



OCTOBER 24 - 26, 2008 HEMINGWAY AND FRIENDS

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF FRANK HURSLEY

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER, 2008

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Valerie Hemingway to keynote at fall weekend

She has a remarkable tale to tell; starting her life in an Irish orphanage, beginning her career as a journalist, and traveling to Spain at age 19 where she met Ernest Hemingway and began a friendship that would last until his death.

Valerie Hemingway's book, *Running with the Bulls - My Years with the Hemingways*, tells how she was taken under the great author's wing, employed as his secretary, and five years after his death was married to his youngest son, Gregory.

Valerie has made a number of appearances in Michigan this year for the Great Mich-

igan Read, a program of history and literature built for its initial year around *The Nick Adams Stories*. Several MHS members heard Valerie speak during her tour, and were fascinated by her story of her relationship with Ernest that began in 1959 and included his years and his work in Cuba.



Valerie Hemingway

"There are not very many people left that can give us a firsthand view of Hemingway. She was very young when she knew him and her relationship was very important to him, and I think she told her story with dignity and insight," said Sandra Spanier. Spanier, a previous speaker at a Petoskey Hemingway Weekend, is the editor of a pending volume of Hemingway's letters. She said Valerie Hemingway's book is a valuable contribution to the canon of information about the writer.

● Paul Hendrickson, author of a work in progress about Hemingway's boat, the *Pilar*, is also a featured speaker at this year's conference.

Hendrickson said he will talk about a flashback in his book that deals with "some 'watery antecedents' in Oak Park, specifically the Des Plaines River, where he took canoe trips. "

Hendrickson's talk will cover some of Hemingway's life up in Michigan as well as "all the boats and streams and Sears, Roebuck fishing gear that prefigured the life of Pilar."

● MHS scholars Jack Jobst, Charlotte Ponder, and Fred Svoboda will discuss three of *The Nick Adams Stories* in which friendship contributes to the plot lines: "Summer People,"

"The Three Day Blow," and "Light of the World."

● Bill Nicholson and Chris Struble of Petoskey will lead tours to Hemingway haunts, where actual ghosts of Hemingway friends are expected to appear and talk about Michigan's most famous author.

● To close the weekend, board members/scholars Mike Federspiel and Ken Marek will show photos of some of Hemingway's Michigan friends and talk about how they were used in Hemingway's writing. Winners of the second annual writing contest will read their submissions.

● Bookseller Steve Ruebelman will offer Hemingway-related books and magazines for sale, and share his knowledge and experience about collecting first editions.

This year's conference returns to the historic downtown Perry Hotel, site of the first Petoskey Hemingway weekend in 1990. Hemingway stayed at the Perry in 1916, according to his diaries. Special rates for conferees (mention Hemingway weekend) are available until August 26. Call 1-800-737-1899; conference registration does not include lodging. Accommodations may also be available at nearby hotels; for information, call 1-800-845-2828 or see www.boynecountry.com

Finding Nick Adams: Hemingway's Michigan is theme of CMU/Elderhostel program Sept. 21-25

The Michigan Hemingway Society has partnered with Central Michigan University and Elderhostel, the not-for-profit leader in educational travel, to present a look at Ernest Hemingway's connections to northern Michigan as a young man and as a writer.

Participants will read and discuss several of Hemingway's Nick Adams short stories set in northern Michigan. To lend personal experience

to the settings, tours will take participants to places Hemingway knew and portrayed in the stories. A history of the region during the Hemingway years of 1900 to 1921 will be presented to place the stories in the context of their time.

Several Michigan Hemingway Society members are among facilitators for the Elderhostel event, which is to be headquartered at the historic Perry Hotel overlooking Little Traverse Bay in the Gaslight District of downtown

Petoskey.

Costs for the five-day event are

Register at www.elderhostel.org

\$725 per person, which includes room and board, all gratuities, tours, and classroom materials. For more information, contact Amy Hodges at 800-950-1144, extension 7129.

2008 MHS weekend dedicated to Frank Hursley

Our longtime member, dear friend, and former Board of Directors member Franklin McColl Hursley, Jr. died at his home in Birmingham, MI, on March 27, 2008, after a brief bout with cancer. Frank was able to spend Easter weekend surrounded by his wife of sixty years, Lois, and their loving family of nine children, fifteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

We knew Frank because of his love of literature through Hemingway studies, but he loved all books and good writing, and belonged to many book and poetry clubs. He combined his passions for writing and fishing by authoring his own column, "Letters From America," for the journal of the exclusive Fly-Fishers' Club of London, England for twenty years as an honorary member. He also reviewed theater and books for *The Birmingham Eccentric*.



Frank was a quiet man of many facets who brought a touch of dignity to our sometimes rowdy crowd, and he brought us all the warm affection of loyal friendship. After more than fifty years of a successful engineering career, Frank devoted his retirement to his many other interests and, as always, to his family. There were things about him that we didn't discover until he was gone: he was a decorated hero of WWII, and his namesake father was a television writer of some note. He was not a man to talk at length about himself or his accomplishments. As his pastor said of him at his funeral service, Frank was not only a gentleman but a gentle man, and we will miss him greatly.

Beegel featured at EHFOP birthday lecture

Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park invites Michigan members to join us for our 25th Anniversary Birthday Lecture on July 21, 2008.

Susan Beegel will speak on "Love in the Time of Influenza: the Hemingways of Oak Park and the 1918 Pandemic."

Check our website www.EHFOP.org for more information. We will be happy to suggest lodging and sightseeing opportunities in Oak Park and the Chicago area.

The Foundation welcomes four new board members: **John W. Berry**, Executive Director of the Network of Illinois Learning Resources in Community Colleges; **Dr. Wendell G. Rayburn, Sr.**, former president of Lincoln University and Savannah State University; **Dr. Nancy W. Sindelar**, an educator for 33 years, consultant and author, and **Stan West**, professor of writing and television at Columbia College, Chicago.

--Maryanne Rusinak, Despatch Editorial Director

MHS members contribute to IHS conference in Kansas City

The thirteenth biennial Conference of the International Hemingway Society was held in Kansas City June 9-15 and focused on Ernest Hemingway as a cub reporter.

Kansas City is the location where Hemingway made his first major step into adulthood as a reporter working the hospital, police and Union (Railroad) Station beats for the Kansas City Star (where the conference's opening reception will include a tour of the newsroom that Hemingway knew). From Kansas City, Hemingway went off to his life-changing experiences in WWI.

Michigan Hemingway Society member Steve Paul made arrangements for the opening reception at the offices of the Star and for visits to other historically significant places such as Union Station where young Ernest arrived in the city.

The program of papers, workshops and plenary sessions ran from Tuesday through Saturday and culminated in an old-fashioned Kansas City barbeque.

Among those presenting at the conference were MHS members Jim and Jan Byrne, who discussed Anson Hemingway's Civil War experiences and their possible influence on his famous grandson, Ernest; and Fred Svoboda, who presented as part of a "teaching Hemingway" panel.

Former President of the MHS Charlotte Ponder chaired a silent auction. Modeled on those previously held at MHS conferences in Petoskey, the auction featured items donated by conference participants, including memorabilia, books, and Hemingway related oddities. The auction's goal was to raise money for travel scholarships to graduate students in Hemingway studies.

Start now on your masterwork for second annual 1-page writing contest

All participants of the 2008 fall Hemingway conference, *Hemingway & Friends*, in Petoskey will once again have the opportunity to enter a (maximum) one page Hemingway-inspired submission. The theme for this year's writing contest is "Up North with Friends."

All those participating will present their writing (1 entry per attendee) at the time of registration. Judging will take place during the course of the weekend by board members, and the winners will be announced at the Sunday morning session. The winners will read their entries aloud for all attendees.

Prizes include gift certificates at McLean & Eakin Booksellers located in downtown Petoskey. 3rd prize is a \$10 gift certificate, 2nd prize a \$15 gift certificate, and 1st prize is a \$25 gift certificate.

Last year, Matthew B. Smith's "Chapter IX" earned 3rd place recognition, Hood Barringer placed 2nd for "Late Evening Hero", and Joe Meany took top honors with his vignette entitled "Irish Wake".

As you put pen to paper this summer, keep in mind Hemingway's words: "If I started to write elaborately, or presenting something, I found that I could cut the scrollwork or ornament out and throw it away and start with the first true simple declarative sentence I had written. Once I did that, I realized that what you don't say says more than what you do. It was a short hop from that to my theory of omission, also known as my 'iceberg principle' " (*Coffee with Hemingway*).

May Hemingway's muse be with you!

Susan Lightcap and Diane Fox

MHS plays key role in Michigan's Great Read

During the 2007-08 academic year, the Great Michigan Read, sponsored by the Michigan Council for the Humanities, has brought thousands to Hemingway's Nick Adams Stories. This posthumously published collection includes all the published and previously unpublished stories chronicling the life of Nick Adams, the fictional character who most closely parallels Hemingway's own life in Michigan (and elsewhere) as a child and young man.

The Read kicked off at the Michigan Hemingway Society's most recent conference (last summer in Petoskey), and since then MHS members have given more than forty presentations at libraries, museums and festivals across the state in support of the Read.

Those active in this effort included Jan Byrne, Mike Federspiel, Jack Jobst, Ken Marek, Jim & Marian Sanford, Bill and Nancy Nicholson, Carole Underwood, Fred Svoboda and Art Wagner. For information on presentations yet to come see: <http://www.greatmichiganread.org>.



Registration form enclosed!

About our members...

Kay Smith steps down as MHS treasurer

The MHS Board of Directors recently accepted with regret the resignation of Kay Smith as board member and treasurer.

Over the years Kay has twice served as a board member and has sat on numerous MHS committees. A resident of Mount Pleasant and alumna of Central Michigan University, Kay was one of the moving forces in bringing the MHS archives collection to the Clarke library at CMU.

Kay plans to remain active as a general member of the Michigan Hemingway Society as long as her health permits and is looking forward to the October conference.

Marian Sanford has agreed to serve as treasurer in Kay's stead. We thank both of these members for their dedicated service.

Cards may be sent to Kay at 501 E. Deerfield, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

Judy Henn publishes English lit text for Hebrew-speaking students

Michigan Hemingway Society member and internationally known scholar Judy Henn is co-author of a new English language literature text for Hebrew speaking students. Judy and her English teacher colleague who worked on the volume for more than a year were sure to include at least one

short story by Ernest Hemingway in the collection.

Right now Judy and her colleague are presenting round table discussions and PowerPoint talks at publisher-sponsored events in Haifa, Tel Aviv, Beer Sheva and Jerusalem. Their audience is comprised of English/ESL teachers who are preparing high school students for their matriculation exams in English.

MHS members will remember Judy for her interest in Petoskey as the setting of Hemingway's *The Torrents of Spring*, which was the topic of her doctoral dissertation as well as her talk at the MHS weekend in 1998.

Those who wish to be in contact with Judy can e-mail her: judyhenn@gmail.com