



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

Saturday June 20, 2009

As a freelancer, FRASER SUTHERLAND has edited more than 25 published books and a vast amount of printed and online material. In a past life, he was editor and co-founder of the literary magazine *Northern Journey*, a columnist for the book-publishing trade magazine *Quill & Quire*, and managing editor of *Books in Canada*. Wearing one of his other hats, he has published 13 books of his own: eight of poetry, four of non-fiction and one of short fiction. Fraser's topic at the meeting will be "Who Needs an Editor?"

Saturday July 18, 2009

At the July 18th meeting, up to 10 WEN members will have the opportunity to read their prose, poetry or creative non-fiction. Each reader will have five minutes at the podium. Please note that:

- The selection to be read must be sent to JOHN AMBURY in order to develop a varied program for our listeners,
- Readers will be on a first-come basis,
- The deadline for submissions is June 30.

Members who wish to read their masterpiece at the July meeting can e-mail their prose or poetry to John Ambury at jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca and please do so by June 30th.

August, 2009

There is no WEN meeting. Enjoy the summer break!

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.

WEN on The Fringe

WEN member HEATHER DICK, of Sirius Theatrical Company, has two productions in the Toronto Fringe Festival, which runs from July 1 to 12. Heather and singer Carolyn Lykkemark (Hot Blonde Diva Productions) have created and are performing the musical-theatre-style cabaret, *Saucy Wenches In The Trenches*. The show will be performed nightly at 6:00 p.m. at The Free Times Café, 320 College Street, from July 1 – 12. (Note: Matinee only, Friday July 10 at 12:30 p.m. No performance on Monday July 6.)

"1 Stage, 2 Divas, The Gloves Are Off! Juicy Lucy and Jaded Jessie, are two hot blonde divas who clash over the trials of show business (and waitressing). Snappy, hilarious dialogue and a perfect blend of poignant and playful songs from Broadway composers Stephen Sondheim, Charlie Smalls and others."

Heather is also directing *The Art Of Listening*, by Brazilian playwright Carla Faour, for Southern Mirrors Productions. This production will be the North American premiere of the play, which was nominated in Brazil for the Shell Award for Best Playwright. The Shell Award is considered one of the most prestigious theatre awards in Brazil. *The Art of Listening* also stars WEN member, JASMINE D'COSTA. The show will be performed in a variety of time slots at the Robert Gill Theatre (see below).

"One Listener.... Five Characters... Five Stories... Guilt... Love... Jealousy... Denial...Desperation. Driven by passion and longing to share what is hidden in their hearts, they search for someone who will listen without judgement. But listening is more than just hearing. It's giving in. It's an act of generosity. That is what gives us humanity. Who is capable of so much love?"

Schedule for *The Art of Listening* at the Fringe Festival

Robert Gill Theatre

214 College Street, 3rd Floor, (St. George St. entrance)
Toronto ON

- Wednesday July 1 - 8.45 p.m.
- Sunday, July 5 - 6.30 p.m.
- Monday, July 6 - 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 7 - 3.30 p.m.
- Wednesday July 8 - 11 p.m.
- Friday July 10 - 12 noon
- Saturday July 11 - 8.45 p.m.

For further information and to purchase tickets to these and other Fringe shows, please call the Fringe Box Office Hotline: 416-966-1062.

Interesting link

Barbara Florio Graham is the author of *Five Fast Steps to Better Writing*, *Five Fast Steps to Low-cost Publicity*, and *Mewslings/Musings* (co-written with her famous cat, Simon Teakettle). All three books are described on her website, www.SimonTeakettle.com, where you'll also find helpful resources for writers and information about copyrights.

Submitted by Marilyn Fraser

Jennifer Maruno's book launch

"That has to be some kind of record," Tara of Coles Book Store told the crowd waiting in line. "Usually authors sell 4 or 5 copies, but not our entire stock."

That's evidence of the success of JENNIFER MARUNO's book launch at Erin Mills Town Centre. The signing began at 6 p.m., but by 8 p.m. there were no books left. The laughter came when the last person to arrive whipped out a copy of the book from her purse. She bought it on-line earlier and came just to have it signed! Several people placed orders after extracting a promise that Jennifer would let them know when the next signing event would take place.

On June 11, Jennifer spoke to the Retired Teachers of Ontario, District 39, about writing for children. She planned to take a trunk full of books this time so no one would have to leave empty handed.

Proof Reading

DIANA PEACOCK is putting up her shingle as a proofreader. If you have a proof-reading need, you can reach Diana at Dianaedunlop@yahoo.com by phone at 416-503-9511.

New Novel Covers a Lot of Territory

WAHEED RABBANI would like to invite all WEN members and their friends to the following talks and reading events of his historical fiction novel *Doctor Margaret's Sea Chest*, published by YWO-Legend Press, UK. The novel is set during the 1800s in North America, England, The Crimea, and India.

- June 27th 2009, 1 to 3 p.m., Chapters Bookstore on Fairview Street, Burlington
- July 5th 2009, 3 to 4 p.m., McNally Robinson Bookstore, Don Mills & Eglinton, Toronto

More information on Waheed's novel is available on his website: <http://home.cogeco.ca/~wrabbani>

Classes of Interest to WEN Members

Writing for Children and Young People - Saturday June 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Appleby United Church, Burlington.

Exploring Creative Writing - Tuesdays from 1 to 3, July 7 to Aug 18, Woodside Library, Oakville.

Writing Your Life - Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Chartwell Baptist Church, Mississauga.

How to Write and Sell a Romance Novel - Saturday Sept 26, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Four Corners Library, Brampton.

For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact BRIAN HENRY at brianhenry@sympatico.ca.

Yvonne Blackwood Reports...

I attended Book Expo America May on 29 and 30. It was a fabulous experience that featured many heavy hitters and authors doing book signings during the course of the event. I had the opportunity to connect with several publishers and to hear if they are accepting manuscripts, etc. The New Titles feature is an excellent way to promote a new book. I recommend this to all authors, especially those who are about to publish books.

You can connect with Yvonne, author of *Into Africa: A Personal Journey* and *Will That Be Cash Or 'Cuffs'?* at www.myspace.com/YvBlackwood.



Blogger to Blogger

MICHAEL ROBERT DYET will be appearing as a featured author at the Stellar Literary Festival (June 13 to 14) at Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens & Parkwood Estates. He will be reading from *Until the Deep Water Stills: An Internet-Enhanced Novel*, at 3:15 p.m. on June 13.

Until the Deep Water Stills is now available on Amazon.ca and Amazon.com. Copies are also available from the author.

The unique online 'companion' to the novel – located at www.mdymetaphor.com/blog – features text, images and audio recordings, and provides online identities for the four main characters: Katherine's Photo Journal, Jayce's Diary,

Bryan's Blog, and Faith's Letters to Her Runaway Mother.

Michael also invites all WEN bloggers to exchange blogroll listings. Michael's personal blog is located at www.mdymetaphor.com/blog2.

Unleash 'Your Creativity' and Be Inspired Again

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us" - Ralph Waldo Emerson

This isn't just another self-help workshop. It's one that will engage your mind and stir your soul. In these demanding times, staying positive, managing change and embracing innovation are more critical than ever. How well you do that is inextricably linked to knowing how to unleash your creativity and directing that inner energy towards enhancing your professional and personal well being.

To learn how and to read more about DREW SIMMIE's exciting new seminar (June 17th, 2009), go to www.tugofthekite.com and click on **Attend a Seminar**. You won't want to miss this.

Help Us With Our Book Research and Get Free "Natural Treatment for IBS **"

Know someone with IBS? I have a proven, successful solution to their problem, which has been tested in one-on-one sessions. My co-author, Kathy Raymond, and I have now developed a self-administered version of the program that people can use in the comfort of their own homes. We are looking for volunteers who want to end their symptoms, and who are willing to help us iron the bugs out of our instruction manual by taking the program at no charge. It's all natural, and there are no invasive procedures or pills to take.

Please ask your friends with IBS to contact me as soon as possible to participate, at karen@resultsinhealing.com. We can only take 20 people, and there are just a few spaces left. After this month, the program will cost \$200.

Thanks everyone! - KAREN ALISON

(* Irritable Bowel Syndrome)



(Continued at top of next column)

Car Talk On the Road

SUSAN WINLAW, co-author of *Car Advice For Women (and Smart Men)*, is currently booking her speaking engagements for this fall.

If you participate in a group outside of WEN (e.g. Church, Guild, Kin, Social & Educational, Book Club, Rotary, IODE, etc.), please pass along Susan's phone/voicemail, 416-981-3404 and email, susan@caradviceforwomen.com, to the director or organizer of your group.

"I tailor my talk to the specific needs of the group, offer a special price for our book, and turn part of the proceeds from any sale back to a charitable cause decided by that group. It's a win-win-win situation.

"My aim is to increase the safety quotient for all drivers. 'We put our paranoia to work overtime, so you don't have to'."

Book Review by IRENE HODGSON

The Brutal Truth, by MARILYN GARSHOWITZ, self-published, printed by Trafford Publishing, 404 pages, ISBN number 978-1-4251-4529-3. Genre: Memoir/exposé

The dramatic cover of Garshowitz's book strikes with such intensity that it is difficult to put the book down. Lady Justice, who is based on Justitia, a Roman goddess of justice, is most often depicted with a set of balanced weighing scales suspended from her left hand, which she uses to measure the strengths of a case's support and opposition. She is also often seen carrying a double-edged sword in her right hand, symbolizing the power of Reason and Justice to be wielded either for or against any party. Blindfolded symbolism usually indicates that justice is (or should be) meted out objectively without fear or favour, regardless of the identity, power or weakness of the defendant. However, the author pictures Justice with unbalanced scales in her left hand, a container of poison in her right hand, and her head snapped back as if undone and broken.

By having her entire face covered with a flawed blindfold that seems to uncoil from an unending roll from Heaven or Mount Olympus, the author suggests that Lady Justice has been rendered not only blind but also mute and deaf. A short poem on page three expands on that dark image by insinuating that she is "diseased/Contaminating all of society." That, coupled with the title and her bold statement denouncing the abusive Canadian government and its legal system, is a harbinger of how her story unfolds – brutal, but truthful.

(Continued at top of next column)

The author's account of bullying and harassment throughout her life, with emphasis on York Detention Centre, is organized to sort out its components as dictated from her memory. Her grievances are written in such emotionally-charged language and with such conviction that the reader is forced to take a much-needed break before resuming the remainder of the book. In Chapters 12 and 13, in a much calmer tone, the author summarizes and analyzes her case so effectively and convincingly that there is no doubt that she has been maligned and abused beyond reason. Later chapters – in which Garshowitz names everyone involved – describe her mental state during her ordeal; she talks of suicide and murder as she begins her descent into the nadir of her experience before rising again.

In Chapter 24, where some of her best writing takes place, she states, "I am trying to recover from the results of continuous abusive behaviour of others" (P. 349), and goes on to describe the physical, financial and emotional pain she has suffered as a result. Finally, in the epilogue, with the statement "I have written what I hope can help myself, others like myself, and the Canadian society as a whole" (p. 373), the reader senses that the pressure is finally off, that she will recover, and that her story will not be ignored, having used her negative experiences as a platform/base to expand into extensive research and analysis to propel us towards solutions for the societal problem. After all, is it too much to ask that we all get fair and equal administration of the law, without corruption, avarice, prejudice, or favour? Surely, not.

Not Getting the Newsletter?

WEN has no provision for sending *Say WEN* to individual members, however we will bring a number of printed copies of the newsletter to our Saturday meetings. If you know someone who does not have email and who cannot attend the meeting, perhaps you could pick up a copy and deliver it – sort of a buddy system. We're sure it would be appreciated.

Computer Corner

Here's a tip that will make your printed documents look more professional. Modern word processing programs do a great job of aligning text, but they have limitations. One consistent problem is double spaces between sentences. While this was the approved technique with typewriters (you remember typewriters, don't you?), word processors treat them as a special case. The result is messed up spacing. To keep your sentences and paragraphs properly aligned, do not put two spaces between sentences.

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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