Greetings from the ED

First the sad news… We recently lost our friend and colleague Wikan Satriati, who had worked at Lontar for the past 11 years as assistant to the director of publications, managing everything from contracts to book launches. She passed away at her family home in Magelang, Central Java, on April 25. She will be dearly missed. In remembrance, we feature her profile in this newsletter.

April is the month when Indonesians observe the birth date of Kartini, a 19th century Javanese woman of noble birth who aspired to be independent, free from the shackles of a patriarchal tradition which deprived women of their rights. Women have come a long way since but the gains have been far from equitable. The number of women who still lack access to education and who face discrimination and abuse far outnumbers those who have succeeded. Sadly, many of them have their rights deprived at home from an early age.

According to UNICEF, among the top ten developing countries Indonesia accounts for the highest number of child marriages. The 2019 Marriage Law, which set 19 years as the minimum marriageable age for both males and females, is easily ignored when child marriages are still allowed if they receive the approval of the Supreme Court. Last year, there were 34,000 requests, an increase of 43 percent over the previous year. Ninety-seven percent got the go-ahead. Then there is the Sexual Violence Eradication

Ruminations by John McGlynn

Borders

_Without translation I would be limited to the borders of my own country. The translator is my most important ally. [The translator] introduces me to the world._ Italo Calvino

As a youngster, “vacation” was for me an unknown term. Never once in my memory did my parents open an atlas and engage their children in a discussion of where we might like to go for vacation in the coming summer. Occasionally, they would speak of the need to take a day off—usually to attend a family-related event, a Schraufnagel reunion in Glidden, for instance—but the idea of going to a resort town and staying there for a night or two, even one as close as Wisconsin Dells, which was only thirty-four miles distant, was never an option.

Because there were cows to be milked both morning and night, the farthest destination to which we could travel in a day was determined by how far the car could take us after morning chores with enough hours remaining to return to Glynnsping in time for the evening milking. Even after I entered grade school in 1958 and my father had switched professions from farmer to mailman, the thought of a family “vacation” would have been ruled absurd. What with there now being eight children in the house, with ages ranging from 6 months to 16 years, there was simply no way the ten of us could fit comfortably in the family car with suitcases and provisions and cruise down the highway to Chicago to or up the interstate to Minneapolis. So it was that in my pre-adult years I lived in a geographically-enclosed world, almost an island of sorts, no more than 100 miles in circumference, always viewing the same kind of terrain, always interacting with the same kind of people.

My parents were avid readers and encouraged — No, demanded! — their children follow suit; the most frequent gift under the Christmas tree in our house was a book. One year it was for me _Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates_ whose story made me dream of dikes, polders, and wooden shoes. Another, it was _Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp_ which prompted me to turn a bandana into a _ghutra_, a bed sheet into a _thobe_, and to roam the desert sands in the attic of our home with an antique kerosene lamp. Even a book such as _Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn_
Bill parliamentarians have been dithering over for the past two years, despite a worrying increase in cases during the current pandemic.

The path set by Kartini remains paved with obstacles but the Central Javanese woman whose prolific correspondence was eventually turned into a book is also an inspiration to aspiring women writers today.

In closing, I ask you not to miss our upcoming fundraising festival, “Beyond Home Borders,” which starts on May 1 with a talk by renowned author, Amitav Ghosh, whose forthcoming book, *The Nutmeg Parable*, is set in Maluku. His event is followed by 11 others. Please register for at least one. In doing so, you will be helping Lontar to publish another literary translation.

Yuli Ismartono
vismartono@lontar.org

Undoubtedly, I have mentioned in previous Ruminations that I began my academic career in 1970 as a student of theater and fine arts but after two years switched majors and enrolled in Southeast Asian Studies. How that came to be I will not relate...
Wikan Satriati
23 June 1975 – 25 April 2021

Wikan, a writer and a colleague at Lontar, passed away recently, and we deeply mourn her loss. In more than a decade of dedication to the translation and publication of books by Indonesian authors, she contributed immensely to Lontar’s mission of promoting Indonesian literature abroad. Her passion for books, for the biographies of authors, essayists and poets was so deep she could conjure up names, dates and titles, at any given time. Not surprisingly, she was chosen to help organize and run Lontar’s programs at several international events, including the Frankfurt and London Book Fairs. Likewise, she worked assiduously at literary-related events at home as well, including the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival in Bali and the Makassar International Literary Festival. Lest we forget, Wikan was also a writer in her own right and produced a number of children’s books, some of which have been translated into

here; I repeat this information only to say that as an art-theater major relatively little reading was required. Not so in this more academic field and in the courses that I took during the next two years —Literatures of Asia, Oral Literatures of East Asia, Survey of Indonesian Culture, Survey of Japanese Literature, Modern Indonesian Literature in Translation, History of East Asian Civilizations, Asian Epic Literature, Readings in Classical Malay Literature, History of Southeast Asia to 1800, and History of Modern Indonesia & Malaysia — I would not be able to count the number of pages I read. This was also true in my Indonesian language classes. Because there were few Indonesian-language textbooks at that time, my language teachers used literary texts as their primary teaching tool, starting with children’s stories and leading up to short stories and then novels. Two years later, during which time I crammed in the equivalent of four years of language study, I was able to read most anything put in front of me and had even tried my hand at translating a few stories.

In May 1976, a scholarship from the U.S. Department of Education brought me to Indonesia for the study of advanced Indonesian in Malang, East Java. In my diary, written on the Pan Am flight that stopped in Hong Kong and Singapore on the way, I remarked that finally — “Finally!!” with exclamation marks — I had crossed true borders and left “home” behind. Oddly enough, however, after my arrival in Malang, very little seemed to be truly strange or out of the ordinary. But then I remembered Hans, Aladdin, Tom, and Huckleberry, my fictional childhood friends who had taught me through words on the page that there are no true borders except the ones people construct in their minds.

Malang Teachers’ College Student I.D. Card.

John McGlynn
(john_mglynn@lontar.org)
English and Chinese. One is *Gadis Kecil Penjaga Bintang* (2008) which was published, in English, with the title, *Of Stars and Prayers: Seven Stories about Prayers*. Wikan will be remembered most for being generous with her time in helping students and young authors doing research on literary and historical figures at Lontar’s library. For her valuable contribution in promoting Indonesian literature and culture, for her passion for writings and writers, and for her kindness to all, she will be dearly missed. Rest in eternal peace, dear Wikan.

**Surat dari Pejompongan**

**Cerita Anak**

Saudara Anu,


Jika ada kebahagiaan karena sebab lain, simpanlah itu jadi kenangan Saudara saja. Yang mau saya bicarakan dengan Saudara saat ini adalah kebahagiaan karena mendengarkan dongeng atau cerita anak.

Saat masih kecil, saya menikmati dongeng dan cerita lisan lainnya. Menjelang tidur, misalnya, saya menikmati nyanyian atau dongeng dari ibu saya—setelah seharian bersekolah, mengaji, bermain.


Ayah saya, sedikit berbeda. Ia bercerita di kala senggang, tentang hal-hal ajaib. Misalnya, tentang kakak saya yang memelihara harimau siluman dan membuat nenek saya ketakutan setengah mati. Ia juga punya cerita pertualangan yang seru. Pada suatu malam, ia mendapati sebuah keranda, melintang begitu saja di tengah jalan. Keranda itu menunggu reaksinya beberapa saat sebelum akhirnya melesat di kegelapan malam. Atau heroisme kecil-kecilan: ia mengalahkan seorang jagoan pasar yang mencoba mengusiknya saat ia sedang berdagang.

As part of The Lontar Foundation's Beyond Home Borders Fundraising Festival, our month of live streamed events launches on May 1 and we’d love to see you there.

Join us! Register soon because space is limited.

Make sure to click our website: https://beyondhomeborders.org/other upcoming events and when their tickets go on sale. You'll also receive announcements as more tickets go on sale.

We hope you’re able to join us!

Purchase tickets: https://beyondhomeborders.org/tickets

Please see the next page for the schedule.

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Connect & Donate to Lontar
To contribute to Lontar send a message to Tuti Zairati, Lontar's Chief Financial Officer at tuti_zairati@lontar.org. She will provide you with Lontar's bank details. Contributions from persons and companies in the United States are tax exempt if given through Give2Asia (www.give2asia.org)

Contact
The Lontar Foundation, Jl. Danau Laut Tawar A/53
Pejompongan, Jakarta 10210
Tel. +62-21-574 6880
Email: contact@lontar.org
Live Events May 2021
Please note that all times listed are EDT (GMT-4:00)

Saturday, May 1st
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

The Spice Islands: Maluku in The Literary Imagination with Amitav Ghosh
Hosted by Margaret Scott
Amitav Ghosh will be presenting his research on the Spice Trade in Indonesia and how this is connected to today's climate crisis. Additionally, his talk will include the history of how western authors used local Maluku legends and stories in their works.

Sunday, May 2nd
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

My Second Life in Tibet, Environmental Protection and Social Movements on the Plateau of Tibet with Arahmaiani
Hosted by Astri Wright
Since 2010, Arahmaiani has been pursuing work on the Qinghai Plateau with Lamas and monks from the Lab Monastery along with locals from 14 villages in Yushu Prefecture. Arahmaiani has been focused on environmental issues affecting life on the Tibetan Plateau. In this presentation, she will discuss the work she has pursued as well as her environmental research.

Wednesday, May 5
4:00 PM EDT (USA)

How To Create A Dynamic Elevator Pitch with Melinda McGrath and Sarah Palmer PowerSpeaking Inc.
Hosted by Wayne Forrest
An elevator pitch is a quick, thirty second pitch in business. In this workshop, attendees will learn how to create a personal or business elevator pitch. Attendees will learn how to communicate a clear, concise message in thirty seconds with a simple, easy-to-use formula: PREP. This workshop is interactive.

Saturday, May 8
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

Projecting Tradition Into the Future: An Artist's Pivot + Creativity Workshop for All with Jen Shyu
Hosted by Jafreen Uddin
Composer, multilingual vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, dancer, producer, and educator Jen Shyu presents insight on her creative process. She will be showing fieldwork, as well as selected original compositions inspired by traditional music, dance, and ritual from her parents' homelands of East Timor and Taiwan. She will present her research in Indonesia, Korea, and
Japan, along with how the pandemic has affected her artistry.

**Sunday, May 9**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**My Night in the Planetarium: Wisdom from Living in Two Worlds with Innosanto Nagara**
Hosted by Racher Cooper

Author and activist, Innosanto Nagara, will presenting his journey as an author. He will share his work on including children into difficult issues and introducing them to the truth on issues throughout the world. There will be a particular focus on his two books that are set in Indonesia, *My Night in the Planetarium* and *M is For Movement*. He will explain how living as a child in Indonesia and an adult in California has impacted his work.

**Wednesday, May 12**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**Book Launch: Borderwaters: Amid the Archipelagic States of America with Brian Russell Roberts**

Book launch celebration for Brian Russell Roberts on his new book, *Borderwaters: Amid the Archipelagic States of America*. He will present his findings of his research of the effects of plastic on ecosystems and human biology.

**Saturday, May 15**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**Magic with Mushrooms: Homemade Pasta with Foraged and Domestic Mushrooms with Loretta Keller and Colleen McGlynn**
Hosted by Meg Taylor

This is a cooking workshop on the making of homemade pasta with foraged and domestic mushrooms. Chefs, Loretta Keller and Colleen McGlynn, will walk attendees through how to plan, shop, and prepare this meal.

**Sunday, May 16**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**An Evening of Song with Teresa James**
Hosted by Andrew Weintraub

In this presentation, Theresa James invites viewers into her home, where she will perform songs and show videos from throughout her career and talk about her life in music, including the long climb that women have had to make in the music industry.

**Wednesday, May 19**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**Balinese Delicacies with Jazz Pasay**
Hosted by Mary Sue Milliken

Chef Jazz Pasay will demonstrate how to easily prepare delicious Balinese dishes to satisfy your cravings for authentic tasting food. Participants will learn how to make Bali’s signature dish, nasi campur (mixed rice), that consists of fragrant jasmine rice surrounded by assorted appetizing sides to satiate any palate. A list of ingredients will be sent to your email address.

**Saturday, May 22**
7:30 PM EDT (USA)

**Wayang Kulit: The Grand Offering of the Kings: A Javanese Tale About the Defeat of Evil with Purbo Asmoro**
Hosted by Larry Reed

In this filmed presentation of a wayang kulit (shadow puppet) performance, an evil king, Jarasandha, is terrorizing the world—taking over countries, imprisoning just leaders, and wreaking havoc on communities. The five heroic Pandawa brothers (Yudhishthira, Bima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sadewa), together with the knightly Kresna craft a plan to stage a special ceremony that will help forge peace in the world. Performed in Javanese and with English and Indonesian subtitles, this two-hour presentation will include a live interview with the shadow master and his translator.
Discover the Farm: Virtual Wine Tasting with Andrew Hock and Davero Farms and Winery
Hosted Natasha Reichle
Participants will sample three wines – Rosato, Dolcetto and Moscato – as Andrew Hock will lead you through the stories of the vineyards and share video and pictures to virtually transport you to Sonoma County’s wine country.

OH (A Monologue) by Putu Wijaya: World Premiere Staged Reading in English Translation with Taksu Wijaya
OH by Indonesian playwright Putu Wijaya, celebrates its world premiere reading in an English translation by Cobina Gillitt. Tackling themes of justice, truth, and generational difference, OH dramatizes the hallucination of an elderly accomplished lawyer who has been muted by a stroke. This event is a prerecorded reading by Taksu followed by a live discussion and Q&A session with him and translator Cobina Gillitt.

Visit our website, for more information about the events: https://beyondhomeborders.org/online-events-1