

RNA News 20039

RNA Chapter
20039

Poetry Street Nearly Ready to Print

The second issue of the Poetry Street Project is nearly ready to go to press, reports RNA Chapter 20039 president, Catt Foy.

The publication, in its second year of operation, is scheduled for public launch at the Quad Cities' annual Unity Fest, to be held this September 26 and 27th in LeClaire Park in Davenport, Iowa.

The Poetry Street Project is a literary and arts publication featuring creative works by people who have experienced homelessness or extreme poverty. This year's issue boasts twelve additional pages.

"The only thing left is the proofreading process," said Foy. "And the addition of one more artist."

The Poetry Street Project is printed by Iowa's only non-profit printer, OP Printing of Muscatine. OP Printing is located in Octagon Place, one of only 27 known octagon houses in Iowa. Listed on the National Register of Historical Places, Octagon Place is home to several non-profit organizations. OP Printing serves only non-profit agencies and projects.

This year's Poetry Street Project will feature twelve additional pages and will be available to the public for a suggested donation of \$3 to \$5.

A launch party for contributors and supporters will be held sometime in late September and will be hosted by the Midwest Writing Center.



"Star Fairy" by Becca Mangum, one of this year's artists featured in the Poetry Street Project.

Sponsors wishing to make a contribution to the Poetry Street Project can contact any chapter member, or call 323-0481 for more information.

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Special points of interest:

- *Poetry Street Project to launch in September.*
- *Unity Fest scheduled for September 26-27.*
- *EcoPhones fundraiser*
- *Rummage Sale scheduled for October*
- *Urban Market at Quad City Botanical Center*
- *Heat Native America Fund needs coats*

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Eco-Phones Recycling Fundraiser

Our chapter voted at the July meeting to participate in the EcoPhones recycling fundraising project.

EcoPhones accepts used, working or non-working cell phones, laptop computers, iPods, digital cam-

eras, digital video cameras and inkjet cartridges for recycling. The company offers free shipping and pays up to \$300 per phone and up to \$5 per inkjet cartridge.

Chapter members are encouraged to participate

in this fundraising opportunity by contacting businesses to solicit donations of used personal electronics, and to seek locations to establish drop-boxes.

EcoPhones is a no-risk way for our chapter to earn cash.

Membership Drive Offers Magazine Subscription

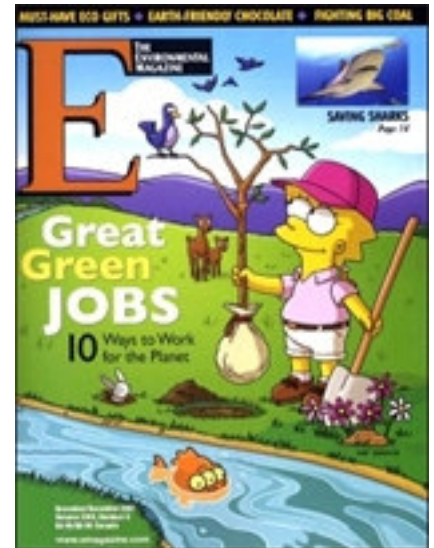
All RNA 20039 members are being encouraged to help bring new members so we can grow a stronger, more effective chapter for change.

To that end, the chapter has partnered with *E, The Environmental Magazine*, to offer a free one-year subscription to new members who donate an additional \$10 to the chapter. The free subscriptions are also available to any existing member who wishes to donate \$10 or more to chapter funds.

Current members can also offer the free subscription to any non-member person or organization that donates \$15 or more to the chapter or chapter causes.

E, The Environmental Magazine, normally sells for \$29.95 annually. The magazine is an award-winning bi-monthly news publication for “people concerned about the environment, and offers practical, hands-on solutions relevant to everyday life.

To learn more about the magazine, visit www.emagazine.com.



Rummage Sale Fundraiser Scheduled for October

Chapter 20039 is hosting a rummage sale the first Saturday in October (3rd) from 9 AM to 4 PM at a location to be announced later.

Members are encouraged to collect any item that might be of saleable value including clothing, small appliances, furniture, books, CDs, DVDs, musical instruments, baby needs, sporting goods, tools, gardening equipment, art, antiques, and anything that might raise a dollar or five for the chapter.

Clean your closets! RNA 20039 is hosting a rummage sale!

Any item that does not sell will be donated to a variety of other agencies or organizations to help them meet their

needs. For example, winter clothing will go to both the Heat Native America Fund and the Humility of Mary Shelter.

To drop off donated items, please call and make arrangements with Catt Foy at 323-0481 or email her at cattfoy@earthlink.net.

CoolCities, T-Shirts, Other Tentative Events...

At our July meeting the chapter members discussed several possible events, fund-raisers, and a convention to be held in the coming months.

Among the possibilities discussed were:

- CoolCities. The Sierra Club has a CoolCities campaign that helps raise awareness about global warming and presents solutions to help stop it and make our city a

“cool” city. They provide a Power-Point Presentation called the “Home Energy Solutions Toolkit” that can be used to host an event. The chapter discussed scheduling this event for spring of 2010, possibly during Earth Week. We would like to offer the presentation at United Neighbors, and possibly provide some funding for weather-stripping, compact fluorescent

bulbs and related items for low-income families.

- *The Battle for Whiteclay* is a DVD that was gifted to our chapter from Frank LeMere, noted Native American activist. This documentary highlights issues regarding Indian reservations, alcoholism, and human rights, and should provide (continued on page 4)

Urban Market Seems Slow, Still Promising

Hosting a booth at the Quad City Botanical Center's Urban Market on Thursday evenings isn't as productive as initially hoped.

The chapter paid for a booth space for the season—a screaming bargain for \$25—but has been unable to staff the booth until the week of July 19.

“We didn't have enough volunteers and I just can't set up, run and tear down a booth alone,” stated chapter president, Catt Foy. But all that changed last week when the chapter welcomed two new volunteers: Dale Meyers and Becca Mangum.

“Dale and Becca are a real blessing to

the chapter,” stated Foy. “They are eager, willing and excited to be working with us.” Mangum is one artist that will be featured in this year's Poetry Street Project, and is interested in working to improve opportunities for those who have experienced homelessness. “People who are homeless need people who care,” Mangum said.

The couple, who are now well-established as the caretakers for a Davenport apartment building, experienced homelessness last year when Becca was pregnant with their son, Johnny Rain.

The couple will be staffing the booth through the remainder of the season

and are hopeful that attendance will improve.

Meyers plans to play his guitar for entertainment, and Mangum is planning to make bookmarks, garden stones and other items for sale to support the chapter.

Members are welcome to come and sell their own hand-crafted or homegrown items every Thursday night from 4-8 PM at the Quad City Botanical Center in Rock Island. We request that 20% of sales be donated to the chapter.

Unity Fest Scheduled for September 26 and 27

The Quad Cities annual Unity Festival will be held this year on September 26 and 27 in Davenport's LeClaire Park. RNA chapter 20039 participated last year in partnership with the Poetry Street Project and BeTheChange, Inc.

This year, the Poetry Street Project will have host a space adjacent to our chapter's booth. There is the possibility that the Heat Native America Fund will also occupy a neighboring space, selling Indian tacos and fry bread.

This year's festivities will include performing arts from many different ethnic and cultural heritages, an art fair, and a “Unity Community” of service organizations, non-profits, and colleges. Booth space for non-profits is free.

The entrance fee is \$3 or “three cans of food.” RNA 20039 has decided to collect and donate non-perishable grocery items—things that cannot be purchased with food stamps, such as toilet paper, shampoo, laundry detergent and

cleaning products. Our donations will help sponsor attendance for those who cannot afford to pay the entrance fee and helps to sponsor volunteers to the event.

The chapter is also seeking items for a raffle.

To contribute a donation, contact a chapter member or call Catt Foy at 323-0481, or bring your donation to the front gate during the event.

Heat Native America Fund Needs Winter Gear

One of the projects which RNA 20039 supports is the Heat Native America Fund (HNAF). HNAF provides stoves, fuel, and winter clothing and gear for impoverished Native American families living on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota.

HNAF began as a service-learning project created by Jennifer Nesahkluah when she was attending Scott Commu-

nity College. HNAF is a grassroots charitable program whose core mission is to advocate and raise funds for a variety of American Indian human rights projects and issues.

Founder Nesahkluah has asked our chapter



Winter on Rosebud Reservation brings deep snows and cold winds.

to help collect winter coats, mittens, hats, boots, long underwear and other winter gear for families who live with no indoor plumbing, no electricity, and no heat in the bitter high plains winters of South Dakota.

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www.royalneighbors.org

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Women • Serving Communities*



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Royal Neighbors of America is a fraternal benefits organization serving more than 230,000 members, both women and their families. It was founded in 1895 as a fraternal benefit insurance company for women. The Society has contributed more than \$28 million to support women, families, and communities nationwide.

CoolCities, etc. (continued from page 3)

- ...an excellent resource to stimulate discussion about Native American issues. Discussion about showing this film also included coupling the film with a presentation from Jennifer Nesahkluah, an expert on Native cultural heritage. This was discussed as a possible event in January or February of 2010.
- Kimberly Market. We discussed the possibility of renting a space at Kimberly Market sometime in November or early December to sell some Christmas-related items.
- Web site. President Foy has begun research into web hosting so the chapter can set up its own Web site. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Propell Store. Propell is an online store where we can set up and design our own gear: t-shirts, coffee mugs, bumper stickers, hats, etc. Set-up is free and we earn up to 25% on all merchandise sold. This opportunity will be explored further in the future.
- Essay Contest. We discussed the possibility of hosting an essay contest about community service or service-learning. Contest fees would be used to award a small scholarship to the winner. Details are still under development.
- Volunteer sites. Foy reported that we are now registered with Volunteer Match, and she will be researching other volunteer listing services in the future.
- Convention. Conventions help to

sustain Royal Neighbors as a fraternal benefit organization and are gatherings of area chapters and members for the purposes of socializing and sharing news and information. We discussed considering holding a convention next winter or spring, perhaps in conjunction with one or more of the other events discussed here.

Chapter members are encouraged to make suggestions for future events, projects, and fundraisers. All ideas will be considered. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more, helping out, becoming a member, or making a contribution, please contact one of the following leadership members: Catt Foy, president (563-323-0481), Mary Ellen Kibling, secretary (563-528-4987), or Ashley Velez (309-230-3606).