



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 March 21, 2009

BEN MAZZOTTA is an executive producer, cinematographer, writer, and editor. His films credits include the award winning films *Use Once and Destroy*, *DiverseCity* (a commissioned piece for OMNI Television) and *The Limits*, which won best film awards at the ReelWorld Film Fest in Toronto and The Digital Video Film Fest in L.A. He also works as a creative consultant and freelance illustrator/ animator for clients such as Teletoon, and with several companies, ad agencies, and production companies. Ben's presentation will be on "Writing for the Independent Market".

Saturday April 18, 2009

PAUL LIMA has worked as a writer and trainer for over 25 years. He writes business and promotional copy for corporate clients, and has written articles for the Globe and Mail, Toronto Star, National Post, CBC.ca, and other periodicals. Paul conducts workshops on the business of writing and the business of freelance writing. He has written 8 books and 3 e-reports on the business of freelance writing and business writing. His latest book is *How to Write a Non-Fiction Book in 60 Days*. Paul also maintains a widely read blog about the freelance writing business. Paul's topic at the meeting will be "How to Write a Non-Fiction Book in 60 Days".

Saturday May 16, 2009

ROBERT MORGAN is a publisher with BookLand Press. Robert will discuss "Publishing Tips for Authors from the Publisher's Perspective". His presentation will cover query letters, selecting the right publisher for your book, publishing contracts, the editorial process, dealing with agents, self-publishing, and book marketing and distribution.

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 a meeting after registering, please let us know.

To register, visit <http://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 Words

A cobra flies in through an open window. Wives form a pact against their bigamous, abusive husband. A mother and son battle over eagles' eggs. A homeless guest with a secret. An elephant protests on a highway. A woman marries a pumpkin. Diverse people – one country! This is the teeming, hectic world of India. It's also the vivid, startling world that Jasmine D'Costa gives us in her debut collection of short stories *Curry is Thicker than Water*, from Bookland Press (www.booklandpress.com)

AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET PUBLISHED

PROJECT: Publication of a Poetry- and Short-Stories Anthology.

PROJECT GOAL: To publish a trade quality book anthology by an established commercial Canadian publisher.

DETAILS: Short Stories from 1000 to 2000 words; poems 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.

BENEFITS TO PARTICIPANTS

- Participants will become published by an established commercial Canadian publisher certified by BookNet Canada (Gold level certification) with books distributed in Indigo, Chapters and all major book distributors and library wholesalers.
- Publication of short stories in two different anthologies published by a Canadian publisher makes the participating authors eligible for Canada Art Council grants for writers as well as for other writers' grants.
- Writers get a step closer to be eligible to join the Writers' Union of Canada.
- The anthology will be available on Indigo website and in Indigo/Chapters stores.
- The anthology will be distributed to libraries and major book wholesalers and distributors.
- Build your writer's portfolio.

The project is coordinated by Jasmine D'Costa with the help of Marie Maksymiw, Anna Stitski-Gemza, Patricia Armstrong and Mary-Ellen Koroscil. The participants will not be charged

any handling or entry fee, but must submit an edited copy of his/her work for review by the publisher.

The selected entries will be published in a commercial trade anthology by Bookland Press (The publisher reserves the right to reject a submission if it does not meet publisher's literary standards or deemed inappropriate in any other way.)

All the authors included in the anthology will be given a standard Trade Book Publishing Contract by the publisher with 10% royalties payable to the authors, to be divided equally between all participating authors.

The book will be priced at \$24.95 and the participating writers will have the opportunity to purchase the books at 40% discount.

We would like to close acceptance of entries on April 30, 2009. The book will be a fall 2009 publication.

To make this a viable project, we request that selected authors pre-order 10 books and pay for at least five books at press time (the writers discounted rate is 60% of the retail list price or \$14.95 each).

Kindly submit your entry with a title page including Title, Name of the author, email address, phone and mailing address. Submissions should be in 12pt. Times New Roman, double spaced, on 8.5" x 11" paper. Multiple entries are welcome.

Submit your work to: Trade Architects (Canada) Inc. 176 Cowan Avenue Suite 703 Toronto, Ontario, M6K 3L1

ENQUIRIES: For questions please contact Trade Architects (Canada) Inc. at info@tradearchitects.com.

Do You Know a WEN Member Who is Housebound?

WEN wants its members to know we are thinking of them when they are ill, hospitalized or bereaved. If you know a WEN member who would appreciate a message of support, please pass their name on to the Outreach Committee. Contact Linda Torney by phone at 416-469-0699 or email ltorney@sympatico.ca.

And the Award Goes To ...

Zohra Zoberi's not-for-profit organization, Bridging the Gap, won the Mississauga Arts Council 2008 Emerging Performing Arts Group. She was presented with this award at a Gala awards ceremony held at Stage West.

Zohra's two plays, "Window Shopping ... for Lasting Love" and "Questionably Ever After" have recently been published by In Our Words.

Congratulations Zohra!

WEN Logo Contest

WEN is looking for a new logo and would like you to create it. The contest is open to all WEN members in good standing. The contest closes May 1, 2009. All entries should be submitted in jpg or bitmap format to Anna Stitski-Gemza at ibanana@hotmail.com or annagemza@yahoo.ca.

The WEN Board will pick the winning entry and present the new logo at the June Breakfast meeting.

The prize for the winning entry is a one-year WEN membership and one complimentary breakfast.

If you have any questions, please e-mail Anna at ibanana@hotmail.com.

Good luck to all entrants!

Wen Author Showcase a Very Successful Event

February 18 at 7:00 p.m. marked WEN's first annual Author Showcase. Twenty three members proudly displayed their published books at the Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen Street West in Toronto, in the heart of the arts and literary community.

The primary objective in hosting this event was to celebrate the literary talents of WEN authors. There was a wide range of titles represented by the authors, who discussed and signed their books.

Mary Ellen Koroscil was M.C. and WEN President Jasmine D'Costa gave the welcoming address. Entertainment was provided by WEN member Howard Lopez, courtesy of SoundScape productions. Bravo New Style Arts TV covered the event, and their segment will be televised shortly.

A special thank you to Marilyn Garshowitz, Berardo Manari and Marie Maksymiw for their help with the event.

*Submitted by Mary Ellen Koroscil
WEN Director at Large*

Book Review of Fatmatta Rawdatu Kanu's "Through The Calabash"

by Irene Hodgson

The catchy title with musical tones on the cover instantly caught my eye and sparked my curiosity. I thought "What has a photograph of what appears to be an odd shaped, squash-like vegetable, to do with the statement at the bottom where the author invites everyone to read her memoirs and reflections on growing up in Sierra Leone and to explore Sierra Leonean Traditions & Social History?" I immediately turned to read the blurb on the back of the dust jacket because I wanted to find out more. It promised to portray her happy childhood leading to her success in a "man's world," a world in which "girls...did not go to school."

Once inside, the book did not disappoint. There are maps; over 60 photographs of family, friends and interesting places; and five appendices covering a history of the colony, its education system and the abolition of slavery in Sierra Leone. A glossary of terms is provided to give English meaning to Themne words. Poetry and words-of-wisdom quoted in the 'Themne' language are followed with their English translations. She also attributes all the colourful illustrations throughout the book to her late brother, Alhaji Pa Bai Hassan Bangurah, on the Credits page. This memoir is masterfully written, but certain chapters are particularly noteworthy.

Writing in chronological order, the author begins with the history of her paternal grandparents who lived and farmed in Ma-rape, where people had to "walk through a mile of knee-high mud to get to the village" (p.20). In a later chapter, she touches upon the lives of her maternal grandparents, who lived in a village several miles from Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. It is a revelation to discover that, despite the changes during the colonial era, they were able to maintain a stable and happy environment, to earn a living, and to raise a large family.

She then writes, in chapter two, about her father Sorie's middle-class social status as a merchant/trader. With the substantial proceeds of his palm kernel business he was able to follow through on his belief that his daughters as well as his sons were going to succeed only if they received a European education. In reality, attending a school beyond the elementary level was extended only to the males of families who had the wherewithal to pay for it.

Chapter six is devoted to explaining how important religion was to daily life, and how learning Arabic was a prerequisite to studying the Koran so that Kanu could participate in religious activities, especially during the month of Ramadan.

In a society that accepts polygamy, the author describes, in Chapter fifteen, the mutual respect her father's two wives

(continued from page 3)

demonstrated in order to get along for the good of the family. Western readers might be amazed by the author's use of wonderful tones when she describes a cooking session with her stepmother Mama Binty. Her great affection for her father's second wife and her own mother's cheerful comments add to the positive picture the author paints of a situation totally foreign to Christians. This chapter is also filled with the ancient rituals leading up to her marriage. The important roles of family members during the courtship, the acceptance of the calabash and its contents, and the marriage ceremony itself, are meticulously presented as if it were happening at this very moment. Photographs of the calabash, the wedding and the wedding party cement in the reader's mind the visual impressions the author wishes to convey so vividly.

Ms Kanu chose the essential elements of her story in order to say what she most wanted to say, to reveal that she was successful because of the efforts of her father and her three brothers. The paradox of this is that this book was written with a feminist perspective by a totally non-feminist author. In my opinion, she certainly does not take enough credit for her own efforts.

For those who like to delve deeply into foreign cultures, this book provides great insight into important aspects of a Sierra Leonean family's early life, so buy it and enjoy!

Through The Calabash, by Fatmatta Rawdatu Kanu,
(Self-Published)

Printed by DaySprings Publishing

350 pages

ISBN 978-0-9809120-1-2

Genre: Memoir

Marketing Tip for WEN Members

I recently hired Book Candy Studios, an American PR firm, to promote my book *Mystery of Everyman's Way*. For a reasonable fee they designed a Book Trailer and a "viral campaign", which you can find at myspace.com/authorpaulcollins.

If any WEN members are interested in using Book Candy, I would encourage you to email Sandra McGinty at allme@cox.net. Book Candy only deals through referrals from their clients, otherwise they will reject any proposals. So please use my name, and you will have the chance at having your book(s) promoted in the USA too. All the best!

Paul Collins

Author, *Mystery of Everyman's Way*

Life of Doulton

Royal Doulton cup
translucent, serene
proudly sits
on a prominent shelf
seeming forever
till misfortune strikes

Dear Ms. Peacock:

Thank you for forwarding the poem you wrote on the Life of Doulton, which uses a Royal Doulton Cup as a metaphor for an individual who is having a breakdown. It is a beautifully written poem and we appreciate the fact that you have used this poem in meetings several times.

Sincerely, Janet Veitch & Linda DiMaria, Royal Doulton Tableware

Royal Doulton cup
falls on terrazzo
beauty shattered
skilled, loving fingers
strive to recreate
fill the cracks
test its firmness
can it endure?

Royal Doulton cup
on the sidelines
except in emergency
into active service
stressed to the limit
cracks weeping

Royal Doulton cup
strengthened, renewed
rough edges smoothed
surface secured
cup's full
weeping no more
~ diane peacock ~

Writing with "Flare"

In celebration of its 30th anniversary, Flare magazine is pleased to announce a competition for novice writers across Canada.

"Tell us, in no more than 600 words, what fashion moment of the past 30 years has inspired you the most."

The winner's story will be published in a special 30th anniversary edition of Flare this fall and the winner will receive a gift basket valued at over \$500.

To enter, visit www.flare.com/write. The competition closes May 10, 2009. One entry per person please, and entrants must be a Canadian resident.

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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