

2019 – A Year in Review

Programs and activities report for 2019

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. Winners of our annual *Write On! Contest* were published in the June/Sept/Oct issues.

“December 2019 will be my 69th issue. It has been an honour to work with so many amazing RCLAS members” – Janet Kvammen, Vice-President

We continued to offer interactive workshops centered on the art of writing. Our **2019 Workshops** included:

“Introduction to Wordpress” with Cassandra Metcalfe

“Fit to Print and Fold: a Chapbook Workshop” with Kevin Spenst

National Poetry Month event: “Exploring the Poetry of Place” with Alan Hill

“New Beginnings” with Angelica Poversky

“What’s Your Story?” with Caitlin Hicks

“Writing About Trauma, Taboos, Secrets & Other Scary Stuff” with Heather Conn

“Writing the Hero/Heroine’s Journey” with Carol Johnson

In addition to LITFEST NEW WEST Workshops on April 27, 2019:

“Calling Them: From Within” with Tekatsi’tsaneken Everstz

“Communing with Nature –Sensory Writing and Editing” with Cynthia Sharp

“You’re a Writer but also a Performer!” with Tawahum Bige & Chelsea Franz

“In a Flash” Flash Fiction Workshop

Aidan Chafe (*Poetry in the Park* Director) reports *“Our cast of friendly faces on the bandshell stage included Kirsten Pendreigh, Idrian Burgos, Malcolm van Delst, Barry Plamondon, Elaine Woo, Kyle McKillop, Susan Alexander, Kyle Hawke, Robert Martens and Natasha Saje who came all the way from Salt Lake City. The breathtaking poems read from the array of young and talented writers: Hasan Namir, Jessica Johns, Andrew French, Tolu Oloruntoba, Carlie Blume, Winston Le and Angelica Poversky. I would like to address and thank our attendees and open mic’ers for without whom the PIP experience would not be the same. A highlight this year was our first ever “PIP PIP Hooray! Poetry Open Mic Contest”. We’ll see you next summer. Let’s make 2020, our 10 year anniversary, the best PIP yet!”*

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. Thank you to Ruth Kozak, our dedicated volunteer host and ITW manager. This series continued to be well attended.

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 as well as an Open Mic for short stories.

September 28 we partnered with **New West Artists** for a BC Culture Days ekphrastic poetry event **“Bringing Art to Life Through Verse: An Ekphrastic Experience”** featuring RCLAS members in a wonderful collaborative experience held at The Gallery on 12th.

In mid-January we opened our very successful **Write On! Contest** to submissions once again with poetry, fiction and non-fiction categories, and hosted the award ceremony in June. Thank you to RCLAS Volunteer Hope Lauterbach for all her hard work! We look forward to launching our 2020 Contest.

Now in its sixth year, **the Annual Fred Cogswell Award for Excellence in Poetry** called on authors and publishers from across Canada for submissions of poetry books published in English in 2018. A record number of books were received this year. Our award ceremony will be held Sat aft November 30 at the NWPL. It will feature our esteemed judge Frederick Wah, Kathleen Forsythe, (daughter of Fred Cogswell) and Candice James, Poet Laureate Emerita. Two of our Top 3 Winners will also attend.

Visit our website www.rclas.com for our ongoing events and announcements. We continue to maintain an active presence on our Facebook group Royal City Literary Arts Society, and FB RCLAS page. You can also find us on Instagram @royalcitylit and twitter @rclas_com.

Our Annual General Meeting was held June 22 at the New Westminster Public Library with all board members returning for another year. Poet Laureate Alan Hill, President; Janet Kvammen, Vice-President; Carol Johnson, Treasurer; Lozan Yamolky, Secretary; Lisa Strong, Director-at-Large; Deborah White, Director-at-Large.

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** in partnership with New West Artists, being held Saturday December 14 at The Gallery on 12th, 712C Twelfth Street from 1pm to 4pm. Let’s celebrate a successful year! Looking forward to a wonderful New Year!”*

– Alan Hill, RCLAS President

Visit our website www.rclas.com

Contact secretary@rclas.com

Facebook Group: Royal City Literary Arts Society | FB Page: RCLAS

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