The Pillar of Fire ~ selected poems by Nikolay Gumilyov will be published in the first week of July ready for the launch at Dartington “Ways With Words” Festival on 13th July. This publication has been produced under a joint imprint of Anvil and Survivors’ Poetry.

The book is a beautiful 245 page anthology with a full introduction and background information about Gumilyov, his fascinating life and the context of his writing during Russia’s Silver Age of literature. We hope that this publication, the first of his works to be published in translation in the UK, will introduce many of you to this marvellous survivor poet who is only just being re-discovered.

The book makes a perfect gift for anyone who enjoys evocative poetry or is interested in Russian literature and will be available from Survivors’ Poetry at £12.95 (p&p free) from July.

We are planning a series of launch readings in and around London so keep a look out for more news about these in our next News Update.

JOINING THE SURVIVORS’ POETRY NETWORK

Do you belong to a writing, poetry or storytelling group? Does your group empower survivors in a safe and supportive environment? If so you might like to join the Survivors’ Poetry Network.

There are many benefits to be gained through joining our network of writing groups. Your group can receive free promotion, access to relevant training, advice on fundraising, guidelines about running and maintaining your group and of course the opportunity to make contact with other groups either in your area or far away. The good news is it is completely free to join. For an information leaflet and application form contact Alison Smith at Survivors’ Poetry at the address shown on the back of this newsletter.
Mind in need of help

Are you a good listener?
Mind needs volunteers to help answer phone calls on MindinfoLine. We provide full training on all aspects of mental health information.
For a recruitment pack write to: MindinfoLine Recruitment, MIND Human Resources, 15-19 Broadway, Stratford, London E15 4BQ

I am Live

THE 2ND RESIDENTIAL ARTS IN MENTAL HEALTH FORUM.
Stanford Hall, Loughborough. 5th, 6th and 7th November 1999
Three days of debate, discussions, practical sessions in many arts forms, presentations on projects happening nationally, exhibitions, displays and a whole lot more!

mind the ... gap was founded in 1988 in recognition that everyone is entitled to participate in the cultural activities of our society. For further information and booking forms contact mind the ... gap, Queens House, Queens Road, Bradford, BD8 7BS. Tel. 01274 544683 or Fax. 01274 544501

New Workshop

A new writing workshop will be starting shortly at The Bridge Day Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Wheadston, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 5BP. The co-ordinator is Bob Gilbert. Please contact him on 0181 861 6390 for further details.

Contributions wanted

Poetry written in English by British South Asians is wanted for an anthology to be published by Redbeck Press in the year 2000. The anthology will be edited by Debjani Chatterjee and contributions are invited from poets resident in Britain who trace their ethnic origin to the Indian sub-continent. This invitation includes Anglo-Asian poets and British Asians from Africa and the Caribbean who see themselves in this group.
For further information write to Debjani Chatterjee at BSA Poetry, 11 Donnington Road, Sheffield S2 2RF.

The Speakout Review

A new journal from the Speakout group of writers and artists, Speakout Arts new outreach project in Mile End, London. Speakout would like to invite contributions to their new journal; featuring unbeatable new writing, views, voices, art and humour, from those often excluded ... in their own words and issue-based writers, working for resolutions.
For more information about how to contribute contact The Speakout Review, 327a Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.

Fancy having some of your writing published in a book?

“Mad Pride - A Celebration of Mad Culture”
A book edited by Robert Dellar & others commissioned by the Mind Millennium Awards.

The aim of this book is to document the achievements of the mental health survivor movement and Mad Culture generally. I immediately want material for consideration of the book. What I am interested in is prose material (preferably non-fiction, but some fiction might not go amiss) promoting MAD PRIDE - celebrating MAD culture from a standpoint of strength, confidence and good humour.
For more information or to send contributions write to: Robert Dellar, c/o Southwark Mind, Cambridge House, 131 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0HF or telephone 0171 701 8535 (work) or 0181 806 7066 (home)

Remember World Mental Health Day, Sunday October 10th 1999. Let us know about any events you organise for our next newsletter.
HIGH SECURITY HOSPITALS OUTREACH

Survivors’ Poetry is involved with two information and networking events for women patients within the High Security Hospitals Service.

These have been organised by SUSAC, the Service Users Standing Advisory Committee at the Department of Health to ensure that the women residents have access to information about organisations like Survivors’ Poetry with whom they can make links. The women and staff at Broadmoor were very interested in our work and we are very encouraged by their response. As a result of the day one resident has already joined our mailing list and we hope to be able to develop from this initial contact in the future.

Christina Dunhill represented Survivors’ Poetry at the information day at Broadmoor Hospital on 3rd June and Clare Douglas will be at Rampton Hospital on August 16th.

Facilitator Training Course

The next training course taking place at the end of July is now full. There will be more courses so please contact Alison or write in to be put forward. For the first time Survivors’ Poetry is running the course especially for Asian and Black survivors - there are few workshop leaders around and this course will be a small step to redressing the balance. The course will cover survivor issues, cultural identity, creative writing and performance skills.

Facilitators include Patience Agbabi (performance poet), Malika B (from Apples and Snakes), Vanessa Richards (Mannfest), Dominic Walker (Down to Earth Black People’s Mental Health Users Group) and Raman Mundair (Punjabi poet / performer / playwright).

I have been volunteering in Survivors’ Poetry’s office for two days a week since February 1999. My principal task has been to catalogue the library of poetry journals, put it on the database, and contact the editors for outreach purposes to see if they’ll carry articles, listings or ads about Survivors’ Poetry or arrange inserts in their mailings on a reciprocal basis. I’ve also rearranged the reports and periodicals which the staff consult on management, charity and mental health issues, and, now that the new cabinets have arrived, my next job will be to catalogue the poetry books. It is hoped to make the poetry books and journals available for reference to survivors on the mailing list.

Other work I’ve done includes the usual collating, stuffing, addressing and stamping mailings, statistical work, drafting a schedule of rates for adverts, minuting the bi-monthly meeting of the Workers’ Forum, answering the phone, and attending meetings to discuss the Diorama Arts Centre’s open day, which will celebrate World Mental Health Day this October.

I hope to attend the workshop facilitators’ training later this year. In fact, Survivors’ Poetry will pay £5 per half-day towards the cost of a volunteer’s training, and this can be any training which you consider might be useful to your career.

The Diorama Arts Centre is a pleasant building with lots going on and an excellent café at lunchtime. I feel privileged to work with Clare, Lisa and Alison and the other volunteers as colleagues. All of us are survivors, and the office is very busy and lively with all the events being planned.

There are a whole variety of tasks awaiting new volunteers such as fund-raising, working on the Newsletter, organising events, distribution of publications, and, for those who have attended the training, workshop facilitation. If you’d like to explore the possibilities, please contact the Survivors’ Poetry office (0171-916-5317).

The Survivors’ Poetry Network re-launch

The response so far has been excellent with many more groups joining and others, in the pipeline of being set up from scratch, include groups across London, Stevenage, Windsor, and Northumberland.

Contact Alison Smith for further information or advice on setting up a group.

Survivors’ Poetry Group News

Congratulations to Survivors’ Poetry Scotland for obtaining a provisional £15,000 from The National Lottery through Scottish Arts Council along with a further £5K from Camelot to build up their Web Site.

Editorial

Survivors’ Poetry Newsletter is a quarterly publication. It’s purpose is to publicise events and activities organised by Survivors’ Poetry and by Survivor-led Poetry groups all over the country. Please send us articles, small features and events listings about your group or about anything that you think may be of interest to our readers. Work should be typed or on disc. We cannot guarantee publication and the editor reserves the right to edit any contributions. No more than 500 words. No poetry please. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of Survivors’ Poetry. Next copy deadline (for Oct/Nov/Dec issue) Friday 17th September 1999.

Designed and edited by Lisa Boardman (Information Worker)
BEDFORD OPEN POETRY COMPETITION
First Prize £300. Runners-up (two prizes)
£100 + publication in The Interpreter's House magazine.
Closing date 30th July 1999.
This year the final judge is John Burnside, author of two novels and six collections of poetry. Born in Dunfurmline, Scotland, he received the Scottish Arts Council Book Award in 1991, 1995 and 1998. In 1994 he was selected as one of the Poetry Society's New Generation Poets. His new collection of poems, The Asylum Dance, is forthcoming from Jonathan Cape.
If you would like an entry form please send an SAE to The Bedford Open Poetry Competition, Bedford Central Library, Harpur Street, Bedford, MK40 1PG.

The Sue Napolitano Award
Prize: £10,000 writing commission
Closing date: Friday 17th September 1999.
An award of £10,000 will be made to a disabled writer to produce a body of creative writing which explores issues of disability as a main theme. This could comprise a collection of poems or short stories; a novel; or a full length play script. The manuscript must reflect disabled people's experiences in a way that is consistent with the Social model of disability. The commissioned writer will be given twelve months to complete their proposed manuscript, which will then be published in an appropriate format. The award is being co-ordinated by Commonword in association with the Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People. We hope this will be the first of several bi-annual awards.

WRITING COMPETITIONS

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SOMERS TOWN NEWS

On May 22 the song-poetry of Asher Hoyles linked an evening of strong solo performances: Survivors’ Poetry “veterans” Hilary Porter and Peter Campbell treated us to poems old and new while Johnny Oslo dazzled with an eclectic new song collection.

Roz Kane on June 26 introduced the enthusiastic audience to the poetry of Brian Daldorph and Heather Beveridge while Kym, Chris and Mick made “Dirty Contact” in a tenderly

tuneful way that packed real clout.

Excellent floorspots, as usual, but PLEASE if you have material you wish to share as a floorspot, to avoid disappointment, book in advance through the Survivors’ Poetry office or be at Somers town before 7pm.

(Your organiser and MC have to manage this embarrassment of riches somehow!)

- Alistair Brinkley

SOMERSTOWN DATE

Somers Town
Somers Town Community Centre, 150 Ossulston Street, (off Euston Road), London NW1
7.30pm - 10pm (doors 7pm)
Admission: £3.50 (full), £1.50 (conc) £1 (floorspots/ current inpatients)

Saturday July 24th 1999.
MC: Julie McNamara and other Irish women poets living in London: Ann Dalton, Carolyn O’Connell, Eamer O’Keeffe, Siubhan McNally and Kathleen O’Sullivan will enthral with extracts from their dynamic anthology, Fresher than Green, Brighter than Orange. Also, poet Mike Lawson (Psychiatric Survivor & Shaman-in-Exile) and musician Viv Youell (Superlatively Innovative Singer-Songstress).

NEW VENUE FOR AUGUST SOMERSTOWN DATE

Diorama Arts Centre, 34 Osnaburgh Street, London NW1
3ND. 7.30pm - 10pm (doors 7pm)
Entry: £3.50 (full),£1.50 (conc)
£1(floorspots/ current inpatients)

Saturday 21st August 1999. Andrew Spencer and A.J. Murray. Other performers to be confirmed. The August Survivors’ Poetry Somerstown event will take place at the Diorama Arts Centre this month. We would like to experiment with using this venue for our regular event. The performances will take place in a small theatre space with tiered seats and a few tables. It has excellent lighting equipment and may be better suited acoustically. Refreshments will be served in the foyer. The building is non-smoking but there is a small sheltered area outside for smoking. Please come along to this event and tell us what you think. Let us know the things which you like and don’t like about both venues. We would like the views of all our regular Somerstown performers and audience to be taken into account if or when we decide to move for good.

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**Free creative writing workshops for Asian and Black survivors.**

Survivors’ Poetry in association with The Family Welfare Association have organised a series of creative writing workshops to take place on the last Wednesday of each month, 28th July, 25th August and 29th September 1999. 2.30pm - 4.30pm at The Family Welfare Association, 1 Bedford Hill, Balham, London SW12.

With Raman Mundair and Lloyd Lindsay. Come along and explore and share your stories, meet other survivors in a supportive, relaxed space. Just bring a pen, paper and your enthusiasm! Raman is an experienced facilitator/poet of Punjabi heritage. Lloyd is an African poet/performer from Fulham & Chelsea Survivors’ Poetry. Contact Taiwo at The Family Welfare Association on 0181 675 1765.
A literary journal with an emphasis on poetry. This issue, arranged in conjunction with Survivors’ Poetry, includes a special collection of poems by survivors and an interesting introduction. Let’s hope it opens the way for more magazine editors to dedicate individual issues to poetry by survivors. Our thanks goes to the Acumen’s editor, Patricia Oxley.

£4.00   ISBN  0964  0304.

Subscription rates: £10 per year, three issues. Cheques payable to Acumen. Acumen, The Editor, 6 The Mount, Higher Furzeham, Brixham, South Devon. TQ5 8QY.

Writing Well is a practical handbook of creative writing exercises. The exercises are taken from the authors’ successful practice with groups of people from a range of backgrounds and a variety of settings. The book is structured and easy to use. The warm-ups and main exercises are organised by themes, such as positive memories, imagined worlds, changes and painful feelings. Guidelines are given for developing and adapting the exercises and practical suggestions for materials are included in the appendix.

£15.95   ISBN 1 85302 650   1998

THE THERAPEUTIC POTENTIAL OF CREATIVE WRITING

WRITING MYSELF

Gillie Bolton, Forward by Sir Kenneth Calman

Writing is a means of making sense of experience, and of arriving at a deeper understanding of the self. This book provides practical, well tried and tested suggestions for beginning
to write and for developing writing further. It includes ideas for writing individually and for directing groups, and explores journal writing, poetry, fiction, autobiography and writing out trauma, with established writers and those who have taken up writing for private enjoyment.

£15.95 ISBN 1 85302 599 1998


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STRAIGHT FROM THE HANDBAG’S MOUTH
by The Essex Girls Poetry Collective

This 2nd anthology Straight from the Handbags Mouth charts their progress and includes a wealth of poetry produced during workshops over the last year. Notwithstanding any central theme the anthology includes lipstick, sweets, morning thoughts, inheritance, memories and favourite places. The publication is not just about a group of survivor poets but about life itself and all that it impacts on us. Available from The Essex Girls. For details of their 1999 programme contact Anita 01245 262020 or Sandie 01278 733 259.

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READING THE APPLAUSE
REFLECTIONS ON PERFORMANCE POETRY BY VARIOUS ARTISTS
edited by Paul Munden and Stephen Wade

“Friendly, accessible, immediate, democratic, historic, profound and a damn good laugh”. So Ian McMillan describes performance poetry in his forward to this book. While printed poems have words dancing on the page, performance poetry works in an additional dimension. From hi-tech presentation to the ranter in a pub, the delivery - by vocal and other means - is vital in creating the emotional effect. Sometimes this involves a collaboration with other art forms, music in particular. At other times it seems that a new hybrid is developing, or as Trevor Millum puts it: “performance poetry is singing for those who can’t sing”. Stephen Wade and Paul Munden have assembled a range of interviews, reflective articles and essays by a wide range of poets involved in performance -both as a public presentation of written work and as an art in its own right. £8.95 ISBN 0-9514429-3-7

Talking Shop, PO Box 1, Sheriff Hutton, York YO60 7YU

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I’M WRITING POETRY AGAIN
by Phil Jaquiery

Moudon Press is delighted to announce the publication of a book of poetry by Phil Jaquiery, a mental health survivor and outspoken campaigner for the rights of those who suffer mental health problems. When asked how those involved with Phil’s initial care, might react to his poems Phil replied “Tell them to put their concerns in verse - they never listened to my concerns until I wrote these poems.

£5.95 (Cheques payable to Moudon Press). Moudon Press, The Old George, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge SO20 8HN.

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PULLING THROUGH
ON A JOURNEY THROUGH MADNESS.
A COLLECTION OF POEMS
by Kathleen A. King
edited by Penelope Elias

“I find these poems wonderfully meaningful, reflecting the pain of a manic depressive.”- Spike Milligan. Penelope translated the book Accepting Voices published by MIND in 1993, from its original Dutch, and has had various articles and poems published. She is group co-ordinator of the Workington Manic Depression Fellowship. Penelope is married and has four children.

Pulling Through is available from Pennyroyal Publications, 3 Ashfield Road, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3HU, enclosing a cheque/postal order for £3.50 (inc. p&p).
Joining Forces
- in the North
30th September 1999
Survivors’ Poetry will be hosting the second Joining Forces seminar bringing together the arts, health and education in Newcastle in September. To be held at the premises of Northern Arts, this seminar will look at the issues and methods of working across the sectors for the benefits of young survivors. Survivors’ Poetry will be outreaching over the coming months across the region establishing contacts and working with local mental health, arts, education and disability organisations on this event. Contact Alison Smith for further information.

Black History Month
To celebrate Black History Month in October - Survivors’ Poetry will be hosting two key events; a special performance of survivor poets at Somers Town and Images of Reality - Survivors’ Poetry with Apples and Snakes is at The Brix - hosting a performance of Patience Agbabi, Raman Mundair, Dorothea Smartt, Mimi Khalvati and Jean Binta Breeze alongside Lloyd Lindsay and Greg Henry. The performance will also launch the setting up of an Asian and Black Survivors’ Poetry group - with a discussion around the issues of supporting a group. Meena Jafrey (~ Artsline Multicultural Arts Officer) and Dominic Walker will be hosting the discussion. Survivors’ Poetry is grateful for the support of Durlabh Singh and Lloyd Lindsay in putting this event together.

Survivors’ Poetry Mailing Parties
As our mailing list grows so does the pile of envelopes we need to stuff every six weeks! Which is why we need your help. If you live in London you are very welcome to attend our mailing parties (see address below). We will pay your travel costs and provide drinks and snacks. The event is always fun and a positive way in which you can contribute to our work. Ring Lisa Boardman to let us know if you will be attending on either of these dates:
Thursday 19th August 1999
Thursday 30th September 1999 (4.30pm - approx 6.30pm)

“The value of Survivors’ Poetry is that it offers our experience a valid vehicle for expression. It gives people the chance to claim back some of the dignity and self-respect previously taken from them”. ~ A Survivor ~