

Lucia Mann: an interview with local writer and anti-slavery activist

by Jan McMurray

Local author Lucia Mann is an inspiration. She has survived a horrific past as a slave in South Africa, and is all the stronger for it.

“When I came out of the trauma closet, I was able to heal by giving voice to others,” she said in an interview. “I have been a victim, and I wish there had been a voice for me. If we shut our eyes, history will be repeated with crimes against humanity. You’ve got to wake up and ask ‘how can I help?’ Lend a hand to help the next person who is suffering – it’s healing!”

Lucia has spent the last five decades speaking out about modern-day slavery, otherwise known as human trafficking.

She has written three heart-wrenching novels about slavery in South Africa, based on her own life experiences and real events, and is working on two more. Two of the books have won awards. She has just signed a contract to develop the first book in the series, *Rented Silence* (revised second print edition), into a movie.

When asked if it was difficult to write about her painful past, Lucia replied, “It’s not, because I’m in control. I have a wounded child inside me. I have abandonment issues. But that suffering has given me this incredible life in which I can give back. I can become the voice of all the victims.”

Lucia is best known for her novels, but she has taken other avenues to fight slavery, as well. She founded the Modern Day Slavery Reporting Centre,

a website where people can report human trafficking confidentially, with the information going to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

All of the profits from her book sales at the Nakusp Home Hardware go towards clothing vouchers for sex trade workers in West Covina, California. “When the girls get picked up [by the police], they’re usually unclothed,” she said. She has partnered with a thrift store and local law enforcement authorities to deliver this program.

She has been nominated for a ‘Women of Distinction’ award by

Manitoba MP Joy Smith for her research into missing aboriginal girls in Manitoba.

“I’ve not sat back and wallowed. I’ve done something with my life and I will continue,” she asserted. “I’ve bombarded every government from here to China. It’s a plea – don’t let another human being suffer at the hand of these monsters.”

Another opportunity to get her message out is coming up. She will be featured on the Oprah Winfrey Show sometime this year; the interview will be taped this May.

“This is a great opportunity to

raise awareness about this epidemic because Oprah brings a lot of listeners to the table,” she says. “I want all of the listeners of the Oprah Show to come out of their comfort zones and open their hearts and ask themselves how they can help to bring about change.”

Lucia says human trafficking today is “a worldwide epidemic gone way out of proportion. It’s an abomination. The mighty dollar can buy a child for \$50 and sell her for \$8,000, and it’s untraceable money. I call it ‘greed economics’ – the trade in human flesh for greed. What are the governments doing about it? What’s social media doing about it? You

might as well be an offender when you close your eyes to the epidemic. There are more victims today than there were during the transatlantic slave trade era.”

Lucia came to Canada on a journalism assignment in 1992, researching the burning of straw waste in Manitoba farming. “I fell in love with Canada and knew I wanted to live here,” she said. She moved to Vancouver, where she met her husband, Hector. They took a holiday in Nakusp in 1997, and never left.

Lucia’s books are available at the Nakusp Home Hardware and online at luciamann.com and amazon.com.



Local author Lucia Mann is steadily gaining attention for her dedication to ending modern-day slavery.

Louis Bockner photography show at the Nelson Public Library

submitted

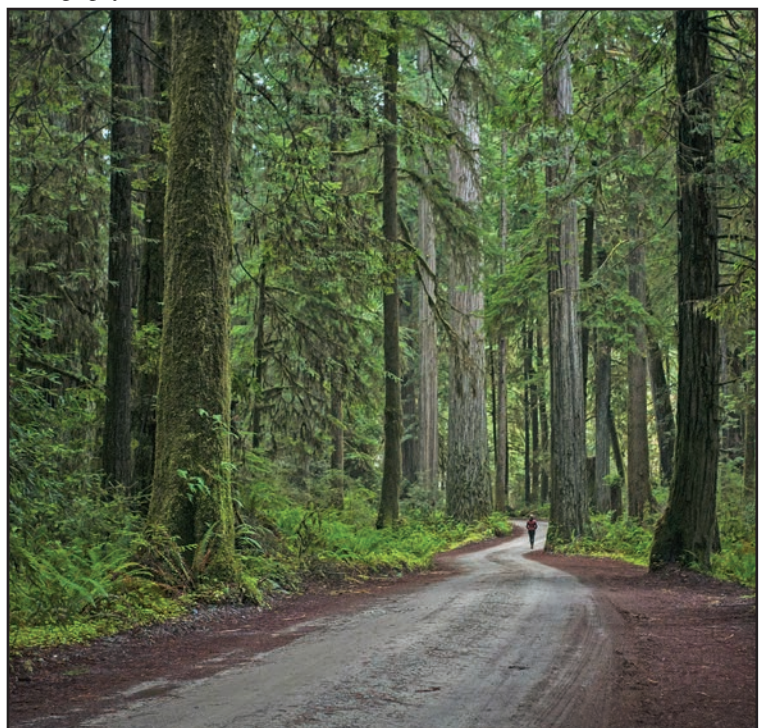
When photographer Louis Bockner sees an image he wants to capture, it’s not always the image you’d expect. With a canny eye for the unique, Bockner’s lens may settle on the landscape – or on its reflection. It might seek the star-scatter of superimposed long exposures, or uncover the subtle planes and textures of animal bones. Bockner’s photographs, now on display at the Nelson Public Library, cast an artist’s eye on the world we live in.

It’s a long way from Argenta to New York, but that’s where Bockner chose to study, at the New York Institute of Photography. He further honed his skills

at the Western Academy of Photography in Victoria, studying professional photography and photojournalism, before returning to his roots. Now back in the Kootenays, he makes his living on portraiture and candid event coverage, including Shambhala music festival. He also teaches beginner photography.

“This work is a showcase of the ‘other’ photography that I do. The photographs where people aren’t at the forefront,” he says. “I try to do some kind of justice to the breathtaking beauty I see every day. Some of it is a bit dark while some it purely playful, offering a glimpse into where I have been and what I have seen.”

For more on this artist go to www.eyeofthemind.zenfolio.com. The exhibition continues until the end of April.



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Community Healthy Leg Day

9 am - 4 pm, Thursday, April 14th

Do you have tired and achy legs?
A Bauerfeind specialist will be here to help answer your questions and to fit braces and or compression socks.

Do you suffer from knee pain?
Find out how Bauerfeind products can help you maintain a healthy pain free lifestyle.

Our role is changing to help you better manage your health. With over 75 years of health care experience, we are committed to helping you live a better life.

PEOPLES PHARMACY

88 Broadway St., Nakusp 250-265-2228

You're at home here.

FOOD SPECIALS

Pineapple Large - Golden	EACH	\$2.99	Long English Cucumbers Western Canadian - Seedless	EACH	99¢
Peppers Tri-Colour - Greenhouse Grown	3 PACK	\$4.99	Bartlett Pears Large Size	PER LB	\$1.99
Mandarin Oranges Packaged	750g	\$3.99	Sweet Potatoes Jumbo Size	PER LB	99¢
Jerseyland Yogurt Fruit Varieties - Plain - Fat Free	750g	\$3.99	Co-op Centsibles Jam Apple Strawberry - Raspberry - Strawberry	500ml	\$4.59
Co-op Gold Tomato Paste Excellent Quality	156ml	59¢	Kelloggs Mini Wheats Brown Sugar - White Frosted	510g	\$5.99
Freybe Pepperoni Original - Honey Garlic - Damn Hot	500g	\$9.99	Co-op Gold Bleach Here Comes Spring Cleaning!	1.89 L	\$2.59

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Slokan Valley Co-op will be holding its AGM Sunday, April 3rd at 1:00 PM at the Passmore Hall. See in-store for the meeting agenda and check our website for more: www.slokanvalleycoop.ca

FUEL UP TO WIN!

We have redeemed over 62 instant winners, including free products up to March 17th. There's still many great prizes and chances to win! Go to fueluptowin.ca for more information and a full list of prizes!

Slokan Valley Co-op

3024 . Hwy 6 . Slokan Park
Ph: 250-226-7433

MARCH	Fri 25	Sat 26	Sun 27	Mon 28	Tue 29	Wed 30	Thu 31
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Prices effective March 25 - 31, 2016 - While supplies last
Sun 8 AM - 9 PM * Mon - Sat 6 AM - 9 PM