



Gail Anderson-Dargatz



Harold Rhenisch



Chris McMahan

BC Teachers of English Language Arts Regional Conference

2011

Salmon Arm, BC

Just Write!



Myriam Dostert



Linda O'Reilly



Les Ellenor



Starleigh Grass

Gloria Cox
Kyla Hadden
Gail Harper

Agenda

- 9:00 - 10:30 AM Reading by Authors
- 10:45 - 12:00 PM Session 1
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch
- 1:15 - 2:30 PM Session 2

Friday February 18, 2011



Salmon Arm Secondary
(Sullivan Campus)
Salmon Arm, BC
1641 30 St NE, Salmon Arm



Out-of-zone Online registration: www.bctela.ca

Session 1 Workshops

10:45 - 12:00PM

Reading by Authors

9:00 – 10:30 am

Three talented BC authors, Gail Anderson-Dargatz, Chris McMahan and Harold Rhenisch will share the stage and kick off the conference, reminding us that every piece of authentic writing requires a real audience. Expect anything from the reverent to the ridiculous – whether it be poetry or prose.

1A - Gail Anderson-Dargatz

Writing Home: the Joys and Pitfalls of Writing from Home Landscapes and Stories Grades K-12

Writing fiction about your home territory isn't always easy. We worry about what the locals will think. We worry about what mom will think. We get stuck in reality, what "really happened", and our fiction fails because of it. In this workshop we'll explore all these issues and more with the goal of writing powerful fiction that has the authority that can only come from "writing what you know." To that end Gail will provide exercises that she uses and that she gives her own students.

GAIL ANDERSON-DARGATZ, whose fictional style has been coined as "Pacific Northwest Gothic" by the *Boston Globe*, has been published worldwide in English and in many other languages. *A Recipe for Bees* and *The Cure for Death by Lightning* were international bestsellers, and were both finalists for the prestigious Giller Prize in Canada. *The Cure for Death by Lightning* won the UK's Betty Trask Prize among other awards. *A Rhinestone Button* was a national bestseller in Canada and her first book, *The Miss Hereford Stories*, was short-listed for the Leacock Award for humour. She currently teaches fiction in the creative writing MFA program at the University of British Columbia, and lives in the Shuswap, the landscape found in so much of her writing.

1B - Linda O'Reilly

Buy Low, Sell High: Low-Stakes Writing Pays Off Big! Grades 8-12

Are you interested but wondering how to integrate writing into your already crowded curriculum? Then, this fun, fast-paced and

practical workshop is for you. Participants will learn ways to enhance learning with low-stakes writing strategies such as ticket out the door, muddiest point, steal a line, inkshedding and micro themes. It is low-stakes writing because it is ungraded and small scale; yet it is particularly effective in helping students learn, understand and remember course material. Ways to use low-stakes writing, as an informal, ongoing assessment tool will also be shared. Enjoy this idea-packed session and receive a CD with ready to go low-stakes writing strategies.

LINDA O'REILLY is a leading educator who is a champion for kids and literacy education. She has a rich background as a classroom and resource teacher, writer, education consultant, university instructor and workshop presenter. She acted as the lead consultant for Nelson Literacy BC Grades 3-6 and as the literacy consultant for BC Science Probe Grades 8-10. She is currently teaching at Simon Fraser University. Linda's modus operandi is Niente senza gioia – Nothing without joy.

1C - Chris McMahan

Jumper Cables for the Imagination Grades 4-12

I once read a story in a tabloid newspaper about a quick-thinking mechanic who revived a heart attack victim using jumper cables. If it works for the heart, certainly, it must work for the imagination, particularly for that of a stifled writer. Even the wildest, most untamed imagination needs a jolt to get it running once in a while. In this workshop, participants will be hooked up to a number of playful, mind zapping activities which will get those proverbial creative writing juices bubbling in a non-threatening, judgement-free environment. These activities are immediately applicable to use in any classroom from grades four to twelve and beyond.

CHRIS MCMAHEN is the author of three novels for young readers, including *Buddy Concrackle's Amazing Adventure* (Coteau Books 1996), *Klutzhood* (Orca Books 2007), and *Tabloidology* (Orca Books 2009). His fourth novel, *The Box of Shocks*, will be published by Orca Books in the fall of 2010. He

was the 2010 winner of the Okanagan Short Story Contest. He currently lives in Armstrong, B.C., working as a teacher-librarian and classroom teacher.

1D - Harold Rhenisch

Poetry: Creating an Individual Palette Grades K-12

Come and learn to use a palette of colours to write poems as if you were painting on canvas. These are techniques that can be used in any classroom, with students of any age, and remain fresh no matter how many times they are applied. Poetry is the most visual of the written arts and at its best catches its readers with the intensity of master photographs and works of visual art.

HAROLD RHENISCH is the author of 25 books of poetry, fiction, translation, essays, and nonfiction, including the Ryga Prize-winning *The Wolves at Evelyn*. His most recent work is *Motherstone: British Columbia's Volcanic Plateau*, a large-format book of photography, science, art, poetry and history, released with photographer Chris Harris. He holds degrees in Creative Writing from UVic and UBC, has taught poetry and fiction writing at Vancouver Island University. He is an active teacher and editor and has won the CBC Literary Prize, the Malahat Review Long Poem Prize, and the National Playwrighting Award. After four years on Vancouver Island, he is returning to the Interior this spring, where he will be working from Vernon. Harold will guide you to see the remarkable in everyday.

1E - Myriam Dostert

Assistive Technology to Support Struggling Writers and Readers Grades 4-12

Assistive technology (AT) needn't be a jumble of acronyms and jargon. Tremendous improvements and increased affordability have put AT within the reach of every classroom. Teachers will be introduced to a range of assistive technologies to support students with reading and writing difficulties.

MYRIAM DOSTERT is a Learning Support Teacher at Ray Shepherd Elementary in Surrey. She works directly with students in grades 4-7 and supports them in becoming independent with the use of assistive technology.

Session 2 Workshops

1:15 - 2:30PM

2A - Les Ellenor

Big Kids Need Stories Too: Storytelling for high school and post-secondary students Grades 8-12

Most stories have a traditional pattern, a conflict of personalities, lots of action, and a puzzle that delights the imagination: “it was, and it was not.” This workshop will show teachers the art and voice and benefits of including wondrous narratives in weekly teaching. Uneasy young people share in the stories’ joy and wonder, magic and truth – myths to live by.

LES ELLENOR taught for 30 years at Okanagan University College in Salmon Arm. When he discovered that students did not know myths and legends and folktales, he became a story-teller. He gives lectures and workshops throughout BC on thinking, humour, communicating, art, and male maturity.

2B - Linda O’Reilly (also 1B)

Write the Write Traits Way! Grades K-7

In need of some fun and creative stimulation? Then, this session is for you. Participants will be introduced to the magical combination of young children, wonderful books and the 6+1 Traits of Writing. This practical session introduces teaching strategies to help students identify quality in writing, practice effective revision and editing skills and become confident writers. Learn how to create Trait Post-It Notes to help students talk about their writing with other students and to help guide writing assessment. Enjoy this idea-packed session and receive a CD with ready to go strategies, posters, 6 Trait Post-It Notes and a bibliography of children’s literature for teaching the traits.

2C - Starleigh Grass

Blogosphere: The New Staffroom Grades K-12

Blogging is an opportunity to connect and socialize with other professionals like many teachers do in their staffrooms; however, blogging allows you to focus on topics that you are interested in on a whole new level. This interactive workshop will explore blogging as a teacher and the multi-

ple ways that blogging can enrich your professional life. We will explore blogging cautions specific to teachers, creating a mission statement for your blog, creating your own online professional learning network, and tips and tricks that every blogger should know. This workshop is intended for those who are thinking of creating a blog and those who already have a blog.

STARLEIGH GRASS is often accused of having too much time on her hands but the truth is she just types really fast. Starleigh began Twinkle’s Happy Place twinkeshappyplace.blogspot.com in 2008 and it has since become an integral part of her practice as a secondary classroom teacher in Lillooet, BC. She is inspired by the degree to which blogging has empowered her as a professional, served as a practical organizing tool, and helped her find people from across the province with like interests.

2D - Harold Rhenisch (also 1D)

Memoir: The Power of Perspective Grades K-12

Memoir is the most popular of all nonfiction forms today – so powerful that much fiction, poetry, and drama are now written as if they were memoir as well. It defines our age. At its best, memoir celebrates the power of individual life by embedding it in the larger social and historical worlds of which it is a part and creating a clear story and narrative for each life lived in the whirl of everyday activities. It has the power to give lives and communities meaning, and provides invaluable historical records.

In this workshop, HAROLD RHENISCH will work with you through a few simple exercises that will put writers within their stories, by giving them the tools to write in alternate points of view, including various first, second, and third person approaches. How can a memoir be in the third person? Come and find out! With simple shifts in perspective, even writers who claim that they have ‘no story’, either because they have only lived ordinary lives or because they are too young, will suddenly discover that their stories are powerful and at the centre of the world.

2E - Cox, Hadden, Harper

Writing Round-up Grades 8-12

This workshop will feature a variety of tried and tested lessons aimed at engaging students in the writing process. The format will borrow from a popular NCTE model in which the presenters provide a brief overview of their pedagogical approach, and then teachers will be able to choose two of the table discussions.

GLORIA COX teaches English and Learning Assistance at Salmon Arm Secondary. She will be sharing a variety of poetry writing exercises that have been successful at grades 9-10 level.

KYLA HADDEN teaches English and Social Studies and coordinates the Eagle River Secondary alternate program. Her lesson, targeted at grade 10s, uses two stories both called “The Luncheon.” Students compare the two stories using a comparison chart, and then turn their similarities and differences into a comparison essay. It’s a great way to introduce the idea of comparing two pieces of literature and putting it all together into a piece of writing.

GAIL HARPER is a Senior English Teacher and Art Teacher at Eagle River Secondary. Gail focuses her teaching around Later Literacy Initiatives, Assessment for Learning, and First Peoples English. She will share a lesson that blends cooperative writing, creative writing, myths and legends, non-fiction and First People’s Literature.

- ◆ We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of this conference by the B.C. Teachers’ Federation.
- ◆ This conference was made possible by the financial support and cooperation between the North Okanagan – Shuswap Teachers’ Association (NOSTA) and the North Okanagan – Shuswap School District (SD83).

Just Write!

February 18, 2011

Salmon Arm Secondary School, Salmon Arm, BC

Registration

Registrant Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

District: _____

School: _____

Check off if a BCTF Member

Registration fees for teachers and support staff from SD 83 (Salmon Arm), SD 22 (Vernon), SD 23 (Kelowna), and SD73 (Kamloops) are prepaid.

Out-of-district teachers (those not listed above) please register and pay \$75 conference fee on-line at www.bctela.ca

Fax this completed form to Chelsea Prince at: Fax: (250) 832-4592
Choose One Workshop Per Session c/o NOSTA Office

Session 1 Workshops

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

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|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1A | Gail Anderson-Dartgatz | Writing from Home |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1B | Linda O'Reilly | Buy Low, Sell High |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1C | Chris McMahan | Jumper Cables for the Imagination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1D | Harold Rhenisch | Poetry: Creating an Individual Palette |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1E | Myriam Dostert | Assistive Technology to Support Struggling Writers and Readers |

Session 2 Workshops

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 2A | Les Ellenor | Big Kids Need Stories Too |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2B | Linda O'Reilly | Write Traits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2C | Starleigh Grass | Blogosphere: The New Staffroom |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2D | Harold Rhenisch | Memoir: The Power of Perspective |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2E | Cox, Hadden, Harper | Writing Round-up |