

Say WEN

June 2012

www.wenetwork.org

Dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing and editing.

Breakfast Networking

WEN's monthly meetings offer an ideal environment to refine your knowledge of the writing and editing business through our guest speakers, and also to network with peers from your own community who have similar interests. There is generally an opportunity to purchase autographed copies of guest speakers' books. Our breakfast buffet provides a variety of hot and cold dishes and a selection of fresh fruit and pastries for your enjoyment.

Breakfasts are held at the Canadiana Restaurant located at Six Points Plaza, 5230 Dundas Street (Dundas and Kipling) from 9 am to 11:30 am.

Advance registration is required. This is your last day to register. Please contact Anna Stitski by replying to this e-mail (breakfasts@wenetwork.org) or at ibanana@hotmail.com or by phone at 905-272-1478. If you have registered but find that you cannot attend, please let Anna know as soon as possible.

Cost is \$15 for WEN members and \$20 for non-members.

July 21, 2012: Members Readings

The July breakfast meeting is our last meeting before the summer break and it's always a special event. Talented WEN members will entertain us with readings from their own works, including poems, published fiction, and both creative and experiential non-fiction. The varied and exciting program is full; be sure to come out and hear what your fellow writers are creating!

Letter from the President

It's hard to believe that another WEN year is almost up. This month is our annual general meeting and elections. Then there's just the July meeting to wrap up the year. It's been quite an interesting and productive year and, fortunately a smoothly running one thanks to this year's strong team.

At the April business meeting, the board chose to not participate in Word On The Street (WOTS) this year and instead invest our budget and energy in a third Authors Showcase. We are targeting late fall and already have members interested in co-ordinating the project. Our previous showcases were very well received by our member and the public and it would be wonderful to build on these successes. An authors showcase

is a great opportunity to market, mingle and sell your books!

I do need to mention the June election and remind you that it takes people to make WEN happen. We still have vacancies on the election roster and I urge you to think seriously about getting involved. I did and it seems to have worked out OK.

Please come out the June meeting to vote and to help select your team for the upcoming year.

Richard Best
WEN President, 2011-2012

Organizational News

Results of election of directors for 2012 – 2013

President: Maria Pia Marchelletta
Vice-President: Jasmine Jackman
Secretary: Julie Tellier
Treasurer: Maurus Cappa
Breakfast Co-ordinator: Anna Stiski-Gemza
Newsletter Editor: Nathan Medcalf
Membership Co-ordinator: Susan Winlaw
Program Co-ordinator: Fran Edelstein
Communication Co-ordinator: Dave Cook
Members at Large: Marianne Funny and Kevin Hopper

Starting in September, newsletters will have themes, mainly related to aspects of publishing.

**Which themes should the newsletter embrace?
Give your feedback to Nathan at nathan_medcalf@hotmail.com.**

Make Your Writing Better

I have joined a creative writing group this year. As a non-fiction writer attempts to write fiction are harder than anticipated, so when I heard Ben was offering a session on narrative writing at Lorne Park Library, I attended. On a bright Saturday morning in May, Ben outlined the basics then gave us an opportunity to write the beginning of a story. Ben was clear, knowledgeable, kind, and patient. I left understanding what I need to do. My writing group will notice a difference.

Gayle Dzis

Member News

Judie Oron Speaks Across North America

In April, Judie Oron took her novel, 'Cry of the Giraffe' to Washington! Judie writes: 'The US capital was blooming up the kazoo and my talks there were a bit daunting, but, happily, well received. The Canadian and Israeli Embassies, as well as the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, featured my appearances there. Coverage of the talks before and after was terrific. On April 22, 2012, I spoke at Magen David Sephardic Congregation in Rockville, Md. On April 23rd, a high point, when I spoke to a crowd at the Library of Congress' Mary Pickford Theatre. On the 24th, I spoke to a packed auditorium at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Md, and on the 25th, I spoke to teachers and students during Israel's Memorial Day Commemoration Ceremonies at Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, Md.

For coverage, see: <http://annickpressblog.blogspot.ca/2012/04/author-judie-oron-speaks-at-previous.html> and an article in The Examiner.com, by Marsha Dubrow, after the Library of Congress talk: <http://www.examiner.com/article/author-told-library-of-congress-about-rescuing-ethiopian-jewish-girl-slave>.

Then, in May, I was invited back to Montreal, the city where I was born, to speak to fellow Quebecers about 'Cry of the Giraffe.' The trip began with a book talk at Beth Ora Sisterhood's annual luncheon in St. Laurent, Quebec, followed by another talk at Canadian Hadassah-WIZO's annual fundraiser in Cote St. Luc. The audiences were gratifyingly responsive; the food was superb – and renewing ties with old friends made the week all the more special!!!”

For background and details, see: <http://www.jewishtribune.ca/features/2012/05/04/author-shares-dramatic-story-of-ethiopian-jewish-rescue>.”

From the Universe to the Inner Mind

Zohra Zoberi's book of poetry, *True Colours*, is now available.

IOWI
In Our Words, Inc.

New Release from IOWI



TRUE COLOURS

From the Universe to the Inner Mind

Poems by *Zohra Zoberi*

Advance Reviews

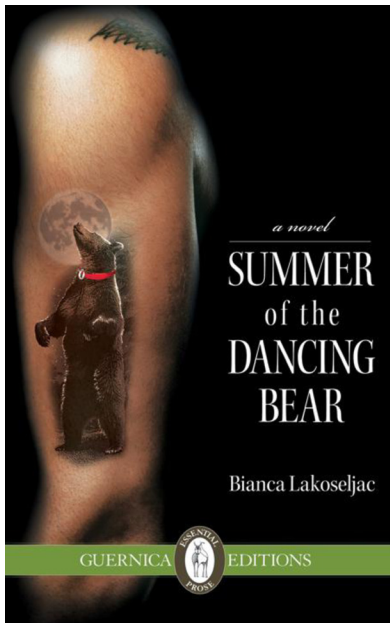
A look at the diversity of life experiences through the eyes of a creative and insightful writer. Zohra's words provoke awareness, enticing us to explore, question and look within for our lessons. We each look at life through our own unique lens. Thank you, Zohra, for sharing your glasses with us.

~ Linda Thomas, Executive Director, Mississauga Arts Council

Writers from Across the Globe Commune in Quebec

Flavia Cosma attended the Multilingual Poetry Festival at Val David in Quebec last month. She called the festival a huge success.

Important representatives of the Canadian Letters included Helene Dorion prix du Gouverneur General du Canada, Chevalier de l'Ordre national du Quebec and Officer de l'Ordre du Canada and Angela Leuck and Steve Luxton from Montreal, and John Asfour, Lebanon.



Book Launch: Summer of the Dancing Bear

Bianca Lakoseljic's novel, *Summer of the Dancing Bear*, published by Guernica Editions, was launched on June 12 at The Garrison, 1197 Dundas St. West in Toronto.

Summer of the Dancing Bear is a novel about the rite of passage of a 14-year-old girl befriended by a gypsy clan.

"Bianca Lakoseljic's novel, *Summer of the Dancing Bear*, is a mesmerizing melange of love story and mystery, as young protagonist Kata explores the unfamiliar world of the gypsy tribe that has befriended her and embarks on a quest to discover the fate of a neighbour's missing child. Memory and magic play their roles until the shocking denouement that reveals Kata's own family secrets and forever alters their perceptions of life as she once knew it. Engaging and original, the novel fuses history, myth, and tradition in a whimsical literary voice that reminds us that the complex and innocent humanity in us is too often haunted by human tragedy." Elizabeth Abbot--shortlisted for the Governor General Award 2010 for *A History of Marriage*.

**Say WEN will
next year be publishing
book reviews of books pub-
lished by WEN authors. If you
want your book profiled in an
issue of Say WEN, just submit a
book review and a copy of your
book to WEN, c/o Nathan Med-
calf. Submit your 200-word
manuscript now.**

Punctuate This!

Important little things can come in implausibly large packages. That's what I learned at a little "punctuation workshop" at big Trent University last week.

When I received an invite to attend this workshop, I was sure it must have come via a colleague who is familiar with my love of semicolons, my friendship with commas, my adoration of ellipsis, and my disdain for the period and M-dash.

I wondered what kind of professional could dedicate her life to the lowly comma. My curiosity was satiated on meeting Professor Francis Peck. She almost made me believe that those "squiggly marks" I wrestle with were more important than the text that surrounds them.

I mention this to you fellow WEN members who may also be punctuationally challenged as a cautionary tale, and to prompt you check out Francis Peck's website. I dub her the Nobel Laureate of punctuation art.

I always left the heavy punctuation responsibilities to my copy editor, Stacey; but now I can possibly ease her burden. (I'm not sure yet that I've mastered it all. I think that Stacey might reprimand me for the use of that semicolon after her name.)

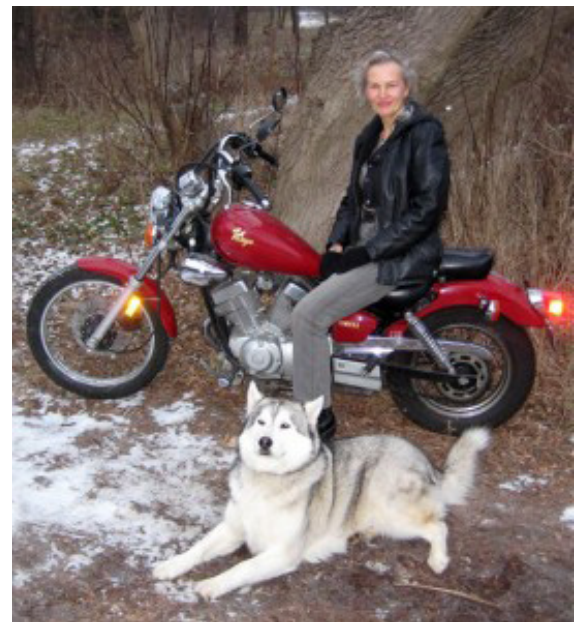
Reva Stern

News Item of a Celebrated Woman

Marianne Funny has been honoured with an article on A Celebration of Women, talking about her life and her book *Diary of a Self-Help Junkie*: <http://acelebrationofwomen.org/?p=85327>

Close to the bottom of the page is a That Channel show where she is interviewed and a bonus is that Ben Antao is also on the same show.

To the right is a picture of Marianne Funny.



No Short Achievement

Darlene Madott has been shortlisted for the Gloria Vanderbilt short fiction competition, one of five finalists in the "established writer" category. Her short-listed entry *Waiting (An Almost Love Story)* is included in *Stations of the Heart*, forthcoming Fall 2012, Exile Editions.

Click here to see a video of Darlene speaking about the Gloria Vanderbilt short fiction competition.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f9FVUn49ZY&feature=endscreen>



Other News

Mississauga Culture on the Map

A new online cultural resource tool called Mississauga Culture on the Map was recently launched by the City of Mississauga's Culture Division. This is an exciting tool that everyone can now use to find cultural information in Mississauga such as: arts and culture businesses; local artists; public art; heritage properties; festivals and events; cultural organizations; cultural spaces and facilities; and other related information. The site can be accessed at www.cultureonthemap.ca and will be updated on a regular basis.

We invite those who contribute to our city's cultural vitality to visit Mississauga Culture on the Map or contact Michael Tunney at 905-615-3200, ext. 4602 or via email michael.tunney@mississauga.ca to have relevant information or updates included.

Upcoming Events

Book Summit at Harbourfront Centre

A day-long professional conference for the publishing industry, Book Summit is back this year with a new theme, The Page and Persuasion: Discoverability in an Age of Abundance. Attendees will discuss and explore what factors affect what readers discover in this modern, materialistic age full of wall-to-wall advertising and aggressive persuasion.

Among the workshops and panel discussions, Book Summit also features an appearance by keynote speaker Terry O'Reilly, who's notable as the host of The Age of Persuasion on CBC, Sirius Satellite and WBEZ (Chicago). O'Reilly is also the author of The Age of Persuasion: How Marketing Ate Our Culture.

June 21, 8:30am

Phunky Poetic People

What it is phunky poetic people? This is the place to get the low down on all the hip-to-jive Plasticine Poetry happenings.

The Plasticine Poetry Series is located at Pauper's Pub (2nd floor), 539 Bloor St. W. (one block east of Bathurst subway). Readings start at 6:00 pm.

Check Out this incredible line-up for 2012!

June 24

Christian
Maureen Hynes
Mary Walters
Luciano Iacobelli

July 22

David Bateman
Jeanette Lynes
Lucille Barker
Dawn Promislow

Tightrope Authors and Friends Reading

Join Tightrope authors Danila Botha, *Got No Secrets*, Too Much on the Inside and Samantha Bernsein, *Here We Are Among The Living* read with Lisa De Nikolits and Kateri Lanthier.

June 24, 2012, at 5:30pm
460 College Street
Toronto, ON
M6G 1A4

The Art Bar Poetry Series Featuring Stephanie Bolster

Join Stephanie Bolster, author of *A Page from the Wonders of Life on Earth* (Brick Books) for a reading at The Art Bar Poetry series.

Tuesday, July 10, 2012 - 8:00pm
Paupers Pub
539 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON
M5S 1Y5

For more information, visit www.artbar.org.

Don't Forget Your Roots!

Recently while scanning the Facebook news feed for something interesting, I came upon an item I hoped would amuse me. Little did I know that it would have the opposite effect.

It was a picture of a smiling, garishly made-up clown with a crying boy on his lap. A commenter representing some literary journal captioned it: "Another 'indie' author trying to sell a book on Twitter". A few people clicked the 'Like' button. If there were a "Dislike" button, I would have been all over it.



I don't know what makes some traditionally-published authors look down upon independent authors. Weren't they struggling writers once as well?

As a proud self-pubber whose work has received praise from many readers, authors, and critics, I think it's unfair to forget that we were all in the starting position at one time. It's just that now more writers are empowered to showcase their work independently.

Being self-published doesn't mean they're less talented. They just haven't gotten lucky. Yet. For successful people to forget their roots is folly. And it's a mistake I intend to avoid.

Richard S. Todd is a Toronto-born, author, blogger, and social media guy. His works include novels Raincloud and The Orphans of the Creek (publishing in 2012) and the short story Clive.

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Mission Statement

The Writers & Editors Network is an organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing and editing. WEN aims to foster literacy and to assist, empower, and provide moral support to writers and editors from all disciplines. WEN will network, mentor, and educate members independently and in cooperation with other organizations.



Writers & Editors Network

www.wenetwork.org

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Board Appointments

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Say WEN is produced by The Writers & Editors Network

The Writers & Editors Network publishes Say WEN as a service to members and friends. WEN freely publishes news about members and events in which our members participate and welcomes other news and events that may benefit our members. WEN does not verify the accuracy of submissions.

Say WEN is distributed the first week of each month, excluding August, to more than 100 WEN members and it is posted online at wenetwork.org.

Submissions to Say WEN are directed to the Newsletter Editor. The cut off date for submissions is the 1st of the month.

Next submission deadline: July 1.

Newsletter editor: Nathan Medcalf

Contact: nathan_medcalf@hotmail.com

Advertising orders are submitted to the Newsletter Editor. Payments for ads are due within 30 days of publication, and can be submitted to the Treasurer. Payments may be made at a breakfast networking event, or can be sent by mail to:

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