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www.pensouthafrica.co.za - New PEN SA website & social media

It has been some time since the last e-newsletter, the reason being that changes are under way in the way that PEN SA communicates with its members and the public.

Lindsay Callaghan joined the admin team in March as our Communications Officer. Lindsay immediately set up a Twitter page ([@pen_southafrica](https://twitter.com/@pen_southafrica)) and has been posting regularly to both our Twitter and Facebook ([southafricanpen](https://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen)) sites. For those members who do not have Twitter and/or Facebook accounts you may still view the sites by going to https://twitter.com/@pen_southafrica or <https://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen>. - ignore the sign in box when it pops up – you can view the sites, but you won’t be able to “like” or comment on any posts.

Lindsay has also been involved in a comprehensive re-vamp of our website and we invite you to visit the new site at www.pensouthafrica.co.za which goes live **TODAY, 16th June 2015**.

Please feel free to send any feedback (even if it's to alert us to a typo) or comments regarding the new website to Lindsay at communications@pensouthafrica.co.za

Paid up members of PEN SA are also invited to send Lindsay information about recent publications, upcoming book launches and events that members are participating in. This information will be posted to our social media sites and, where applicable, our website.

NB: The website will shortly include a list of members, together with links to members' Books LIVE microsites or other websites, on request - **please let Lindsay know if you would like your name to appear on the website and send her your website details.**

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Rebranding

You will also have noticed that we are now referring to our organisation as PEN SA, instead of SA PEN. This is in keeping with PEN International's name change a year or two ago. A team of eager beavers have been redesigning our logo and strap line (Write! Africa Write!), as can be seen on the new website.

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Future newsletters

We will also be redesigning our e-newsletter and the format will change from the previously detailed PDF document to a more streamlined e-document with links to articles on our website, etc., but in the meantime please do visit our new website, Facebook and Twitter sites.

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Electronic Annual General Meeting. **Deadline = 25th June 2015**

A HUGE thank you to those of you who have responded to the AGM documentation e-mailed to all members on the 26th May 2015. Please urgently advise if you did not receive the message. To those members who haven't yet responded please be reminded that all that was/is required of you is that you:

- A. Acknowledge receipt of the AGM documentation by sending an email to pensa@icon.co.za. **25% of members in good standing, i.e. paid up members, are required in order to form a quorum so please acknowledge receipt.**
- B. Peruse the AGM document, the financials and previous minutes.
- C. **Advise the PEN Secretary of any objections/comments you may have by 25th June 2015.** Your acknowledgment of receipt of the message will otherwise be regarded as full acceptance.

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PEN International’s Writers in Prison Conference

Ray Louw, PEN SA Executive Vice President, attended and participated in PEN International’s Writers in Prison/ICORN conference in Amsterdam at the end of May 2015. Ann Harrison, Programme Director of Writers in Prison Committee said: “As usual, the Conference was a wonderful opportunity for delegates to meet and share experiences, and for PEN members to meet ICORN Guest Writers and learn about the many freedom of expression challenges faced by our colleagues around the world. We also had useful discussions about campaigning, whether for individual writers or at a global level.”

Ann Harrison’s presentation reviewing the Freedom of Expression work PEN International have done over the last two years is available on request.

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Launch of new poetry publication - Stanzas

In the wake of the sad “passing” of *Carapace* magazine, PEN SA members Patricia Schonstein and Douglas Reid Skinner are launching a new poetry publication entitled *Stanzas*. *Stanzas* will be published by African Sun Press in association with the Left Field Poetry and the McGregor Poetry Festival. It will be a quarterly magazine for aspirant, established, formalist, free, serious and comic poets alike, focusing on poems, as well as the occasional review, interview, letter or artwork. Go to www.stanzas.co.za for information on how to subscribe and how to submit poetry for publication.

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Nelson Mandela Festival – London, 17th to 19th July

Southbank Centre in London (<http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/>) is putting together a festival to mark Nelson Mandela’s birthday. The festival will take place over the weekend of 17th to 19th July and will celebrate and commemorate Mandela’s life and his life's work. Southbank Centre plan on having readings, performances, exhibitions and screenings, collating a dynamic range of voices that will speak to the way South Africans are thinking through and about Mandela's legacy-in all its joys, difficulties and complications. If you, or anyone you know, will be in London that weekend and wish to participate in the festival please contact the curator Rachel Holmes (holmesofficeuk@gmail.com). Alternatively, if you have a film or a book that you think would chime in some ways with a reflection on Mandela's life and legacy (the remit is necessarily broad), then please reach out. While the festival probably won't be able to transport you to London it might be able to showcase your work with a screening or a reading.

With thanks to member Nadia Davids for informing us of the Festival.

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The Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award 2015. Deadline = 31st July 2015

Jacana Media invite all South African poets to submit their poems for this year’s Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award. The deadline for entries is 31st July 2015. For detailed information and to submit your entries go to <http://jacana.co.za/sol-plaatje-poetry-award-entry-form> or email enquiries to awards@jacana.co.za

The prize, for the selected poems in any of the 11 South African languages, will be awarded later this year. These and other selected works will be published in an annual anthology. Selected poets will be invited to appear at Poetry Africa and a cash prize of R10 000 will be divided among the selected poets.

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PEN International New Voices Award 2015

PEN centres around the world have been invited by PEN International to select and submit works by budding, unpublished authors, aged 18 to 30, for entry into their New Voices Award. The award aims to encourage new writing in the countries in which PEN International operates and to provide a much needed space for young and unpublished writers to submit their work. The award actively encourages entries from diverse linguistic regions and communities and there is prize money of \$1,000 USD on offer. PEN International will also publish the winning entry. Entries may **only** be submitted by PEN centres.

PEN SA recently completed the process of calling for and anonymously judging entries by nominated young authors. As PEN International will also be judging the entries anonymously we have to keep mum for the moment as to who our selected authors are. However, Karina Szczurek, our head PEN SA New Voices Award 2015 selector had this to say of the entries received:

It has been a real privilege and pleasure to determine the PEN South Africa New Voices Award nominees. The overwhelming response from the judging panel was surprise at the high quality of all the entries. It is heartening to know that young local talent is blossoming. All fourteen entries were fascinating for different reasons: inventiveness, style, literariness, form or theme. Congratulations to all! Please continue writing – you are on the right path. Our shortlist was very strong. We believe our two final nominees have every chance of winning at international level. Judges used words like ‘flawless’, ‘perfect’, and ‘astounding’ to describe their choices. We are keeping our fingers crossed for you.

The winner of the award will be announced at PEN International’s annual congress to be held in Quebec, Canada, in October 2015.

For more information about the award go to <http://www.pen-international.org/pen-internationalnew-voices-award> The winner of the 2013, and inaugural New Voices Award, was South African Masande Ntshanga.

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Publications received

PEN SA has received the following publications. Should you wish to read any of them please contact Deborah on pensa@icon.co.za

- *poesia arte poésie art poetry art* – go <http://www.margutte.com/?lang=en> for the English language version
- *The Taipei Chinese Pen – A Quarterly Journal of Contemporary Chinese Literature from Taiwan*, September 2014, No. 169
- *Japanese Book News* – No. 82, Winter 2014
- *Japanese Book News* – No. 83, Spring 2015
- *Carapace 104*, February 2015
- *Myths masks and miracles* by Pieter Scholtz, published by Horus Publications.

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Welcome to new members



A warm welcome to new members Pamela Heller-Stern, and Paul Morris.

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All information regarding awards/competitions, residencies, festivals, etc., included in this newsletter is passed on to you as a service to PEN SA members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be forwarded direct to the relevant organisers. PEN SA attempts to establish that the information received is genuine before passing this on to our members, but we cannot be held responsible should that not be the case.

