, too, of a BIGGER Board for the
coming year.
- iii) The need for people to take on jobs like
organizing the October Stroll and coordinating
Anthology Sales, now that (sadly) people like Rusti
Lehay and Jo-Ann Godfrey are taking a much-
needed rest. (And of course, WHO will edit next
year's Stroll Anthology?)

Mainly, the AGM will be a Year In
Review and a looking ahead. And, as
Mark will be "stepping down" to take the
role of Past President, come see who the
NEXT Prez will be!





Kill your TV & VCR.
Turn on the
radio!!!

6.) CBC Radio One in Alberta. Thanks to Ben Murray who sent me the following, we can all be aware of all the poetic and fictive talent that's been taking over the airwaves. **Midday Express** is heard across Alberta Monday -

Friday from Noon to 2 P.M. The CBC Anthology's been broadcast every Friday noon since Sept, and goes through until next March or April... lots of great local and Albertan names:

February 09 Aortic Apology (prose) Gail Sidonie Sobat

16 How we got Horses (prose) Ian Adam

23 City Life (prose) Diane Douglas

March 02 Youth category: Sabina Novi (poetry) Alison Schuld (poetry) Amber Bush (prose)

09 Broken Time: a duet (poetry) Ben Murray

16 Release (prose) Wolf Willow

23 Housework (poetry) Barbara Simler

30 Long Gone by a Few Years (prose) Kathleen Yearwood

April 06 Sparrow Rescue (prose) Thomas Trofimuk

13 How She Made Him a Cat Lover (poetry) Judith Robb

7) Open Stages Still Up and Running

i) The Paris Market Reading Series, first Saturday of every month. The second half is an open stage. The first half is for scheduled readers. Please, please email Mark at <abeatnik@telusplanet.net> if you want to be a scheduled reader and get a \$10.00 honorarium.

ii) The Olive Series, and it takes place on the second Tuesday of every month at Martini's Bar and Grill (9910-109 street). For further information contact Andy via cardiganman@excite.com

iii) An Open Stage/Spoken Word/Music etc.. Hosted by Francis A Willey and Kevin Solez. Every Sunday at LUNA LOCA 8409-112st 3PM-6PM First come first read... Poets sign up to read... Poetry, silent art and live music.... Drink specials!!! Happy hour prices!!! Free coffee refills. Contact Francis via <orpehussound@angelfire.com>

8.) Workshop

Saturday, March 24th, Women's Spirit Circles presents, Seasons of the Creative Feminine. Explore the lives of three great women artists of the 20th century: Frida Kahlo, Dorothy Knowles and Georgia O'Keeffe. Understand the forces which shaped their images of body, land and spirit, and those which shape your own. Facilitator: Audrey J. Whitson RSW, MA (Theology). Visit www.spiritlinks.org or call 780-487-7310. Discount before March 16th. <Audrey@spiritlinks.org>

Member's Books

1.) Linda Dumont has a poetry chapbook, Shattered Rainbows, published in September 1999, and a comic book, Soupline Bob, published July, 2000. Both books are sold on the street by Our Voice Vendors or available through me at \$5.00 a copy. Our Voice vendors make \$2.50 per copy for the ones they sell.

2.) Joyce Harries will be signing her book Girdles & Other Harnesses I Have Known

Audreys Feb 9 - 12:00-1:00

Smiths Ed. Center Feb 15 - 11:30-1:30

Coles Southgate Feb 24 - 1:00-4:00

Places to Submit

1.) Springboard.ca is an online destination for Canadian women that will be launching on February 26, 2001. One of the features being offered on the web site will be an electronic cards function. Our users will have the option of choosing a pre-formatted card or creating their own electronic card by matching an image with a poem. In terms of poetry, we have the following criteria:

- * Poems must be able to be categorized as Birthday, Anniversary, Baby, Get Well, Thank You, Friendship, Love and Relationships, Family, or Holidays (e.g. St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day, etc.).
- * Poems should be no longer than 15 lines.
- * Submit poetry to <editor@springboard.ca> Include a brief introduction to the poet's body of work and background.
- * Payment for each poem is negotiable and is dependent on poet's profile, exclusivity of poetry and number of poems delivered by each poet.

2.) LibE! Wants your short fiction, poetry, black and white artwork, concrete poetry, chapbook/small press reviews, rants, etc. LibE! 104-10435-78 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1P1

3.) STANZAS wants your long poems and sequence poems for upcoming issues! To inquire, subscribe or submit, send to: above/ground press, c/o rob mclennan, rr#1 maxville, ontario KOC 1T0



So you want to submit your writing. I've hunted down some addresses for you.



The only way to get an acceptance letter is to send your work out!

4.) The Prairie Journal wants submissions of poetry, fiction, plays, interviews, essays, reviews. Send to Prairie Journal Trust, P.O. Box 61203, Brentwood P.O., Calgary, AB T2L 2K6. Website: www.geocities.com/Athens/Ithaca/4336/ Hurricane Alice a feminist quarterly. Inquire to mreddy@grog.ric.edu or write to *Hurricane Alice*, Department of English, Rhode Island College, Providence, Rhode Island 02908

5.) Broken Jaw Press Inquire to jblades@nbnet.nb.ca or www.brokenjaw.com or by mail to Box 596 STN A, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A6

6.) Snap is a new series of short, sharp broadside series to focus on prairie-based poetry, edited by Duncan Anderson. Submissions of visual/concrete pieces, or poems of no more than thirty lines can be submitted to snap_alberta@hotmail.com When submitting, please include a short bio note, as well as a snail mail address.

7.) Filling Station publishes poetry, fiction, interviews, reviews, creative, literary, non-fiction and graphic artwork. We publish work by nationally and internationally recognized writers as well as provide many young writers with their first publishing credit. Filling Station publishes work of varying aesthetic styles and gives forum to differing viewpoints on current literary issues. 3 issues per year for \$15 indiv GST n/a; Inquire, submit, subscribe to: Filling Station, P.O. Box 22135, Bankers Hall, Calgary, AB T2P 4J5 Ph. (403) 283-4986 Fax (403) 283-5287

8.) Prairie Fire, a Canadian magazine of new writing. Inquire, submit, subscribe to 423-100 Arthur St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1H3

9.) DESCANT, Inquire, submit, subscribe to P.O. Box 314, Station P, Toronto, ON Canada, M5S 2S8

10.) West Coast Paradise Publishing Inquire, submit, subscribe to P.O. Box 2093 Sardis Stn. Main, Sardis, BC V2R 1A5 <wcpp@telus.net>

11.) *Last On This List But Not Least* *The Stroll Chapbook Project*

Theme for Summer, 2001: Orphans of Silence
"Poetry is an orphan of silence. The words never quite equal the experience behind them." - Charles Simic

The Stroll Chapbook Project is a members-only quarterly publication, with the publication date for the first issue being Spring 2001.

Each chapbook features the work of Society members, with one, invited poet being featured per issue. Poets submitting work to the Chapbook Project are strongly encouraged to submit work that coincides with the theme.

Works will be printed in standard chapbook format: 24 pages of 8½x11", folded and stapled. Poets whose work is accepted will receive a copy of the chapbook. Limited copies will be made available for sale at local bookstores.

Submission Guidelines:

1. The Stroll Chapbook Project is open to members of the Stroll of Poets Society. Non-members must enclose a non-refundable \$10.00 membership fee with their submissions. (Please make cheque payable to: "The Stroll of Poets Society".)
2. Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2001.
3. Please submit no more than five poems at one time. All work must be original. Poetry submitted in hardcopy should be typed.
4. Poems of all lengths and any style will be considered, but must be original.
5. Hard-copy and disk submissions should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with sufficient postage; otherwise they will not be returned. If you do not wish your submission returned, please mark with "Destroy".
6. Authors retain the copyright.

The Stroll of Poets Society is not responsible for lost, misplaced, or damaged submissions.

Send hardcopy submissions to:

The Chapbook Project
The Stroll of Poets Society
Box 35082, Oliver P.O.
Edmonton, AB T5K 2R8

Send your e-mail submission either in the body of your e-mail or as an attachment to: stroll@incentre.net using "Chapbook Submission" in the Subject line. Be sure to include your email address and name in the body of the email!



Luck of the Irish to you all.

Member's Requests

1.) Richard Davies is interested in obtaining a contact number or address for Peter Cole, former Stroll member. If anyone can help, please call Richard @ 462-8189 or rdavies@edmc.net. Thanks Richard

2.) Philip Jagger requests donations of items to give away as gifts for the poetry open stage contest (one night only) in March.

