



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

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 Creasy 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.

April 17, 2010: TBA

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

Getting an unsolicited manuscript read by a publisher can be fraught with drawbacks. In this session, Margaret Hart, principal agent, HSW Literary Agency, will explain the intricacies of the author/agent/publisher relationship. Please note that Margaret will NOT be accepting submissions at the meeting.

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 for the breakfast meeting, please 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

First, let me welcome you all back as we begin the second half of our 2009/10 season. It looks like an exciting time with an excellent line-up of speakers, the Authors' Showcase, and a new constitution to look forward to. Then, of course, there is the networking and the building and reinforcing of friendships that takes place at every meeting. Isn't WEN a great organization to belong to?

In particular, we welcome Robert Rotenberg as the speaker for our January meeting. He will speak to us on the topic "When Good Things Happen To Good Writers".

Although it was done at the December meeting, let me again extend the thanks of all of you to the Canadiana Restaurant staff for a most delicious and enjoyable breakfast at that meeting.

Your Board has extensively reviewed a draft of the new constitution and I hope to have a further draft in the hands of all the members at or before the February meeting. Stay tuned.

Your Board will review, at its January meeting, a detailed proposal for the WEN Authors' Showcase event, currently scheduled for April of this year. More information will be available in February.

In mid-December, Irene Hodgson completed and posted our membership directory for 2009/10 on our web site. A user id and password are required to access this. I wish to thank Irene for all her hard work in this area.

On a sad note, we have learned that the McNally Robinson Bookstore at the Don Mills Shopping Centre has closed its doors. A number of our members have had book signings there, and at least one of our members is owed some money for book sales. It is a most unfortunate situation.

On a more positive note, I would like to suggest that we all begin 2010 by reflecting on a saying that we use in NLP (and I suspect is used elsewhere as well). "If you always do what you've always done, then you'll always get what you've always got. If that's not working, change your game plan."

All the best in 2010 to you all.

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

OLA Super Conference and Expo

Canada's largest annual library event, *OLA Superconference and Expo 2010*, will take place at Metro Toronto Convention Centre, February 24 - 27, 2010. BookLand Press will be promoting selected books to the library buyers during the trade show. WEN members who would like to have their books considered for this event, please contact Tom Hartman at BookLand Press for options and costs at books@booklandpress.com. Please send the following information about your book with your request: author's name, book title, genre, year of publication, and price.

Submitted by Robert Morgan

2009 Danuta Gleed Literary Award

The Writers' Union of Canada and John Gleed are pleased to announce that submissions are being accepted until January 31, 2010, for the 2009 Danuta Gleed Literary Award for best first Canadian collection of short fiction in the English language.

One \$10,000 prize is for the best first collection of short fiction; with second and third prizes in the amount of \$500 each. Winners will be announced on June 5th during the Annual General Meeting of The Writers' Union of Canada.

Ivan E. Coyote, Mary Soderstrom and David Bezmozgis will serve as the jury.

Eligible titles include: first collections of short fiction written by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and published in Canada in the English language in the 2009 calendar year.

The submission deadline is January 31, 2010.

Please send five of each eligible title, along with a cover page outlining author, title and publisher to: The Writers' Union of Canada, 90 Richmond St. E., Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1P1.

For additional information: Deborah Windsor, Executive Director, The Writers' Union of Canada, (416) 703-8982 ext. 221, dwindsor@writersunion.ca. (From PWAC newsletter.)

Submitted by Marilyn Fraser

Book Review by Irene Hodgson

Surviving and Thriving Solo, Options When You Live Alone, by Frances Frommer, illustrated by Frances Frommer, published by AuthorHouse, 173 pages, ISBN numbers 978-1-4490-2595-3 (sc) and 978-4490-2594-6 (e), Genre: Adult memoir/self-help

This breezy memoir chronicles how the author found herself alone after the end of a significant relationship. She is a great example of someone who enjoys being single and who wants to share her experiences with other singletons. This book is not to sing the praises of living on your own. Rather, its purpose is to give advice to women (and men) living alone on how to decide the life they want and then achieve it. The author suggests that there are positives and negatives about relationships, just as there are positives and negatives about the single life. The trick is deciding which set of positives and negatives you want to deal with at any given point in time.

The book consists of 7 parts and discusses many aspects of solo living. In the On Being Home Alone segment, the 'joys of cooking for one' is introduced on page 9 followed by the author's checklist of options in the 'So, Can You, Should You, Might You or Will You?!?!' portion. "Don't feel guilty about soaking your dishes and washing them on the weekend," says the author, which is good and solid advice, it seems to me, whether you're single or not. Later chapters deal with other life experiences such as tackling the chores, relating to other people, finding comfort from machines, and searching for Mr. or Ms. Right. The last chapter is devoted to Reading Treasures, which is an annotated list of books that have informed, inspired and entertained the author.

The book is beautifully illustrated by the author. Her personality shines through in her clever cartoons injected with great humour (check out the portrait of the foul-mouthed man every woman should avoid on page 121). With the massive cultural shift being witnessed in Canada, people who live alone are tipping the scales in whopping numbers. Odds are, at some point, most women (and some men) will live alone. Whether separated, divorced, never married or widowed, this book explains how to not only live by yourself, but to enjoy it. Buy the book. It is listed on amazon.ca. It's a great read whether you're single and living alone or not.

From the "SCRIBE" quarterly newsletter.

Barbara Florio Graham writes some excellent columns for this newsletter. I've taken the liberty of excerpting this short bit for the WEN readers. I am a member of SCRIBE and the items are for members use for newsletters. You just need to be sure to give credit where it is due.

SCRIBE stands for Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors.

Submitted by Marilyn Fraser

Re-Using Envelopes And Folders

Many manila envelopes can easily be used again. Large labels, either purchased or created on your computer, can cover both your address and the return address. Some of my folders have layers of labels from being used again and again. I also always keep any folders given to me as press kits, just adding my own label to the top corner. I once 'rescued' an entire stack of attractive press kits which were being discarded, added stick-on tabs on the top, and use them standing vertically (in cereal-box racks!) on top of one bookcase. When a folder becomes too dog-eared and torn to use again, I cut off the ragged bits and use the remaining cardboard to create dividers for the rack beside my phone.

And the coaster under my coffee mug? It's a CD of obsolete software. I've used many of these in other parts of my house as well ... under plants and vases.

Also, Barbara Florio Graham's website is full of practical advice, at www.SimonTeakettle.com. Barbara has joined forces with publicist Randy Ray to create instructions for authors planning book signings. The entire document is available at www.SimonTeakettle.com/book.signings.htm.

Submitted by Marilyn Fraser



Member News and Events

WEN member BEN ANTAO says he's completed a travelogue titled Tour de France, about his summer visit to France.



The 19,000-word travelogue includes essays on Cancan at the Moulin Rouge, the Gardens of Versailles, Cruising by the Eiffel Tower, Shakespeare and Company (famous Parisian bookstore), Art in the Louvre and D'Orsay Museum (Impressionists), Cathedral of Notre Dame, wine tasting in Bordeaux, Lourdes shrine in the Pyrenees, Carcassonne, Nimes, Avignon, Uzes, Cannes, Monte Carlo, Nice and Eze.

Three of the essays in the travelogue (Moulin Rouge, Versailles and Lourdes) have been published in the Goan Observer weekly in Goa, India. Those interested in reading Ben's work may email him at ben.anta@rogers.com.

COLIN BREZICKI has just reviewed the new Amazon Kindle e-Reader with a senior class of English students and wrote an article on the device. Recently the Kindle has been the subject of a host of articles in the Globe and other papers/websites etc, most notably Rick Salutin and Ian Brown in the Globe. If you would like to include this article in your next publication, please contact Colin directly. He would be happy to discuss/present ideas etc. to a group.

FRANCES FROMMER had a successful book signing for "Surviving & Thriving Solo" at Lorne Park Library in Mississauga on January 9th. A reporter from the "Mississauga News" did an article on Frances and the book for the issue on January 8th. Staff from SNAP, a local newspaper, and from Rogers TV also covered the event. Such good community support!



The 4 W's of a Media Kit

Do you have a newsworthy story? Before you go out looking for media exposure make sure that you have a media kit available. Remember the media won't wait until you've had a chance to put this together, so if it isn't completed beforehand, they will go to the next story.

What is a media kit?

A media kit is a sales tool. A media kit, sometimes called a press kit, is simply information put together that talks about a business or product. A pre-packaged set of promotional materials of a person, company, or organization distributed to members of the media for promotional use. It contains all the information in one place that a media representative will need when preparing an interview or writing a story.

Where should I make my media kit available?

An online media kit allows the business owner international, 24 hour exposure. An Author should create an online media kit for his or her book, whether this is a part of an existing web site with a new domain name, or a special web site for the book.

Why do I need an online media kit?

The reasons are limitless. A media kit is your silent sales person. Your media kit makes the media representative's job easier. This media person has access to important and necessary information easily, all found in one place, without them having to do any further research. You need a media kit to insure that only serious prospects contact you. To eliminate expensive printing and distribution tasks often associated with traditional media kits.

You can direct your clients or prospective advertisers to review your online media kit, which is always up-to-date and you can include all support materials that are contained in your printed kit. Your media kit supplies media personalities with any and all information they will need to write a story or conduct an interview about you and/or your book. The media kit ensures that you and/or your book is presented in the most professional manner possible. The goal of a media kit is to grab the reader's attention, make a lasting impression and create enough interest that they will contact you for more information.

Who views your media kit?

Journalists, advertisers, media representatives and other businesses. Media kits are also used during product launches, news conferences and at large events. Businesses, Authors, Musicians and other Creative Individuals use media kits.

Do you need an online media kit? Contact www.theyppublishing.com for further details.

Submitted by Yvonne Wu

New Decade Brings Opportunity

Happy 2010! We wish you a peaceful, fulfilling, and creative new year. And we hope 2010 finds more reasons for us to connect with you through events at the International Writers' and Artists' Residency, Val David, Quebec, Canada.

If this is the month of resolutions, there is one you might want to check off right away: The next, and first, application deadline of 2010 is February 15th for bursary residencies during the months of April and May 2010. Go to our application form at <http://www.flaviacosma.com> to get started today. There is no cost to apply.

To learn about IWAR, Val David before applying -- or just to become more familiar with the Residence -- you may want to read our information kit at www.flaviacosma.com.

Staying in touch with you is important to us, and we'd like to remind you of a new way you can keep abreast of Residence Val David happenings on Facebook (Flavia Cosma).

Wishing you all the best as this new year, and new decade, officially begins!

Flavia Cosma, Director

How to Impress an Editor

Some of the best advice for writers is how to get -- and keep -- an editor's attention. Whether it's a magazine, a book publisher, a blog, or a casual newsletter, the editor is the gate-keeper, the one who decides whether you pass or fail, whether your writing belongs with that publication.

I have been an editor for quite some time, and I can assure you that the more you can do to make the editor's job easier, the better off you are. As WEN's newsletter editor, I'd to share with you some of the things I look for and some of the things I dread. I think you'll find that these guidelines apply to most editors.

Match the work with the job description: You wouldn't submit a feature article to a magazine that only prints short stories. Nor would you submit a collection of poems to regional newspaper. Look at the type of publication to see what it publishes and, especially, the length of a typical piece. Say WEN mostly features one paragraph success stories and articles up to about a half page, so a 3-page in-depth article likely won't get into our 4-page newsletter.

Tell the complete story. Don't leave the editor hanging for what the story is about, its purpose, the people involved, and especially who submitted it. It's nice to think that "Jean" or misterword@hotmail.com are close buddies, but a full name is easier to work with when you're scrambling to pull together an issue in a limited amount of time.

Make it your very best work. Editors will often decide whether to pick up a story based on how much clean-up has to be done. There's no net savings if copy editing takes more work than assigning the story to a staff writer.

Make it user, editor and software friendly. Anything you can do to make the piece trouble free is appreciated, but there are a few mechanical boo-boos that will have the editor tearing out what's left of his hair or, worse, land your article squarely in the circular file.

1. Never put more than one space between sentences. This archaic habit is completely at odds with modern text-processing software and should be abandoned ASAP. At the very least, the editor has to do a search and replace to get rid of the unwanted spaces.

2. Don't double space between paragraphs. Like extra spaces, empty lines are a nuisance and must be removed before the text can be worked with.

3. Never indent paragraphs with tabs or spaces. Modern software has more than enough tools to deal with any spacing issue, so either let the software do it or omit it altogether. (This applies to paragraphs spacing as well.)

4. Never submit text that has line breaks contained within paragraphs. You know what that's like: the lines break somewhere odd rather than at the end of the paragraph. This is particularly aggravating as every single line must be fixed.

5. Use the tools built into your word processor to add bullets, numbers, indentations, etc. Most software will seamlessly communicate these items to other software, so if you use the auto-bullet feature in Word, it will import into a desktop publishing program with no fuss whatsoever.

Richard Best

Holiday in Hell - A story that had to be told

This is the first eBook I've ever read and I greatly enjoyed the experience. Trisha does a fine job of weaving her past traumas into the present. She holds the reader's attention by mastering the difficult task of timely revealing snippets of the past as the present and future unfold.

Holiday in Hell by Trisha Smith is available at: Amazon.ca, Indigo Books (Yorkdale, Bayview Village, Richmond Hill), McNally Robinson Book Sellers, Audreys Book Store, Women's Book Store, York University Book Stores and online at www.crimewriterscanada.com/cwc/pages/tsmith.html and www.openbooktoronto.com/news/author_and_book.

Trisha Smith

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

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Past President	Dr. Jasmine D'Costa
Vice-President	Maria Marchelletta
Treasurer	Lawrence Coughlin
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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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