

## 2018 – A Year in Review

Programs and activities report for 2018

Our literary e-magazine, **Wordplay at Work** is published 10 months of the year. This beautifully crafted periodical gives members an opportunity to submit their poems, short stories, and other literary formats for publication. It is a great showcase for many of our emerging writers to have their work featured in each issue. Our special *Writer of the Month* spotlight has been quite popular. Winners of our annual Write On! Contest were published in the Fall.

*"It is hard to believe Dec 2018 will be my 59<sup>th</sup> Issue. I am constantly amazed at the quality of work our members submit. We have so many talented writers in RCLAS. It has been an honour to work with you all!"* – Janet Kvammen, Vice-President, RCLAS E-zine

We continued to offer interactive workshops centered on the art of writing. Our **2018 Workshops** included:

- "**Memoir Writing - Not All About Me**" with Patricia Donahue
- "**From Memory to Meaning**" with Sonja Larsen
- "**Writing Animals into Life**" with (SheLa) Nefertiti Morrison
- "**Creating Believable Characters and Setting**" with Ruth Kozak
- "**The Art of the Response**" with Shazia Hafiz Ramji
- "**Travel Writing**" with Marylee Stephenson
- "**Using Tarot in Your Writing**" with Isabella Mori
- "**Developing Creativity by Playing**" with Tatiana A. Bobko

In addition, we held a **National Poetry Month celebration** event in April featuring poets, Jónína Kirton, Kevin Spent, and Alan Hill. All were well attended and positively reviewed by the participants. A call for workshop proposals for 2019 was opened November 1 with deadline January 31, 2019.

Aidan Chafe (Poetry in the Park Director) reports *"It was another spectacular summer of Poetry in the Park in 2018. We were so fortunate to represent the Royal City in Queen's Park over the months of July and August with exceptional writing talent from features and local poets who shared the stage at the band shell. Our numbers continue to rise every year as we spread the word around town. Some highlights from this year included our annual Mad Hatters Night, the show- stopping readings from the poetry power couple Emily Osbourne and Daniel Cowper, as well as a surprise dance performance from RCLAS Secretary Lozan Yamolky!"*

Our free bi-monthly group **In Their Words - a Royal City reading series** offered at the Anvil Center features three guests reading their favourite authors from any genre in poetry, fiction, non-fiction or drama, followed by Q&A. This series continued to be well attended. Thank you to our host and ITW manager, Ruth Kozak.

**Tellers of Short Tales**, our series of free evening events at the Anvil Center is offered eight times throughout the year. It attracts storytellers from New Westminster and throughout the Lower Mainland. ToST includes a Feature Writer and an Open Mic for short stories.

With the closure of the New Westminster Buy Low Foods this past Summer, we lost our community space for our writing prompt program, **Word Play New West**. We continue to look for a viable space for this program.

In June we collaborated with **New West Artists** for "**Visual Verse: where poetry brings art to life**" pairing 17 RCLAS members with 17 NWA members for a successful art show and reading event held at The Network Hub at the River Market.

Halloween fun was had at our annual "**Poets Wanted: Dead or Alive**" event held at Poetic Justice/Poetry New West.

We continued our very successful **Write On! Contest** in the Spring with poetry, fiction and non-fiction categories, and hosted the award ceremony in June. Our 2019 Contest will open for submissions in mid-January.

Now in its fifth year, the **Annual Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry** called on authors and publishers from across the country for submissions of poetry books published in English in 2017. The number of entries steadily increases annually. We hosted an award ceremony in November featuring 2018 judge Miranda Pearson and Kathleen Forsythe, the daughter of Fred Cogswell.

We launched our Instagram account @royalcitylit in June. We maintain an active presence on our Facebook group Royal City Literary Arts Society and FB RCLAS page. Visit our website [www.rclas.com](http://www.rclas.com) for all our ongoing events and announcements.

In June, at our AGM we said good bye to our president, Nasreen Pejvack and welcomed Poet Laureate Alan Hill into the position. Janet Kvammen continued on as Vice-President, Carol Johnson as Treasurer, Lozan Yamolky as Secretary with Directors-at-large, Lisa Strong and Deborah White rounding out the board.

We wish to thank the City of New Westminster and Arts Council of New Westminster for their ongoing support.

Thank you to all our members!

*"The Royal City Literary Arts Society's mission is to maintain and build a welcoming community of writers and readers, to support the goals of writers at all stages of their development, and to promote an appreciation of all forms of literary arts. We are committed to building community capacity through the literary arts, promoting literacy, social connection and cross cultural understanding and the central importance of the written and spoken word in community life"*

*"We wish to invite you to our **Holiday Open House – Meet and Mingle**, in partnership with New West Artists, being held Saturday December 8 at The Network Hub, 810 Quayside Drive, upstairs at The River Market from 3pm to 6pm. Let's celebrate a successful year! Looking forward to a wonderful New Year!"*

– Alan Hill, RCLAS President

Visit our website [www.rclas.com](http://www.rclas.com)

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