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'Ulysses' lovers get ready to ramble

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By Bob Hoover, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Bob Hoover/Post-Gazette

This plaque on a building at 12 rue de L'Odeon, Paris, acknowledges the initial publication of James Joyce's "Ulysses" by the Shakespeare and Company Bookstore owned by American Sylvia Beach. The publisher was Harriet Shaw Weaver.

The life-affirming "yes" delivered by the thousands at yesterday's Pittsburgh Penguin celebration is repeated today in more intimate surroundings when fans of James Joyce celebrate Bloomsday.

The affirmation goes, "yes I said yes I will Yes." The speaker is Molly Bloom, delivering her "c'mon down" invitation to husband Leopold after his long day's ramble June 16, 1904, in Dublin.

He's the hero of James Joyce's epic satire, "Ulysses." Local James Joyce aficionados are presenting the 21st observation here. It's modeled after chapters tracing Bloom's journey, Joyce's modernist take on the Greek legend's travels after the Trojan War.

The appropriate passages from the novel will be read at the stops. Here's the schedule:

9 a.m. -- Chapter One, "Telemachus," Crazy Mocha Cafe, 4525 Liberty Ave., Bloomfield.

10:30 a.m. -- Chapter Six, "Hades," Homewood Cemetery, South Dallas Street and Aylesboro Avenue, Point Breeze.

Noon -- Chapter Eight, "Laestrygonians," at Murphy's Tap Room, 1106 S. Braddock Ave., Regent Square

2:30 p.m. -- Chapter Nine, "Scylla and Charybdis," at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Oakland.

4 p.m. -- Chapter 11, "Sirens," at the eastern end of Herr's Island on the Allegheny River.

5:30 p.m. -- Chapter 12, "Cyclops," at Mullaney's Harp & Fiddle, 2329 Penn Ave., Strip District.

8 p.m. -- Chapter 13, "Nausicaa," and Chapter 18, "Penelope," at City Books, 1111 E. Carson St., South Side.

Events are free and a copy of "Ulysses" is recommended.

Joyce shuffles off to Buffalo

Much of the Joycean world headed to Buffalo, N.Y., over the weekend for the North American James Joyce Conference at the University of Buffalo,.

Why Buffalo, you might ask? Because the university holds one of the largest collections of Joycean papers and memorabilia in the world. An exhibition of the collection opened last week at the university's Anderson Gallery.

Conference attendees will celebrate Bloomsday tonight before wrapping things up tomorrow.

2007 novel wins \$140,000

The 2-year-old novel "Man Gone Down" by American writer Michael Thomas won this year's \$140,000 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award.

The prize is the most lucrative literary honor. Its sponsor is IMPAC, an international business consultant.

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