

INDIAN LAKE WRITERS' GROUP

Monthly Newsletter
Donna Bradley

LXXIV

August, 2011

Many of us recently found pleasure in watching the Olympics on TV. This current event inspired Fran to bring us back to the Olympics of 1980. This was the year that the host for the winter Olympics was in our own backyard, Lake Placid. Fran's memory of that time was enhanced by a personal experience. It just so happened that Maureen O'Sullivan, (not the actress) was one of the torch runners heading toward Lake Placid through Indian Lake, and actually stayed overnight with Fran and her husband. That was the year that the American Hockey team beat the Russians. Such memories recorded intertwine personal stories with history. Fran began her piece with the sentence -- "The whole world knew about it!" What an engaging and accurate beginning.

Pam's prose poetry reflects her English background. Her piece, "Nature's Cycles", dealt with day turning to night, and night to day, relating to the experience of a thunder storm. Her delightful language brought to life common observations we have all shared during a thunder storm.

Jim never fails to have us laughing. His piece on "Reunions" had us all shaking our heads as we recognized so many experiences we have had as we attend a reunion. Jim's knack for writing about the observations he makes about human behavior usually strike a common chord in all of us. It is the connection to universal experiences that enhance the written word.

Bob took the topic, "I Could Go On and On" as he reviewed his commute to New York City, from a suburban New Jersey town. While writing about the daily ordeal of spending almost two hours traveling by train, the PATH, and the subway during the hot summertime, Bob found himself seriously wondering how he had ever survived. He contrasts the sounds and smells of his hometown prior to stepping onto the train with the sound and smells of his commuting experience. He shares the historical details of the 1909 rail cars he rode, as well as the sometimes humorous and even dangerous experiences that occurred during his many years of commuting. Despite initially considering this a serious piece, Bob, as well as all of us shared much laughter at the absurdity and familiarity of these experiences.

Donna's poem, "Stirring", took us in a different direction. She stirred oatmeal, paint and the earth, comparing these mixtures with the stirring of deep emotions.

*** Our next meeting will be **SEPTEMBER 19** at 1:30 in the library.

*** **ASSIGNMENT:** Our assignment, may be one of numerous choices. If you have not been attending meetings in the summer, you may choose one of our past assignments:

1. I Could Go On and On
2. Stirring
3. Write a poem and match it to a piece of music.

To this we will add an additional topic - Layers

*** **MICHAEL CZARNECKI AND STEVE COFFMAN WILL BE HERE IN INDIAN LAKE ON **OCTOBER 12** TO OFFER A WRITING WORKSHOP. THIS IS A MEETING NOT TO BE MISSED. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR. (This date has been changed from September to October)**

Here is a quote from Elizabeth Loftus, her quote mentioned in the book, "The Writer in All of Us" by June Gould.

"Without memory, a person would not have the sense of continuity even to know who he or she was. Without a doubt, memory is central to being human."

Writing stirs memories!