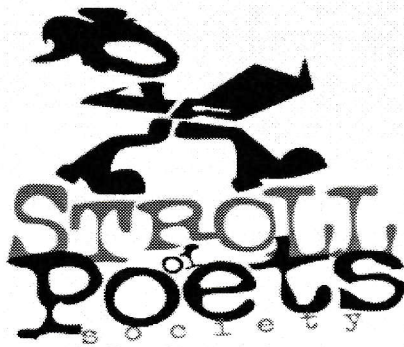


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BOX : 35082, OLIVER, P.O: EDMONTON, AB, T5K 2R8:
WEBSITE: www.strollofpoets.com



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER :

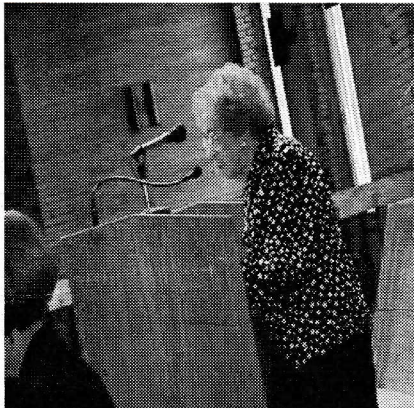
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

...The new President that is. Ivan Sundal resigned as President and Sandra Mooney- Ellerbeck as past President when they were awarded the short term contract for archiving Stroll documentation and writing a procedures manual (more about that further down in this article). I agreed to coordinate the affairs of the Society until the next Annual General Meeting 2004 March.

I admit my initial reluctance to take this on. A fairly recent member of the Society, I need to learn about its workings, evolution, and traditions, which I hoped to do as I board member/volunteer. As the situation is, time would not wait for me to get ready. I relented because of the energetic support from board and members, as much as for their relentless sweet-talk.

My name is Oswald Meyer. Feel free to call me Ozzie, as my friends do. I got into poetry and the Stroll of Poets scene when I took early retirement and moved from Manitoba to Alberta. Listen for my Manitoba accent! I joined the Stroll for the first time in 2001 and hope some day to be known for my poetry, rather than my skinny tallness

Day by day I feel the energy and event committees building up a Anthology Launch is coming up first look at this years anthology, Mootoo's acclaimed essay be her just for us. Readers from their free copy of the anthology make excellent Christmas October Stroll will be announced attention to the 12 days of Poetry organizing committees are hard at all of us.



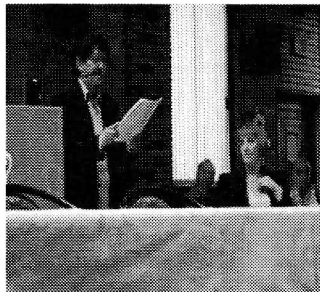
excitement on the board and the powerful head of steam . The Sunday December 7. We get our which will include Shani " How do Poets Stroll " written the October Stroll can pick up My tip: buy extra copies, they presents! The winners of the and with that we direct our starting 2004 Jan 06 ready the work to make each event a treat for

Largely due to the efforts of Doug Elves the Stroll received a grant from a hitherto untapped source of new funding, the Alberta Government Community Initiatives Program to pay for creating archives of retrievable files for the thirteen years of the Stroll of Poets activities; to prepare a manual of guidelines and to provide for administrative support to the board. This will make the work of future boards and committees much easier, will allow them to focus more on developing the Stroll, spend less time working the treadmill, avoid the effort of year after year reinventing the wheel.

A final note: Kathryn Charr Treasurer, resigned from the board effective November 30. While the board still has a quorum and is not required by the bylaws to appoint more board members, the board urgently needs a volunteer with the requisite skills to serve as treasurer until at least March 2004 when a new board gets elected. Give me a call send me an e-mail if you are willing to take on this task. I hope to see you at the Anthology Launch . To those who don't know me I am quite easy to recognize from the description in the third paragraph.. Lets shake hands and exchange ideas...

OZZIE MEYER
(780) 467-3878
OHMEYER@TELUS.COM

A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH



The Backstreet Vodka Bar is host each Tuesday night to a real diamond in the rough. A place where each and everyone of us can polish our craft into the multi faceted gem that we all dream of showing to the public each October during the Stroll. I was Given the privilege of reading a piece to the backing of Jocko and the Poetry Thugs ambient tones. A new thing for me and a rare

pleasure indeed.

The Raving Poets Society as they call themselves are that rare breed of artists that promote among the general reading public the willingness to open up and read in public. To live in the moment and to caste the fear of judgment aside and simply laugh and live. Each reading built one upon the other until by the end of the snowy evening I realized that I had passed 4 hours of my otherwise busy life with not a care of what I had to do tomorrow or the rush of the pressures of lifestyle, no I simply lived in harmony with others who shared a passion for the art of the written word , I heartily recommend the Backstreet Vodka Bar on any given Tuesday night to polish any piece that you happen to be working on. You will find a willing audience there ... TIM SCHEYBELER.



THE STROLL CREW :

IVAN SUNDAL : PRESIDENT (ON LEAVE)
OSWALD MEYER : PRESIDENT (ACTING)
VICE PRESIDENT : VACANT
KATHRYN CHARR : TREASURER
TDL TURNER : SECRETARY
SANDRA MOONEY ELLERBECK : PAST PRESIDENT
DOUG ELVES : PAST PRESIDENT

PIERRETTE REQUIER } WORKSHOPS
ANDY MICHAELSON }

TIM CUSACK } SPRING SERIES
MICHAEL APPLEBY }

PHILIP JAGGER : PHOTOGRAPHER

TIM SCHEYBELER : EDITOR

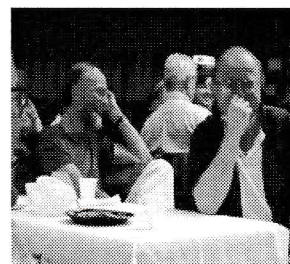
ATTN STROLLERS:

PREPARATIONS FOR THE
SPRING READING SERIES ARE
UNDERWAY.

ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS
CONTACT TIM CUSACK OR
MIKE APPLEBY

SERIES TO RUN LATE MARCH TO
EARLY MAY

ONE SESSION
EVERY TWO
WEEKS OR
SO...



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

BY : **SANDRA MOONEY- ELLERBECK**

PAUL " THE MIDDLE POET " MCLAUGHLIN

Paul has been with the Stroll for almost 4 years. Paul has always loved writing, so when he went to McMaster University in Hamilton he studied English Literature. It almost ruined him for writing forever. He left this field and ventured toward Philosophy and law and it took him 30 years in recovery before he finally came back to creative writing.

We're glad he returned to writing and is sharing his poetry within the Stroll. We're equally as happy to have him with us because he shares some of the best Stroll hugs and help. Recently, he could be seen helping out at the brunch. As Anthology Sales Coordinator he has the bookstores selling us and wanting more !

Paul says

" I don't write poetry, I write poems. Poetry is for academics to analyze and sterilize. Poems are for real people. Poems line in the air as well as on paper."

When Paul travels, he looks for open mike events and has been able to read in San Diego, Chicago, Tampa, Toronto, Hamilton, London, England. (at the Poetry Café in Covent Garden) and was a featured poet at a reading of The Back Room Poets in Oxford. In all this travel, he has never found a better place to read than old home town Edmonton, especially at the Stroll Events and the Back Room Vodka Bar.

Paul doesn't submit his poems for publication, but has a website at www.dogonit.ca/poetry which is where he says:"I publish my poems, I find the webmaster very easy to get along with."

Locally he has presented readings in schools, restaurants (Valentine's Day as part of the Bistro Trio), coffee shops and this Dad's lodge in Sherwood park. He has also attended the Booming Ground Workshop at UBC twice.

Right now he is spending most of his limited time writing working on his novel, Butterfly Turbulence, which he says should be done by 2030 and he will return to writing more poetry then.

ANTHOLOGY LAUNCH

DECEMBER : 7

CENTENNIAL ROOM

STANLEY A MILNER LIBRARY

2.00 PM

12 DAYS WINNERS REVEALED

Please bring munchies

Family and friends welcome

Buy extra anthology copies for Christmas presents.

NOTICE :

Stroll member Leo Campos asked if the Stroll could let its members know that it is free to subscribe to his email listserv. The email postings announce events:

Cultural (including literary), social, health, education, and international affairs. The stroll used Leo's services to help spread the word about the Stroll brunch and readings. If you would like to subscribe or unsubscribe contact Leo at leocampos@aol.com.

Inkling Press proudly announces

A POETRY CONTEST ... WITH PRIZES OF 300.00 DOLLARS



THE RIVER CITY RETRO

THE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

A LOOK AT THE CITY'S COLOURFUL PAST. DID ANYTHING EVER HAPPEN ?

CONTEST RULES

- 1) POEMS MUST BE ON THE FOLLOWING THEMES
- 2) POEMS MUST HAVE NO MORE THAN 60 LINES
- 3) UP TO 3 POEMS MAY BE SUBMITTED EACH ON SEPARATE PAGES
- 4) NAME AND CONTACT INFO ON THE BACK OF EACH POEM
- 5) POEM MUST BE ORIGINAL OR RECENTLY PUBLISHED (PROVIDING THE COPY RIGHT STILL RESTS WITH THE AUTHOR)
- 6) ENTRY FEE \$15.00 REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF POEMS SUBMITTED
- 7) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: December 31st, 2003

SEND POEMS WITH ENTRY FEE (PAYABLE TO MAGPIE PRODUCTIONS)

TO: MAGPIE PRODUCTIONS

P.O. BOX 52014

Edmonton, AB T6G 2T5

SUBJECTS

floods, immigration, oil, hockey, bridges, jazz, fires, theatre, schools, mercy flights, money, garrisons
tornadoes, parties, mining, bars, epidemics, logging, brothels, railroads, gold, politics, land, furs, wars, Emily
booze, religion..... WoW...

ANTHOLOGY

INKLING PRESS IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT IT WILL PUBLISH THE WINNING POEMS WITH
SLEECTED OTHERS ENTERED IN THE ***RIVER CITY RETRO*** POETRY CONTEST AS A CELEBRATION OF THE CITY OF
EDMONTON'S 100th BIRTH DAY. EVERY CONTESTANT WILL RECEIVE A COPY OF THE ANTHOLOGY FREE OF CHARGE AND BE
ENTITLED TO MORE AT DISCOUNTED PRICES.

MORE INFORMATION AT THE WEBSITE : www.angelfire.com/poetry/magpie/index.html
or call Edna Lock at 433 3914...

The Stroll Executive would once again like to thank all who volunteered;

Julie Robinson, Nancy Mackenzie, M. Jennie Frost, Kath MacLean, Linda Jennings, Anne Marshall, Jo-Ann Godfrey, John Chalmers, Rusti Leahy,
Drew Jeffries, Michael Appleby, Ron Kurt, Jocelyne Verret, Jean Carmichael McKenzie, Thomas Trofimuk, Paul McLaughlin, June Smith-Jeffries,
Ruth Galloway, Rebecca Schellenberg, Anne Rozwadowska, Ruth Anderson Donovan, Phillip A Jagger, Richard Davies, Ken Wilson,
Andy Michaelson, Gina Varty, Tim Cusack, Joyce Pinckney, Tom Emmens, David Huggett, Dianne Bennett, Adriana Davies.

13th Annual

Stroll of Poets



With Assistance from



Don't forget the
No Bards Barred Bar
Poetic fun & games
at Strathcona Legion
10416 81 Ave @ 5 pm

Strollofpoets.com



Honoring Mary T McDonald

Sunday, October 5 / 03

140 poets recite
in several Strathcona venues

Stroll Brunch

with
guest
writer



Shani Mootoo

11 am Strathcona Legion

Brunch Tickets \$10 in advance from Greenwoods Books, \$12 at door
Mootoo performance only (11:45 am) \$5 at the door

Alhambra Books 10309 Whyte	Athabasca Books 8228 105 St	B-Scene Studios 8212 104 St	Travellers Antiques & Bjarne Book 10533 Whyte	Greenwoods Books 7925 104 St	International Hostel 10647 81 Ave	Naked Cyber Cafe 10442 Whyte	O' Byrnes Irish Pub 10616 Whyte
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Julie Robinson Trevor Dekort Todd Anstead Patti Sinclair Shelley Lawson	Nancy McKenzie John Zapanis Audrey Whitson Joy Lardner Fred Anderson	M Jennie Frost Adam Dickinson s mooney ellerbeck Francis A Willey	Kath MacLean Len Gierach Vanna Tessier Vince Pallier	Linda Jennings Ben Murray Carlean Fisher Hugh McAlary Vallery Zimmel <i>Jason Hammond</i>	Anne Marshall Doug Elves Dennis Porsnub Ruth Galloway	*Geraldine Matus Taras Toroshenko *Jo-Ann Godfrey Cathy L Hodgson	John Chlamers Madeleine Shiller Phil Jagger Michelle Lambert *
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1 PM - 1:30

* Rusti Leahy Gerald St. Maur Dennis Rusinak Jacqueline Smith Trisia Eddy	Drew Jeffries Barbara Curry Mulcahy *Oswald Meyer Anne Rix	Michael Appleby Sherrilyn Jahrig *Anna Mioduchowska Brian Genereux	Ron Kurt Diane Buchanan Cliff Therou Amy Williams	Jocelyne Verrett Pritam Atwal Pierette Requier James Thurgood Mechelle Flynn	Jean Carmichael McKenzie Rique-Edgar Brotherston TDL Turner Neil Melli <i>meili</i>	Thomas Trofimuk Brenda Love Gordon Ernest MacLennon Catherine McLaughlin	*Paul McLaughlin Ellen Wells *Ivan Sundal Deborah Lawson Myriam Hempstock <i>Naomi McElwraith</i>
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2 PM - 2:30

June Smith-Jeffries Louis Munan Derek Newell Jenine Dumont * Penny Hutchison	Audrey Shield John Sylvestre Alison Nicholls Monica Rosborough Henry Victor	Rebecca Shellenberg Dean McKenzie John Leppard Margaret MacPherson Beverley Beckley	Faye Francis Anna Rozwadowska Rawn Sidor Karla Wolyszyn	* Ruth Anderson Donovan Michael Kennedy * Mary T McDonald Nicole Harrison	Open Stage Phil Jagger	Richard Davies Ken Johnstone *Christina Tower Tracey Murray Cheryl Kyle	*Ken Wilson Kathy Fisher Wendy Joy Concorcia L Mendoza
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3 PM - 3:30

* Andy Michaelson Kathie Sutherland Andrew Thompson Joyce Harries Kevin Clulow	Gina Varty Harold Cashman Marcia O'Conner Sue Marxheimer	Tim Cusack Shirley A Serviss Tim Scheybeler Carole-Anne Brown <i>Tanya Dion</i>	Joyce Pinckney Seane O'Rourke Jacqueline Bell Darlene Sponge Henderson	Tom Emmens Myrna Garanis Kathryn R Charr Don Butler Lana Phillips	Dave Huggett Darcia Dahl Maxwell Foster Audrey Seehagen Florence McKie	*Fabian Jennings Dianne Bennett Gail Sobat Nola Jackson George Metcalf Jr <i>Volerie Zimmel</i>	Adriana Davis *Jocko *Connie Lloyd Scott Alderson Tavia Grabas
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4 PM - 4:30

2003 Stroll Schedule/Host Information

Hello Poets! Here is the schedule for the 13th Annual Stroll of Poets on October 5th, 2003. Please take a good look at it; find your name and the venue and the time you are reading. If you need anymore information in regard to reading time or venue please contact s_mooney_ellerbeck@hotmail.com. If your name appears first in the grouping, this means that you are the host of the reading. Sandra Mooney-Elterbeck will be contacting you with further information! For now, please record the date, location and time you are reading (presuming of course that all is well in the schedule). Thanks. We're looking forward to another wonderful Stroll.

Anthology Specs:

- Poems must have a title
- Max. length: 30 lines, which includes a one-line title & all blank lines
- Max. width: 58 spaces, Times New Roman
- Bio no more than 75 words
- Poems and Bios must be typed on 8.5 x 11 white paper
- Put your name on back of poem
- Type Bio on separate sheet of paper
- Give the poem for this year's anthology to your host. Write yes or no on it for entry in 12 Days.
- Sign your Host's submission sheet.
- If possible please post your poem for the anthology at www.strollpoets.com

Start the Stroll with Brunch Shani Mootoo performing 11:00 am at the Strathcona Legion



Shani Mootoo's first book, Out on Main Street, Press Gang, 1993, is a collection of short stories. Her first novel, Cereus Blooms at Night, 1996, Mc Lelland and Stewart, was nominated for The Giller Prize, the Chap-ter's First Novel Award and the BC Book Prize and was awarded the New England Book Sellers award in 1998. Her book of poetry, Predicament of Or, was published by Polestar/Raincoast in 2001. She has just completed her second novel which is soon to be published. She is currently working on a book of creative non-fiction for Polestar/Raincoast. Born in Ireland and raised in Trinidad, Mootoo resides in Edmonton where she teaches Creative Writing in the English Department of the University of Alberta. Aside from prose and poetry, Mootoo is also an active visual art and video artist.

Finish the Stroll at the No Bards Barred Bar 5 - 8 pm at the Legion 10416 81 Ave

Anthology Launch

December 7, 2003

2:00 PM

Centennial Room

Stanley A. Milner Library

12 Days of Poetry Festival

Each reader in the stroll has the opportunity to submit one poem to be judged by 9 jurors -44 poems will be chosen -the poets of the chosen poems will perform in the 12 Days of Poetry Festival, January 2004. Watch for forthcoming details.



Also honoring
Mary T McDonald
at Stroll Brunch.

Reflection on Writing and Our Guest Writers

"Why do we do this thing called writing?" I ask myself as I prepare to address, as host, the crowd at this year's Stroll of Poet's Brunch. I have a suspicion that writers often ask themselves this question. I also think the question bears asking in the company of friends of poets, and families who have to live with writers.

sheri d wilson, one of our former stroll brunch guest readers and performance poet extraordinaire, claims we do it to change the energy around us. She believes we do it also to support every poet who has ever lived, and to encourage those who desire to write to fully engage the process of entering the sometimes intensely delightful, and sometimes terrifying space of ecstasy that following the muse and putting your stuff out requires.

This year, for the thirteenth October stroll event, we were graced with two terrific guests, our own Mary T. McDonald, author of Another End of the Road, and Shani Mootoo artist, published writer of prose, (The Cereus Blooms at Night) poetry (The Predicament of Or) and creative non fiction, and presently teacher of creative writing at the University of Alberta. Each writer brought, in her own way, a special brand of magic to delight the people who came to be regaled.

National winner of the CBC Poetry Face Off Contest, Mary T. was invited, as an honoured guest, to read her winning piece. As well, the board saw fit to present her with an Outstanding Stroller Award because of her courage as a writer and the inspiring presence she has brought to so many stroll events since its inception in 1991.

Mary T. informed me during an interview that she has been a reader at all twelfth nights except for one year. Her first book was published by Rowan books when she was 81. Now, at 85, she is working on her second book about the interesting things that go on in the lives of people who live in lodges. She informs me that they contain a lot of satire, are mostly 'tongue in cheek.' My take on it, to borrow Anne Lamott's words (in Bird By Bird.) is, I believe that Mary T. writes "to tell the truth in an interesting way."

When Mary T. read her winning piece "Conformity Be Damned" she, as always, wowed the crowd. I feel that the particular treasures that Mary T's writing brings to her audience are her gusto and her sense of humour, both of which, are grounded in her love of, and keen observation of life and the living, the wisdom of her years, and her fierce creative spirit.

The particular gift that Shani Mootoo, brought was a poetic creative nonfiction piece written just for the occasion, a first in the history of the stroll. But more than that; she brought words that gave us the experience of a "conscious performance of living," that is,

of finding new manifestations of poetry in simple actions, in unusual places.

I was fortunate to be in very close physical proximity to Shani as she read, to feel bodily the rhythm of 'her voice' and to be in a position to observe the effect of her spoken words on the audience, to feel the energy that flows between reader and listeners. I think that energy is part of what William Stafford means when he says that we write to be in the presence of impending language where many things can happen.

The title of Shani's piece "How Does a Poet Stroll?" instantly drew me in. And even more so the theme running through the piece, of the action of God and the Devil residing in the same street, room, person, in the poet, uneasily yet amicably. And yet, more so, her own story of coming to the act of writing and to poetry in spite of the humiliating teaching methods and punitive punishments that were used during her 'education.'

In the secular world with its pull toward conformity, which breeds an "us" and "them" attitude, it is good to be reminded of the 'real' whereabouts of God and the Devil, of the constant play of opposing archetypes. That both these forces are always present deep in the human psyche, and in all acts of creation. That something relentless, greater than us, plays with us constantly, tearing us apart, upsetting our too narrow points of view, so that, through holding the opposites, something new can emerge. I am reminded of Leonard Cohen's famous line, "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in."

Shani's voice carried 'us' along into story, the story of how she 'accidentally' discovered, in a moment of transgression, the desire to scribble her own dilemmas through the pull of Carl Sandburg's poetry, of plain and playful words. And how, later on, reading aloud one of T. S. Eliot's poems sealed her love affair with language, meaning, sound, and poetry. Which brings us back to the opposites. In a love affair there is always heaven and hell, agony and ecstasy!

So why do we fall in love? Why do we write? I think Shani answered that with questions, not only the shimmering questions she asks at the end of her piece, "How does a poet..." but the questions that the text asks us to ask of ourselves while pondering the possibility of poetry. What pounds loud and clear in the poet (dreamer, lover) in me? What is my story of awakening to poetry? Which poem seized me so, my breath was taken away, or, opened me so, I could finally release and breathe? And in what unexpected places have I found poetry, can I find poems?