

“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”

Programs and activities report for 2020

In 2020, we continued to offer interactive workshops centered on the art of writing. Our workshops this year, both in person and virtually, included:

- “Marvels of Flash Fiction” with Karen Schaubert
- “It’s Alive! Putting Inanimate Objects to Work” with Joan B. Flood
- “Writing and Healing” with Sherry Duggal
- “Haiku – 5-7-5 and Beyond” with Isabella Mori
- “Writing the Hero/Heroine’s Journey” with John Mavin
- “Ghazal Form Poetry” with Sherry Duggal

Our literary online magazine, *Wordplay at Work* is published 10 months of the year. This beautifully crafted E-zine gives RCLAS members an opportunity to submit their poems, short stories and other literary formats for publication. It is a wonderful showcase for both emerging and seasoned writers. Winners of our *Write On! Contest* are published annually in the June/Sept/Oct issues.

“My 79th issue will be out in December. Over the years, I have enjoyed the opportunity to work with amazing RCLAS members. This year has certainly been challenging but our members have continued to submit and support us. Some of my highlights include the May QuarantinE Zine, and September’s PENdemic poetry and prose. I loved working on the RCLAS Co-operative Poem project coordinated for National Poetry Month with contributions from 24 poets.”

– Janet Kvammen, Vice-President

Unfortunately *Poetry in the Park* was unable to be held due to COVID-19 restrictions. We hope to return to Queen’s Park in the summer of 2021 to celebrate our 10th Anniversary and to make it the best PIP yet! Thanks to those who have supported us by coming out to read and to listen. Thanks so much the City of New Westminster for our funding.

“We would love to bring back our “PIP Poetry Open Mic Contest”. The contest was held for the first time in 2019 with great success. Fingers crossed! Thank you to PIP Manager Aidan Chafe for his hard work over these past years. PIP PIP Hooray! - Janet Kvammen

We started the year off with programming at Anvil Centre including our free bi-monthly group *In Their Words - a Royal City reading series* featuring guest presenters Neall Ryon, Franci Louann, and Sherry Duggal. *In Their Words* features readers sharing 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 ITW manager/host.

Tellers of Short Tales, our free evening events were held at the Anvil Centre from Jan through March. The program attracts storytellers from New Westminster and throughout the Lower Mainland. ToST includes one featured writer as well as an Open Mic for short stories. 2020 Authors included Shawn Gale, Trevor Carolan and Crystal Hunt.

In mid-January we launched the successful 8th **Annual Write On! Contest**. Open to submissions of poetry, fiction and non-fiction with cash prizes in all three categories. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winning stories and poems as well as the honourable mentions were published in the RCLAS e-zine. We are thankful to our 2019 first place winners who all accepted the offer to judge the 2020 contest in each of the winning categories. The board wishes to thank **Hope Lauterbach** for outstanding volunteer service.

Now in its seventh 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 2019. 115 books were received breaking last year’s record. The contest continues to grow each year. Our 2020 Judge is award-winning poet Rachel Rose, a former Poet Laureate of Vancouver. It is our first time to feature a longlist of TEN books. The TOP 3 Books will be announced online following our first ever virtual **Annual General Meeting, Saturday morning December 5 at 11am** via Zoom, with cash prizes to be awarded to our First, Second and Third place winners. You are all invited. **RSVP** to secretary@rclas.com.

Thank you to board members **Alan Hill**, President; **Janet Kvammen**, Vice-President; **Carol Johnson**, Treasurer; **Lisa Strong**, Director-at-Large; **Deborah White**, Director-at-Large; **Sarah Wethered**, Director-at-Large; **Lozan Yamolky**, Secretary.

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.

“To put it mildly, this has been a hard year for everyone. What we at RCLAS have learnt, is that under difficult circumstances, art comes into its own as an essential way of keeping us connected and reminding us of our commitments to our families and our community. RCLAS is learning to thrive and move forward in exciting new directions. We are learning new technology, new skills, and learning new ways of keeping our members connected and involved. I want to thank the Arts Council for its continuing support. I also want to thank the City of New Westminster for continuing to support us and in seeing a vital role for the literary arts. I also want to thank all our committed members and volunteers. It is the dedication and passion of our members and volunteers that keeps us strong. On behalf of the RCLAS Board, it only remains, to wish you all a safe and happy holiday period and a creative and connected 2021.”

– Alan Hill, President, Royal City Literary Arts Society (RCLAS)

Visit our website www.rclas.com

Contact secretary@rclas.com

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

IG @royalcitylit | Twitter @rclas_com



2020 WRITING CONTEST WINNERS
\$150 first prize, \$100 second prize, \$75 third prize
Congratulations to all our winners! Thank you to everyone who submitted!

POETRY WINNERS (Poetry Judge: MEG STAINSBY)
Poetry First Place: SUSAN McCASLIN - PERSEPHONE'S NOOK
Poetry Second Place: Angela Rebore - And their works shall follow (to the melody)
Poetry Third Place: Angela Kenyon - Traffic

Poetry Honorable Mentions
Barbara Carter - the other death
N. C. Philips - Retraction in the Night
Alan Dising - Losagna

NON-FICTION WINNERS (Non-Fiction Judge: BRYANT BOSS)
Non-Fiction First Place: EAREN ANDREWS - THE TAIL OF A COMET
Non-Fiction Second Place: Pale Cutchfield - Heartbreak Journal
Non-Fiction Third Place: Jennifer M. Smith - The Jackknife

Non-Fiction Honorable Mentions
Lorena Lopez - Father's Day Shopping Spree
Janoyra Fuller Evans - Walking Nosed
Alexander Hamilton-Apper - On My Way

FICTION WINNERS (Fiction Judge: DONNA TERRILL)
Fiction First Place: V.J. HAMILTON - OUT OF HAWA
Fiction Second Place: V.J. Hamilton - The Red Skulie
Fiction Third Place: Fish Gaultier - The Cross Bones Gale

Fiction Honorable Mentions

1:30pm to 3:00pm

ONLINE WORKSHOP

How to Build a Story
with John Mavin

Author of Kings, An Avian Award and Daring Fire nominee

Good stories don't just happen, they're built... and as architects use blueprints, writers need sound structure to create effective emotional journeys for their readers.

In this workshop we'll explore the structural elements shared by all stories (from those to novelists), uncover the differences between good and structure, and give you the tools to build emotionally satisfying stories again our again.

www.johnmavin.com

Suggested Donation
\$5 members
\$10 non-members
www.rcias.com

Online Workshop
Register by email
secretary@rcias.com

Royal City Literary Arts Society

AGM

Save The Date

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

December 5, 2020 at 11am via Zoom
RSVP secretary@rcias.com

Royal City Literary Arts Society

Sun | July 27 | 2020
1:30pm to 3:30pm

FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

Haiku - 5-7-5 and Beyond
with Isabella Mori

Learn more about the art of haiku

Writing like three lines, learning about the four Japanese grandmasters of haiku, understanding the use of the objects of the poetic form - haiku can be anything from a fun little activity to deep, life-long study.

In this interactive workshop, we will read, write and experiment with haiku. We will be inspired by its brevity and play with some of the elements common to many haiku, such as capturing the moment and connecting with nature.

Check us out
www.rcias.com

FREE Online Workshop
Zoom
<https://bit.ly/RCLASHaiku>
email secretary@rcias.com for more info

We Came From Water

W. Ash Eason

Author of *Water* and *Water's Edge*

Water is the most abundant and essential element on Earth. It is the source of life, the medium of transport, and the most powerful force on the planet. In this workshop, we will explore the many ways in which water has shaped our lives, from the most basic to the most complex. We will look at the science of water, the history of water, and the ways in which water has inspired art, literature, and culture. We will also explore the ways in which water has shaped our lives, from the most basic to the most complex.

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Royal City Literary Arts Society

Sun | Oct 3 | 2020
1:30pm to 3:30pm

ONLINE WORKSHOP

Ghazal Writing Workshop
with Sherry Duggal

Form, structure and rhythm will give us a deeper insight into this unique poetic form.

With roots in seventh-century Arabic, ghazal gained prominence in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries in Persia, India, and the Middle East.

This workshop is for anyone who is interested in poetry and music or both! No other form bridges the gap between the two more than the ghazal. Bring your pencil and an open mind and be ready to have some fun!

<https://sherryduggal.writes.com/sherry-duggal>

Suggested Donation
\$5 members
\$10 non-members
www.rcias.com

Online Workshop
Register by email
secretary@rcias.com

Royal City Literary Arts Society

7th Annual Fred Cogswell Award For Excellence In Poetry

2020 Longlist

