

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

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

April 2014



## April Breakfast Meeting

**Speaker:** Gina Valle, diversity trainer, speaker, author

**Date:** April 19, 2014

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

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

Dr. Gina Valle will speak about “Writing What Feels Right.” A leading diversity trainer, speaker and author, Gina received the Diamond Jubilee Medal from the Office of the Governor General for her significant work in diversity through her organization Diversity Matters. Her latest book, *Teachers at Their Best – Enseignants Sous Leur Meilleur Jour*, looks at issues of diversity in our society and in our classrooms.

She has also edited the book *Our Grandmothers, Ourselves: Reflection of Canadian Women*, a collection of creative nonfiction written by nineteen Canadian women of various cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds to celebrate the memories of their grandmothers and pay tribute to the significant role they played in forming their identities. The book is part of the course curriculum in a number of university and college programs.

Gina’s work includes an award-winning documentary film, a touring photography exhibit related to *Our Grandmothers, Ourselves* and numerous journal articles.

Her interest in diversity originates in her upbringing as the Toronto-born daughter of Italian immigrants. “Since I travel daily between the rural, southern Italian culture I acquired inside the home and the urban, mainstream Canadian culture I encounter in the world outside, each day I build bridges of understanding as I create a new culture, one that straddles the old world in which I was raised and the new world of contemporary society,” she says on her website.

(Continued on page 2)

## Breakfast Registration Details

The breakfast meeting costs \$15 for WEN members and \$25 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.

### Dates

**April Breakfast 4/19/14**

Speaker: Gina Valle

**Say WEN Deadline 4/20/14**

**May Breakfast 5/17/14**

Speaker: Dorothea Helms

**Trailer Workshop 5/17/14**

**June Breakfast 6/21/14**

Speaker: Theo Heras

**AGM and Elections 6/21/14**

**July Breakfast 7/19/14**

Member Readings

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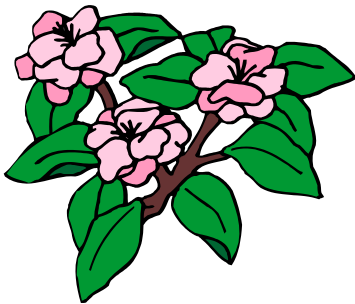
# President's Message

Dear WEN Members:

Spring is finally here after a cold and snowy winter. To celebrate, we have announced our **Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest**. Deadline is May 17th and there is no entry fee. Contest guidelines can be found in this newsletter or on the website at [www.wenetwork.ca](http://www.wenetwork.ca)

The May 17th breakfast meeting will be special since we have arranged for a one-hour workshop on creating your own book trailer by Rich Helms. This workshop, free of charge, will take place right after the regular meeting. More information will be emailed as the date approaches.

At CanadaBlooms, last month, several WEN members took part in



poetry and prose readings. There is an article by Anna Stitski-Gemza in this newsletter.

Every year at this time of year, we announce that Board Elections will take place at the Annual General Meeting on June 21st. All positions are open and we encourage your participation in the Board. Nomination forms and a description of the board positions will be emailed shortly. They are also attached to this newsletter. Our Secretary, Julie Tellier is Nominations Chair for this year.

We want to encourage peer book reviews on books authored by members of WEN. These book reviews will be selected for inclusion in the newsletter and/or the WEN website. We are actively recruiting for new members ... bring along a potential member as a guest and you will be entered into a draw for a free breakfast.

Warmest Regards,

**Maria Pia Marchelletta**

*April, 2014*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Gina speaks several languages and holds a PhD in Teacher Education & Multicultural Studies from The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto. Prior to receiving her PhD, Gina earned a Masters of Education in Curriculum and a Bachelor of Education (Ontario Teacher's Certificate).

Gina offers workshop and training sessions to organizations, hospitals, school boards and women's groups. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.diversity-matters.ca>

## WEN Survey Factoids

\*Members cited the following as reasons for joining WEN:

1. Networking 88%
2. Speakers 76%
3. Breakfast 56%
4. Newsletter 41%
5. Workshop 33%
6. Website 21%

\*44% of WEN members believe that we should publish an anthology once every two years.

\*65% of WEN members access the website at least once a month.

**Jasmine Jackman**

# 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 they participate. We welcome any other news that may benefit our members.

WEN does not verify the accuracy of submissions and their inclusion does not constitute an endorsement of these services and organizations.

WEN reserves the right to edit or reject submissions at our discretion.

Say WEN is distributed the first of each month, excluding August, to more than 100 WEN members and is posted online at [www.wenetwork.ca](http://www.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

\$22/year (11 issues) or \$2/issue

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

## The Writers and Editors Network Presents *Summer Sizzle*

WEN is pleased to announce our first ever poetry contest.

*The Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest.*

**Theme:** Summer

**First Prize:** \$100

**Second Prize:** \$50

**Third Prize:** \$25

*Open to WEN members only*

There is no entry fee. The submission guidelines are on the contest poster in this newsletter.

## Nominations Open for 2014-15 WEN Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee would like you to consider running for a position on the WEN Board. Or perhaps you know of a WEN member who should be on our next board? Attached to this newsletter you will find a brief description of duties for each board position. We will be happy to provide you with a detailed description for any position that interests you. The positions carry a term of one year, with the new board being elected at the June Breakfast and Annual General Meeting.

If you would like to put your name forward for a position, or would like to nominate another WEN member, please use the nominating form in this newsletter.

## Join Us on Facebook!

Are you on Facebook? Then join the WEN Facebook group and get in on the conversation!

You can find the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/540688265980292/>.

The WEN Facebook group is “closed” which means anyone can read the newsfeed posts, but only

group members can post something or see other areas. To join, click the “Join Group” button near the upper right. Maurus Cappa, the group administrator, will approve your request to join, after which you can post on the WEN page and see other areas. Anyone may join the group, whether or not they are WEN members.

The Facebook group provides a forum for WEN members to exchange views about writing-related subjects, and to solicit answers to writing and editing questions that arise from our work. Feel free to post information related to WEN’s core interests such as book launches, good writing or editing websites, events around town such as conferences or readings, contests, and good news about our own writing endeavors. The board will also post WEN news.

## Assistant Editor Still Needed!

*Say WEN* is looking for an assistant editor to help put out the newsletter each month. In particular, help is needed with the listings for contests, markets, literary events and interesting items from internet sites. If you would like to help, please contact the *Say WEN* editor, Corinne Cast McCorkle, at [newsletter@wenetwork.org](mailto:newsletter@wenetwork.org).

## Call for Submissions: Review Your Peers

*Say WEN* wants submissions to our new newsletter section, “Peer Book Review Exchange,” which features reviews of members’ books, written by other members. We hope that giving attention to members’ books will boost their

sales. Please keep reviews short, no more than 300 words. At the beginning of the article, please include the book’s title and author, publisher’s name and copyright date, and the purchase price. Please send the review as a Word document attachment, rather than pasting it in your email.

## Call for Submissions: Articles and News for *Say WEN*

The submission deadline for the May issue is April 20. Please consider contributing to the newsletter. Remember, we want:

- your writing news
- tips on writing, editing and self-publishing
- industry news
- announcements of literary events, conferences and contests;
- leads on agents, markets and publishers
- reviews of books, software and tools for writers and editors
- short essays (250 words or less), poems or jokes on writing for *The Writing Life* section
- Photos of member activities
- Peer book reviews

Please write a short paragraph or two and send your item as an attachment, preferably a Word doc, to [newsletter@wenetwork.org](mailto:newsletter@wenetwork.org).

**Please note:** Anything other than completed articles (e.g., forwarded emails, advertising flyers or other fragments that still need to be written up) will be returned with a request to resend the information as a completed article.

## WEN Offers FREE Workshop on Book Trailers

Plan to join us after the May breakfast meeting for *Book Trailer 101*, a free, one-hour workshop taught by Rich Helms. Book trailers have become an important tool in the promotion toolbox, and with Rich's help, you can learn to create one on your own. Rich says, "With YouTube's popularity, it is easy to upload and show your videos. But where do you start to create your promo? This workshop examines elements and approaches, guidelines and production strategies."



Rich Helms is a seasoned software developer with over 30 years of experience in computer Research and Development. His credentials range from deep technical work (five patents in hardware and software) to running R&D. Rich has been developing multi-media technology since the 1980's. He is a past Board Member of the WCDR.

The workshop will begin at noon in our meeting room at the Canadiana, right after the May breakfast meeting is finished. For more information, visit <http://booktrailer101.info/course/>.



## June Speaker Theo Heras Is Children's Author and Performer

Theo Heras is a singer, writer, storyteller and retired children's librarian. She is the author/performer of *What Will We Do with the Baby-o?*, a book and CD of traditional songs and rhymes, and the music CD *Seashell, Sing a Song to Me*.

Theo's website says, "After more than 20 years working as a children's librarian in Toronto, I have retired. But I'm not out of the children's book world yet. I'm still offering programs for babies, both



## The Writing Fairy Spreads her Magic at May Meeting

Award-winning Dorothea Helms is an internationally published writer, editor and popular writing instructor. Her work has been published in books, magazines and newspapers in Canada and the U.S. Dorothea also teaches creative writing at the college level. Owner of the highly successful Write Stuff Writing Services, through which she provides topnotch writing for businesses, public relations firms and ad agencies, she declared herself "The Writing Fairy" in 2004. Under that brand, she offers books, workshops, courses, keynote speeches, writing contests and writing-related items. For more information, visit her websites: <http://www.wsws.ca/>, and <http://dorotheahelms.com/resume/>.

in private homes and in community settings. I'm writing for children and remaining active in CAN-SCAIP and IBBY-Canada. Currently I'm chairing the Elizabeth Mrazik Cleaver Canadian Picture Book Award. And, of course, I'm singing."

Her book reviews have appeared in *School Library Journal*, *Quill & Quire*, *Resource Links*, *Children's Book News*, and *Books in Canada*. Her articles have appeared in *Horn Book* and *CCL (Canadian Children's Literature)*.



## WEN Reads at CanadaBlooms

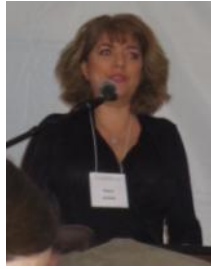
On March 18, CanadaBlooms featured a special literary event – WordDay@CanadaBlooms. The event, presented by Parklane Nurseries who built a reading garden for the exhibition, was organized by WEN member Saskia van Tetering and featured two reading times – one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Seventeen Canadian writers were invited to read poetry or prose that was inspired by and reflected the vision of the Ontario Water Centre and rewilding.

Some authors wrote something special for the event, others read something from their books or collections. Seven of the featured authors were WEN members: Anna Stitski-Gemza, Marilyn Garshowitz, Liana Di Marco, Marion Malone, Ben Antao, Saskia van Tetering, and John Ambury. Authors were also invited to bring their books and CDs to sell.

The readings were done at the Learning Stage. I participated in the afternoon event and not only had the opportunity to read my dark, “rewilding” gardening story, I also had the pleasure of listening to the other authors read their work. After the reading, we were invited to the reading garden — every backyard should have one, an area with comfy furniture and luscious plants that inspire creativity or at least let you lounge around with a good book.

Thanks to Parklane for presenting this wonderful event and to Saskia van Tetering for organizing it.

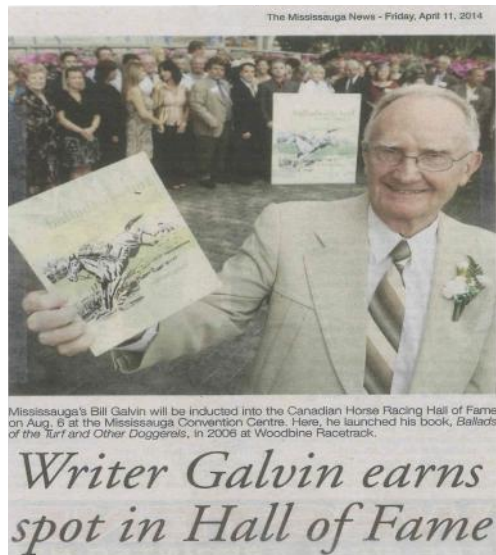
**Anna Stitski.-Gemza**  
Breakfast Coordinator,  
Membership



*WEN members reading their work at WordDay@CanadaBlooms.*

## “Pinnacle of My Career” Says Galvin

WEN member Bill Galvin will be inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame this coming August, as announced in the *Mississauga News*, below.



Mississauga's Bill Galvin will be inducted into the Canadian Horse Racing Hall of Fame on Aug. 6 at the Mississauga Convention Centre. Here, he launched his book, *Ballads of the Turf and Other Doggerels*, in 2006 at Woodbine Racetrack.

## Darlene Madott Book Launch

WEN member Darlene Madott is launching *Making Olives and Other Family Secrets (Ripasso)* on May 14, from 7- 9 p.m. at the Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto.

WEN members are invited to attend. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served, and a bottle of Ripasso will be given with every five-book purchase.



The launch is a re-launch of the original edition, the title story of which won the Bressani Literary Award in 2008. This “Ripasso” extends the original collection with five new stories, and there are award-winners among these. The concept of *ripasso* is garnered from the process by which Volpolicella juice is passed over the Amarone grape skins, deepening the colour and kicking up the alcoholic content. Madott's stories deal with themes of family betrayal and celebration.

The author was recently profiled in the *Panorama Italia* magazine; read the article here:

[http://www.panoramitalia.com/en/life-people/profiles/darlene-madott-roles-finesse/2398/?fb\\_action\\_ids=10152070537190967&fb\\_action\\_types=og.comments&fb\\_source=aggregation&fb\\_aggregation\\_id=288381481237582](http://www.panoramitalia.com/en/life-people/profiles/darlene-madott-roles-finesse/2398/?fb_action_ids=10152070537190967&fb_action_types=og.comments&fb_source=aggregation&fb_aggregation_id=288381481237582)

Order copies of the book here:

<http://www.accenti.ca/store/Making-Olives-and-Other-Family-Secrets-by-Darlene-Madott-RIPASSO.html>

**Darlene Madott**

## Questioning Your Story

Use this list of questions to review your story and ensure that it will draw in your readers and keep them turning the pages.

- ◆ Do the opening lines and scenes propel the reader to read on?
- ◆ Have I established my point of view?
- ◆ Have I introduced the protagonist and antagonist?
- ◆ Do my opening scenes throw the protagonist into conflict: with another, with herself, with her environment (or all three)?
- ◆ Have I made clear what the central character wants? What is stopping her?
- ◆ Is the main character compelling?
- ◆ Have I let the reader know what she looks like?
- ◆ Is there a clear central story line in the present?
- ◆ Do the flashbacks tie in with the central story line?
- ◆ Is there a secondary conflict?
- ◆ Is the setting described, but not in too much boring detail?

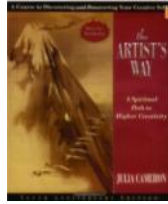
**Ann Birch**

The writer must have a good imagination to begin with, but the imagination has to be muscular, which means it must be exercised in a disciplined way, day in and day out, by writing, failing, succeeding and revising.

Stephen King

## Book Review

***The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*** by Julia Cameron (Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, c 1992, 2002) \$23.50



I am just beginning the adventure on "a spiritual path to higher creativity." In the book, Cameron encourages daily exercises in "letting go, and letting God" open you to your own creative potential. Our struggle as artists is with the blockages and beliefs that keep us from our natural desires to express ourselves creatively.

The book is split into 12 weekly chapters, as the publication evolved from a series of workshops developed by Cameron over many years of teaching creativity. Issues covered include "Your Enemy Within: Core Negative Beliefs," "Creative Affirmations," "Dealing with Criticism," "The Great Creator" and "The Imagination at Play" among others. There are exercises at the end of every chapter designed to stretch and open the artist to new ideas and opportunities.

The issue is basically how we all use subtle ways to defeat our own innate abilities to create. The book is available at most book stores and online, and I highly recommend it, if you want to be a better writer/artist/actor or creative professional.

**Kevin Charles Hopper**

*WEN's Program Coordinator*

## Interested in Forming an Artist's Way Study Group?

Julia Cameron encourages her students to form Sacred Study Circles, or creative clusters, of fellow travellers on the path to higher creativity, to support and encourage each other as they work through the program outlined in the book. Anyone interested in forming a Sacred Study Circle in Eastern Scarborough/Markham/Ajax area is encouraged to contact Kevin Charles Hopper on Facebook or email him at [kevinhopperloyalist@yahoo.com](mailto:kevinhopperloyalist@yahoo.com)



## Promote Your Book on TV

"The Liquid Lunch" show on That Channel, the live-streaming, internet television station, is looking for people to interview. It is a great place to promote your book. I have been interviewed on the show, as have several other WEN members. If you would like to go on the show to promote your book, please contact them.

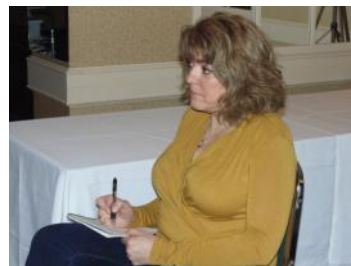
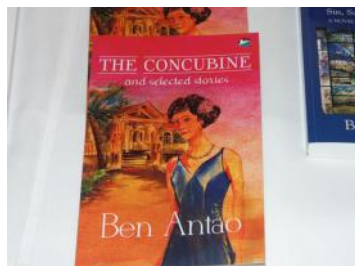
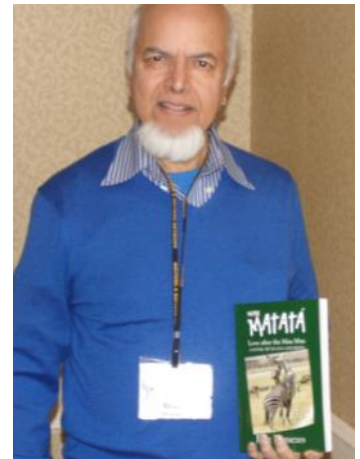
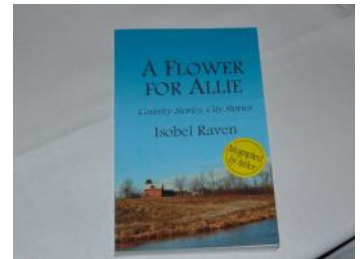
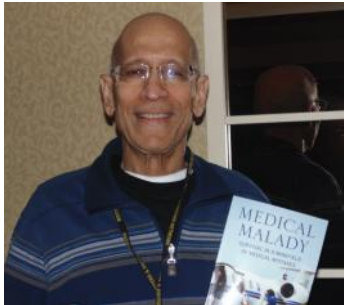
For further info, contact [ravelle.thatchannel@gmail.com](mailto:ravelle.thatchannel@gmail.com) or call Ravelle Rene at 416-604-5749. Visit their website at <http://www.thatchannel.com/liquidlunch>.

**Marianne Funny**

*Director at Large*



# March Breakfast Meeting



Photos by Jasmine Jackman

# Contests & Markets

## Glimmertrain Very Short Fiction Contest

**Deadline:** April 30, **Fee:** \$15.

They are looking for any stories that have not been previously published anywhere, in any format. Maximum length 3,000 words.

**Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup>: \$1,500, publication + 20 copies of the issue; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prizes: \$500, \$300 (increases to \$700 if published) + 10 copies. Learn more at <http://www.glimmertrain.com/veryshort.html>

## 2014 Far Horizons Award for Poetry Contest

**Deadline:** May 1, **Fee:** \$25 for one to three poems; \$15 per each further entry of one to three poems.

*The Malahat Review*, Canada's premier literary magazine, invites emerging poets from Canada, the United States, and elsewhere to enter the 2014 Far Horizons Award for Poetry Contest. Eligible poets are those who have yet to publish their poetry in book form (a book of poetry is defined to have a length of 48 pages or more).

**Prizes:** One prize of \$1,000 is awarded to a single winner.

Check this one at: [http://malahatreview.ca/contests/far\\_horizons\\_poetry/info.html](http://malahatreview.ca/contests/far_horizons_poetry/info.html)

## Canadian Stories 6<sup>th</sup> Contest for Short Stories, Poetry and Black & White Art

**Deadline:** May 1, **Fee:** \$20.

Submissions should be original and unpublished, and have a Canadian theme: original and Canadian true stories, memoirs, poems, limricks, songs, cartoons, line art, anecdotes, folk stories, family leg-

ends, travel experiences and fiction set in a Canadian context. Up to three poems may be submitted. Fiction or non-fiction limited to 3,000 words. Artwork no larger than 8 1/2" x 11". Eight contest categories available, plus a "wild card" category.

**Prizes:** Over \$2,700 in prizes will be awarded; one prize of \$325 in each category.

More information at <http://www.canadianstories.net/contest-2014.html>



## Spring 2014 Travel Writing Contest

**Deadline:** June 15, **Fee:** \$15 USD

Award-winning literary travel magazine, *Nowhere*, is teaming up with *Outside Magazine* Executive Editor Sam Moulton for the first *Nowhere* Spring Travel Writing Contest. We are looking for young, old, novice and veteran voices with a powerful sense of place in their writing. Stories can be fiction or nonfiction. Entries should be between 800-5,000 words and must not have been previously chosen as a winner in another contest. Previously published work is accepted.

**Prizes:** \$1,000 USD for the winning entry, and publication in an upcoming issue of *Nowhere*. Top ten stories will be listed and published on the website.

More information at <https://nowhererepublishing.submittable.com/submit>



**The Writers & Editors Network** is an organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing and editing. WEN aims to foster literacy and to assist, empower, and provide moral support to writers and editors from all disciplines. WEN will network, mentor, and educate members independently and in cooperation with other organizations.

### Board of Directors

**President** Maria Pia Marchelletta  
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**Director at Large** Marianne Funny

**Board Appointments**  
*Member Reading Coordinator*  
Jasmine Jackman

**Past Presidents of WEN**  
*Gay Peppin* 2001-2006  
*Dr. Jasmine D'Costa* 2006-2009  
*Dr. Glenn S. Reid* 2009-2010  
*Richard Best* 2010-2012

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



## Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest

**Topic : Summer**

**1st Place : \$100**

**2nd Place: \$50**

**3rd Place : \$25**



Eligibility : WEN members only  
Cost : No Fee  
Members may submit ONE original poem  
with a summer theme.  
Winners will be announced at  
June breakfast meeting.

Deadline for submissions : May 17

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**ENTRIES TO BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE MIDNIGHT, MAY 17, 2014**

- ♦ Poems must have “summer” as a theme.
- ♦ Poems must be unpublished. Self-published poems and poems that have been published online are considered published and thus cannot be submitted.
- ♦ Poems cannot exceed 72 lines; the stanza breaks count as lines. The poem title does not count, nor does the space between the title and the first line of the poem
- ♦ Author’s name **must not** appear anywhere on the same page as the poem, back or front.
- ♦ Include a cover page with author’s name, poem title and author’s complete contact information.
- ♦ If your poem is longer than one page, please include the title of the poem and page number on any additional pages.
- ♦ Submissions may be emailed as a Word document attachment to [communications@wenetwork.ca](mailto:communications@wenetwork.ca) or mailed to WEN Poetry Contest, 251 McKee Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2.
- ♦ Please **do not** paste the entry in the body of your email, as your formatting may be lost when the poem is transferred to a Word document.

**CONTEST JUDGE:** Stevens Han, Professor of Literature, Han Yang University, Seoul, Korea