

Say WeN!

Newsletter of the Writers & Editors Network

Encouraging and Promoting the Art and Skill of Writing and Editing

May 2014



May Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Dorothea Helms, The Writing Fairy, teacher and journalist

Date: May 17, 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

Our guest speaker is Dorothea Helms, The Writing Fairy. She is a popular writing instructor and speaker who has inspired countless writers to come out of the closet and live their passion for words. She does it with humor and refreshing honesty. Dorothea believes in the enchantment of words. She has both experienced and witnessed the magic that happens when writers answer the call of the letters and allow their voices to sing on paper and/or computer screens. Her work includes regular features on Canadian celebrities, and she has been privileged to interview and write about over 50 well-known professionals in the entertainment, sports, media and arts worlds including Pinball Clemons, the late Timothy Findley, George Fox, Ronnie Hawkins, Roger Ashby, the late Ben Wicks, Jeff Healey, Sandy Hawley, Alannah Myles, and Dinah Christie.

In addition, Dorothea's articles have appeared in local, regional, national and international magazines and newspapers, including *Chatelaine*, *lichen literary journal*, *Stitches: The Magazine of Medical Humour*, *Popular Woodworking*, *Woodworker*, *Big Buck*, *The Business and Professional Woman*, *Real Estate Magazine*, *Homes & Lifestyles*, and *Today's Homes*. Dorothea's humour also peppers the many articles she provides for the *Toronto Sun* Special Sections such as "Career Connections" and "DriverSource Saturday."

Dorothea teaches Creative Writing at the college level and offers a fresh perspective that defies typical journalism styles. She offers top-notch writing and editing
(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 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

May Breakfast 5/17/14

Speaker: Dorothea Helms

Trailer Workshop 5/17/14

Contest Deadline 5/17/14

Say WEN Deadline 5/20/14

June Breakfast 6/21/14

Speaker: Theo Heras

AGM and Elections 6/21/14

July Breakfast 7/19/14

Member Readings

Sept. Breakfast 9/20/14

Anita Sechesky

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Join us on Facebook!

President's Message

Dear WEN Members:

There is still time to enter our *Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest* but hurry since the deadline is days away ... May 17. There is no entry fee and contest guidelines can be found on the website at www.wenetwork.ca. The May 17 breakfast meeting will be special since we have arranged for a one-hour workshop on creating your own book trailer, taught by Rich Helms. This workshop, which is free of charge, will take place right after the regular meeting. Check your email and this newsletter for more information.

Board elections will take place at our Annual General Meeting on June 21. All positions are open and we encourage your participation on the Board since we need your involvement to continue to maintain and grow the organization. Nomi-



Gina Valle speaking at April meeting.

(Continued from page 1)

services for everything from small ads to technical websites and books. Currently, she is the editor of numerous magazines and special sections for Metroland Printing and Publishing and York Region Newspaper Group in the Greater Toronto Area. Dorothea recently started a

nation forms and a description of the board positions will be emailed shortly. If interested, you can contact our secretary, Julie Tellier, Nominations Chair for this year, at jbtellier1976@gmail.com.

Before the election is held, any WEN member may also nominate any other WEN member to serve in one of the board positions.

No nomination will be accepted as valid unless the person nominated has indicated in writing or orally that he or she accepts the nomination and is prepared to carry out the duties of that position as described in the WEN constitution.

We continue to actively recruit new members and the Board is announcing two new incentives. First, if you invite a guest to a breakfast meeting and they decide to join WEN, you will automatically get a free breakfast. If they choose not to join, you will still be entered into a draw for a free breakfast. Second, the Board voted in favour of offering student annual membership fees for \$20. If you know of a student who is interested in joining our group, please inform them of this.

Warmest Regards,
Maria Pia Marchelletta
May, 2014

second writing business that focuses on humour in a series of books, keynote speeches, workshops and courses. For more information, visit her websites: <http://www.wsws.ca/>, <http://dorotheahelms.com/resume/>, and <http://thewritingfairy.com/thewritingfairy/introduction/>.

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. Send submissions to the Newsletter Editor by the 20th of the month at newsletter@wenetwork.ca.

Say WEN subscriptions

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

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Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest Closes May 17

The deadline for WEN's first poetry contest, the *Summer Sizzle Poetry Contest*, is almost here. Be sure to send in your summery submission before it's too late! The submission guidelines can be found on the contest poster at the end of this newsletter.

Theme: Summer

First Prize: \$100

Second Prize: \$50

Third Prize: \$25

Open to WEN members only

Deadline: entries to be postmarked on or before midnight, May 17, 2014.

There is no entry fee.

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 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 WEN Breakfast and Annual 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 attached to this newsletter. If you are nominating someone, please make sure they agree to the nomination.

New Student Membership Level

In order to encourage student writers to join WEN, the WEN Executive Board has lowered the membership fee to \$20. If you know a student age 18 years or older who would enjoy WEN, invite them to a meeting and encourage them to join. The student would need to provide proof of age.

How to Get a Free Breakfast

The WEN Board approved a second initiative in order to encourage recruitment of new members. Beginning immediately, if a current WEN member brings a guest to a meeting, and the guest subsequently joins WEN, the hosting member will be given a free breakfast. This is in addition to the free breakfast you might win for bringing a guest to a meeting, in the monthly draw.

Tell Us What You Think about WEN

The WEN Executive Board has instituted a suggestion box to allow members to ask questions, make comments or suggest speakers or other new ideas. The box will be at the sign-up table every month. Take a moment to jot down your thoughts and slip them into the box for the Board's consideration.

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 and the group administrator will approve your request to join. 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 questions that arise from our work. The Board will also post WEN news.

Welcome, Assistant Editor Barb Nobel

Say WEN is very pleased to welcome Barb Nobel as our new Assistant Editor. Barb will be writing the contest and market listings as well as Website Links for Writers. If you find something of interest, please send it to her at newsletter@wenetwork.ca. Thank you, Barb, for volunteering and for your support of WEN.

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

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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 cre-

dentials 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 Writers Circle of Durham Region.

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



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)*.

(Continued from page 3)

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.ca.

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.

Improve Your Pubic Readings with Voice Coaching Class

Heather Dick, WEN member, actress, director and voice coach is offering a 33-hour Voice Intensive for speakers, actors and singers Monday through Friday from May 19 – 23rd. This very practical and thoroughly hands-on workshop will take you through the Linklater Voice Progression. Learn how to release tension to free your “natural speaking voice” (K. Linklater). Develop resonance, vocal range and a more powerful, emotionally connected voice as you learn to share yourself, connect with others and leave a lasting positive impression. Cost is only \$250 for 33 hours of instructional time.

For more information or to register, contact Heather at 416-236-9011 Ext. 1 or via email: info@siriustheatrical.com Information is also available on our Sirius

Theatrical Company website page: http://www.siriustheatrical.com/?q=group_classes

NOTE: If you cannot attend during the day but would like to participate, contact Heather. If there is enough interest, an evening and weekend course may be offered in late May through early June.

Judie Oron Reports on Her Recent Presentations

Now that *Cry of the Giraffe* has been translated into Hebrew, I've been giving book talks in two languages in schools, at book clubs and a host of other venues. The year has been jam-packed with book-related events. Here are some highlights from recent months. In December, I took part in a panel discussion at CANSCAIP about social justice writing in children's novels, along with writers Kathy

Kacer and Marsha Skrypuch. In January, I appeared on a panel for the Women's Federation for World Peace with the eminent Arabist scholar, Dr. Mordechai Kedar. February was spent in Israel, where I met Wuditu's gorgeous new baby and celebrated the 22nd anniversary of my finding Wuditu and releasing her from slavery. In March, I spoke at the Israel Truth Week Conference about the inspiration behind *Cry of the Giraffe*. Talks in April included the Bernard Betel Centre in Toronto and the Quest Alternative School. Upcoming talks include the National Conference of the joint WFWP-UPF organizations (both UN-affiliated), a Jewish National Fund fundraising event and the Alliance Against Modern Slavery's annual National Conference.



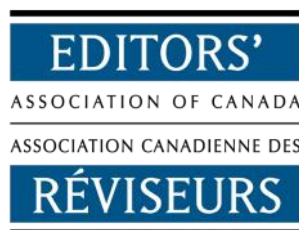
Smiling faces at April meeting.

EAC Conference 2014—

Tracking Change: e-Merging Methods and Markets

Join the Editors' Association of Canada for two jam-packed days of professional development!

From June 6 to 8, editors, writers, and communication professionals from across Canada will converge at the brand-new Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute in downtown Toronto for EAC Conference 2014—Tracking Change: e-Merging Methods and Markets. The 2014 program offers something for everyone, with sessions on everything from achieving financial security to editing digital magazines. Canadian literary stars



Conference

Douglas Gibson and Terry Fallis will give the keynote addresses. For the confirmed speakers and sessions and the schedule-at-a-glance, visit the conference website <http://www.editors.ca/conference2014/index.html>

Tips for Fiction Writers That I Learned in Writers Workshops

by Ann Birch

1. Write every day even if it's only a half-page. It's essential to keep connected with your work in progress.
2. Take courses with well-known writers. Be prepared to spend money to learn the trade. You wouldn't wire your house unless you knew something about electricity.
3. Get exposure in periodicals or win a competition. *The Book Trade in Canada* lists all the competitions. Your track record is important. Impress your publisher.
4. When submitting fiction, publishers usually want a synopsis. It might be a chapter-by-chapter summary, or one page, or one paragraph, depending on what the publisher wants.
5. Look up each publisher's website and do exactly what they say. For example, if they say "query letter only," don't send anything else. Look at the types of fiction they publish. Study their catalogue. Publishers' websites are mines of information. For example, Women's Press no longer publishes fiction.
6. You don't always need an agent. Small publishers don't ask for one. To get an agent is difficult. Write a short initial letter to the agent, but avoid e-mail. Avoid hyperbole. You won't get an agent unless your novel is finished.
7. An agent can often find just the right publisher for you.
8. Make sure your novel is perfect before you submit it to an agent or publisher. They can tell by the third page if it's any good.
9. Some agents charge a reading fee. This is unethical. They do get a 15% commission on every book sold, however, and they can charge for expenses.
10. Since perfection is important, pay an outside editor (not your mother or your spouse) to look over your book. Make sure your editor knows your genre. Expect to pay at least \$35 or \$40 an hour. Listen to what they tell you. Get rid of your ego.
11. It's important to let publishers know you can sell. Mention the organizations you belong to that will provide potential buyers of your book. If you have ideas about how to promote your novel, tell them.
12. Avoid multiple submissions if you can. But sometimes you must, since it takes so long for a publisher to get back to you. If you do submit to several publishers at once, be honest, and confess your sins. Don't phone publishers and don't send e-mails.
13. Never argue with the publisher, and don't drag a lawyer along to an interview to negotiate your contract.
14. If a publisher asks you to send a chapter, you can send your best one. But if they say the first 50 pages, that's what you send.
15. You might consider asking for a 15-minute, information-gathering meeting with an editor at the publishing house. If they go for this idea, come to the meeting with fresh questions, as opposed to those already answered on their website.
16. Useful resources: *The Canadian Writer's Market*; *Writer's Market*; *Writer's Guide to Book Editors, Publishers and Literary Agents*; The Writers' Union of Canada's website; The Editors' Association of Canada's website.
17. Go to book launches; attend readings; meet publishers and editors at these events. Schmooze.
18. Explore arts organizations for financial and other resources for writers: Toronto Arts Council; Ontario Arts Council; Canada Council for the Arts.

Treat all your secondary characters like they think the book's about them.

Jocelyn Hughes

- www.writerswrite.co.za

Writers end up writing about their obsessions. Things that haunt them; things they can't forget; stories they carry in their bodies waiting to be released.

Natalie Goldberg

- www.writerswrite.co.za

Peer Book Review Exchange

The Concubine and Selected Stories

by Ben Antao (CinnamonTeal Press, 2014), \$20 or 15% discount for WEN members

Author Ben Antao is a master of situation and conversation. *The Concubine*, his newest collection of short stories, is like entering a marathon where one doesn't want to stop. It could be said that his writings are well-structured, easy to read, and as sunny as his disposition. But there's more....

With controlled prose perfectly timed, and characters immediately arresting, Antao's powerful style grips the reader in a progression of conversational interplays with a collection of personalities in unusual situations.

Under this writer's spell, you

don't just read, you hear:

"Don't ever fall in love with a man," the concubine lectures her



daughter in the title story.... immediately perking the reader's 'ears'!

You don't just hear, you speculate:

Will Margarita finally get caught smuggling when crossing the border into Bombay?

You don't just speculate, you engage:

"A Ghost Story" is set in Goa.

In a bar, Pedru convinces a stranger from London (who periodically wonders about the sounds and eerie shapes on many a foggy British night) to come with him if he wants to know more about ghosts. Fully intoxicated, they set out with two others, seeking to encounter Pedru's deceased grandmother, where he claims she regularly appears in a cashew tree. The Brit remains unconvinced...but when the tree begins to shake....?

If you love to laugh, now is the time!

The Concubine is a lively brew, picturesque and sonic. A great piece of work, pure enjoyment. In my opinion, one of Ben Antao's best.

Fran Edelstein

www.franedelstein.com

April Breakfast Meeting



Photos by Jasmine Jackman

Contests & Markets

Acorn-Plantos Award

Deadline: June 30

Fee: \$25

Prizes: \$500 + People's Poet Medallion

For poetry volumes that follow in the People's Poetry tradition of being accessible to all people in its use of language and image, which were published during 2013.

http://www.theontariopoetrysociety.ca/contest_Acorn%20Plantos.htm

Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest

Deadline: June 30

Fee: \$25

Prizes: \$600, \$400, \$200 + Publication in *Antigonish Review*

One long poem or several short poems on any subject. Total entry not to exceed 4 pages. Maximum 150 lines.

http://www.antigonishreview.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=59&Itemid=62

Room Magazine Annual Fiction, Poetry, and Creative Non-Fiction Contest

Deadline: July 15

Fee: \$30

Prizes: \$500, \$200 + publication

For fiction and creative non-fiction, one submission includes one short story or essay of up to 3,500 words. For poetry, one submission includes up to three poems or 150 lines of poetry. If you wish to submit more than one piece, you may do so for an extra \$5 per entry. Each entry must be original, unpublished, not submitted or ac-

cepted elsewhere for publication, and not entered simultaneously in any other contest or competition.

<http://www.roommagazine.com/node/59>

The Annual Bellevue Literary Review Prizes

Deadline: July 1

Fee: \$20 USD per entry; maximum four entries per person.

Prizes: 1st prize is \$1000 USD (in each genre) and publication in the Spring 2015 issue of *BLR*. Honorable mention winners will receive \$250 USD and publication in the Spring 2015 issue of *BLR*.

Looking for outstanding writing related to themes of health, healing, illness, the mind, and the body. Fiction and nonfiction prose should be limited to 5000 words. Poetry submissions should have no more than 3 poems. Submissions should be unpublished.

Bellevue Hospital, the oldest public hospital in the United States, has been witness to nearly three centuries of human drama. In this tradition we have created the *Bellevue Literary Review*, a forum for illuminating humanity and human experience. The *BLR* is published by the Department of Medicine at NYU Langone Medical Center.

<http://blr.med.nyu.edu/submissions/BLRPrizes/guidelines#sthash.wrs1wL8L.dpuf>



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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Writers & Editors Network
251 McKee Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M2N 4E2

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 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