



Say WEN

The Writers & Editors Network

www.wenetwork.org

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

WEN Breakfast Meetings

December 12: Member Readings Feature (note that this is the 2nd Saturday in December)

At the December meeting, up to 10 WEN members will read their prose, poetry or creative non-fiction. Each reader will have **five minutes** at the podium. Please note that:

- Each selection has been read in advance by co-ordinator JOHN AMBURY in order to develop a varied program;
- Readers will be scheduled on a first-come basis;

January 16, 2010: Robert Rotenberg, When good things happen to good authors

Get ready to be inspired as criminal lawyer Robert Rotenberg discusses his critically acclaimed first novel, *Old City Hall*. This legal thriller has been published in nine countries, was shortlisted for a UK Crime Writers' Association Cressy Dagger Award, and Mr. Rotenberg has signed an option deal with Shaftesbury Films for a TV series based on the book.

February 20, 2010: John Provenzano, Copyright payment issues

John Provenzano, Communications Directorate Access Copyright, discusses authors' rights to royalties when their works are being copied. Are you receiving all the money you're entitled to?

March 20, 2010: Andrew Clark, Fact in Fiction - The Importance of Research

Whether you're writing a contemporary novel, a work of historical fiction, or an article for a magazine, getting the details right is essential. In this session, award-winning journalist and author (*Stand and Deliver*, *A Keen Soldier*) Andrew Clark will discuss how research develops not only credibility, but also voice. Mr. Clark is Director of the Comedy Writing & Performance Program at Humber College.

Breakfast Registration

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.

Pre-registration for Breakfast Meetings is required. Please register well before the meeting date so we can guarantee enough seating, food and restaurant staff. Registration is \$15 for members and \$18 for non-members. Please sign in at the registration desk between **8:45 a.m. and 9:10 a.m.** at the Canadiana. The meeting ends at 11:30 a.m. If you find that you cannot attend a meeting after registering, please let us know.

To register, visit www.wenetwork.org/breakfast-networking.html or contact Breakfast Co-ordinator Mickey Turnbull-Coughlin by phone 905-824-5035 or email mickeytc@sympatico.ca.

Location

Meetings are held on the **third Saturday of the month** (except in December) at the **Canadiana Restaurant and Banquet Hall** (Six Points Plaza, 5230 Dundas Street West, Toronto, near the Kipling subway station) downstairs in the Banquet Hall. Our breakfast buffet provides a variety of hot and cold dishes and a selection of fresh fruit and pastries for your enjoyment.

President's Message

Let me begin by urging all of you to attend our December Christmas Meeting/Party on December 12. This will give you an opportunity not only to have a really delicious breakfast but also to wish your many WEN friends and colleagues a Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays or whatever. They and I would love to see you. As you know, the program for this meeting is "Members' Readings". Even if you are not reading yourself, this is a great opportunity to hear how and what other members are writing, and to compare – on an informal basis, of course – your writing to theirs. Part of WEN is learning from each other, so let's maximize this opportunity.

November's meeting was one of the best attended meetings in some time. Some 76 people came for breakfast, and this was great. What was perhaps not so great was that over 10 of these people were either last minute registrants (after 6:00 PM on Friday) or "walk-ins" who "just arrived". As we have noted before, this puts unreasonable pressure on both our Breakfast Co-ordinator and the Restaurant. So please register at least 3 days in advance. Remember, as I believe the founder of the Body Shop once said: If you think you are too small to make a difference, try going to bed with a mosquito.

In other business news (as the saying goes), a new draft constitution, by-laws and rules of order document is in the hands of the Board for review. When this review is completed early in the New Year, the document will be released to all members prior to a vote on its acceptance.

Work is proceeding with respect to improvements to the Web Site, and there should be more news on this in January. However, I hope we have not created a crisis of unfulfilled expectations here. Our primary task, at this time, is to remove all outdated material from the web site and to replace it with current material where appropriate. Our next task will be to create a procedure for keeping the site as current as possible. How much more can be done in the 2009/10 WEN Year will depend on cost and time to complete.

Our Authors Showcase is tentatively scheduled for April of 2010. More on this later.

Last, but by no means least, on behalf of myself and the Board of Directors, let me wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays and a successful, happy, and prosperous New Year. And Holidays or not, keep on writing.

Glenn S. Reid, D.Mgt.
WEN President, 2009-2010

New Speakers Program Shaping Up

Your program planners, Elizabeth Duncan and Madeleine Matte, are lining up an exciting roster of presenters for 2010, with some exciting surprises to come.

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May 15, 2010: Margaret Hart, Working with an Agent

Getting an unsolicited manuscript read by a publisher can be fraught with drawbacks. Most end up on the dreaded slush-pile where they can languish for months. In this session, Margaret Hart, principal agent, HSW Literary Agency, will explain the intricacies of the author/agent/publisher relationship. Please note that while she is pleased to answer questions and offer practical advice, she will NOT be accepting submissions.

Note: We would like to remind members that speakers are always invited from outside our membership. WEN members are not eligible for consideration as guest speakers.

Mark your calendars now!

Member News

"Mushaera" is a traditional gathering for an Urdu Poetry Recital. One such gala event took place in November at the Days Inn (Weston Ontario). World-renowned Urdu poets from Pakistan, India, USA, and various parts of Canada presented their work to some 450 literary lovers in Toronto. WEN member ZOHRA ZOBERI was amongst the local poets, and was invited to present her poem "The Eternal Child" and its translation in Urdu "Sadaa Bahaar". In 2008 Zohra received a special recognition award for 25 years of service to literature from the Writers Forum, where she served on the board of directors for two years. The monthly readings are held at York Library.

DiDi LeMay reading at the YMCA a few times and I've got a book-signing 'gig' at McNally Robinson bookstore on December 20th from 11:30 to 12:30. (Please see link www.mcnallyrobinson.com/event-9270/Kids-Event:-DiDi-LeMay.)

"Started to work with author assistant YVONNE WU – very exciting. And my manuscript for *Freddy's French Fries Fiasco* was accepted by a publisher. (Don't want to say which one until contract is signed!) I'm also in the "Children of Christmas Past" fundraiser at Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Road West, Burlington, 6:00 PM on Friday December 4th." - DiDi LeMay

BIANCA LAKOSELIJAC's collection of poetry, *Memoirs of a Praying Mantis*, will be launched on December 20, at 3:00 pm at The Yellow Griffin Pub, 2202 Bloor Street West (near Runnymede subway stop), and everyone is Welcome!

"As you wander through High Park, observing the sculptures and recalling the legends from the past, you might encounter a mighty monarch, a blue butterfly, or even heed a ghostly whisper in a tree crown. Pause and take in the voices in the wind. Let your senses guide you through the labyrinths of the *Memoirs of a Praying Mantis*."

WEN member JOHN MAAR is the winner of the Canadian Aid Literary Award for 2009 for his book *The Drums Cried*. As well, an excerpt from his book also appears in the newly released Volume 1 of *Canadian Voices*.

"Two of my poems were published November 2009 in the anthology titled *Canadian Voices, Vol. 1, Emerging Canadian Writers*, published by Bookland Press. This achievement – and the reading at McNally Robinson bookstore in Don Mills – has given me the best motivation to finish and submit several other writing projects on which I have been working. I wish to thank, with all my heart, the members of the Writers and Editors Network who spearheaded this venture as, indeed, in our organization we ultimately write to be published." - JOAN CHISHOLM

JATIN NAIK attended and covered a high-profile gala event hosted recently on the eve of the Remembrance Day on 10th Nov at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre which was attended by a large number of 'A-list' guests and dignitaries including PM Stephen Harper, Former PM Paul Martin, Ontario Premiere Dalton McGuinty, Justin Trudeau, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff, True Patriot Love Foundation CEO Shaun Francis, NDP leader Jack Layton, Green Party leader Elizabeth May, and many others.



Jatin Naik with Justin Trudeau, NDP Leader Jack Layton, True Patriot Love Foundation CEO Shaun Francis and Green Party leader Elizabeth May at Metro Convention Centre on the eve of Remembrance Day

Mickey Turnbull Honoured by CAA

Canadian Authors Association Annual Conference, 2009. CAA Toronto Branch members and friends with Mickey Turnbull-Coughlin and husband Lawrence. Mickey is the winner of the prestigious Allan Sangster Award (2007) for her lifelong and meritorious service with CAA. The photo is featured in the CAA Toronto Branch Authors Quarterly, Sep. 2009.

Bianca Lakoseljic, President, Canadian Authors Association, Toronto Branch



The Stylish Host has Savvy!

Even with today's relaxed attitude, gracious manners are the basis of human interaction. They prescribe how we treat each other in all walks of life from personal to business. With good manners, you are confident when introducing people correctly, making small talk, and helping others feel confident and at ease.

If you think high IQs and lofty accomplishments automatically guarantee good manners, think again. Seldom taught in schools, and often absent from the hectic home-life, manners appear to be a life skill which we are supposed to obtain through the media or by imitating others. Yet, many individuals today appear self-assured and believe they are headed for success ... but are terrified when faced with linen adorned tables displaying fish forks and finger bowls.

Successful events take planning and resources. As the host, you play a specific role with a number of responsibilities. The hospitable host takes care of every detail from beginning to end. Here are a few pointers for successful hosting:

1. Send invitations early so guests can plan to attend. In some cases two months would be wise while in other cases three weeks is sufficient.
2. Prepare the guest list with care, and include an interesting mix of people including new faces.
3. Take care that the venue is big enough to comfortably hold the event. This means not too small or large, with proper ventilation to ensure the comfort of all guests.
4. Ensure several open bars are situated in strategic locations for easy traffic flow. Standing in a long line for service prevents guests from enjoying the event.
5. A word about timing: Keep the bar open thirty minutes after the event is scheduled to end. If the party is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., shut the bar at 7:30.
6. Consider including music in your plans. Properly chosen, it can quickly establish the right mood and add to the event's fun. Keep the volume low enough to promote conversation. It is counter-productive to have guests shouting to be heard.
7. Pay very special attention to the food. If you are unsure about who should cater, ask other successful hosts for ideas. Guests enjoy fare that is varied, interesting, colorful and easy to eat.
8. Remember Murphy's Law: Anything that can go wrong will. Do not rush in at the last minute before your event. Arrive early, at least one hour beforehand, to ensure that every last detail is as you want it. Arriving early also means you will be on hand for early birds.

Shannon Smith is a leading image strategist and founder of Premiere Image International.

Tips on Writing Short Story

Why do some stories truly ring in the mind while others leave you with the feeling of "what was the point"? To make your short stories more effective, keep the following points in mind while writing.

1. Have a clear theme. What is the story about? That doesn't mean what is the plot line, the sequence of events or the character's actions; it means what is the underlying message or statement behind the words. Get this right and your story will have more resonance in the minds of your readers.
2. An effective short story covers a very short time span. It may be one single event that proves pivotal in the life of the character, and that event will illustrate the theme.
3. Don't have too many characters. Each new character will bring a new dimension to the story, and for an effective short story, too many diverse dimensions (or directions) will dilute the theme. Have only enough characters to effectively illustrate the theme.
4. Make every word count. There is no room for unnecessary expansion in a short story. If each word is not working towards putting across the theme, delete it.
5. Focus. The best stories are the ones that follow a narrow subject line. What is the point of your story? Its point is its theme. It's tempting to digress, but in a 'short' you have to follow the straight and narrow, otherwise you end up with either a novel beginning or a hodgepodge of ideas that add up to nothing.
6. Read great short stories, and assess them for theme and focus.

Marilyn Frazer

Crime Writers Canada Now on facebook

CWC is a national organization to promote Canadian Crime writers and their books. Partners in crime include published and unpublished authors, publishing professionals, booksellers, librarians, and fans of the genre.

The CWC facebook page is a place for CWC members, other writers and fans of crime fiction to interact. Currently, CWC-FB is asking, "What sets Canadian crime writers apart from our American and British counterparts — who are themselves very different from each other? What is our national crime writing identity?"



It Is Here!

YVONNE BLACKWOOD's third book *Into Africa: the Return* was released November 18 2009.

Blackwood's remarkable story articulated in *Into Africa: a Personal Journey* about her first journey to West Africa, land of her ancestors. She travelled alone, and her exposure to Nigeria's tight military control caused her to experience fear as never before. In Ghana, destiny led her to meet Adamson who became her guide, doctor and more.

Into Africa: the Return describes Blackwood's second journey to West Africa. This time she is accompanied by two American cousins – Peabody, 70, and her daughter, Marie, 42. After 40 years, cousin Peabody reunites with Theresa, her Ashanti friend. Theresa's brother dies the day before the three cousins arrive in Ghana and plans go awry. Peabody realizes that her previous refusal to visit Africa was unwarranted.

In Ghana, Blackwood meets her protégée, Frieda, and the dashing Pastor Ray for the first time. A plan to visit Mali is shelved and Togo substituted. But is it safe to travel there without a native? Pastor Ray volunteers to accompany them – a blessing in disguise.

The cousins explore a mysterious world of alien cultures and experience wonderment, joy and heart-wrenching sadness. *Into Africa: the Return* resonates with intrigue and discovery that keeps you riveted to the last word.

www.yvonneblackwood.vpweb.ca
www.myspace.com/YvBlackwood

Submissions Open For Canadian Voices Volume Two

After the success of *Canadian Voices, Volume One*, we are now accepting submissions for *Volume Two*!

The project goal is to bring to the Canadian readers accessible literature from diverse voices of emerging Canadian writers. Submissions may include short stories from 1000 to 2000 words; poems of no more than 2 pages; travelogues from 1000 to 2000 words; excerpts from novels from 1000 to 2000 words; and excerpts from book-length memoirs from 1000 to 2000 words.

The selected entries will be published in Spring 2010 by BookLand Press (<http://www.facebook.com/1/8b049;www.booklandpress.com>).

The project will be coordinated by Dr. Jasmine D'Costa, author of *Curry is Thicker Than Water* and coordinator of *Canadian Voices, Volume One*.

Last date of acceptance is 1st February, 2010. The book will be released as a Spring 2010 Publication. We would be happy to get entries well before the deadline to enable us to work with the selections and keep our schedules.

For further information, please contact Trade Architects (Canada) Inc. at info@tradearchitects.com

(Thif project is contingent on receiving an acceptable minimum number of suitable entries for Volume Two of *Canadian Voices* anthology.)

Cash in on Social Networking

facebook has become a way to keep in touch with people you meet and may not see on a regular basis. The ten top reasons to use facebook are the following:

1. You can invite your friends to your business events you are holding or attending.
2. Once your friends are invited, you can see who is attending your event.
3. You can stay in touch even after a networking event by using the Chat option.
4. facebook is like a brochure, flyer or billboard. You can advertise your products or services and give your contact information.
5. Your followers can join your mailing list or purchase your products without visiting your website.
6. You can advertise and increase traffic to your blog, articles or website.
7. Bring increased traffic to your videos or use the video application to advertise your products/services on facebook.
8. Using applications like polls promotes interactive communication among followers and other facebook users.
9. Advertise your promotions.
10. Create or join groups that are in your target market.

Do you need help setting up your social media profile? Are you thinking of calling facebook 911? Would you like to learn more about how to use facebook?

Learn more about my services at <http://theyppublishing.com/Marketingservices.htm>

Yvonne Wu, Author Assistant/Virtual Office Assistant

Arthur Ellis Awards Deadline Approaches

Submissions for the 2010 Arthur Ellis Awards for published authors must be postmarked or courier-dated no later than December 18, 2009. Each submission must include 4 copies of the work, a cover letter with author and publisher contact information, and the entry fee (\$35 for books, \$15 for short stories). For complete rules, visit www.crimewriterscanada.com.

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 co-operation with other organizations.

Officers

President	Glenn S. Reid, D. Mgt
Past President	Dr. Jasmine D'Costa
Vice-President	Maria Marchelletta
Treasurer	Lawrence Coughlin
Secretary	Barbro Stalbecker-Pountney

Directors

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Breakfast Co-ordinator	Mickey Turnbull-Coughlin
Membership Co-ordinator	Irene Hodgson
Communications Co-ordinator	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Richard Best
Director at large	Brian Hull

Board Appointments & Non-elected Positions (to be approved by the Board)

Member Reading Co-ordinator	John Ambury
Web Master	Nathan Medcalf
Public Relations	<i>Open</i>
Word on the Street	Mickey Turnbull-Coughlin, Didi Lemay

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Founders

Patricia Armstrong • Lawrence Coughlin • Marilyn Fraser
Marjorie Ludlow Green • Mickey Turnbull-Coughlin



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