www.MichiganHemingwaySociety.org

THE MICHIGAN HEMINGWAY SOCIETY

Summer 2020 NEWSLETTER

Charlie Knapp – ed.

Annual Fall Conference at The Terrace Inn Bay View MI a Huge Success

The Michigan Hemingway Society's annual conference in October 2019 was well-attended and enjoyed by all. It began with a Friday evening social hour and dinner, followed by MHS President Chris Struble's presentation of historic photos of Petoskey and the surrounding area. This was followed by the introduction of two PEN/Dau award recipients who each read a portion of their stories to the group. A full account of these, and the Coté scholarship recipients follows later in the newsletter.

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Saturday morning after breakfast came an enlightening talk by Charlotte Ponder about the Hemingway family with particular emphasis on Grace Hall Hemingway. Charlotte has spent a lot of effort and a number of years gathering information about this topic-everyone talks about Ernest but almost no one about Grace-and Charlotte's insight was both enjoyable and informative. We then went to Evelyn Hall on the Bayview campus, where Ernest stayed briefly in a small room, just a bed and lavatory really, upon his return to Petoskey in 1919. There we viewed a film version of "Indian Camp.". The viewing was in a hall, not Ernest's small room! The picture is of the door to his room; the room itself no longer exists. There were presentations and insight by some of Dr. Stoneback's graduate students, Dr. Stoneback being the keynote speaker. The film was made in 1981 and was well-received by attendees, with the added bonus that Dr. Stoneback was one of the original advisers for it.

Saturday afternoon there was a bus tour of Hemingway sites led by the indefatigable Chris Struble. Even for those who have been there, some many times, visiting Ernest's youthful haunts never seems to get old.

Saturday evening was another social hour and dinner followed by the keynote address by Dr. H. R. Stoneback, known throughout literary circles as "Stoney". Dr. Stoneback is a well-known authority on Hemingway and his account of his own time in northern Michigan in the early Sixties was informative and well-received.

Everyone enjoyed the conference, which was very relaxed and friendly, and we look forward to the 2021 one which will be October 1-3, at the Terrace Inn again.

MHS 2020 Fall Conference Cancelled Due to CV19 Concerns
Fall 2021 Conference will be October 1-3, 2021

The conference fee is $180 for each 2021 member or $220 for everyone else. Hint: If you have not paid your membership fee for 2021 you may do so at

www.michiganhemingwaysociety.org.

On site conference check-in at The Terrace Inn begins at 4:00pm Friday, Oct 1st.

The conference fee includes the following items:

Friday Evening reception begins at 6:00pm at the Terrace Inn, with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, followed by an evening program.

Saturday Breakfast at the Terrace Inn followed by morning programs.
(There will be lunch on your own, available at the Terrace Inn if desired.)
There will be a late afternoon program followed by dinner at the Terrace Inn with our keynote speaker. A partial conference registration for the Saturday evening dinner and program is available to the public for those who cannot attend the entire the entire conference.

Sunday Breakfast at the Terrace Inn followed by a program and Society business meeting with lunch on your own, available at the Terrace Inn, and perhaps there will be a special early afternoon surprise bonus event.

*Breakfast is included for those lodging at the Terrace Inn, available to others for $12.

The Terrace Inn
Lodging at the Conference Headquarters

The Terrace Inn in the Northern Michigan Chautauqua community of Bay View is our conference headquarters. All rooms at The Terrace Inn are blocked for our conference until September 20th. Reservations must be made by calling 231-347-2410 or emailing info@theterraceinn.com, mentioning your reservation is for the Michigan Hemingway Society conference in October. Very reasonable room rates range from $129 to $189 plus tax There is a special discounted rate of $99 for your room on the Thursday night prior to and/or the Sunday night following the conference. Call early to assure your reservation for one of the 38 quaint rooms available in this historic hotel that was built in 1910.

Bill and Donna Coté Student Scholarship

The Michigan Hemingway Society exists to encourage the study of Ernest Hemingway's life and work, especially regarding his relationship to Michigan. What better way to do this than to foster an interest in Hemingway in a new generation? Long-time Society member Bill Coté suggested that a student scholarship be created and designed to bring students to read, understand, and appreciate the novels and short stories of Ernest Hemingway.

This scholarship is open to high school, college and university students who show an interest in learning about the influence Michigan had on the life and works of Ernest Hemingway. Those interested should submit a short essay to the society, with their instructor's recommendation, no later than two months prior to the upcoming conference (no later than August 18th, 2021). Mail the essay to The Michigan Hemingway Society, PO Box 922, Petoskey, MI 49770, or submit it to info@michiganhemingwaysociety.org.

Cote Scholarship Recipients Participate in 2019 Michigan Hemingway Society Annual Conference

By Janice Byrne

Now in its fourth year the Bill and Donna Cote Scholarship was originally designed to attract young Hemingway enthusiasts to the fellowship and scholarship of older experts who frequent the Michigan Hemingway Society annual conference. This year thanks to the generosity of local Petoskey business man Bob Berg who graciously donated $1000 to fund the program and MHS members, seven college and university students were granted the Cote Scholarship Award.

They were: Paul Gordon of DePaul University, Chicago; Connie Chen of Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Abigail Shand, Nathan Lee, and Joseph Curra of State University of New York, New Paltz, New York; Alec Kissoondyal and Henry Johnston of Santa Fe College, Gainesville, Florida. They were joined by last year's Cote scholar, Felicia Preece, and SUNY graduate assistant Alex Pennisi.

The Sparrow Stoneback Memorial Award

Amount: $500

Eligibility: Must be
- a) enrolled in a graduate program and engaged in Hemingway Studies; or
- b) non-tenured English Department faculty in Lecturer or Adjunct position; or
- c) independent scholar with record of engagement in Hemingway Studies.

Must attend the MHS Fall Conference in October and present a 12-to-15 minute paper dealing with Hemingway's Michigan fiction.

Application details and deadline:
Submit an extensive 500-to-750 word abstract and brief bio to the Stoneback Award at stoneback.award@michiganhemingwaysociety.org by August 1, 2021.

Please consider donating to this award. You may donate using either a credit card or your PayPal account. You will receive an immediate confirmation and receipt on your screen and by email. It's simple and safe, with no forms to print and fill out, and no checks to write and mail. If you prefer you may send a check to the Michigan Hemingway Society, PO Box 922, Petoskey, MI 49770, specifying a donation to The Sparrow Stoneback Memorial Award Fund.

If you have questions or would like to provide active personal support, contact Jennifer Tianen at info@michiganhemingwaysociety.org for details.

PEN/Dau Recipients Honored

Fernanda Dau-Fisher, a valued friend of the Michigan Hemingway Society who was instrumental in bringing the Hemingway statue to Petoskey, attended with a group of her award-winning writers. There was a group presentation of their writings and question-and-and answer afterwards which was much enjoyed by all. It should be noted that the statue of Hemingway next to the gazebo in the park has

become a major attraction in Petoskey and people who, for all practical purposes only know his name, want to see it first. Apropos of nothing, when the statue was being dedicated a few years back it turned out that MHS Board member Carole Underwood knew the sculptor, Andy Sacksteder, from her former place of residence in Fostoria OH. Furthermore, Andy now lives in Gladstone, MI. Hemingway connections turn up in the strangest places and sometimes between people who have only the most tenuous connections with him. But maybe that's how interest spreads and grows.

Commemorative Plaques Project Update

Last year the Society continued placing commemorative plaques at Hemingway sites around the northern Michigan area. One was at the Kalkaska train station, site of “The Light of the World” and also the location of the Famous Trout. The short story “The Battler” is also set a short distance away. The station is a museum now but retains its old-time atmosphere.

This is the group at the plaque dedication, from left to right MHS President Chris Struble, John Roberts, Director of the Kalkaska Library, Ken Marek, professor emeritus at Northern Michigan College, longtime MHS member and flyfishing aficionado extraordinaire, Harley J. Wales, Village President of Kalkaska, and Gay Gentilia of the Kalkaska Downtown Development Authority.

“I’ve written a number of stories about Michigan country – the country is always true – what happens in the stories is fiction.”
-- Letter to Clarence Hemingway, 1925

My Road to Hemingway
By Carole Underwood

I graduated from high school in June of 1961 and took a labor-intensive job at a resort hotel in Indiana for the summer. The job was very hard, and I was miserable there but one memory stands out-one day in July I heard that Ernest Hemingway had died in Idaho. It seemed impossible that the literary world would continue without him. That fall I started college.

I spent my career as a high school Spanish and English teacher in Ohio. That meant that I was aware that Ernest Hemingway liked bullfighting and that I often had my students read "Big Two-Hearted River" or "The Old Man and the Sea". However, I was not dotty about EH during those early years. That changed in the spring of 1992 when I read a book called "Hadley", the biography of Hadley Richardson, Ernest's first wife. I admired Hadley a great deal and figured that if she had EH then I had been missing something about him for a long time. That summer I called a friend who had a library and asked her if she had any Hemingway biographies. When she answered yes, I hopped into the boat, roared across the lake to her home and returned with the Carlos Baker book. That the beginning for me. The next book that I read was "Hemingway in Michigan" by Constance Cappel.

In August of that year I made my pilgrimage to Horton Bay from my lake home near Traverse City. When I entered the Horton Bay General Store I told the clerk that I had come for any information about EH. "In that case," she replied, "you'll want to talk to the woman sitting at the lunch counter." The woman turned out to be Constance Cappell herself. I was thrilled to meet her and spent the next two hours picking her brain with all my Hemingway questions. It was she who told that there was a Michigan Hemingway Society which had an annual fall weekend conference at the Perry Hotel Petoskey. She finally had to leave and I asked the clerk if there was anyone else in Horton Bay with whom I could talk. She mentioned the town historian, Bill Ohle.

I walked to the Ohle home on the lake road, the famous road to the bay that EH mentions in many of his Michigan stories. Bill was home and graciously invited me inside-we talked about EH for another two hours. He was a treasure trove of information about Ernest. Bill was a cousin to Marjorie Bump, one of Ernest's girlfriends from Petoskey. Marjorie was frequently asked to help out at Pinehurst, a chicken-dinner restaurant in Horton Bay, and she'd stay at her cousin's house on those occasions. Bill saw Ernest close up when he came to dinner to see Marjorie at the Ohle house. In addition, Bill had attended Ernest's wedding to Hadley in the Horton Bay Methodist Church on Sept. 3, 1921. When I left Horton Bay that August day my feet hardly touched the ground! I was fired up about Ernest Hemingway.

That fall I joined the Michigan Hemingway Society and attended my first conference. I also joined the International Hemingway Society, and my first conference was a joint meeting of the Ernest Hemingway Society and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society in Paris in summer of 1994. That conference was memorable in many ways. Gregory Hemingway was there, along with F. Scott Fitzgerald's granddaughter, Elenor Lanham. Society members were present for the dedication of a plaque on the first apartment building where Ernest and Hadley had lived, had dinner at the Ritz, were guests of the American Embassy for cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, had a party at the famous Cloiserie de Lilas where Ernest had written many of his Michigan stories, and toured the French countryside one day, visiting a chateau and World War I battlefield. Our closing dinner was on a river boat tied up on the Seine River near the Eiffel Tower, a romantic setting to conclude our Paris trip.

My interest in Ernest Hemingway has led to special friendships, memorable meetings with prominent people, and unique opportunities to travel the world and experience famous authors and scholars. My membership in the Hemingway Society is my entrance into a literary world unknown to most people. People come to Hemingway in various ways, and this is my story. Those of you who are reading this are already a part of the wonderful world of EH and the fun continues for all of us.

A Sad Farewell

The Michigan Hemingway Society lost a longtime friend and supporter on March 8th when Steve Reubelman unexpectedly passed away. Members and attendees at previous MHS conferences will remember Steve as the bookseller with the incredible array of Hemingway print material and the almost permanent smile on his face. He also had a nearly uncanny memory and if a browser gave even a hint of an interest in a certain facet of Hemingway's life or work Steve would remember it and likely the browser, until the following year. If he didn't have the item this year he would likely have it the next. He was a generous and kindly man who seemed to like everyone and whom everyone seemed to like. He will be sorely missed.

MHS Board member John Cohassey knew Steve and Marlene Reubelman well and offered a tribute which speaks for all of us.

In Memory of Steve Reubelman

There are book lovers, and there are booksellers. Steve Ruebelman was the rare combination of both. Steve and his wife Marlene's traveling bookstore was a staple at our fall conferences. Steve's book selection and careful presentation added much to our events, offering works of Hemingway and those of his contemporaries.

With his memorable smile, Steve shared his passion by giving friends folders of research material that he gathered according to their interest. I still numerous photocopied Hemingway articles accompanied by his annotations and comments.

I enjoyed our conversations. Steve and Marlene once came to my home in Pontiac, where we drank coffee and talked about books (later he often thanked me for the "good coffee"). Steve spoke about his early years. Born in Detroit, he grew up in Lake Orion, Michigan. He told me about crossing the frozen lake in winter.

Later I learned that, as president of his graduating high school class, Steve attended the University of Michigan on an Evans scholarship. He drew upon his education by sharing his own views about books and scholarship. As an avid researcher, he singled out books that he thought were marred by faulty insight or weak analysis.

But my most personal interaction with Steve occurred late one night at the Terrace Inn (Bay View, Michigan). That evening, when most of Hemingway Society members and guests had retired, he told me about his life. He stressed the importance of his finding solace and spiritual meaning, while devoting his remaining years to books, research and seeking friendships with like-minded company.

I will never forget his support for my work and the kind words he offered others. MHS President Chris Struble once commented that Steve liked everybody. I think everyone liked Steve. We will all miss him.

Living a Legacy: A Review

by Jan Byrne

The most recent edition of *The War Cry*, the official magazine of the Salvation Army contains an article by Bob Hostetler, a well-known author of conservative Christian texts. Titled "Living a Legacy," the page one introduction uses a three paragraph biography of Ernest Hemingway.

Sadly, those paragraphs are filled with half-truths and faulty conclusions. For example, the author credits Anson Hemingway with attending Wheaton College yet ignores the fact that it was his wife Adelaide who actually graduated.

No mention is made of Ernest Hall's influence on the family's religious practices although Clarence and Grace Hemingway lived with Hall for several years. Hostetler writes of how Grace entreated Ernest to “stop neglecting your duties to God and your savior Jesus Christ," but ignores the context in which she wrote those words so familiar to Hemingway scholars.

He goes on to say that Hemingway rejected the faith, but ignores his conversion to Roman Catholicism in 1927. Similarly, he mentions Hemingway's mental illness in old age, but ignores both the many head traumas over his adult years and the genetic propensity that informed his mental condition.

Hostetler then goes on to describe Hemingway's suicide. Most disappointingly, he concludes, "Ernest Hemingway died unhappy and hopeless. How different things might have been for him --and for the literary world--if he had received his family's priceless heritage of faith in Jesus Christ."

Personally, the implications in those lines are very troubling.

XIX International Hemingway Conference

Hemingway's Wyoming and Montana

Postponed until July 2021.

The 2020 Hemingway Society conference has been postponed to July 2021. It will provide an opportunity to experience and explore Hemingway’s Rocky Mountain West. Hemingway arrived by Model-T in Sheridan, WY in 1928 in search of a quiet place to write, similar to what he did in Petoskey in 1919. He returned West again in 1930, 1936, 1938, and 1939. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore the works and life of Hemingway in the West. See conference details at www.HemingwaySociety.org

Hemingway Exhibit at JFK

“Ernest Hemingway: A Life Inspired” opened June 28, 2018, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, which has become the leading research center for Hemingway studies. Curated by Hilary Justice, the presidential library’s Hemingway expert, this new exhibition puts a fresh spin on the author’s colorful life and legacy by displaying his own books and belongings alongside pop culture items from his time.

Visitors to the expanded show will see manuscripts for *A Farewell to Arms, The Sun Also Rises, For Whom the Bell Tolls*, and other Hemingway works — but they will also glimpse popular paperback books from the first half of the 20th century, as well as magazines, photographs, and other mementos pulled straight from his world.

It’s an elaborate attempt to portray “Papa” in his proper context.

“It is now our pleasure to present a permanent Ernest Hemingway exhibit that tells the writer’s story by weaving together his literary masterpieces with his worldly inspirations,” said James Roth, the JFK Library’s deputy director.

“The exhibit places the viewer in Hemingway’s shoes, seeing the people and places that inspired his greatest works,” he said.

It includes many of the papers, photos, fishing rods, mounted animal trophies and other quirky personal belongings that Hemingway’s widow, Mary, retrieved from Finca Vigia, the author’s former estate in Cuba, with help from JFK after her husband died in 1961. She later offered a trove of items to Jacqueline Kennedy for safekeeping and display at the Boston library, which opened in 1979.

It has since become the world’s No. 1 repository of Hemingway lore.

Hemingway and Kennedy never met, but the late president was an admirer. He wrote Hemingway for permission to use his oft-quoted phrase “grace under pressure” in the opening to JFK’s own Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Profiles in Courage*. Hemingway was invited to attend Kennedy’s inauguration in 1961 but was too ill to attend.

The new permanent display builds and expands on a 2016 temporary but ambitious exhibition, “Ernest Hemingway: Between Two Wars.” The latest presentation draws from virtually every aspect of JFK’s vast Hemingway collection: on show are first editions of Hemingway’s major works; personal photos from his own collection; and photos of the women who inspired him. There are also pages from early drafts of some of Hemingway’s most celebrated books.

The Old Man and the Sea, Hemingway’s last major work of fiction, figures prominently in the exhibit. Covers from editions in many languages are featured as well as manuscripts.

On Grace Hall Hemingway: an excerpt

[My name is Charlotte Ponder, and I am a board member of this organization. For 10 years, from 1994 to 2004, I served as president. During those same years I was doing intense research into the life of Grace Hall Hemingway with the intent of writing a book about her.]

I became fascinated by Hemingway's mother early on in our journey into Hemingway studies because I felt a strong affinity for her as a woman who, despite her many accomplishments as a musician, artist, and lecturer in her own right, and despite having produced six children of amazing talent, has been vilified by biographers, scholars, and feminists alike because of the mostly baseless rantings of her famous son. His friends repeated his name-calling and accusations against her, often in the same conversation or on the same page of a letter where they would be saying that fabrication came as naturally to him as breathing and that one could not rely on his narrative in any situation. Vincent Sheean, American journalist and novelist, remarked, after spending time with Hemingway as a war correspondent, that Hemingway "created outlandish stories as unthinkingly as other people breathe." But, to Buck Lanham and other friends, Hemingway's mother must be a "bitch," because he said so. Yet Hemingway never stopped corresponding with his mother, his letters always affectionate or at least newsy, and he helped to support her financially for the rest of her life after she was widowed.

Those of you who attended the International Hemingway Conference here in Bay View in 2012 may remember that I used the opening line from Carlos Baker's 1969 biography, *Ernest Hemingway*: *A Life Story*, to open the conference: **"As soon as it was safe for the boy to travel, they bore him away to the northern woods."** These woods would be imprinted in his consciousness and impact his writing throughout his life.

(Baker goes on.)
"It was a long and complicated journey for a child only seven weeks old. From the suburban town of Oak Park, Illinois, they took the train to Chicago, a horse cab to the pier on Lake Michigan, the steamer *Manitou* to Harbor Springs on Little Traverse Bay, the curving tracks of the small railroad to the depot in Petoskey, an even smaller branch line to the foot of Bear Lake, and at last a rowboat to the shore-front property that Dr. Ed Hemingway had bought from Henry Bacon the summer before. They were going to build a summer cottage and they had come to complete the arrangements."

The Hemingways agreed from the beginning that outdoor activities were healthy for everyone and that getting away from the city in the summer was a worthwhile investment of money and inconvenience for any family who could afford it.

Marcelline Hemingway Sanford wrote in her wonderful memoir, *At the Hemingways*, "The beach my parents selected was sandy and wide; the lake here had a good hard clean bottom and no abrupt drop-off into deep water. White birches and cedars grew along the shore, and maples and beeches and hemlocks farther back from the water. The bay was protected from the northwest wind by a point of land with a dock, referred to by all the

local people as Murphy's Point. Everything about the spot appealed to my parents. The fishing in Walloon was good. Their land was close enough to Bacon's farm to get fresh milk and eggs easily, and yet not close enough "to smell the pigs," as Mother said. The Hemingways closed the deal for four lots, amounting to an acre in all, before they left for Oak Park that September."

Jess Archer Davidson (an O.P. friend) wrote to Grace Hemingway on, Mar 20, 1927 "So many people fail to look behind the artist Ernest has become to the home and parents." (U. Tex collection) This comment was not meant as an insult or disparagement to the parents. From *Hemingway: The American Homecoming* by Reynolds p. 116

A somewhat prominent literary critic once said to me, "Those parents really did a number on Hemingway, didn't they?" I wanted to ask her what she would change about his art. In the first place, the Hemingway children had a privileged upbringing, exposed to all manner of life experiences ranging from attending grand opera to running barefoot through the woods and swimming nude in the moonlight.

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The anecdote that Grace described in his baby book about little Ernest worrying that Santa might not bring him a gun for Christmas because he doesn't wear trousers like Daddy is recorded out of maternal pride. It speaks of genius and a level of observation that other 2-year-olds rarely display. From the beginning, the man missed nothing. When critics drone on about androgyny because Hemingway knows how a woman felt during a sex scene, ask yourself if you really want to give back language like "the earth moved." And never, ever forget that he also knew how the lion felt in Macomber. A master of empathy. Wherever it came from, why would we complain or snicker about it?

The Hemingways were very progressive in their thinking about gender. All the children had the same toys: dolls, tea sets, rifles, fishing poles, skates, whatever. The "twinning" of Marcelline and Ernest is a bit difficult for us to understand in modern times, but it was apparently not that uncommon early in the 20th century. I have seen references to the practice in other biographies, such as the actor Roddy McDowell's, but have not done an in-depth study of it as a social trend. On the other hand, we don't read biographies of everyday people as much as we read biographies of people of genius in the arts. I have known all Marcelline's children, and I'm pretty sure she came out fine. She was a talented sculptor, playwright, painter, and lecturer, in addition to raising some lovely people.

Many aspects of the Hemingways' upbringing deserve more exploration, perhaps, as points of interest, but not as a bone of contention, because as I said earlier, what would we change? Average little boys from nondescript families do not give us great literature.

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Malcolm Cowley wrote in his lecture notes on Hemingway: "Don't confuse Hemingway with the characters in his stories…." (exception nightmares)