

# MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

FALL/WINTER 2008-09 NEWSLETTER

WWW.MICHIGANHEMINGWAYSOCIETY.ORG

## 2008 Weekend Highlights

From the reception on Friday night to the Sunday morning goodbye's "Hemingway and Friends" was a memorable weekend. Valerie Hemingway's presentation on Friday evening delighted us with warm, personal reminiscences of Ernest's interactions with many of his friends. She emphasized how much these friendships meant to Hemingway, even though he occasionally behaved to the contrary with some people. Still, the loyalty, curiosity, sense of humor and strength of personality exhibited during the time she knew him all contributed to the humanity of this great man.

Saturday morning's discussions of "Light of the World", "Summer People" and "The Three Day Blow" by board members Jack Jobst, Charlotte Ponder and Fred Svoboda gave everyone new insights into those short stories from The Nick Adams Stories.

Saturday afternoon provided everyone with several options. The first was a tour of some Hemingway sites, led by the older, bearded EH, and played by Bill Nicholson. He reminisced about his years in Petoskey and we were in-

troduced to several friends and contacts from those days. Mrs. Potter, Margery Bump, Prudence Boulton and Bill Smith all "appeared" and spoke of their associations with him. City Park Grill, the Library, the High School, Marjorie's house and some other spots in Petoskey were all pointed out. Chris Struble, who "was" Bill Smith, talked about other friends and contacts when we stopped in the Horton Bay Area. Michelle Hill, the director of the Little Traverse Area Historical Society, gave everyone the opportunity to see the improvements in the museum. We enjoyed a box lunch in the chilly outdoors at the park at the foot of Resort Pike Road, very near where John Bacon's landing was located. It was a fun trip, and the motor coach was luxurious – a bit different from the school bus tours we've had the past few years.

es even when we didn't plan to do so. Steve spoke of collecting first editions, what to look for, what to avoid, etc.

Valerie Hemingway and her son Edward were both at our local bookstore in the afternoon to give us a chance to purchase Valerie's book Running with the Bulls or Edward's children's book Bump in the Night or the fun book he co-authored Hemingway & Bailey's Bartending Guide to Great American Writers. Three great titles!



Edward and Valerie Hemingway signing books

Saturday evening's dinner at the Perry Rose Room was patterned after the Red Fox Inn's chicken dinners, similar to those that the young Ernest Hemingway raved about. We began with a tribute to Frank Hursley, a former MHS Board member who died this past year. His wife, Lois, four of his children, and several close friends were at the Hursley table. His son Duncan reminisced about his father and read an article about Hemingway sites that Frank had written in 1994 for the "Flyfishers Journal". We were all presented with a



Park at Resort Pike Rd

Another event was a fascinating talk by Steve Ruebelman, our book dealer, who always brings us such a varied collection of used books, magazines and pictures that tempt us to make purchas-



Bill Nicholson as EH



## 2008 Weekend Highlights continued . . .



**The Hursley Family**

copy of that beautifully written article. So here's a toast from all of us to the memory of Franklin McColl Hursley, Jr., our great and dear friend.

After dinner we were delighted to hear from Paul Hendrickson speaking on Hemingway and boats, particularly focusing on a boat and camping trip in the Chicago area on the Des Plaines River EH made as a young man with some of his high school friends. Paul teaches nonfiction writing at the University of Pennsylvania, and is in the process of writing a book on Hemingway and the Pilar.

Sunday morning after the breakfast buffet we were treated to a presentation by Ken Marek on Hemingway's friends, featuring a power point collection of pictures by Mike Federspiel. Ken's research always reveals some new insights into EH's life. And we heard from Henriette Kaplan, Irene Gordon's daughter, and



**Ken Marek at the podium**

Maxine Whitfield, former secretary to Dutch Pailthorp. Next, the winners were announced in the creative writing contest. This year's winners were Jerri Gillett, first place, Joe Meany in second and Mike Ross in third place. They read their essays and received gift certificates to



**MHS President Mike Federspiel and board members Jack Jobst, Ken Marek, and Art Wagner**

McLean & Eakin bookstore. The morning closed with a short business meeting and the 19th annual MHS weekend of October 24-26, 2008 was adjourned.



**Edward and Valerie Hemingway with Marian and Jim Sanford by Walloon Lake**



## The Passing of a Selfless Woman

On August 6, 2008, we sadly said goodbye to our good friend and board member Kay Smith.

Although one could never tell by her demeanor nor her conversation, Kay had battled cancer off and on for several years, undergoing course after course of grueling treatment. Not until the final three months of her life did Kay give up her active duties as treasurer of the Michigan Hemingway Society and as volunteer to other organizations in her home town of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Kay was a successful business woman and a professional writer who selflessly donated her time and talents in public relations and fund-

raising to numerous charities and interest groups. At the time of her death she was still serving on some seven boards, and, over the years, at least twenty-five others have benefited from her dedication and her brilliant creativity. Her love of community was all-encompassing: she broke ground as the first woman president of the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce, served as advisor for Junior Achievement for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, chaired the Martin Luther King Jr. day committee, was a founding member of the county League of Women voters, and raised untold amounts of money for area hospitals and other medical facilities so that treatment would be available to all. As an ending most appropriate, Kay spent her final days in the brand new hospice facility

which owes its existence to her ideas and hard work.

Despite all these activities, whenever Kay was needed by her family because of illness, hardship, or celebration, everything else would be put on hold to tend to their needs. She was an example to us all of strength and the famous "grace under pressure" about which Hemingway wrote. We knew her during the years of her worst hardships and yet never heard a complaint from her. Kay was a loyal friend and a loving and giving mother and grandmother who will be missed by her children, Mark, Mary Beth, and Angela and their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with them always, for we loved their mother, too.

We dedicate our 2009 conference to the memory of Kay Smith.



## Dear Michigan Hemingway Society Board and Members,

Once again your Conference was excellent. "Hemingway and Friends" was well thought out with the lovely opening reception at Crooked Tree Arts Center, Valerie Hemingway's insightful presentation, fun bus tour, some personal Hemingway short story discussions, Steve Ruebelman's antiquarian book collecting talk, great food, "awesomes" (we only have them in Petoskey) and conversation, and finally Paul Hendrickson's piece about Hemingway's friendships right in my own Oak Park/River Forest area along the Des Plaines River.

Each time I visit your pretty area along Little Traverse Bay I come home with something new to reflect on and share with the people in Oak Park. Thank you again for your gracious hospitality and overall good time.

Maryanne Rusinak  
Editorial Director  
The Despatch  
The Ernest Hemingway  
Foundation of Oak Park

## This and That



Maryanne Rusinak, Jerri Gillett, and Fred Svoboda

••• Yes, we did enjoy "Awesomes" both Friday and Saturday nights at the Perry Lounge. And the name is a good description of that liquid concoction made from quite a few bottles from behind the bar.



Cecil Ponder, Sr. surrounded by Jerri Gillett, Fred Svoboda, Cecil Ponder, Jr. and Joyce Rombouts

••• It was a record year for first-time attendees. We had nineteen new people, including Cecil Ponder, Sr. who is 102 years old! OK, Cecil was obviously the oldest one this weekend. I don't believe anyone was very young! Dave Martens, from Anacortes, WA travelled the farthest.

In addition to Michigan residents, we had people from Alabama, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, New York, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Total attendance was 72 for the full conference and 10 for some individual events or meals.

••• Some of our members who were visiting the City Park Grill were treated to a tour of the basement and the bricked up tunnels there leading outside during Prohibition Days.



Steve and Marlene Ruebelman's book display

••• Steve and Marlene Ruebelman's book display was a busy place with many of us meandering about and making purchases of esoteric titles, or just something that we didn't have yet on our bookshelves at home.

••• How about that motor coach driver, "Punky" – that woman could drive, and was especially good at backing up a hill!

••• The MHS memento ball point pens were nifty, and some people also purchased the MHS DVD "Ernest Hemingway: Life in Michigan" and canvas book bags (to hold all those books and other purchases).

••• "We truly enjoyed the Hemingway weekend. So fun and informative and just great people."

## New Membership Levels and Fees For MHS

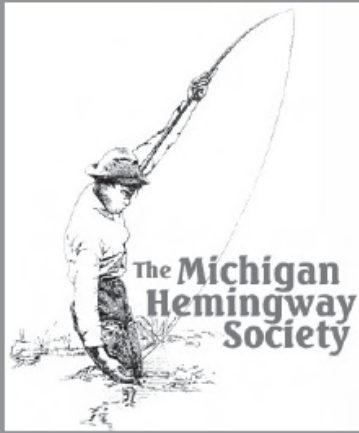
The membership fees for MHS have been at the same level since our beginnings, and the Board has decided that the time has come for an increase. We definitely have not kept up with inflation and the cost of living! Fees are used to help offset mailing and printing costs, but they also help support our general goals. The goals of the Society are:

- To encourage the study of Ernest Hemingway's relationship to Michigan in his life and work.

- To collect, interpret and preserve artifacts, memorabilia and places connected with Ernest Hemingway.
- To make available the knowledge and interpretations of Hemingway scholars and researchers.
- To sponsor annual Hemingway weekends in the Petoskey area, where he spent his boyhood summers and was inspired to use northern Michigan people, settings and incidents in his early writing.

- To publish materials illuminating the social and natural environments that nurtured and inspired the author.

Each Fall/Winter newsletter will include a Membership Form. This will be the one time that we will solicit memberships for the upcoming calendar year. You will also find a form on our website: [www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org](http://www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org) Please take time today and complete the enclosed form to join the Michigan Hemingway Society for 2009.



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## Next Year's Conference October 16-18, 2009

The 2009 fall conference will take place at the Odawa Hotel in Petoskey on October 16-18. Because the Perry Hotel is not available at all in October next year the Board surveyed other possible sites. In selecting the Odawa Hotel the Board

is attempting to hold down the conference cost for our 2009 participants. We were there in 2007 and appreciated their spacious rooms, their service, and the availability of their shuttle bus to downtown Petoskey. The theme for next year

will be "Hemingway and Art", so we hope that everyone will mark their calendars now for our next conference.

October 16-18, 2009 at the Odawa Hotel.

## MHS Bids on 2012 International Conference

At the October conference the Michigan Hemingway Society Board agreed to submit a formal proposal to host the 2012 the Hemingway Foundation and Society International Conference. The proposal, which resulted from a two year discussion about the feasibility of holding the conference in northern

Michigan, was due by the end of 2008 and has been sent to the International Board.

Because the biennial conferences alternate between sites in America and foreign countries, 2012 is the earliest possible date for the MHS sponsorship. The 2010 conference will be held in

Lausanne, Switzerland.

Any member who is interested in assisting with various facets of the conference should contact the MHS Board via e-mail: [mhs@michiganhemingwaysociety.org](mailto:mhs@michiganhemingwaysociety.org)

# Michigan Hemingway Society Membership Levels Beginning In 2009

\$10 – Student (high school, college, or graduate school)

\$20 – Individual member

\$30 – Family (2 adults)

\$50 – Patron

MHS membership benefits include the newsletter and eligibility for the base fee at our annual conference. The membership year is January through December. Fees paid anytime in the year will apply to that calendar year. A membership form will be included in the Fall/Winter newsletter each year and will also be available online. Life memberships from past years will be honored, although that option is no longer available.

I am subscribing to the following membership level:

- \$10 – Student
- \$20 – Individual
- \$30 – Family (2 adults)
- \$50 – Patron

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

It is not necessary to send me the newsletter via US mail; I will read it online.

Please send completed form and check or money order made out to the Michigan Hemingway Society to:

**Nancy A. Nicholson, Membership Chair**  
**Michigan Hemingway Society**  
**PO Box 922**  
**Petoskey, MI 49770**