

# Say ~~W~~<sup>E</sup>EN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

October 2013



## Dates

October Breakfast **10/19**  
Say WEN Deadline **10/20**  
Memoir Workshop Two **10/23**  
November Breakfast **11/16**  
Say WEN Deadline **11/20**  
Anthology Book Launch &  
Holiday Party **12/14**

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## October Breakfast Meeting

**Speaker:** Shawn Mintz

**Date:** October 19, 2013

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

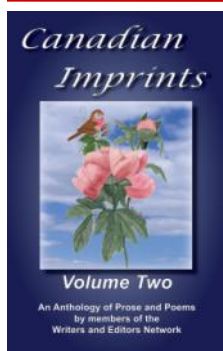
**Location:** Canadiana Restaurant Lower Level, Six Points Plaza,  
5230 Dundas Street West, Toronto

Shawn Mintz, the founder and president of MentorCity, has spent over a decade in the career and employment services sector. Realizing the importance of mentoring, Shawn has been driven to develop award-winning mentoring solutions that have helped thousands of people to achieve greater success, personally and professionally. In recognition of his efforts, Shawn has received George Brown College's Career and Work Counsellor Crystal Award for Innovation, been profiled in *Canadian Newcomer Magazine* as a Canadian who has demonstrated commitment to helping new Canadians succeed and was the runner up in the Canadian Mentorship Challenge. He has also published an ebook called *MentorCity: How a Few Minutes with the Right Person Can Change Your Life*.

## 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](mailto:breakfasts@wenetwork.ca) or [ibanana@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



## New WEN Anthology Now Available!

The new WEN anthology, *Canadian Imprints, Volume Two* will be available at the October 19 breakfast meeting. Anthology contributors can pick up their copies then. WEN members may purchase copies for \$20. A total of 24 WEN members contributed 21 stories and 57 poems to the anthology. Many months of labour have culminated in this splendid literary creation. Be sure to get your copy!

# President's Message

Dear WEN Members:

I am excited to report that *Canadian Imprints, Volume Two* has been released.

Many months of labour have culminated in this splendid literary creation.

Readings from this anthology will be featured at our December 14 Launch Party. Reserve your five-minute reading spot with John Ambury at [jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca](mailto:jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca)

If time permits, we will also include readings from members who do not have work in the anthology.

Instructions for this are in the *WEN News* section of the newsletter. They have also been sent to all members via email.

Hope to see family and friends of WEN authors in great numbers at this event.

Looking forward to meeting with you on October 19 when Shawn Mintz will speak to us about the importance of mentoring.

Regards,

**Maria Pia Marchelletta**  
President  
[president@wenetwork.ca](mailto:president@wenetwork.ca)

## Member News

### Short Story Takes Prize in Alice Munro Contest

Isobel Raven's short story "The Red Purse" placed third in the Alice Munro Short Story Contest, which was part of the Alice Munro Literary Festival in Wingham, Ontario. She was one of five finalists who were invited to read their stories at the gala dinner during the festival. Congratulations, Isobel!

### Poetry Reading in Mimico

*100,000 Poets and Artists for Change* is an annual event that is held on a common day around the world – this year, on September 28. There were two Toronto venues in 2013: the Maple Leaf House in Mimico, hosted by Jan McIntyre



(Maple Leaf Poets) and the Victory Tavern on Markham Street, hosted by Patrick Connors.



*Isobel Raven reading her prize story at Alice Munro Festival.*

WEN's John Ambury led off the poetry at the Mimico event, reading four of his poems. He was followed by more than a score of such luminaries as Jan herself, Susan Munro, J.D. Kruger, Ivy Reiss, Paul Valliere and Larry Densmore. Among many visual works, John also displayed highlights from his 2000 "Equality" series of black-and-white photos.

# 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](http://wenetwork.ca). Send submissions to the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of the month at [newsletter@wenetwork.ca](mailto: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, John Ambury, Anna Stitski, Maria Marchelletta, Gayle Dzis, Jasmine Jackman

### Writers & Editors Network

251 McKee Ave

Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2

[www.wenetwork.ca](http://www.wenetwork.ca)

## New WEN Anthology Released in October

The Writers and Editors Network announces the release of their latest anthology *Canadian Imprints Volume Two*. A total of 24 WEN members contributed 21 stories and 57 poems to the anthology. Many months of labour have culminated in this splendid literary creation.

We will distribute the books at the October 19 breakfast meeting. Anthology contributors can pick up their copies then. WEN members may purchase copies for \$20.

The launch party will be on December 14 during the December breakfast meeting at Canadiana Restaurant. Please invite your friends and family to join us at the launch party for breakfast and our annual holiday celebration.

Readings from this anthology will be featured at the launch party. John Ambury is arranging the readings, so please contact him if you wish to read since spots are limited. Instructions on how to apply are on page 4 of this newsletter.

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.

## Advance Praise for Canadian Imprints, Volume Two

Dr. Leonard Rosmarin Professor Emeritus wrote:

"It has been said that literature is a magical realm where the imagination can roam and expand. The many different authors who have contributed to the work take us on all kinds of voyages in the figurative as well as in the geographic sense.

We travel into the sinister depths of the ocean. We wander into the fascinating labyrinths of North Africa. We stumble through the ravaged landscapes of Italy after the Second World War. We venture forth into the disquieting world of science fiction, and we explore the obscure recesses of the human soul. Some stories here evoke experiences of life that lead to despair, others to joy or renewed hope.

The authors describe for us how people cope with all the curve balls that life can throw at them. I'll wager that no one who reads these texts will be bored."

## Member Listings, Bios and Websites

Several WEN members have asked that the website provide a list of members along with a short bio or craft. For confidentiality reasons, the board decided not to provide a complete member list on the website. However, there is still an opportunity for WEN members who are ok with this to add their bio and/or website. Read on for instructions.

Go to our new website at [www.wenetwork.ca](http://www.wenetwork.ca). When you

click on the *Membership* tab, you will see a drop-down selection 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 offer members the opportunity to provide a link to their websites along with a detailed bio which can include crafts, publications, what you are available for and similar information. You can add as much or as little as 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 participate, simply 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, such as freelance editor, children's author, or poet.

It should be noted that this service is only provided to paid-up WEN members. If your membership expires, your listing will get deleted automatically since the website is linked to our members' database.

Here is a direct link to the current *Members Website* page:

<http://wenetwork.ca/site/membership/member-websites/>

**Maurus Cappa**

*Treasurer and Webmaster, WEN*  
[communications@wenetwork.ca](mailto:communications@wenetwork.ca)

## WEN Member Readings:

### Submissions for December 14

The December breakfast meeting will include the official launch of the new WEN anthology, *Canadian Imprints, Volume Two!* Because of that, the December Reading Program will concentrate on readings by anthology authors.

If you are an **anthology contributor** and would like to read during the launch party, please contact John Ambury at:

[jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca](mailto:jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca).

If anthology readings don't fill the program time, we will add readings by members who are not in the anthology.

If you are a **non-anthology reader**, and would like to submit your work, please follow these guidelines:

**1. Who qualifies** You must be a member in good standing as of the meeting date (December 14, 2013); and the entry must have been written by you. (Let me know if you have written the piece but need someone else to read it for you, for some reason.)

**2. What can be entered** Poems and prose, fiction or non-fiction, complete or excerpts, are welcome. (One entry per member; at our discretion, we *may* accept more than one short poem as one entry.)

**3. Duration** You must be able to read the entry aloud in front of an audience in **five minutes or less**. That includes, of course, any of your introductory comments.

Please read it at home aloud, with all the necessary pauses and emphasis, and time it — the minutes go by more quickly than you might think! You are not obliged to *fill* the five minutes — often a shorter piece is more effective, while a longer one will have the

audience clock-watching and not paying attention to your creation.

To be fair to everyone, we will use a stopwatch — readers should expect to be warned by a bell at four-and-a-half minutes, and to be cut off at five minutes, whether they are finished or not.

**4. How to submit** We need to review the readings ahead of time so we can organize a varied and interesting program. Please email your submission (MS Word attachment, .doc or .docx format) to [jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca](mailto:jfambury.shire@yahoo.ca). Include "Member Readings" in the subject line. If you don't have ready access to email, hard-copy (paper) submissions will be accepted at the October 19 breakfast meeting *only*.

**5. Submission window** Non-anthology submissions -- if there is time for them — will be accepted beginning at 12:01 a.m. on the morning of the October Meeting: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 — no earlier. The Anthology readers — the core of the program — will have until November 4 to submit their entries; so until that date, all "accepted" non-Anthology readers will be on a waiting list. There is no calendar deadline: submissions will be accepted in the order in which they are received, only until the program is full. That usually happens soon after the opening, so do get your submission in soon! (Your entry must be finished and ready when you submit your name; to be fair to everyone, we can NOT "save a place" for anyone.)

**6. And finally** See No. 3!

*With best wishes for a fine autumn,*  
**John Ambury**  
Member Reading Coordinator



### Welcome New Members

Please take a moment to say hello and welcome to new member *Ann Birch* when you meet her at one of our breakfast meetings.

### Newsletter Update

Beginning with this issue, we will include a report on the talk by the speaker featured at the meeting in the previous month. Fran Edelstein, our former program director, will be our faithful reporter. We hope you'll enjoy this new feature, and find it helpful and informative.

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

**Corinne Cast McCorkle**  
Newsletter Editor  
[newsletter@wenetwork.ca](mailto:newsletter@wenetwork.ca)



## Sign Up for WEN's 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Memoir Workshop

Due to the success of WEN's first memoir workshop, WEN is offering *Memoir Class Two: Get Organized*, taught by Gaye Dzis. It will again be held at the Etobicoke Civic Centre on Wednesday, October 23 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Details about the class are below.

If you wish to attend, please email Maurus Cappa at [treasurer@wenetwork.ca](mailto:treasurer@wenetwork.ca), to reserve your place. **Pre-payment is required**; the payment details are below. Once again, we need at least 10 attendees.

This workshop is based on Book 2 of Gayle's series *Write Your Memoirs: Everybody Can!* Gayle notes that autobiography is the only genre in which the writer is the world expert on the subject, knows far too much to write and owns even more stuff to sort out. Join 10 to 16 writers for a seminar-style workshop which attempts to sort out the chaos. A shortened agenda follows.

### Memoirs Workshop Two: Get Organized

The readings for this workshop are *Flash Memories* or *Family Elders*. The workshop will cover these topics:

#### To Plan or Not to Plan

How to handle the subject matter.

#### Organizing the Rough Work

Stories, episodes, clippings, photos, memorabilia, tapes, dvds.

Managing the paper leaves you free to concentrate on the creative aspects of writing your memoirs.

There will be group work, to help you prepare for the week's

writing. Gayle will present a personal life topic on childhood for group discussion. The individual then explores the topic in relation to childhood memories, developing a written story or episode based on the topic, 500 to 5000 words, which may be presented at Workshop Three. (This homework is optional.)

**Presenter:** Gayle Dzis

905-270-2159

**Date and Time:** October 23, 2013  
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

*There will be a 20-minute break; feel free to bring a snack.*

**Where:** Etobicoke City Hall,  
399 The West Mall

*At the south-east corner of Burnhamthorpe and The West Mall.*

**By TTC:** Take subway to Islington then take Burnhamthorpe Bus 50 west to The West Mall.

**Cost:** *Pre-payment is required.*

WEN members: \$15.00

Non-members: \$20.00

You may pay by cash or cheque at the meeting on October 19 or mail a cheque payable to Writers and Editors Network, including your name and address to:

WEN, c/o Treasurer, 251 McKee Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 4E2.

See you for *Workshop Three: My Family Tree and Me!*

### Retired Professor Turned Novelist Is November Speaker

Leonard Rosmarin, our November speaker, is Professor Emeritus of French literature and former Chair of the Department of Modern Languages at Brock University. Leonard became a novelist rather

late in life, at the age of 70. Although he always wanted to write about his "over-the-top, larger-than-life Jewish family", he left novel writing on the back burner in order to concentrate on his academic work.

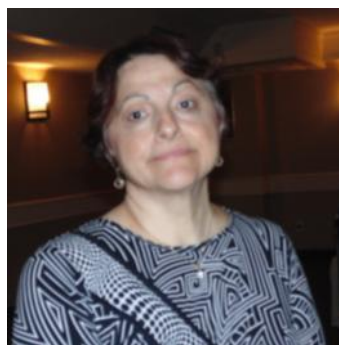
### Save the Date for December Celebration!

The December breakfast meeting on December 14 will be jam-packed with fun and celebration. We will be launching *Canadian Imprints Volume Two* at the breakfast. The book will be available for purchase, and the authors will be there to sign your copy. The launch will also feature readings from the anthology by the authors. Finally, we will also celebrate the winter holidays, as we do every December, with a special breakfast, prizes and other special treats. Family and friends are welcome to attend. Watch for more details.

### January Speaker Confirmed

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.

# September Breakfast Meeting



Photographs by  
Jasmine Jackman.  
Thank you!



# Contests & Markets

## **Children's Writer Seasonal Poetry Contest**

This contest is for children's poetry about the seasons or holidays. To enter, submit a single poem, verse story, or collection of up to five poems for children of any age, on the subject of any of the seasons, or holidays. The total word count of an entry may be no more than 300 words. Entries may be serious or funny, and take any poetic form. Entries must be received by October 31, 2013 and there is an entry fee of \$15, which includes an 8-month subscription to *Children's Writer*, the monthly newsletter that is read by almost 1,300 children's book and magazine editors in North America. They are connected to the Institute for Children's Literature

The winning poems or verse stories in this Seasonal Poetry Contest will be published in *Children's Writer*. Winners will be announced in the February 2014 issue. The prizes are \$500 for first place plus publication in *Children's Writer*, \$250 for second place, and \$100 for third, fourth, and fifth places. For complete details, go to [www.thechildrenswriter.com/af627/](http://www.thechildrenswriter.com/af627/).

## **Glimmer Train Family Matters Short Story Contest**

Short-story journal *Glimmer Train* has called for short-story submissions on the theme of Family Matters, open to stories about families of all configurations. The deadline for submission is October 31, 2013. Most entries run 1,500 to 6,000 words, but stories up to 12,000 words are welcome.

The first place story will win \$1,500 and publication. Winners and finalists will be announced in the January bulletin, and contacted directly by December 23, 2013. More information is available here <http://www.glimmertrain.com/>

*Glimmer Train* has been discovering, publishing, and paying emerging writers since 1990. One of the most respected short-story journals in print, *Glimmer Train* writers are included in recent editions of the *Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*, *New Stories from the Midwest*, *The PEN/O. Henry Prize Stories*, *New Stories from the South*, *Best of the West*, and *Best American Short Stories*.

## **Creative Nonfiction Contest from Online Journal *carte blanche***

[Carte blanche](http://www.cartelblanche.com/) and the [Creative Nonfiction Collective Society](http://www.creative-nonfiction.com/) (CNFC) announce a creative non-fiction contest open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents. The prize is \$50 and publication in *carte blanche*. Submit original, previously unpublished creative nonfiction of up to 3,000 words to <https://carte-blanche.submittable.com/submit> by November 1 at midnight ET. Entry fee of \$7 for CNFC members and \$12 for non-members.

## **1st Annual Permafrost Book Prize in Poetry**

The *Permafrost* Book Prize in Poetry offers publication of a book length collection of poems, \$1000, and distribution through University of Alaska Press. The contest welcomes manuscripts that are at least 50 pages long from any writer writ-

ing in English, including non-US citizens. The deadline for submitting is November 15, 2013. Contest entry fee is \$20.

*Permafrost* Magazine has been interior Alaska's foremost literary magazine for 35 years. *Permafrost* is located at the University of Alaska Fairbanks MFA program. For complete information, go to <http://permafrostmag.com/contests/1st-annual-permafrost-book-prize-in-poetry/>.

## **Contest for Published and Unpublished Crime Novels**

The Crime Writers of Canada are accepting entries for their annual Arthur Ellis Award for best published crime novels or short stories (awarded in seven categories), as well as for the annual Unhanged Arthur Award for the best unpublished crime novel.

The competition for the Unhanged Arthur Award is open to (1) Canadian citizens, no matter where they are living, and to writers, regardless of nationality, who have Permanent Resident status in Canada, and (2) who have never had a novel of any kind published commercially. The deadline is October 15, 2013.

The deadline for published work is December 1, 2013.

For complete rules on submissions, go to:

[www.crimewriterscanada.com/awards](http://www.crimewriterscanada.com/awards)

# Speaker's Corner

On Saturday, September 21, we were delighted to welcome Daniel Karasik to our WEN breakfast meeting. Daniel centred his address on *Hungry*, his book of traditional poems and verse, three years in the works, published this year by Cormorant Books.

As Daniel bounced up to the podium, tall and lively, an eager grin from ear to ear, we were smitten by the young man's energy, thirst for life and zest for sharing. He began to read, and we instantly understood his choice of title.



Daniel Karasik reading his poetry at WEN September breakfast meeting.

"This is poetry inspired by the passions of youth...love, desire, courtship, development, planning for one's place," he announced. At the wonderful age of 27, Karasik is indeed "hungry" to gather and express each and every emotion triggered by his youthful, keen senses. And they are vast. He read several poems from his collection, giving us the background behind each one. Here are some excerpts from his readings.

*The Grown-up Boy Looks Back....*

*I wonder how they are doing,/ Those loves of my first sentient days,/When I was, for several years, sixteen....*

*Elevator Doors*

*close much too quickly;/how relentless you seem to me..../....I think I see someone I know glancing over at me./ Someday things will get better....*

As this programmer looked about to spot the various reactions – as programmers do – she saw all eyes fixed on the speaker, all ears cocked and faces rapt with captivity. This was not just a reading; instead, it could be termed "awareness medicine" to experience the vibrations of youth, and to harvest – for those who really listen – the spirit that spells success.

*Oh to be a young man/free of the perverse frenzy/to know everything; who sees/that life will end; that many books/will be left unread, myriad kisses/will go unsampled ..../Oh to be a young man,/who knows that,/ and is able to live as though he does....*

Daniel Karasik

Come out to our meetings folks, each and every one of you. Invite your younger family and friends, and experience the energy. It's catching!

**Fran Edelstein**

[www.franedelstein.com](http://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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**Treasurer** Maurus Cappa  
[treasurer@wenetwork.ca](mailto:treasurer@wenetwork.ca)

**Breakfast Coordinator**  
Anna Stitski  
[breakfasts@wenetwork.ca](mailto:breakfasts@wenetwork.ca)

**Communications Coordinator**  
Jasmine Jackman  
[communications@wenetwork.ca](mailto:communications@wenetwork.ca)

**Membership Coordinator**  
Anna Stitski  
[membership@wenetwork.ca](mailto:membership@wenetwork.ca)

**Program Coordinator**  
Kevin Hopper  
[programs@wenetwork.ca](mailto:programs@wenetwork.ca)

**Newsletter Editor**  
Corinne Cast McCorkle  
[newsletter@wenetwork.ca](mailto:newsletter@wenetwork.ca)

**Director at Large** Marianne Funny

**Board Appointments**  
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Richard Best 2010-2012

**Writers & Editors Network**  
251 McKee Ave  
Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2  
[www.wenetwork.ca](http://www.wenetwork.ca)