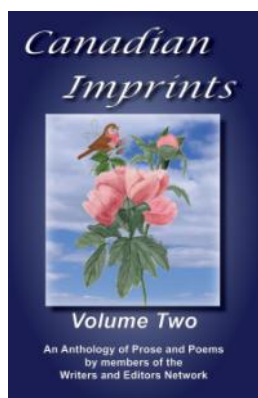


Say ~~W~~^EEN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

December 2013



Dates

Anthology Book Launch &
Holiday Party **12/14**
Say WEN Deadline **12/15**
January Breakfast **1/18/14**
Say WEN Deadline **1/20/14**
February Breakfast **2/15**
Say WEN Deadline **2/20**

Inside

President's Message **2**
WEN News **3**
WEN Events **3**
Member News **4**
Speaker's Corner **5**
November Meeting Photos **6**
Web Links for Writers **7**
Contests & Markets **8**

December Launch & Holiday Party

Date: December 14, 2013

Time: Registration 9 a.m. Meeting 9:30 a.m.

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

Join us for the launch of *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* & the WEN Annual Holiday Party. Books will be available for purchase and the authors will be there to sign them.

We will hold our annual holiday celebration at the same time, so be prepared for a festive time. Pianist Howard Lopez will once again entertain us with seasonal music. There will be a 50/50 draw, a raffle for door prizes and a special breakfast menu with a champagne toast.

The launch party will feature the popular WEN Members Reading Program. The readings will include work from the anthology authors as well new work from other WEN members. The program has been organized by John Ambury. The readers are:

Celia Girouard	Caroline Kaiser	Dahn Batchelor
Sumaira Choudhury	Husain Mehdi	Julie Barbara Tellier
Ben Antao	William Galvin	Saskia Van Tetering
Maurus Cappa	Fatmatta Kanu	Barry Clegg
Carol Devine	Zohra Zoberi	Mostafa Dini
Bernarda Smrdelj	Andrzej Derkowski	John Ambury
Kevin Charles Hopper	Lois Wood-Wheeler	
Hans V. Von Maltzahn	Gerry Belanger	

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 breakfasts@wenetwork.ca or ibanana@hotmail.com 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.

Please note: beginning in January 2014, there will be a new fee for guests attending the monthly breakfasts.. See page 3 for details.

President's Message

Dear WEN Members:

All of the authors who contributed to *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* have now received shipment of their books. We have sold several copies to WEN members and some authors have ordered additional books. I wish to thank Bill Galvin who has delivered several copies of each of our anthologies (*Volume One* and *Volume Two*) to the Mississauga Central Library. Bill was also written up in the *Mississauga News* holding a copy of the anthology while posing proudly beside his horse.

I hope to see all of you come out to our Holiday Party and Anthology Book Launch on December 14, 2013 at Canadiana Restaurant. It

promises to be a wonderful celebration with readings by authors in the anthology as well as by other WEN members. As in the past, Howard Lopez will be serenading us with holiday music and Canadiana will be preparing and serving a special breakfast menu. As a special treat, we will be toasting the year with champagne. Finally, stick around to the end of the meeting to make sure you don't miss out on one of the many door prizes provided by the WEN board. So don't forget to register with our breakfast coordinator, Anna Stitski-Gemza.

Warmest regards,

Maria Pia Marchelletta

President

president@wenetwork.ca



Say WeN!

Say WEN is published by

The Writers & Editors Network

as a service to members and friends. WEN publishes news about our members and events in which our members participate. We welcome other news and events that may benefit our members.

We reserve the right to edit or reject submissions at our discretion.

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 is posted online at wenetwork.ca. Send submissions to the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of the month at newsletter@wenetwork.ca.

Say WEN subscriptions

\$20/year (10 issues) or \$2/issue

Editor/Designer

Corinne Cast McCorkle

Copy Editors

Maria Pia Marchelletta, Anna Stitski

Contributors

Maurus Cappa, Fran Edelstein, Maria Pia Marchelletta, Anna Stitski-Gemza, Prad Choudhori, John Ambury, Isobel Raven, Jasmine Jackman

Writers & Editors Network

251 McKee Ave

Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2

www.wenetwork.ca

Invite Friends to Celebrate WEN Anthology Launch

Anthology authors, please invite your friends and family to join us at our launch party and holiday celebration. Twenty-four WEN writers are included in the book.

New Price for Non-Members

Please note that beginning January 2014, the cost for a guest to attend a WEN Breakfast Meeting will go up to \$25 due to an increase in costs from the Canadiana Restaurant. The cost to members, however, will NOT increase, but will remain at \$15. Another benefit of WEN membership!



Newsletter Deadline

The submission deadline for the January issue is December 15, which is earlier due to the holidays. Remember, we want: your writing news; tips on writing, editing and self-publishing; photographs; industry news; announcements of literary events, conferences and contests; leads on agents, markets and publishers; reviews of books, software, and other tools useful to

writers and editors. We also welcome photos of member activities so don't forget your camera!

New Newsletter Section

Beginning with the January issue, *Say WEN* will include a new section called "The Writing Life." It will feature musings on writing and words, the satisfactions and frustrations of creating a dimensional world with words and paper. We will accept short essays (250 words or less), poems, anecdotes, jokes and other forms — as long as they are about writing and words. Please send a query with your idea about the Writing Life to newsleter@wenetwork.ca. We're looking forward to your contributions!

WEN Events

Life Coach/Writer Will Speak in January

Our speaker for the January breakfast meeting is Drew Simmie, a personal development coach and writer. Drew began his career in



retail buying/merchandising with Sears Canada, moved on to a clothing manufacturing firm and executive coaching.

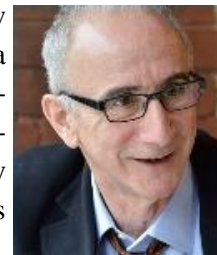
He became a personal development and business coach after much soul-searching, seeking a more life-affirming way to live. He has written two books about his life experiences, hoping to help others by sharing what he has learned. Plan to attend to hear his inspiring talk.

Break the Ice Next Month

Network is a part of WEN's name, and networking is one of the main reasons members cite for joining our organization. So be prepared to start networking at upcoming breakfast meetings. To encourage members to make new contacts and find people who share their interests or who can suggest resources, the board is planning some icebreakers for the January and March meetings. We'll announce the details closer to the date. We come to WEN meetings to learn new things, and meet new people, which is harder to do if we always sit with people we already know. So remember to bring your business cards to the January and March meetings and be ready to warm up to some new friends.

Lawyer Turned Novelist is February's Speaker

Robert Rotenburg, author of *Stranglehold* and three other detective novels starring Toronto detective Ari Greene, will speak to WEN about how he became both a successful novelist and top lawyer. His story includes years spent studying, travelling and working abroad, some of the time as the editor of *Passion, The Magazine of Paris*, and as founder and editor of *T.O. The Magazine of Toronto*.



Bill Galvin Profile in Mississauga News

WEN member Bill Galvin was featured in the *Mississauga News* for his contributions to *Canadian Imprints Volume Two*. “The Ballad



of Hank the Gyp” is one of two poems included in the anthology by Bill, who loved the racetrack and met The Gyp while

working as a horse groomer. The Gyp was a downtrodden character who had little money and slept in the stables beside his horse because he had no other place to go. You can read the article here.

<http://www.mississauga.com/whatson-story/4226077-mississauga-poet-s-ode-to-horse-racing-featured-in-anthology/>

New Book by Prad Chaudhuri Now Available

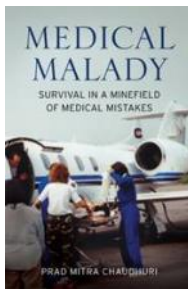
Hey writers and editors, there is a good reason to write every day, stay healthy, and not get sick. This is eloquently expressed in the book *Medical Malady* by Prad Chaudhuri. Ask him for an advance copy.

Imagine you are sick, you seek help, and the help you receive makes you sicker. You lie in a hospital bed facing a wall of secrecy — a virtual silo. You don’t know what has happened to you, and no one tells you. A terrible medical mistake has put you there — a *medical malady*, a sickness unrelated to the one for which you sought help. It happens, more often than you think. What do you do?

This book is about breaking down the wall of secrecy and discovering what lies beyond that barrier. Maria P. Marchelletta, president of WEN sums it up:

“What a compelling and engaging rendition of what can go wrong in our medical system. The story line engaged me for a straight six and half hours. It is a must read for all patients involved in our medical system. It was quite an eye-opener, indeed.”

Prad’s kids took 10 years to become doctors; it took him 18 years to write this book and put it in front of you, the readers. It is available through his website: www.medicalmaladies.com.



You can also get the book from the library by asking for ISBN 978-0-9919404-1-7 (pbk), by mail for \$40 (Pradco Books, address on the website), or at the WEN Saturday breakfast meeting for \$30.

John Ambury Finding Recognition as Poet

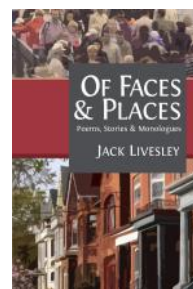
John Ambury has been busy reading his growing body of poetry at various venues around the GTA. From Oshawa to Oakville, he has appeared either by invitation or as an “open mic” guest at both informal and highly organized events. These have included 100,000 Poets and Musicians for Change, The Stellar Literary Festival, The Ontario Poetry Society, Loose Leaf Poets, The Courtneypark Reading Circle, Visual Word, Oakville Literary Café, and Inkwell. He says

the most rewarding of them all, although among the least prestigious, was an Inkwell reading program for the residents of the Oakville Senior Citizens’ Residence. He is currently involved (with Derik Hawley and Kevin Howland) in a project that will combine multimedia images, photos and text in a show based on the concept of *wabi sabi*.

John’s work appears in both volumes of the WEN anthology *Canadian Imprints* as well as *The Courtneypark Connection*, *Canadian Voices Volumes 1 & 2*, and various periodicals. For the past five years he has been the Coordinator of the WEN Member Reading Program.

Oshawa Book Launch a Success for Jack Livesley

Jack Livesley launched his book *Of Faces & Places: Poems, Stories & Monologues* a second time at an event in Oshawa in November. His readings from the book were well received, particularly his poem



“The Caregivers” about visiting hospitalized loved ones, and his monologue “Well, I Never!” about a self-righteous church member scandalized by the new organist.

In this lyrical collection of work from a lifetime of writing, Jack creates evocative word portraits of people — kids and elderly, lovers and cads, thugs and thespians. It was edited and designed by WEN member Corinne Cast McCorkle. Copies available from www.jacklivesley.wordpress.com.

Books, Opera and Word Magic with Professor Rosmarin

Eyes twinkling, with a grin as wide as the room, and not a moment's hesitation, descriptive words tumble from this speaker's eager lips faster than most of us can think of them.

Has he rehearsed this? Does he plan and memorize his speeches? He must! Either that or Dr. Leonard Rosmarin is a word magician with enough adverbs and adjectives to charge a topic smack into the forefront of our imaginations. And how he enjoys it!



Leonard and Beatrice Rosmarin

"It's a gift," Beatrice Rosmarin confides proudly. "My husband doesn't plan his speeches, and never has a problem finding words!"

In any form, it seems. At 70, Dr. Leonard Rosmarin – contemporary novelist, Professor Emeritus of French literature, and former Chair of the Department of Modern Languages at Brock University – has penned 11 books.

Many of them serious stuff, but Rosmarin also grasps at fun. His smile is like a wicked wink. "I always wanted to write about my 'over-the-top' Jewish family who never professed to be anything but themselves at all times," he con-

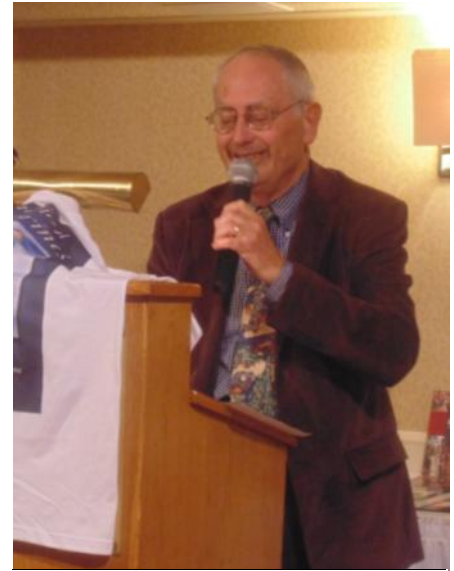
fesses gleefully. "There was never any hypocrisy. Honestly expressive, they were what they were... not the sort to stab you in the back, mind you," (pause)... and with a satisfying description lighting up his face, he adds, "only in the stomach!"

It's all in *Getting Enough*, Rosmarin's family chronicles which might tickle one's funny bone with (in his words) an aunt in menopause, an uncle suffering hemorrhoids...and so on.

This is a brilliant man, but he softens this side with amazing wit. A self-confessed opera addict, Rosmarin became a speaker for the Canadian Opera Company in 2010. Animated and loquacious, he explains that away: "My parents must have set in motion a genetic lottery that brought forth my love for opera!" He remembers listening to opera with his family on Saturday afternoons. "I was fascinated by the tribal harmonious screaming, having to delve more deeply into why I got so excited!"

According to this wordsmith, "Opera exposes us not as we are, but what we could be if we let our emotions travel. A play may be more subtle than an opera, but no other medium can evoke such emotion. Opera combines so many different arts; the plot doesn't have to be greatly written, it can be second-rate literature, but it makes no difference – words cannot duplicate its immediacy. Good or bad, that's what opera is all about, and with my hyper-dramatic temperament, I don't need drugs to get high!"

Professor Rosmarin wants the foes of opera to reconsider their



Leonard Rosmarin

views, to realize and appreciate its stylized elucidation of reality, and to enjoy it on its own terms. He expresses these emotions in his book *When Literature Becomes Opera*.

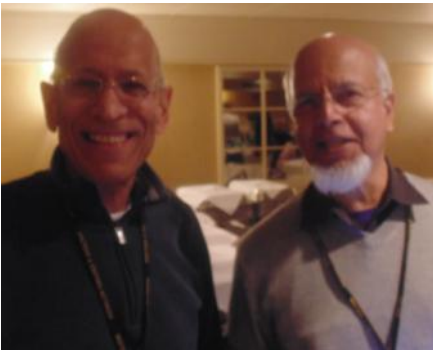
We are treated to a short reading. "Opera is an art of escalation, where conflicts are intensified." In this author's estimation, "Words (privileged in opera when working in harmony with the music soaring over them) cannot duplicate opera which creates a sensuality and atmosphere more poignant than the spoken word."

Though our speaker controls the room, he doesn't remain unchallenged: "If this was the 17th century, I would challenge you to a duel!" threatens one writer good-naturedly. "We've argued about that before."

"I love opera and I love straight theatre," is his rejoinder. "I was deeply moved by *West Side Story*, I was entranced by *Fiddler on the Roof*. But because of the splendid

(Continued on page 6)

November Breakfast Meeting



Photographs by
Jasmine Jackman



(Continued from page 5)

voices, my adrenaline shoots up through the roof during a great opera!"

Question: "At the mention of *Rigoletto*, is it the Italian language that gets to you first, or is it the music?"

With no hesitation: "It's mainly the music that's so catchy. The Italian language helps a lot, it's so melodious. In that opera – with women simply used and discarded, and the duke the epitome of sexual anarchy – the music fits the characters so well."

Rosmarin relates how he met George Bernard Shaw, to find that

they had something in common. "He adored opera – for certain elements of the art that might be ludicrous even when used with reasonable logic!"

What's next for the man who feels a "visceral" connection to opera, and who also expresses a love of writing fiction? "When you create a novel, you experience the thrill of roaming, untrammelled, within your imagination. The sense of freedom is boundless; you are absolute master of the world you are building. And what is so wonderful is that by creating imaginary destinies, you can see more clearly

into yourself and the whole human condition."

And what is also so wonderful? We at WEN can experience an adrenaline rush simply by sharing in the glow of this man--

*Recommended for people who know little about the genre: "*La Boheme*, a heart-warming and heart-breaking story about people living on the edge of poverty, yet with amazing joie d'vivre."

*For children? "*The Magic Flute*."

Fran Edelstein

www.franedelstein.com

Website Links for Writers

Advice from Literary Agents

"No one reads more prospective novel beginnings than literary agents," writes Chuck Sambuchino, editor of the blog [Guide to Literary Agents](http://www.guidetoliteraryagents.com). "They're the ones on the front lines, sifting through inboxes and slush piles. And they're the ones who can tell us which Chapter One approaches are overused and cliché, as well as which techniques just plain don't work." To find out what to avoid with your first chapter, such as prologues or false beginnings, read the rest of the post at <http://thewritelife.com/the-worst-ways-to-begin-your-novel-advice-from-literary-agents/>

Your Self-Published Literary Estate

"I have dozens of self-published books, and I've spent years learning how to maximize revenue on these titles. There's more to self-publishing than simply pressing 'publish;' and there's a lot to know about this business in order to succeed," writes Joe Konrath. "Which made me realize something important; my heirs aren't the ones best suited to run my literary empire after I die." In his post "Death and the Self-Pubbed Writer" on his blog [A Newbie's Guide to Publishing](http://anewbie'sguide.topublishing.com), Konrath gives detailed advice on how to help your heirs protect your literary estate, such as including a letter with your will listing your publications, instructions on accessing your publishing accounts and other important information. To see his complete advice (created

with the help of a few other indie writers) see: <http://jakonrath.blogspot.ca/2013/11/death-and-self-pubbed-writer.html>

How to Find Book Covers at an Affordable Price

"A book cover is an invitation -- a way of seducing the reader. It beckons, inviting them to enter the world of your book ... Your cover should convey the tone and genre of your story, be eye-catching and, most importantly, look like it's been professionally done," writes Christina Miller on her *HuffPost* blog. "Indie books, especially, need great covers. Covers function as short-handed way to assure the reader that the story was written with as much care and creativity as went into the cover design. That even though the book is self-published, it's as professional an endeavor as any traditionally published book on the market." For all her sources for professionally designed covers that won't bankrupt you, such as pre-made covers, cover sales and discount sites, see her post "Self-Publishing on a Shoe String: Cover Me, Baby!" on her blog *Self-Publishing on a Shoe String* here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christiana-miller/selfpublishing-on-a-shoes_2_b_4325962.html

Making Friends with the Comma

If you suffer from "comma trauma," WEN member Isobel Raven recommends that you read Arlene Prunkl's excellent blog, "Commas Demystified: The Top Ten Uses for Commas – Made Simple" which is here:

<http://penultimateword.com/editing-blogs/commas-demystified-top-ten-uses-for-commas/>. In it you will learn the place of commas in compound sentences, subordinate clauses, lists and other challenging situations.

Ebooks and the Changing Publishing Industry

"[Kristen Eckstein](http://www.kristeneckstein.com) is both very knowledgeable about the publishing industry — and probably a little nuts," writes Phil Simon in his *HuffPost* blog. "She's writing and publishing a new Kindle book every week for the 4th quarter of 2013. I sat down with her to talk about her unique quest." In his post "An Interview with Kristen Eckstein on the Democratization of Publishing, Writing, and eBooks," they explore the impact of self-publishing on the industry, and discuss her new weekly series of short Kindle books called *A Writer's Quick Guide*, which features topics helpful to indie writers. Find the complete interview here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/phil-simon/an-interview-with-kristen_b_4334360.html



Contests & Markets

Acrostic Contest Tests Your ABC's

Bruce Dale Press has announced its 15th Annual Acrostic Contest, "Airborne At Last...", which is the beginning phrase for contest entries. Complete your story in 26 sentences, each beginning with words in the sequence of the English alphabet. The deadline is January 31, 2014. There will be three cash prizes. For more information, see <http://www.brucealepress.ca/html/Contest.htm>

Send in Your Short Prose

The Writers' Union of Canada is calling for entries to their annual Short Prose Contest for Developing Writers, offering a \$2,500 prize and the chance for publication in one of several magazines. Both non-fiction and fiction prose pieces no longer than 2,500 words are eligible. Deadline is March 1, 2014. For more details, see <http://www.writersunion.ca/short-prose-competition>

Writer's Digest Call for Submissions to Self-Publishing Guide

Robert Lee Brewer, content editor for *Writer's Digest* market guides, is accepting pitches for articles for the *2015 Guide to Self-Publishing* until the deadline of December 15, 2013. He is looking for articles that will help self-publishers find more success. Articles in the inaugural edition published in 2014 tackled cover design, blogging, selecting freelance editors, and more. See more information for submitting your pitch at <http://blog.writersmarket.com/>

whats-new/call-for-submissions-2015-guide-to-self-publishing?et_mid=649320&rid=239194406#sthash.NlZDx5aw.dpuf

CBC Contest for Creative Non-Fiction

The annual CBC contest for the Creative Non-Fiction Prize offers a first prize of \$6,000 with publication in Air Canada's *enRoute Magazine* and on the *Canada Writes* website as well as a two-week residency at The Banff Centre's Leighton Artists' Colony. Submissions should be unpublished, original work of 1,200-1,500 words. The deadline is February 1, 2014. For more details see <http://www.cbc.ca/books/canadawrites/literaryprizes/nonfiction/>

Prism Magazine Short Fiction and Poetry Contests

Published by the University of British Columbia, *Prism Magazine* has two contests, both closing on January 23, 2014. The Prism International Contest for Short Fiction offers prizes of \$2,000 plus publication in the magazine, \$300 and \$200 for stories up to 6,000 words long. The Prism International Poetry Contest has prizes of \$1,000 plus publication in the magazine, \$300 and \$200. You may enter up to three poems. Everyone who enters the contest will receive a subscription to *Prism Magazine*. Multiple entries are accepted. For complete details and entry rules, see <http://prismmagazine.ca/contests/>.



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.

Board of Directors

President Maria Pia Marchelletta
president@wenetwork.ca

Vice President Jasmine Jackman

Secretary Julie Tellier
secretary@wenetwork.ca

Treasurer Maurus Cappa
treasurer@wenetwork.ca

Breakfast Coordinator
Anna Stitski-Gemza
breakfasts@wenetwork.ca

Communications Coordinator
Jasmine Jackman
communications@wenetwork.ca

Membership Coordinator
Anna Stitski-Gemza
membership@wenetwork.ca

Program Coordinator
Kevin Hopper
programs@wenetwork.ca

Newsletter Editor
Corinne Cast McCorkle
newsletter@wenetwork.ca

Director at Large Marianne Funny

Board Appointments
Member Reading Coordinator
John Ambury

Past Presidents of WEN

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

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

www.wenetwork.ca