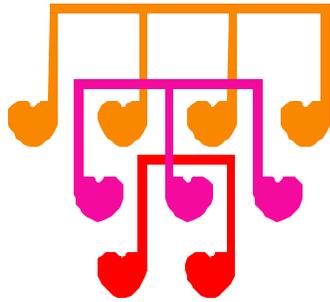


continued from page 1

This is a bit over-the-top, I know, but the structure – the alternating rise and fall in tension (the *intense O my God, I cry in the day* followed by the loss of *in the night...no respite*) – works in the same way as your poem.

In fact, I would suggest that anyone looking for a way to start learning how to build poetic lines should pay attention to the Psalms, which have a definite, though quite natural, form. Listen to them; they are a very *human* form of poetry. The language might be archaic, and you don't have to agree with the religious sentiment in them, but they are carefully structured to play on the lift and fall of emotion that makes them, and poetry like them, human and engaging.



There are many excellent books and references on poetic form and structure - Paul Fussell's *Poetic Meter and Poetic Form* is a fine place to start – but in the end it's your own imagination, sense of rhythm and sound, and intent within each poem, that will determine how you build each piece. I hope some of this helps. We at *lichen* would be very happy to reconsider your work once you've experimented with the lines and found something that works for you.

Steven Laird is one of the editors of lichen literary journal . His first collection of poetry, Habit of Wood, is to be published later this year by White Mountain Publications, and a chapbook Stones and Prayers will appear from Ashlar Press (Newfoundland) this winter.

President's Message Introducing....

To me, September is the real start of the year. Perhaps it stems from beginning school in the fall with freshly sharpened pencils and shiny new shoes. Or maybe it's the feeling of completion as harvest rolls around after the heady growth of summer. Whatever it is, it's time to get back into our regular schedule after summer's hiatus.

I want to introduce our four new board members: Alexandra Savage-Ferr headed up the "Words in Whitby" committee so impressively that I nominated her to the board myself. The board members also recognised her talents and elected her Vice-President. Additionally, she is taking on the responsibilities of the newly-created position of Special Events Co-ordinator.

Kathleen Martin is our new Secretary and is already wowing us with her organisational skills and eye for detail. Kathleen is a keen volunteer and involved in other community interests such as Neighbourhood Watch and Big Brothers. Calm when all the rest of us are talking in circles, she manages to find the meaning behind all our verbosity and nails it down so we appear to know what we're doing. Not a small feat!

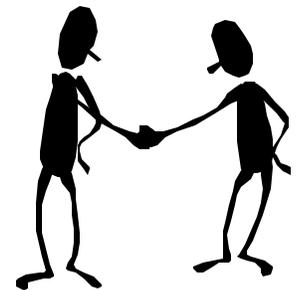
Nancy Rogers has taken over the role of Breakfast Co-ordinator, a big job that requires lots of enthusiasm. And Nancy is enthusiastic, not to mention personable and organised! Nancy has jumped into her new role with both feet while also working to build a freelance writing business. Now that's what I call energetic!

Last, but certainly not least, is Lynda Allison, a recent graduate from Trent University with an honours degree in History and English. Obviously not one to remain idle for long, Lynda volunteered for the board! She is taking on a quasi-new role as well. The public relations portfolio has become a huge job and this year we've split it into print and electronic areas. Lynda is now responsible for the print side and has wowed us already with her first press release. I hope you all spotted it in your local paper last June.

Ruth Walker (Past President), Sue Reynolds (Treasurer and Membership), Lois Gordon (Workshop Co-ordinator) and Dorothea Helms (Public Relations – Electronic) have agreed to serve another year.. Thank you to all of you. You provide real experience and depth to our board.

Volunteering is a labour of love. The board puts in long hours for no monetary return, just the satisfaction received when opportunities come along for our members in the way of workshops, connections, publishing and recognition. They make WCDR the vital and dynamic group that it is.

In late August each member will be called to confirm your September breakfast attendance and to build our Regrets Only list. As usual, at the last breakfast of the summer, a large number of you forgot to call to tell us that you would not be



attending. We want to start the new year on firm ground so, in late August, one of us will phone you to update the "Regrets Only" list.. At that time, if you have any questions or suggestions for the board, please let us know. We are here to serve the members and feedback only helps us do our job better.

If you have not heard from us by September 3 please call 905-259-6520 and leave a message so that we can follow up.

See you at breakfast! And keep writing!

Aprille Janes, President

Join us for Breakfast

Please note that there will be no breakfast meeting in August. Our fall line up will begin again on September 8.

September 8

Join us in September, when writer Warren Dunford will be our breakfast speaker. Warren's first novel, *Soon To Be A Major Motion Picture*, is a fast-paced page-turner about a struggling screenwriter hired to write the script for a thriller; then his life becomes just like a movie. The book received over 100 rejections before being published by a very small press in Toronto in 1998. It was published in the United States last fall. Penguin is releasing the sequel, *Making A Killing*, in late August, 2001.



Born and educated in Toronto, Warren began his professional writing career at the age of 19 and has worked as a full-time freelance copywriter for 17 years. A very funny and engaging speaker, Warren will talk about rejection, and breaking his foot on a recent book tour.

October 13

Prepare yourself for a mesmerizing morning. Our guest, Robert Winslow, is the founding Artistic Director of Fourth Line Theatre. The theatre was founded in 1991 and is located on the family farm in Millbrook. Robert's great, great grandfather purchased the farm when he first moved here from Northern Ireland.

What does that have to do with writing? Having been involved in theatre for over twenty years, Robert has been involved in every aspect of this venue. Be it comedy or drama, he has acted in theatres all over Canada, co-written and directed nine plays and has produced a number of new plays. With experience like that there is little he does not know about the biz.

Breakfast meetings run from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.. They are held at Iroquois Park Sports Complex, 50 Victoria Street West (at Henry Street) in Whitby. Members \$12; guests \$15. Seating is limited and catering needs to be confirmed by the Thursday prior, so contact Nancy Rogers at (905) 259-6520 or at write.rogers@sympatico.ca to reserve your spot.

Odds and Eds

In the summer Word Weaver traditionally showcases the winning poems from the Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest. This year is no exception. You'll find a full list of winners and the first-placed poem in each category, along with a little information on the winning poets. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to publish all the winners, but you can read their poems on our WCDR web site.

You'll also find information for an exciting line up of fall breakfast meetings and workshops. In keeping with our poetry focus this issue, Steven Laird offers us some insight into an important yet often misunderstood aspect of poetry – line breaks. His article (page 1) is an excerpt from a letter written to a contributing writer to *lichen* literary journal.

Ruth Walker offers a poetic road map for the Internet highway (page 8), and of course, our poetry issue would not be complete without a poetry challenge (page 7).

Gwynn Scheltema
Editor

He Left a Legacy

by Marjorie Green

It was with sadness I read about the passing of Ken Smith, July 6, 2001, in his 87th year. A member of WCDR before illness and aging finally took their toll, Ken often said he considered his writing to be perhaps his greatest achievement.

History books have acknowledged Ken as a former mayor of Ajax, but it was his delight to have been the man who wrote those history books - the last one being *A Town Called Ajax*, published in 1995, in which he participated as both a ready resource for other writers and as a scribe.

As writers, many of us will spend countless hours wondering whether anyone will ever actually read what we have written. Ken Smith did not have that problem. What a joy it must have been for him to leave this world knowing that thousands of schoolchildren will read, and continue to learn from, the histories he recorded.

What a wonderful legacy he left us all.

The Mission Statement



The Writers' Circle of Durham Region is a non-profit umbrella organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the art and skill of writing, fostering literacy, and providing moral support to writers through education and networking, both independently and in co-operation with existing organizations.

The Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest 2001

Established in 1995 in memory of Dan Sullivan, Durham poet and WCDR member who on March 13, 1995, while at the inaugural Poets in the Pub night in Pickering, read two of his works, acknowledged the applause, and died. In a heartbeat he was gone. This contest is our way to remember him as a man of many accomplishments and to honour him as a poet and friend.

Contest winners were announced at the WCDR Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2001. Winners in each category received a cash prize. The First-Place winners are published below. Other winning entries are published on the WCDR web site: www.wcdr.org.

Meet our Final-Tier Judges for 2001:

Allan Briesmaster is a Toronto poet and editor. Since 1991 he has been an organiser of the weekly Art Bar Poetry Series. He is the author of *Weighted Light* (watershedBooks, 1998), and has had poems published in numerous magazines and anthologies.

Steven Laird has had work published in *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Event*, *The Prairie Journal*, *Whetstone* among others. His first collection of poetry, *Habit of Wood*, is to be published later this year by White Mountain Publications, and a chapbook called *Stones and Prayers* will appear from Ashlar Press (Newfoundland) this winter. He is a poetry editor for *lichen* literary journal.

Rachelle Lerner has taught various English and drama courses, including poetry, at University of Toronto and Trent University, and is a former editor of *Descant*. She is presently working on an unauthorized autobiography of the American poet Kenneth Rexroth.

Andrea Stone (Youth and Children's categories) is a high school English teacher. Her poetry has been recently published in *The Writing Space* and *lichen*, she was invited to perform at the Art Bar, and her sonnet won first place in the Ontario Poetry Association Poetry Contest.

And the Winners are:

Adult Category:

1st Place: **Margaret Malloch Zielinski** of Ottawa, Ontario, for *Water to Water*
 2nd Place TIE: **matt robinson** of Fredericton, New Brunswick, for *Eve considers...*
 2nd Place TIE: **Joy Hewitt-Mann** of Spencerville, Ontario, for *The Fairy Tale*

Youth Category:

1st Place: **Matthew Fellion** of Pickering, Ontario, for *Time*
 2nd Place: **Heather Cann** of Mississauga, Ontario, for *Hello Morning*
 3rd Place: **Jennie Wong** of Beiseker, Alberta, for *Nightmares*

Children's Category:

1st place: **Randi Elliot-Schuetz** of Oshawa, Ontario, for *One Little Blue Tear*
 2nd place: **Jamie Campbell** of Sunderland, Ontario, for *Orbit of Love*
 3rd place: **Sam Dennis** of Whitby, Ontario, for *I am Sadness*



Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest 2002

The 2002 contest will get underway again on October 1, 2001. The deadline for entries will be February 15th, 2002. Contest guidelines are available on the WCDR web site at www.wcdr.org or can be requested by mail.

Prizes: **Adult:** First \$300, Second \$200, Third \$100
Youth: (under 18 at Feb 15, 2002) First \$150, Second \$100, Third \$75
Children (under 12 at Feb 15, 2001) First \$75, Second \$50, Third \$25

Margaret Malloch Zielinski

1st Place Adult Category

After many years spent teaching while raising three children, Margaret Malloch Zielinski has only recently been able to devote herself to writing. In the last three years, she has won numerous awards for both her poetry and prose from the CBC, CAA, C^Ontemporary Verse 2, CPA, Zygote, Seeds, The Amethyst Review, The Valley Writers' Guild, and the Milton Acorn and Tidepool Prizes.

Water to Water

My mother loved to swim:
crippled by arthritis she could only hobble
down to the lake's edge,
cane in hand, and holding hard the opposing hip,
sigh and slide her feet, carefully - she dare not slip -
among the pebbles scattered on the sloping sand.
I'd watch as, waves to waist, she'd turn
and toss her cane to shore and dive away beneath the lake
to glide through floating fronds of weeds,
and stroke through water,
warm and welcoming,
smooth as melted butter on her skin.
And I'd think how once we crawled from water,
and to water are at last released.

Randi Elliot-Schuett

1st Place Children's Category

Randi Elliot-Schuett is an eleven-year-old who really loves to write. She has written many short stories and poems, and was a member of Kid Writers. This is the first time she has entered the Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest, and she is very excited about the whole thing.

One Little Blue Tear

One little blue tear rolls down my cheek and onto the floor
A little blue tear I have never cried before
A tear as blue as the sky, falls faster than a bird can fly
It hits the floor with a tiny sound
That everyone around can not hear
Because it's one little blue tear.

Matthew Fellion

1st Place Youth Category

Matthew Fellion is a fifteen-year-old Grade 10 French Immersion student at Father Leo J. Austin Catholic Secondary School in Whitby. Matthew took an interest in reading at a young age, and has grown to enjoy it greatly, along with writing fiction and poetry. His other interests include piano, Baroque music, computer games and languages.



Time

One...
the clock clicks
ticks as time moves the hand
moves the quartz that moves the hand
moves the hand
an endless clicking
ticking down
into
e t e r n i t y
Two...
a smell
a beat of the heart
a smell lingering wafting out of reach
as the heart beats
as the clock clicks
ticks
Three...
sights
sensations taken in
as the heart
beats slowly
beating out time
Time
Four...
unstoppable
moving as part of life
as life moves
as the clock clicks
ticks
Time

Writers' Circles

Sherry Loeffler is the new contact person for writing circle updates. If you would like general information on writing circles, Sherry will be glad to help. If you would like to join a circle, please contact the appropriate person listed below. Group leaders, if you change dates, times, or meeting locations, please contact Sherry at (905) 640-6315 or by e-mail at loeffler@primus.ca.

Bowmanville Writer's Group

Third Tuesday of each month.
Sept. 18, Oct. 16, 7-9pm.
The Firehouse, 132 Church St., Bowmanville.
Lynda Allison, (905) 623-0365

Circle for Children's Writers

First Wednesday of each month.
Sept. 5, Oct. 3, 7-9pm.
Oshawa Public Library, Northview Branch
250 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa.
Mike Ward, (905) 579-5333

Durham Write-On

Every two weeks.
Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 19, 7-9pm.
Call for location.
Ruth Walker, (905) 728-7823

Markham Village Writers' Group

Second Wednesday of each month.
Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov 7, 7-9pm.
Donna Marrin, dmarrin@busdep.com

Monday Night Poetry Circle

Last Monday of each month.
Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, 7-9pm.
Coffee Time Donuts, 701 Rossland Rd., Whitby.
Gwynn Scheltema, (905) 720-2172

Newcastle Poetry Club

Third Monday of each month.
Aug. 20, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, 7-9pm.
261 Mill St .S., Newcastle.
Philippa Schmiegelow, (905) 987-4856

Northword Edition

Every two weeks
Aug. 7, 21, Sept. 4, 18, Oct. 2, 16, 30. 7-9pm.
Uxbridge Public Library.
Dorothea Helms, (905) 852-9294

Oshawa Scribes

First and third Tuesday of each month.
Sept. 4, 18, Oct. 2, 16, 1:30-3:30pm.
No meetings in July and August.
Oshawa Public Library, Northview Branch
250 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa.
Grace Stevenson, (905) 725-0760

Senior Scribes of Uxbridge

Second and fourth Friday of each month.
Sept. 14, 28, Oct. 12, 26, 1:30-3:30pm.
No meetings in July and August.
Township Hall, Uxbridge.
Joyce Whitney, (905) 852-3414

Stouffville Scribes

Writing Practice Group.
Check website for dates - 6:30-8pm.
Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library.
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stouffvillescribes>

Volume Two

Third Tuesday of each month.
Aug 21, Sept 18, Oct. 16, 2-4pm
History room of Pickering Public Library.
(for Aug. it is in the board room)
Richard Ferrier, (416) 284-5416

Word Players

Newcastle Writing Group.
Call for dates, 7-10pm
261 Mill St .S., Newcastle.
Philippa Schmiegelow, (905) 987-4856.

Write In Whitby

Second and fourth Tuesday of each month.
Sept. 11, 25, Oct. 9, 23, 7-9pm.
No meetings in July and August.
Programme room in Whitby Public Library.
Lloyd Blair, (905) 430-0075

Write Now.

A group for on-the-spot writing.
Every two weeks
Aug. 16, 30, Sept. 13, 27, Oct. 11, 25, 7-9pm.
Uxbridge Public Library.
Sue Reynolds, (905) 985-1962

The Challenge

Last issue's challenge was to write a piece under 300 words that described something or someone old. The challenge was to try to find a new way to describe "old" that didn't depict only decay or reverence.

This proved to be one of the most popular challenges to date. It was difficult to choose from the many fiction and non-fiction entries. Grace Stevenson receives an honourable mention for her positive upbeat non-fiction piece, and congratulations also go to Pat Skene, Nancy Rogers, Bonnie Stewart and Debra Franke.

Tina Ivany, however, is our winner. Tina's piece *On the Porch* was light and fun but skilfully layered with a great sense of place and time.

ON THE PORCH

By Tina Ivany

Mamma says Mr. Jenkins next door is as old as the hills. So, the next day when we're huddled on his front step, I ask him how old the hills are, only because I know he'll know. Mr. Jenkins knows everything.

"Those hills? Thousands of years old. They've been here since about the beginning of time – since the great glaciers were formed, anyway."

"Were you here then?" I ask.

"No," he says. "Almost, but not quite."

It never occurs to me that Mr. Jenkins is much older than me. Oh, I know in my head that he's much older in years, but in my heart we're like twins, playing off each other.

Mamma would just spit if she knew I called him "Tom"; only because he said I could. It's one of our secrets.

We sit for hours on his front porch, passing comment on the world as we see it.

"I don't think I like that hat. What do you think, Scout?" he says.

"Mmm... maybe if she turned it around – with the flower at the back."

"No, it simply won't do. I'm afraid it doesn't pass inspection."

I scrunch my eyes and nudge him. "Are you going to tell her, Tom?"

He gives me a wink. "I'm not telling her. You tell her."

"No you."

"No you."

Then he tickles me under my ear and I fall backward with giggles.

"Ah, well," he says, slapping his brown-baked hands on his knees and springing up suddenly, "Time for some ice cream. Home made. What do you say?"

"Momma says you spoil me rotten," I tell him, jumping up and following him down the hall into the cool green of the kitchen.

"And what do you say?"



This Issue's Challenge

In keeping with our poetry theme this issue, your challenge is, of course, to write a poem. So that we have space to print more than one, (and so that it is easier for me to choose), the challenge is to write a haiku. Send your entries to the Editor by e-mail or regular mail to the address on the back page, to arrive no later than September 12.

What is Haiku?

"Haiku is a poetic form which takes nature in each season as its theme and expresses inspiration derived from nature. Since the natural world transforms itself swiftly and since inspiration is fleeting, they must be caught in words quick, short and precise. The traditional rules for haiku are that each verse uses seven or eight words, a total of only seventeen rhythmical syllables (5-7-5), including a season word. In diction haiku values simple words over obscure and difficult ones." (*Shiki and Matsuyama*, Matsuyama Municipal Shiki Memorial Museum, 1986)

The best haiku is clearly written; without metaphor, personification and other literary devices. Simple, clear images written in their shortest form possible but arranged so the words last as long as possible in the mind is the power of haiku. It can be easily understood from the direct words, but these words often contain a stronger message that has to be searched for. A significant image is produced. Haiku speaks in parables of life.

Books on Writing Poetry:

The Poet's Companion

A guide to the pleasures of writing poetry
Kim Addonizio and Dorianne Laux
W.W. Norton & Company, New York. 1997
ISBN: 0-393-31654-8

How to Write Poetry

Second Edition
Nancy Bogen
MacMillan, USA. 1994
ISBN: 0-671-89567-2

I keep Friday as my poetry writing day, and I have to arrange for the Muse to attend between 10am and 4pm.

Alison Chisholm, Poetry News, Winter 1995

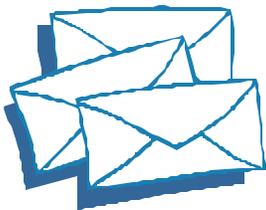
Your Letters

To: The Writers' Circle of Durham Region

I would like to express my thanks to everyone in the circle for allowing me to participate in the Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest. It was a great thrill to be selected as the second prize winner, even more so because the first place winner is a friend and the other second prize winner is such an accomplished writer.

I would also like to compliment you all on the professional manner in which this contest was co-ordinated.

Joy Hewitt Mann



Good Morning:

Could you please tell me how ads are placed in the classified section of the *Word Weaver*? Do you know anything about the publishers calling for submissions? Is any vetting done before including the ad in your newsletter for your members? I have submitted work and referred to the *Word Weaver* as my source, and the publisher has said that they have never heard of WCDR and don't know how the ad got in the newsletter. I was sending out work on the assumption that these were all credible publishing companies.

Any help you can provide would be appreciated, as it would help me to know how to proceed with these listings in the future. Thanks,

Pat Skene

All information in the classifieds and contest sections is supplied by members and/or taken from the Internet and other newsletters. The Word Weaver does not verify the information. Inclusion in this newsletter in no way constitutes an endorsement of the publications/contests mentioned and members are advised to make their own enquiries before submitting. I regret your less than positive experience, and accordingly, you'll notice that I have now added a warning disclaimer to that section. Thanks, Ed.

*Letters to the Editor are always welcome.
See the back page for details*

Do cannibalistic poets look for rhyming outlets?

Don Anderson

Poetry cannot be defined, only experienced.

Christopher Logue, Oxford Poetry

Casting For the Muse

By Ruth E. Walker

The best advice I ever received about writing poetry was from a professor in an evening class. "Read," he said, "read, and read, and read. Nursery rhymes, ancient poems, modern poems, even foreign-language poems. Read 'em all. And don't forget to read poems out loud as well." Excited by his topic, he took a couple of steps forward into the class, and added: "And this is a really important part. Talk with other poets."

The reading part was simple enough. Lots of libraries and bookstores to take care of that bit, but what about talking to other poets? You just don't start asking folks on the street if they know any poets.

Large networking groups like WCDR are a good source, and you should check out the Canadian Poetry Association, The League of Canadian Poets, and homegrown poetry circles such as the Monday night poetry groups right here in Durham. (*Ed note: See writing circles listing, pg.6*)

I joined the CPA listserv. Every day, I receive at least one or two e-mails that tell me what's happening with poets across Canada and beyond. I find out about markets for my work, I hear about great poetry readings, slams (haven't been to one as yet, but I hear they are wild, whacky, and inspirational), and contests. If there's an issue that affects poetry, you can bet I read about it sooner or later.

If you have the yen to pen poetry, there's no need to labour in that garret and miss out on the dynamic developments in this exciting genre. I've listed below a couple of favourite web sites; check them out and just see where your Muse takes you.

- ✓ www.mirror.org/groups/cpa for The Canadian Poetry Association
- ✓ www.poets.ca for The League of Canadian Poets
- ✓ www.cmpa.ca will take you to a truly useful site - the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association; searching under "literary" on this site's magomania.com will get you links to a whack of Canadian magazines that publish poetry. Voila! Market search made simple.



Ruth E. Walker is a poet, writer, editor, and creative writing facilitator. She won the 1998 Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest and is Past President of WCDR.

All information in the classifieds and contest sections is supplied by members and/or taken from the Internet and other newsletters. The Word Weaver does not verify the information. Inclusion in this newsletter in no way constitutes an endorsement of the publications/contests mentioned and members are advised to make their own enquiries before submitting.



Contests etc.

Let's see some WCDR members enter and win!

Deadline September 7, 2001

DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA WRITING COMPETITION

www.dwaa.org/competition.html

Deadline September 30, 2001

CANADIAN WRITER'S JOURNAL SHORT FICTION CONTEST

www.nt.net/~cwj/fiction.htm

Deadline September 30, 2001

GLIMMER TRAIN SHORT STORY AWARD FOR NEW WRITERS

www.glimmertrain.com/shorawformew2.html

Deadline September 30, 2001

IOWA SHORT FICTION AWARD and JOHN SIMMONS FICTION AWARD

www.uiowa.edu/~uipress/prize-rules.htm

Deadline November 2, 2001

New guidelines for the annual RAY BURRELL AWARD for poetry from the Valley Writers' Guild. Prizes \$500, \$200, \$100. Winning entries published in *The Grist Mill Vol. 11*, with free contributors' copy and year's subscription to The Valley Writers' Guild. Entry fee \$5 per poem, payable to Valley Writers' Guild. Mail entries to: The Ray Burrell Award, c/o Valley Writers' Guild, POB 534 Merrickville ON K0G 1N0 Canada. TBA no later than the end of January 2002.

Deadline November 30, 2001

PROSE AND POETRY PRIZES 2001 Sponsored by The New Writer magazine. Contemporary fiction and poetry, essays and articles. Prizes range from £50 to £300. The New Writer, PO Box 60, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 2ZR, UK. tel 01580 212626 fax 01580 212041 admin@thenewwriter.com, or go to their web site <http://www.thenewwriter.com/prizes.htm>

Call for submissions

Travel Literature The awards are substantial, open to short story writers, poets or those who fall into the category. <http://radio.cbc.ca/specials/>

lichen is accepting submissions for spring 2002 : theme - "Fractures"; deadline January 15. Submit fiction, poetry, essays, and play and novel excerpts by surface mail to 701 Rossland Rd E., Ste. 234, Whitby, ON L1N 9K3, or e-mail to lichen11@hotmail.com. Full submission guidelines are available at *lichen's* member link on the WCDR web site.

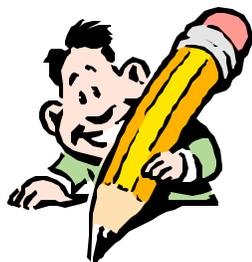
Paeans

... to **Dorothea Helms** It's number 4 and counting! Dorothea had a humour piece accepted for an upcoming CBC First Person Singular segment to be aired in September. Recently Dorothea had an article appear in the magazine *Canadian Homebuilder*, and a piece she wrote on Oshawa will be featured in the August issue of *Municipal World*, with a sister piece appearing in the December issue of the US magazine, *Public Works*. This spring and summer Dorothea also completed a series of feature articles on careers in pharmaceutical research, nursing, retail, media arts and hospitality for the "Career Connections" section of the *Toronto Sun*.

... to **Kathleen Jackson (Chevon Gael)** whose romance novella in *Secrets* has been bought as part of a package by Doubleday and bound in hardback. Kathleen is in the middle of revisions for her next *Secrets* novella and will keep us posted. She also has work out at two other publishers and is in the "hurry up and wait" stage.

... to **Ingrid Ruthig** who placed 4th and received an honourable mention in the SEEDS 5 Poetry Contest run by Hidden Brook Press. This contest attracts submissions from throughout North America. All contest winners will be published in *SEEDS 5* and on the Hidden Brook Press website at www.hiddenbrookpress.com. Ingrid placed fourth for, "You Answer the Door" and received an Honourable Mention for "Out of the Corners." The contest judge was Bernice Lever, life member of the Canadian Poetry Association.

... to **Alexandra Savage Ferr** who has been accepted into the Book & Magazine Publishing programme at Centennial College. This one year course is the only one of its kind in Canada. Since Alex will be a college student again, she is looking for people who have bellbottoms to sell and who know a great place where she can get body parts pierced.



Fall Workshops

To register for workshops, contact Lois Gordon by at ljgordon@on.aibn.com or at (905) 259-6520. The workshop calendar is posted on www.wcdr.org

New workshops and new or changed information are marked with this symbol:



Playing With Words

An eight-session introduction to creative writing

Ruth E. Walker

Mondays beginning September 17, 2001

7:30 to 10 p.m.

Bellwood Community School, Whitby

Fee: TBA; Discount for members



With an emphasis on fiction, this generic writing course explores a variety of creative approaches. Indulge your interest in writing with this interactive and casual workshop. Fiction, poetry and non-fiction prose will be explored through a variety of fun exercises. Delve into the basics of plot, character, and narrative while working on technical skills such as editing and critiquing.

Tasting the Page

Creatively explore fiction techniques through the senses

Gwynn Scheltema

Saturday, September 22, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Oshawa Public Library, Northview Branch

Fee: \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members



Don't let your fiction be left on the plate. Prepare it gourmet style and your readers will beg for more.

In this one-day workshop, you will learn how to have fun playing with the five senses in a series of creative writing exercises that make your writing live. We'll munch our way through a smorgasbord of fiction foods from image and emphasis, to clustering, theme, and syntax.

Gwynn Scheltema is a full-time freelance writer and editor. Her short stories have placed in both the *Toronto Star* and Canadian Authors' Association Short Story Contests, and have been published in literary journals. She is also a fiction editor for *lichen* literary journal.

Make Money Being Funny

How to write humour

Dorothea Helms and Steve Bond

Saturday, November 3, 2001

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Durham Regional Police Station

Highway 7/12 just south of Regional Road 8

Fee: \$45 for members; \$50 for non-members



Both Steve and Dorothea broke into the publishing world with humour, and today each operates a thriving freelance writing business. There's money in them thar' jokes, and this dynamic duo can show you how to coax some of it your way.

Spend a day with these wacky writers and learn to write gags, catchy headlines and comedic plots. Add pizzazz to your ads, short stories, memos, newsletters, articles, books, or grocery lists. You'll find out how professional comedy writers use formulas to spur their creativity, and how you can add humour to even traditional writing to achieve a more poignant story or article point.

Dorothea and Steve have been published (both separately and together) in numerous national and international magazines, and they are co-authors of the book *Man... Woman... Insanity!*

Words in Whitby Raffle Winners

1st Prize: A Treasury of Signed Books

Lynn Campbell, Sunderland.

2nd Prize: A Basket of Romance

D. Bacha, Whitby.

3rd Prize: A Writer's Instant Retreat

Kathleen Smyth, Bowmanville.

The thing about writing is that, if you have the impulse, you will find the time.

Seamus Heaney, RTE 1, December 1995

Writing and Selling Short Stories

Edo van Belkom

Saturday, November 24, 2001

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Fee: TBA



Having sold 175 short stories to date, Edo is certainly qualified to deliver this workshop. His success in the speculative, science fiction, fantasy, mystery and horror genres is the result of creative writing and marketing. During this workshop, Edo will share some down-to-earth advice on selling your writing.

A 1999 Aurora Award winner, Edo has been referred to as Canada's Stephen King. His first novel, *Wyrms Wolf*, was a Locus bestseller and a finalist for the 1995 First Novel Bram Stoker Award. In 1997 van Belkom won the Bram Stoker Award for the short story "Rat Food."

His first short story collection is entitled *Death Drives a Semi*. His non-fiction books include *Northern Dreamers*, *Interviews with Famous Authors of Science Fiction*, *Fantasy and Horror*, *Writing Horror* and the recently published *Writing Erotica*. Edo has received an unprecedented four nominations for the 2001 Aurora Award, Canada's top award for works of speculative fiction.

Scribbles

Aprille Janes

Sunday, November 25, 2001

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Veni Vedi Gallery, Port Perry

Fee: \$35 for members; \$40 for non-members



Are you looking for a way to express yourself more fully? To remember the important moments of your life before they fly by? Do you want to leave a record for future generations? Or perhaps you'd like a rich resource of material for your 'public' writing.

After turning to personal journaling to be more fully 'in the moment' and open up her own creativity, Aprille Janes studied the writings of other journal-keepers, both their personal chronicles and books about the process and attended workshops. It is this familiarity and knowledge that she draws on to help others enjoy and maintain a journaling practice.

Join her for this one-day workshop and set yourself on your own road to self-discovery and self-expression. Deepen your level of experience or simply record the passing seasons in your garden. Participants will discuss materials, types of journals, finding time in a busy life, and will take a peek into the writings of famous journal keepers. In addition, there will be creative exercises designed to spark your own writing process.

Aprille Janes is a project manager and a freelance writer whose work has appeared in *The Toronto Sun* and local magazines. Her creative interests include poetry, fiction and watercolour.

Write for Your Life!

A workshop on how to write compelling memoirs

Susan Lynn Reynolds

Saturday, December 1, 2001

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Fee: \$40 for members; \$45 for non-members



Do you have a story you want to tell of a crucial time in your life? Were you part of an historical event that you could cast a personal and illuminating light on? Have you dreamt of creating a memoir or autobiography for your children or grandchildren, letting them know what the world was like when you were growing up or starting out?

If you've ever wanted to put your memories down on paper but don't know where to start or how to finish, this course is for you! Using the techniques of Writing Practice, Susan Lynn Reynolds will be leading two afternoon sessions that will distil your memories into writer's ink and help you begin setting them down on paper and crafting them into a cohesive memoir.

This workshop will focus on techniques for getting original memories down in all their sensuous detail, and rivetting your reader in the process. Participants will leave the workshop having written and read their work, having listened to the lives of others and having had their own work and lives listened to.

Susan Lynn Reynolds has been a published author since 1991. her first novel, *Strandia* (published simultaneously by HarperCollins in Canada and Farrar, Strauss & Giroux in the U.S.), won the Canadian Library Association's National Award for Young Adult fiction in 1992. She has been leading writing and creativity groups for the last eight years.

To register, please call Jane Dubis at the Uxbridge Library (905-852-9747 or 9748), or e-mail Susan Lynn Reynolds at edgewood@accglobal.net. You can also register in person at the Uxbridge Public Library, 9 Toronto Street South.



Calendar of Events

Registration: Breakfasts: See page 3; Workshops: See pages 10,11

September 8, 2001

Writers and Editors Dialogue Breakfast

Featured Guest: **Warren Dunford**

Hot Buffet breakfast. Sports Garden Cafe, Whitby
8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$12 members; \$15 non-members

September 17, 2001

Workshop: Playing with Words

Ruth E. Walker

September 22, 2001

Workshop: Tasting the Page

Gwynn Scheltema

October 13, 2001

Writers and Editors Dialogue

Featured Guest: **Robert Winslow, 4th Line Theatre**

Hot Buffet breakfast. Sports Garden Cafe, Whitby
8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. \$12 members; \$15 non-members

October 19-21 2001

Write Away

WCDR-Sponsored Writers' Retreat

Haliburton

Registration: Lois Gordon

November 3, 2001

Workshop: Make Money Being Funny

Dorothea Helms and Steve Bond

November 24, 2001

Workshop: Writing and selling Short Stories

Edo van Belkom

November 25, 2001

Workshop: Scribbles

Aprille Janes

December 1, 2001

Workshop: Write for Your Life!

Susan Lynn Reynolds

The Word Weaver is published by **The Writers' Circle of Durham Region** as a service to our members and other interested parties. No one should act upon advice given without consulting appropriate professional advisors after the facts of specific situations are considered. Publications are invited to quote from *The Word Weaver* upon obtaining written permission from the President, The Writers' Circle of Durham Region, P.O. Box 323, Ajax, ON L1S 3C5. Phone # 905-259-6520. Web address: www.wcdr.org

The Word Weaver

www.wcdr.org

Editor
Gwynn Scheltema

Copy Editor
Philippa Schmiegelow

Editorial Assistant
Sherry Loeffler

WCDR Board of Directors

Aprille Janes, President
(905) 985-6453
aprillej@atcanada.ca

Ruth E. Walker, Past President
(905) 728-7823
walkwrite@sympatico.ca

Alexandra Savage-Ferr, Vice President/ Events Coordinator
(905) 430-3540
ferr@sprint.ca

Kathleen M. Martin, Secretary
(905) 259-6520
ian.martin3@sympatico.ca

Sue Reynolds, Treasurer/Membership
(905) 985-1962
edgewood@accglobal.net
Fax: (905) 985-9338

Nancy Rogers, Breakfast Coordinator
(905) 259-6520
write.rogers@sympatico.ca

Lois Gordon, Workshops
(905) 259-6520
ljgordon@on.aibn.com

Dorothea Helms, Public Relations (Electronic Media)
(905) 852-9294 or (905) 852-0551
dorothea@writestuffcom.com
Fax: (905) 852-0756

Lynda Allison, Public Relations (Print)
(905) 623-0365
lallison@mail.durham.net

We welcome your comments and submissions. Mail or e-mail your submissions to:

Gwynn Scheltema
542 Minto Court
Oshawa, ON L1G 5K2
(905) 720-2172
gwynnscheltema@hotmail.com

Please note: The editorial staff reserves the right to edit or reject submissions as it feels necessary.

Word Weaver: \$12/year (6 issues)
WCDR Membership: \$40/yr & \$35/renewal