

The Toronto Literary Calendar

October 2009

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

Thurs., October 1

READING: Join East Coast author Lisa Moore for a reading and discussion of her latest novel, *February*. Come and hear why Moore is among the top Canadian writers working today. Richview District Branch, 1806 Islington Ave., 2pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Sat., October 3

READING: Romance writer Deborah Cooke will read from her current work, and discuss the romance genre and her position as Writer in Residence at the Toronto Public Library for the months of October and November. North York Central Library, Auditorium, 5120 Yonge St., 2-3:30pm, free, 416-395-5639 for more information or to register.

WORKSHOP: Marnie Woodrow shows you how to blast through so-called 'writer's block': generate new stories, poems and scripts, or invigorate stalled existing drafts in this two-day intensive workshop. Meet your creative goals and gain confidence with fast, fun writing exercises and discussions. Find out why writer's block doesn't exist and how your computer may be keeping you from writing. Bring a typed, double-spaced sample of your writing (script, poem or story excerpt) and lots of pens and paper. Class size is limited; please register early. Toronto Writers' Centre, 627 Bloor St. W., 10am-4pm, \$160 TWC members/\$175 non-members, call 647-427-4737 to book a seat.

Sun., October 4

READING: Draft Reading Series 5.1 makes another night exciting with readings by Amy Jones, Lina Medaglia, Sachiko Murakami and Rebecca Rosenblum. We welcome readers to our open mic: seven readers, three minutes each. Bring your best material and arrive at the beginning of the reading to sign up. Blue Moon Pub, 725 Queen St. E., 4pm, \$5

(includes a copy of *Draft*), contact us for further information at draftreadings@gmail.com or 416-433-4170.

Mon., October 5

READING: The Rowers Pub Reading Series has as its October features Austin Clarke (*More*), Anne Compton (*Asking Questions Indoors and Out*) and Edo van Belkom (*Wolf Man*). Harbord House, 150 Harbord St., second floor, 7:30pm (doors at 6), pass-the-hat donation, call 647-430-7365 for more information.

INTERVIEW: James Ellroy—author of the internationally bestselling L.A. Quartet novels, *The Black Dahlia*, *The Big Nowhere*, *L.A. Confidential*, and *White Jazz*—reads from his first novel in eight years, *Blood's a Rover*, and is interviewed by film enthusiast, critic and writer Richard Crouse. James Grainger hosts. York Quay Centre, 235 Queens Quay W., 7:30pm, \$8/free for members and students with valid ID, purchase tickets at www.readings.org or 416-973-4000.

Tues., October 6

TALK: What kind of Toronto? What kind of Toronto do we want, what's doable, what's not, and how can we get there? Moderator Royson James hosts a talk as part of Star Talks: The City Series. The panel will include: Rahul Bhardwal (Toronto Community Foundation), Susan Eng (CARP), Kevin Stolarick (Martin Prosperity Institute) and Sudz Sutherland (Hungry Eyes Film and Television). Toronto Reference Library 789 Yonge St., 7pm, free, 416-393-7131, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

READING: Salvador Alanis, Anne Compton and George Fetherling feature tonight at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

READING: Coach House Books presents Short Fiction for Short Attention Spans, an event that will

launch David Derry's *Sentimental Exorcisms* and Anik See's *postcard and other stories*. Hosted by Stuart Ross, with music by Sigrun Stella. The Victory Cafe, 581 Markham Street, 7:30pm, free, chbooks.com.

READING: The 53rd edition of Strong Words, the monthly reading series, features Bruce Hunter, Terry Watada and Ramabai Espinent. As per usual, we ask that attendees bring donations of new/used books in resale condition for the Toronto Public Library's Book Ends program. The Gladstone Art Bar, 1214 Queen St. W., 7:30pm, PWYC, www.strong-words.ca, www.tpl.toronto.on.ca.

LAUNCH: Celebrate the launch of Jason Hrivnak's novel *The Plight House* with Pedlar Press. The Gladstone Ballroom, 1214 Queen St. W., 7:30pm, free, contact 416-534-2011 for information.

Thurs., October 8

READING: Join *Globe* writer and author Ian Brown for a reading and discussion of *The Boy in the Moon*, his very personal story of life with his son, Walker, who suffers from a rare and debilitating genetic disorder. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

WORKSHOP: In Writing Studio, an experiential class led by Gili Haimovich, participants will be provided with the opportunities to explore and develop their own writing practice. We will use an interdisciplinary approach where other art modalities (visual art, music, movement and drama) are used as a way to both generate and support the writing process. The different art modalities will serve to give new recourses for writing, refresh perspectives on familiar themes, deepen the exploration of metaphors and images, and teach how to work with personal experiences. The class will run for ten Thursdays, until November 10th. Hampton Therapy Centre, 175 Hampton Ave., 7-9pm, \$380, contact gili@poetryon.com or 416-566-3524.

Tues., October 13

READING: Writer and philosopher Mark Kingwell brings his new biography of the extraordinary Canadian pianist, Glenn Gould, to The eh List Author

The Toronto Literary Calendar: A Monthly Supplement to Word

www.wordmagazine.ca

Published by The Mercury Press

Calendar Editor: Jap-Nanak Makkar

Word Editor: Maria Erskine

Copy Editor: Frances Lemon

Typesetter: Beverley Daurio

Typographic Assistant: Tyler James

Illustrations: Kim Kutner

Founder and Publisher Emeritus: Mike O'Connor

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.

Series. Join us for a reading and discussion at S. Walter Stewart branch, 170 Memorial Park Ave., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

READING: Allan Safarik, Leanne Averbach and John Barton 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.

Wed., October 14

READING: Author and journalist Linden MacIntyre reads from his forceful novel *The Bishop's Man*, which tells about a priest's struggle to maintain his vows and hold on to his soul. Barbara Frum Branch, 20 Covington Rd., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Thurs., October 15

READING: Author and broadcaster Mary Lou Finlay reads from her memoir, *The As It Happens Files: Radio That May Contain Nuts*. A lively discussion of her book and her career are sure to follow. Bring your own lunch! Toronto Reference Library, 12:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

LAUNCH: You are invited to attend the Coach House Books Fall Launch, featuring Cordelia Strube, Susan Holbrook, Kate Hall, Kate Eichhorn, Margaret Christakos and David Derry. Stones Place, 1255 Queen St. W., 8pm, free, chbooks.com.

Sat., October 17

SLAM: Toronto Poetry Slam returns with another high-energy battle of the words featuring Chris Gilpin and Sean McGarragle. Hosted by Dave Silverberg. Drake Hotel Underground, 1150 Queen St. W., 7:30pm (sign-up), \$5, visit torontopoetryslam.com or call 416-312-3865 for more information.

COURSE: Professional playwright and teacher, Bill Ballantyne leads a course designed both for beginners and for those who are writing a play. This class will help you grow familiar with those elements that make a play tick: character, situation, development, suspense and, most important, conflict. Learn what makes a play come alive and what tends to stall it, to drain it of life. Toronto Writers' Centre, 627 Bloor St. W.,

10am-12pm, \$20 TWC members/\$30 non-members, call 647-427-4737 to book a seat.

FESTIVAL: The 30th annual International Festival of Authors (IFOA), held over 11 days and nights, brings the most important and talked-about authors writing today to Toronto to participate in readings, talks, interviews and book signings. We launch the festival with the PEN Canada Benefit: Margaret Atwood in Conversation with Ian Rankin—an event that promises to be one of the most talked about of the IFOA. Scottish crime-writing superstar Ian Rankin will join celebrated author Margaret Atwood on stage for a discussion. The event will be hosted by CBC personality Jian Ghomeshi. Premiere Dance Theatre, 207 Queens Quay W., 8pm, \$125 for pre-event cocktail reception/\$35 for event only, full details at www.readings.org or 416-973-4000.

Sunday, October 18:

LAUNCH: Quattro Books launches two first books of poetry: *Evidence* by Samuel Andreyev, and *Ten Thousand Miles Between Us* by Rocco de Giacomo. The Cameron House, 408 Queen St. W., 3pm, free.

Tues., October 20

LAUNCH: Quattro Books launches the four latest books in its Novella Series: *Harbour View* by Binnie Brennan, *The Cousin* by John Calabro, *A Pleasant Vertigo* by Egidio Coccimiglio, and *Of All the Ways to Die* by Brenda Niskala. The Annex Live, 296 Brunswick Ave., 7:30pm, free.

READING: George McWhirter, Sean McGarragle and Chris Gilpin feature tonight at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

READING: Toronto Public Librarian Martha Baillie's newest novel is commanding a lot of notice. Come out and see why everyone is reading *The Incident Report*. A masterful work from one of our own! Taylor Memorial Branch, 1440 Kingston Rd., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

WORKSHOP: Marnie Woodrow shows how a dialogue-only draft of a story can jump-start the creative process and ramp up your dialogue-writing skills. Compare dialogue in novels to screenplays and stage plays to decode the essential differences between them. Explore the power of your own speech patterns, increase the habits of eavesdropping and talking to strangers. Toronto Writers' Centre, 627 Bloor St. W., 7-9:30pm, \$20 TWC members/\$30 non-members, call 647-427-4737 to book a seat.

Wed., October 21

FESTIVAL: For 11 spectacular days and nights each October, over 100 authors from around the world meet in Toronto for Canada's #1 literary happening. Now in its 30th year, this world-renowned festival explores new mediums of sharing and enjoying the written word. Join the most inspiring and talked-about authors on today's literary scene as they take the stage for readings, interviews, round tables, and talks; find your favourite selections at the festival bookstore and have them signed at our public book signings. York Quay Centre, 235 Queens Quay W., \$15/\$12 members/free for students, visit www.readings.org for full details.

READING: Following his gripping stories of northern exploration and expeditions, Ken McGoogan's latest, *Race to the Polar Sea: The Heroic Adventures of Elisha Kent Kane*, is yet another riveting tale of a remarkable man. Join Ken for a reading and discussion at Northern District Branch, 40 Orchard View Blvd., 6:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Thurs., October 22

READING: *Old City Hall* author Robert Rotenberg will read from his highly acclaimed Toronto-based murder mystery. Bring your own lunch! Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 12:30pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Mon., October 26

READING: The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada will read from and discuss her new biography of Norman Bethune. Mark your calendar! North

York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

READING: Join us this evening to hear poetry from Rafi Aaron, Daniel Tysdal and Susie Berg at The Art Bar Poetry Series. Open mic. Clinton's, 693 Bloor St. W., 8pm, pass-the-hat donation, www.artbar.org.

Wed., October 28

READING: Colin McAdam, author of *Some Great Thing*, will read from his latest, highly acclaimed novel, *Fall*. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

READING: Following his stunning debut novel, *De Niro's Game*, Rawi Hage published another thrilling novel, *Cockroach*. Come and hear him read from this 2008 IMPAC Dublin Literary Award winner. Runnymede Branch, 2178 Bloor St. W., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Thurs., October 29

READING: Join author Colin McAdam for a reading of his highly acclaimed novel, *Fall*. Richview District Branch, 1806 Islington Ave., 2pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

READING: Rawi Hage is fast becoming a literary fixture in Canada and abroad. Come and hear him read from his latest and utterly fascinating work, *Cockroach*. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., 7pm, free, www.torontopubliclibrary.ca.

Sat., October 31

READING: World Literacy Canada presents a night with selected readings from *Half-Minute Horrors*, a new anthology of instant frights for young readers from HarperCollins Canada and non-profit book-provider First Book. Featuring authors, illustrators and musicians including Ken Opel, Mariko Tamaki, Allan Stratton, Stephen Marche, Ron Hawkins, Murray Foster and more! The Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen St W., 2-4pm, free, www.worldlit.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 7-7:30pm (speaker at 8), free, RSVP to 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.