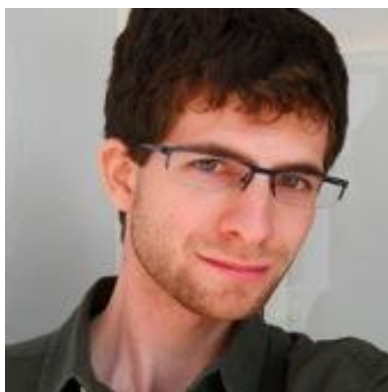


Say ~~W~~^EEN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

September 2013



Dates

September Breakfast **9/21**
Say WEN Deadline **9/20**
Memoir Workshop **10/2**
October Breakfast **10/19**
Say WEN Deadline **10/20**
November Breakfast **11/16**
Say WEN Deadline **11/20**

Inside

President's Message **2**
Anthology Update **2**
WEN News **3**
WEN Events **4**
Member News **5**
Contests & Markets **6**
Website Links for Writers **7**
Events Around Town **7**

September Networking Breakfast

Speaker: Daniel Karasik

Date: September 21, 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

Daniel Karasik writes drama, poetry, and fiction. A recent grand prize winner of the CBC Literary Award for Fiction and the Canadian Jewish Playwriting Award, he is the author of three books: *The Remarkable Flight of Marnie McPhee* (Playwrights Canada Press), *The Crossing Guard & In Full Light*, a collection of plays (Playwrights Canada Press), and *Hungry*, a poetry collection (Cormorant Books). He also works as an actor and director and helms the Toronto-based theatre company Tango Co., through which he has developed many of his plays, produced across Canada, in the United States, and regularly in translation in Germany.

Mentoring Expert to Speak in October

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 e-book 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 breakfast@wenetwork.ca or by completing the registration information on the website at <http://wenetwork.ca/site/calendar/breakfast-meeting/>. The Canadiana Restaurant is in the Six Points Plaza, conveniently located within walking distance of the Kipling Subway station.

President's Message

I trust that everyone has enjoyed this past summer and is looking forward to our next WEN meeting. Coincidentally, our meeting on September 21 happens to be the end of the summer and the start of fall.

I would like to welcome our New Executive Team on board. You'll find the members in the masthead on page X.

Our speaker this month will be Daniel Karasik. His story won the 2011-2012 CBC Short Story Prize. His plays have also won awards.

Our new anthology, *Canadian Imprints Volume II*, is proceeding well and was sent to the printer at the end of August. Plans to launch the anthology in November are on schedule.

We are planning a series of workshops on memoir writing, presented by WEN member Gayle Dzis. The first workshop will be at the Etobicoke Civic Centre on October 2. More details are found in the newsletter.

My goals for the upcoming year are to continue to grow the membership, host lively and interesting breakfast meetings and to promote activities that support our writing and editing community. Suggestions for upcoming speakers and workshops are always welcome.

Hope to see you all on September 21.

Warmest regards,
Maria Pia Marchelletta
President
president@wenetwork.ca

Anthology Update

WEN's newest anthology, *Canadian Imprints Volume II*, features 24 talented WEN writers and poets.

It includes a special dedication in memory of Audrey Girouard's son, a poem written by her granddaughter as a tribute to her father (who is Audrey's son). Audrey is the kind and efficient person who manages our Canadiana breakfast each month.

This diversified collection is full of life experiences both positive and negative. It features a great exposition of literary talents and is sure to give pleasure to any reader.

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

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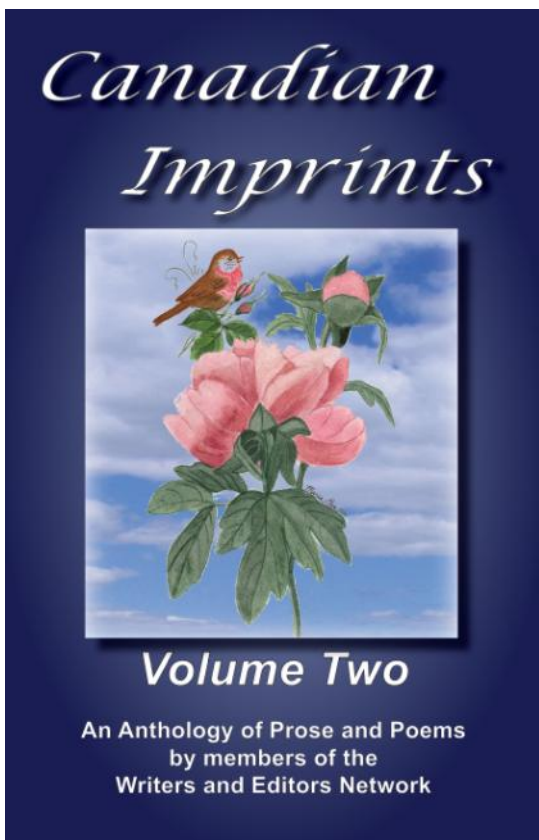
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Story Time:

July WEN Members Readings

I'm a long time WEN member. This year, I built up the courage to stand in front of the membership and read my short story at the July meeting. It's intimidating to stand in front a room full of talented writers, reading ones work, hoping to keep the audience mesmerized and entertained (nothing worse than seeing someone nod off as you're reading).

The event was emceed by John Ambury and his lovely assistant Ursula, his wife, who gave each reader a certificate commemorating the event. John ensured readers kept to their allotted time, ready to reach for his invisible cane and pull any readers away from the podium should they go overtime.



WEN members who shared their work at the July Members Reading event.

I was privileged to be one of the 13 talented WEN members (many first-time readers like me) selected to read our masterpieces to the 50-plus members and guests in attendance. I shared the stage with Barry Clegg, DiDi LeMay, Jake Hogeterp, Husain Mehdi, Marion Malone, Dahn Batchelor, Bernarda Smrdelj, Fatmatta Kanu, Michael Croucher, Zohra Zoberi, Andrzej Derkowski and Isobel Raven.

Readers shared personal essays and anecdotes, blog excerpts, novel excerpts, poems and short stories. The audience laughed, cried and even participated.

I was the second last reader. It's tough to be one of the last readers – would the audience enjoy my story as much as they enjoyed the pieces read before mine?

I was relieved that the microphone worked and that John didn't reach for that hook when I was up there. My voice didn't quiver, and looking around the room, I didn't see (or hear) anyone snoring. I found myself enjoying reading my story in front of a captive audience. The applause and compliments at the end of the reading have me looking forward to sharing another story with my writing peers in the future.

Anna Stitski
Membership &
Breakfast Coordinator

Thanks from Board Member

To All My Friends at WEN:

I would like to express my sincerest thanks for the honour received.

Imagine... a gorgeous gift and a handsome *Certificate of Recognition* for doing a job I so enjoyed!

This was my first year at WEN, and I was so warmly welcomed and supported by everyone. Thank you for that. Thank you for responding so well to our guest speakers, and again, for such an amazing honour.

Sincerely,
Fran Edelstein
Retiring Program Coordinator

Please note: I am not going away. As a (retired — do we ever really retire?) journalist, I will attempt to

recap what speakers have said. For want of a better name, my column in the Newsletter will be titled "Speakers' Report".



Welcome New Members

Two new members joined WEN over the summer. Please say hello to Lorene Albers and Vinita Kinra and help them feel at home at our Networking Breakfasts.

Newsletter Update

Welcome to the first issue of *Say WEN* for the new WEN year! Thanks to all who took time out from their summer frolics to contribute something to this issue.

The submission deadline for the October issue is September 20. Send us 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. Photos of WEN activities and events are welcome too, so don't forget your camera!

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

Corinne Cast McCorkle
Newsletter Editor

Getting Started: Memoir Writing Workshop

At her introductory lectures on whether you're ready to begin your memoirs, workshop leader Gayle Dzis asks her audience to consider these questions before they begin:

What are memoirs? Who will read your memoirs? Why are you doing it? Which life history do you wish to write? How much time do you intend to spend on it? Which secrets do you want to keep?

The answers determine the size and shape of the project. After that it is a question of getting started.

If you're ready to take the next step, attend *Getting Started*, Gayle's three-hour workshop sponsored by WEN. Gayle's goal in this workshop is to encourage each student to write an episode of personal



Gayle presenting her introductory lecture "Questions to Ask Before You Begin" at Richview Library in May.

life history, in his or her unique style. She will introduce the subject of memoir writing, then present a topic which participants can adapt to their life stories. At the end of the workshop, each person will have an idea in mind for a 500-to-5000-word story from childhood and have some notion of how to present it.

Mentoring Expert to Speak in October



Shawn Mintz, the founder and president of MentorCity, will speak at our October Networking Breakfast. Shawn has developed award-winning mentoring solutions that have helped thousands of people to achieve greater success.

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 in the Niagara Region of Ontario, Canada. Before reincarnating himself as a novelist, Leonard has been an internationally recognized scholar and published nine books of literary scholarship.

Leonard became a novelist rather late in life, at the ripe old age of 70! Why did it take so long? Find out at our November Networking Breakfast, when he tells his story of creating his first novel.

Presenter: Gayle Dzis
905-270- 2159

Date and Time: October 2, 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 September 21 or mail a cheque with your name and address to:

WEN, c/oTreasurer, 251 Mc Kee Avenue, Toronto, ON M2N 4E2.

Cancellation date: September 24
Workshop will be cancelled if fewer than 10 enroll. Fees will be returned if workshop is cancelled.



Selection of memoirs published by Gayle's students. WEN members Eva Hamon and Fatmatta Kanu have also published memoirs after participating in Gayle's memoir workshops.

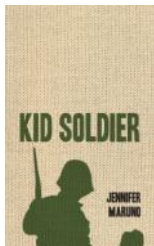
Isobel Raven Shortlisted in Munro Short Story Contest

Isobel Raven's short story "The Red Purse" has been named one of five finalists in the 2013 Alice Munro Festival Short Story Competition. The competition judges said "It needs to be stated that the quality of writing ... is outstanding and we wish to congratulate all the writers for their support of, enthusiasm for and dedication to the art of short story writing."

Isobel will read from her story at the Gala dinner on Saturday, September 28. The competition winner will be announced at the dinner. "The Red Purse" tells the story of the theft of a red purse and how it affects both the owner of the bag and the person who took it.

Jennifer Maruno Launches Fourth Novel

Jennifer Maruno is launching her new book *Kid Soldier*, her fourth novel of historical fiction for young



people. The launch is on September 15 at 2 p.m. at A Different Drummer Bookstore, 513 Locust Street, Burlington, Ontario. She invites all WEN members to come and help her celebrate.

Published by Dundurn Press, *Kid Soldier* is based on a true story about a 15-year-old boy who lies about his age and name in order to enlist in the Canadian Army in World War II. He travels to Eng-

land with the newly formed 1st Canadian Division, witnesses the Battle of Britain, the death of a German pilot, and gets caught in the London Blitzkrieg. When his true age is discovered, Richard faces a court-martial.

Jennifer was inspired to write the story by the diary of her father, Richard Fuller. He grew up in Niagara Falls, only leaving his home town to serve his country. After the war, he worked as a letter carrier for Canada Post. He left behind a black binder full of anecdotes of growing up in the Falls and becoming an underage artillery man.

Gayle Dzis Memoir Presentation a Success

"Questions to Ask before You Begin", a lecture on preparing to write a memoir that was given by Gayle Dzis in May, was well attended. About 75 people, including several WEN members, turned out at Richview Library for the Senior Advisory Counsel event. The event was also covered in the June issue of SNAP. Gayle would like to thank WEN for their support, as well as Diane Cansfield, who invited her to speak.

Gayle states, "SNAP's photo caption noted that the questions were 'simple', which indeed they are. It is the answers which can be complicated." If you are ready to move beyond those answers and write, attend "Getting Started", the WEN workshop that Gayle will teach on October 2. Details can be found under *WEN Events*.

Two Members Published in New Anthology

John Ambury and Zohra Zoberi have been published in a new anthology titled *The Courtneypark Connection*, which was launched at



the end of August. The writers in the anthology are connected to the Courtneypark literary circle, which meets monthly at the Courtneypark library in Mississauga. This is their first collection; containing poetry and prose from 18 writers. Both John and Zohra read their work at the launch.

Zohra's work was also published recently in two other anthologies: *Family of the Hearts* and *South Asian Ensemble*.

Zohra Zoberi and Jasmine Jackman Speak at Anti-Bullying Open-Mike Event

In July, with help from the Arts Council, Zohra Zoberi hosted an anti-bullying open-mike event at the Living Arts Center in Mississauga. WEN member Jasmine Jackman also participated, speaking about bullying to the gathering of young people. The event included a poetry slam, at which Zora and a number of other artists read their poetry. Performing groups Youth Troopers and Bridging the Gap, an arts group dedicated to fostering understanding between cultures of which Zora is the artistic director, performed a skit they had created.

Contests & Markets

Canadian Tales of the Fantastic Short Story Competition

Writers of short fiction are encouraged to enter the 2013 Canadian Tales of the Fantastic Short Story Competition, sponsored by Red Tuque Books. To be considered, a story must have two things: an element of the Fantastic; and, it must be identifiably Canadian." An element of the Fantastic" means Fantasy, Science Fiction or Horror. To meet the "identifiably Canadian" requirement, the story must be written by a Canadian, or written about Canadians, or take place in Canada.

There will be three winners and ten honourable mentions, sharing \$1,000 in prize money. All winning entries will be published by Red Tuque Books in their upcoming anthology, *Canadian Tales of the Fantastic*. The contest deadline is December 31, 2013. The entry fee is \$15 for one manuscript, \$25 for two, or \$30 for three. For complete details, go to

www.redtuquebooks.ca.

The Flash Fiction Challenge

The Flash Fiction Challenge is an international creative writing competition, now in its fifth year, that challenges writers around the world to create short stories (1,000 words max) within two days and within specific parameters of genre, location, and object.

Some previous Flash Fiction Challenges are: Drama, awards dinner, press-on fingernails; Sci-Fi, drug rehab centre, wig; Comedy, luxury spa, exit sign; Romantic Comedy, ambulance, onion rings; Horror, rooftop, wheelchair.

Writers are assigned to groups at the beginning of the competition and each group is given different writing parameters. There are four levels of challenges, with writers moving on to the third and fourth levels only if they are within the top writers in the first two levels. [Click here](#) for more details on how the competition works.



In addition, each writer will receive feedback from the judges for every story submitted. The judges include published writers and teachers of creative writing.

There will be 25 winners, receiving cash and prizes such as novel-writing software.

The entry deadline is September 19, 2013, with four challenge deadlines about a month apart.

The contest is run by NYC Midnight Movie Making Madness, a group dedicated to discovering and promoting talented storytellers. For complete details, go to

<http://www.nycmidnight.com/Competitions/FFC/Challenge.htm>.

Call for Submissions: The Writing Spiral Anthology

Sunshine in a Jar Press is looking for "pieces about learning, teaching, mentoring, coaching, writing, changing, growing, creating, and sharing. ... about love, loss, joy, decadence, deprivation, hope, fear, friendship, family, work, social responsibility, health, culture, light, and darkness.

Write about learning to write. ... Why did you decide to become a writer? What makes a writer distinct? Describe the experience of learning. Where do you like to write? How many stories does a writer hold? Has learning to write changed you? This anthology hopes to capture the spirit of learning to become a writer. Writers of all ages, stages, and places welcome."

Deadline is March 1, 2014. The anthology will be published in Autumn 2014.

Call for Submissions: New Online Journal

Origami Journal is seeking submissions for its winter 2013 issue.

"*Origami Journal* is an online publication founded by Lorna and Laura, two gals with one goal in mind: celebrating and promoting original literature and photography that uniquely capture the human experience." Their third issue will be out next month.

They are looking for Fiction or Non-Fiction stories and photography; any genre except erotica, children's/YA. No poetry. Deadline for the winter issue is November 21. Find their guidelines at:

<http://origamijournal.com/submit/>

Website Links for Writers

An Online Chance to Avoid the Slush Pile

Major publishing houses Down Under in Australia and New Zealand have begun accepting unsolicited novel manuscripts online, on one specified day each week or each month (depending on the publisher). They will accept manuscripts from anywhere in the world, and have already signed a few unknown writers to publishing contracts. For the complete story, read “Pitching novels online rewrites the rule book for wannabe authors” by Linda Morris, a journalist writing for *The Age*, a daily newspaper published in Melbourne, Australia. Find it here:

<http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/books/pitching-novels-online-rewrites-the-rule-book-for-wannabe-authors-20130830-2sw67.html#ixzz2dTKNJNky>

Advice on Writing a New Style of Self-Help Books

If you think writing your life story might help others, see “Self-Help Books Get Naked: A New Breed Turns Raw, Real and Relevant” by Tama Kieves. She writes, “Today’s readers crave realness, connection and embodiment—which is why we’re seeing a new breed of contemporary self-help books: part memoir, part self-help, and pure, juicy, soul medicine. The new teachers...[are] sharing from the trenches, the off-kilter kitchen tables, and their pilgrimage --and readers are gulping down the intimacy and immediacy...It’s reality-based, unparalleled training.” She offers six tips on writing “naked” self-help books. Read them here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tama-kieves/selfhelp-books-get-naked-b_3843093.html?ref=topbar

Events Around Town

Plan to Visit WOTS

Although WEN is not participating this year in The Word on the Street National Book & Magazine Festival, many WEN members are sure to attend this celebration of the written word. Make your way to Queen’s Park Circle on Sunday, September 22, 2013, 11 a.m. 6 p.m. for talks by well-known and newly published writers, books for sale, writing workshops and more. Featured writers this year include L. Marie Adeline, Joseph Boyden, Austin Clarke, James Cunningham, Joy Fielding, Susanna Kearsley and Bruce Poon Tip.

Workshops include The Insider’s Guide to Getting Published, How to Write a Bestseller and Mastering the Art of Self-Promotion.

Here’s a fun fact. Writers speaking at WOTS this year include some individuals who were featured speakers at past WEN meetings: Linwood Barclay, Howard Shrier, Anthony De Sa, Antanas Sileika, Terry Fallis, and Maureen Jennings.

For complete information, go to <http://www.thewordonthestreet.ca/wots/toronto>



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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