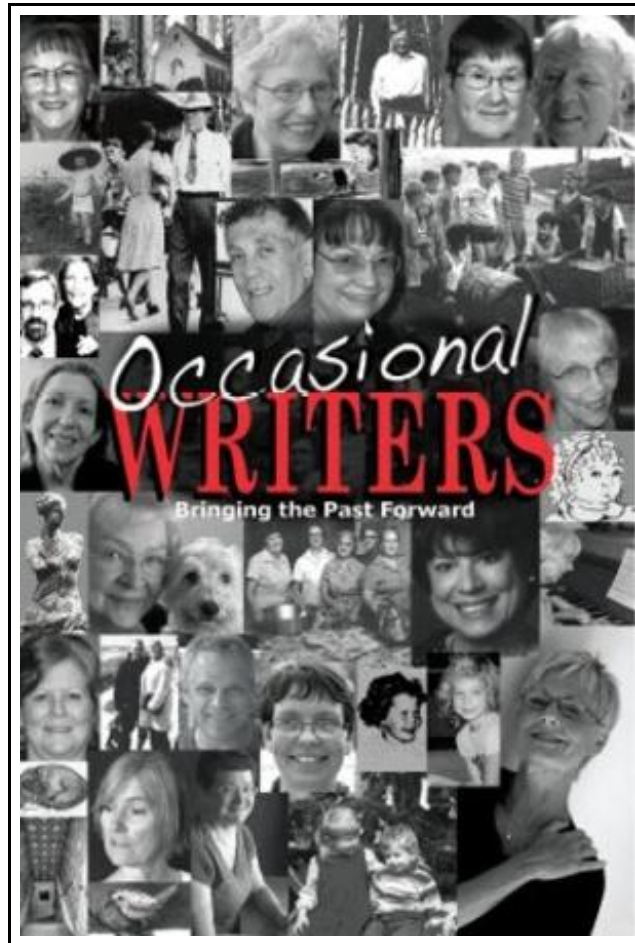


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OCCASIONAL WRITERS: BRINGING THE PAST FORWARD

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Cantraip Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 254 pages. Dimensions: 8.8in. x 5.9in. x 0.7in. Occasional Writers: Bringing the Past Forward is the work of the PastForward memoir group based in Charleston, Illinois. PastForward began in 2007 when Daiva Markelis, a professor at Eastern Illinois University whose memoir *White Field, Black Sheep: A Lithuanian-American Life* has garnered critical acclaim, taught a memoir writing class for adults. Open to anyone with a love for writing, the group grew. Its members were serious about learning their craft. They gave and received constructive criticism, brought in guest speakers, and participated in focused workshops. These are writers with fascinating stories to tell. They write about growing up in small-town America, about love and disappointment, about blackberry picking and baseball and being fat. They write about a father who worked for the FBI and a mother who was an expert Greek cook. They write about having cancer. They write about taking chances. Occasional Writers, Bringing the Past Forward is what I might call a full-service, all-inclusive reading experience. It offers poignant recollections of Greek church ladies, charming reflections on first dates, stories told from a dogs and pianos points of view, vignettes about devious chiggers, upright fathers and a beloved, itinerant uncle; unflinching, poetic observations on the harshness of life. A bird even perches on someones head. Beyond all that are some mouthwatering recipes. These are, in effect, stories of ordinary, everyday existence made very engaging through keen observation; patches of vivid cloth stitched into a comfortable, lovely quilt. Ted Gregory Pulitzer Prize winning reporter, Chicago Tribune Occasional Writers: Bringing the Past Forward, a new regional volume of memoir, poetry, and photography from Cantraip Press, demonstrates well the truth of Wendell Berrys assertion that a human community, if it is to last long, must exert a...

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