

## **Saskatoon Writers' Coop Programming Report to the 8<sup>th</sup> AGM, March 24, 2010**

Your Coop board has worked very hard to bring members a variety of programs since our last AGM. Our Writers' Open Mike Nights have continued, and thrived, on a regular monthly schedule (except in summer) in collaboration with the Frances Morrison Library. Our Writers' Coop Coaching Program has given seven members, so far, an opportunity to learn from successful local writers (for a nominal fee, but it's a bargain by any standard, and all proceeds go to the coach, not the Coop). We put on a fall workshop with Prince Albert poet Lynda Monahan. We sponsored a winter class with instructor Alice Kuipers that got among the highest participant ratings ever. And we had a midwinter party and poetry duel (that's two in a row) that was just plain fun.

Our fall class did not run due to lack of registrations, and because of the variety of activities available in the community we have not thought it necessary to run a winter workshop this year. Writers' Open Mike Nights continue through May, though, and the Coaching Program and the Writers' Groups team continue to operate on a demand basis.

Details are presented in the table on the next page. As you can see if you add up the figures, the Coop's programs so far this programming year (not including tonight) have involved 253 people (down from 335 last year), not counting instructors. Of these, 147 have been active participants (last year's number was 161). While down a bit, this year's number still exceeds the size of the entire Coop membership. But we know there have been more than a few repeat participants, and that by no means everyone who took part is a Coop member. Nevertheless, we are pleased with both member participation and community response.

It's impossible to single out any one or two board members for special recognition on the programming side, as this has been a truly collaborative effort. So, thanks, everyone.

Also, thank you to our dedicated instructors, presenters and collaborators—Sisters' Ink, Anne Simpson, Lynda Monahan, Alice Kuipers, David Parkinson, and Jerry Haigh.

And a special thanks to Life Member Beth Matheson (Hector's Mom), who has retired this year as the Coop's snail-mailer. Beth is a long-time member, and has helped the Coop in many ways over the years.

Thanks as well to all others who have volunteered on the Coop's behalf this year. And thanks to our helpful and generous collaborators at the Saskatoon Public Library, The Refinery, and McNally Robinson.

And last but not least, thanks to our members and friends, who give our programs such good and enthusiastic support.

The Coop Board

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>NUMBERS</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
Mar. 26, 2009	AGM, program and social	31 present	At The Refinery Guests: Sisters' Ink MC Jim Weseen
Apr. 9, 2009	Open mike	15 present, 8 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
May 14, 2009	Open mike	12 present, 7 readers	At the library MCs Jo Olive, Gary Chappell
Sept. 10, 2009	Open mike	19 present, 8 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Oct. 8, 2009	Open mike	21 present, 10 readers	At the library MCs Jo Oliver, Gary Chappell
Nov. 14, 2009	One-day workshop: <i>Poetry for the Scared Stiff</i>	3 participants	At St. James Instructor: Lynda Monahan
Nov. 12, 2009	Open mike	21 present, 12 readers	At the library MCs Jo Oliver, Gary Chappell
Dec. 10, 2009	Open mike & seasonal celebration	13 present, 10 readers	At. the library MCs Gary Chappell, Jo Oliver
Jan. 14, 2010	Open mike	33 present, 14 readers	At the library MC Jo Oliver
Feb. 11, 2010	Open mike	29 present, 10 readers	At the library MCs Gary Chappell, Jo Oliver
Jan. 11 to Feb. 15, 2010	Winter class: prose, <i>Finding Time,</i> <i>Stories, Your Voice</i>	15 participants	At St. James Instructor: Alice Kuipers
Feb. 19, 2010	Winter party: <i>Duelling Cupids</i>	30 present, 12 readers	At The Refinery MC Anne Simpson
Mar. 11, 2010	Open mike	11 present, 7 readers	At the library MCs Gary Chappell, Jo Oliver
Mar. 24, 2010	AGM, program and social		At St. James Guests David Parkinson, Jerry Haigh MC Jim Weseen