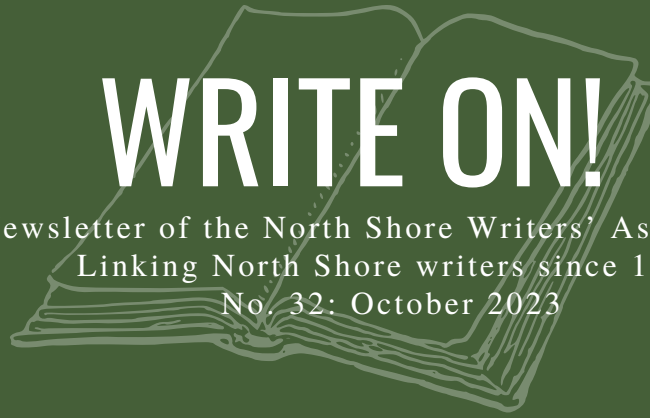


# WRITE ON!

Newsletter of the North Shore Writers' Association  
Linking North Shore writers since 1993  
No. 32: October 2023



## President's Message

It is the NSWA's 30th anniversary. A moment's reflection tells me that any non-profit, volunteer-led organization that survives thirty years is doing something right. Facilitating skills with the written word, encouraging publication, and creating personal connections: all great things of which past and current members of the association should be proud.

Aspiring and accomplished writers also like to read. My own reading interests are diverse. But despite having several volumes on my bedside table simultaneously, I repeatedly find that I have missed out on something important from the past. No, I did not have classical literary training and was never able to finish *Ulysses*. This past week, I picked up Richard Russo's 1993 novel *Nobody's Fool* from the library (what would we do without libraries?). Despite laughing more than I have in a long time (I tried to read a paragraph aloud to my wife but was interrupted by my own giggles and shortness of breath), it is a story about class - in particular, the cocktail of anguish and contentment in working class communities.

Reading takes us into others' life experiences while enriching our own. Let's all keep reading as well as writing. It's good for our souls as well our brains.

- Bill Koch



## Upcoming Events

**October 16th, 2023**

7:00-8:30pm

General Meeting and Speaker Series

North Vancouver City Library,  
3rd Floor Program Room  
Guest speaker: Frances Peck

**October 21, 2023**

2:00-4:00pm

Writing Group Meeting  
North Van City Library  
2nd Floor Boardroom

**November 1, 2023**

Dare to be Heard

7:00pm

North Vancouver City Library  
1st Floor Program Room

*Many thanks to the North Vancouver City Library for generously providing meeting space for many of our events and workshops.*

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# 2023-2024 Board of Directors

**President:** Bill Koch  
**Vice President:** (vacant)  
**Secretary:** Christine Cowan  
**Treasurer:** Steve Rayner  
**Membership Coordinator:** Frances Peck  
**Speaker Coordinator:** Lisa Bagshaw  
**Library Liaison:** Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho  
**Dare to be Heard Host:** David Bowra  
**Newsletter Editor:** Tiffany Budhyanto  
**Webmaster and Publicity:** Carmen Farrell  
**Writing Contest Coordinator:** (vacant)  
**Directors-at-Large:** Trish Gauntlett,  
Melanie Dorchester, Barbara Reardon, Linda Mangnall



## Message from the Editor

I recently took a trip to Chicago and found myself re-inspired by this change in scenery: the beautiful architecture along the river, those mesmerizing Chagall windows at the Art Institute, and the quick pace of a big(ger) city. All that was missing was a *Ferris Bueller*-style street parade. It was lovely to return home to the North Shore, of course.

The trip reminded me that inspiration can be found not just in a different place, but anywhere you can absorb new experiences. Art can inspire words. Experiences can breathe new life into our views, opinions, and writing. And, as Bill said in his President's Message, reading can transport us and enhance our understanding of the world.

Let's get inspired.

Tiffany Budhyanto  
Newsletter Editor

# Submit your piece to the newsletter!



- You may submit any of the following:
- A blurb about your recent publication or writing news (e.g. book launches, author readings, writing awards)
- Your poetry or prose (up to 600 words, fiction or nonfiction, and it can be an excerpt from a larger work)
- Artwork or photography (please send high-quality JPG or PNG files)
- Writing workshops or resources to share with fellow members
- A submission to our 100-word challenge

Please note:

- Only submissions from NSWA members will be accepted.
- Poetry, short fiction or nonfiction. No op-ed articles please.
- Email your submission to [editor@nswriters.org](mailto:editor@nswriters.org).
- Contributors are responsible for the accuracy, originality, and reliability of their content.
- Please check spelling, grammar, and punctuation prior to submission.
- Writing that appears in the NSWA newsletter is eligible for submission to the Annual NSWA Writing Contest.
- Publication in the *Write On!* newsletter is at the discretion of the Editor, in consultation with the Board of Directors.

# Dare to Be Heard

## Now in person with David Bowra!



I'm a retired accountant having spent all my career handling companies in trouble. That has been the source of inspiration for my first two books, *Banking on Murder* and *Long Way Back*. I've lived in West Vancouver for over thirty years and enjoy tennis, bridge, reading, and playing with my five young grandchildren.

Writing is very hard and lonely. I hope that Dare to be Heard will will encourage people to read their work in a friendly and non critical environment, and have the courage to finish their story.

We are our own worst critics and need the courage to share our work with others.  
I joined the association to meet writers, learn from them and become a better writer.

Reading your work aloud is the best way to edit it. If it doesn't sound right it probably isn't. Elmore Leonard said: "If it sounds like writing, I rewrite it."

I'm hoping to make our sessions reader-friendly, so that everyone feels relaxed and comfortable reading their work out loud. We all have to start somewhere, and this should be a welcoming and fun place. Meeting fellow writers can only help encourage us all.

I'm very pleased that the sessions are open to the public, that may help us attract new members. I promise to make the sessions fun. I assure you I am not a typical boring accountant.

**Dare to be Heard will be the first Wednesday of every month at 7pm at the North Vancouver City Library (2nd floor boardroom for every session except Nov. 1, which will be in the 1st floor program room), and is open to the public.**

**October 4, 2023  
November 1, 2023  
December 6, 2023  
January 3, 2024  
February 7, 2024  
March 6, 2024  
April 3, 2024  
May 1, 2024**



## NSWA Writing Group Formation Session

Are you itching for an accepting and constructive source of feedback for your fiction, memoir, and poetry? Interested in forming a group with other writers?

**Come out to the North Shore Writers' Association Writing Group Formation Session, October 21, 2:00-4:00pm in the 3rd floor Boardroom of the North Vancouver City Library.**

You'll meet other writers in your preferred genre and receive assistance if you decide to form a writing group. Any interested person is welcome. You did not need to attend the September 23 information session to participate in the formation session.

**Please bring a one-page participant profile, which should include a short biographical profile, your writing genre preference, and a short 500-word maximum sample of your writing.**

You may be matched to your Gertrude Stein, Ken Kesey, or Margaret Atwood.  
See you there!

# Saturday Morning Write-ins

with host Melanie Dorchester



The Saturday morning write-ins will be on the second Saturday of every month  
- except November, due to Remembrance Day:

**October 14, November 18 (3rd Saturday), December 9  
January 13, February 10, March 9  
April 13, May 11, June 8**

**10:00am–12:00pm**

Can you imagine yourself seated in the comfort of your own home, ready to write, then nothing happens? The friendly but focused eclectic Saturday morning write-in may be a good fit for you! After a brief check in to share recent writing news, questions, concerns and individual writing plans for the morning, we do a writing warm up, then get to work. At the midway point and again at the end of the session, insightful and helpful writing tips are often shared. Participants often marvel at how much they can write in such a short time.

New members are always welcome.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87105551221?pwd=MUNUcFNkMWRxOXpRWIBHRHA2VUZpQT09>

Meeting ID: 871 0555 1221

Passcode: Write (same every month)

# The NSWA is 30 years old!

To celebrate our 30th anniversary, we asked long-time member and *The Last Page* contributor (and previous 2011-12 NSWA president!) Cathy L. Scrimshaw to regale us with some fun memories about the NSWA's history. Her retrospective is followed by a timeline infographic which outlines some of the organisation's key milestones.

I remember when I attended my first meeting with NSWA founder Peggy Trendell-Jensen. Her goal was to form a group for local writers, to nourish and support the writing community on the North Shore. It wasn't the right time for me to get involved, so it was a few years before I returned.

When I did, the group met at the Capilano Library. The membership was small. Meetings consisted mostly of discussions about writing. An annual anthology was published, to give members publishing credits. Money was tight, so we moved to the Silk Purse; that's when I joined the executive.

In those early, lean days the board met around a kitchen table. Far from feeling deprived, we had a great time throwing around ideas and making plans. Someone proposed returning to the days of Beatnik readings in coffee shops, and so *Dare to be Heard* debuted in JJ Bean on Mount Seymour Parkway. We had an IT guy in the group. He set up the first incarnation of our website. We applied for our first grant, were successful, and began to feature monthly speakers. We were on our way!

We began a relationship with the North Vancouver City Library. Out of that, the Local Authors Series began. It gave our members an opportunity to present themselves and their work in a public forum alongside published writers from other parts of the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD). As the years went by, those evenings evolved into *Writing with Writers*, and NSWA workshops at the library began.

We became part of the North Shore Writers Festival; our first event attracted an audience of 150, and the volunteers at our table fielded dozens of requests for information about the group. We were invited to Harmony Arts Festival, and for several years we sponsored a workshop there. By this time our newsletter, always featured at events, had developed from four typed pages into the professional publication we have now. It was eagerly snapped up by interested participants, and brought in many new members.

We survived a global pandemic.

We've grown. We've changed. We've moved with the times. We're now a fixture on the local literary scene, with a membership that includes both published and aspiring writers. Through it all, we never lost sight of the original goal: to nourish and support the writing community on the North Shore.

I'm proud to have been a part of this journey. It was a lot of fun, a lot of work, and a great way to network. I'm proud to still be a member. And I'm looking forward to what the future holds for us. It's sure to be just as rewarding.

Cathy L. Scrimshaw

# The North Shore Writers' Association: A Timeline

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## 1993

Born as the North Shore Writers' Workshop, the brainchild of Peggy Trendell-Whittaker (Trendell-Jensen). Its purpose, according to its founder, was "to get together, to learn some, talk some, help each other some and get out of the house some." The organisation's first home was in the Lucas Centre.

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## 1994

In March, a team of volunteers came forward and Peggy now had a committee to help her run the North Shore Writers' Workshop.

In September, the organization became the North Shore Writers' Association. In November, the NSWA moved to Edgemont Library (later known as Capilano Library).

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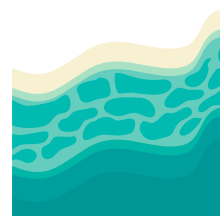
## 1995

The first NSWA Literary Contest was held.



## 2000

*Shore Lines* (the millennium anthology), the NSWA's first anthology, was published.



## 2004

On June 2, the NSWA was incorporated as a non-profit organisation.



# 2005

In January, Joyce Goodwin and Shelley Harrison Rae started Dare to be Heard (open mic). Its venue was Bean Around The World, on Mount Seymour Parkway.

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# 2017

In January, Mark Turriss's winning design was adopted as the NSWA's new logo. It first appeared in the January-March issue of the NSWA's newsletter, *Write On!*

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# 2023

The NSWA celebrates its 30th anniversary!



## Fun Facts

The NSWA has welcomed a diversity of (local-ish) guest speakers over the years — who brought with them wit, wisdom, and words of inspiration. Some of them (they know who they are) have made return visits. Topics covered include: historical research, journalism, memoirs, starting your own newspaper, editing, poetry, scriptwriting, self-publishing, humour, fiction, literary agents, the process of writing, characterisation, positive thinking, travel writing, etc.

Numbering of the newsletter commenced with the January-March 2016 issue, which has made life easier for the archivist!

Fourteen anthologies were published annually between 2000 and 2014 (with the exception of 2007). A full set can be found in the archives.

The NSWA has been involved in initiatives, workshops, joint ventures, and other events, such as the North Shore Writers Festival, Harmony Arts Festival, Culture Days, and Let It Rain.

Many NSWA members have launched books over the years.

## Member Q&A with Rod Baker

by Linda Mangnall



*Rod Baker is the author of five self-published memoirs. Unexpected Treasures - Running a Mental Health Nonprofit was a finalist for the 2021 Hearten Book Awards for Uplifting and Inspiring Non-Fiction. He is a British seaman turned Canadian clinical counsellor who is drawn to memoirs for their deep understanding of ourselves and others.*

### **What is the most challenging and rewarding aspect of being a memoirist?**

Writing memoirs relives moments and feelings from my past which is often fun and gives me a deeper understanding of myself. It is sometimes challenging to record my thoughts and actions in an honest light.

### **What are some important pointers about self-publishing?**

When you start writing at age 65, there is not a lot of time to waste. The mechanics of uploading a book to Amazon are easy. But before that, the book needs to be the best you can write. I used critique and beta readers, an editor and a designer for the cover and formatting. The hundreds of positive reviews my books received on Amazon made my effort, and my decision to self-publish, worthwhile.

### **How does your career as a counsellor intersect with your writing?**

Both my counselling and writing pursuits portray my interest in people's stories, their challenges, how they coped, what they learned and how they were changed by those experiences.

### **A sentence in your blog post "Retreat by the Sea" (2015) reads: "I am in the company of writers. It is ok to risk...". Tell us what you mean about the risk of writing.**

In my early phase it felt fake to sit down with writers and share my efforts because I was the least experienced person in the room. But I did it anyway. I met some amazing people on my writing journey, both online and in person.

### **What book from your childhood made an impression on you?**

At age 12, I liked reading the comedic Jeeves and Wooster books by P.G. Wodehouse. At 14, I read non-fiction books by Paul Brickhill about WW2 prisoners escaping from German prisons and making their way back to England.

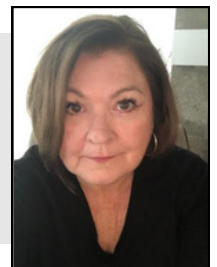
### **You attribute your writing start and knowledge to becoming a NSWA member. Why did you join the NSWA?**

I joined after a chance meeting with a NSWA member who explained the importance of sharing her writing with a critique group and beta readers. I copied her process and started a critique group with two other writers I met at NSWA that lasted six years. Today I continue to value the companionship of the people I meet there.

Learn more about Rod at [Rodbakerbooks.com](http://Rodbakerbooks.com) and [Keycounsellingbc.ca](http://Keycounsellingbc.ca)

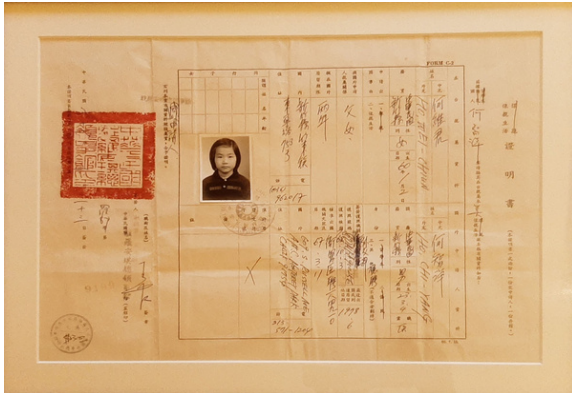
### *Write On! Member Q&A Feature*

Linda Mangnall is a career and lifestyle writer who recently moved back to North Vancouver. She joined NSWA to connect with other creative people who are drawn to our coniferous-scented community. If you would like to be featured in our Q&A, contact Linda at [Lindamangnall@icloud.com](mailto:Lindamangnall@icloud.com).



# BRAVO!

## A CELEBRATION OF MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS



“I recently framed the first piece of paper where my anglicized name appears. I paid extra for the non-reflective glass, so that viewers can see the details, including the black and white passport photo of my six-year-old self, looking very serious.”

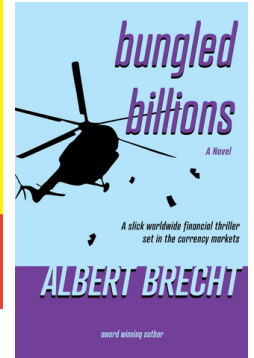
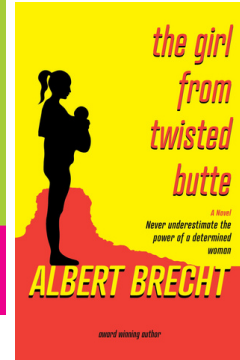
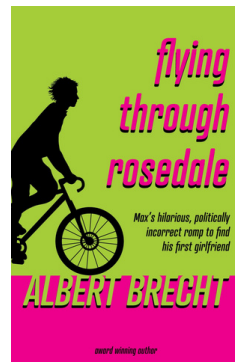
**Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** has published a short essay in *River Teeth Journal*. [Read it here!](#)



**Joan Boxall** has published the article “Loutet Farm And Its Multiple Hats” in *Senior Living Magazine*.

“Farmer Claire, as Farm Coordinator, buddies me with Jane who’s been volunteering for a year at the farm. ‘It’s like meditation,’ says Jane of the simple pleasures of working outside on a community project.”

Read the [rest](#) here!



Member **Albert Hoeberechts (Brecht)** has published three wonderful books, all available for purchase on Amazon.

### *Flying Through Rosedale*

Max Vandenburg resorts to extreme temptations to find his first girlfriend. Some dangerous, some unlawful, but always creative. He engages in a hilarious, politically incorrect romp through Rosedale in 1963. The book follows a year in his life through his awakening sexuality, together with his drive to become a Toronto Maple Leaf hockey player.

### *The Girl from Twisted Butte*

Mariella arrives in Twisted Butte as a teenage mother with twenty dollars, and a huge chip on her shoulder. Arrested as a minor for shoplifting, she is slated for a foster home when a good Samaritan steps in.

### *Bungled Billions*

Carly Bergen is set to retire from the perfect life. Rich and powerful, after years of trading the currency markets in New York, she pines for the bucolic lifestyle she had enjoyed as a child in Oregon. Then all hell breaks loose when her currency fund loses three billion dollars overnight. The deadly consequences that follow from disgruntled Middle East investors threaten everyone around her.

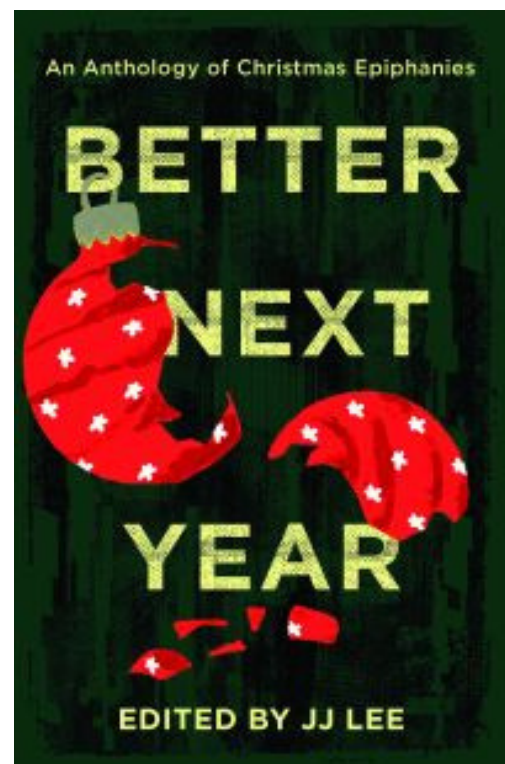


What would you do if you weren't afraid? Our very own **Lisa Bagshaw** has launched her own TV series on CHEK TV called *Bold Leaps*, where she interviews notable personalities around Vancouver - including Trevor Linden, Christopher Gaze, Joe Average, Thomas Haas, Brent Butt, and others. Lisa meets with individuals about the risks they've taken to pursue their dreams and how they've had to overcome fear and self-doubt to get there. The first episode aired on October 7. Congratulations Lisa!

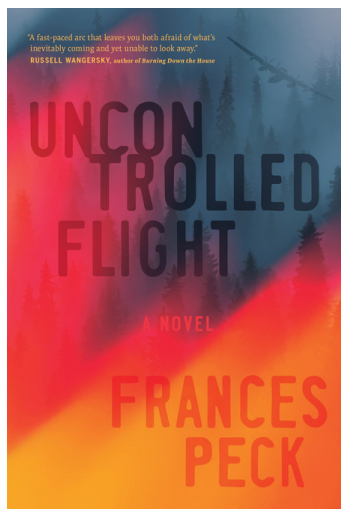
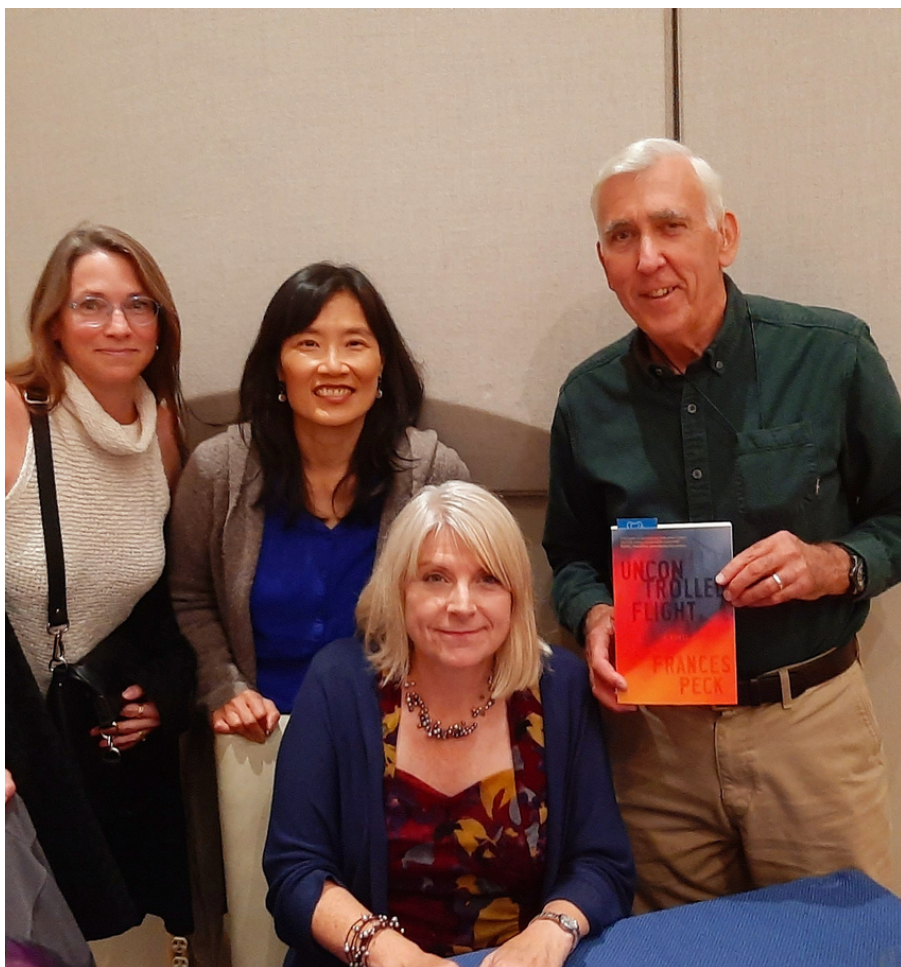
**Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** is thrilled her story "B v. J" will appear in the upcoming Christmas anthology [Better Next Year](#) (published by Tidewater Press), edited by JJ Lee.

*Christmas is trumpeted as a time of peace, joy, bounty and goodwill. Believers and non-believers alike covet the spirit of the holidays even when circumstances are screwed up. Recollections from acclaimed Canadian authors combine with emerging voices from across the country in an anthology that debunks the popular depiction of Christmas while delivering its messages of hope and renewal.*

Available November 1st through bookstores (independents and Indigo, or Amazon).



**Frances Peck** launched her new book, *Uncontrolled Flight* (NeWest Press), in Vancouver on September 28. The *Winnipeg Free Press* called the novel, about the death of a BC firefighting pilot, “an absorbing, intense contemporary tale...an edifying and timely story that undoubtedly will linger in the minds of many readers.” A number of NSWA members were at the launch to celebrate along with Frances!



# EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

## Word Vancouver: Publishing Trends Panel

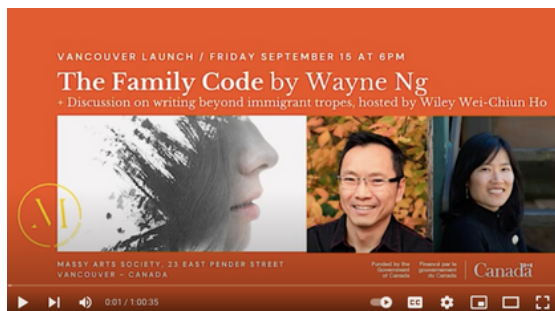
Interested in the latest publishing trends? The Federation of BC Writers sponsored a panel of publishing experts at Word Vancouver in September. It's not too late to view the discussion, as **Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** leads Sylvia Skene (Executive Director of MagsBC), Richard Kouwenhoven (CEO of Hemlock Printers), and Annie Boyar (Director of Marketing for Douglas & McIntyre) in conversation about the changes that have impacted writers and readers since the onset of the pandemic.

**[Watch the YouTube video here!](#)**



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## A Discussion with Wayne Ng and Wiley Ho about *The Family Code*



On Friday, September 15th, Massy Arts, Massy Books and Guernica Editions celebrated the Vancouver launch of Wayne Ng's *The Family Code*. Wayne Ng talks with NSWA member **Wiley Wei-Chiun Ho** about his new book - his first work not featuring an Asian protagonist. They discussed both straying from and remaining within the lane of immigrant tropes. **[Watch a recording of this discussion here!](#)**

---

NSWA member **Cathlynn Labonté-Smith** will discuss her book *Rescue Me* in a conversation with BCSARA (BC Search and Rescue Association) President, Chris Mushumanski. If you're in the Prince George area, be sure to stop by.

Saturday, October 21st, 2:00-3:30pm  
Books & Company  
1685 3rd Avenue, Upstairs  
Prince George, BC V2L 3G5



# 100-WORD CHALLENGE

This edition's theme required the inclusion of three words selected at random: *wood*, *debt*, and *route*.

## *New Life*

The soil was gently engraved  
by a route the water had taken;  
where it was least resisted.  
And the fertile forest owed a debt  
to this pairing, and the sun,  
for the frayed leaves  
and rotted wood  
thrived once more.

- Tiffany Budhyanto

## *Them were the days*

Six months after getting a job as a trainee boatbuilder, I got fired. But I'd had learned enough to wiggle my way into another job building 50-foot boats out of wood. I made myself a tool box, just like the other tradesmen, and each pay day, rewarded myself with one new tool. Earning \$1.25 an hour, I couldn't afford to go into debt.

I bought a '58 Dodge Regent for \$50. The front end was bashed in a bit, and as I navigated along my daily route to work It crabbed sideways, so looked like I always turning right.

- Rod Baker

## *A Debt Owed*

We owe a debt to writers who came before us. They created many routes to self-expression.

We were babes in the wood when we first put pen to paper. The path often seemed alien, without a forward beacon.

We owe them a debt for stories read, and re-read. Their stories led us down exploratory rabbit holes, teasing us to further excavation: new topics, challenging, scary, exhilarating, thought provoking.

We owe them a debt. To remember them. To help those coming behind who look to us for encouragement as we explore the worlds they create while we build our own.

- Karen Bower

**Your next newsletter 100-word challenge:** Submission must be 100 words or less (excluding title);  
Can be prose or poetry; Inclusion of theme words is optional;  
**Use these three randomly generated words: offset, adult, unlawful**  
Email your masterpiece to [editor@nswriters.org](mailto:editor@nswriters.org)

# A Collection of Microfiction

by Bill Koch

## Ceremony

Special wedding, big budget, short marriage.

...

## Lust and Love

Storms shake trees, lust shatters love.

...

## Marriage

Passion provoked the proposal. Monday commutes and the mortgage murdered the marriage.

...

## Marriage #2

My widow's boyfriend hasn't heard how I died.

...

## Children

Children are a cocktail of bliss and chagrin.

...

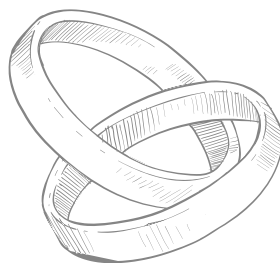
## Parents

Parents teach us, then leave us.

...

## Collectibles

We willed cherished family heirlooms to our children, who called Got Junk.



# The Lost Cheerleader

by Naresh Koirala

Midsummer, 2022, about 8:30 in the morning. "Baba, Ayo, Ayo, Uoo, Hummingbird, Hummingbird has come. Did you see it?" Bijeshori needed someone to share her excitement. She loved hummingbirds, and she loved her husband, her Baba. She was doing yoga in her living room, looking out through the large glass window towards the lush green birch tree just a few metres away from the window. A bronze statue of Buddha sat next to the window, watching her yoga moves.

"Did you see it, there, there, under the foliage, on the left side?" Bijeshori said, her forefinger pointing towards the left side of the tree and then, almost in the same breath, in total disappointment, "Oh! Gayo; Gayo, Deck Tira Gayo." Oh, it went, went, went towards the deck. Did you see it?"

That is how it has been for years. Every morning, the two of them would have a cup of tea in bed (they called it their 'constitutional cup of tea' - their right no one could take away), chit-chat for about half an hour, and walk together to the living room to do their yoga. Bijeshori took the spot near the window. Baba's spot was on the far side, away from the window. A coffee table stood between them.

The yoga mostly happened in silence except when hummingbirds darted towards the tree. They were foraging for insects and would disappear in the foliage with lightning speed, but would come out frequently to display their acrobatic prowess, getting Bijeshori excited.

September 25, 2023. After his constitutional cup of tea, Baba walked to the living room and unrolled his yoga mat, this time in Bijeshori's spot. Unable to motivate himself to do anything, he stood on the mat silently, waiting for the hummingbirds to come. It was raining last night. The sky was gray; the air outside looked moist and cold. The birch tree had started losing its foliage. He hoped the hummingbirds would bring some excitement; they would motivate.

Bijeshwari passed away seven months ago. Baba was not Baba anymore; he was Rakesh, his real name. Bijeshori and Rakesh lived for 54 years like each other's shadow - intensely in love and ever in passion. The constitutional cup of tea and the excitement generated by the hummingbirds started their day- the hummingbirds were Bijeshori's cheerleaders and Bijeshori, of Rakesh. His life had suddenly emptied. The constitutional tea did not taste the same anymore. Rakesh had lost his eyes to see the hummingbirds and his cheerleader, Bijeshori, was not there to show him. If only Bijeshori could show up as a hummingbird, or any bird for that matter!

Standing on that mat, he remembered their bird conversation many years ago. Bijeshori had said, in my next life, I want to be a bird.

He had asked: Why do you love birds so much?

"Look how free they are! Would it not be nice to live unencumbered by anything, be completely free, go wherever you want, and have the whole sky as your playing field?"

Rakesh did not believe in life after death. Bijeshori did not either, but that did not stop her from envying the free spirit of a bird.

Now, standing alone, looking at the birch tree, Rakesh wished the idea of the afterlife was true; he wished Buddha was right. He was the one who said life has to go through several cycles of rebirth before you reach Nirvana. If Buddha was right, perhaps, perhaps Bijeshori would visit him as a hummingbird.

He will get back his cheerleader.

# The Last Page

by Cathy L. Scrimshaw

I've had some great times serving on the executive of the NSWA. I was lucky to have been part of the early days, when we were experimenting, finding out what worked and what didn't. We had a lot of fun, and some of my best memories are of the Local Authors Series. It began when NVC librarian Heidi Schiller suggested we partner up to present local authors reading their work to local audiences. Since I was president at the time, it fell to me to work with her on this new venture.

We were a small group then, with no published members. Still, Heidi and the library provided the space, and it was my job to provide the writers. It was a great opportunity for us - a chance to engage with the public and increase our visibility.

We considered the first year a success, but the audiences weren't huge. We needed to attract more people. So, going forward, each session now had one traditionally published, recognizable local author as well as a NSWA member. It worked. We drew more people in. As time went on, our own members became published, won writing awards, were more recognizable in their own right. We began to fill the 3rd floor room, with writers like Daniel Kalla, Grant Lawrence and JJ Lee, teaming up with NSWA members like YA author Maggie Bolitho, thriller writer Jackie Bateman, and poet and magazine writer Joyce Goodwin.

We had our share of missteps. There was the time we scheduled a session on the same night as the seventh game of the Stanley Cup finals. Well, you can guess how our turnout was that evening! We agreed not to do something like that again. Then there was the night the room was over-flowing but our featured best-selling author went to the wrong North Shore library.

Well, there are five of them, after all. Easy mistake to make. He did show up, just ten minutes late, so it worked out. We made sure we had everyone's cell number after that one. There were missteps with mics, readers with last minute stage-fright that required quick interventions, the occasional unruly attendee; but most important of all, lots of laughs and personal rewards for speakers and audiences alike.

The Local Authors Series is no more. It evolved into our workshop sessions. But it will remain one of the highlights of my time on the executive. There's nothing quite like being in on a project from the very inception. With its wins and its warts. And if I'm honest, I remember the warts with as much affection as I do the wins. Maybe more.

Have a great writing season, everyone!

