

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 22 2016

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SOUTH AFRICA

**Write!**  
Africa,  
**Write!**

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### **Raymond Louw Awarded the Inaugural PEN SA Freedom of Expression Champion Award**

*Last week PEN SA announced that it was awarding the inaugural Freedom of Expression Champion Award to Raymond Louw. PEN SA member Zapiro, a talented political cartoonist who is no stranger to issues of press freedom himself, very kindly drew an incredible portrait of Louw to commemorate the award.*

PEN South Africa President Margie Orford had the following to say about PEN South Africa's decision to give the inaugural award to Louw: "Raymond Louw has

championed the cause of free speech throughout his illustrious career. His wisdom, experience and integrity make him the most deserving candidate of PEN's inaugural Freedom of Expression Champion Award. We celebrate this career and his ninetieth birthday on this, The Day of the Imprisoned Writer. Raymond has worked tirelessly – and he continues to do so – to ensure that each and every writer and journalist can express their views without fear or favour.”

Louw, who celebrated his 90th birthday this year on 13 October, is a veteran South African journalist and media freedom activist.

Louw started his career in journalism in 1944, which notably included being the Editor of the *Rand Daily Mail* from 1966 to 1977, as well as the paper's News Editor from 1960 – 1965. He was also the founder, editor and publisher of the *Southern Africa Report* from 1983-2011 and worked on a number of other newspapers throughout the years, including the *Sunday Times* and the UK's *North Western Evening Mail* and *Worthing Herald*.

In 2010, he was named a World Press Freedom Hero by the Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) for his “commitment to press freedom and his outspoken defence of journalists' rights”. Louw also twice received the Pringle Medal for services to journalism from the SA Society of Journalists as well as the Media Institute of Southern Africa's Media Freedom Award; the South African National Editors' Forum's Wrottesley Award; the Mondi-Shanduka Newspaper Lifetime Achiever Award and a Lifetime Achiever Award in the Vodacom journalist of the year awards.

During his 72 year career Louw has been at the forefront of the fight for press freedom in South Africa. During apartheid he headed the Media Defense Trust which was set up to defend journalists, publications, film and video producers, broadcasters and authors against court actions or other censorship actions. He was then part of the Independent Media Commission to ensure state broadcasting and state-financed publications were impartial in their coverage of South Africa's first democratic election in 1994 and was later part of a special Task Group on Government Communications to restructure the apartheid government's propagandist division...[read more](#)



### **PEN's 2016 Greetings Card Campaign**

Every year PEN runs the Greetings Card Campaign where members of PEN Centres are encouraged to send non-religious seasons greetings to imprisoned and persecuted writers.

Ann Harrison, Director of PEN's Freedom to Write Programme, sent the following message regarding the campaign: "We know that your messages of support are highly valued by these writers. I would like to draw your attention to the letter received by Mille Rode, Secretary General of Danish PEN from Asli Erdogan, a novelist currently imprisoned in Turkey who was



### **Help Us Protest the Ongoing Intimidation at the SABC**

PEN SA is in full support of PEN Afrikaans' statement on the ongoing intimidation at the SABC, which calls on the senior management of the SABC to publically denounce any form of intimidation against all journalists and employees of the SABC, to withdraw threats of suspension against any journalist working at the SABC and to co-operate with the police who are investigating the intimidation...[read more](#)

**CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS**

one of the cases for the Day of the Imprisoned Writer yesterday. She says: 'My only tie to life is those voices which reach me from outside'. You can read her full letter [here](#)."

Contact us on [communications@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za) if you would like to receive the list of writers to send messages to.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at what's happening for the [rest of this month](#) and what's coming up in December, including the much-anticipated Abantu Book Festival...[read more](#)

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## NEW MEMBERS' TITLES

DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program...[read more](#)

Transition Magazine calling for papers on religion...[read more](#)

Tor.com Publishing is Open for Submissions of Fantasy Novellas...[read more](#)

Steinbeck Fellow Program...[read more](#)

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Jen Thorpe, Jacqui L'Ange and Unathi Magubeni have been longlisted for the 2016 Etisalat Prize For Literature...[read more](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Membership subscription fees are now due and amount to R250,00 for the 2016/2017 year. Please note that there has been no increase in fee from the previous year. Each member has been sent a renewal notice via email. If you have not received your notice kindly contact the Deborah Horn-Botha, PEN



Recent titles from PEN SA members include [Rotten Row](#) by Petina Gappah, [We, the People](#) by Albie Sachs, [Survivor's Club](#) by PEN SA member Lauren Beukes and Dale Halverson and [My Africa My City: An Afridiaspora Anthology](#), which includes PEN SA member Abigail George's piece "Johannesburg" [...read more](#)

SA Secretary, at  
[secretary@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:secretary@pensouthafrica.co.za).

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**WELCOME!**

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional member Caryn Gootkin.

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**[Send us your news](#)**

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter.

**Please email your contributions  
to [communications@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za)**



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