



Newfoundland Writers' Guild

P. O. Box 1133 – St. John's

Newfoundland and Labrador, A1C 5M5

The Page

March 2011

Editorial

This is the winter edition of **The Page** -albeit somewhat closer to spring than we had originally planned. (We had hoped for a while that we might miss winter altogether this year!)

At a recent Board meeting, we agreed to change the newsletter distribution dates, as listed on the Guild's website. We are not sure when these dates were set up, but they have not been followed for a number of years. Presently, we are aiming for a Fall edition (October/November), a Winter edition (February/March), and a Spring/Summer (June) edition.

The Board has also approved a change in the guidelines for Guild workshops. Contrary to past practices, potential members may now (if they wish), comment on \ critique work presented at Guild workshops. This was put into practice at the January 16 workshop and seemed to work quite well, with several newcomers taking advantage of the opportunity to comment on the writings presented. Only Guild members, however, may present their work to be critiqued at a workshop.

The Honours and Awards Brunch to be held at the Delta Hotel on March 27 will be the next upcoming Guild event. Again this year, we have an impressive number (6) of Honourees being recognized for their achievements over the past year. As well, a Life Membership will be awarded to long time Guild member, Doreen Ayre.

Elizabeth Tobin

Member News

Laura Williams has submitted her non-fiction manuscript, *The Heart Remembers: Yarns From The Past*, to various publishers in St John's.

Helen Porter's *Below The Bridge* is now available as an audio book (Rattling Books). Helen's book is narrated by Mary Barry and is available as a MP3 CD and MP3 download.

Georgina Queller is off to England (Brighton area) for the months of February and March. She will be staying with her sister Elizabeth who many of us had the pleasure of meeting at the Eastport Retreat last year. Georgina will miss this year's awards brunch - She did, however, take the time to do up the awards certificates before she left !

Lily Bursey was invited to do the author reading at the A.C. Hunter Library, Wednesday, January 19 . She read from her recently published book, *Amy's Journey: A Young Girls Struggle With TB*.

Roberta Buchanan now has her cast and Das Boot removed. She sends, "A heartfelt thank you to all guild members who so kindly phoned, emailed and visited bearing delicious foods." She also notes that, " Being one-handed certainly limits one's culinary possibilities, even the old standby of opening cans!"

Bernice Morgan gave a reading from her latest novel, *Cloud Of Bone*, at the MUN Sparkes Literary Festival on January 23.

(Editors' Note) A painting of Bernice is presently featured in Tina Dolter's visual arts show, " The Sensuality of the Maturing Woman - Celebrating the Fine Art of Aging Well," at the Christina Parker Gallery until March 25. Her portrait, "Writer's Choice (The Big Blue Mug)," was one of the four paintings featured in The Telegram article, "The Art of Aging Well," by Joan Sullivan on March 4.

Hilda Chaulk Murray gave a talk at The Rooms on February 23. She spoke about Archives and how she used research in her writing. She also read from her book, *More Than 50 Per Cent*, which was recently re-published by Flanker Press.

Hilda, author of *Cows Don't Know It's Sunday*, has been invited by the Agricultural College of Nova Scotia to be a keynote speaker at the Agricultural Conference to be held at The Wilds on March 24th.

Lillian Bouzane has produced a Chap Book. The title is *The Autobiography of Clarey Mills Ash*. It is the story of her ten day old grand niece.

Kate Evans was delighted to have been invited to read from her first novel, *Where Old Ghosts Meet*, at the MUN Sparkes Literary Festival on January 23. (Kate's trip to Ireland with her book was noted in the last edition of The Page.) Since then, she has had successful literary events in Toronto and Kingston, organized by her two sons and their wives. She thoroughly enjoyed meeting young and old alike and will carry with her always the memory of her nine-year-old granddaughter sitting right in front of her, listening with rapt attention to every word. Kate also read at two venues in Montreal: The Atwater Library where Lynn Verge runs a program, and Hurley's Pub where an Irish book club meets every month. Kate's book was also reviewed by Marianne Ackerman in the "Rover", a Montreal based on- line magazine.

As well, Kate read from her novel at the A.C. Hunter Library on February 16. The reading was part of the NL Author Reading Series.

Cathy Daley's poem “*Intersections*” was published in “Descant” magazine, Issue No. 151.

Don Steele has recovered from his recent accidents and is now writing about his experiences.

Christmas Party- This year, Guild members celebrated the Christmas Season with a potluck supper held at the St. John’s Retired Citizens Club on December 18. This event was organized by a committee consisting of members Kate Morrison, Paul O’Neill, Melba Rabinowitz and Guild president, Esther Brown. Melba engaged her husband, Mike, and daughter, Toby, to help with the set-up and clean-up, and this was very much appreciated by all. (Joe Shawyer’s husband acted as official photographer -also much appreciated) The evening’s entertainment included a recitation by Helen Porter, “The Place That Disappeared,” from her book *Below the Bridge*, and a guest storyteller (arranged by Melba) - 14-year-old Lewis Fearon who gave an excellent rendition of one of the Jack stories. The Christmas contest first place winners were: Kathy Knowles in the poetry category – “The Plan”(acrostic poem using the word “Guild”), and Melba Rabinowitz in the prose category- “My Most Unforgettable Character.” All entrants were given the opportunity to share their contest submissions . Judges for the contest were last year’s winners: Lillian Bouzane and Esther Brown. The evening was topped off with a sing-a-long, led and accompanied by Sheilah Roberts on the guitar.

What Members Are Reading

We decided (after the deadline) to once again include a section on what members are reading.

Joan has agreed to start us off. We will be seeking input from the members for the next edition - though not necessarily in the same detail!

Steig Larrson’s Trilogy

Joan Scott

Some Guild members, myself included, do not read some genres of books. Many of us are mature to say the least, and we believe that we know what we will enjoy. I had heard about these books, and generally love all things Scandinavian, but, arrogantly, had made no effort to get hold of them, which suggests that bright-covered best-selling paperback books, with the words, “startling and violent,” on the back, are not my style. Regardless, when a friend gave me the first as a birthday present I must have been curious, because I got right into it. Then my aerobics instructor lent me her much used copy of the second, and I am only holding back from buying the third because I am parsimonious, and also because there must be someone out there willing to lend me theirs. I definitely want to complete the trilogy.

It is a rare reader, in any language, who has not heard of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The*

Girl who Played with Fire, or *The Girl who Kicked the Hornets Nest*. Read the Weekend Telegram of March 12, and you will see the behavior of City Counselor Debbie Hanlon, characterized by the title of the third book. Google the author, and you will see that the trilogy, with its back-story of Steig Larrson, his partner, the movies, and the money, is a phenomenon.

The heroes and heroines of the books are feminists, and the books are full of sex involving the strongest of feminists and the most ugly and violent of misogynists. Through their activities we see the political and business structures of Stockholm and surroundings, from the big industrialists down to the bikers, and their involvement with drugs, and with young women hoping for good, normal careers, being traded from eastern Europe to Sweden to be used as prostitutes.

The “girl” in all three of the titles, is a one-of-a-kind, heroine. As noted in the text, her character owes much to Pippi Longstocking, of Swedish children’s literature.

Up Coming Events

Honours and Awards Brunch -The annual Honours and Awards Brunch will be held at the Delta Hotel at 12 noon on Sunday, March 27. This year’s honourees are: Doreen Ayre (Life Membership), Lily Bursey (*Amy’s Journey*), Helen Fogwill Porter (*Below the Bridge* - audio version; and Induction into the Arts Council Hall of Honour), Kate Evans (*Where Old Ghosts Meet*), Hilda Chaulk Murray (*More Than 50%* - second edition), Sheilah Roberts (*For Maids Who Brew and Bake* - revised edition), and Geraldine Chafe Rubia (*A Poem in my Soup* - second edition).

Eastport Retreat- The June retreat will be held at the White Sails Inn and Cabins from June 24-26. Members wishing to rent a cabin are to make their own reservations by calling 709-677-3400. For a room at the Inn, contact Guild treasurer, Lily Bursey.

We are hoping to continue our joint reading with Eastport area writers at the June retreat this year.

July Retreat/Fun Day- A retreat/fun day is planned for July 17 at the Sunshine Rotary Park. This is a new initiative for the Guild, coming out of suggestions from our members following email discussions regarding the continuation of WordFest this year.

Workshops – Sobey’s- Howley Estates, Elizabeth Avenue

Sunday, March 13 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 14 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 12 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Location and dates of the full day summer workshops to be announced.

The Page is the Guild Newsletter and is distributed three to four times a year. It is a brief summary of members’ news and accomplishments and provides information concerning Guild events.

The newsletter was put together by Lily Bursey and Elizabeth Tobin with assistance from Sheila Sullivan and Sheilah Roberts. A thank you also to the staff at the A .C. Hunter and Marjorie Mews libraries for their technical assistance.

Newfoundland Writers’ Guild Board - 2010/2011

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