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

WEN Breakfast Meetings

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

Program Co-ordinator Elizabeth Duncan is hard at work on finalizing our April guest.

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

As we reach the middle of March, we can be sure that winter is almost behind us and spring is nigh at hand. Yesterday I saw my first robin of this year. But on to the business at hand.

Plans for the WEN Authors Showcase are now in high gear. Please plan to attend this event on April 18 and bring some of your friends. If you wish to sell your books at this event, please see Brian Hull at the March meeting if you have not already done so. However, please note that the sale of books is reserved for WEN members only.

It was the Board's intention to have a copy of the proposed new Constitution in your hands before you received this newsletter. Unfortunately, events have overtaken us, and it now seems inadvisable to proceed with the document that we have prepared to this point. Whether we are to have a constitution, and, if so, what form it will take, must await the conclusion of the Authors Showcase. That probably means we are looking at October or November before there is much more to say. Let me hasten to add that this development has nothing to do with some very spirited discussions that we had at the February meeting. New administrative realities

are upon us and the Board will have to see how they "play out".

On another important topic, the Annual General Meeting in June is fast approaching. With it will come the elections for next year's Board of Directors. The positions to which people will be elected are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Breakfast Co-ordinator, Membership Co-ordinator, Program Co-ordinator, Newsletter Editor, and Director at Large. These positions are open to anyone who has been a member of WEN for two years. Please give serious consideration as to whether you will stand for office and if so which one. The Nominating Committee, which will be established by the Board at its March meeting, will have more information for you in due course.

Finally, at the February meeting, those present decisively voted to continue our meeting format of: breakfast, table captains, break, and speaker. That is what it will be.

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

Upcoming Writing Workshops

Writing Your Life and other true stories with book editor and creative writing instructor Brian Henry and author Ross Pennie. Sat, April 10, Toronto.

Intensive Creative Writing: an 8-week course for people with writing projects that need work. Wednesday evenings, April 21 - June 16, Mississauga.

Exploring Creative Writing: a 9-week course for beginners offered in two locations:

Tuesday afternoons, Apr 27 - June 22, in Oakville.

Also Wednesday afternoons, Apr 28 - June 23 in Burlington.

For further details, please visit quick-brown-fox-canada.blogspot.com.

- Which markets today hold the most promise for freelancers?
- Is the Internet the new land of opportunity?
- How do writers break into online writing?
- Which markets are most lucrative?
- Is corporate writing a recipe for wealth? What industries provide the best compensation?
- Are books, magazines and newspapers really dead?

Our panel of experts will answer these questions and more.

Tuesday, March 23

U of T Health Sciences Building, Room 106
155 College St. Toronto

Registration 7:00 pm; Seminar/Q&A 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
FREE for PWAC members/students; \$15 for Non-members; \$10 for Associate writer group members

Post-seminar "Cheers with Peers" Networking at Molly Bloom's Irish Pub, 191 College St.

For more info contact s.aschaiek@pwactoronto.org

*Marilyn Fraser
4silver@pathcom.com*

PWAC Presents

PWAC Toronto Chapter, in partnership with Ryerson University's G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education, presents *The Shifting Freelance Market: New Markets, New Media, New Opportunities*, with panel guests Rhonda Abrams, Pete Savage, D.B. Scott, and Stuart Woods.

Member News

Welcome To Our Newest WEN Members

Sandra Homer	Lai Ping Lee
Anne-Louise Madigan	Judie Oron
Anne Phillips	Aretha Semple

Irene Hodgson
Membership Director

The Accolades Keep On Coming

ELIZABETH DUNCAN's first novel, *The Cold Light of Mourning*, has just been nominated for an Agatha Award for best first traditional mystery. The winner will be announced Saturday, May 1 2010 in Washington, DC.

The Cold Light of Mourning has won both the William F. Deek-Malice Domestic Grant (2006) for unpublished writers and the St. Martin's Press/Malice (2008) award for best first novel.

Elizabeth is the first author to win both awards, and the first Canadian to win either. Her second novel, *A Brush with Death*, will be published in July 2010.

Escape from Ethiopia

JUDIE ORON has just finished her book, *Cry of the Giraffe*, which will be launched by Annick Press this fall. The book is based on the true story of her adopted daughter Wuditu, an Ethiopian Jew who was born into the Beta Israel community. Wuditu was separated from her parents in a violent incident in Sudan and later held captive for over two years in war-torn Ethiopia. She was released from captivity by the author.

CBC Literary Award Winner

I have good news: my book was short-listed for the finalists of 2009 CBC Literary Award. The winner will be announced on 18 March, 2010. I hope I might be chosen, but the last interview is calling for me yet! (Wait and be patient could be the last virtue for the last Nothingness!) The finalists are 27 contestant poems — mostly long epics — out of more than 1500 entries. The website is <http://www.radio-canada.ca/prixlitteraires/english/shortlists2009.shtml>.

My entry is about the life of an immigrant, figurized in a Greek Mythological entity. The title is *Emanations of Immigration*, by TAE HO HAN.

Stevens Taeho Han

Lunch and More with Lai Ping Lee

Please come to join in a celebration of a self-awareness adventure with a new author on her inward journey.

Sunday March 21st 2010, 2 pm
Lahore Tikka House
1365 Gerrard St East. Toronto
Tel: 416-406-1668

Lucky Draw Prizes include:

1. Lunch with author Lai Ping Lee
2. An autographed copy of "Travelling Inward"
3. Free wardrobe consultation with an image consultant

A portion of the proceeds of this book will be donated to an Indian school for orphans. For the "Do You Dare" contest, visit www.DoYouDare.ca.

Michael Robert Dyet a Double Winner

MICHAEL ROBERT DYET's *Until the Deep Water Stills: An Internet-enhanced Novel* has been named the Canada East Regional Winner in the Reader Views Annual Literary Awards Contest. It also captured the Writers in the Sky Award for the Best Creative Writing of the Year.

The Reader Views Awards were established to honor writers who self-published or had their books published by a subsidy publisher, small press, university press, or independent book publisher geared for the North American reading audience.

Until the Deep Water Stills is an innovative fusion of a traditional print novel with an optional online companion. The online companion features text, photos and professional quality audio recordings. Each chapter in the print novel has a corresponding entry in the online companion.

Visit www.mdyetmetaphor.com for more information on the author or www.mdyetmetaphor.com/blog to view the novel's online companion.

Book Signing

I will be doing a book signing for *Surviving & Thriving Solo: Options When You Live Alone* at the Chapters store at Square One (189 Rathburn road West) on Saturday April 10th from 2-4 pm.

I will also be selling my book at the Central Library in Mississauga in the Also Atrium on Saturday April 24th as part of the Spring Literary Festival. For more info on this event, please contact karen.black@mississauga.ca.

Frances Frommer

Much Ado about Maria

MARIA PIA MARCHELLETTA received an award from Laura Albanese, MPP for York-South-Weston, for her exceptional contribution on International Women's Day on March 6th, 2010.

Maria was the guest speaker for the International Women's Day celebration sponsored by Comites.

Writing Workshops

Editwrite Communication Services (HERB WARE) is offering three workshops for writers in April and May.

Discover the Joy of Writing Fiction (Saturday April 10) is an intensive day that focuses on the craft of short story writing. It walks you through a number of creative exercises that help you discover characters and plots and unlock ideas, then takes you through the process that turns those ideas into viable storylines and allows you to begin writing the actual tale.

How to Engage and Charm your Audience (Saturday April 24) helps you to improve your reading presentation. Hands-on exercises will identify your weaknesses and confirm your strengths. You will learn proven techniques that will enhance your natural style and you will be shown tactics that actors, broadcasters and lecturers use to connect with their audiences. While this workshop is designed for writers, the methods will help anyone wanting to improve their reading and presentation style.

How to Find and Price Corporate Writing Markets (Saturday May 1) is for freelance writers who are looking for ways to increase the success of their business. It will help you define the services you can offer, and show you an effective marketing plan that will help you land assignments that generate income. Using in-class and case-study examples, you will see how to project your own annual income, determine your billable hours, define the scope of your projects, and calculate accurate quotes.

Get full details for all of these workshops, including cost, time, locations and a registration form, by visiting our website www.writeware.ca, then click the "Brochure" tab and download the brochure you want. Or contact Herb Ware at workshops@writeware.ca, or call 416-848-1510.

"Travelling Inward" by Lai Ping Lee

"This is a collection of interrelated, real-life anecdotes of a western Chinese woman who believed in herself, took a leap of faith, and travelled to exotic India for 100 days. Through her ordinary encounters with the extraordinary Indian people, she discovered her life's purpose in a surprising way.

"Her journal stories illustrate the Indian's compassion, helpfulness, unconditional love and the message of being a blessing to others. She realized many things that she was not aware of, despite her preconceived notions to the contrary. During the meaningful and challenging revelations, she is inspired to open her heart to greater self-awareness and self-love. Some of the lessons she learned in this inward adventure were following her inner voice, embracing difficult situations, accepting others and oneself, recognizing the human being instead of emphasizing the human doing, creating freedom rather than keeping constraints of one's personal history, and to have the guts to forgive others in any mistreated event. She shares her spiritual quest as a storyteller, which brings you to experience the genuineness of the Indian spirit, and their heartfelt and inspiring truth of the meaning of one's life.

"This book is an intimate journey that offers readers the opportunity to be more aware of the interactions of the inner world and the outer world in all of us. It compels the reader to join the author in her real life experiences that come from the courage to grow by stepping out of one's comfort zone and into the unknown, and daring to be adventurous with reality on its own terms."

Submitted by Lai Ping Lee (Apple)

Name Change Signals New Direction

Canada's second oldest magazine, The Beaver, is getting a new name to attract younger subscribers and to distance itself from unintended sexual connotations. Starting with its April issue, the 90-year old magazine will be renamed Canada's History. Content is changing to include shorter, newsier pieces as well as more reviews and ratings on history-related books, websites, and travel destinations.

I don't think this is a good thing. I think reading the in-depth history stories is the magazine's forte. That's what makes it unique and Canadian.

Marilyn Fraser



Roumanian Poets to Visit Canada

I have great news from the International Poets Exchange. The Writers' Union of Roumania will be sending two prominent poets, Liliana Ursu and Nicolae Prelipceanu, to Canada during the month of May 2010.

We have an Amnesty International Event on May 9, organized by Cheryl Antao-Xavier, and the poets are invited. There will be a reading at Brockton Writers Series on May 4, organized by Farzana Doctor, and another possible participation in Mississauga on May 10. I am going to organize a multicultural poetry event at the International Writers' and Artists' Residency at Val David, Quebec on May 22 (Palabra en el Mundo, an International Series of events around the globe). Regarding this event, if there are poets willing to participate in Palabra en el Mundo at Val David, Quebec, they should contact me, FLAVIA COSMA, at flaviacosma@rogers.com.

If you are aware of any other poetry event where the Roumanian poets could participate between May 5 and May 9, 2010, in or around Toronto or between May 12 and May 21 in or around Montreal, please let me know.

In exchange, the Writers' Union of Roumania is accepting two Canadian poets for the International Festival ZILE si NOPTI at Neptun, on the beautiful Black Sea coast. The Festival runs from June 5 to June 9, all costs inland are covered, there will be readings by participants in their respective languages, and all are invited to participate in the seminars and conferences. The theme for this year is "Main character's grandeur and decadence in Literary Fiction". There is already a Canadian participant in the person of Mrs. Cheryl Antao Xavier. Please inform me of any other Canadian poet willing to participate in this.

Flavia Cosma

*International Affairs Chair, The League of Canadian Poets
Director, The International Writers' and Artists' Residency*

Blogging For Smarties by Yvonne Wu

Many presenters have approached me for suggestions on how to blog, yet nobody has mentioned to me why I should have a blog. Without the *why* being answered, I slowly found myself falling asleep during the presentation and leaving confused.

To define the reasons why we blog, we need to look into the past. Wikipedia reports that a blog is a web log. It is a website that is maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other materials such

as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.

The fact that Google purchased blogger.com in February 2003 tells us that blogging must definitely be rising in popularity. There are now international blog expos, and there must be a reason for all this media attention. TV shows are now being produced that talk about blogs — such as TV shows like Ugly Betty — and movies like Julie & Julia.

The reasons why we blog are as follows:

- To be used as websites;
- To be used as online diaries;
- To provide the possibility to leave comments;
- To create podcasts;
- To display one's products and services;
- To show one's articles;
- To advertise one's books;
- To interact with one's audience;
- To rank higher in search engines; and
- To test products.

One of the reasons why blogs have become so popular is that they can be maintained by individuals with limited HTML or programming skills. As a customer, you need less technical skills. Businesses can just log in and make changes to the pages themselves without a monthly fee. You are provided with free or paid templates. They can be hosted by the blog company, or you can host them yourself on your server.

You are able to respond to comments and build relationships. Individual's comments provide insight and give feedback in regards to potential products or services you may be selling. They are definitely a test market. Blogs are a quick way for media to search for much needed content. As a writer, you can see if your idea generates interest.

Are you a beginner who would like to learn how to blog? Watch my video "Blogging for Smarties Part 1", www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFqLQKPM4B4.

Are you feeling overwhelmed?

In need of assistance?

Contact Yvonne Wu, Author Assistant,. at info@theyppublishing.com or visit my website: www.theyppublishing.com.

Yvonne Wu, Author Assistant



Writers & Editors Network



AUTHOR SHOWCASE

Come meet talented authors from the GTA representing various genres, including: Fiction, Business, Poetry and Childrens' Fiction. Have the opportunity to purchase their published works. This event is **open to the public and free!**

For more info visit www.wenauthorshowcase.com

Sunday April 18, 2010
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The Assembly Hall

1 Colonel Samuel Smith Park Drive
(Kipling Ave. & Lake Shore Blvd. W.)

Toronto - Ontario - Canada

Register now at

www.wenauthorshowcase.com

and be entered in an **early bird prize draw!**

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.

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