

Say ~~W~~^EEN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

November 2013



November Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Leonard Rosmarin, Professor Emeritus and Novelist

Date: November 16, 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

Leonard Rosmarin is Professor Emeritus of French literature and former Chair of the Department of Modern Languages at Brock University. He received his doctorate from Yale University and taught there and at Wesleyan University. He returned to Canada in 1969 to teach at Brock, eventually becoming a full professor.

Before reincarnating himself as a novelist, Leonard was an internationally recognized scholar with nine published books of literary scholarship. He has been decorated twice by the Government of France for distinguished service in the cause of French letters and was Visiting Professor at the University of Perpignan in France.

A self-confessed opera addict, he has written a study on the relationship between literature and lyric drama. He has also written essays about some of the great Franco-Jewish writers of the 20th century, including the dramatist Liliane Atlan and Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel. His English adaptation of Mme Atlan's finest play, *Les Mers Rouges*, was mounted by the Toronto Fringe Festival in 2005.

Leonard has become a novelist rather late in life, at the ripe old age of 70. "For literally decades I had wanted to immortalize my over-the-top, larger-than-life Jewish family," he says. "They were refreshingly un-hypocritical. In fact, they were always brutally frank. They would never stab you in the back; it was always in the chest. They were absolutely transparent. What you see was what you got.

"But whenever I felt inclined to sit down and actually write about them, I would begin to worry about my academic career. I simply had to leave novel writing on the back burner.

(Continued on page 5)

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.

Dates

November Breakfast **11/16**

Say WEN Deadline **11/20**

Anthology Book Launch &
Holiday Party **12/14**

Say WEN Deadline **12/15**

January Breakfast **1/18/14**

Say WEN Deadline **1/20/14**

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President's Message

Dear WEN Members:

This past month, we accepted shipment of our new anthology, *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* and copies were distributed to the authors at the October Breakfast Meeting. To date, most authors have received their books and we also sold several copies at the last meeting. Everyone has been pleased with the layout and quality of the book and much credit must be given to the excellent and diverse material submitted by the authors.

On October 24, I was so proud to partake in celebrating United Nations Day at Queen's Park. This event was hosted by the Toronto Chapter of the United Nations Association of which our very own Jasmine Jackman is Chair. Also, the talented Michael Jackman sang *a cappella* the national anthem in

both official languages. Jasmine helped arrange the event and acted as master of ceremonies. She also read a compelling memoir/poem from *Canadian Imprints*. I was especially proud because several of the speakers were WEN members: Judie Oron, Zohra Zoberi, Baroness Tamara Von Schlegel and Thelma Wheatley. I felt it should have been titled WEN at the United Nations.

A special thanks goes out to Corinne for all her efforts in producing an outstanding newsletter.

See you all in great numbers at November 16 when we have the pleasure of hearing the accomplished writer Professor Rosmarin speak to our association.

Warmest regards,

Maria Pia Marchelletta

President

president@wenetwork.ca



WEN at the UN — United Nations Day Celebration at Queen's Park

Say We^EN!

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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Writers & Editors Network

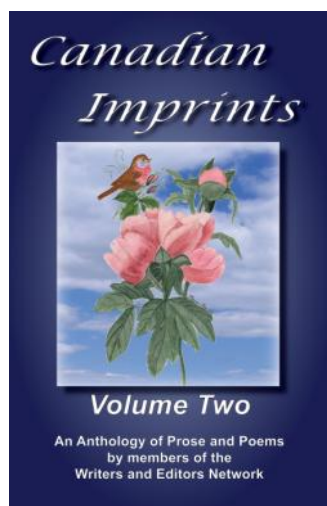
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WEN Anthology Launch Party in December

The Writers and Editors Network will celebrate the launch of their new anthology *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* during the December 14 Breakfast Meeting at



Canadiana Restaurant. The book will be available for purchase at the meeting, and the authors will be there to sign your copy.

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, and there will be a 50/50 draw, a raffle for door prizes and a special breakfast menu.

Anthology authors, please invite your friends and family to join us at the launch party and our holiday celebration. Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, and include the special breakfast, prizes and other special treats.

Readings from this anthology will be featured at the launch party. The readings were arranged by John Ambury; all spots are now filled. The writers included in the

anthology are John Ambury, Ben Antao, Maurus Cappa, Sumaira Choudhury, Andrzej Derkowski, Sally Dillon, Mostafa Dini, Fran Edelstein, William Galvin, Marilyn Garshowitz, Kevin Hopper, Jasmine Jackman, Caroline Kaiser, Fatmatta Kanu, Darryl Lane, Darlene Madott, Maria Pia Marchelletta, Husain Mehdi, Bernarda Smerdelj, Julie Barbara Tellier, Richard I. Thorman, Hans Victor Von Maltzahn, Lois Wood-Wheeler, and Zohra Zoberi.

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!

New Optional Membership Rate Includes Snail Mail

As a benefit of WEN membership, our newsletter *Say WEN* is emailed to members 10 times per year as a PDF attachment. However, some members have told the board that they would prefer to receive the newsletter in the post. Printing and mailing one copy of the newsletter costs \$2, which means that it would cost \$20 to print and mail the 10 issues we produce each year. In order to provide this service to members but still cover the additional cost, the board has decided to offer an optional membership fee that includes newsletters by mail: for an additional \$20 above the standard

membership rate of \$40, or a total of \$60, members can receive the newsletter in the post each month. If you are interested in this option, please contact Corinne at newsletter@wenetwork.ca

Welcome New Members

Please say hello to Jack Livesley who re-joined WEN in November after an absence of a few years and help him feel at home at our monthly breakfasts.

Newsletter Update

The submission deadline for the December issue is November 20. The 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!

Speakers Say Thanks



Brenda Wastasecoot wrote to WEN shortly after her talk in June. She also gave Fran Edelstein her contact information. If you would like to get in touch with Brenda, please ask Fran to send it to you.

Hello Fran,

Thanks so much for having me at your WEN breakfast this morning, I felt very welcomed by everyone. I really enjoyed getting to

share my stories with you. If anyone is trying to buy the children's book, it's at this link below:

www.pemmicanpublications.ca/

Also one woman wanted to find the poem which is in *Manitowapow: Aboriginal Writings from the Land of Water*. Here is the link for that:

www.amazon.ca/Manitowapow-Aboriginal-Writings-Land-Water/dp/1553793072/ref=sr_1_2?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1371315649&sr=1-2

Thanks again,
Brenda Wastasecoot



*As promised during his presentation, Shawn sent Fran the PDF of his ebook **Mentor City: How a Few Minutes with the Right Person Can Change Your Life**. The PDF was then emailed to WEN members in mid-October. If you did not receive that email, please contact Maurus Cappa at treasurer@wenetwork.ca and he will resend the PDF.*

From: Shawn Mintz
To: Fran Edelstein
Sent: Saturday, October 19, 2013 8:54 PM
Subject: My eBook for Distribution
Hi Fran:

It was a pleasure meeting everyone today – very remarkable group of people.

Thanks so much for inviting me and for your very nice remarks. I had a lot of fun as well!

As promised, I have attached my eBook, please distribute to the group.

Thanks again, have a wonderful weekend.

Shawn

Writers and Editors Network at the United Nations

On October 24, Jasmine Jackman, our VP, helped organize and host United Nations Day at Queen's Park. Jasmine is the co-chair of the Toronto chapter of the United Nations Association which sponsors this annual event. The venue was splendid and consisted of two meeting rooms in the west wing of Queen's Park adjacent to the office of Lieutenant Governor David Onley. There was food, wine and a commemorative cake which was enjoyed by all.

There was significant participation by members of WEN including President Maria Marchelletta and Treasurer Maurus Cappa who represented WEN at United Nations Day. In addition, Judie Oron, Zohra Zoberi, Tamara Von Schlegel and Thelma Wheatley gave presentations on the background and research involved in their publications. Later they also took part in a panel discussion.

Jasmine acted as master of ceremonies and read a compelling memoir-like poem from *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* which addressed the Holocaust. Everyone was moved by Michael Jackman, Jasmine's son, who sang wonderful renditions of the Canadian anthem *a capella* in both official languages. It was truly a United Nations event with speeches by lawyers from the First Nations and the black community.

Maurus Cappa

treasurer@wenetwork.ca



Jasmine Jackman welcomes audience to the UN Day Celebration at Queen's Park.



Zohra Zoberi speaks during UN Day Celebration of Canadian Narratives.



Tamara Von Schlegel and another participant await their turns to speak.

Photographs by Michael Jackman

Tamara Von Schlegel's Reading Featured in Local Paper

Tamara's presentation was also covered by the *Caledon Citizen* in the October 31 edition of the paper. Here is a link to the article about her reading from her memoirs.

<http://www.newspapers-online.com/caledon/?p=4776>

Save the Date for December Celebration!

The December Networking Breakfast on December 14 will be jam-packed with fun and celebrations. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we will be launching *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* at the breakfast. The launch will also feature readings by the authors published in the anthology. We will also be celebrating the winter holidays, as we do every December. Family and friends are welcome to attend. Watch for more details in the coming months.

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 at Future Meetings

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 meet some new faces and 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 ice-breakers 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.

(Continued from front page)

"Once I retired, however, I had no more excuses. My immediate family and friends got after me to finally put down in writing all the

tantalizing, scandalous stories I had been relating to them for years. So I sat down and started working on the novel in earnest.

"I had written a few chapters way back in 1982. At that time, all I intended to do was to make fun of my relatives and throw some sex into the story for good measure. When I returned to them so many years later, my attitude had changed radically. I felt a deep empathy towards them. I could no longer mock them. Instead of making my readers laugh at them, I wanted my readers to laugh with them. Hence the title, *Getting Enough*.

"It's the story of a group of individuals from the same family who are desperate for emotional and spiritual fulfillment but go about seeking

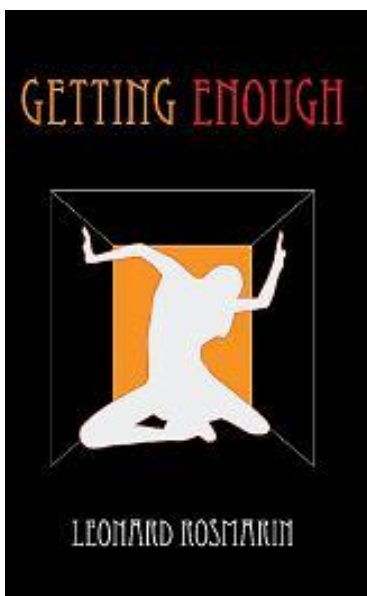
it the wrong way. They get short-circuited by their erotic cravings.

"Now that I have written my first work of fiction, I would love to continue. 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 our whole human condition."

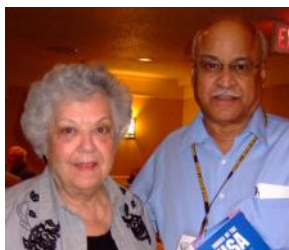
Chicken Soup

The *Chicken Soup* series has opened submissions for two new books, one on cats and one on dogs. For more details, go here:

www.chickensoup.com/form.asp?cid=possible_books



October Breakfast Meeting



Photographs by
Mardi Edelstein

Fatmatta Kanu Launches Memoir

Mark November 28, 2013 from noon to 3 p.m. in your calendar. Fatmatta Kanu is having her book launch for *A Taste of the Kola Nut* which has been published by GoodBooks Publishing. It will take place in the Brierly Room at Montgomery's Inn. Fatmatta will do three five-minute readings at 12:30, 1:30, and 2:30 p.m. You are all invited.

A Taste of the Kola Nut follows *Through the Calabash*, her childhood and coming of age in Sierra Leone. Now we find Fatmatta and her husband Sheka ensconced in the University of Alberta where they spend five years adapting to the Canadian climate and culture – for their first year as the only Sierra Leoneans in town. Fatmatta continues her academic education, while working in the university library, having three babies, attempting to find ingredients for her traditional cooking and welcoming other Sierra Leoneans as they arrive.

The book launch will be a potluck. Come and go in your own time. We will set up a buffet table of "nibbles" (no spoons required) with tea or coffee. Each person brings to the table something that they themselves can eat. (Look after your own eating taboos.) Choose from the table anything you wish but you will be sure of one dish – your own. If you do not care to eat, no need to bring anything.

Coverage in Hebrew and English for Judie Oron

Judie Oron reports: Being fluent in Hebrew and English paid off big time during the first week of October, which was all about interviews for my novel *Cry of the Giraffe: Based on a True Story* and the Hebrew edition, *Bechi HaGiraffa*. In person, on Skype and over the phone, I've been interviewed: in Hebrew on Gila Yefet's TV program on the Israeli Channel; with journalist Shosh Kabessa for the Hebrew newspaper, *Yediot Canada*; and an interview with Israeli journalist, Yael Sherer. A talk about *Cry of the Giraffe* for a book club that has been reading the book in Hebrew rounded out the week. Just as those events involved the Hebrew edition of *Cry of the Giraffe*, the rest of the month's activities relate to the English edition – book club talks and a presentation, book signing and panel discussion for UNACTO, the Toronto branch of the UN.

Thelma Wheatley Book Receives Great Reviews

Thelma Wheatley gave a reading from her book *And Neither Have I Wings to Fly* and a talk on the Orilia Asylum at Lillian Smith Library, Toronto, College Street (College/ St George) on Wednesday, October 23, along with a display of her archival photographs of the institution.

Three great reviews of Thelma's book were published in July issue of *Quill and Quire* by Patricia Maunder who noted her work was based on "meticulous research", and in *Canadian Literary Review*

October issue, by Professor Megan Davies who called her book "powerful." The third review was by Heather Robertson in the October issue of *Canada's History*, who called Thelma's book "critical and compassionate."

Zohra Zoberi Panelist at Peace Conference

Zohra Zoberi was a guest speaker and panelist at the "Annual Conference Universal Peace Federation" held in Ottawa on October 5, 2013. The theme of the conference was "Is Tolerance Sufficient to Nurture the Canadian Family? Or Does Multiculturalism Require More?" She participated in a debate about the Quebec Charter of Values.

Web Links for Writers

In an interesting blog post "Crowdfunding the Next Big Thing in Publishing," Mercy Pilkington, YA author and teacher, discusses various websites available for self-publishing authors to crowdfund the publication of their books. See the post here:

<http://goodereader.com/blog/e-book-news/crowdfunding-the-next-big-thing-in-publishing>

Suw-Charman Anderson, self-described geek and author covering self-publishing and crowdfunding, posted a blog on the Forbes Magazine site offering "Ten Tips for Self-Publishing a Multi-Author Anthology." Find her helpful suggestions here:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/suwcharmananderson/2013/10/23/10-tips-for-self-publishing-a-multi-author-anthology/>

Speaker's Corner

Man with a Mission

"I want you to choose a partner, face each other, and talk about your writers' block, and what you might do to overcome it."

This was not a mere suggestion, but a command from our WEN breakfast speaker, Shawn Mintz, president of MentorCity, on Saturday, October 19th.

We attend this event to network and to learn. Familiar with what is involved in writing a book, Shawn had us immediately doing both: listening hard to opinions, and sharing our ideas. It was amazing how many answers grew out of that one command:

"I start writing and keep writing until something meaningful emerges...."

"I call a friend. Bouncing an idea off someone else often propels me to the next step...."

"In mentoring each other, we are discovering within ourselves what we didn't know existed!"

Unrushed, members contributed one idea after another...an exercise fully enjoyed by all.

"You are a perfect example of a mentoring group," declared Shawn, a tall man with a dynamic manner and convincing voice. "Pay it forward," he continued. "Share your knowledge, then reap the benefits when someone mentors, coaches, and maybe sponsors you...."

On a wide screen was a list of mentoring formats along with suggestions as to how one finds a mentor, for which there are several types. Such statistics were listed in a booklet set at everyone's place: MentorCity.com, captioned with, "A lot of people went further than

they thought they could because someone else thought they could."

On site at MentorCity are over 1200 active people in a global community the world over. MentorCity has an extensive lineup of mentoring types, professional as well as informal... "all mainstream... for everybody...to guide the mentee toward finding one's own answers."

Questions were many and rapid from the floor. It was easy to see how mentoring could play a strategic role in attaining one's goal...in WEN's case, sharing thoughts about what we want to express, and how successful we would like to become. Planning and prioritizing are high on the list.

"A good example of project mentoring is the marketing of a book...how a person can help you...how you can help them," advised Shawn. "Listen hard to opinions, implementing as much good advice as you can."

With "One is not alone" ringing in our ears, we left inspired – if someone else can achieve something amazing, we can do it, too.

More good news: the best things in life are free, folks...and so is mentoring through MentorCity. www.MentorCity.com. Watch for the ebook written by Shawn Mintz, *How a Few Minutes with the Right Person Can Change Your Life*.

If you didn't attend, you missed an exciting morning. Voiced by several of our members: "The most fun we've had at a meeting!"

Fran Edelstein

www.franedelstein.com



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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