

Say ~~W~~^EEN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

June 2013



Dates

June Breakfast/AGM/
Elections **6/15**
Say WEN Deadline **6/20**
Members' Reading **7/20**
No meeting in August
Say WEN Deadline **8/20**
September Breakfast **9/21**

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June Breakfast & AGM

Speaker: Brenda Wastasecoot, Educator, Counsellor, Children's Author

Date: June 15, 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

Brenda Isabel Wastasecoot is an Aboriginal Cree (Churchill) from Brandon, Manitoba. She is the youngest of sixteen children born to Maria and Harold Wastasecoot and was the only child in her family who did not attend Residential School. She grew up down the flats just outside of Churchill, MB.

Brenda is working toward her PhD at the Ontario Institute for the Studies in Education (OISE) in the Adult Education & Community Development program at the University of Toronto. Her thesis explores family and community impacts of Residential School and her research is rooted in and informed by her extensive experience in the Aboriginal community and by teaching in Brandon University's First Nations & Aboriginal Counselling Degree Program for nine years.

Brenda was first published in an anthology called *Voice of the Drum: Indigenous Education and Culture*. Her article titled "Culturally Appropriate Healing and Counselling: One Woman's Path Toward Healing" addressed culturally inclusive healing strategies integrating traditional and Western approaches. The collection was published by King Fisher Publications, Brandon, MB.

With the encouragement of her daughter's Grade 4 teacher, Brenda wrote and published a charming children's picture book titled *Granny's Giant Bannock*, based on childhood memories of herself and her mother. When invited by community groups, she has also read from an unpublished collection of poems written since her teenage years. The story told in her picture book was drawn from these poems.

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.

WEN News

WEN Members July Readings Booked Solid

Submissions to read at this very popular event poured in when admission opened at 12:01 a.m. on May 18. The program was nearly full within 24 hours and was booked solid, with alternates in place, within 48 hours. No more submissions are being accepted.

The next reading opportunity will be at the December 14 meeting. Submissions will be accepted beginning on October 19 (the date of the October Breakfast Meeting).

John Ambury

Member Reading Coordinator

A Correction & Special Thanks

We would like to thank Caroline Kaiser again for letting *Say WEN* reprint her helpful and detailed article, "Learning Track Changes in MS Word 2007 and 2010: A Quick Guide for Authors" in the May issue. We neglected to include website links to her website and to that of her contributor, Arlene Prunkl, and we regret the oversight.

Caroline and her co-author Arlene Prunkl are both experienced freelance editors who can assist writers with improving and perfecting their manuscripts. They offer editing, copy editing and proof-reading services and work with many writing genres. Their websites offer interesting blogs and helpful information and resources.

Check out their websites here.

Caroline Kaiser, Freelance Editing Services, <http://www.carolinekaisereditor.com>

Arlene Prunkl, PenUltimate Editorial Services, <http://www.penultimateword.com>

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Table Talk

Networking is one of the main reasons WEN was founded a decade ago, and it continues to be an important benefit of membership. We offer members the opportunity to share their good news about their literary accomplishments every month during the Networking Breakfast. In order to ensure that members can take the best advantage of this benefit, the Executive Board would like to remind everyone of the guidelines.

Table Captain's Responsibilities

- ▶ He/she will introduce new guests during the Member News Session.
- ▶ He/she will announce any news about publications, book launches, readings, presentations, awards and special accomplishments for **members' only**.
- ▶ Due to time constraints, **only Table Captains** will announce news to the membership.
- ▶ Announcements should be limited to a maximum of sixty seconds per person.
- ▶ All comments and announcements should be limited to topics related to the interests of WEN.

Speaker Suggestions Wanted

Did you just hear a fascinating talk by published author? Attended a workshop given by a self-publishing expert? Listened to the lyrical words of a new poet? Heard of an agent who shares publishing secrets? Then tell us!

If you know of an entertaining, informative speaker, please pass the information to the Program Coordinator. We're always looking for new talent for the WEN Networking Breakfasts!

Say ^EWEN!

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

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Nominations Committee News

Nominations Committee Update 2013

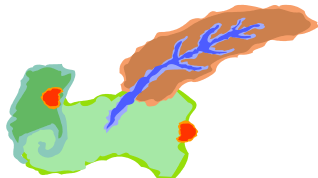
The election of the new WEN Board will take place at the June 15, 2013 Networking Breakfast during WEN's 12th Annual General Meeting.

Below you will find a list of candidates for each Board position and their biographies.

The Nomination Chair is still accepting nominations at jasmine-jackman@gmail.com and will accept nominations from the floor during the Annual General Meeting.

The Nominee must be a WEN Member in good standing, and must consent to standing for the nominated office.

A heartfelt thanks to all those members who have volunteered their time in serving on the WEN Board for the 2012-13 term, and to those members who are putting their names forward as candidates for the stewardship of WEN, by forming the new Board for 2013-14.



When considering a new Board, consider the future of WEN, and select candidates/nominees who not only share that vision but also have the motivation to make it a reality. WEN members are encouraged to participate in the election process by volunteering to serve, and by exercising their right to vote. No proxies are allowed during the voting process.

Jasmine Jackman
Nominations Committee Chair

Elected Board Positions

Members can be nominated for any position on the Executive Board. The available positions are:

Executive Officers

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Directors

Membership Coordinator
Breakfast Coordinator
Program Coordinator
Communications Coordinator
Newsletter Editor
Director-at-Large/Special Events Coordinator

Candidates for WEN Executive Positions

Candidate for President

Maria Pia Marchelletta

Maria has an Honours BA, BED and a creative writing certificate from the University of Toronto. She is a teacher, poet, writer, translator, editor, artist and an organizer of literary events. In 2008, she published a chapbook titled *Nocturnal Laments* with Beret Days Press. Her first collection of poems, titled *On Wings of Dawn*, was released in 2009. Her first bilingual poetry collection, *Sentieri dell'Anima/Journey of the Soul*, was released in 2010. She is seeking a home for her newest collection, *Barnacle of Enchantment*, and is working on a memoir titled *Broken Compass* as well as several children's books. Maria is editor of Joie de Plume Books and co-editor of the anthology *Earth to the Moon*, 2009. She is also the founder and Vice President-Education of the Toronto Toastmasters Club,

and the founder and chair of both the Italo-Canadian and Toronto Bayview chapters of the Canadian Federation of Poets. Maria is the current President of the Writers and Editors Network and also the Anthology Coordinator and has also served WEN as the Nominations Committee Chair.

Candidate for Vice President

Jasmine Jackman

Jasmine worked for a Fortune 500 company for almost two decades in several leadership capacities until she entered teaching in 2006. She is a recipient of the 2011 Teacher Recognition Award from the OSSTF Excellence in Teaching Committee and is a recipient of the 2012 Peel District Board Award of Excellence. Teaching has allowed Jasmine to dedicate more of her time to community endeavours. She was recently appointed to the position of Director and co-chair of the Education and Youth Committee of the United Nations of Toronto Association in Canada and currently holds the position of Director and Vice Chair of Marketing on the Canadian National Exhibition Association. An advocate for social justice, Jasmine volunteers her time mentoring underserved youth and volunteering at Angela's Place. A published poet, Jasmine also writes short stories, and plays. She is a member of the Canadian Ethnic Media Association, Canadian Confederation of Poets, and a contributor to the Canadian Multicultural Journal. She resides in Mississauga with her husband, Lorne, and sons, Steven and Michael.

Continued on next page

Candidate for Secretary

Julie Tellier

Julie was born in the northern Ontario village Verner. Her young age was spent in Verner and the surrounding area of Sturgeon Falls and North Bay, where she attended St Joseph Scollard Hall. In 1996, she graduated from Human Service Worker at Ontario Business College and shortly moved to southern Ontario to work.

Throughout her childhood and adolescence, visual arts as well as writing were always a large part of her life. Her dream to publish or sell her art has driven her to seek deeper into her heart and soul to create. Working her way through jobs from manufacturing to Human Service worker, she has learnt many skills and had many life experiences to assist her in her development and growth in her artistic styles. She now has the opportunity to work more intently on her writings and paintings, in the hopes of accomplishing her dream.

Julie is currently employed in the field of work that she enjoys greatly. Utilizing her first language, she is a bilingual customer service technician for a ventilation company located in Mississauga. She lives in Oakville with her partner, where she spends majority of her time painting, writing and spending time with family.

Candidate for Treasurer

Maurus Cappa

Maurus graduated with a Masters in Applied Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto. He recently retired from IBM after a successful career of 30 years, spanning everything from hardware development to software testing and management,

and was awarded two Canadian and U.S. patents. He is co-founder of the Toronto Toastmasters Club where he serves as Treasurer and Webmaster. He has been an avid amateur astronomer since childhood and now writes poems about astronomy and short stories which have been published in several anthologies.

Candidates for WEN Director Positions

Candidate for

Communications Coordinator

Jasmine Jackman

Please refer to Jasmine's biography under the "Candidate for Vice President" listing.

Candidate for Program Coordinator

Kevin Hopper

Kevin is looking forward to serving his fellow writers. At age 14, his first published work was a letter to the editor of the London Free Press. In 1976, he was awarded an Ontario Arts Council Award for his screenplay adaptation of Hugh Garner's classic novel *Cabbagetown*. The next thirty years were spent pursuing his acting career in Toronto, the U.S., London, England and Sweden. He has worked with Miss Money-penny, John Candy, and Don Franks among others. Kevin is currently working on a book of short stories while he rebuilds his acting career since returning from Sweden.

Candidate for Membership Coordinator

Anna Stitski-Gemza

Anna has been a WEN member since 2005 and was the WEN Communications Coordinator for 2008-09. She has many years of public relations and communica-

tions experience and has planned events for as many as 700 people to as few as 30. She is an editor and a writer of reviews, short stories and children's stories.

Candidate for Breakfast Coordinator

Anna Stitski-Gemza

Please refer to Anna's biography under the "Candidate for Membership Coordinator" listing.

Candidate for Newsletter Editor

Corinne Cast McCorkle

Corinne began her writing career with the class play in Grade Three. She has won awards in business communications, and is now a freelance writer, editor and publication designer. She also enjoys crafting poetry and fiction, and has published some poems and short stories, as well as personal essays and magazine articles. Corinne holds degrees from Northwestern University and University of London Royal Holloway. She grew up near Chicago, lived in Germany and England, and now resides in Mississauga.

Candidate for Special Events Coordinator

Marianne Funny

Marianne has an antique business selling on Ebay with over 14,000 positive transactions.

She recently retired her position as president of a non-profit gym club for which she has been a volunteer for several decades.

By nature she is a diarist who loves the written word. She has published her first non-fiction book *Diary of a Self-Help Junkie*.

No First Drafts, No Fancy Formatting: Tips for Keeping Editing Costs Down

By Caroline Kaiser

Last month, I gave a workshop aimed at self-publishing authors about hiring editors, and naturally we covered pricing. I told the workshop attendees that many editors charge by the hour. In estimating costs, they'll first determine how many pages per hour they can edit by reviewing a sample of the author's manuscript. (By "page," I mean a standard double-spaced 250-word page.) Seven to eight pages per hour is quite brisk, whereas two to three is deathly slow. I went on to describe what makes an editor's pages-per-hour rate plummet, thereby causing editing costs to rise.

What factors can add to editing costs? An obvious one is the quality of the writing. I'll be honest—truly awful writing is mind-twistingly difficult to edit and time-consuming. The reasons for awful writing vary, of course. Sometimes the author's first language is not English, which results in incorrect spelling, cumbersome syntax, and a sometimes amusing mangling of English idioms. If ESL isn't the issue, the writer may have been daydreaming through English class, never learning the rules or thinking they'd be needed. Whatever the cause of awful writing, an experienced editor often has a knack for figuring out what these writers are trying to say and can edit their work. In extreme cases, bad writers need to go back to school to learn the basics of ex-

pressing themselves before they can even be edited.

One thing I told my workshop attendees was to always submit the best work they're capable of, as this will save them money. Submitting your best possible work means slaving away at multiple drafts to work out structural issues before getting any line editing done. (By the way, if you're a writer and don't think you need to work hard, I urge you to reconsider your chosen path.) Under the category of disheartening are those clients who submit their first drafts for line editing. No first draft is ever ready for such late-stage editing. It's a different matter if the editor is providing a manuscript evaluation, as direction for a rewrite can be based on the initial draft. Remember that no matter who writes them, first drafts are invariably lousy. But like some sort of unattractive foundation garment, they need to exist before anything else can be layered on top. Once they've served their purpose, though, hide them away at the back of the drawer!

Aside from submitting your most polished prose, how else can you cut costs? For one thing, keep your formatting standard. Use a standard font such as 12-point Times New Roman or Courier. As well, double space your text and indent your paragraphs. Take out any extra line spaces between your paragraphs. Keep the left margin justified and set margins all around to one inch. Start new chapters on new pages. Keep spacing between headings and body text consistent throughout the text. If you don't do these things, your editor generally will,

and it does take extra time.

Avoid the temptation to *design* your book in Word; a professional designer will do this after the editing phase is finished. Some authors love to play with multiple fonts in Word, resulting in a dog's breakfast of bizarrely incompatible text styles. As well, it's not unusual to find authors using multiple formatting tools—colour, bold, underlining, and all caps—to emphasize particular words. (Italics are all that's needed to emphasize words, and even those need to be used judiciously.) Don't festoon your manuscript with this sort of garish window dressing—it only distracts the editor from the content of your writing. As well, don't do quirky things with your margins. Once, and for no good reason that I could determine, a client insisted on starting certain paragraphs about three-quarters of the way across the page, near the right margin, and I couldn't dissuade her. Leaving such wildly unconventional stuff in your manuscript will only make it look amateurish, and your editor will need to spend a great deal of time undoing it. Simplicity of presentation is what impresses editors the most, and what makes your work appear professional.

The bottom line is this: you'll save money on editing costs if you submit your most polished work and format your manuscript in standard, simple ways.

This article first appeared on freelance editor Caroline Kaiser's blog at www.carolinekaisereditor.com. Thanks to Caroline for sharing it with fellow WEN members.

Contests & Markets

Chicken Soup for the Soul: O Canada It's Winter! 101 Stories About Bad Weather, Good Times, and Great Sports

We're making a book just for Canadians about everything winter. Tales of Canadian winters are notorious! Whether you live in Canada or you are an expat living elsewhere, we want your stories and poems about those long winter months and how you made the most of them — from the east coast to the west coast; from city living to rural living. If your story or poem is chosen, it will be published and your bio will be printed in the book if you so choose. You will also receive a cheque for U.S. \$200 and 10 free copies of your book. You will retain the copyright for your story as well as the right to resell it. Deadline June 15, 2013.

For more information, visit <http://www.chickensoup.com>

Room Magazine's Annual Contest is on!

Calling all women writers: send us your fiction, poetry, or creative non-fiction contest entries. Entries must be postmarked or submitted online no later than July 15, 2013. The entry fee is \$30 per entry.

Each submission includes a complimentary one-year subscription to *Room*. Writers who submit more than one entry will get a multiple year subscription.

The 1st prize in each category is \$500, 2nd prize is \$250; both to be published in a 2014 issue of *Room*.

For complete rules, see <http://www.roommagazine.com/contest-2013>

Pop Montreal and Matrix Magazine: Lit POP is back!

The POP Montreal International Music Festival and *Matrix* magazine have once again joined forces to rock your literary world with Canada's most innovative and exciting literary competition. We are looking for writing that really pops. So if you can bring the noise with poetry and/or short fiction, you will get your work published in *Matrix*, and get free travel to POP Montreal for a night in your honour.

The winners, one from each category, will receive a round-trip ticket to POP Montreal from September 25–29, 2013, a VIP pass to the Pop Montreal Festival, free accommodation at a bed and breakfast, fall publication in *Matrix* Magazine with full honorarium, and presentation at a special *Matrix* Lit POP event during the festival.

This contest is open to residents of Canada and the United States. The deadline for all submissions is June 30, 2013. For complete information, visit <http://www.matrixmagazine.org/litpop/>

Narrative Magazine Spring 2013 Story Contest

The *Narrative* Magazine Spring Contest is open to all fiction and nonfiction writers. They want short shorts, short stories, essays, memoirs, photo essays, graphic stories, all forms of literary nonfiction, and excerpts from longer works of both fiction and nonfiction. Entries must be previously unpublished, no longer than 15,000 words, and must not have been previously chosen as a winner, finalist, or honourable mention in another contest.

Prior winners and finalists in *Narrative* contests have gone on to win other contests and to be published in prize collections, including the Pushcart Prize, the Whiting Writers' Award, *The Best American Short Stories*, the *Atlantic* prize, and others.

Winning works will have strong narrative drive, characters readers can respond to, and effects of language, situation, and insight that are intense and total. They look for works that have the ambition of enlarging readers' view of ourselves and the world.

Hunger Mountain Journal Hosting Two Writing Contests

Hunger Mountain, a print and online journal of the arts published in Vermont, has two contests, both with a June 30 deadline.

The Katherine Paterson Prize for YA and Children's Writing is an annual prize. One overall winner will receive \$1,000 and publication. Three category winners will receive \$100 each and publication. The categories are Young Adult, Middle Grade and Picture Book/Writing for Young Children.

The Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize is an annual contest for short fiction. One first place winner will receive \$1000 and publication. Two honourable mentions will receive \$100 each, and be considered for publication.

For complete information, visit <http://www.hungermtn.org/katherine-paterson-prize-for-young-adult-and-childrens-writing/> or <http://www.hungermtn.org/short-fiction-prize/>

Website Links for Writers

Infographic: Five Key Book Publishing Paths

Jane Friedman

One of the biggest questions for authors today is: Should I traditionally publish or self-publish?

It's an important question—one that tends to result in heated debate—but it's becoming an increasingly confusing and complicated question to answer because:

- ▶ There are now many varieties of traditional publishing and self-publishing—with evolving models and varying contracts.
- ▶ You won't find a universal, agreed-upon definition of what it means to “traditionally publish” or “self-publish.”

It's not an either/or proposition. You can do both.

...There is no one path or service that's right for everyone; you must understand and study the changing landscape and make a choice based on long-term career goals, as well as the unique qualities of your work—not to mention your own strengths and weaknesses.

With that in mind, [I've developed an infographic](#) to describe what I see as the key five publishing paths, their value to authors, the potential pitfalls, and examples of each.

Excerpted from the article on Jane Friedman's website. She has given permission to print and share her infographic, which is attached to the newsletter. To read the rest of this article, go to <http://janefriedman.com/2013/05/20/infographic-5-key-book-publishing-paths/>

The Real Costs of Self-Publishing a Book

Miral Sattar

... Because the book publishing industry is one of the last industries to go digital, it's going through a quick transition. As a result of this shift, authors no longer need to go through the traditional gatekeepers to publish high-quality books and are instead moving toward self-publishing. Launching a book is like launching a startup. Putting together a quality book involves not just writing it, but getting it edited, then formatted, designing a cover, and having a marketing strategy around it.

Below, I break down the costs of how much professional services will cost you for a high-quality book.

Excerpted from the article on the PBS website, MediaShift. See more at: <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2013/05/the-real-costs-of-self-publishing-book#sthash.UOdMqO9.dpuf>



Gesture Writing

Rachel Howard

... The “gesture” was the line of organic connection within the body, the trace of kinetic cause-and-effect that made the figure a live human being rather than a corpse of stitched-together parts. If you “found the gesture,” you found life.

I was, during those early days of art modeling, struggling to find the life in my stylistically choppy novel. At home alone, I heard the drawing instructors' voices.

Find the gesture. Don't worry about the details. What is the essence of that pose?

I left my laptop at my desk and moved to the other side of the room to sit on the floor with my notebook. I chose a scene that involved a woman and a man sitting at a table with a priest, going over the results of a premarital counseling questionnaire.

I knew what happened in the scene, and what each character said, but when I'd tried to write it on my computer, the results were clunky... *Step back. See it whole.* Sitting on the floor with my notebook, I didn't worry about words, about sentences.

This excerpt is from the New York Times' Draft blog about the art and craft of writing with essays by grammarians, historians, linguists, journalists, novelists and others on the art of writing. This post discusses how nude modelling in beginning art classes helped the author improve her craft. To read more, <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/25/gesture-writing/>

WEN News & Events

WEN Members Read at July Networking Breakfast

The popular semi-annual WEN event – WEN Member Readings – has come around again. Come to the July Networking Breakfast on July 15 to hear the work of some of our talented WEN members. The program of readers is now complete, as is the waiting list, and no more submissions can be accepted. Thanks to everyone for your enthusiastic support of this event.



Playwright to Speak in September

We will be privileged to host playwright Daniel Karasik at our September Networking Breakfast on September 21. His latest play is *The Biographer*, which ran in May at Videofag, a performance space in Kensington Market. Karasik is a past winner of the CBC Literary Award and the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Award.

Mysterious and gently poetic, *The Biographer* is the story of a father searching for his daughter amid the wreckage of an abandoned seaside carnival where he believes she disappeared, and a

meditation on the ways we redeem ourselves -- or fail to -- through the stories we tell ourselves about our lives.

Fran Edelstein
Program Coordinator
programs@wenetwork.ca

Letter from the Editor

Say WEN is written by WEN members, so send in your articles and photos. The deadline is the 20th of each month. We want news about your work and information of interest to WEN members such as literary events, workshops, contests, and great resources.

Please submit your news as a written news article. Please do not send your submissions as fliers, evites, personal notes or similar. These do not match newsletter format, and requires someone (me) to put your information into a news article. We're all writers, so let's write! Thank you!

Questions? Comments? Contact me at newsletter@wenetwork.ca.



Share Your Ideas with Us

If you have an idea for a workshop, a new member service, thoughts on how to improve existing member services, or just want to say "Well done!" then write it down and put it in our new Suggestion Box. The Executive Board wants your input and ideas.

Look for the Suggestion Box at the check-in table at the June Networking Breakfast and every month thereafter.



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.

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Director at Large Marianne Funny
Director at Large Kevin Hopper

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

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