



*Whistler*  
**readers**  
AND  
**WRITERS**  
**FESTIVAL**

**18 - 20 October 2013**

[whistlerreadersandwritersfestival.com](http://whistlerreadersandwritersfestival.com)



*Welcome to the  
12th Annual  
Whistler Readers  
and Writers  
Festival.*

## *Welcome*

It is the function of art to renew our perception. What we are familiar with we cease to see. The writer shakes up the familiar scene, and, as if by magic, we see a new meaning in it.

*Anais Nin (Author)*

Welcome to the 12th annual Whistler Readers and Writers Festival. Each year we strive to bring the very best Canadian and international authors to Whistler for a weekend packed with readings, workshops and lots of opportunities for you to meet some of your favourite authors. This weekend provides a chance for readers and writers alike to renew and recharge. And what a beautiful place to get inspiration, tucked in the mountains listening to and talking with your favourite authors.

This year our opening night jazz and books gala hosted by local scribe, Stephen Vogler will include award-winning writer Patrick deWitt, Mary Swan, Peter Zuckerman, Janet Love Morrison, Roberta Rich and our 2013 Writer in Residence Ania Szado. The evening will see a fireside chat with guest authors who will also read snippets from their latest books. Our very own talented local musicians will provide music for both this event and Saturday night's event.



 *Welcome (continued)*

We've added three new reading events, including one featuring poets, another showcasing crime and mystery writers, and a special Saturday night main stage reading with Giller prize winning author, Will Ferguson, in conversation with award winning broadcaster and best-selling author Jian Ghomeshi, host of CBC's Q. Jian will join us again on Sunday, October 20th to host a brunch and discussion with award winning authors Lisa Moore, Richard Wagamese,

Jane Silcott, Meg Tilley, Genni Gunn and our very own Sue Oakey-Baker.

Our signature workshops on journalism, memoir writing, writing for young readers, and writing historical fiction will be back with new instructors and new material. We've also added a publishing workshop on Friday afternoon, which will explore the various publishing options available to a writer who has a completed manuscript.

Is there any better time or excuse to enjoy Whistler in the autumn and renew your literary pursuits?

Welcome to our festival. Thank you for your support. We can't do it without you.

Enjoy!

Stella Harvey,  
Festival Director





**Whistler  
readers  
AND  
WRITERS  
FESTIVAL**  
*in Partnership  
with PEN Canada*



**reeyot alemu**



**eskinder nega**

At every event and at literary festivals around the country, PEN Canada asks that a place be reserved for a writer who cannot be in attendance, someone who can't do what we are about to do: exercise our right, perhaps even our obligation, to speak out, and to be bold, active citizens.

We do this to remind audiences of the responsibilities that come with the freedoms we enjoy, and to honour the remarkable people who defend these embattled freedoms, often at great cost. The Whistler Readers and Writers Festival is proud to partner with PEN Canada again this year in support of Mr. Eskinder Nega and Ms Reeyot Alemu.

On July 13, 2012, the Ethiopian journalist and blogger Mr. Eskinder Nega [ESS-KIN-DUH NAY-GUH] was sentenced to 18 years in prison for vague terrorism charges related to this proclamation.

Mr. Nega, who was educated in the United States and carried a US passport, had voluntarily chosen to remain in Ethiopia as a journalist, pursuing what he saw as his duty to write and speak freely. This most recent arrest came in 2011 following the publication of a column in which he questioned the Ethiopian government's claim that a number of recently detained journalists were suspected terrorists.

After investigating his case, a UN panel called for Mr.

Nega's release, arguing that his imprisonment was "a result of his peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression". On May 2, 2013, however, following an appeal and joint NGO statement, Mr. Nega's 18-year sentence was upheld. Mr. Nega is the recipient of the 2012 PEN/Barbara Goldsmith Freedom to Write Award and has been designated a "prisoner of conscience" by Amnesty International.

Ms. Reeyot Alemu, a well-known high school English teacher and journalist, is known for her critical articles on poverty and gender equality. In January, 2012 under Ethiopia's strict anti-terrorism laws, Alemu was sentenced to 14 years in prison (later reduced to five), because of her involvement with free journalism in the country. In the spring of 2012, Ms. Alemu was diagnosed with a growth in her breast and in April of the same year she underwent surgery. After the surgery, Alemu was returned to jail without being given proper recovery time. In February 2013, Ms. Alemu's growth returned, but she was denied proper medical attention. In addition to this, Ms. Alemu was subjected to two weeks in solitary confinement after refusing an offer of clemency.

If you would like to support PEN's work on behalf of Eskinder Nega or Reeyot Alemu, please sign the petition that will be circulated at the end of our opening event.



# writer IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Ania Szado



Ania Szado will take up residence in Whistler this fall as the community's official Writer-in-Residence. Living in the Alta Lake Station House, Szado will work with 12 writers on their own projects, starting in early October with a pot luck get-together and introductory meeting.

Novice, emerging and experienced writers of all genres interested in taking part in the residency program need to register with Stella Harvey by sending an email to [Stella25@telus.net](mailto:Stella25@telus.net). Residency participants will receive four one-on-one sessions with Ania Szado to develop their manuscript, and will also be able to attend weekly group lectures on various aspects of the craft of writing. Each participant will also receive Ania's book, *Studio St-Ex*. This is made possible through a Whistler Blackcomb Foundation grant.

Once accepted, writers must submit a short synopsis of the work they plan to work on during the residency, plus a manuscript of no more than 20 double-spaced pages, by Monday, September 2nd to enable Ania to complete a review in advance of the first meeting.

The residency forms the manuscript-intensive component of the Whistler Readers and Writers Festival.



# FESTIVAL at a glance

This at-a-glance schedule will help you find all the events. For details see Session Descriptions in Detail starting on page 9. Guest Author Biographies can be found starting on page 14



October 18. 4:00 - 6:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

## WORKSHOP 1 : You have a manuscript, now what?

Frank Edwards (Bungalow Books), Karen Haughian (Signature Editions), Janet Love Morrison (author), Sue Oakey-Baker (author), Stella Harvey (author). Moderator - Rebecca Wood Barrett.

October 18. 6:30 - 7:45 pm | MILENNIUM PLACE | ADMISSION FREE

## SUE OAKEY-BAKER BOOK LAUNCH

Sue Oakey-Baker launches her new memoir, *Finding Jim*.

October 18. 8:00 pm | MILENNIUM PLACE | ADMISSION \$20

## READING EVENT 1 : Opening Night Gala

Jazz & Books Gala with Mary Swan, Ania Szado, Patrick deWitt, Peter Zuckerman, Janet Love Morrison, and Roberta Rich. There will be live music featuring local musicians. Moderator - Stephen Vogler.

SAT

October 19. 8:30 - 10:30 am | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**WORKSHOP 2 : From History to Story**

Writing historical fiction with Ania Szado.

SAT

October 19. 8:30 - 10:30 am | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**WORKSHOP 3 : So ... you want to be a magazine writer. Really?** With Leslie Anthony

COFFEE BREAK 10:30 - 11:00 am

SAT

October 19. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**WORKSHOP 4 : Writing for Young Readers**

With Meg Tilley

SAT

October 19. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**WORKSHOP 5 : Memoir Writing - Where to Begin?**

With Jane Silcott

SAT

October 19. 1:00 - 2:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**READING EVENT 2 : Crimes of Fiction**

Showcases readings by writers of crime and mystery including: William Deverell, Robin Spano, E.R. Brown, and Ian Hamilton. Moderator - Feet Banks. Admission includes lunch.

SAT

October 19. 2:15 - 4:15 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25

**WORKSHOP 6 : A Better Way to Revise**

With Peter Zuckerman

# FESTIVAL at a glance

SAT

October 19. 2:15 - 4:15 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$20  
**READING EVENT 3 : Comes a Time: Past, Present, Future.** Poetry reading and panel discussion with Michael Crummey, Evelyn Lau, Rona Shaffran and Elizabeth Bachinsky. Moderator - Mary MacDonald.

SAT

October 19. 2:30 - 4:30 pm | WHISTLER PUBLIC LIBRARY | FREE  
**WORKSHOP 7 : Writing Workshop for young writers** With Meg Tilley. Must be under the age of 19 to attend.

SAT

October 19. 8:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$25  
**READING EVENT 4 : Jian Ghomeshi & Will Ferguson** Jian Ghomeshi in conversation with Giller Prize Wining author Will Ferguson. Admission includes a glass of wine and some beautiful music provided by our very own local musicians.

SUN

October 20. 11:00 am - 1:00 pm | FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER | ADMISSION \$35  
**READING EVENT 5 : Closing Event** Brunch with Jian Ghomeshi in conversation with Lisa Moore, Sue Oakey-Baker, Jane Silcott, Richard Wagamese, Genni Gunn, and Meg Tilly. Admission includes brunch.

SUN

October 20. 8:30 - 10:30 am | WHISTLER MUSEUM | ADMISSION \$15  
**PANEL DEBATE : Self-publish or perish?** Presented by Whistler Debates. Panel TBA.



## session DESCRIPTIONS

### ..... *in Detail*

Most of our sessions are held in the Fairmont Chateau Whistler, but be sure to note the location for each event. There are a few venues away from the hotel.



### **WORKSHOP 1: YOU HAVE A MANUSCRIPT, NOW WHAT**

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 18, 2013 4:00 - 6:00 pm  
Cost: \$25

Description: Frank Edwards (Bungalow Books), Karen Haughian (Signature Editions), Janet Love Morrison (author), Sue Oakey-Baker (author) and Stella Harvey (author) represent the wide array of publishing options from traditional publishing to e-publishing and self-publishing. This workshop will discuss the options available to writers who have, or are close to having, a manuscript completed. Moderator: Rebecca Wood Barrett



**session**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**  
.....  
*in Detail*

### **BOOK LAUNCH : SUE OAKY-BAKER, FINDING JIM**

Location: Millennium Place  
Date/Time: Oct 18, 2013 6:30 - 7:45 pm  
Cost: Free, cash bar

Description: Celebrate with local author Sue Oakey-Baker as she launches her first book, *Finding Jim*, at Millennium Place in Whistler, amidst some of her original paintings. Raise a glass, enjoy some live music, mingle with friends and flip through the first hardcover copies of this moving memoir of love, adventure, grief and hope.

### **READING EVENT 1: OPENING NIGHT JAZZ AND BOOKS GALA**

Location: Millennium Place  
Date/Time: Oct 18, 2013 8:00 pm  
Cost: \$20

Description: Authors Mary Swan, Ania Szado, Patrick deWitt, Peter Zuckerman, Janet Love Morrison, and Roberta Rich reading from their work and in conversation with local author, Stephen Vogler. Music will be provided by an array of talented local musicians.

### **WORKSHOP 2: FROM HISTORY TO STORY - WRITING HISTORICAL FICTION** with Ania Szado

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Cost: \$25

Description: Creating story from historical facts can be exhilarating, frustrating, and magical. How do you find and shape the story you should tell? Will you take a historical detail as inspiration for a speculative work; shed new light on a past event via an imagined or previously overlooked player; or stay rigorously true to the facts even as you write fiction? How will you proceed when the known facts are frustratingly scarce or overwhelmingly abundant? Join Ania Szado in discussion, insights and exercises to help you find your most fulfilling path in writing historical (and historically-inspired) fiction.



**session**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**  
*in Detail*

### **WORKSHOP 3: SO... YOU WANT TO BE A MAGAZINE WRITER. REALLY?** with

Leslie Anthony

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 8:30 - 10:30 am  
Cost: \$25

Description: Sea changes are washing over the publishing world. Nevertheless, magazines—digital, print or a combination—remain the standard-bearer of middle ground between Twitter-fast news and shelf-hugging books in our communication landscape. Despite shrinking real estate (fewer titles, fewer issues, shorter stories), opportunity remains for those who can successfully shoulder the increasing demands of magazine journalism—demands that often involve bridging the digital and print worlds, as well as those of other media (film, photo, audio). This workshop explores magazine writing in the information age, and how to approach a milieu in flux. Print and digital examples from science/nature/environment and travel/adventure writing—as well as their intersection—will be used for exercises, comparison and discussion. Participants will learn that these days, breaking into magazines (we're not talking robbery, though you should come away with money in your pockets) might be all about breaking out.

### **WORKSHOP 4: WRITING FOR YOUNG READERS**

with Meg Tilley

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Cost: \$25

Description: Young adult fiction is one of the fastest growing and most exciting areas in literature and it is currently undergoing a renaissance in both quantity and quality. Find out why so many readers date their most powerful reading experiences back to the books they read as teenagers and why the teen years offer writers such fertile ground. In this workshop we will briefly survey the history of young adult literature, look at what YA books have in common, and talk about the challenges and opportunities faced by those who write for teens.

### **WORKSHOP 5: MEMOIR WRITING: WHERE TO**

**BEGIN?** with Jane Silcott

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Cost: \$25

Description: To say you're writing your memoirs can sound pretentious – and feel daunting – but telling the stories of your life in ways that engage, inform, and entertain is anything but. A memoir piece can be about your favourite pair of shoes, your cat, the time your father locked you in the outhouse, or the time you and your siblings had a birthday party for a stuffed fox. It can be short or long, serious or funny, or both. Join memoirist Jane Silcott in this light-hearted and serious, pen-on-the-page workshop that helps get you started then shows you how to find the clues in your writing that tell you where to go next.



**session**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**  
*in Detail*

**READING EVENT 2: CRIMES OF FICTION** with William Deverell, Robin Spano, E.R. Brown, and Ian Hamilton

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 1:00 - 2:00 pm  
Cost: \$25 includes lunch

Description: Some of Canada's newest writers of crime and mystery share the stage with their seasoned counterparts to read and discuss their crimes of fiction with local writer and moderator Feet Banks. Enjoy lunch as you listen to stories of crime and mayhem.

**WORKSHOP 6: A BETTER WAY TO REVISE** with Peter Zuckerman

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 2:15 - 4:15 pm  
Cost: \$25

Description: What makes a writer successful? It's not who you know, who you are or what you're writing about. Those matter, but something else matters much more: how well you revise. Most of us use the wrong approach. A better way is to triage: Deal with the major problems before you deal with the minor ones. In this workshop, for fiction and non-fiction writers and editors, you'll learn how to identify the weakness in your manuscript, figure out which weaknesses to fix first, and learn how to fix those weaknesses or what to do when you're stuck. We'll look at everything from the first draft to the final product.

**READING EVENT 3: COMES A TIME: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE** with Michael Crummey , Evelyn Lau, Rona Shaffran and Elizabeth Bachinsky

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 2:15 - 4:15 pm  
Cost: \$20

Description: The kingdom of poetry is no ordinary time. Poets have their own personal sense of time. How does the poet re-claim time past? Bend time? Shed light on a time? Or re-invent time? Is time real or imagined? Poets Michael Crummey , Evelyn Lau, Rona Shaffran and Elizabeth Bachinsky in conversation about where poetry comes from and what is a poet's time.



**session**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**  
*in Detail*

## **WORKSHOP 7: WRITING WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG WRITERS** with Meg Tilley

Location: Whistler Public Library  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 2:30 - 4:00 pm  
Cost: Free (must be under 19 years of age to attend)

Description: Learn to use your writerly wiles to lure readers in and never let them go! In this workshop, Meg Tilley will give a brief reading from her book and she will talk about the basic elements that go into creating a page turner, including character development, voice, plot, setting and scene building.

## **READING EVENT 4: CBC'S JIAN GHOMESHI IN CONVERSATION WITH GILLER PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR, WILL FERGUSON**

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 19, 2013 8:00 pm  
Cost: \$25 includes a glass of wine and beautiful music.

Description: The festival's feature presentation sees award winning broadcaster and best selling author, Jian Ghomeshi in conversation with travel writer and Giller prize winning novelist, Will Ferguson. Listen in on the conversation and hear Will read from his novel, *419*, as you enjoy a glass of wine, then meet Jian and Will while our very own local musicians play some of their favourite selections of jazz and blues.

## **READING EVENT 5: JIAN GHOMESHI IN CONVERSATION** with Lisa Moore, Sue Oakey-Baker, Jane Silcott, Richard Wagamese, Genni Gunn, and Meg Tilley.

Location: Fairmont Chateau Whistler  
Date/Time: Oct 20, 2013 11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Cost: \$35 includes brunch

Description: Grab a mouthful and mindful with awarding winning authors Lisa Moore, Sue Oakey-Baker, Jane Silcott, Richard Wagamese, Genni Gunn, and Meg Tilley. Come enjoy brunch and listen in on Jian Ghomeshi's chat with these authors. The authors will also be enticed to read from their new books.

## **PANEL DEBATE: SELF-PUBLISH OR PERISH?**

Presented by Whistler Debates

Location: Whistler Museum  
Date/Time: Oct 20, 2013 2:00 - 3:30 pm  
Cost: \$10

Description: Boutique, big box, or by yourself? High-powered agent or DIY? Paperback or paperless? With the publishing world in flux, this debate-format panel discussion will tackle how aspiring wordsmiths can produce the best product, reach the broadest audience, and ultimately, make enough coin to write another day. Panel TBA.



# GUEST authors

*There is nothing  
to writing. All you  
do is sit down at  
a typewriter and  
bleed.*

*Ernest Hemingway*



**leslie anthony**



**elizabeth bachinsky**



**feet banks**



**e. r. brown**



**michael crumme**



**william deverell**

## LESLIE ANTHONY

Leslie Anthony is a Whistler-based writer, editor, biologist and occasional filmmaker with too few fingers in too many pies. Former Managing Editor of Powder magazine, he remains the longtime Features Editor of Canada's *SKIER* magazine, Editorial Director of the

acclaimed *Mountain Life Annual*, and continues his residence on the masthead of a global litany of ski and outdoor magazines. At home he writes broadly about travel, adventure and science subjects ranging from imaginary monsters to fossil smuggling in titles like *Canadian Geographic*, *Canadian Wildlife* and *Explore*.

He is author of *Snakebit: Confessions of a Herpetologist and White Planet: A Mad Dash through Modern Global Ski Culture*.

## ELIZABETH BACHINSKY

Elizabeth Bachinsky is the author of five collections of poetry: *Curio* (2005), *Home of Sudden Service* (2006), *God*



# Guest authors

*Don't tell me the moon is shining; show me the glint of light on broken glass. ~ Anton Chekhov*

of *Missed Connections* (2009), *I Don't Feel So Good* (2012) and *The Hottest Summer in Recorded History* (2013). Her work has been nominated for numerous awards, including the Pat Lowther Award, the Kobzar Literary Award and the Governor General's Award for Poetry. She was born in Regina, raised in Prince George and Maple Ridge, BC, and now lives in Vancouver, where she is an instructor of creative writing and the Editor of *Event Magazine*.

## FEET BANKS

Born in 1976, Feet Banks was raised in Northern BC without electricity and his first friend was a rooster named Houdini. At age 12 his parents moved him to Whistler to live the dream. He studied writing and film at the University of Victoria before returning home to continue living the dream while making stupid little horror movies with his friends. He is the founding editor of *Mountain Life Magazine*, the co-creator of the *Heavy Hitting HorrorFest* and his "Notes from the Back Row" movie column in the *Pique Newsmagazine* has been running weekly since

2003. Known as Whistler's enfant terrible, Feet loves naps, fishing, drive-in movie theatres and finding new ways to stir the pot.

## E.R. BROWN

E.R. Brown is a Vancouver writer whose short stories have been published nationwide and dramatized by the CBC. His first novel, the BC-based crime thriller *Almost Criminal*, was launched in April, in Canada, the US and the UK. The Globe and Mail said it's "funny and twisted in the same vein as *Breaking Bad* (but very Canadian on the crime) with tons of great Lower Mainland vibe. This is Brown's debut and it's an auspicious one."

## MICHAEL CRUMMEY

Michael Crummey is the author of four books of poetry, and a book of short stories, *Flesh and Blood*. His first novel, *River Thieves*, was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, his second, *The Wreckage*, was a national bestseller and a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His most recent novel, the bestselling *Galore*, won the

Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book. *Under the Keel* is his first collection of poetry in a decade. He lives in St. John's, Newfoundland.

## WILLIAM DEVERELL

William Deverell has worked as a journalist and a lawyer, and is the founder and now Honourary Director of the B.C. Civil Liberties Association. He is the creator of CBC's long-running television series, *Street Legal*, which has aired internationally in more than 50 countries. He is also the recipient of multiple literary awards, including the Seal Prize, the Book of the Year Award, the Dashiell Hammett Award for literary excellence, and the Arthur Ellis prize in crime writing. His novels have been translated into fourteen languages and sold worldwide.

## PATRICK DEWITT

Patrick deWitt was born on Vancouver Island in 1975. He is the author of the critically acclaimed novel *The Sisters Brothers*, which won the Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction



# GUEST authors

*Spontaneous is  
what you get after  
the seventeenth  
draft.*

*John Ciardi*



**patrick dewitt**



**frank b. edwards**



**will ferguson**



**jian ghomeshi**



**genni gunn**



**ian hamilton**

Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Scotiabank Giller Prize. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

**FRANK B. EDWARDS**

Writer/editor Frank B. Edwards moved from the magazine to the book business in 1985 when he became publisher and editorial director of

Camden House, the book arm of Harrowsmith and Equinox magazines. For several years he specialized in illustrated, non-fiction “coffee table books” about Canada, natural history and gardening. In 1989, he moved full-time into illustrated children’s books at Bungalo Books with his creative partner, cartoonist John Bianchi; by 2002, the

pair had produced 38 books together. Faced with the slump in printed book sales, Frank switched exclusively to ebooks focusing on illustrated projects for the iPad for both children and adults. [www.bungalobooks.com](http://www.bungalobooks.com)



# Guest authors

*If you tell me, it's an essay. If you show me, it's a story.*  
~ Barbara Greene

## WILL FERGUSON

Three time winner of the Leacock Medal, award-winning novelist and travel writer, Will Ferguson is the author of more than a dozen books ranging from budget travel guides to works of literary fiction.

As a teenager he lived and worked in Ecuador, South America, as part of CWY (roughly equivalent to the Peace Corps). He spent five years in Japan, first on the Amakusa Islands south of Nagasaki and then later on the Kyushu mainland.

He has walked across Northern Ireland in the rain, and has hitchhiked the length of Japan, following the springtime "Cherry Blossom Front" that washes across Japan every year. His travels have taken him from Indonesia to Argentina. And in 2010, he was named the head writer on the Vancouver Olympics Closing Ceremonies, penning material for the likes of William Shatner, Martin Short and Michael J. Fox.

In 2012, he won the Giller Prize for his novel *419*.

## JIAN GHOMESHI

Jian Ghomeshi is an award-winning broadcaster, writer, musician and producer. He is the host and co-creator of the national daily talk program, *Q*, on CBC Radio One and CBC TV. Since its inception in 2007, *Q* has garnered the largest audience of any cultural affairs program in Canada and has become the highest-rated show in its morning time slot in CBC history. *Q* is also now broadcast across the United States, on PRI.

## GENNI GUNN

Genni Gunn is a writer, translator and musician. She has published three novels: *Solitaria* (Signature Editions), nominated for the Giller Prize 2011; *Tracing Iris*, made into a film titled *The Riverbank*; and *Thrice Upon a Time*, finalist for the Commonwealth Prize. She has also published two story collections, and two poetry collections, one of which was a finalist for the Gerald Lampert Poetry Award. Her two poetry translations of Dacia Maraini were finalists for the John Glassco Prize and the Premio Internazionale Diego Valeri. She has also written the

libretto for the opera *Alternate Visions*, produced in Montreal in 2007, and showcased at the Opera America Conference in Vancouver, May 2013. She is an inveterate traveler, and her experiences are reflected in her most recent book, *Tracks: Journeys in Time and Place* (Signature Editions, 2013).

## IAN HAMILTON

Ian Hamilton is the author of *The Water Rat of Wanchai*, *The Disciple of Las Vegas*, *The Wild Beasts of Wuhan*, *The Red Pole of Macau*, and *The Scottish Banker of Surabaya*. *The Water Rat of Wanchai* was a winner of the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel, an Amazon.ca Top 100 Book of the Year, an Amazon.ca Top 100 Editors' Pick, an Amazon.ca Canadian Pick, an Amazon.ca Mysteries and Thrillers Pick, a Toronto Star Top 5 Fiction Book of the Year, and a Quill & Quire Top 5 Fiction Book of the Year.

## STELLA HARVEY

Stella Harvey was born in Cairo, Egypt and moved to Calgary as a child with her family. In 2001, she founded the Whistler Writers Group, also known as the



# GUEST authors

*It's not a good  
idea to put your  
wife into a novel;  
not your latest wife  
anyway.*

*Norman Mailer*



**stella harvey**



**karen haughian**



**evelyn lau**



**lisa moore**



**janet love morrison**



**mary macdonald**

Vicious Circle, which each year produces the Whistler Readers and Writers Festival under her direction. Stella is a fiction writer whose short stories have appeared in *The Literary Leanings Anthology*, *The New Orphic Review*, *Emerge Magazine* and *The Dalhousie Review*. Her non-fiction has appeared in *Pique Newsmagazine*, *The Question* and *the Globe and Mail*.

She currently lives with her husband in Whistler, but visits her many relatives in Greece often, indulging her love of Greek food and culture and honing her fluency in the language. *Nicolai's Daughters* is her first published novel.

#### **KAREN HAUGHIAN**

While she was working on her master's degree in English

(Creative Writing) and teaching at Concordia University in Montreal, Karen Haughian decided to audit an undergrad publishing class — which resulted in the formation of a publishing company. Originally named Nuage Editions, the press began in 1986 as a 16-person publishing collective, although by 1987 it was a three-person press. It was the very first desktop



# Guest authors

*Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger. ~ Franklin Jones*

publisher in Quebec, and put out two to four books a year for the next five years. Since 1991 the press has operated as a sole proprietorship run by Karen Haughian and has published eight to ten titles a year. In 1997 the press moved to Winnipeg and in 2000 was renamed Signature Editions. Karen is committed to discovering and developing new Canadian writing of literary merit, regardless of genre, and the press publishes many first-book authors and works with them to develop their craft. Karen edits all prose titles in-house, while poetry and drama are handled by outside editors. In the 26 years of running the press she has read thousands of manuscripts and edited hundreds of books.

These days Karen lives in Winnipeg with her husband, also a publisher (but the rivalry is generally friendly), and their teenaged son.

## EVELYN LAU

Evelyn Lau was born in Vancouver in 1971. She is the author of five previous volumes of poetry, two short story collections, two works

of non-fiction, and a novel. *Runaway: Diary of a Street Kid*, published when she was 18, was made into a CBC movie. Lau's prose books have been translated into a dozen languages worldwide. Her poetry has been selected for inclusion in the Best American Poetry and Best Canadian Poetry anthologies, as well as receiving a National Magazine Award. *You Are Not Who You Claim* won the Milton Acorn People's Poet Award, *Oedipal Dreams* was nominated for the Governor-General's Award, and *Living Under Plastic* won the Pat Lowther Award for best book of poetry by a woman in Canada. Evelyn is the 2011-2014 Poet Laureate for the City of Vancouver.

## LISA MOORE

Lisa Moore is the acclaimed author of *February*, which was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize, selected as one of The New Yorker's Best Books of the Year, was a Globe and Mail Top 100 Book, and won the 2013 Canada Reads contest; and *Alligator*, which was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, won the Commonwealth Fiction Prize

(Canada and the Caribbean), and was a national bestseller. Her story collection *Open* was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and a national bestseller. She lives in St. John's, Newfoundland

## JANET LOVE MORRISON

Janet Love Morrison is an author, editor, and a Goodwill Ambassador for Friends to Mankind ([www.friendstomankind.org](http://www.friendstomankind.org)), an international non-profit foundation that works with individuals, corporations and philanthropic organizations towards the betterment of humanity. She was born in Toronto, Canada and grew up in Port Coquitlam, near Vancouver, BC. She spent a lot of her life travelling around the world doing a variety of jobs while living in Switzerland, Israel, India, Japan, and Malaysia. "Refugees, children, taxi drivers, fellow travellers, work colleagues, family, friends, Master Dhyana Vimal, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and so many, many more remarkable people have been my teachers. From the Himalayas, to the Alps; from the Andes to the Rocky



# GUEST authors

*Tomorrow may be  
hell, but today was  
a good writing day,  
and on the good  
writing days nothing  
else matters.*

*Neil Gaiman*



**susan oakey-baker**



**roberta rich**



**rona shaffran**



**jane silcott**



**robin spano**



**mary swan**

Mountains; I have encountered this planet and I write to honour the courage of those who have met life challenges and rose to be the best they can be. They have sparked the belief in me that when we all rise to be the best we can be, humanity will rise to be the best it can be."

## MARY MACDONALD

Mary MacDonald is a poet, writer, and child psychologist, living a sometimes wildly incompatible life, in Whistler and Vancouver, B.C. "I really believe we are more than one thing – one idea, one passion, one talent – and have a great fondness for pairing poetry with all forms of art." She

thrives on collaboration and has written poetry for opera, ballet and public art.

## SUSAN OAKEY-BAKER

Susan Oakey-Baker is a teacher, guide, painter, writer and holds degrees in French literature and Language Education. She has twenty years of outdoor experience,



# Guest authors

*I think all writing is a disease. You can't stop it.*  
~ William Carlos Williams

having spent time ski touring, mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, whitewater rafting and biking all over the world. She has worked as a nationally certified hiking guide in Africa, Nepal and North America and has guided more than 100 people, ranging in age from sixteen to eighty-five, to the top of Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro, for the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia. Her photographs and writing have been published in *Pique* magazine, the *Alpine Club of Canada Gazette* and the *Canadian Alpine Journal*. She grew up in Vancouver and now lives in Whistler, British Columbia, with her husband, Joe, and their six-year-old son, Sam.

## ROBERTA RICH

Roberta Rich divides her time between Vancouver and Colima, Mexico. She is a former family law lawyer. Her first novel, the bestselling *The Midwife of Venice*, has been published to acclaim in thirteen territories, including the U.S., the UK, Germany, Spain and Brazil. Visit Roberta at [www.robetarich.com](http://www.robetarich.com)

## RONA SHAFFRAN

Born and raised in Montreal, Quebec, Rona Shaffran lives in Ottawa, Ontario. *Ignite* (Signature Editions, 2013) is her first published collection of poetry. It tells the book-length story of remarkable things that can happen in a broken relationship between a man and a woman, healed by a physical process of self-discovery.

A member of the board of directors of the Tree Reading Series, one of Canada's longest running poetry venues, Rona recently retired as its co-director. She now co-directs a new, occasional poetry reading series in Ottawa, called RailRoad. Rona graduated from the Humber School for Writers and the Banff Centre Writing Studio. Her poems have appeared in Canadian literary journals, in an illustrated chapbook in Canada and Australia, and in several collaborative chapbooks. She has won honourable mention for the John Newlove Poetry Award.

Retired several years ago from federal government and

charitable board work, Rona Shaffran devotes time to writing and to travel, and is at work on a second manuscript that includes poetry and prose.

## JANE SILCOTT

Jane Silcott's award-winning writing has been called fearless, honest, crisp, compelling, and cheeky. Her debut collection of memoirs, *Everything Rustles*, about middle age, marriage, loss, and laundry rooms was published this spring with Anvil Press. She lives in Vancouver with her family and teaches for the UBC Writing Centre and the SFU Southbank Writing Program.

## ROBIN SPANO

Robin Spano grew up in downtown Toronto and now lives in Lions Bay, B.C. She studied physics at university but dropped out to travel North America on her motorcycle, waitressing in various cities and towns while trying to write her first novel. When she's not lost in fiction, she loves to get outside snowboarding, hiking, boating, and riding the curves of the



# GUEST authors

*If you can tell stories, create characters, devise incidents, and have sincerity and passion, it doesn't matter a damn how you write.*

*W. Somerset  
Maugham*



**ania szado**



**meg tilly**



**stephen vogler**



**richard wagamese**



**rebecca wood barrett**



**peter zuckerman**

local highways in her big, black pick-up truck. She is married to a man who hates reading.

**MARY SWAN**

Mary Swan's first novel, *The Boys in the Trees*, was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 2008 and for the Amazon First Novel Award. She is the winner of the 2001 O. Henry

Award for short fiction and is the author of the novella *The Deep*, a finalist for the Canada/ Caribbean Commonwealth Prize for Best First Book, and the collection *Emma's Hands*. Her work has appeared in several Canadian literary magazines and anthologies, including *Malahat Review* and *Best Canadian Stories*, as well as in American publications such as

*Ploughshares*, *Harvard Review*, *Zoetrope* and *Harper's Magazine*. She lives with her family in Guelph, Ontario.

**ANIA SZADO**

Ania Szado's novel *Studio Saint-Ex* (Viking Canada/ Knopf USA) is a national bestseller, and is forthcoming in Italy, Russia and Poland.

Her debut novel, *Beginning Of was* (Penguin Canada), was regionally shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. Her short fiction has appeared in a range of literary magazines and the anthology *All Sleek and Swimming* (Orca). Ania holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia, and an AOCA from Ontario College of Art. She lives in Toronto, and is the 2013 Writer in Residence for Whistler, BC. Visit her website at [www.aniaszado.com](http://www.aniaszado.com).

### MEG TILLY

Meg Tilly's newest book is *A Taste of Heaven*, a cozy debut middle-grade novel about young friendship. She is the author of four other novels and is also an award-winning actor. She appeared in *The Big Chill*, among other films, and starred in Global TV's *Bomb Girls*.

### STEPHEN VOGLER

Stephen Vogler is the author of *Only in Whistler: Tales of a Mountain Town and Top of the Pass: Whistler and the Sea-to-Sky Country*, both published by Harbour Publishing. He has written radio documentaries and commentaries for CBC Radio's Ideas, DNTO and Outfront programs, and contributed to Explore Magazine, The Globe and Mail, and Vancouver's Georgia Straight among other publications. Stephen hosts Creative 5 Eclectic, a monthly arts open mic night, and is the founder of The Point Artist-Run Centre in Whistler. [www.stephenvogler.com](http://www.stephenvogler.com)

### RICHARD WAGAMESE

Richard Wagamese is one of Canada's foremost Native authors and storytellers. Working as a professional writer since 1979 he's been a newspaper columnist and reporter, radio and television broadcaster and producer, documentary producer and the author of thirteen titles from major Canadian publishers. His new novel, *Indian Horse* arrived in February 2012. He will publish two novels in 2013; his second Orca Press Rapid Reads novel, *Him Standing*, and a new literary novel, *Medicine Walk*, with McClelland & Stewart. He has twice won the Native American Press Association Award and the National Aboriginal Communications Society Award for his newspaper columns. Currently, his series One Native Life runs as a radio commentary and newspaper column in both Canada and the U.S. and was a weekly television commentary on CFJC-TV 7 in Kamloops, BC from 2007 to 2010.

### REBECCA WOOD BARRETT

Rebecca Wood Barrett, BAA Film, MFA Creative Writing, wrote and illustrated her first book when she was seven. (A very good year). Since then she has become an avid genre-crosser, and her diverse body of work includes creative non-fiction, web copy, postcard stories, feature magazine and online articles, short films, feature films, plays, television advertising, infotainment, short fiction and a children's chapter book. Her short fiction has been published in Room, Pique and The Antigonish

Review. She enjoys the fizz of collaboration, and this year she and Lisa Fernandez co-wrote and co-directed the short comedy *Designer Genes*, a 72 Hr. Filmmaker Showdown Finalist. Rebecca also teamed up with her husband to write the play *The Cell*, which was performed at the Chairlift Revue.

### PETER ZUCKERMAN

Peter Zuckerman is a non-fiction writer. He has received some of the most prestigious recognitions in American journalism. In 2005, he was one of the youngest people ever to win a Livingston Award, the largest, all-media, general reporting prize in America. Among the dozens of other awards his reporting has received is the National Journalism Award, given by the Scripts Howard Foundation for the best newspaper writing in the United States; and the Blethan Award, given for the best journalism in the northwest. PBS profiled Zuckerman in an hour-long documentary, "In a Small Town," and Harvard University's Nieman Foundation for Excellence in Journalism profiled Zuckerman as part of a series about courageous reporting. Zuckerman has served as visiting faculty at the Poynter Institute, the St. Petersburg, Florida-based journalism organization, and he has taught journalism at universities and professional seminars. He is a resident of the Falcon Art Community and a teacher at the Attic Institute. Zuckerman lives in Portland, Oregon.

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