

*****News from the League*****

HAPPY CANADA DAY!

THE LEAGUE OF CANADIAN POETS CONGRATULATES THE WINNERS OF THE AWARDS

The winners of the 2008 Pat Lowther and Gerald Lampert Memorial Awards were announced on Saturday, June 21, at a special awards banquet at the annual LCP Poetry Festival and Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland. Anne Simpson was the winner of the Pat Lowther award for her book *Quick* (McClelland & Stewart) and Alex Boyd won the Gerald Lampert award for *Making Bones Walk* (Luna Publications). For more info: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/awards.htm>

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME MARYANNE TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Maryanne Casasanta is a Toronto-based writer, performance artist and filmmaker. Her latest work explores architectural environments, with a focus on one's interaction with structured spaces. She received her B.F.A. from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 2005 and studied at Humber College in Arts Administration and Cultural Management earlier this year. Her films have been screened in Canada, South America and Europe. Maryanne Casasanta will be in the office Monday – Wednesday, handling the listserv, general office enquiries, membership questions, the League's Facebook and MySpace accounts and much, much more. You can reach her at: admin@poets.ca.

THANK YOU!!

TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THE LCP POETRY FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS

Thank you to all the members and council members who made the trek to St. John's. And a special 'Thank You' to Marian Frances White. Her hard work in organizing both traditional and special events really made the weekend a wonderful and welcoming festival! We will post pictures on the website. Check back soon.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AT THE LEAGUE

One of the main tasks at the annual LCP Poetry Festival and Conference was to elect the people who will serve on the League's National Council for the upcoming year. Here are the new council members as voted in at the Members meeting in St. John's. Welcome to all the new and returning council members. For a full list of current council members and committees see: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/council.htm>. Bios of each council member will be in the next newsletter.

Advisory Committee:

Past President: Maurice Mierau

President: D.C. Reid

Vice President/Membership Chair: Joe Blades

Treasurer: Ray Mitchell

Regional Reps:

Newfoundland/NS rep: Nellie Strowbridge

NB/PEI rep:

Quebec/Nunavut rep: Angela Leuck

Ontario rep: Elizabeth Greene

Toronto rep: k.g. Sambrano

Manitoba rep: Lori Cayer

Saskatchewan rep: Katherine Lawrence

Alberta/NWT rep: Dymphny Dronyk

BC/Yukon: Yvonne Blomer

Associate rep: Andy Michaelson

Committee Chairs:

Mediation chair:

International Affairs chair: Flavia Cosma

Communications chair: Brian Campbell

Education chair:
Resources Development chair: Maurice Mierau
Outreach Committee chair: John J. Guiney Yallop
Feminist Caucus: Anne Burke

FEMINIST CAUCUS NEWS

For those who were unable to attend the League Annual General Meeting, in St. John's, Newfoundland, and the Feminist Caucus Business Meeting (and for those who did), here are the Minutes of the Feminist Caucus Business meeting, Saturday, June 21, 2008, at Riverhead/Pegasus Room, The Battery Hotel and Conference Centre, St. John's Newfoundland, 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

JULY 31 DEADLINE- CANADA POETRY TOURS

A reminder to all the poets and hosts that would like to apply for Canada Poetry Tours funding for readings taking place between October 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009. The deadline is July 31, 2008. For the complete guidelines, application forms and more info: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/programs.htm>.

TORONTO READING PROGRAM BOOKED

The Readings in Public Places program is closed for this round. This program, funded by Toronto Arts Council, has provided funding to 56 readings in Toronto. Funding will be available again for readings taking place after April 1, 2009. For more info: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/programs.htm>

MARGARET AVISON PANEL BLOG

I have returned from Newfoundland where I moderated a session on the late Margaret Avison with panel members Barbara Nickel, Stan Dragland and Maureen Scott Harris for the League of Canadian Poets. It was quite a journey for me and I recorded it all on my blog monthwithmargaret.blogspot.com I put up my last post today.

Please disseminate the url for this blog as widely as you can to people you might know that would be interested and if you have any suggestions as to where I might pitch this as a print article anywhere, please let me know. It'd be good to reach the hard-copy crowd as well! Sally Ito.

KEEP YOUR BIO PAGES UPDATED

Fill in the forms here: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/members.htm>. If you have any questions please email [Ingel](mailto:ingel@poets.ca) at readings@poets.ca

***** Literary News *****

CANADIAN POET AND PLAYWRIGHT JAMES REANEY DIES AT 81

James Reaney, a poet, author and dramatist of three famous plays about Ontario's feuding Donnelly family, has died. He was 81. Reaney died Wednesday in London, Ont., after a long illness. Reaney won the Governor General's Award for poetry three times, in 1949 for *The Red Heart*, in 1958 for *A Suit of Nettles* and in 1962 for *Twelve Letters to a Small Town*. His trilogy of plays about the Donnelly family — an Irish immigrant family involved in a violent battle with their southern Ontario neighbours in the 1870s — premiered at Toronto's Tarragon Theatre in the 1970s. For full CBC article: <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/story/2008/06/12/james-reaney.html>

ALEX BOYD, ANNE SIMPSON WIN \$1,000 NATIONAL POETRY PRIZES

Toronto-born Alex Boyd and Anne Simpson of Antigonish, N.S., have won national poetry prizes. The winners of the 2008 Pat Lowther and Gerald Lampert Memorial Awards were announced over the weekend at a festival and conference held by the League of Canadian Poets. For full Canadian Press article: <http://www.macleans.ca/culture/wire/article.jsp?content=e062325A>

MARGARET ATWOOD WINS SPANISH LITERARY PRIZE

Canadian author Margaret Atwood has won Spain's Prince of Asturias prize for letters. In a statement Wednesday, the jury praised the 68-year-old Atwood for work that covers several genres "with sharpness and irony." It says she "defends the dignity of women and denounces situations of social injustice." For full Toronto Star article: <http://www.thestar.com/article/448871>

WINNING TORONTO POET'S PROSE CONTAINS 'GREAT SURREAL LEAPS OF METAPHOR AND MAGIC'

Toronto poet Alex Boyd has won the 2008 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award for his book of poetry *Making Bones Walk*. The award honours outstanding achievement in first-time works by Canadian poets. "Great surreal leaps

of metaphor and magic," the judges said of Boyd's work in a statement. "Alex Boyd's Making Bones Walk shows a fine mastery of craft, but it is his attention to detail, the little things in life, that reveal the bigger story." For full National Post article: <http://www.nationalpost.com/arts/story.html?id=608651>

HIGHLIGHT: GOD'S RED POET: THE LIFE OF KENNETH LESLIE

What put Nova Scotian Kenneth Leslie on a Top 50 list in the illustrious company of Albert Einstein, Arthur Miller, Lillian Hellman, Norman Mailer and Thomas Mann? The only Canadian in the group, Leslie earned his spot on Life magazine's list of communists for his very public fight against fascism and anti-Semitism in 1930s and 1940s America. And he wasn't even a communist. What Kenneth Leslie was was a child prodigy - he attended Dalhousie at 14 - a Governor-General's Award-winning poet, a farmer, a thrice-married minister, a songwriter, a magazine founder, a lecturer and, as necessary, an itinerant preacher man, high-school teacher and taxi driver. For full Globe and mail article:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080627.TVDOCPICK27/TPStory/?query=poetry>

FEMALE POETS SHARE THEIR WORK

For over 15 years, a local group of writers have been meeting every two weeks to read and workshop their writing. These women, spanning generations, have mentored and inspired each other and created a rich and rigorous rapport which has produced over 25 books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction, as well as numerous chapbooks. For full Daily News article: <http://www.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/story.html?id=a808cb47-7727-49d4-b068-4fd0f2ba6283>

CANADIAN NOVELIST'S FIRST BOOK WINS WORLD'S RICHEST LITERARY PRIZE

De Niro's Game by Canadian Rawi Hage has won the 13th annual International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, the world's richest literary prize -- €100,000 (or about \$160,000 Canadian) for a single work of fiction published in English. The win was announced today in Dublin, and marks the first time a debut book has won the prize. Hage is only the second Canadian to win the award, after Alistair MacLeod in 2001 for his novel No Great Mischiefs.

"To all those women and men of letters, and all artists who have gone beyond the aesthetics of the singular to represent the multiple and diverse, to all those men and women who have chosen the painful and costly portrayal of truth over tribal self-righteousness, I am grateful. We should all be grateful."

-- Rawi Hage in his acceptance speech. For more info: <http://www.anansi.ca/>

B.C. TO MANDATE CANLIT IN HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH COURSES

High school English courses in B.C. will soon be required to include at least one "significant" work of Canadian literature. The provincial ministry recently revamped the curriculum for English Language Arts courses for grades 8 to 12 and included the provision after strong lobbying from various groups, most notably ArtStarts, a B.C.-based non-profit educational arts organization for youth. "The new curriculum for English Language Arts will have a greater emphasis on Canadian literature in the learning outcomes... with full implementation this September," ministry spokesperson Tasha Schollen told Q&Q Omni yesterday. The ministry had been undergoing a review of the curriculum for English courses, which had not been reviewed or revised since 1995. The original draft curriculum for English Language Arts courses for grades 8 to 12 mandated the use of Canadian spelling and "encouraged the use of Canadian and world literature," but there were no specific regulations, says ArtsStarts consultant Jean Baird, who helped spearhead a push to include such provisions in the final revised curriculum. ArtStarts consulted with the public and educational groups, including the B.C. Teachers of English Language Arts, to develop a proposal and press for changes to the curriculum. "At first, the idea was to argue for a specific [CanLit] course," Baird says. "The problem was that it would have been an elective." It became clear that including Canadian literature in the curriculum was a hot-button issue – ArtStarts had hoped to collect 50 to 100 names of individuals and organizations in support of their position, but ended up with a list that ran over 50 pages, with many of those who responded writing long letters in favour of the initiative. "What was amazing was how passionate people were about this," Baird says. "It should be heartening to writers and people in the publishing industry that this is not a dead issue. It's something people truly care about." ArtStarts forwarded a proposed revision to the curriculum to the ministry of education last December. Various boards of education from across the province, as well as the English department at the University of British Columbia, presented formal responses in favour of mandating Canadian literature in the new curriculum. Gail Hughes-Adams, the ministry's co-ordinator for English Language Arts, told educators at a meeting in February that she had received about 200 responses to the draft curriculum. It appears the lobbying paid off, as the new curriculum (which takes effect this fall) includes a provision that all Grade 8 to 12 English Language Arts courses must include at least one "significant" Canadian text – such as a novel, a play, a work of non-fiction, a short-story collection, or an all-Canadian anthology. Prior to the new directive, B.C. students could often go through high school without being exposed to much Canadian literature, Baird says. "My son read not

one single Canadian novel," before graduating from high school, she notes. "It's pretty extraordinary this hasn't been a requirement before," says Margaret Reynolds, executive director of the Association of Book Publishers of B.C., who notes that the move is good news for homegrown publishers, as many B.C. schools will likely need to purchase new titles in order to meet the regulations. "Now that it is mandated, hopefully that will translate into more sales [of Canadian books]," she says. Reynolds notes that for the past 20 years, the ABPBC has been printing a guide promoting B.C. books, aimed at school librarians, that goes out to every school in the province. "It will be a great resource for teachers looking for Canadian material [to meet the new requirements]," she says.

WRITERS' UNION WILL GIVE COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION "CLOSE EXAMINATION"

The Writers' Union of Canada today promised a "close examination" of the copyright legislation introduced in the House of Commons. "We will be examining this bill in detail to determine if it provides adequate protection for creators," said Wayne Grady, Chair of the national organization of book authors. Speaking on behalf of his more than 1,700 members, Grady said, "The Writers' Union welcomes the introduction of this long overdue legislation to update the Copyright Act." He added: "It is essential that proper protection be provided to creators to ensure that they are not subjected to inappropriate free use of their work." Grady said this is of special concern due to the digitalization of works and their widespread distribution via the Internet. "We are hopeful that, in its final form, the legislation will both provide adequate safeguards for creators and ensure that our readers can enjoy works they have legally accessed." For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca

CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Koffler Centre of the Arts has announced the winners of the 20th anniversary Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards. The Awards celebrate excellence in Canadian writing reflecting Jewish themes and subjects including history, fiction, Yiddish and other fields. Among this year's winners is a book about a controversial Holocaust hero by Anna Porter, and a breathtaking novel by John Miller, an exciting new voice in Canadian fiction.

The 2008 winners are:

- Joseph and Faye Tanenbaum Award in History
Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Rezső Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust by Anna Porter. Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre
- Beatrice and Martin Fischer Award in Fiction
A Sharp Intake of Breath by John Miller. Publisher: The Dundurn Group
- Frances and Samuel Stein Memorial Award in Youth Literature
Out of Line: Growing up Soviet by Tina Grimberg. Publisher: Tundra Books
- Samuel and Rose Cohen Memorial Award in Biography / Memoir
They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust by Mayer Kirshenblatt and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett. Publisher: University of California Press
- Abe and Fay Bergel Award in Scholarship on a Jewish Subject
Converts, Heretics, and Lepers: Maimonides and the Outsider by James Diamond. Publisher: University of Notre Dame Press
- Abraham and Eve Trapunski Award in Yiddish Literature
Representing the Immigrant Experience: Morris Rosenfeld and the Emergence of Yiddish Literature in America by Marc Miller. Publisher: Syracuse University Press
- Canadian Jewish News Award in Poetry
Laike and Nahum: A Poem in Two Voices by Ruth Panofsky. Publisher: Inanna Publications and Education Inc.
- Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Award in Holocaust Memoir and Literature
Bits and Pieces by Henia Reinhartz. Publisher: The Azrieli Foundation

This was an exceptional year for Canadian books reflecting Jewish themes. Over one hundred submissions were considered by a distinguished jury, chaired by writer Edward Trapunski, along with Cynthia Good, Sara Horowitz, Marjorie Gann, Judy Wolfe, Beatrice Fischer, Adam Fuerstenberg, Judith Ghert, and Dorothy Shoichet. For more info: at www.kofflerarts.org.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

For the Position of Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate

Term: April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011

Deadline for Nominations: September 30, 2008

The Parliament of Canada created the position of Parliamentary Poet Laureate in 2001 to promote the importance and value of poetry among all Canadians.

Eligibility

- In order to give equal representation to Canada's two official languages, Poets Laureate are selected alternately from each official language community. For the 2009-2011 term, a French-speaking Poet will be selected.
- Candidates must be residents of Canada.
- Criteria for selection
- Candidates must:
 - have made significant contributions to the literary community;
 - have produced written or oral work reflecting Canada;
 - have a substantial record demonstrating literary excellence;
 - be available to travel throughout Canada to promote the value of poetry;
 - be available to participate in parliamentary events, as required.

Process for nomination: Nominations for the position are now open and can be submitted by a member of a literary or writing organization, a Parliamentarian or directly by interested candidates. For detailed information about the nomination process, please refer to www.parl.gc.ca/poet, or contact the Parliament of Canada Information Service at 1-866-599-4999. Completed nomination forms and supporting documentation must be received no later than September 30, 2008.

WRITERS COMMENT ON THE LONG AWAITED COPYRIGHT BILL

"The word on the street is that a long-awaited copyright bill will soon be tabled, and this is indeed good news," says Wayne Grady, Chair of The Writers' Union of Canada. Grady adds that "The Writers' Union is hoping for amendments to the bill that will help writers and other creators control the ways their work is exploited in the emerging Internet markets." Other members of the Union had this to say:

Bill Freeman, Chair of the Union's Electronic Rights and Copyright Committee will be scrutinizing the language of any tabled bill, "The government promises that the new legislation will bring Canadian copyright law into the Internet age, but what will be in the legislation? Writers will be greatly affected by it, both as creators and users of copyright material."

Erna Paris, Vice Chair of The Writers' Union of Canada commented, "Writers have waited a long time for this revised legislation, and in the world of electronic rights, in particular, much has changed. We hope and expect that amendments to the copyright bill will respect the rights of authors in this altered environment." For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca

WRITERS' UNION SAYS COPYRIGHT ACT "STILL NEEDS WORK"

This set of revisions to the Copyright Act does not give authors what they need, the Writers' Union of Canada said today, but generally applauded the efforts of the Government to address digital issues in Bill C-61, tabled last week in the House of Commons. "If we were a book publisher and the revised Act (Bill C-61) was submitted as a manuscript, we would accept most of it in principle but would note that it still needs work," said Wayne Grady, Chair of the Union. New exceptions for schools' use of copyright material found on the Internet and for libraries' digital delivery raise concerns, the Union's statement said. The Writers' Union clearly stated that uses of copyright works in schools and libraries can and should be handled by licensing rather than by legislating exceptions. "Writers want their works to be freely available, but not available free," Mr. Grady said. "Strengthening collective licensing is a better solution than making exceptions, and more in line with the Government's efforts to take an internationally co-ordinated approach to copyright reform," commented Deborah Windsor, Executive Director of the Union. Referring to the library exception for single copies of newspaper, magazine, and journal articles, Ms. Windsor explained that the unfairness of an exception may be multiplied when extended from print-on-paper to digital delivery. "Digital delivery is great as long as writers are fairly compensated through collective licensing." "As publishers say," added Grady, "we are looking forward to seeing the next draft." Bill Freeman, Chair of the Union's Electronic Rights and Copyright Committee, observed that, "this Bill does nothing to address the lack of bargaining power of writers, who are often forced through economic necessity to either to sign away their rights altogether or to license them for a pittance." For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca

2008 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

John Ashbery's *Notes From the Air: Selected Later Poems* and Robin Blaser's *The Holy Forest: Collected Poems of Robin Blaser* Win the 2008 Griffin Poetry Prize. Selected Later Poems and Robin Blaser's *The Holy Forest: Collected Poems of Robin Blaser* are the International and Canadian winners of the eighth annual Griffin Poetry Prize. The C\$100,000 Griffin Poetry Prize, the richest poetry prize in the world for a single volume of poetry, is divided between the two winners. The prize is for first edition books of poetry published in 2007, and

submitted from anywhere in the world. [Download press release, poet bios and citations](#)
[Download photos](#)

***** **Opportunities** *****

Please note: The opportunities, contests or markets listed in this electronic newsletter are only an informational resource. We encourage all poets to thoroughly investigate all contests or markets before submitting their work.

RANDOM ACTS OF POETRY HITS THE STREETS AGAIN

Random Acts of Poetry hits the streets again, for the 5th year, October 1-5, 2008 and we're looking for eager, outgoing poets who would like to be part of this wonderful celebration of literacy. We will purchase 50 of your books, and you will distribute them to strangers. As well, this is a celebration of literacy, in past years participants have gone into ESL and adult literacy classes. Please contact Wendy Morton at wendymorton@shaw.ca and check out the website below. <http://national-random-acts-of-poetry.blogspot.com:80/>

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE WRITING/ARTIST RETREATS IN SASKATCHEWAN

- Middle Lake, SK - I am a full-time writer away October 1 - November 30, 2008, and am offering my dog-friendly home in the quiet, scenic village of Middle Lake (less than a ten minute woodland walk from Lucien Lake) to a professional writer/artist for this period, or a minimum month-long portion thereof. Middle Lake is 1.5 hours NE of Saskatoon, and 20 minutes N of Humboldt (which borders St. Peter's College, in Muenster). I have a two-bedroom home with study, high-speed internet, piano, garage, and private garden. If you are willing to care for my dog (Jackson, a redbone coonhound) during this time, I would offer my house free in exchange. You are also welcome to bring your own dog. If you are unwilling to care for my dog, a reasonable rental fee would be negotiated. Please contact shelleyannleedah!@shaw.ca for more information and photos.
- Eastend, SK - I am a full-time writer away September 1 - December 15, 2008, and am offering my home in the village of Eastend -- home of the Wallace Stegner House and the T-Rex Centre -- to a professional writer/artist for this period, or a minimum month-long portion thereof. Eastend is located in an old river valley at the edge of the Cypress Hills. The two-bedroom home features high-speed internet, a private enclosed garden, and is a two-minute walk from the Frenchman River. I have an independent and friendly cat, Vlad, and, in exchange for his care, offer my house at no charge. For more information and photos, please contact fidnemid@sasktel.net.

CALL FOR POETS

The Montreal Public Poetry Festival is now accepting applications from poets to participate in this year's event. This year's event is entitled, "Pure Lines," and is scheduled for September 26 to 28. This festival follows a "Fringe" format. The deadline for applications is Friday, August 29th. To receive an application form send an email to and include the words, "application form" in the subject line. The festival is being organized by Public Poetry/Poesie Publique. Contact: publicpoetry@gmail.com

GREAT CANADIAN LITERARY HUNT

This Magazine's annual Great Canadian Literary Hunt is officially underway and our drawers are already beginning to burst with new Canadian talent. Don't worry though – there is still plenty of time to get in on the action. We are looking for the best original and unpublished short stories (up to 5000 words) and poetry (up to 100 lines) that Canadian writers have to offer. We're offering two cash prizes (one for fiction, one for poetry) of \$750 and the chance to have your work reviewed by some of the country's top editors, publishers and writers. Plus, winners will get their work published in the November/December 2008 issue of This Magazine. Past winners of the Great Canadian Literary Hunt have gone on to win honours at the National Magazine Awards and the Journey Prize. They've been published by the top houses in the country and are among the hottest writers in fiction and poetry today. Get your entry in by July 2, 2008 and help carry on the tradition of literary excellence. Full contest rules can be found here: <http://thismagazine.ca/contests/lithunt/index.php> or more info: contests@thismagazine.ca

LOOKING FOR NEW POETRY SUBMISSIONS

blue skies poetry is looking for new poetry submissions. blue skies poetry provides a forum for emerging and established poets to find a wider audience for their work, with a particular emphasis on writing by Canadians. blue skies poetry publishes more than 100 poems a year and boasts more than 1500 visits each month. blue skies poetry is edited by Angela Kublik, an Edmonton based writer whose poetry has appeared in Freefall, The Prairie Journal of Canadian Literature, and Legacy, as well as online at DailyHaiku.Org. Angela also co-edited the anthology Writing the Land: Alberta through its Poets with Grande Prairie poet Dymphny Dronyk.

Email up to 3 poems in the body of an email message to akublik@blueskiespoetry.ca. Simultaneous submissions are accepted, but previously published material is not considered. Please include a short bio with your submission. <http://blueskiespoetry.ca/2008/06/26/looking-for-new-poetry-submissions-2/>

2008 NATIONAL SLAM! IN CALGARY!

The 2008 NATIONAL SLAM! Competition is coming to Calgary in November and The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival is gearing up to host Canada's top slam poets. SLAM teams (12 teams of 4) from across Canada will fly into Cowtown for five action-packed, burgeoning days of workshops, discussion, and high-octane head-to-head bouts of 3-minute poems – until a winning team is crowned! Calgary's own Golden Beret winner and May SLAM celebrity judge, Sarah Murphy will open the celebration with the launch of her spoken word CD, when bill danced the war. POPULARITY: The SLAM phenomenon has taken hold in Calgary and the audiences continue to grow exponentially. Hundreds of emerging poets have taken an interest in this fabulous new form. Each month, ten poets storm the stage to share their words and beats to packed-out, cheering crowds! Judges from the audience score their performances in three intense rounds of poetic excellence, until a winner is crowned! With different local performers every time, SLAM nights are impossible to predict and not to be missed!

How Will The National SLAM! Competition Work?

Five days of SLAM bouts, workshops, networking, open mics, CD launches, discussions, public forums and word innovation

Twelve teams including Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Halifax, & Montreal

Bouts on November 6th and 7th, with the final, winner-crowning round on the 8th

If a SLAM poet SLAMS for longer than 3 minutes, points are deducted

Scores are based on: 1) the poem, 2) the performance, and 3) audience reaction

For a detailed line-up, please visit: www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com

The 2008 National SLAM Competition:

November 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th

Auburn Saloon, #163 115 9th Ave SE

Central Library – John Dutton Theatre -616 Macleod Trail SE

CONTACT: Sheri-D Wilson – 403.686.4292

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Penned: Animals in Zoos in Poems, edited by Stephanie Bolster, Katia Grubisic, and Simon Reader to be published in Fall 2009 by Signal Editions/Véhicule Press (Montreal)

- Poems must be in English; no translations please
- Poems must be previously published
- Please include bibliographic details and a brief biographical note
- Poems need not be your own; the editors will consider any of your favourite zoo poems written after 1800
- Deadline: July 1, 2008

Please send poems, bibliographic and biographical information to Penned Anthology, c/o Stephanie Bolster, Associate Professor, Department of English, Concordia University, 1455 boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest Montreal QC H3G 1M8 or sbolster@ca.inter.net

RBC BRONWEN WALLACE AWARD FOR EMERGING WRITERS

A prize of \$5,000 will be awarded to the best work of poetry. Two honourable mentions will each receive \$1,000 prizes. Applicants should submit 5 - 10 pages of previously unpublished poetry. To be eligible candidates must be a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant, under the age of 35, unpublished in book form and without a book contract, but whose literary work must have appeared in at least one independently edited magazine or anthology. The candidate's name, address, telephone number, and details confirming their eligibility must appear only on the cover sheet accompanying the manuscript. All pages must be consecutively numbered. Entries will not be returned. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2008. Submissions should be sent to: RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers c/o The Writers' Trust of Canada, 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1P1. For further information please visit www.writerstrust.com or contact: James Davies, Program Manager (Prizes and Awards) 416.504.8222 x 245 or jdavies@writerstrust.com

OUR TIMES MAGAZINE - LOOKING FOR POETRY

Our Times is looking for work poetry, or social justice-related, poetry. Please send a maximum of 4-6 poems. If you are submitting poems by regular mail, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. For more information,

please visit www.ourtimes.ca. (BTW, there are copies of this mag at the office if you wish to check them out.)

DREAM CATCHER MAGAZINE SOLICITING CANADIAN POETRY FOR ITS SPRING 2009 ISSUE.

Dream Catcher magazine in Great Britain is actively soliciting Canadian poetry for its Spring 2009 issue. The deadline for poetry submissions is September 30, 2008. Electronic submissions are welcome as either plain text in the body of an email or as Microsoft Word attachments. Dream Catcher's editor, Paul Sutherland, was in Ontario in late May and early June, reading at The Art Bar Poetry Series (Toronto) and at the Lit Live Reading Series and Bryan Prince Bookseller (Hamilton). Here are some links to the magazine's blog and U.K. poetry sites.

- <http://dreamcatchermagazine.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.poetrymagazines.org.uk/magazine/index.asp?id=6>
- http://mptmagazine.com/dream_catcher_magazine_subscription_uk_i018149.aspx

Dream Catcher printed an essay on Canadian poetry in its recent issue (#21) which highlighted four contemporary Canadian poets: Don McKay, Karen Solie, Russell Thornton, and Gary Barwin. Please encourage the Canadian poets you know to submit a few poems to Paul Sutherland at paulsuther@hotmail.com

******* Events, Readings & Workshops *******

MATING RITUALS OF THE URBAN COUGAR AT THE TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

After a successful run in Montreal, Andrea Thompson will be performing her one-woman spoken word show, Mating Rituals of the Urban Cougar at the Toronto Fringe Festival. The show is a saucy, sultry, estro-centric deconstruction of the term "cougar" that brews up a potent mix of poetry, storytelling, humor and myth - taking the oral tradition back to its roots. Opening night is Wed July 2nd at 10pm at the Glen Morris Theatre (4 Glen Morris St.), and the show runs until July 12th. For more info & reviews please go to www.andreathompson.ca

WRITING YOUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG

Is there a recurring frustration or a block that keeps throwing itself at you? This three-hour intensive workshop is for people who have come up against a block, either personally, professionally or as writers. It includes a talk about blocks, frustrations, and the tactics we use to avoid/deal with situations. Let some air into those stuck places through a variety of in-class writing exercises, and open the door to new directions. Tuesday July 8th, 9:30am-12:30pm, \$75, Location: Greenwood & Danforth, Toronto. Contact ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

THE SCREAM IN HIGH PARK WILL CONCLUDE

In just three short weeks from today, The Scream in High Park will conclude the Scream Literary Festival with a fantastic night of readings. The Scream in High Park is a favourite summertime event for Toronto book fans. At the Scream in High Park, Toronto's biggest summer literary festival concludes with open-air readings from twelve of Canada's best and brightest authors, poets and spoken word artists as nightfall descends on High Park. This year, three of the mainstage readers are Coach House authors: Claudia Dey Globe and Mail columnist and author of the widely acclaimed debut novel Stunt; Sina Queyras, author of the Lambda Award-winning poetry collection Lemon Hound and Jacob Wren, author of Unrehearsed Beauty. The Toronto Star on Stunt: 'It's as if poet Anne Carson and satirist Mordecai Richler accidentally collided at a drunken PEN fundraiser to produce a mischievous, magical and observant girl-child.' Other readers that night include Mariko Tamaki, author of the popular graphic novel, Skim, and Celine Dion investigator Carl Wilson. Visit <http://www.thescream.ca> for all the details.

The Scream in High Park featuring Claudia Dey, Sina Queyras, Jacob Wren, Dani Couture, David McFadden, Ray Robertson, Carl Wilson, Mariko Tamaki and more on Monday, July 14, 2008, High Park, Toronto, ON 7:00 p.m. For media inquiries regarding Claudia Dey, Sina Queyras or Jacob Wren, contact Evan Munday at evan@chbooks.com or 416.979.2217. For all other media inquiries, contact Jenny Sampirisi at jenny@thescream.ca or 416.516.0143.

AURAL HEATHER EASTERN CANADA/U.S. TOUR

- Jul 4, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Cryptic Chatter-Renaissance Cafe -Toronto, Ontario -Aural Heather (Heather Haley and Roderick Shoolbraid) performing spoken word songs from their new CD 9Princess Nut
- Jul 6, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Dusty Owl Reading Series, Ottawa ON
- Jul 7, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Poetry & Company 53 Princess St, Kingston ON
- Jul 8, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Toronto Art Bar, Clinton's-Toronto, Ontario
- Jul 11-2008 Klyde Broox Presents Vancouver Vibes-Hamilton, Ontario, venue TBA

- Jul 13, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Word Jam, Toronto, Ontario
- Jul 15, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - The Cafe, Chicago, Illinois
- Jul 18, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Son of Pony reading series, Cornelia Street Cafe, New York, New York
- Jul 20, 2008 8:00 PM 08:00 PM - Words and Music
Casa de Popolo, Montreal, Quebec

AURAL Heather and RPW Records are gearing up for the duo's international tour in support of the release of their new CD, ³Princes Nut.² AURAL Heather will make appearances July 3-20 in Toronto, Kingston, Ottawa, Chicago, New York and Montreal. In September they head to UK/Europe and then to the southern U.S. in November.

AURAL Heather is Heather Haley, Roderick Shoolbraid and ³a unique, sublime fusion of song and spoken word.² Shoolbraid is a dazzling guitarist, composer, sound designer and DJ. Old School and proud of it, Haley is a maverick poet, singer, author and media artist often found pushing boundaries and always on the vanguard. ³A Canadian national treasure,² Haley started writing verse in high school and her life as a bona fide artist began on the stage of the infamous Smilin' Buddha in Vancouver fronting the all-girl punk band the Zellots. She was a member of the 45s with Randy Rampage and Brad Kent of DOA and the Avengers. Later she formed HHZ-Heather Haley & the Zellots-praised by LA Weekly music critic Craig Lee as one of the city's ³Ten Great Bands.²

These charming redheads, working in a myriad of media and from disparate backgrounds, have joined forces in bold experimentalism for the past four years, producing a series of live shows, a videopoem called "Purple Lipstick" and their first CD, "Surfing Season." Haley is an artist intimate with the music of language. Raised on folk and country music, she discovered rock and was composing poems and songs from the age of six. Shoolbraid has always been open to re-working the paradigms at hand, though classical music and jazz have been the pillars of his career. Their sound has evolved into the unique, emotionally charged spoken word songs-or sponges-of AURAL Heather, ³brawny, uncompromising² poetry and music that rouses audiences with a high-impact live show and places them in a genre-crossing, category-defying position, truly and only unto themselves. Hear AURAL Heather here: <http://www.heatherhaley.com> (scroll down to music player) or <http://www.myspace.com/auralheather>

CANADIAN STORYTELLERS CONFERENCE

"On a Prairie Wind". Storytellers Canada, July 2 to 6, 2008. University of Saskatchewan Campus. Five days of storytelling, meeting friendly faces, concerts, capers and general geniality.

For hundred of years, Saskatchewan has been the end point of people from far away lands who have been blown in "On a Prairie Wind" then mingled with the people who were already here. We are excited about inviting you to come and experience the richness of cultures in this sometimes harsh, but always beautiful, place we call HOME – also known as the "breadbasket of Canada".

- Hear stories told by tellers from across Canada at the University of Saskatchewan's Convocation Hall
- Travel by bus coach to Batoche, a unique Saskatchewan Métis village in the heart of Saskatchewan, where we will tour the historic site of the Riel Uprising and listen to Métis storytellers.
- Come listen to talented regional storytellers - with a host of surprises in store for us at Quance theatre on the U of S campus.
- While we picnic on the South Saskatchewan River bank, and are being entertained by "down home music" and stories, you may choose to take a Riverboat tour, or visit the Mendal Art Gallery.
- Visit Saskatoon's Ukrainian Museum, guided by a Ukrainian storyteller who will share an intimate knowledge of the Ukrainian culture.
- Get involved and enjoy the business of storytelling at the historic and modern campus of the University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon Campus.

This is the first time Saskatoon has hosted the national storytelling conference and we are thrilled to try and make it a conference of 'firsts'! Mark the dates on your calendar now, and plan to 'be blown in' for at least five days next year to experience the warm hospitality of the Prairies. Registration is only \$150.00 for 5 days and includes lots of stories, 3 lunches, a bus trip and tour of Batoche, concerts at Convocation Hall and Quance Theatre, and possibly Riverboat Ride on the Prairies (who'd have thought...)

For more info: www.sc-cc.com/english/annual.htm

FESTIVAL OF WORDS MOOSE JAW

It is totally appropriate that the theme for the 12th Saskatchewan Festival of Words which is being held July 17 - 20th should be Character Matters, since the Festival is dedicated this year to founder Gary Hyland. Determination and sheer perseverance made a reality of his vision, which has, over the past eleven years, brought talented Canadian wordsmiths to Moose Jaw.

Headlining the Festival this year are Elizabeth Hay, recipient of the 2007 Giller Prize for *Late Nights on Air* (McClelland & Stewart, 2007) and Don Domanski, whose collection *All Our Wonder Unavenged* (Brick Books, 2007) won the Governor General's Award for poetry. July 17 - 20, 2008. Details at www.festivalofwords.com

WORDSTORM!

Continuing at The Mermaid's Mug, 357 Wesley Street, Nanaimo, BC. WordStorm is an on-going reading series that focuses on all types of the spoken word: poetry, short fiction, storytelling, music, and song. There are two components of WordStorm - a prearranged reading series, and an excitingly competitive spoken word competition. (Reserve a ticket and ask to be an open mike reader or sign up at the door.) The readings will always be a mix of genres, and the sign-up for WordStorm will be in categories - poetry and prose. The key elements will be quality writing and entertainment. Material read must be the reader's own work, and be read without props or instruments. Three judges will be chosen from the audience for each WordStorm, and audience participation is encouraged. The sign-up for WordStorm Open Mike can be in advance, by email, and also between 6:30 and 7:00 at the door. Admission is \$5.00 at the door. The money collected will go entirely to prize winners and towards minimal operating costs. The Mermaid's Mug has a capacity of about 50 people, so don't be disappointed, reserve ahead through by email, or take your chances at the door. All reservations must be picked up before 6:30 or they will become void, and spaces will be given out on a first come, first served basis. No refunds. You can reserve with payment for future events at the reservation table on any night of WordStorm. Come out to just listen and be entertained, or sign up to be part of the entertainment. Everyone is welcome! From its beginning WordStorm has played to packed houses with a full slate of readers-some coming from as far away as Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Courtenay, Qualicum, Duncan, Ladysmith, Prince Rupert (via Shawnigan Lake), Protection Island and Gabriola Island, Port Alberni, Switzerland and Ucluelet. More info: www.wordstorm.ca

VOCABLE WORKSHOP 2008 SCREAM LITERARY FESTIVAL

For the 2008 Scream Literary Festival, Ciara Adams and a.rawlings will facilitate a text-and-sound VOCABLE workshop, focusing on:

- improvisation and collaboration as creation tools;
- non-traditional writing exercises, vocal technique, and interdisciplinary vocabulary development;
- blending art forms to create dynamic work, with an emphasis on innovation and invention;
- focus on the body as a primary starting point for creation.

Participants will be invited to engage in writing exercises, breath and voice work, and improvisation. Open to anyone aged 18+. Designed for curiosity seekers; participants do not need to be practicing artists, though artists are welcome. PRE-REGISTRATION NECESSARY. DATE: Sunday, July 6, 2008; TIME: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; LOCATION: Second City Training Centre, Studio 2, 70 Peter St.; COST: \$75; TO REGISTER OR FOR INFO: E-mail angela@thescream.ca. NOTE: Wear comfortable clothing for light movement. Bring writing journal and pens/pencils with you. We will have two ten-minute breaks and an hour for lunch. For more info: www.ciaraadams.com or www.commutiny.net or www.vocableworkshop.wordpress.com.

***** New Members *****

LESLEY PASQUIN

Lesley Pasquin is a Montreal educator, writer and poet. Her works have appeared in montreal serai and carte blanche. She currently teaches in the Faculty of Education at McGill University. She had published a chapbook entitled "Alabaster in a Stone Wall," and does readings in various venues in the city including The Yellow Door, Poetry Plus and West Island Readers Electric.

***** Members News *****

ANDREA THOMPSON

After a successful run in Montreal, Andrea Thompson will be performing her one-woman spoken word show, *Mating Rituals of the Urban Cougar* at the Toronto Fringe Festival. The show is a saucy, sultry, estrogenic deconstruction of the term "cougar" that brews up a potent mix of poetry, storytelling, humor and myth - taking the oral tradition back to its roots. Opening night is Wed July 2nd at 10pm at the Glen Morris Theatre (4 Glen Morris St.), and the show runs until July 12th. For more info & reviews please go to www.andreathompson.ca

Laurie Block

The Western Magazine Awards Foundation held its 26th annual Western Magazine Awards on Friday, June 20. The Gold Award for Best Article - Manitoba was won by Brandon writer Laurie Block for his personal essay "Guberman," which appeared in *Prairie Fire*, vol. 27, no. 4. For more information: Heidi Harms, 943-9066.

SHERI-D WILSON

Sheri-D Wilson was chosen to receive the 2008 People's Choice Award For Best Calgary Poet. Peoples Choice Award on May 29, 2008 (Volume 13 No. 25 of the ffwd)

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