

NEWFOUNDLAND WRITERS' GUILD

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THE PAGE

September 2009

Editorial

The Guild has had a busy summer, with three Wordfests, including one at Eastport Library. The September Eastport Retreat was a great success, with two interesting workshops and an attendance of twelve, plus two husbands and two dogs. Our Friendship with Eastport Library continued

with donations of books and a joint Wordfest (see below), The problem with people booking to stay in the Inn and then cancelling at the last moment became acute when several cancelled, leaving two people to pay the cost of the 5-bedroom Inn. Luckily two (delayed by a funeral) were able to arrive on the Saturday night.

However, in future members will have to pay a non-refundable deposit when they book their rooms, as when booking a cabin. The deposit would be returned if the room were later let to someone else.

On a personal note, I had a setback when I broke my arm hiking in Terra Nova Park in June. Many Guild members came to my rescue, bringing me food, lending books, and sending flowers. Joan Scott and Georgina Queller generously gave up a day to drive to Eastport and bring me, and my car, back to St John's, since I could not drive. The Guild is rather like a tribe who look out for each other. A good feeling.

Our AGM is later this month, and a new slate of executive members will be voted on. If you wish to join the executive, please tell Lily Bursey. Roberta Buchanan

Wordfest

Three very successful Wordfests were held this summer, funded by Canadian Heritage, with in-kind support from City Hall. All readers will be paid an honorarium. A delightful tea and scones were provided at Commissariat House, on Saturday 29 August, where there were readings by Hilda Chaulk Murray, Cathy Daley, Ellen Reid, Kathleen Knowles, Cecilia Malone, Jo Shawyer, Raoul Andersen, and Roberta Buchanan. There was a large and appreciative audience for the Sunday

Wordfest at Bianca's on Sunday 30 August. Readers were Paul O'Neill, Elizabeth Tobin, Lillian Bouzane, Laura Morrry Wlliams, Don Steele, Laura Jackson, Esther Slaney Brown, Violet Ruelokke, Raoul Andersen and Cathy Daley. At our September Eastport Retreat, on Friday evening, we held a mini-Wordfest in Eastport Library. Three Eastport/ Salvage readers were paired with three from the Guild, and the house was packed. The three Eastport poets were Annie Lane,

Daisy Penney and Ralph Turner. Ralph unfortunately was unable to attend, so Mary MacNab read his poems. Lillian Bouzane read from her novel in progress "The Uncommon Demise of Girolamo Savonarola"; Raoul Andersen read from "Misel Joe"; Roberta read some poems including the sensational, "I have Forgotten the Way to Beachy Cove."

Members

News

KATE EVANS' novel "Where Old Ghosts Meet", set in Ireland and Newfoundland, will be published by Breakwater in 2010. LILLIAN BOUZANE read from her novel in progress "The Uncommon Demise of Girolamo Savonarola" at Wordfest, Eastport Library, September 18th. PAUL O'NEILL was interviewed alone for over an hour by a 7-member panel of the Canadian Human Rights Association when they visited St. John's last month. Paul thinks it was mainly because of his prison visits, his talks with inmates and various other matters as a board member and eventually President of the John Howard Society of which his mother was a founding member. Paul acquired Howard House on Garrison Hill and opened the first library in the pen when president. His main human rights complaint to the Commission was that the Nfld. Government has been asking the Federal Government for many years to give us a grant to replace the present prison, opened 151 years ago, with a building that has modern facilities, which to which we feel a prisoner is entitled as a human being, even if an erring one. Flanker Press will release Paul's latest book, "Fish for Dinner", this fall. Paul also played an eighty-year-old ex-priest in the movie, "Cut from the Same Cloth", directed by Roger Maunder. RAOUL ANDERSEN read from "Miis'el Joe: An Aboriginal Chief's Journey", together with his co-author, John Crellin, at the Newman's Wine Vaults on 27 August. \$10.00 admission included a large complimentary glass of port. The series, "'Wine and Words'" was organized by Flanker Press.

ROBERTA BUCHANAN did two readings: of Grace's "The Visitor" in A Touch of Grace: Grace Butt's Centenary Celebration, Basement Theatre, Arts & Culture Centre, 8 March; and poems at Wordfest, Eastport Library, 18 September. She also exhibited two paintings in "After Hours 2009", First Space, MUN Library Spring/Summer Exhibition. Lisa Bendall interviewed Roberta on organizing a memoir group, for Lisa's article "The Story of Your Life," Canadian Living Magazine, August 2009, pp.98-101. JANICE WELLS' first major editing undertaking has been published by Flanker Press: "Tapestry of Yesteryear: Growing up On Pilley's Island" was written for the family a few years ago by her aunt, Gwen Poole Molnar, who is now 94 and lives in a nursing home in New York State. Janice discovered she loves editing almost more than she loves writing. LORI SAVORY has made progress with her career in Belly Dancing. TINA CHAULK'S new novel, "A Few Kinds of Wrong," is being released by Breakwater. Her book launch will be on October 13th at the Ship Pub from 8-10 pm (co-launching with Chad Pelley). JOAN SCOTT read Grace Butt's "The Night-Club Lady," in A Touch of Grace: Grace Butt's Centenary Celebration, Basement Theatre, Arts & Culture Centre, 8 March. She also exhibited two photographs, "Cape Spear. I and II," in "After Hours 2009", First Space, MUN Library Spring/Summer Exhibition.

Forthcoming

Events

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Wed. October 28th 7.00-10.00 Sobey's

Merrymeeting Road. Hosted by the Guild Executive. We will be discussing Bernice Morgan's Report on whether or no the Guild needs a web page. She looks the costs etc as well as a potential alternative. It was emailed to you. Please read and think about the issue, as we need to make a decision on it. You have also received a copy of Guidelines for members, new and old re some Guild basics. Please make a copy for yourself and familiarize yourself with them. Lily Bursey Chair of the Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates for new executive.

Tuesday, 17 November, 7.00: **Designated Workshop**, Sobey's, Merrymeeting Road. Host TBA. Send entries to Bobbie Brennan by 17 October: barbarabrennan16@hotmail.com

December: **Christmas Party** - Place and date TBA

Announcements:

If you have any items to add to the AGM Agenda please send in asap. Please send report on your year's activities for inclusion in President's Report at AGM. Send to Joan Scott, joans@mun.ca

Eastport 2009

The Taliban is not the only enemy
His uniform sticks to his body
The heat oppressive and overwhelming.
Snakes hide in the most unlikely places,
They entwine and writhe about in their nests,
Ready to strike at the least movement.
Water smells slightly fecund and musty,
Filters never remove the acrid taste.
Nothing but golden sand dunes for miles.
Oh, to be home after a spring rain,
The rainbow arching across the sky,
Or the fog coming in on sullen clouds.
His grandmother rocking in her chair.
Then - a man, sand, and metal blasted!
Canada mourns another lost son.

Florence Edwards

Newsletter by Roberta Buchanan, Joan Scott and Lily Bursey

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