



No. 9: Jan - Feb 2018

Upcoming Events

Monday,
January 15

**General Meeting
and
Iona Whishaw**

Monday,
February 19

**General Meeting
and
Eve Lazarus**

Monday,
March 26

**General Meeting
and
Carol Cram**

**NSWA 22nd Annual
Writing Contest!**

Submissions by February 28

Venue for meetings:

The Program Room, 3rd Floor
North Vancouver City Library

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Write On!

Newsletter of the North Shore Writers' Association
Linking North Shore writers since 1993

Vice President's Message

Rod Baker

"Making people believe the unbelievable is no trick; it's work. ... Belief and reader absorption come in the details: An overturned tricycle in the gutter of an abandoned neighborhood can stand for everything." — Stephen King

Had I known this four years ago, when I first met Karen Dodd and she encouraged me to join the NSWA, I might never have signed up.

I started writing when I retired, not realising it was work. Now I'm in over my head — struggling daily for reader absorption. Consuming, difficult, frustrating, and addictive — writing brought humiliation: I am crap at sprinkling commas and I have to rewrite everything five or six times. But the reward of meeting interesting people and writing a few paragraphs I can be proud of... at least, until I rewrite them, has been wonderful.

If any of this resonates with you writers, good. If not, darn, that Overturned tricycle remains elusive. But at least I'm struggling in good company.

This year has seen a changing of the guard at NSWA. All the executive positions have now changed since I joined four years ago. A big thank you to the parting executive members who, after serving our organization so ably, are stepping down from official duty: Cathy Scrimshaw, Karen Bower, Karen Dodd, Irene Nevill, Lucy Godwin, and Carl Hunter. Although they are no longer on the executive, they continue to offer their wise counsel and assistance to the new executive. Our fearless leader of three years, Doug MacLeod has stepped down as President to become our Writing Contest Coordinator.

A big welcome to our new executive members (see page 19) I'm encouraged to see talented people taking up the NSWA torch, setting time aside from their writing endeavours, to help guide our organization into the future. Heading into 2018, we are in good hands! ■

**News, features and more,
visit NSWA website:**

www.nswriters.com



Photo: Pixabay

A NOTE FROM THE (NEW) EDITOR

Happy New Year! After a soggy November and all that December merry-making and overeating, I trust everyone is well-nourished and rested up to begin a new year of writing.

I am excited to be the new Editor of our quarterly newsletter. Taking over from Irene Nevill was a dream. Not only was she uber-organized and handed over everything impeccably, she has offered me her support from her new home in London, Ontario, for which I am very grateful. I am pleased to report that Irene is continuing her membership with NSWA. She offers an update of her new situation on page 18.

As you will notice, I have continued with content already familiar to members (notices, Bravo!, the 100-word challenge and poetry). I've made a few changes as well (see if you can spot them), and welcome your suggestions by email.

I have resolved that this year shall be my most productive writing year, and I challenge you all to the same. The NSWA annual writing contest is open through the end of February. It's a nice kick-off the writing year.

Write on, everyone!

Wiley Ho

editornswa@gmail.com

March 2018 newsletter deadline:
February 15, 2018

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Submission Guidelines

- *Submissions can only be accepted from NSWA members*
- *Submissions to be sent to the Editor, at: editornswa@gmail.com (in WORD format, please, within the body of the email, if possible; illustrations in JPEG format)*
- *Space is limited and lengthy submissions (>700 words) are therefore discouraged*
- *The Editor reserves the right to make revisions or corrections*
- *Publication in WRITE ON! is at the discretion of the Editor, in consultation with the Executive*

Disclaimer: Contributors are responsible for the accuracy, originality, reliability, etc., of the content of their submissions, and any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor and/or the NSWA.

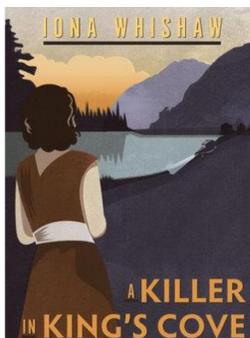
**Monday
January 15
General Meeting**



Followed by guest speaker and mystery writer, Iona Wishaw

Iona Wishaw has been a youth worker, social worker, teacher and an award-winning High School Principal, who continued with her writing throughout her working life. Receiving her Masters in Creative Writing from UBC, Iona has published short fiction, poetry, poetry translation and one children's book, *Henry and the Cow Problem*. The Lane Winslow mystery series is her first foray into adult fiction.

Iona's hobbies have included dance, painting, reading, and gardening. She currently is a vocalist for a small Balkan dance band in Vancouver, and is patiently waiting for her next opportunity to engage in her current pash, long distance, cross country rambling in England.



**Monday
February 19
General Meeting**

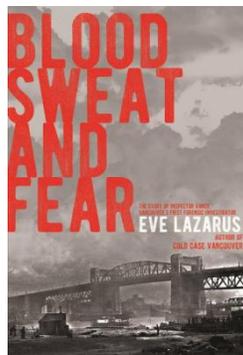


Followed by guest speaker and thriller writer, Eve Lazarus

Eve Lazarus is a writer with a passion for non-traditional history and a fascination with murder. Her books include the BC bestsellers *Blood, Sweat, and Fear: the story of Inspector Vance, Vancouver's first forensic investigator* (2017); *Cold Case Vancouver* (2015) and *Sensational Vancouver* (2014). Eve blogs obsessively at Every Place has a Story-evelazarus.com

Here's a link to her book and some reviews: <http://evelazarus.com/books/blood-sweat-and-fear/>

evelazarus@shaw.ca
evelazarus.com



**Monday
March 26
General Meeting**



Followed by guest speaker and historical fiction writer, Carol Cram

Carol will tell us how to go about writing interesting characters, and provide prompts to get us writing deep characters – who they are, not just how they appear.

Carol M. Cram is the author of three novels of historical literary fiction. Her first novel, *The Towers of Tuscany* (Lake Union Publishing, 2014) and her second novel, *A Woman of Note* (Lake Union Publishing, 2015) were both designated Editor's Choice by the Historical Novel Society in the UK, and both won First in Category for the Chaucer and Goethe awards (Chanticleer Book Awards), with *The Towers of Tuscany* also winning the Grand Prize Chaucer Award for best historical novel pre-1750. *The Muse of Fire*, Carol's third novel, was published in December, 2017 by Kindle Press (e-book) and New Arcadia Publishing (paperback).



NSWA General Meetings 7:00 - 8:45 pm
The Program Room, North Vancouver City Library
Members: free Non-members: donation requested

NOTICE BOARD

Writing with Writers Workshop:

Romance Writing

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

3rd Floor Program Room, North Vancouver City Library

7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

Wine and refreshments will be available through the Friends of the Library
Registration required (details below)



Romance Writing: The Power of that Dynamic Allure Presented by Mary Ann Clarke Scott

Have you ever wondered how romance fiction differs from other genres? Or what's going on in a romance novel besides kissing? Have you ever wondered if you could be the next Nora Roberts? Then this workshop is for you.

Chatelaine Grand Prize winner and NSWA member, Mary Ann Clarke Scott, will guide us through the writer's contract with the reader. We'll examine the roles of the Heroine and Hero in this character dominant genre, and look at the internal emotional character arcs.

Bring pen and paper, or laptop, and be prepared to join in, as Mary Ann Clarke Scott, challenges, educates, and inspires the amorous spirit in all of us.

Admission to this event is free, but please register at the North Vancouver City Library's website at <http://www.nvcl.ca/calendar>

A Note from your Library Liaison

I'm Sonia Garrett, the NSWA's new library liaison. Last summer, I had the pleasure of working with Cathy Scrimshaw (the outgoing library liaison) and Mikale Fenton, Community Librarian for North Vancouver City Library, to ensure a smooth transition. Cathy Scrimshaw will be at the helm for the 2018 North Shore Writers Festival for one more year.

The Writing with Writers series has been very successful, with record numbers turning up for our last workshop on November 8, 2017 with Alexander Boldizar on humour and satire writing. Please join us for the Writing Romance workshop in February. Hope to see you all to write some romantic lines – just in time for Valentine's Day!

We have a great relationship with North Vancouver City Library. They allow us to meet free of charge and provide fantastic opportunities for our members. We must not take this for granted. Please remember that some people want a quiet space to work when they come to the library, so keep social chit chat to a minimum when coming and going from our meetings. Thank you!



City Library *The North Shore Writers' Association thanks the North Vancouver City Library for their generous support of our ongoing activities and special events, and also for their support of all local writers and readers. The Library plays an active and varied role in the cultural life of our community - for more information and to find out how to participate, go to: www.nvcl.ca*

Rippling Sonnets:

Open Mic Poetry Reading



Lynn Valley Library

Wednesdays: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9
6:30pm—8:30pm

Register online or at 604-984-0286, ext. 8144.

You are invited to join us for an exciting evening of Open Mic Poetry Reading!

Learn how to write a Haiku, engage with an audience and get friendly feedback on your work. Raffle and refreshments will be provided! Open to both established and emerging writers. ALL AGE GROUPS WELCOME. Hosted by: Una Bruhns & Deborah L Kelly. *Drop-ins welcome.*

Creative Quills in Verse: A Workshop in Creative Writing

Lynn Valley Library

Wednesdays: January 31, February 28, March 28, April 25, May 30
1:30pm—3:30pm



“Stories are the result of what happens in a writing workshop environment, learning to discover one’s inner voice.” Attend this FREE creative writing workshop!

Join Una Bruhns and Deborah Kelly in a creative writing adventure. Encourage your creativity through prompts, stories, vignettes, poems, musings and haiku. Slices of lives and experiences by topic and tone in everyday living. *All levels welcome.*



Dare to be Heard

If you're a writer and want to read your work to a non-critical audience, why not come out to the next Dare to be Heard Literary Evening at North Vancouver City Library, **February 5, 2018**. Dare welcomes all different genre writers at all stages of the journey and interested listeners, too. We meet in the 2nd Floor Boardroom at North Vancouver City Library on the first Monday of most months.

Dare has been such a success that we've moved the start time from 7:00 to 6:30 p.m. If this early start is impossible for you, please email Mark Turris, at mark.turris@gmail.com and he will make sure you have a spot on the readers' list.

See you there!

Upcoming sessions: February 5, March 5, April 9, May 7 and June 4
Venue: The 2nd Floor Boardroom, North Vancouver City Library
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.



Publishing Corner

Got a manuscript you're trying to get published traditionally? It's not easy, but it's not impossible. Here are a few suggestions to help you get started:

The Writer's Digest has an e-newsletter that occasionally contains listings of agents who are actively seeking new authors. How great is that? To sign up for the newsletter, go to <http://www.writersdigest.com/>

You'll also find information on writing contests, on-line workshops, and much more. Just beware of spending too much money on on-line resources! Use the free resources first, until you're sure you know what you want, and what is helpful versus what is just making money for someone else. Here are two agents who were recently listed in the newsletter and identified as currently seeking new authors to represent:

Kimberley Jago of Jago Ciro Entertainment <http://www.jagociro.com/>
Harvey Klinger of Harvey Klinger Inc. Literary Agency <https://www.harveyklinger.com/>

Remember this! Ethical agents do not charge reading fees. They get paid when you get paid. Before sending a submission to *any* agent, ***including the ones listed above, do your homework. Never take anything for granted!*** Check their submissions guidelines. Do an internet search to see if they've had complaints filed against them. Find out which – if any – professional organizations they belong to, which conferences they attend on a regular basis, and whether or not their rates/fees are in line with industry standards. ***Don't*** send your work to anyone who does not pass all the above checks with flying colours, and any more checks you think of or that someone else thinks of for you. If you do decide to send your work to an agent, be sure to follow the submission guidelines on their websites to the letter. They won't read it if you don't.

Want to try a B.C. Publisher?

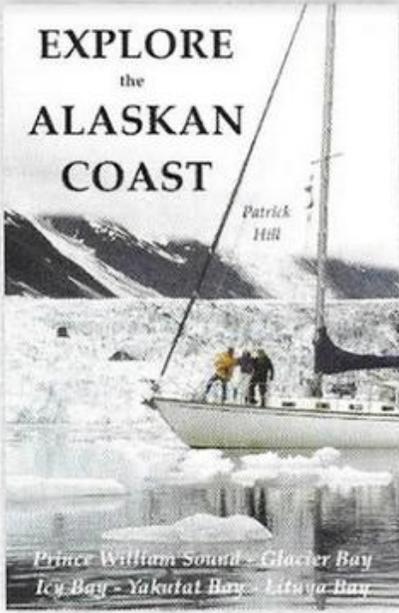
Touchwood Editions is based in Victoria, B.C., and only publishes Canadian authors, with an emphasis on regional stories. Check them out on their website, <http://www.touchwoodeditions.com/> They publish fiction and non-fiction, and have sales teams in both Canada and the United States. As with the agents, read their website before you submit. Make sure your work fits what they are looking for, then carefully study their submissions guidelines. If you decide to submit your work, follow their instructions to the letter.

Good Luck! And don't forget to let the rest of us know if you're successful.

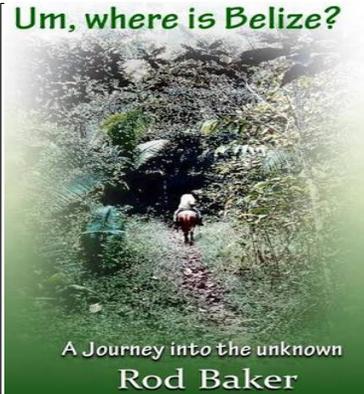


Congratulations to **Patrick Hill** for receiving the following great review by *Pacific Yachting* (the biggest yachting magazine in Canada) of his latest book *Explore the Alaskan Coast*.

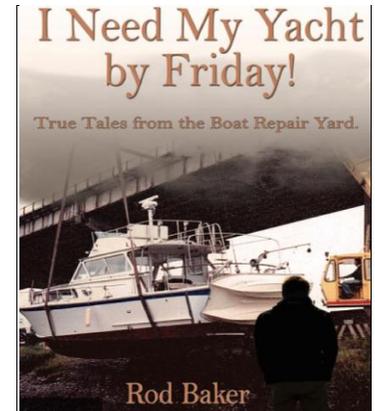
Next up: Patrick's latest book *French Silk on Water* is about to go into Amazon. The book details Patrick's sailing adventures across the Great Lakes to New York, down to Miami and out into the Bahamas on a 14-month adventure with his wife, Heather. To find out more about Patrick's books, visit www.patrickhillcruising.com.

<p>"TO GO BOLDLY where no man has gone before" could be the Hills's mantra as well as the <i>Enterprise</i> crew's.</p> <p>The 108-page account of Patrick and Heather Hill's Alaska explorations will have many skippers longing for this "last frontier."</p> <p>With only three weeks off and a dream to return to Alaska much larger than that time frame, the couple came up with a plan to divide the trip north into three legs and to find two other sailing teams that could take each leg. Firstly Dr. Peter Padwick would take his team and sail to Valdez. However, he wanted to take a boat he was familiar with, his 42-foot Fraser, <i>Justa</i>. He would take leg 1 (Vancouver to Valdez, two weeks) and leg two, Valdez to Glacier Bay (three weeks) Heather and Patrick would join them for leg two with their team of Robb Barr and Mark Webber. The third team would take five weeks to sail south to Vancouver, headed by Charles Priester and his four-person crew. As Priester also owned a Fraser 42, he</p>		<p>would already be familiar with the boat.</p> <p>For Patrick and Heather, the 1,000-mile trip from Valdez to Glacier Bay would be their dream cruise and an exploration of exciting new waters and territory. They only needed to sail 45 to 50 miles each day, which was a good thing because there was plenty for them to explore.</p> <p>Written in six chapters: Prince William Sound, Icy Bay, Yakutat Bay, Lituya Bay and Glacier Bay, with a first chapter on planning, a foreword and an interesting appendix by the late Dr. Padwick that answers many questions interested readers are going to have, the book also is loaded with colour photos that hint at the beauty of the area as well as the euphoria of its explorers. Imagine sailing into areas where only four private boats visit annually! Some of the other adventures, like experiencing an earthquake while aboard and listening to icebergs calf nearby, may not be the adrenaline rush every cruiser is looking for, but the remoteness, the beauty and the solitude is bound to appeal to most skippers fresh from the crush of lower mainland summer anchorages and their attendant noise of generators.</p> <p>Hill, who is a member of the RVCY and the WVCY, also throws in some natural history, exploration history and other details to help flesh out the account. This is his second book. His first, <i>Home on the Waves, a Pacific Sailing Adventure</i>, is also available.</p> <p>Where to buy: Available at Chapters - Indigo, Barnes & Noble, Amazon or direct from patrickhillcruising.com.</p>
<p>Pacific Yachting November Issue 2017</p>	<p>BOOK REVIEW <i>Explore the Alaskan Coast</i> By Patrick Hill. Rutherford Press (Kindle \$6.36, paperback \$24.65)</p>	

Kudos to **Rod Baker** who has just published his third book *Um, Where Is Belize?* It is an adventure tale of a road trip to Central America and back, made on a whim one January with a cousin he had never met before.



"Baker shares a 14,000 kilometre road trip with a co-driver he's never met. Insights into human nature, stunning descriptions and hilarious escapades make this book a road trip you can't put down."
– Jessie Gussman, Author



Um, Where is Belize? is the follow up to his second book *I Need My Yacht By Friday* which recounts the 20 years Rod owned and ran a boat repair company in North Vancouver. As a recent immigrant to Canada, he had completed an apprenticeship as a shipwright and found a good-paying job in the shipyard, which allowed him to buy a three-bedroom house for his growing family. Three weeks before Christmas, the foreman at the shipyard gave him one hour's notice that he'd been laid off. He found piecemeal work to help pay the mortgage, then decided to go into the business of repairing boats. He rented a large warehouse, brought a chair from home, made a desk from a door and bought a brown manila envelope for receipts. *I Need My Yacht by Friday* is the story of what happened next.

Double bravas to **Joyce Goodwin** for her recent achievements:

- Her poem "Altered State" (see Sep-Nov 2017 *Write On!* newsletter) was chosen for inclusion in the WS Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society anthology *Celebrate Canada 150*. Joyce read the poem at a public reading for the Top 15 contest winning writers in the Richmond Cultural Centre in September 2017. The book launched on December 29, 2017 and includes 150 multicultural stories and poems celebrating Canada.
- Her poem "Arthritis" was given a judges choice award by The Ontario Poetry Society in their Ultra Short Poem contest (see page 15 for her winning poems).



Bravo to all you brave wordsmiths out there – both sung and unsung – who continue to plug away at the craft of writing. May your muse visit you often, to gladden and madden your pen!

Don't forget to forward your writing news to editornswa@gmail.com.

100 WORD CHALLENGE

The challenge was to produce a story or poem, in **100 words or less**, using these three words: **WOMBAT, SNOWBALL, BARISTA**
Here are your creations:

Mistakes in Translation

Sonia Garrett

Vancouver is a truly international city. A fact brought home to me when I was describing the dispersed nature of my family to a Mexican colleague.

“When we’re throwing **snowballs** in Canada, my brother is dealing with **wombats** making dust clouds in his palatial garden in Sydney, Australia.

My colleague looked puzzled. “I’ve heard it’s really expensive to live there. How can he afford a big place with a garden when he’s a **barista**?”

“Oh no,” I replied. “He’s not a **barista**. He’s a type of lawyer, a barrister.”

We both laughed at the confusion.



Images: iStock

Irene Nevill

'Tis the morning of Christmas,
And all through the house,
Everyone’s stirring,
Even the mouse;
Freshly made coffee,
Barista approved;
Mince pies to savour,
Santa approved;
Mum’s got a drink:
A **snowball***, I think.
 (“Just a wee one,” she says.
I’ll make it last.”)
The gifts are all waiting,
Tucked under the tree,
Santa’s been busy,
As you can see.
There’s one little chappie
Who’s now very happy...
His **wombat**’s turned up
(The one that he asked for,
A toy one, of course) —
All the way from down under!

**A cocktail made with advocaat, lemonade and a splash of lime juice. Delicious!*

Wombats

Marie Sadro

Wombats don’t live in countries of snow,
So **snowball** fights, they do not know.
And since the coffee is not their brew,
Our fancy **baristas** just won’t do.
Wombats are furry and simple, you see,
They gnaw and dig under fences and trees,
They feed on herbs and tasty greens,
Come out at night when they’re not seen.
They carry their babes in pouches on backs:
Smart Australians with their own backpacks!

In from the Cold

Trish Gauntlett

He was a spy. Unremarkable, invisible. He ordered black coffee as always. The **barista** smirked. The **wombat**, she secretly called him, because he dressed in layers of fleece and sounded Australian. It only took a moment for the tip of his umbrella to touch the leg of the man in the corner. He was gone before the man slumped into his latte. When asked later what he looked like, nobody would remember. He was ordinary, indistinct. And he, walking away, watched as a **snowball** fell at his feet and thought of Mother Russia, in whose arms he would soon rest.

The Recent Arrival

Rose Dudley

What da-ya-know? As a blow-in from Oz, I get to wear the **wombat** costume for the day. So, here I am, a right dipstick, a wombat **barista** serving pumpkin-spice lattes to the yoga set. Isn't it enough that I've trudged through snow to get here on time? I kid you not. Snow in October! Wham! a **snowball** hits the window, causing me to spill a White Mocha Hot Chocolate and a Soy Chai Tea over some sheila's Lululemon puffy coat and her \$300 TechLoom Cashmere shoes. Seems like my old man was right. I'm out'a here.

Wombat Italiano

Una Bruhns

On a recent skiing trip to Bormio Italy, one of the world's best, offering an authentic Italian ambiance, beautiful scenery and spas fed by natural hot mineral springs.

After a wonderful day of skiing we settled in one of the trendy bars, enjoying a wonderful cup of coffee, when two rebel rousers busted in, threw a large **snowball** at the short stubby **barista**. Like a **wombat** he flew from behind the counter, took chase as they tried to escape, jumped on the last lad's back and nailed him face down in the snow.

Stopping for a Snowball

Rod Baker

Not wanting to leave a credit card trail, I syphon gas from a parked car and carry on zooming down I-5. After ten hours, my eyes feel glassy. I need sustenance. I grind to a stop outside a bar in Grant's Pass and rouse the sleepy **barista**.

"Hi honey, make me a **snowball**, will ya."

"What's a snowball, exactly?"

"Exactly — ice, advocaat, cognac, and lime juice, shaken."

"Thanks sir."

She's young — just a kid. "Oh, add a little **wombat** juice, will ya?"

"What's a wombat, sir?"

"An Australian marsupial, but beaver'll do."

"Outta beaver today. Canada Dry?"

"Sure. Lovely."

Cinda Morales

Have you heard? The Overhip Cafe downtown hired one more **barista** to meet the demand for their Taste of Tasmania, a coffee brewed over an outdoor fire.

Created during a camping trip Down Under, owner Janie Overhip first shared this beverage with friends. "Then they told more friends and so on," she said, "And that **snowball** effect turned it into our best seller."

The secret? **Wombat** droppings, direct from Australia. When burned in the fire pit, they infuse the wild scent of Tasmania into each drop of coffee.

Try a cup today!

The Wombat

B.R. Bentley

The **wombat**, or so I've heard,
Produces a nice cubic turd.
This handy, but unusual shape,
Prevents it rolling like a grape.

Another thing, and this is great,
It does not share the **snowball's** fate.
It will not melt, or fade away
But rather stays to mark the way.

I asked a **barista**, an Aussie bro,
If this was true, for he should know.

He shrugged, and answered, "Sure it's true,
Every wombat has cubic poo."

Instant Karma

Wiley Ho

"Don't wear white", advised the cafe owner who
hired me. So, I dressed in all-black. I hadn't counted
on the December heat bouncing off the Sydney
sidewalk like an ill-timed **wombat** off an ATV.

My first customer eyed my sweaty brows with scorn.
"Make me a mac", he barked. A macchiato was
hardly a challenge for a **barista**: espresso dolloped
with foam. I started frothing the milk extra hot,
imagining the man burning his sneering lip.

A gurgle, a burp and the machine exploded white
foam all over my black attire like I was in a **snowball**
fight.

Next 100 Word Challenge:

hope springs eternal

You may include the specific words or make them the theme of your piece!

Submit your 100-word masterpiece to
editornswa@gmail.com
by February 15th, 2018

100-Word Challenge Tips

- Strictly 100 words or less (excluding title, if any).
- Use the word count facility in WORD; it keeps track of the number of words used.
- Hyphenated words and words including an apostrophe are counted as single words.
- Fiction, non-fiction, poetry acceptable.
- If the challenge theme inspires a longer piece, please feel free to submit it for consideration for the newsletter (with an "inspired by..." note).
- Exercise your precision and concision.
- Have fun!



Picture: Pixabay

NSWA Saturday Workshop

Saturday, February 24, 2018. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

North Vancouver City Library, 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Cost: \$50.00 for NSWA members. \$60.00 for non-members.

Register at: nswaregistrar@gmail.com ★Seats are limited

Send Cheque to: NSWA P.O. Box 37549 Lonsdale East, N.V. V7M 3L3



Characters that pop off the page with Eileen Cook



Readers are fascinated by interesting characters, they may love them or hate them, but it's the people that populate a story that keeps them turning pages. Creating characters that hold a reader's interest in fiction and narrative non-fiction is a balancing act. This workshop is designed to look at how to create characters that pop off the page. Practical tips and prompts will be provided, so participants can use the techniques in their own work.

Eileen Cook is a multi-published author with her novels appearing in eight languages. Her books have been optioned for films and tv. She spent most of her teen years wishing she was someone else or somewhere else, which is great training for a writer. She is an instructor/mentor with the Simon Fraser University Writing Studio Program.

& The Narrative voice by Darren Groth

The voice of your story – the narrative voice, is often misunderstood. This workshop will define what it is, explore the types of voice the author may choose among and provide tips for exploring what voice works best for your specific project.



Originally from Australia, **Darren Groth** now resides in Vancouver, B.C. A highly acclaimed author of YA fiction. He has twelve books in publication. Formerly a mentor in the Australian Society of Authors, he is a guest lecturer at the UBC School of Creative Writing.



Writing Workshops with April Brosshard

Plot on the Spot & Time to Write

Writers struggle with plot. It can be the most labour intensive part of the writing process and the one that keeps us returning to the drawing board over and over to make the story better (or even workable). This day will be devoted to developing the plot for the story you're working on. Come prepared to apply the exercises to your work in progress. There will be lots of time to write.

Saturday, January 20th, 2018

10 am to 5 pm \$95

(1 hour for lunch)

Alliance for Arts & Culture

100-938 Howe Street

Vancouver BC

To register email deepstorydesign@gmail.com

Crafting Your Character's Arc

We know that characters are meant to grow and change in a story, but how and when does that happen? In this hands-on workshop, you will design your character's "arc" — that personal journey of transformation that lends meaning to narrative. As you explore your character's outer desire and inner need within the context of beliefs and values, a map of growth will emerge that will guide your unfolding story.

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

2 pm to 5 pm \$50

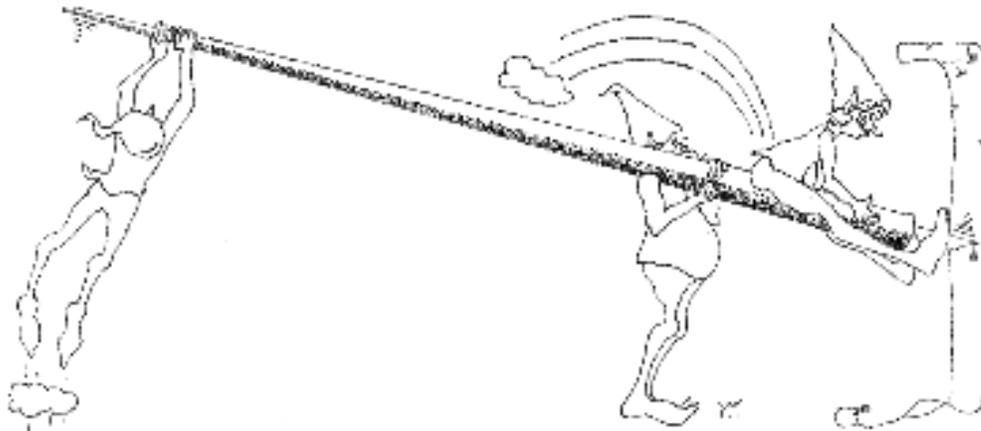
Alliance for Arts & Culture

100-938 Howe Street

Vancouver BC

To register email deepstorydesign@gmail.com

North Shore Writers' Association



22nd Annual Writing Contest

Contest Deadline: February 28, 2018.

Categories:

- Fiction: Up to 2,000 words per entry.
- Non-fiction: Up to 2,000 words per entry.
- Poetry: Submitting 1 to 3 poems = one entry.
- Youth (postcard 500 words fiction/nonfiction)

Prizes:

- 1st Prize - \$100.00
- 2nd Prize - \$50.00
- 3rd Prize - \$25.00

For more details go to the

NSWA website at:

www.nswriters.org

Contest Fee:

NSWA members

Adults: \$15.00

Youth: \$10.00

Non members:

Adults: \$20.00

Youth: \$10.00

Send entries to: North Shore Writers' Association
P.O. Box 37549 Lonsdale East, North Vancouver, V7M 3L3





2017 NSWA Biennial Satisfaction Survey results are in!

Thanks to all those who completed the survey (19) and to Rod Baker for collecting and compiling the survey results. The overall picture is that we are a diverse group of keen writers with diverse interests. Membership duration among the respondents averaged 2.5 years. The top two motivations for joining the NSWA were to “meet other writers” and “to improve skills”. The following questions and averaged scores are from the survey.

Scale: 5 I agree completely 4 most of the time 3 sometimes 2 hardly ever 1 never 0 no response

1. I enjoy the NSWA monthly meetings. (4.3)
2. I learn important information from the speakers. (4.7)
3. I am able to put that information to use in my writing. (3.8)
4. I enjoy the content and variety of topics which the speakers provide. (4.0)
5. I am able to connect with other NSWA members through monthly meetings. (3.8)
6. I enjoy the Christmas and summer wrap-up socials. (4.5 from 14 respondents, 5 did not attend)
7. I would like information about joining a NSWA support/critique group. (2.7)

Suggestions for topics for speakers included: Tips for short story writing; humour (not silly); learning how to write; writing for kids and young adults; editing; building a marketing platform; publishing; and, marketing a book.

Areas of writing interest

Memoir (8)
Historical fiction (7)
Biography (6)
Non-fiction (6)
Mystery (6)
Humour (5)
Crime (5)
Young adult (4)
Thriller (4)
Poetry (3)
History (3)
Romance (3)
Essays (3)
Fantasy (3)
Blogs (2)
Sci-fi (2)
Children (2)
Flash fiction (2)
Travel (2)
Documentary (1)
Horror (0)

WORDS OF WISDOM ...

**Ever tried. Ever failed.
No matter.
Try again. Fail again.
Fail better.**
- Samuel Beckett



**“Have no fear of perfection,
you’ll never reach it”**

- Salvador Dali

POETRY, PLEASE!

The Rock

© 171114 George Chris Michas

It's the place we return to
When we run out of time
It's the place we return to
When I'm yours and you're mine

We walk down the street
Your hand in mine
We stop at the coffee shop
We spend our last dime

We return to the rock
No questions asked
Our base of operations
It's the base of our past

My girl you have blonde hair
Mine salt and pepper
We've been in love always
All ways together

We look at the road
To read what's ahead
We look to the cabin
In the woods with the shed
Our life is forever
All night in the bed.

Roses

Marie Sadro

Writing poetry is much like growing roses:

Time consuming, precarious and absorbing;

And all for the sake of a rose:
Chalice, nuance and scent.

XMAS PARTY

Stuart Newton

There seems to be a lotta ridiculous people in the world –
and they all come out at Christmas, in silly outfits, eating
the same ole stuff and repeating their banal comments –

Santa Claus is the worst of all – a bourgeois parody of love
and peace – more like fantasy and fiction.

Family and pals are far away; but enjoying the same stupid
parodies, eating the wrong foods, singing the silly songs...

I'm amid rows of displaced folk at trestle tables consuming
the festive fayre – served-up by earnest volunteers adorned
with badges and name-tags...

but getting thru the stuff before me in a ghastly paper hat
and skillfully plying my plastic utensils infront of everyone –

When horror-of-horrors – someone is waving to me from
across the room. Thinking to be anonymous and unnoticed;
a woman waves like she knew me in a past life -- Christmas
really is a 'hum-bug' (the polite word for it) –

Santa is running amock amid the kids, emptying his sack of
toys across the floor, after a bit too much rum-punch.

Young gals at the desk, keep blushing at the old men, while
our host replenishes sweet treats for everyone; gushing with
his rehearsed script of goodwill and good-cheer.

Last-of-all our songstress, a Dolly Parton look-a-like singing
'Rudolph the red-nose reindeer', presents a stale mish-mash;
a horrible mix of carols and smaltz, humour and sentiment...

It's the worst kind of promotion (public service); the poorest
sort of aesthetics (bad taste) – just plain ridiculous, really; for
a circus of modern conceits...

'Bah, Christmas is a hum-bug'.

N.B. from the poet

*We know how Christmas can be disappointing because it's a middle class,
bourgeois celebration – coming more from pagan rites and mid-winter festivals
than anything else. It is now known to be an unhappy time for many older
people, the disadvantaged or infirm...*

You*Deborah Stephan*

You wait for me to rise in the morning
 You sleep because I am there at night
 You listen to me when I rant
 You have me in your arms during commercials

You are my albatross and my anchor
 My lover and my friend
 You kiss me when I am weary
 And take me to where love never ends

I plan for your every care
 I take you with me everywhere
 I see when you cannot
 I make of you what you are not

We make up life together
 We eat chocolate cookies on the deck
 We listen to the woodpecker calling
 As we rise each day for each other.

Empty Chairs*Deborah Stephan*

In each room there
 Is a confrontation of
 Empty chairs

Breakfast chair
 TV chair
 Bath chair
 Sun chair

They stand on guard
 For the space still
 Occupied but
 Elsewhere

I ignore
 And explore
 Ways to cope now
 With absence
 While present

Until presented with
 That absence
 That will face me
 Not too far off

I enjoy
 I chat
 I offer
 I listen
 I advocate and
 Abrogate
 For my beloved
 In the present
 Absence.

The North*Joyce Goodwin*

Where caribou dance on permafrost
 brown bears rumble the tundra
 clawing their way across glaciers
 their noses curled at howls
 of grey wolves disappearing into mist.

ARTHRITIS*Joyce Goodwin*

The years hang loosely now
 on this skeletal winter frame
 grinding down as sand in an
 hourglass, hiding truths
 in the marrow, bone tired,
 wearing time badly,
 as brittle memory retains
 a painful presence.



*A Special Appeal for Help
 for Moira Leona (Thompson) and her
 daughter Johanna*

Many of you know Moira our former President and Newsletter Editor. On October 10, 2015 her daughter Johannah Jorgensen suffered a severe medical trauma that in spite of many months in hospital in Denmark has left her with severe challenges and she is now in a long term care facility in North Vancouver. While in hospital in Denmark Hannah was receiving therapies that greatly helped her. The family was finally able to bring her home and they know that therapy will add to her quality of life but need help to fund the services not available through the BC Medical Services Plan.

The family has decided to work through GoFundMe to raise \$15,000 needed for therapy. Moira gave us permission to share this appeal. For further information about Johannah Jorgensen and her current needs, please go to www.gofundme/johannajorgensen.

LONDON CALLING...

December 2017

Irene Nevill



Photo: iStock, by Getty Images

Greetings from Winter Wonderland!

On New Year's Eve, 2016, I wondered would 2017 be a year to remember or one to forget? I pondered possibilities, probabilities, and pipe dreams, as I put the January newsletter to bed and prepared to toast the New Year. It would turn out to be quite a year...

In 2017, it came as no surprise when my husband, celebrating a milestone birthday (70) this year, announced his imminent retirement (semi-retirement, initially). What did come as a surprise was his desire to retire to Ontario, a province we had lived in previously. I took some persuading, but eventually came round to his way of thinking. We had enjoyed our time in Waterloo and a return there or thereabouts had its appeal.

And so, in April we ventured on a house-hunting expedition in Southwestern Ontario reminiscent of those programmes on TV. Our search centred on Stratford and London, and, after spending time in both locations, we decided London would work better for us, while the attractions of Stratford were within easy visiting distance.

Mission accomplished — within three days — much to our surprise. Thanks to our diligent and perceptive realtor. A tight timeline now lay ahead of us, which included selling our house, a trip to London to complete the house purchase, packing, moving, etc. Quite a challenge — and I had two NSWA newsletters to produce, as well as ensuring the archives and newsletter files were all in the best

possible order for my successor. Meanwhile, my husband was still working.

We did it! It's amazing what a ton of motivation can achieve.

So, here we are, in the City of London, also known as "The Forest City". What do we think of it so far? We love it. In terms of amenities, attractions, and activities, Londoners, including new arrivals like us, are well catered for. Our favourite watering hole, for example, the British-style The Waltzing Weasel, is only a short drive away and serves up some great food. It also happens to be next to a driving range and mini-golf. And guess who's thinking of joining The London Writers Society, and the local newcomers' club? You're right (and I am still a member of the NSWA). Maybe I will make it to next year's Words Literary and Creative Arts Festival (Wordsfest). I only managed a brief visit to the book fair at Museum London with its impressive panoramic views of the Thames River.

Why did we want to move from "Beautiful BC"? It was a question we were asked many times, to which our response was: chronic densification, rampant development, and persistent gridlock. It made financial sense, too: we downsized our mortgage and upsized our house, located in a sought-after area of London. We love our house with all its quirks; it's our home sweet home. We are close to both the city centre and to nature. And we are blessed with great neighbours. A year to remember or a year to forget? What do you think?

EXECUTIVE 2017 – 2018

President (and Director)

Not currently filled

Vice-President (and Director)

Rod Baker

Secretary (and Director)

Not currently filled

Treasurer/Member Relations (and Director)

Not currently filled

Library Liaison

Sonia Garrett

Newsletter Editor/Archivist

Wiley Ho

Speaker Coordinator

Una Bruhns

Writing Contest Coordinator (and Director)

Doug MacLeod

Dare to be Heard Host

Mark Turris

Members At-Large

Joanna Gould

Lawrence Verigin

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT 2017 – 2018

Promotion & Webmaster

Kelly Hoskins

Library Bookings, Harmony Arts Liaison

Carl Hunter

*Many thanks to all our volunteers for their
dedication and hard work!*

2018 Calendar of Events

January 10	Rippling Sonnets
January 15	NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Iona Whishaw
January 31	Creative Quills in Verse
February 5	Dare to be Heard
February 7	Writing with Writers: Romance
February 14	Rippling Sonnets
February 15	Newsletter deadline
February 19	NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Eve Lazarus
February 24	Saturday Workshop
February 28	NSWA Contest Deadline Creative Quills in Verse
March 5	Dare to be Heard
March 14	Rippling Sonnets
March 26	NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Carol Cram
March 28	Creative Quills in Verse
April 9	Dare to be Heard
April 11	Rippling Sonnets
April 16	NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker TBA
April 25	Creative Quills in Verse
May 7	Dare to be Heard
May 9	Rippling Sonnets
May 28	NSWA General Meeting with guest speaker Patricia Sandberg
May 30	Creative Quills in Verse
June 4	Dare to be Heard
June 18	Year-end Potluck at Silk Purse

The Last Page

Cathy L. Scrimshaw

The New Year's column for *WriteOn* is always the one I find the most difficult to write. A year is gone, and in front of us is a fresh slate just waiting to be filled. So this space is supposed to be filled with nuggets of wisdom, inspiration and hope. Humour is good, as well. But without, of course, the usual clichés. That's not always easy.

January is usually when people look for ways to improve themselves and the world around them, and 2018 cries out for improvement over 2017. The past year was a depressing one in terms of news stories. Fires, floods, wars, appalling behaviour on the part of politicians, business leaders and celebrities, dire warnings of economic and environmental disasters – we were subjected to that and more in the daily news. As a friend said, it's beginning to look like Armageddon out there. I've been a news junkie for most of my life, but even I've had enough. I read the paper less these days, watch television news not at all, and rely mostly on my CBC home page for the bullets so I don't miss anything really important.

On a personal level, 2017 wasn't my best year, either. Deaths and medical crises struck home for us. We've experienced those before, of course, but somehow, as one ages, the effect seems to become cumulative. It takes longer to bounce back. And as you all know, I've stepped back from my executive role for

the NSWA to spend more time on writing. It's a change I was looking forward to, but still, there's an adjustment involved. I've found that while I'm thoroughly enjoying the extra time, I do miss the wonderful people I worked with.

So, having said all that, where are those words of encouragement and inspiration for 2018? Well, the reality is that despite the negative content of the daily and weekly news outlets, the world is full of good people doing good deeds, and though we can't always influence the outcome of events in the national and international spheres, we can certainly affect what happens in our personal lives.

A common New Year's resolution is to take better care of ourselves, both physically and psychologically. That's a good one. When we feel strong and confident, we're better able to be kind, compassionate, helpful human beings, to be a constructive force in the lives of those around us. We're also better able to pursue our creative endeavours to keep ourselves feeling fulfilled, and to help inspire others around us who might be struggling. Above all, we can live each day, each moment, to the fullest. Not by rushing around, struggling to become the latest super-achiever. It's just that there is already so much waste in the world, why add to that by wasting time? But remember, rest is definitely not waste. It's an important part of taking care of yourself.

I did a little research on the internet. It appears there is

some scientific evidence to support the idea that mass meditation can effect change in communities. That's also a part of the philosophy of yoga (I have a morning yoga practice). It seems that when an individual is living a calm, peaceful, fulfilled life, their serenity brushes off on those around them, and can actually lead to a more positive community. So maybe, if enough of us try to be kinder and more compassionate in our personal lives, we actually will be able to influence the wider world!

Where does the NSWA fit in to this picture? It's our local writing community, our source of inspiration and personal support. Informative guest speakers at the monthly meetings, the support of your peers at Dare to be Heard, workshops and presentations in partnership with the North Vancouver City Library and the North Shore Writers Festival – being part of all this is a great way to maintain your strength and confidence as a writer.

So keep yourself strong and fit, calm and serene, fulfilled and creative, and then get involved with your local writing association this year – you won't regret it.

I never have.

