

# The Branch Line



## CANADIAN AUTHORS ASSOCIATION

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### CAA Memberships:

*Regular* - \$159.00 per year

*Student* - \$50.00 per year  
(GST incl.)

Membership can be paid in  
full or by installments.

Applications are available  
from the Alberta Branch  
Membership chair, website,  
or National Office.

## WRITE ON! 85 YEARS STRONG!

February 2007

### Patrick Twomey:

*Living The Lifestyle of Travel*  
Lanny Boutin

It's always fascinating to observe where life's diverse paths will lead us. During his days as a history major at the University of Calgary, Patrick Twomey had no idea where his life would lead him; literally that is.

**"Tourism writing...is more than  
glossy travel magazines."**

It all started with one tour that snow-balled into a career and an obsession for travel. One that has sent him to travel, work and study in over 30 countries and created the basis for numerous articles, a Spanish tour guide training manual for the Chilean Park Service and a book on skiing in Canada. *Ski Canada*, a 192-page guide published in 1998 by *Trailblazer Publications*, is the complete guide to downhill ski, heli-ski, snowboard and cross-country skiing across Canada. It even includes 40 pages detailing individual ski runs.

Twomey's most recent book *Working and Living in Canada* gives a broader snapshot of our country. The 304-page guide, published by *Cadogan Guides* (a subsidiary of *The Sunday Times* in London) lists everything you need to know about visiting, living and working in Canada, including visas, work permits and how to get your pet across the border. For *Working and Living in Canada*, Twomey even contributed many of the photographs, something he said he doesn't believe he has the eye for.

On the evening of Friday, January 26th he explained how obtaining the knowledge to lead a tour is easy;

**Twomey continued on page 2**



### Our Next Speaker

*CAA award-winner:*  
**Mieko Ouchi**

Mieko Ouchi is familiar to many Edmonton audiences as an award-winning actor, writer and director. She graduated from the acting program at the University of Alberta in 1992 and has gone on to work in theatre, film and television. She is the current playwright in residence for Red Deer College Theatre Arts Program.

**Ouchi continued on page 3**

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## CAA Alberta News:

*Opportunities for you to branch out and participate*

### *We Want You*

If you would like to put your name forward to become a board member of the CAA Alberta Branch, please contact one of the current board members and share your interest.

### *We CanWrite! Together*

If you would like to volunteer your time and talents, the Alberta Branch is hosting *CanWrite! Conference 2008*; contact a current board member to learn about committee opportunities. We invite you to get involved and we look forward to hearing from you.

### *Annual General Meeting Notice*

You are invited to attend the Alberta Branch AGM on April 27, 2007 at 8 pm in room 122 in the Education South Building, University of Alberta.

## CAA Regular Meeting Fees:

Members: FREE  
First-time Guests: FREE  
Returning Guests: \$10  
CAA Workshop Fees:  
Members: \$30 (1 day)  
                  \$60 (2 day)  
Non-Members: \$60 (1 day)  
                  \$120 (2 day)

Unless otherwise designated, meetings are held in Room 122, Education South Building, University of Alberta (87 Avenue and 112 Street).

## The Writers' Circle:

Members meet at 7pm before the monthly CAA Friday meetings. Bring two double spaced typed papers or a three minute reading.

## News from National:

*The 5th Annual CanWrite! Conference Story Contest*

This short story contest is open to all ages and all Canadian and U.S. residents. Please note carefully the following guidelines:

1. Short stories must be fiction, unpublished, and no longer than 1,500 words in length.
2. Entries should be typed and double spaced with the story's title appearing on each numbered page.
3. Please include a separate sheet with your name, address, phone number, email address, word count and title - as well as your payment and a self-addressed stamped envelope for the contest results.
4. The entrant's name must not appear on the manuscript.
5. The **final deadline for entries is February 28, 2007.**

The top ten selections will be published in an anthology to be launched at our 86th CAA Annual Conference in Ottawa on July 5-8, 2007.

The top three winners will also receive \$500, \$200 and \$100 plus a free conference registration with no cash value. (Winners must attend the conference to receive this free registration.) Judging will be completed through a blind process with final selections made by our contest judge. Manuscripts will not be returned. Results and story evaluations will both be released in July.

The entrant's fee is \$15 Canadian per story. Please make all cheques or money orders out to "Canadian Authors Association" and mail your entry to: **CanWrite! Conference Story Contest**, c/o Evan Kenney 32 Green Meadow Crescent Wetland, ON L3C 6X3.

For more info, please contact Evan Kenney at [tweed@allstream.net](mailto:tweed@allstream.net) or 905-734-7180.

This year's guest contest judge is **Sandra Bell-Lundy** acclaimed writer, creator, illustrator of the *Between Friends* comic strip and the author of two best-selling book collections: *Hello, Daughter* and *Coffee, Tea and Reality*. You can visit her website at:

**[www.betweenfriendcartoons.com](http://www.betweenfriendcartoons.com)**

## Twomey continued from page 1

it is the organization that is the challenge. Misplacing people is frowned upon and keeping them safe can be difficult. His mountain tours for English visitors have made him a reluctant regular at the Banff hospital.

He also stressed how travel writers and guides must mould their vocabulary to their audience, admitting that with the right group he can easily slip back into his Irish accent.



Tourism writing, he suggests, is more than glossy travel magazines. His Chilean tourism guide, created with the help of the Chilean government, is a *how to* designed to teach locals how to be tour ambassadors. He stresses that the people who have taken the course have not become rich, but they are now in control of their own destiny.

This project also taught him that local tours must be created with locals in mind. Typically only six percent of the people in Chile are tourists, and lots of them are backpackers trying to live on a few dollars a day; not the type of people to drop big money on tours.

He also encourages travel writers to think about, and even write about, the impact of globalization and travel on other cultures. In most countries tourism is welcomed, but we must always remember that it can also throw off the fine balance between cultures by opening up the society and drastically changing its demographics. The idea of ecotourism is also a conundrum, especially for someone like Patrick, who may take 70 airline flights in a single year.



## Ouchi continued from page 1

Mieko's first full-length play, *The Red Priest (Eight Ways To Say Goodbye)*, published by *Playwrights Canada Press* in 2003, won the Canadian Authors Association's Carol Bolt Prize in 2005. It was also nominated for Best New Play by the Writer's Guild of Alberta as well as by the Sterling and Betty Awards. In 2004, it was a finalist for both the 4 Play Reading Series at The Old Vic Theatre, London, UK and the Governor General's Literary Award for Drama. The play, a story about the healing power of music, dramatizes a hypothetical exchange between 18th century Italian composer, Antonio Vivaldi, and his French patron's wife, who is forced to take violin lessons with Vivaldi so that her husband can win a bet with King Louis XV.

Mieko's second play, *The Blue Light*, is about the life of German propaganda filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl. Leni was blacklisted until her death in 2003, at the age of 101, for her choice to work with the Nazi party. The play won honourable mention in the 2004 and 2005 Alberta Playwriting Competition and received seven nominations at the 2006 Sterling Awards including Best Production and Best New Play. It is scheduled for publication by *Playwrights Canada Press* this year.

Her award-winning films *Shepherd's Pie and Sushi, By This Parting, Samurai Swing, Paper Cut* and *Minor Keys*, have played in 30 international festivals, and aired on CBC, Bravo!, W Network and DUTV in Philadelphia.

Her television documentary on child music prodigies, *Minor Keys*, won the Golden Sheaf for Best Biography Documentary at the 2004 Yorkton Film and Video Festival.

She has also directed award-winning productions of *Are We There Yet?* by Jane Heather, a participatory play and workshop for teens about sexuality health education; and *Naomi's Road*, based on *Obasan* by Joy Kogawa. In 2001, she won the Sterling Award for Outstanding Fringe Director for directing *Slowly, An Exchange Is Taking Place*.

Given her choice of subjects, Mieko is clearly qualified to speak on the topic of *Truth and Fiction: Writing Plays about Real People*. No doubt much of what she has to say will apply to other genres as well.

Friday, February 23 at 8:00 pm:  
Mieko Ouchi Presents: *Truth and Fiction: Writing Plays about Real People*.

Members and first-time guests are free. Non-members who have attended previous CAA meetings are charged \$5.00.

Saturday, February 24 at 9:30 am – 4:00 pm: *Living History Workshop*  
Members \$30 / Non-members \$60;

To register, call Janet:  
780-458-4662.

Both events take place at the University of Alberta in the Education South Building, Room 122.

Everyone welcome;  
we hope to see you there.

## Winning Words ?

Participating English teachers submitted the following analogies and similes found in high school essays:



*His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.*

*He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.*

*John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.*

*The young fighter had a hungry look, the kind you get from not eating for a while.*

*The ballerina rose gracefully, en Pointe, and extended one slender leg behind her, like a dog at a fire hydrant.*

*He was deeply in love. When she spoke, he thought he heard bells, as if she were a garbage truck backing up.*

*He was as lame as a duck. Not the metaphorical lame duck, either, but a real duck that was actually lame, maybe from stepping on a land mine or something.*

## Did you know this...?

*Keyboard Exercise:*

**"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.**

*Poetry Pondering:*

**No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.**



*Worst Analogies Taken From High School Papers, The Sacramento Bee*



## The Writers' Union of Canada 10th Annual Writing For Children Competition

### Prizes:

\$1,500 and entries of the winner and finalists will be submitted to three publishers of books for children.

### Deadline:

Postmarked April 24, 2007.

### Entry Fee:

\$15 fee per entry.

### Eligibility:

This contest is open to Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have not been published in book format, in any genre, and who do not have a contract with a book publisher. Entries must be written in the English language, not previously published, and within the word limit of 1,500. Please do not send illustrations or entries with only a few sentences per page.

### How To Submit Entries:

Typed, double-spaced and numbered on 8.5 x 11 paper, not stapled. Submissions on computer disk or faxes will not be accepted. Include a separate cover letter with full name, address, phone number, and number of pages of entry. Please type name of entrant and title of entry on each numbered page.

Make cheque or money order payable to **The Writers' Union of Canada**. Multiple entries can be submitted together and fees can be added and paid with one cheque or money order.

### Mail to:

WFC Competition  
90 Richmond Street East  
Suite 200  
Toronto, ON M5C 1P1.

Results will be posted at:

[www.writersunion.ca](http://www.writersunion.ca).

Manuscripts will not be returned.

## On The Road With Patrick Twomey

Rose Marie Sackela

Don't let Patrick Twomey's relaxed, easy style of writing fool you. His research is meticulous. His writing is carefully crafted. On Saturday, January 27th, Twomey led 25 participants in large and small group writing activities. He also let them in on his writerly secrets for *Capturing the Essence of a Trip*.

Twomey explained that travellers, be they armchair or not, need both accurate statistics and sensory stimulation. For the traveller to have a full experience, the history and politics of a place is as important as immersing the reader in the cars, the noise, the people, or the quiet.

A travel snob he is not. Twomey is not just about the "high-end" travel of *Fodor's* or the "right way" to travel via *Lonely Planet*. Whether a tourist desires an all-inclusive or an ecotour is not the point. Twomey's aim in travel writing is to add other dimensions to either experience. Whether or not the information needed involves suspect or absent infrastructure, or poverty instead of plenty, travelers and travel readers need to know.

In this 9:30 am to 4:00 pm workshop, Twomey led participants in small groups in learning how to use, read, and interpret country fact sheets and maps in order to conjure up the real and interesting geo-

political, economic, and cultural realities of a place.

Using the example of Viet Nam, Twomey noted that The War must be acknowledged in the writing. However, with a median age of 25.9, the vast majority of the Vietnamese population is too young to know that war firsthand.

So, The War does not colour the perceptions of most Vietnamese as it does North Americans, and in particular those from the United States. However, there are unexploded armaments and pollution left over from that time period, and the travel writer has an ethical obligation to convey this information. That Viet Nam is predominantly Buddhist, has three distinctly different terrains, and almost 3,500 kilometres of coastline are truths that bring back the magic. Patrick Twomey succeeded in showing that the best travel writing is the kind that acknowledges what is, while still capturing the magical essence of the place.

In this fast paced workshop, participants also had the opportunity to read the travel pieces they brought with them. Twomey pointed out the strengths in their many and varied writings.

Patrick Twomey recommended Jack Kerouac's classic, *On The Road*, as one of his favourite travel books. It is evident that Twomey has learned a lot from Kerouac. Patrick Twomey proved himself to be an informed, confident, and open teacher, travel writer, and traveller.

## Summer Travel Plans?

The Canadian Authors Association

86th Annual *Can Write!*

National Conference 2007

July 5-8, 2007

Ottawa, Ontario

For more information, visit:

[www.canauthors-ottawa.org](http://www.canauthors-ottawa.org)





### Website Q & A: CAA Members are getting a real deal Keith Dixon

*Did you ever think you could benefit from having a website, but were put off by high cost and complicated technology?*

The Alberta Branch of the CAA will help you set up your own personal writer's website. You simply need to provide some bite sized information about you as a writer, a few photographs, and you'll be there for readers, editors and publishers around the world to Google. If you act now you will benefit from our introductory rate of only \$36 per year.

*Why should you have a website?*

Because you are a writer! The biggest reason is that a website is a writer's most effective marketing tool. It makes you look more professional, shows you're serious about your work, and above all makes you accessible. These are crucial factors when editors are reviewing your work.

*Why should you choose a website within the CAA website?*

There are several good reasons. First, by being linked to the CAA you have instant credibility because of your association with a national writing organization. Second, the cost to you

### Short Grain Contest '07:

*Cash Prizes and Publication  
in Grain Magazine*

Three winners in each category receive \$500 each.

The winners are published in the Fall 2007 issue of *Grain*.

Categories:

Prose Poem, Postcard Story, Long Non Fiction, Dramatic Monologue.

Deadline: February 28, 2007.

Details at: [www.grainmagazine.ca](http://www.grainmagazine.ca).

is much less than what you will pay for a personal website elsewhere. Third, you can take over the maintenance of your website, do your own design and make changes at will. You don't have to wait for a web master to respond to your request. And you don't have to know HTML.

*What would you like to put in a writer's website?*

Your website can include samples of your work, your writer's CV, a list of achievements, promotions of your books, a synopsis of courses you teach . . . anything related to your career as a writer.

Have a look at our current CAA members' websites. Go to <http://canauthorsalberta.ca/> and click on "members websites" in the navigation column.

For an excellent article by a journalist on what kind of features work best in a writer's website go to this address: <http://www.timbete.com/CreateWebsite.html>.

*So what are you waiting for?*

Every day that passes without you having a website could mean missed contracts or lost readers!

Getting started is as easy as contacting the web manager and telling him what you want.

Contact Keith:

call 780-438-2262 / email

[webmanager@canauthorsalberta.ca](mailto:webmanager@canauthorsalberta.ca).

### Volunteer for Literacy

The Write Soon Literacy Society is a non-profit organization providing volunteer tutoring for free to adults with literacy issues. We currently have clients in Gunn, Onoway, Mayerthorpe and Sangudo who need your help, please call 1-877-778-9757 or email [wsls@telus.net](mailto:wsls@telus.net) if you would like to volunteer or would like more information. We also require donated office space in each location, approximately one day a week; tax deductible receipts are available for partial rent value.

### The Reader's Nook

Reviewer:

Marg Stephen



*Murder in Mexico*

Author: Cora Taylor

Publisher: Coteau Books, 2006

ISBN: 1-55050-353-7

*"Isn't it about time we switched seats again?" Maggie asked. Jennifer knew better than to pretend that she didn't know or to say it wasn't time. That would have been a lie, and Jennifer had to watch that. Ever since she'd found the old parchment and tried the invisibility spell even the tiniest fib would cause her to disappear. Not exactly a good thing to happen on a crowded airliner.*

Cora Taylor's opening introduces two of the three main characters and gets the reader wondering how the invisibility spell will affect the outcome of the story.

Maggie and Jennifer Arnold are thirteen-year old identical twins, though they wear their hair differently: Maggie's is short, Jennifer's is past her shoulders. Maggie is the organized studious one; Jennifer struggles with schoolwork and often acts impulsively. They are on a trip to Mexico with their grandmother, Grand, and their friend and next-door neighbour, Sam Elwin.

Each chapter is written from the perspective of one of the teenagers. Their resourcefulness plays a large part in *Murder in Mexico*. They have learned that Jennifer becomes invisible when she tells a lie and becomes visible when she laughs. Grand had been told of the invisibility spell in *Adventure in Istanbul* and though she is concerned that Jennifer may get herself into dangerous situations, she realizes the advantage of Jennifer's ability to gather information.

**Review** continued on page 6



## Member News

**Ted Bishop** appeared in the January *Playboy* with Pamela Anderson. No pictures, alas, though he offered to do a photo shoot as long as it was tasteful. *Riding with Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books* was listed in Editors' picks, The Best of 2006: Twenty volumes you need to read.

**Jeananne Kathol Kirwin** appeared on the programs *People Uncut* and *The Standard* (aired on BC OMNI TV and the Biography Channel) on the evening of January 25th. The 24-minute "uncut" interview was recorded in November when Jeananne was touring Vancouver / Vancouver Island with her book *Greetings From Cool Breezes* as the Exporting Alberta 2006 winner.

**Leanne Myggland-Carter** co-hosted *Creative Words in response to pain and trauma: finding ways to move forward* (a lecture on the healing potential of creative writing) on February 1st in participation with The Friends of the University Hospitals and the Edmonton Lapidus Branch at the McMullen Gallery.



## Welcome New Members:

- Sylvia Chetner, Edmonton
- Anna Koop, Edmonton
- Vivian Mayne, Edmonton
- Irene Meglis, Edmonton
- Andy Michaelson, St. Albert
- Gayle Schneider, Barrhead
- Laurel Sproule, Edmonton
- Harvey Walker, St. Albert
- Sheri-D Wilson, Calgary

## Member of the Month: Poet Linda Jennings



As a CAA member, Linda Jennings appreciates the opportunities for skill development the organization affords. She gives three specific examples.

First, as she left Lorna Crozier's poetry writing workshop at the CAA's National Conference in Edmonton in 1996, she picked up a *Stroll of Poets* brochure. "Interesting concept," she thought. "Poof! I joined and started writing poetry. Thus began a steep learning curve of poetry writing," she says. Ever since, she has enjoyed performing her poems at Stroll events. In 2001, her poem *the exiled* was recorded by CBC radio in Edmonton, and she was chuffed by their decision to run it nationally.

She also highlights Shani Mootoo's presentation on novel writing in April, 2003 from which Linda gleaned "The reader wants to be behind someone who will win – not because it's easy, but because she/he has overcome obstacles."

And, from Vern Thiessen in February 2005, she took: know what your characters would typically do in various situations, but don't be afraid to

portray their contradictions and inconsistencies.

Her current project is an ambitious novel following a family through four generations. Starting in Ontario in 1936 and ending in the Yukon in 1996, the characters have led her through Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. They required her to spend time in archives from Vancouver to Lennoxville, Quebec; forced her to study Canadian history; and encouraged her to interview private eyes and postal workers.

"They [the characters] won't let me rest! It all started as a simple enough story about a woman who discovers a suitcase full of cards from her father that her mother had secreted away for 50 years. Until that moment, she thought her father had died when she was four years old. Little did she know (and lots will you know) when I have completed this saga. Actually, it's quite a soulful book that touches on many of the emotional, situational and ethical dilemmas we all face." Stay tuned.

She has not devoted energy to publishing. This will change, however, when she retires a year from now. She began writing in her late forties while employed full time as a clinical social worker. The prospect of more writing time excites her.

"Satisfaction from writing," Linda believes, "resides in the moments when I step into the ecstasy that the act of creativity creates."

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Review continued from page 5

The three teen-agers encounter a Greek billionaire who has his own yacht and his own limousine chauffeured by the brother of a man who was murdered in Istanbul. Why is he in Mexico? Is the Greek tycoon a drug dealer? Part of the suspense comes from not knowing whom they can trust. Grand and the teen-agers outwit the criminals.

This book would be excellent for grades three to six.



Cora Taylor delights as she reads to the crowd that gathered at *Audrey's Books* in Edmonton during the book launch of *Murder In Mexico* on October 21, 2007.



## The MacEwan Writing Works

Call 780-497-5346 for information or to register. Visit our website at [www.macewan.ca/writingworks](http://www.macewan.ca/writingworks).

### Writing Romances

**\$184, non-credit  
WRIT 0230 (570)**

7 Tues, Feb 27- Apr 10  
7-9:30 pm

Instructor: Tracy Cooper-Posey

### Travelling With My Pen

**\$154, noncredit  
WRIT 0151 (570) CCC**

4 Sat, Mar 24 & 31, Apr 14 & 21  
9 am – noon

Instructor: Mary Oakwell

### Games Writers Play

**\$144, noncredit  
WRIT 0236 (570)**

6 Wed, Mar 14 – Apr 18  
6:30 – 9 pm

Instructor: Don Trembath

## POET'S INK:

*New location and meeting day*

Poet's Ink will reconvene Thursday, February 22, 2007, 7 pm – 9 pm at St. Thomas Café and Bistro (44 St. Thomas Street, St. Albert).

This change in location and day is a reflection of changes in entertainment programming at our previous venues and the many requests from poets who found Sunday evenings an impossible time to attend.

Our format remains the same: bring a piece to read for gentle critique, if you wish; develop skills with writing exercises; write during breaks.

St. Thomas Café and Bistro is well known in St. Albert for its meals and pastries, and offers wine, bottled beers, Italian Sodas, lattes and speciality coffees and teas.

Poet's Ink is open to all poets at each gathering. Bring your pencil or pen, paper, your sense of humour and be ready to write.

For further information, contact Andy Michaelson:  
[andy\\_michaelson@shaw.ca](mailto:andy_michaelson@shaw.ca).

## TALES

### The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling



TALES Edmonton presents *Celtic Heart, a Story Café* at Rosie's Bar and Grill (10475 - 80 Avenue) Thurs., March 1, 7 - 9 pm, featuring Storytellers Kathy Jessup, Kate Quinn, and Bethany Ellis. \$5.00 cover charge. Info: TALES 433-2932 or Rosie's 439-7211.

TALES monthly *Tellaround* upstairs at the City Arts Centre (10943 - 84 Avenue) Fri., March 9, 8 - 10 pm. A relaxing evening of stories of all sorts. Come to tell or to listen. First visit free, thereafter 3.00 (helps pay the rent). Info: TALES 433-2932.

M. Jennie Frost  
Past National Coordinator  
Storytellers of Canada  
[www.sc-cc.com](http://www.sc-cc.com) / [www.storiesave.ca](http://www.storiesave.ca)  
9010 - 120 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 1X7  
Phone: (780) 433 2932  
Email: [mjfrost@shaw.ca](mailto:mjfrost@shaw.ca)  
[www.members.shaw.ca/mjfrost](http://www.members.shaw.ca/mjfrost)

## Discovery Cafe

*Share your insights and opinions or observe and be inspired*

Theme: *Chance or Choice – What Designs Our Lives?*

Date: March 24, 2007

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Grant MacEwan College  
City Center Bookstore

Celebrate language through  
song and verse

Host: Sandra Mooney-Ellerbeck  
Facilitator: Nancy Mackenzie  
Music: Carrie Hyrniw  
Guest Poets: Ron Kurt, Alice Major,  
Andy Michaelson, Barbara Mitchell,  
Julie Robinson, Audrey Whitson

Join in - be part of the dialogue!  
FREE Admission!

Underground parking at Grant MacEwan on 105 Avenue and free two-hour parking on the street.

“Wisdom begins with wonder.” --  
Socrates

## Alberta Branch Programs

### *Exporting Alberta Award Deadline Approaching*

Eligible: CAA Alberta Branch members with a book published / self-published in 2006—all genres accepted.

Deadline: March 1, 2007; submit four copies of the book with a \$25 entry fee payable to: CAA Alberta Branch.

Prize: \$1000 towards travel, accommodation, and other out-of-province promotional expenses.

Send Submissions to:  
Writer in Residence  
University of Alberta Bookstore  
166 Students' Union Building  
8900 – 114 Street  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6G 2J7

Contact: [bowling@ualberta.ca](mailto:bowling@ualberta.ca)

Winner Announcement: Alberta Branch Annual General Meeting April 27, 2007.

For further information, visit:  
[www.canauthorsalberta.ca](http://www.canauthorsalberta.ca).

### *Other Branch Programs:*

**The Poetry Pocket** Members share and critique one another's poetry at monthly meetings.

**The Writers' Circle** Members meet at 7 pm before regular CAA meetings and short written pieces are evaluated by peers.

**Writers in Schools** Published members go into classrooms in Alberta to introduce students to the writing craft.

**The Writing Roster** Members on the roster cover events for *The Branch Line*. A fee is paid for work published. Contact the editor if interested.



**Mark Your Calendars:**

**2007**

Feb. 23, 8 pm: **Mieko Ouchi**  
*Truth and Fiction: Writing Plays about Real People*

Feb. 24, 9:30 am – 4 pm: **Mieko Ouchi** Workshop *Living History*

March 3, 9:30 am: **The Poetry Pocket** will meet in Albert's Restaurant, Londonderry Mall. Bring 3 or 4 copies of your poems for peer critiquing. Contact Keith for more info: 780-438-2262.

Mar. 30, 8 pm: **Florence Mckie** *Writer: Reader—A Spinning Coin*  
Mar. 31, 9:30 am – 4 pm: **Florence Mckie** Workshop *The Analytical Eye (I): Learning from the Written Page*

April 27, 8 pm: Please join us for the **Alberta Branch AGM** before the evening presentation by award-winning poet Chris Banks.

April 27, 8 pm: **Chris Banks** *This Ink Painting of Wind Who Hears It? Poetry and Finding One's Audience*

April 28, 9:30 am – 4 pm: **Chris Banks** Workshop *Something is down there and you want it told; Poetry and Voice*

May 25, 8 pm: **Joe Simons** *Quiet Listening and Creative Practice*



*Clip & post this schedule by your calendar.*

*See other side for program info.*

**CAA ALBERTA BRANCH BOARD MEMBERS**

2006 ~ 2007

**ELECTED MEMBERS**



**Past President**  
**HELEN LAVENDER**  
780-467-2924  
[hlavende@telusplanet.net](mailto:hlavende@telusplanet.net)



**President**  
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