



## EVENTS

Blue Metropolis  
Literary Festival:  
Community Writing  
and Arts  
A public session

Friday, April 4, 2003  
1:00 – 3:45 p.m.  
Renaissance Park Hotel,  
Salle des Pins  
3625 Park Avenue  
NO CHARGE for  
entrance

Saturday Workshop –  
in partnership with  
ADEQ  
(Association of Drama  
Educators of Quebec)

Saturday, April 5, 2003  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
The Centre for Literacy,  
Dawson College -  
Room 5B.13  
4001 De Maisonneuve  
West

Registration fee: \$30  
(includes materials and  
lunch) Students: \$15  
Limit of 100 participants.  
Teachers and adolescent  
and adult students  
welcome.

Registration form for the  
Saturday workshop:  
[www.nald.ca/litcent.htm](http://www.nald.ca/litcent.htm)  
or call (514) 931-8731-  
ext 1415.

Details on the  
participants, their  
organizations and the  
event schedules are on  
our web site.

# The Centre For Literacy

## News from The Centre

### WINTER 2003

#### Reading and writing the word, reading and writing the world

What do photography, music, puppetry, mime, theatre, film, have to do with literacy? Everything, as you will find out if you join us on April 4 and 5 for the Grassroots: Community Writing and Arts event, during Blue Metropolis 2003. We are getting bigger and better.



This year's Grassroots event will bring writers, film and T.V. producers, directors and performers from street theatre groups, adult new writers' programs, neighborhood writing alliances, and youth antiviolence programs to share perspectives on writing and performing as ways of creating and reshaping the world.

You can hear their stories and poems, see their films, photographs and performances, during a three-hour public reading at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival on Friday, April 4, 2003. A Saturday workshop will explore how reading and writing the word relates to reading and writing the world, and share experiences of using drama, puppetry, mime, masks, poetry, music, film, and photography as literate practices.

The confirmed participants include:

- **David Diamond**, Artistic Director/Joker and **Jennifer Girard**, Community Outreach Coordinator will present a video and talk about "Don't Say a Word", a recent, interactive Headlines Theatre production created with and performed by high school students in Vancouver.
- **Sistah Caroline Outten**, Instructor, and **two writers** from East End Literacy, Toronto. The writers were chosen through a competition where they were asked to write about writing, to explore: What inspires them to write?
- **David Anderson**, director and **Mark Keetch**, actor, from Clay and Paper Theatre, Toronto, who create, produce, and perform plays and pageants in public space, will share examples of their work using narrative theatre and large-scale puppetry and community involvement.

## Student exhibit of Holocaust art and poetry

Illustrating the link between literacy and the arts, Dawson College English teacher Judy Kalman has her students create poetry and art as a response to the study of the Holocaust. The work is so impressive that Kalman has arranged for a two-day public exhibit each year. The 5th annual exhibit will be held from Thursday to Saturday, March 27 - 29, from 10a.m. to 5 p.m. at Dawson College, 3040 Sherbrooke Street West, in the Rose Lounge, Room 7C5. Judy and her students will be there as guides and to answer questions. No reservations, no charge.

## Literacy and health update

- Literacy & Health Summer Institute  
Registrations are coming in early this year. Participants are involved in many exciting projects across Canada, the US and abroad. Registration is limited to 40. If you are planning to attend, send in your form.
- The report from Phase Two of our Health Literacy Project at the Montreal General Hospital (MUHC), *More than Plain Language: Adapting Health Communication for Hard-to-Reach Patients* is available on our web site. It can be accessed from the front page. We have organized links to plain language sites under the button, Health Literacy and Plain Language Links.
- *Plain Language and Health Outcomes: An Annotated Bibliography*. We are editing this and will publish the document by the end of April.

## Guides for LD software products

The Glenn Crombie Centre for Disability Services at Cambrian College in Sudbury has copies of training guides for sale for TextHelp Read and Write v 5 and Kurzweil 3000 v 5. They also have guides for Version 6 of both products.

Information: Marlene McIntosh,  
Tel.: (705) 566-8101 x. 7219 (Voice);  
Fax: (705) 566-5452;  
E-mail: [mrmcintosh@cambrinc.on.ca](mailto:mrmcintosh@cambrinc.on.ca)

- **Alyssa Kuzmarov**, Regional Program Director, and a **group of writers and photographers** from Leave Out Violence (LOVE), Montreal, will read their work and display their compositions. The photographers will take photographs during the entire workshop. The youth members, who have all experienced violence first-hand, now lead awareness and anti-violence workshops for peers.
- **Norman Nawrocki**, author, musician, performer, actor, Montreal, will read from his latest book, and show clips from his community cabaret that includes works on welfare and tenants' rights, the 1991 Gulf War, and other social issues. His projects have also included a musical 'circus' about the roots of poverty.
- **David Gutnick**, CBC Radio Producer, Montreal, will present a look at radio and literacy: how alternative ways of story-telling can broaden the way we hear our neighbours and understand our neighbourhoods.
- **Annie Knepler**, Coordinator, and **Pat Guy**, writer, from the Neighborhood Writing Alliance, Chicago, will read some of Pat's poetry published in the Journal of Ordinary Thought (JOT), which has as its motto, Every Person Is a Philosopher.
- **Joshua Dorsey**, filmmaker, and student representatives of the O2 Film Crew, Montreal, will talk about and show a video segment written and acted by James Lyng high school students who were part of a neighbourhood film workshop offered at St. Columba House in St-Henri, Montreal.

Linda Shohet, from The Centre for Literacy, will moderate both events.

## Who should attend?

Teachers, community animators, students and members of the public interested in literacy, community arts and social engagement

## Saturday Workshop – in partnership with ADEQ

(Association of Drama Educators of Quebec)

Learn how literacy is related to the arts, particularly as it flourishes in unlikely settings such as community centres, street theatre or film. Learn how community arts engage every segment of a society, including the most marginalized and alienated. Participate in a Headlines Theatre production. David Diamond will facilitate a three-hour intensive segment where participants will experience a taste of the work that he does in the community to create theatre events. Using group building games and Image Theatre exercises, the group will explore and animate issues of concern to people engaged in social justice work. This is a physical workshop. The subject matter is the people in the room. Be prepared to play!

## Storysacks Demonstration Project launched on Family Literacy Day 2003

On January 27, The Centre announced a community partnership with Tyndale St. Georges Community Centre to set up a demonstration Storysacks project. With seed money raised by The Centre and training provided through the National Storysacks Project, Tyndale will bring together community groups to collaborate in creating storysacks for use with their client families and in their preschool program, and will link with a local inner-city school that receives many of the children who attend Pre-School at Tyndale. We are currently talking with local merchants and organizations about providing the books, materials, and volunteers to create the delightful sacks. We'll keep you informed.



Linda Shohet (l), Executive Director of The Centre, hands a cheque to Lynn Thomson, Coordinator of Early Childhood at Tyndale St. Georges.

Tyndale St. Georges is an inner-city mission founded 75 years ago in the Little Burgundy section of Montreal to help immigrants through language classes and family activities, as well as support services to foster integration into Montreal, Quebec, and Canada.

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3040 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3Z 1A4  
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