



MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

FALL/WINTER 2009-10 NEWSLETTER

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2009 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Eighty-five people attended the 20th annual Hemingway weekend in Petoskey, eighteen of them first-timers. The sun shone on visitors from Connecticut to California Oct. 16, 17, and 18, adding its good cheer to an agenda of talks, tours, and renewed friendships.

Conference headquarters was the Odawa Hotel, and conferees reported all A's on generous buffet meals, comfortable conference facilities, helpful staff, convenient parking, and shuttle service to downtown Petoskey.

A 20th birthday cake was cut on Friday, commemorating the years of Hemingway weekends in Petoskey since the Perry Hotel hosted the first event in 1990. Founders Ken Marek, Fred Svoboda, and Audrey McMullen were recognized for their ongoing contributions to what has become the Michigan Hemingway Society. Nancy Nicholson read a list of some of the conference themes developed over the two decades.

President Mike Federspiel introduced **Robert Trogden**, Hemingway Society and Foundation Board member, who announced that MHS has been chosen to host the 2012 International Hemingway Conference in the Petoskey area. Dr. Trogdon will be program chair for the event. The conference will take place from Sunday, June 17, through Friday, June 22, 2012, with the possibility of an add-on tour to the Upper Peninsula on Saturday, the 23rd. We are very enthusiastic about this conference and hope to see many of our annual participants at this event. Federspiel also acknowledged MHS members who will be organizing local arrangements and fund raising for the prestigious conference.

Friday's speaker was Ken Marek, who had planned to share the podium with artist Jerry Gates. Gates was unable to attend due to last minute health issues, so Ken filled both sides of the ticket. He set four criteria for someone to be considered an artist, one of which was

the ability to invent and imagine. Marek read portions of "Big Two Hearted River" and illustrated where Hemingway's prose took creative liberty with the facts of the landscape. He then showed slides of fine art selected by Gates, speculating on what Hemingway might have liked or disliked about each. Each conferee was given a note card featuring a reproduction of one of Gates' paintings.

Saturday afternoon conferees attended a special reception at the Little Traverse History Museum to view the newly expanded Hemingway exhibit that MHS helped fund. Artifacts and new interpretive text help the visitor to a better understanding of Michigan's influence on Hemingway's life.



John and Judy Sanford, members and guest speakers

Saturday the audience was treated to presentations by Hemingway family members. **John and Judy Sanford** spoke about the relationship between Grace Hall Hemingway's paintings and Ernest's literary art.

Sean Hemingway told about his efforts to create a "restored edition" of Hemingway's posthumous *A Moveable Feast*, to which he added entries based on a typed manuscript with original notations in Hemingway's own hand. Saturday afternoon Sean was present for a book signing at the McLean & Eakin bookstore, which sold out of his books early. Sean then autographed book plates which will be placed in books ordered online (www.mcleanandeakin.com).



Sean and Colette Hemingway, guest speakers

Keynote speaker Colette Hemingway, author of *in his time: Ernest Hemingway's Collection of Paintings and the Artists He Knew*, showed slides of the artwork acquired by Hemingway and discussed its importance in his own creative process. During her presentation, she said Hemingway believed that painters were essential in learning how to see, hear, think and write. She said Hemingway learned to write landscapes by studying Cézanne, who "broke things down into swatches of pure color that together give a true feeling for his subjects." Hemingway acquired much of his collection from contemporaries and friends, as Gertrude Stein recommended. His writing and their art alike reflected how work by the "lost generation" sought to reach beyond traditional means of expression.

Patricia Innes, who holds her master's degree in fine arts, judged the entries in MHS's first photography contest which was on exhibition Sunday morning. Nearly 30 photos were entered, evoking the spirit of Hemingway's art. First prize went to first time conferee Harry Gordon of California for his portrait of Gregorio Fuentes. Second and third prizes went to Audrey McMullen and Cecil Ponder. Innes then told about her 15 years' work on the Michigan Legacy Art Park at Crystal Mountain, which focuses on Michigan arts and culture and has a strong Hemingway representation.

MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY LIST-SERVE

From time to time we offer news or announcements via E-mail on our List-serve, hosted by Michigan Tech and Board Member **Jack Jobst**. The List-serve may also be used by any member to offer questions, make announcements, or to initiate discussions. If you are not a member of the list and would like to sign up, send an E-mail to sympa@mtu.edu. In the subject line write subscribe mihemsoc-L

WELCOME!

During a brief business meeting, Dan Rupp of Columbus, OH and Oden Island, MI, was elected to the board of directors. He fills the vacancy created by the death of Kay Smith, to whose memory the 2009 conference was dedicated.



New MHS Board Member Dan Rupp with Valerie Hemingway

The MHS would also like to extend warm welcomes and thanks to the new members and attendees of this year's conference including **Zoyia Trahan and Aaron Ruge**, recipients of our newly implemented scholarship program. Zoyia and Aaron, both third year students at North Central Michigan College, were chosen in cooperation with Dr. Suzanne Shumay, also from NCMC, as part of an ongoing effort to continue to promote awareness of Hemingway's connection to Northern Michigan and to encourage new membership and diversity in our organization. Starting next year we plan to expand the program to include not only NCMC students but also High school and college level instructors with an interest in all that is Hemingway. Watch for further information in our newsletter and website for eligibility.



Scholarship guests Zoyia Trahan and Aaron Ruge, with board member and host, Bill Nicholson

Exciting News from The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park

After purchasing and lovingly restoring the birthplace home in Oak Park, the Foundation was able to acquire the Hemingway Boyhood Home in 2001. With the assistance of "a generous, community-minded person" the Foundation was able to keep the home out of private hands and save it from extensive renovation. As a volunteer organization with "limited fundraising capacity," they continued to rent the building, functioning as three flats, and kept it up as well as they could. Without the funds to rehabilitate the historic house, a committee was formed and ultimately suggested a partnership with an institution with not only a better financial situation but one with insight and inspiration for the potential use of the home.

Two years ago, Virginia Cassin, former board chair of the foundation and dear friend of the Michigan Hemingway Society, started discussions with Dominican University President Donna Carroll. To quote Virginia, "One of their slogans is 'Amazing Possibilities.' That's my middle name." Those discussions led to negotiations.

And Virginia did not disappoint. On September 18, 2009, Dominican University of River Forest and the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park formalized a partnership to restore the Boyhood Home, located at 600 N. Kenilworth. The university plans to lease the home for the next two years and, hopefully, assume title of the property by the end of 2011.

President Carroll commented that the university was "attracted to Hemingway's global perspective and his family history as much as his literary reputation. Nonetheless, he was one of the most well known writers of his day. It is a privilege to have this in our community. An academic institution like ours should contribute something to sustaining that."

The plan for the Boyhood Home is still taking shape but all agree the future is an exciting one. "It is certainly a boon for the Hemingway Foundation. The Boyhood Home wasn't draining them financially so much as it drained the energy of an already stretched volunteer organization," stated Board Chairman Allan Baldwin. Be watching for more news of this new venture in the months ahead.

NOTE: We would love to publish photo contest winners on the website. Please send to Cecil at C2ponder@aol.com if you are willing to have us do so. Thanks!

MHS MEMBERSHIP

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

The membership fees for MHS are used to help support our general goals and to help offset our operating cost including the mailing and printing costs. Membership benefits include the newsletter and eligibility for the base fee at our annual conference. Each Fall/Winter newsletter includes a Membership Form. There is also one on our website.

Please take time today to complete and mail the enclosed form to join the Michigan Hemingway Society for 2010. To help save in the ever-increasing costs of postage, we also encourage you to check the box to decline the mailed copy and instead read it online at our website: www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org

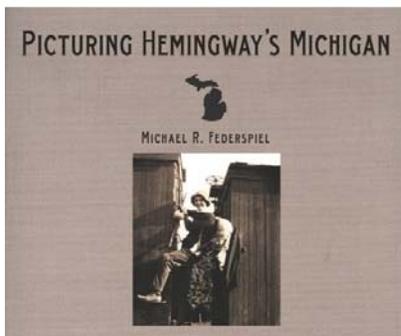
LAUSANNE 2010

Planning Your Summer? The Hemingway Society will hold its 14th Biennial Conference in Lausanne, Switzerland from June 25 to July 3, 2010. (See www.hemingwaysociety.org for details) The sessions will convene on the beautiful campus of the University of Lausanne, which is situated on the shores of Lac Léman (Lake Geneva) in the South of Switzerland with stunning views of the Alps. Inspired by the setting, the conference theme is "Hemingway's Extreme Geographies."

Let us know if you plan to attend. We will need your help promoting the 2012 conference in Northern Michigan! Contact Cecil and Charlotte Ponder at C2ponder@aol.com. Thanks!

2010 CONFERENCE IS SET FOR OCTOBER 15-17.

Plans are underway for the 2010 MHS Weekend. The date is October 15-17. The location is the Odawa Hotel. The theme for 2010 is “**Dining at Hemingway’s Table**” with **Valerie Hemingway** as our keynote speaker. We have learned that Valerie had given some thought to writing a book on this subject at one time, and has given several talks on this topic. We’ll be having some very interesting wine and food tastings representing different countries or areas where EH has lived. Stay tuned - more will be coming later this year!



ANOTHER IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

MHS President Mike Federspiel's new book, *Picturing Hemingway's Michigan*, will be released on May 10 and is now available for pre-orders on Amazon.com. We are all eager to enjoy this pictorial collection, and the profits from it will benefit the Hemingway Collection at our partner institution, the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University.



Mike Federspiel, President, MHS

