

The Toronto Literary Calendar

June 2009

**To submit a free event listing, please send event details to wordlistings@hotmail.com.
Listings for the July 2009 issue are due by June 15.**

Mon., June 1

READING: The Rowers Pub Reading Series has as its June features Moira MacDougall (*Bone Dream*), Bruce Meyer (*Mesopotamia*) and Alissa York (*Effigy*). Harbord House, 150 Harbord St., 2nd floor, 7:30pm (doors at 6), pass-the-hat donation, 647-430-7365.

READING: Strong Words, the monthly reading series held at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel, hosts its fourth anniversary reading in the Gladstone's Melody Bar. Featured readers will include Andrew Daley, Packanimal, Matt Shaw, Julia Tausch, Richard Todd and Truth Is. Traditionally hosted at the Art Bar on the first Monday of every month, Strong Words will move to the first Tuesday beginning on July 7. There is a "pay what you can" admission charge at the anniversary and all regular readings, and donations of new and used books in resale condition will be collected to benefit the Book Ends program at the Toronto Public library. 19+ only. The Gladstone Melody Bar, 1214 Queen St. W., 7pm, PWYC, www.strong-words.ca/www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

READING: Join McNally Robinson for June's Mystery Monday, with Terry Griggs and Vicki Delany. Delany is back with the second Constable Molly Smith novel, *Valley of the Lost*, released last February. *Thought You Were Dead* is Terry Griggs' most recent work, and is a most unconventional murder mystery. McNally Robinson, 2nd floor, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 7pm, free, www.mcnallyrobinson.com.

Tues., June 2

READING: Toronto Public Library's Eh List Reading Series returns for the month of June with a reading by Jonathan Bennett, who will be reading from his latest novel, *Entitlement*. All Eh List events are free and all will have a Q&A, and book signing/sales. Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

READING: For the fourth year, Crime Writers of Canada and the Toronto Public Library are co-hosting Look Who's Reading Canadian Mysteries!, which this year features celebrities reading from works of six noted Canadian crime writers: CBC's Wendy Mesley reading from Louise Penny's *The Murder Stone*; *The Toronto Star*'s Bill Taylor reading from Linwood Barclay's *Too Close to Home*; British deputy consul general Ashley Prime reading from Vicki Delany's *Gold Digger*; actress Helene Joy reading from Maureen Jennings's *The K Handshape*; media personality Ziggy Lorenc reading from Suzanne Kearsley's *The Winter Sea*; and *The Globe and Mail*'s John Doyle reading from Gail Bowen's *The Brutal Heart*. All the authors will be there, and their books will be for sale. The CWC will be raffling a basket of books with proceeds going to the Literacy Fund. And come early and visit the Arthur Conan Doyle permanent exhibit. Librarian/exhibit curator Peggy Purdue will be giving a talk and tour of the exhibit from 6-7pm. Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Auditorium, 789 Yonge St., 7pm, donations welcome, www.crimewriterscanada.com.

READING: The 2009 shortlisted authors for the Griffin Poetry Prize give readings. Open to the public. MacMillan Theatre, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park Cresc., 7:30pm, \$10/\$5 for students and seniors, www.griffinpoetryprize.com.

READING: Bill Howell, Tanya Neumeyer and Naomi Guttman are the featured poets at the Art Bar Poetry Series. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

Wed., June 3

READING: Meet Joy Fielding and hear her read from her latest spine-tingling thriller, *Charley's Web*, at this Eh List Reading Series event. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

READING: Pivot Readings at the Press Club features Marianne Apostolides, Su Croll, rob mcLennan and Steven Mayoff. Press Club, 850 Dundas St. W., 8pm, PWYC, www.pivotreadings.wordpress.com.

Thurs., June 4

LAUNCH: Join us for a night of great poetry and music! Tightrope Books presents the launch of Tara Michelle Ziniuk's newest book of poetry, *Somewhere to Run From*. Tara Michelle will be reading from her new collection, followed by music from The Pining. It's sure to be a great evening! The Dakota Tavern, 249 Ossington Ave., 6:30pm, free, www.tightropebooks.com.

LECTURE: Joseph Conrad's iconic novella *Heart of Darkness* is one of the most important stories of the 20th century. Part adventure tale, part protest against exploitative colonialism, part dark psychological journey, and part an odyssey of growing moral maturity requiring the recognition of human evil. Above all, *Heart of Darkness* is about the artist, the process of narrative itself, and the role and responsibility of art in our society. Elaine Newton, Professor Emeritus at York University, gives the lecture as part of Toronto Public Library's Grey Matters: Great Books events. Bring your lunch! Locke Branch, 3083 Yonge St. (Yonge and Lawrence), 12:30-1:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_seniors_month.jsp.

Fri., June 5

SEMINAR: The Editors' Association of Canada presents Eight-Step Editing, a seminar that breaks the editorial process down into a series of tasks that will improve the readability of the final product. 89 Chestnut Street Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St., 9:30am-5pm, \$145 for EAC members/\$185 for non-members, visit www.editors.ca/conference2009 to register.

SEMINAR: The Editors' Association of Canada presents On-Screen Editing with MS Word 2007. This seminar shows how to create, edit and format documents using Word 2007, with emphasis on the functions most needed by writers and editors. 89 Chestnut Street Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St.,

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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.

9:30am-5pm, \$145 for EAC members/\$185 for non-members, visit www.editors.ca/conference2009 to register.

SEMINAR: The Editors' Association of Canada presents On-Screen Proofreading with Adobe Acrobat. This seminar will provide participants with knowledge of the tools in Adobe Acrobat most commonly used in on-screen proofreading. 89 Chestnut Street Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut St, 1-5pm, \$80 for EAC members/\$100 for non-members, visit www.editors.ca/conference2009 to register.

CONFERENCE: The Editors' Association of Canada presents Celebrating the Past, Charting the Future: The 30th Anniversary Conference. Join a record number of publishing and communications professionals for inspiring and informative sessions, fun networking opportunities and our gala banquet, featuring our infamous Oops Awards, where we poke fun at our favourite typos and grammatical blunders from around the world. The two-day conference features a variety of events; visit www.editors.ca/conference2009 for complete details.

Sat., June 6

SEMINAR: Toronto Public Library's crime/mystery writer-in-residence Gail Bowen, author of the award-winning and bestselling Joanne Kilbourn mystery series, will be discussing how to get your books on the bestseller lists. Come prepared for some writing exercises and Q&A. Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Auditorium, 789 Yonge St., 1-4pm, free, www.crimewriterscanada.com.

Mon., June 8

LAUNCH: Tightrope Books launches *Fortune Cookie* (fiction) by Heather J Wood and *Bone Dream* (poetry) by Moira MacDougall. Hosted by Myna Wallin with classical cabaret entertainment by the Devah Quartet. The Boulevard Café, 161 Harbord St. (between Spadina and Bathurst), 7:30pm (doors at 7), free, www.tightropebooks.com.

Tues., June 9

READING: Barry Dempster, Ronna Bloom and Paul Vermeersch are the featured poets at the Art Bar Poetry Series. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

Thurs., June 11

READING: Lit Lunch with Miriam Toews; come and hear the author read from her new title, *The Flying Troutmans*, and join in the Q&A session. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 12:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

WORKSHOP: In this experiential ongoing workshop, participants will be provided with opportunities to explore their writing practice. We will use interdisciplinary approaches, where other modalities (visual art, music, movement and drama) will be used as a way to both generate and support the writing process. Facilitated by Gili Haimovich, an internationally published author, Expressive Arts therapist and visual artist. Hampton Therapy Centre, 175 Hampton Ave., 6:45-9pm, \$160, call 416-566-3524 to register, gili@poetryon.com or www.poetryon.com for more details.

Fri., June 12

READING: You are cordially invited to attend Through the Lens of Grief: Readings by Eleven Poets and Writers. Readings will be given by Kelley Aitken, Sue Chenette, Barry Dempster, Maureen Scott Harris, Maureen Hynes, Jim Nason, Ruth Roach Pierson, Patria Rivera, Julie Roorda, Sheila Stewart and Alice Zorn. The event will take place at Elaine Whittaker's Art Installation TETHER. The Red Head Gallery, Suite 115, 401 Richmond St. W., 6-8pm (doors at 5), free, 416-504-5654, www.redheadgallery.org.

LECTURE: At a crucial moment in western history, at the fading of the classical world and the dawning of the Christian one, the imprisoned Boethius imagines Lady Philosophy descending to console him. Her responses to his challenging her to explain why bad things happen to good people remain as relevant and timely for us today as when she

suggested them 1,500 years ago. Lecture given by John Greenwood, of the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto, as part of Toronto Public Library's Grey Matters: Great Books events. Bring your lunch! Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 12:30-1:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_seniors_month.jsp.

Sat., June 13

FAIR: Welcome to the Toronto Small Press Book Fair, Spring 2009! Toronto small and medium-sized presses will be displaying, selling and reading from new work. Here you will find books, chapbooks, graphic novels, audio books, magazines, comics, arts and crafts. Readings by the following Toronto authors will also take place: Kildare Dobbs, Goran Simic, Jim Bartley, Edward Brown, Colin Carberry, Glen Downie, Desi Di Nardo, Richard Greene, Lynn Harrigan, Maureen Harris, Joshua Martyr, Fereshteh Molavi, Natascha Ashtan, Fraser Sutherland, and children's authors Rene Meshake and Ruowen Wang. Also featured is Irish author Kieran Furey, sponsored by Culture Ireland, launching *The History House*, a collection of poems based on the Great Irish Famine. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 9am-5 pm, free, torontosmallpressfairgroup@gmail.com, www.torontosmallpressbookfair.org.

Sun., June 14

READING: The Plasticine Poetry Series presents a night of poetry featuring Dayle Furlong, Luciano Iacobelli, Lesley McAllister and Goran Simic. Open mic. Hosted by Cathy Petch. The Central, 603 Markham St., 6pm, free, www.thecentral.ca.

FESTIVAL: Welcome to the 3rd Annual Stellar Literary Festival, taking place over the course of June 13 and 14. The festival takes place at Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens on the Saturday and at Parkwood Estates on the Sunday. The weekend features Penn Kemp, Honey Novick, Richard Grove and many more. Oshawa Valley Botanical Gardens (southwest of Arena and Adelaide W.), 11am-4pm, free, www.stellarliteraryfestival.com.

Tues., June 16

READING: Open Stage Night returns to The Art Bar Poetry Series, this time with host Stephen Humphrey. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

Wed., June 17

READING: Pivot Readings at the Press Club features Sonja Greckol, Kathryn Kuitenbrouwer and Betsy Trumpener. Press Club, 850 Dundas St. W., 8pm, PWYC, www.pivotreadings.wordpress.com.

Thurs., June 18

READING: Author Giles Blunt comes to Taylor Memorial as part of the Eh List Reading Series to read from and discuss his latest novel, *Breaking Lorca*. Taylor Memorial Branch, 1440 Kingston Rd., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

LECTURE: In trying to investigate *Leaves of Grass*, we will discuss Whitman's persona, the play of his personality and the poet-reader relationship—situating all within their historical contexts—with special attention to Whitman's "Song of Myself." Lecture to be given by Alan Ackerman, Associate Professor at University of Toronto, as part of Toronto Public Library's Grey Matters: Great Books events. Bring your lunch! Northern District Branch, 40 Orchard View Blvd. (Yonge and Eglinton), 12:30-1:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_seniors_month.jsp.

Fri., June 19

READING: Giving it Away: Books, Business and the Culture of Free, presented by Humber College and the Book and Periodical Council, in association with Authors at Harbourfront Centre, is a daylong conference that explores the implications of "free culture" for writing and publishing. Includes keynote speaker, panel discussion and practical workshops. Visit site for complete conference details. Enwave Theatre, Harbourfront Centre, 231 Queens Quay W., 8:30am-5:30pm, \$145/\$75 for students and seniors, www.giving-it-away.com.

LECTURE: Great literature doesn't have to be either intimidating or tedious. Homer's *Odyssey* is in a sense

Western history's first novel, full to the brim with monsters, cannibals and witches, and yet focusing throughout on family and the theme of homecoming. So fascinating is the protagonist, Odysseus, that he keeps turning up in major works throughout the course of Western literature. Lecture given by Frederick Sweet, of the School of Continuing Studies at the University of Toronto as part of Toronto Public Library's Grey Matters: Great Books events. Bring your lunch! Deer Park Branch, 40 St. Clair Ave. E., 12:30-1:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_seniors_month.jsp.

Tues., June 23

READING: Peter C. Newman will read from his latest book, *Izzy: The Passionate life and Turbulent Times of Izzy Asper*, a hit biography about Canada's media mogul, as part of the Eh List Reading Series. Barbara Frum Branch, 20 Covington Rd., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

READING: David O'Meara, Christine Thorpe and Agnes Walsh are the featured poets at the Art Bar Poetry Series. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

Wed., June 24

READING: Join rising star Andrew Davidson and hear him read from *The Gargoyle*. Q&A and book signing to follow. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

SALON: The Box invites you to an evening of short words, comedy, film and music by Freida Abtan, Lisa Bozikovic, Mike Hoolboom, Levi MacDougall, Derek McCormack, Petrina Ng, Gravity Wave and Graydon Sheppard. Rivoli, 332 Queen St W. (Back Room), 8pm, \$5-10 suggested donation, contact 416-929-1906 or boxsalon@hotmail.com for more info.

Thurs., June 25

READING: Blockbuster author Andrew Davison joins us for a reading and discussion of his huge hit, *The Gargoyle*. An Eh List Reading Series event. Northern

District Branch, 40 Orchardview Blvd., 2pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/ehlist.

LECTURE: All great religious teachers, almost without exception, worked by paradoxes and parables. So why does Kafka, who is a secular writer, and disavowed any connection with the prophetic traditions of Kabbalah, use them? His work is drenched in mysteries. Lecture by B.W. Powe, York University, as part of Toronto Public Library's Grey Matters: Great Books events. Bring your lunch! North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., 12:30-1:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/pro_seniors_month.jsp.

Tues., June 30

READING: Author Alexandra Leggat reads from her new collection of short fiction, *Animal*, a spring 2009 title from Anvil Press. McNally Robinson, 1090 Don Mills Rd., 7pm, free, www.anvilpress.com.

READING: Carolyn Smart, Nic Labriola and Barbara Landry are the featured poets at the Art Bar Poetry Series. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

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 at 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.