

## Lawrence Durrell

Lawrence George (Larry) Durrell was born to Irish parents in Jullundur, India (a small town near the Tibetan border) in late February 1912. When he became a teenager, Durrell went to England for his formal education. Appalled by the country's class-ridden society, however, Durrell resisted academic life and deliberately flunked his university exams. Resolved to be a full-time writer, Durrell debuted in 1931 with a collection of poems entitled *Quaint Fragments*. In 1935 he and his first wife, Nancy Myers (While not exactly a stud muffin, Durrell must have had some appeal to the opposite sex. He was married four times.), moved to Corfu where he wrote a draft of *The Book of the Dead*. It proved to be his initial attempt at *The Alexandria Quartet*, which he finished in France in 1960. But I'm getting ahead of myself.

After six years in Greece, Larry and Nancy fled before a horde of advancing Nazis, and settled in Cairo. In 1942, Durrell was Alexandria's press attaché for the British Information Office. In 1945 he went to Rhodes where he was a public relations advisor for the Dodecanese Islands. He next journeyed to Cordoba, Argentina to be the director of the British Council Institute. He then went to Belgrade, Yugoslavia to be its senior press attaché from 1949 to 1952.

Following those assignments, the peripatetic Durrell went to Cyprus and taught English literature. He quit teaching after a couple of years, and worked as a public relations officer in Nicosia. Finding himself smack dab in the middle of an intense feud between Cypriots who desired union with Greece, and those who wanted the island partitioned to Turkey, he fled to Sommières in southern France. Durrell resided in Sommières until his death in November of 1990.

*Essay by Bill Lounsbery*

KRL has *The Alexandria Quartet* novels: *Justine*, *Balthazar*, *Mountolive* and *Clea* and other books by Durrell

## Earth Day at Qa'Qad Stormwater Park

The Manchester Community Association will sponsor an Earth Day Event at the Stormwater Park **Saturday April 21st from 11 to 2 pm**. For fun, there will be a planting table for kids to plant their own sunflowers to take home. There will be presentations by Clean Water Kitsap about Rain Garden installation and the stormwater park, Kitsap Solid Waste program with information about recycling, Kitsap Health department answering questions about maintaining healthy septic systems, Manchester Water and the Port of Manchester sharing ways to use our water wisely and keep it healthy, and information about the Arbor Day Foundation.

## An Invitation

I would like to personally invite any of you who have an interest in volunteering to consider helping out with the Friends of the Manchester Library. Why would you want to be a Friend of the Manchester Library? **It has to come from the heart!** We have a core of about 15 individuals who volunteer up to several hundred hours each year just to keep our Library's doors open to the community. Every year we lose a few members due to relocations or other reasons and we really need to keep adding new talent and new ideas. Our collective mission revolves around enhancing literacy in our community; we try to encourage the very young with programs for toddlers & pre-schoolers, the Summer Reading program for the older kids, teen events and homework help on-line, and adult reading/book clubs. We "Friends" feel that the Manchester Library represents the heart of our community and want to see it be the best that it can be!

The Friends of the Manchester Library also try to make the volunteer efforts fun! We give each "Friend" the chance to work on those projects fitting their personal schedule/interests as best possible. The "Friends" are welcomed to special pre-sale events prior to our special book sales where we allow them to look over the collection of materials we have for sale the next day. Every few months we also try to acknowledge one of our "Special Friends of the Manchester Library" with recognition for some extra effort on behalf of the Library.

We invite you to **become a "Friend"** and feel the joy of making a contribution to your community, meeting neighbors, and having fun along the way!

-John Winslow (email:[johnwinslo@aol.com](mailto:johnwinslo@aol.com)), President FOML

