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1. Notices & Events

March 4. Member Joseph Koot (Dorchester Cape), author of *Europe, One Step at a Time*, is the subject of a radio interview on March 4 at 8 pm AST. If you'd like to hear the program online, [go here](#) just before showtime, then hit the words *Click Here to Listen Now*.

March 7. Member Keith Lyon (Fredericton) will be signing copies of his book, *Princess Madison and Princess Haley*, at Chapters in Fredericton on Saturday, March 7 from 2 pm to 4 pm.

March. St. Thomas University's creative writing blog, [Wording Around](#), is managed by WFNB member Kathy Mac. Throughout March, it will include reviews of new poetry books by writers from Atlantic Canada. Upcoming featured poets include Shoshanna Wingate (Sackville, NB).

March–May. The Odd Sundays Reading Series at Molly's Coffee House in Fredericton (554 Queen Street) is organized by member Allison Calvern. Readings begin at 2 pm and include an open-mic session. The upcoming featured readers are:

March 15	Wilmot Writers Group (hosted by Nancy Bauer)
March 29	Leigh Kotsilidis, Gabe Foreman (poets from Montreal)
April 5	Kathy Mac (poet)
May 3	Beth Powning (novelist), Michael Pacey (poet), Jennifer Houle (poet)

April. Susan White (Clifton Royal) is launching her fourth book, *The Memory Chair*, in April and travelling to Ontario in May as part of the TD Canadian Children's Book Week Tour. For anyone planning to visit The Rock in April, Janet Fraser (Saint John) will be reading from her second poetry collection, *Shiftless*, at the legendary Ship Inn Pub in St. John's, Newfoundland on April 5. Both Susan and Janet will be featured readers at WordSpring. Which brings us to ...

May 22–24. WordSpring 2015 plans are nearing completion. The program includes Friday evening readings (May 22) by WFNB members whose books have recently been published. **Please email us ASAP if you'd like to give a 4-minute (maximum) reading at this session.** Timeslots are filling fast, but we hope to accommodate as many authors as possible. All members can bring books to sell at WordSpring.

The WordSpring venue is [Four Points by Sheraton Moncton \(= Future Inn Moncton\)](#), where we've booked a block of rooms. Call **1-800-565-0700** for reservations and say you're with the Writers' Federation to get their lowest rate (\$109). To share accommodation costs with a fellow writer, email [Gwen](#) and put "WordSpring Roomie" in the subject line. We will connect you with a potential roommate and let you take it from there.

2. Member News

In Memoriam: *InkSpot* wishes to honour and remember two longtime WFNB members who died within the last month: [Dawn Watson](#) and [Beth McLaughlin](#). No e-newsletter notice could do justice to the immense, compassionate and creative spirit of these women. Instead, we offer the links to their online obituaries, written by those who loved them. We also wish to acknowledge the recent passing of [George DeMille](#), the gently vibrant husband of longtime WFNB member and Odd Sundays Reading Series organizer, Allison Calvern. The loss of these three people has fractured the hearts of many.

A warm welcome to the newest members of our growing WFNB community: **Ann Bone** (Saint John), **Colin Thornton** (Shediac), **Leslie Steeves** (Steeves Mountain), **Jason Hamilton** (Dieppe), **Kevin Stephens** (Fredericton), **John Sutherland** (Fredericton), **Robert Morouney** (Otter Creek), **Vanessa Moeller** (Moncton), **Phillip Dobson** (Riverview), and **Joy Nash** (Fredericton). Thanks to these folks, we now have more than 250 paid-up members — the highest number ever in our 30-year history.

Jared Mallard (Fredericton) has won first prize – out of 685 contestants! – for his play, [Princess Ashley and the Battle of Goblin Swamp](#) in the Comedy Category of the Exit 7 New Short Play Contest. The contest was short-listed to 12 plays (six dramas, six comedies) that were performed in front of a live audience, which voted on the final winners.

The WFNB Mentorship Committee has selected **Allan Cooper** (Alma) and **Jane Simpson** (Belleisle Creek) as the first mentor–mentee pair for our [Mentorship Program](#). These poets were chosen on the basis of their strong submissions and ability to commit to a five-month period. The session runs March 1–July 31.

Random Acts, the latest young adult novel by **Valerie Sherrard** (Miramichi), was recently reviewed in [CM Magazine](#), where it garnered four shiny stars. The book was also featured on pages 8 and 9 of Penguin's [LOL campaign](#).

Elizabeth Copeland's (Oak Point) short story, "My Choice," has found a new home in the online site [The Furious Gazelle](#). Her story appeared first in 2010 with [Quick Brown Fox](#) and was performed in 2013 as a monologue at the Sarsvati International Cabaret of Monologues in Winnipeg.

Jason Hamilton (Dieppe) has published his [Life, the Yurt and Everything](#) as an e-book, which means that his book is now available in both [print and digital](#) versions.

The short story “[Moot](#)” by **Corey Redekop** (Fredericton) appears in a new anthology, [The Exile Book of New Canadian Noir](#), which was released on March 1. The collection explores “the whole spectrum of the noir esthetic ... from its hardboiled home in crime fiction to its grim forays into horror, fantasy, and surrealism.” What’s not to love?

3. Writing Workshops

March 21. A reminder to all participants that the second session of the three-part workshop series, *Understanding Our Stories: An Autobiographical Adventure*, takes place on March 21. (The third and final session is on April 25.) Presented by [Deborah Carr](#) in Holy Cross House at 845 Montgomery Street, St. Thomas University, Fredericton, in collaboration with STU, the Atlantic Centre for Aging, and artsnb.

4. Writing Markets & Retreats

Allan Hudson (Cocagne) seeks help in turning his Word document into e-pub format for Smashwords and Google Books. He’d like to hire someone from New Brunswick or Nova Scotia, so if you’re knowledgeable and live in the region, [contact Allan](#) for details.

Got a hankering to be interviewed online? Here’s your chance. **Allan Hudson** (yes, the same guy as above) hosts guest authors on his blog and interviews authors once a month. He welcomes WFNB members to participate and pulls 300 to 400 viewers a week. Again, [contact Allan](#).

[Poem of the Month](#) is part of the Parliamentary Poet Laureate Program. Writers can submit unpublished poems in e-format to loppoet@parl.gc.ca. Each winner receives \$125, and the poem is translated into Canada’s other official language.

[Codiac Chronicles](#) promote writers in the Greater Moncton area and elsewhere in New Brunswick. It welcomes fiction and non-fiction material in many genres and provides [contributor guidelines](#).

The [Cahaba River Literary Journal](#) (Louisiana, USA) seeks new and seasoned writers of stories, poems and essays. **Next submission deadline:** March 20, 2015.

The [Banff Centre Literary Arts](#) programs continue to offer excellent workshops, retreats, and residencies in a variety of writing genres.

[Cede Poetry](#) is a poetry journal based in Vancouver, BC, that accepts unpublished poems and review articles. Its mission is to give voice to new, emerging, and established writers from around the world.

5. Writing Competitions & Awards

The award-winning literary journal, *EVENT*, is a strong supporter of literary non-fiction and has launched its [Annual Non-Fiction Contest](#) for works of up to 5,000 words. **Submission deadline:** April 15, 2015.

The *Malahat Review* has announced its [Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction](#) aimed at emerging short-story writers who have yet to publish their fiction in book form. **Submission deadline:** May 1, 2015.

[Literistic](#) provides a highly curated list of submission deadlines for literary publications, contests, etc. Subscribe online (free) to receive a monthly email.

EXILE Writers is currently hosting two literary competitions:

(1) The [Carter V. Cooper / Exile Short Fiction Competition](#) offers prizes for the best story by an emerging writer and the best story by a writer at any stage of her/his career. **Submission deadline:** April 15, 2015.

(2) The [Gwendolyn MacEwen / Exile Poetry Competition](#) offers prizes for the best suite of poems and the best poem. **Submission deadline:** June 8, 2015.

6. Random Passages

Daphne Gray-Grant's blog is always good for thought-provoking articles on a wide range of writing topics. Her latest offering, [How to Rewire your Brain for Better Writing](#), does not disappoint.

In keeping with our well-wired brain theme, did you know that writing by hand rather than on a computer could improve your creativity? That's the premise of [one short piece](#), written on January 23, also known as National Handwriting Day – who knew? The neurological benefits of handwriting versus keyboarding for writers also feature in this [more in-depth article](#) in the *New York Times*.

On the other hand, perhaps it is easier simply to remember these two basic rules of writing:



7. Reminders

New Brunswick Author Portal. The Government of New Brunswick states that current or former New Brunswick residents who have “published written works” can submit their profiles to the [New Brunswick Author Portal](#) using a detailed [request form](#). Online criteria for joining the portal are a tad sketchy (e.g., what is the status of self-published books?), so best to [email](#) the site manager for further information.

WFNB Bookstore Club. Your WFNB membership gives you reduced rates at the following independent New Brunswick bookstores. When you present your membership card, you'll receive a 10% discount. Most recently, [Dave Shoots Bookseller](#) of Saint John has kindly agreed to join the program.

[Cover to Cover Books](#), Riverview

[Folio Books](#), Moncton

[Tidewater Books](#), Sackville

[Dave Shoots Bookseller](#), Saint John

[Rags of Time Used Books](#), Sackville

[Westminster Books](#), Fredericton

Health Care. WFNB is an active affiliate of the [Writers' Coalition](#), which enables WFNB members and their families to join a comprehensive health-care plan with competitive group rates. For some, this affiliation is a highly attractive benefit of joining the federation. Writers' Coalition works with similar organizations representing writers, artists, and musicians across Canada.

How to submit notices, events and member news to *InkSpot*:

Inkspot is produced irregularly but aims to reach your inbox approximately twice a month.

Please send your member news, event information and other items to [Gwen Martin](#) with ***InkSpot*** in the subject line.

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