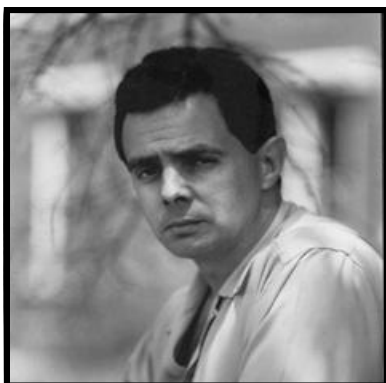


Say WeN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

April 2013



Dates

April Breakfast **4/20**
Say WEN Deadline **4/20**
Editing Workshop **4/27**
May Breakfast **5/18**
Say WEN Deadline **5/20**
June Breakfast/AGM/
Elections **6/15**
Members' Reading **7/20**

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April Networking Breakfast

Speaker: Carl Liberman, Literary Agent with *The Characters Talent Agency*

Date: April 20, 2013

Time: Check-in 9 a.m. Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Location: Canadiana Restaurant Lower Level, Six Points Plaza,
5230 Dundas Street West, Toronto

Mr. Liberman began his career as an actor, mainly for radio and television, at the age of 11. At the age of 14, he was offered the lead in a film to be shot in Greece, his parents opted to keep him in school, and that gave him something to write about. An honours graduate of York University's Fine Arts program in theatre, Carl went on to write and co-produce several plays during the 80's cabaret scene in Toronto.

Just prior to becoming Canada's newest and most sought after literary agent, Liberman rehearsed by working in the advertising biz for ten years as a successful new business executive.

Since founding the literary department at The Characters Talent Agency, the largest in Canada, he has overseen its growth from zero billings to over \$20 Million nationally, trained three agents, and is heavily involved in its newest arm, the packaging division. In addition to screenwriters, Carl also represents top directors, producers, A-list cinematographers and internationally renowned production designers and film editors.

Mr. Liberman has set a personal goal of becoming the first Canadian agent to bill \$15 million.

We're open for business and we're very merit-driven. In other words, if something is good and presses all the right buttons, we'll sell it, no matter who wrote it. This business is all about relationships and in my humble opinion we have the best!

Breakfast Registration Details

The breakfast meeting costs \$15 for WEN members and \$20 for non-WEN members. It features a generous and yummy breakfast buffet.

To register, please contact Anna Stitski-Gemza at 905-272-1478 or by email to breakfast@wenetwork.ca or by completing the registration information on the website at <http://wenetwork.ca/site/calendar/breakfast-meeting/>. The Canadiana Restaurant is in the Six Points Plaza, conveniently located within walking distance of the Kipling Subway station.

President's Message



It was a pleasure to see so many WEN members come out and support the Authors Symposium organized by Ronny Swais. It was a fruitful networking experience.

Once again I welcome Corinne Cast McCorkle, our Newsletter Editor, to the board. She has produced this wonderful and informative issue of *Say WEN*. By now, I am sure most of you have visited our new website at www.wenetwork.ca. A special thanks to Maurus Cappa and Rich

Helms for creating this website so expediently. I encourage all of you to visit the site for information and to take advantage of the new features such as the members' website and bio links page, the event calendar, and news items. To communicate with the webmaster, simply email communications@wenetwork.ca.

The editing of the WEN anthology, *Canadian Imprints Volume II*, is now underway. Authors who have submitted work will be contacted by the editors directly. Projected release and Book Launch of the anthology is scheduled for the Fall of 2013.

We received some very kind words from our March speaker, Andrew J. Borkowski. He thor-

oughly enjoyed his time with us and wrote "your group made it easy—one of the best audiences I've addressed in the fifty or so appearances I've made." This attests to the lively and welcoming people at WEN.

Member Caroline Kaiser, a talented editor, will be conducting the WEN editing workshop at Metro Hall on April 27th. Registration details are enclosed in the newsletter and on the website.

Let me end by welcoming the many new members of WEN who joined this year. Our membership is growing and this keeps WEN a vibrant and meaningful organization.

Maria Pia Marchelletta
president@wenetwork.ca



Say WEN is published by **The Writers & Editors Network** as a service to members and friends. WEN publishes news about members and events in which our members participate and welcomes other news and events that may benefit our members. WEN does not verify the accuracy of submissions and their inclusion does not constitute an endorsement of these services and organizations.

Say WEN is distributed the first of each month, excluding August, to more than 100 WEN members and it is posted online at wenetwork.ca. Send submissions to the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of the month at newsletter@wenetwork.ca.

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 cooperation with other organizations.

Writers & Editors Network
251 McKee Ave
Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2

Past Presidents of WEN

Gay Peppin 2001-2006
Dr. Jasmine D'Costa 2006-2009
Dr. Glenn S. Reid 2009-2010
Robert Best 2010-2012

Board Appointments

Member Reading Coordinator
John Ambury

President Maria Pia Marchelletta
president@wenetwork.ca

Past President Richard Best

Vice President: Jasmine Jackman

Secretary Julie Tellier
secretary@wenetwork.ca

Treasurer Maurus Cappa
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Program Coordinator

Fran Edelstein
programs@wenetwork.ca

Newsletter Editor

Corinne Cast McCorkle
newsletter@wenetwork.ca

Director at Large: Marianne Funny

Director at Large: Kevin Hopper

Nominations Open for 2013-14 WEN Board of Directors

Jasmine Jackman, WEN VP and Chair of the Nominations Committee, announced that the committee is now accepting nominations for the WEN Board of Directors for 2013-14. We hope you will consider running for a position on the Board, or nominating a fellow WEN member. The positions carry a term of **one year**. Elections will be held at the June WEN Networking Breakfast and Annual Meeting.

A nominating form, job descriptions of each Board position, and instructions about how to nominate yourself or someone else are attached to this newsletter. Before you put a name forward, **please** get permission of the nominee!

If you have any questions, please contact Jasmine Jackman, WEN VP and Chair of the Nominations Committee at jasminejackman@gmail.com or talk with any board member.

WEN Is Growing

Eight new members have joined WEN and 17 members have renewed in 2013. We now have 108 members, up from 97 members at the beginning of January.

Remember to invite your writing friends to a Networking Breakfast, because when you bring a guest, your name is entered in the monthly drawing for a free breakfast!

Submission Guidelines for Member Readings in July

The program for the July meeting will be the always-popular Readings by Members of WEN. We would love to hear you read your work! Here is a summary of

the requirements from John Ambury, who coordinates the readings on behalf of the WEN Board. The complete information is attached to the newsletter.

Poems and short prose will be accepted. You must be a Member in good standing as of the meeting date, and the entry must have been written by you.

You must be able to read the entry in front of an audience in *five minutes or less*, including any introductory notes or explanations.

Submissions will be accepted beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the day of the May Meeting (May 18).

Anthology Update

Canadian Imprints Volume Two is underway, and is currently in the edit phase. We are happy to say that there are 26 authors participating in this new anthology. Thanks to all of you.

The deadline for entries was February 28, so no more submissions will be accepted. We expect to launch the new anthology in Fall, 2013. Please send questions to: anthology@wenetwork.ca.

Name Tags Made Easy

The WEN Board has ordered a new supply of lanyards for member name tags. They feature red lettering and are for new members only. Look for them at the April Networking Breakfast.

Letter from the Editor

I hope you'll enjoy reading this issue of *Say WEN*. I've certainly enjoyed assembling it.

Say WEN is written by WEN members, so send in your articles. We are looking for news about your work,

information of interest to WEN members such as literary events, workshops, contests, great resources, and similar subjects. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please note, we are unable to publish poems, short stories, memoirs, novel excerpts and similar personal creative pieces. *Say WEN* focuses on news about WEN and WEN members.

I welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Contact me at newsletter@wenetwork.ca.

WEN at Author's Symposium

The Author's Symposium was held at the Shangri La banquet hall in Markham on Thursday, February 28. WEN had two tables to promote our group. Thanks to WEN member Ronnie Swais for hosting this networking event and for promoting WEN. Several WEN members were in attendance, Maurus Cappa, Dave Cook, Ben Antao, Maria Marchelletta, Didi Lemay, Marilyn Garshowitz, Andy Turnbull, Hans von Maltzahn (with his better half) and Elena Zolotka.

Welcome New Members

January

Ashmead Ali
Marjorie Cripps
Mostafa Dini
Bev Kurmey
Ronnie Swais

February

Mary Ashun
Angela Collier
Terrence Harrison
Dave Hunter
Corinne McCorkle
Ann McRoberts
Bernarda Smrdelj
Lois Wood-Wheeler

Workshop on Editing

Learn how an editor can help you improve your writing at the WEN workshop *Working with Editors: What Writers Need to Know*, presented by WEN member and freelance editor Caroline Kaiser.

The workshop will cover a range of topics including how editing makes your manuscript more publishable, finding the best editor for you, how editors charge, understanding the different types of editing and determining what type your manuscript needs, and developing

your self-editing skills.

Working with Editors takes place on April 27th from 10 a.m. to noon at Metro Hall, 55 John Street, Toronto, Room 304. Cost is \$10 for WEN members and \$20 for non-members. Preregistration and prepayment are both required.



To register please contact communications@wenetwork.ca. Please make cheques payable to

WEN and mail to WEN, 251 McKee Ave., Toronto, ON, M2N 4E2. You may also pay at April's meeting.

Howard Shrier, Mystery Writer, at May Breakfast

Come to the May Networking Breakfast to hear Montreal-born Howard Shrier discuss his writing. He worked as a writer for more than thirty years in a wide variety of print and broadcast media, before creating his award-winning mystery series featuring fictional Toronto investigator Jonah Geller.

WEN Web Update

New Website, New Features – Member Profiles

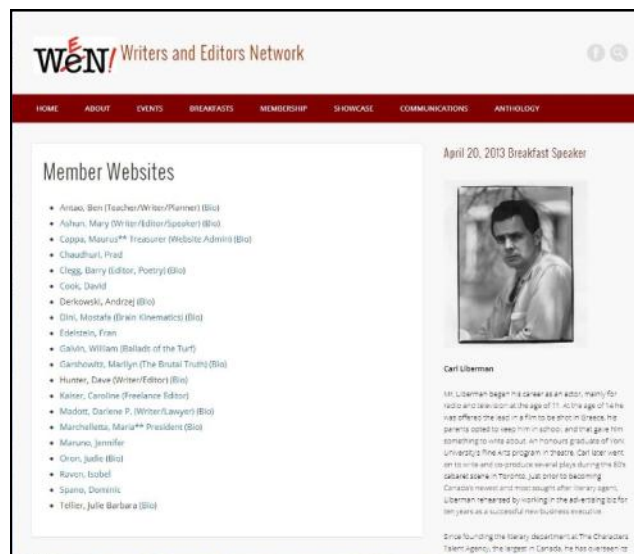
I hope all of you have had a chance to view our new website at www.wenetwork.ca. I want to highlight a new feature that I described briefly at the March breakfast: Member Profiles.

If you click on the Membership tab, you will see a drop-down menu called Member Websites. When you select this, a listing of member websites will be displayed along with a bio (optional) and one or two keywords beside each name.

The purpose of this list is to give members the opportunity to provide a link to their websites along with a detailed bio. The bio can include publications, available for, etc... You can add as much or as little you want to the bio section.

This feature gives everyone the ability to review what other members of WEN are doing and to search for resources or services.

If you wish to add your bio, sim-



Screenshot of the Member Websites page of the new WEN website:
www.wenetwork.ca

ply fill out the form found under the Membership tab called Add Members Bio. Don't worry if you don't have a website, you can still add your bio and keywords to describe what you do: for example, freelance editor, children's author, poet, etc...

Please note this service is provided only to paid-up WEN members. If your membership expires, your listing will get deleted auto-

matically since the website is linked to our member database.

I hope you find this service useful and that it helps to bring our WEN community together.

Here is a direct link to the Members Website page: <http://www.wenetwork.ca/site/membership/member-websites/>

Maurus Cappa

Treasurer and Webmaster

communications@wenetwork.ca

Memoir Workshop

Learn how to write your life story at *Write Your Memoirs-Everybody Can: Questions to Ask Before you Begin*, presented by WEN member Gayle Dzis at the Richview Library on Islington Avenue in Etobicoke on May 13th at 2 p.m. Free admission. For more information, call Gayle at 905-270-2159.

Thelma Wheatley Launching New Book

Please join Thelma for the launch of her book *And Neither Have I Wings To Fly: Labelled and Locked Up in Canada's Oldest Institution* (Inanna Publications, April 2013) on Thursday, April 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the Women's Art Association of Canada, 23 Prince Arthur Avenue, Toronto.

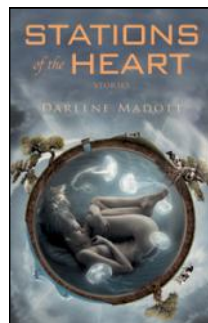


Wheatley's book is a true account of one family's horrifying committal to Canada's oldest institution for the mentally retarded or "feeble-minded", Ontario Hospital School, Orillia. Labelled and put away, heroine Daisy Lumsden exposes the inhumanity and abuses of institutional life. Wheatley explores the eugenic roots of institutionalization, and how Daisy and her family survive through their courage and humanity. A class action lawsuit is now underway against the government of Ontario

for systemic abuse and failure to provide protection.

Glowing Review for Darlene Madott's Book

Darlene reports that her short story collection, *Stations of the Heart*, (Exile Editions, 2012) received a great review in the online publication *The Montreal Review*. You can read it at <http://www.themontrealreview.com/2009/stations-of-the-heart.php>. *Stations of the Heart* was launched in October and is now available at Ben McNally's, on Bay Street and on-line.



Judie Oron Speaks in Jerusalem about Her Book

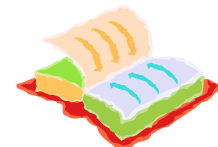
Judie Oron is just back from Israel, where she was invited to speak at the 25th Jerusalem International Book Fair's prestigious Literary Café. The occasion also marked the launch of the Hebrew edition of *Cry of the Giraffe* and, on a personal note, the 21st anniversary of her having bought her now-daughter Wuditu from slavery in Ethiopia. Wuditu is the heroine of the novel *Cry of the Giraffe*. During the visit, more than a dozen interviews were conducted with journalists from the press, radio and TV.

Back in Toronto, Judie was interviewed by radio and TV person-

ality and author, Gail Vaz-Oxlade on "Newstalk 1010, Late Shift With Gail Vaz-Oxlade".

Recently, a cover story about Judie and about *Cry of the Giraffe* appeared in the magazine supplement of *The Jerusalem Post*. To read the article, go to: <http://www.jpost.com/Magazine/Features/Article.aspx?id=307976&prmusr=wVTqflrJL0KCJAQryb2GMQwqUicdkTpZxpv5HaXLUBZu5MaW%2fjZ%2bdREYIUUVQNh5D>.

An article written by Judie appeared in *The Jerusalem Report* on March 25, 2013. Upcoming articles about *Cry of the Giraffe* are slated to appear in *The Jewish Week* and in *Aish.com*. Judie has been invited to give a series of talks in Eastern American universities about *Cry of the Giraffe* and child slavery in the Horn of Africa and a book tour in that area is being planned for the fall.



Write About Your Dreams

WEN member Mostafa Dini is working on a research project about dreaming, and is looking for volunteers who would like to "write about the dreams and dreaming in different aspects of science, scientific fiction or short stories; as well as web-writing." The finished research report will be submitted to the International Association for the Study of Dreams. If you are interested in participating, please contact him at mostafa.dini@dpeco.ca.

Contests and Awards

Alice Munro Festival Short Story Competition

Writers of short fiction are encouraged to enter the Alice Munro Writers and Readers Festival's 2013 Short Story Competition. The competition provides a forum for writers to develop their craft and connect with like-minded writers.

Festival organizers are dedicated to supporting the efforts and talent of unpublished and emerging writers of short fiction. All contestants must have Canadian connections to be eligible. Prizes totaling \$2,000 will be given to winners in the youth and adult writer categories. The deadline is August 1, 2013.

For more information and submissions guidelines, visit www.alicemunrofestival.ca

Rainbow Caterpillar Mother Language Kid Lit Contest

Submissions are being accepted for the second annual Rainbow Caterpillar Mother Language Kid Lit Award. The award recognizes writing excellence and supports authors who write in their mother languages other than English.

"By encouraging authors to write in their mother language, we want to help create a vibrant literary production for children in foreign languages, but with a uniquely Canadian perspective," says Hap-pie Testa, co-owner of Rainbow Caterpillar Bookstore.

The competition is open only to Canadian residents. Contest guidelines are available online at www.rainbowcaterpillar.ca/kid-lit-award.html. Submissions are due on April 30. The winning story will receive an award of \$750.

Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest

Spring Pulse Poetry Festival is proud to sponsor the 2012 Dr. William Henry Drummond Poetry Contest. The first contest was held on French-Canadian Day in 1970 during the Miners Festival in Cobalt, ON. While it hasn't run continuously, it remains the oldest non-governmental national poetry contest in Canada.

The deadline is April 15, 2013. Prizes totaling \$1,200 will be awarded to three winners, eight honourable mentions and eight judge's choice winners.

For more information, see www.springpulsepoetryfestival.com or contact David Brydges, mybrydges@yahoo.ca

Scintillating Entertainment at Mississauga's Annual MARTY Awards

The Mississauga Arts Council is presenting the 19th Annual MARTY Awards on Thursday,

May 9, 2013 at the Hammerson Hall of the Living Arts Centre (located at 4141 Living Arts Drive). The MARTYs will be hosted this year by local actor and comedian Tristan Barrocks, who is also nominated for a MARTY.

The MARTY Awards celebrate the artistic achievements of the city's artists, both established and emerging. Award categories include emerging and established literary arts, media arts, performing arts and visual arts, as well as individuals who have contributed to the arts in Mississauga. For the full list of this year's 91 nominees, look at www.mississaugaartscouncil.com.

The evening's entertainment includes the Johnny Max Band, jazz sensation the Alma Quartet, the ConBrio Singers, the Cawthra Dancers, and WEN member Zohra Zoberi with Vibonics.

Tickets are \$25 and are available at 905-615-4278 or by email from info@mississaugaartscouncil.com.



Ben Antao and Dave Cook at the Author's Symposium.

Maria Marchalletta and Didi LeMay at the Author's Symposium.



A Book for Writers

Joseph Anton: A Memoir by
Salman Rushdie (Alfred A. Knopf
Canada, 2012)

Reviewed by Ken O'Connor

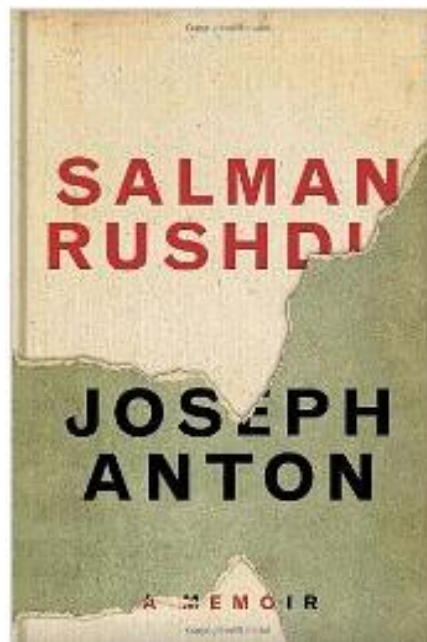
Joseph Anton, the title of this book, is also a pseudonym for Salman Rushdie. This is a memoir with extensive biographical information, including the events that led to, and followed from, a *fatwa* issued on Rushdie's life. Part of its appeal to writers comes from insights into possible dangers of publishing and how a courageous writer persisted through death threats.

Rushdie chose to change his name for a few years due to the need to protect himself, his publisher, loved ones, and security people. The threat not only involved the publication process, but also broadcast, speaking engagements, and other media. You can imagine the surprise if you attend a meeting for a known purpose, then have it disrupted because Salman Rushdie walks in unannounced.

Rushdie fights against world forces – from traditions and religions to governments – that suppress ideas. He desires to speak directly to people through his fiction and personal appearances, and to live by his writing. Following the publication of *The Satanic Verses*, many people in various parts of the world were killed or harmed by lackeys sanctioned by those who do not want their evil actions questioned. We find out who, where, and why.

As writers, we discover some of the lies, fears, hardships, and craziness of the writing business. This

book helps writers learn about the realities of the business, especially for those who risk new ideas and dare to be different, yet wish to be accepted in varied cultures. Even a writer with high integrity such as Rushdie sometimes gets blocked by outside powers he or she cannot anticipate, including the government of one's own country of birth or residence.



Since “Anton” is Rushdie, he decided to write about himself as “he” in the book. So we have a memoir without “I” and mostly without a name to designate the author. I often found it necessary to check back to find out which “he” Rushdie was referring to. The style is unique, perhaps, at least for me. But I found that aspect of it a distraction. Also, there are sometimes seven or so conversations in one paragraph, which would have been clearer if laid out separately. This may have added more pages to the 640 already in the book, but I feel he could have shortened the book

by reducing a lot of unnecessary detail throughout, including endless names of people and one affair with a woman he could have omitted for the sake of discretion. On the other hand, Rushdie's daily habits of writing notes, along with a prodigious memory and a satisfying sense of humor, do serve him well.

If any of you ask, “How can I write with all that's going on in my life?”, I suggest that after reading Rushdie you'll look at things differently. The man is a hero. His fight for freedom surpasses any of those I know. His judgment wavers only a few times; however, he admits where he went wrong, and explains how he sometimes recovered.

I doubt a writer has ever moved from one location to another as many times as Rushdie or had to make such tough decisions: He had to decide whether he was responsible for the bombings that occurred following the publication of his writing. How can he carry on a normal life? What will happen to love of family? Who will stay with him under the circumstances? In other words, how can he (and by inference us, as readers) get through life doing what we want, under the most extreme conditions?

This is the accomplishment of *Joseph Anton*: It demonstrates that the human spirit lives, no matter what.

We owe you, Salman Rushdie.