

Coop activities in 2004-2005

June 4, 2005

The Broadway Art Encounter

As part of our participation in **The Broadway Art Encounter** Saturday, June 4, the Coop teamed up with local actors to showcase their talents together with those of our members. We supplied the writing, the actors supplied the reading.

Here's how we promoted it:

If you'd like to hear your words read aloud, in public, by a professional actor, please email your submission by Friday June 3, and we'll make sure the copy gets into the right hands.

Submissions (of no more than 500 words) might include material you wrote in a class or as a homework assignment, a piece you read at an Open Mike, or something you've written since and want to put out there in the public forum. Full credit will be given, of course, unless you request anonymity

This is a marvellous, and rare, opportunity. We hope you'll take advantage of it!

Here's a thumbnail review by Jim Weseen:

The Broadway Art Encounter is an excellent idea, but was perhaps a bit under-organized, or at least under-promoted, on the part of the Broadway event planners. This was the first Art Encounter, however; next year's event will doubtless attract a bigger audience.

Coop readings were to take place in The Refinery downstairs, "sometime in the afternoon". The Refinery is a block away from Broadway, however, and unfortunately the other on-site attractions for walk-in audience seemed essentially to be over by noon. Thus, by the time our turn came, our potential listeners had dwindled in number to zero. The Refinery's morning presenters, and artists who were showcased on Broadway Avenue proper, had, I think, more success in getting their works before the public. Even so, all Coop writers' submissions were on display in print format, and the morning visitors had a chance to read them at least, so all was not lost.

June 2, 2005

Coop Year-end Party

Coop members celebrated another successful year!
Boffin's, in Innovation Place

April 23, 2005

Magazine Writing for Fun and Profit

A workshop facilitated by Candace Savage and Amy Jo Ehman

This day-long workshop was for anyone who had a hankering to write for magazines. In five action-packed hours of instruction, participants received advice and information about the basics of feature writing, including such subjects as matching ideas to markets, writing query letters, negotiating fees, conducting research (especially interviews), finding the story in the facts, structuring their thoughts, and working with editors. The class consisted of lecture and discussion, with one pen-and-paper exercise. The literary possibilities of magazine writing were of course highlighted. Fee was \$40 for Coop members; \$50 for non-members; \$2 for handouts.

Candace Savage is the author of numerous magazine articles and some two dozen book-length works of non-fiction, for both children and adults. She is especially interested in the zones of overlap between reportage and poetry and between argument and story. Her work has been shortlisted for numerous awards, and in 2002 she won the Saskatchewan Book Award for children's literature with *Wizards: An Amazing Journey Through the Last Great Age of Magic*. In 2004 Candace was awarded both the non-fiction prize and book-of-the-year honours for *Prairie: A Natural History*.

Amy Jo Ehman was a career journalist in Saskatoon when, in 2000, she ditched her job at CBC TV to work as a freelance writer. Since then, she has chiselled her way into the monolith of the magazine market. Her primary association is with *Prairies North* Magazine, where she contributes as a writer and an editor. She sees the magazine market from both sides - as the editor in need of good stories, and the writer with a story to tell. Unfortunately, it's rarely a match made in heaven. Her motto: nothing ventured, nothing gained!

March 23, 2005

AGM and Literary Bazaar

Participants contributed, joined, asked questions-- then sampled things literary.

March 17, 2005

Nacho Ordinary Saint Patrick's Day

Participants enjoyed open mike readings, green nacho snacks, green drinks, and a limerick contest. Do you detect a theme developing?

February 12, 2005

Seeing with New Eyes: The Art of Revision

Participants took their poetry to a new level in this afternoon workshop at the J.S. Wood library, conducted by poet and editor Elizabeth Philips.

The god is in the details, Elizabeth says, and in the case of poetry that means fresh imagery, startling insights and attention to craft. "Good poetry doesn't rely on inspiration alone for its effectiveness," she explains. "Sometimes you can pull off something lovely after a few drafts, but most of the time it is the discipline of revision that results in a fine poem." The workshop was for poets at varying levels of accomplishment, published and unpublished. The fee was \$30.

Elizabeth Philips is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently *Beyond my Keeping* (Coteau Books, 1995) and *A Blue with Blood in It* (Coteau Books, 2000). Both collections received the Saskatchewan Poetry Award for their respective years. Her poems have appeared in various Canadian literary magazines: *The Malahat Review*, *event*, *arc*, and *Prairie Fire*, among others. Her work has also been published in *Manoa* in the U.S. and in *PoetryWales* in the U.K. She is the former editor of *Grain* magazine. Elizabeth lives in Saskatoon.

Starting January 13, 2005

Exercise Your Writing Muscles

Here's how we promoted it: Leave your Spandex, Lycra and sweat-wicking fabrics at home- just bring pen and paper, or laptop! This workshop will give your writing muscles a workout. Enhance your sense of versatility and competence by identifying personally relevant subject material and developing it in two genres-- poetry and short fiction—through a series of challenging exercises. Explore methods you can apply to your future writing projects and learn from discussions that focus on issues of technique and process rather than on group critiques.

Exercise Your Writing Muscles: An Intensive Workshop on Technique and Process in Poetry and Short Fiction was ideal for novices and intermediate writers wishing to develop their skills, as well as for established writers looking for new possibilities. Fees for the eight-week class were \$125 for Coop members, \$145 for non-members.

Steven Ross Smith has published eight books of poetry and fiction including *fluttertongue book 2: The Book of Emmett* (poetry) and *Lures* (fiction), short-listed for Saskatchewan Book Awards in 2000 and 1998 respectively. He is the Executive Director of the Sage Hill Writing Experience. He has performed his word and/or been published in England, Holland, Russia, Portugal, the USA and Canada. His new book, *fluttertongue3: disarray*, will be published in spring 2005 by Turnstone Press.

December 9, 2004

Coop Christmas Party

Chianti's Restaurant

November 6, 2004

A Mouthful of Words

Workshop facilitated by Gerry Shikatani

November 5, 2004

Eat Your Words

Banquet with Gerry Shikatani
At Boffin's, in Innovation Place

September 23, 2004

Conflict in Plot Development

Workshop facilitated by Kenneth J. Harvey

Starting September 13, 2004

***Picture It!* Writing for Young Children**

Class facilitated by Dianne Young