

# The Toronto Literary Calendar

## August 2009

To submit a free event listing, please send event details to [wordlistings@hotmail.com](mailto:wordlistings@hotmail.com).  
Listings for the September 2009 issue are due by August 15.

### Tues., August 4

READING: Corrado Paina, Gillian Sze and Josh Stewart feature tonight at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, [www.artbar.org](http://www.artbar.org).

READING: The 51st edition of Strong Words features Brendan Ouellette, Kyle Buckley and Yogi. As always, donations of new/used books in resale condition to be collected on behalf of the Toronto Public Library's Book Ends program. The Gladstone Art Bar, 1214 Queen St. W., 7:30pm, PWYC, [www.strong-words.ca](http://www.strong-words.ca) or [www.tpl.toronto.on.ca](http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca).

### Wed., August 5

READING: Kids ages 7-9 are invited to a reading and signing of *Zorgamazoo* by Rob Weston. *Zorgamazoo* tells the rhyming, rhythmical tale of Katrina, a girl with a big heart and an even bigger imagination. Robert Paul Weston has published literary fiction in magazines on both sides of the Atlantic. Bayview Village Chapters, 2901 Bayview Ave., 2pm, free, [www.zorgamazoo.com](http://www.zorgamazoo.com).

### Thurs., August 6

READING: Award-winning poet and writer Jeanette Lynes reads from her first novel, *The Factory Voice*. Lynes has served in writer-in-residence positions in Saskatoon and in Dawson Creek, BC. McNally Robinson at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 7pm, free.

### Sat., August 8

READING: This book signing is a rare opportunity to meet Master Zhi Gang Sha in an intimate setting. Experience his deep love, care and compassion as he teaches you the amazingly simple techniques in *The Power of Soul*. Indigo, 2300 Yonge St., 2pm, free.

READING: Jeff Smith, bestselling author of the award-winning *BONE* series, is signing copies of his latest

release—*BONE Prequel: Rose!* This stirring prequel explores the fateful beginnings of his epic award-winning graphic series. Jeff Smith learned all about cartooning from comic strips, comic books and TV animation. He launched his first comic book, *BONE*, in 1991. Proof of purchase from any Indigo, Chapters or Coles location required. For more information, please call 416-781-6660. Indigo, Yorkdale Mall, 3401 Dufferin St., 2pm, free.

### Tues., August 11

READING: Ian Pople, Andreas Gripp and Stephanie Bolster are tonight's features at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, [www.artbar.org](http://www.artbar.org).

### Wed., August 12

READING: Pivot Readings at the Press Club features Jacqueline Larson, Mark Sampson and Sarah Selecky. The Press Club, 850 Dundas St. W., 8pm, PWYC, [www.pivotreadings.wordpress.com](http://www.pivotreadings.wordpress.com).

LAUNCH: In celebration of the launch of *Kings of Madison Avenue*, ECW Press presents author Jesse McLean and *Globe and Mail* television columnist John Doyle in a discussion of *Mad Men*. McLean has written television and film criticism for *PopMatters*, movie industry op-ed pieces for *Suite101.com* and numerous humour articles for *Yankee Pot Roast*. McNally Robinson at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 7pm, free.

### Fri., August 14

READING: McNally Robinson Booksellers and the award-winning *The Walrus* present Jon Paul Fiorentino reading from his debut novel, *Stripmalling*. Fiorentino is the author of four books of poetry including *Hello Serotonin* and *The Theory of the Loser Class*, and one book of comedic fiction, *Asthmatica*. He lives in Montreal where he teaches writing at Concordia

University and is the editor-in-chief of *Matrix*.  
McNally Robinson at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd.,  
7pm, free.

**Sat., August 15**

SLAM: Toronto Poetry Slam presents its trademark high-energy spoken-word contests. Featuring DEEP from Detroit. Hosted by Dave Silverberg. The Drake Hotel, 1150 Queen St. W., 7:30pm, \$5, visit [www.torontopoetryslam.com](http://www.torontopoetryslam.com) for more info.

LAUNCH: Acclaimed performance artist Staceyann Chin brings her passionate lyricism to the page in a powerful memoir chronicling the resilience of one woman faced with a lifetime of struggle. Born on Christmas Day in Lottery, Jamaica, Staceyann was thrust into the arms of a mother who did not want her. It was her grandmother who stepped in to nurture and provide for her and her older brother, but when the three were separated, Staceyann was again left to survive in an unfamiliar and unwelcome home in Paradise, Jamaica. *The Other Side of Paradise: A Memoir* is an unforgettable story told with grace, humour and strength. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at the Toronto Women's Bookstore (74 Harbord St.). Blue Moon Pub, 725 Queen St. E., 7pm, \$5-\$15 (sliding scale), [events@womensbookstore.com](mailto:events@womensbookstore.com), [www.womensbookstore.com](http://www.womensbookstore.com).

**Mon., August 17**

CONCERT: Dwayne Morgan Live in Concert with special guests Lorraine Reid and a.k.a. Subliminal. One of Canada's most celebrated spoken-word artists returns to the Lula Lounge for a preview of material from his new album. Lula Lounge, 1585 Dundas St. W., 8:30pm, \$15 advance/\$20 door, email [info@upfromtheroots.ca](mailto:info@upfromtheroots.ca) for more info.

**Tues., August 18**

SLAM: Toronto Poetry Project and Hip-Hop Karaoke are teaming up for a unique night of music, poetry and karaoke. A poetry slam will intro the night, followed by Hip-Hop Karaoke veterans rocking the stage. Hosted by Dave Silverberg and Abdominal. The Boat, 158 Augusta Ave., 8pm, \$5, contact 416-312-3865 for more info.

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**About *Word: Canada's Magazine for Readers + Writers***

For more than a decade, the publishing teams at Insomniac Press and The Mercury Press brought you *Word* as a free tabloid. *Word* provides a much-needed service to the Canadian literary scene, including reviews, comment and opinion. *Word's* writers and reviewers are among the most insightful and entertaining in the country.

*Word's* content-heavy, thought-provoking issues appear as PDF files, easy to read online, free to the public and simple to print. Watch for the *Word Reader*, to be published three times per year, packed with the best articles, reviews and writing about the world of books. *Word's* Toronto literary calendar of events appears online monthly as a PDF file.

READING: Poetry Hoedown—Poetry & Country Music night at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic (please stay on theme!). Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, [www.artbar.org](http://www.artbar.org).

### **Wed., August 19**

TALK: Terry Murray gives a slide-show talk on his recent book, *Faces on Places: A Grotesque Tour of Toronto*. Books will be available for purchase. Yorkville Branch, 22 Yorkville Ave., 7pm, free, [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca).

READING: Join Lee Gowan as he reads from his third novel, *Confession*. Gowan is the author of *Going to Cuba*, a collection of stories, and the novels *Make Believe Love*, which was shortlisted for the Trillium Award, and *The Last Cowboy*. An award-winning screenwriter, he is the coordinator of the Creative Writing program at the University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies. He lives in Toronto. McNally Robinson at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 8pm, free.

READING: HEAR/HEAR Reading Series is a series of bimonthly showcase readings in the Toronto area. Free to attend and open to the general public, it will feature the latest work by the talented NHT! writers-in-residence. People of all ages are invited to attend this edition of the HEAR/HEAR Reading Series, which will be focusing on Andrew Daley (*Tell Your Sister*), Colin Frizzell (*Chill, Just J*), Mariko Tamaki (*Cover Me, True Lies: The Book of Bad Advice, Fake ID, Skim*) and Rebecca Rosenblum (*Once*). Free Times Cafe, 320 College St., 6pm, free, for more information contact Jennifer de Visser at [jen@nowhearthis.ca](mailto:jen@nowhearthis.ca) or visit [www.nowhearthis.ca](http://www.nowhearthis.ca).

### **Tues., August 25**

READING: Join us this evening to hear poetry from Rob Gee, Monica Rosas and Chris Banks at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, [www.artbar.org](http://www.artbar.org).

### **Wed., August 26**

READING: Journalist and writer Stephanie Dickison reads from her hilarious book on the trials

and tribulations of working from home, *The 30-Second Commute*. McNally Robinson at Don Mills, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 7pm, free.

### **Fri., August 28**

READING: Kids ages 7-9 are invited to a reading and signing of *Zorgamazoo*, by Rob Weston. Indigo, 2300 Yonge St., 3pm, free, [www.zorgamazoo.com](http://www.zorgamazoo.com).

### **Sat., August 29**

PERFORMANCE: Internationally recognized Canadian poet Jeff Bien will be joined by acclaimed bassist and percussionist George Koller and Rick Lazar, and other special guests, for a performance from a newly released CD, *Songs of Forgiveness & Prayer*, and a reading of poetry from a new manuscript, "The Poet Sings." Free Times Cafe, 320 College St., 8:30pm. For more info please call 416-967-1078, or visit [www.jeff-bien.com](http://www.jeff-bien.com), or [lw@LWCommunications.ca](mailto:lw@LWCommunications.ca).

## **WEEKLY EVENTS**

### **TUESDAY**

Society of Environmental Journalists hosts monthly Pub Nights on the first Tuesday of every month, with featured guest speaker and informal discussions about environmental journalism and other subjects of personal interest. All interested in environmental journalism and issues welcome! Harbord House, 2nd floor, gather between 7 and 7:30pm (speaker at 8), free, RSVP to [SEJpubnight@saunderseditor.com](mailto:SEJpubnight@saunderseditor.com).

### **FRIDAY**

The Weekly Writers' Workshop at U of T meets every Friday for critique, discussion, creation and advice on marketing of original poetry and prose. Workshop features guest authors and is involved in literary events and publications. Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, 6pm, free, [uoftwritersco-op@hotmail.com](mailto:uoftwritersco-op@hotmail.com).