

MINUTES
of the Annual Business Meeting of
The Novel Club of Cleveland
Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3:30 p.m.

Location: Home of Jay and Toby Siegel, 20 River Mountain Drive, Moreland Hills

Approximately 24 members of The Novel Club gathered at the home of Jay and Toby Siegel for the 2011 Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, May 1. After preliminary refreshments and conversation, Clyde Henry called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Officers and committee members for the 2011-2012 season were designated and approved by the membership as follows:

Officers

President: Clyde Henry
Vice President: Leon Gabinet
Recording Secretary: Carol Fox
Corresponding Secretaries: Catherine LaCroix (Evite) and Leigh Fabens
Treasurer: Mary Douthit

Council of Administration and Membership

Joyce Kessler, Chair
George Weimer (ex officio)
Diane Stupay
Arthur Stupay

Program Committee

Ham Emmons, Chair
Steven Fox
Caroline Morgan
Jane Hammond
Ted Sande

Archive Committee

James Saunders (hard copy archives)
Ham Emmons (electronic archives)

Calendar Design and Production Committee

Catherine LaCroix
Jane Hammond

A motion was made, seconded, and passed by acclamation that members emeriti/emerae should be excused from paying annual dues.

Next on the agenda was discussion of website content and maintenance. Clyde and Ham noted that there has been inconsistency of late in the archiving of meeting minutes and papers. Discussion established that the club wishes to return to a more regular pattern of archiving meeting minutes and copies of all papers in the electronic archives, with hard copies to be delivered to the Western Reserve Historical Society. It was decided that henceforth the President will collect hard copies of papers from presenters immediately following the presentation, and presenters will be asked to submit electronic copies to Ham Emmons within one week thereafter. The President and Vice President will monitor the submission of papers and cordially remind any presenters who have not provided materials as requested. Minutes of meetings will be submitted on the same schedule—each month's minutes submitted after being read and approved at the following month's meeting. At the end of each season, the accumulated archive for the season will be given by the President to the hard-copy archivist for filing with the Western Reserve Historical Society. The issue of preparing hard copies on archival paper was raised, and left at the discretion of the individual writers.

New members were announced: Jill Muskat and Jennie Kaffen have been duly proposed and supported for membership, and were welcomed to the club for the coming season. Bob Targett has moved to emeritus status.

Book selection for next season was the last agenda item.

The list of proposed titles, with Program Committee commentaries, had been emailed to the membership in advance. Categories and titles were as follows:

Classics:

The Razor's Edge, by Somerset Maugham

The Street of Crocodiles, by Bruno Schulz

Pan, by Knut Hamsun

The Dwarf, by Pär Lagerkvist

Cousin Pons, by Honoré de Balzac

The Death of Artemio Cruz, by Carlos Fuentes

Contemporary:

Brooklyn, by Colm Toibin

Cutting for Stone, by Abraham Verghese

The Sea, by John Banville

Accordion Crimes, by E. Annie Proulx

The Gift of Rain, by Tan Twang Eng

Parrot & Olivier in America, by Peter Carey

Speculative (defined broadly to include science fiction, extrapolations of current societal and worldwide trends, post-apocalyptic survival, utopias and dystopias, alternative history, etc.):

Fahrenheit 451, by Ray Bradbury

The Star Diaries, by Stanislaw Lem

The Year of the Flood, by Margaret Atwood

The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. Le Guin

To Say Nothing of the Dog or how we found the bishop's bird stump at last, by Connie Willis

The City and the City, by China Mieville

Members of the Program Committee made abbreviated remarks on each book (drawn from the previously distributed commentaries), and members were invited to mark their ballots at the end of each category's remarks.

Ballots were collected and members retired to a sumptuous dinner presented by the Siegels with pre-arranged contributions from the members. As the dinner hour progressed, the balloting results were revealed and those in charge began collecting sign-up signatures for the hosting and paper presentations for next season. Book selections are listed below. Designation of hosting and paper-writing assignments will continue via email over the next few weeks.

After a leisurely continuation of dinner and socializing, members departed into the mild spring evening, to meet again soon for the discussion of *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks on May 10 at the home of Anne and Nick Ogan.

Book Selections and schedule for the 2011-2012 Season:

OCT 4, 2011 *The Street of Crocodiles*, by Bruno Schulz

NOV 1 *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury

DEC 6 *Brooklyn*, by Colm Toibin

JAN 3, 2012 *The Dwarf*, by Pär Lagerkvist

FEB 7 *The Star Diaries*, by Stanislaw Lem

MAR 6 *The Gift of Rain*, by Tan Twang Eng

APR 3 *The Death of Artemio Cruz*, by Carlos Fuentes

May 1 or 8? *To Say Nothing of the Dog*, by Connie Willis

JUN 5 *Parrot & Olivier in America*, by Peter Carey

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Fox