

To: SA PEN Members
E-Newsletter No. 10/2014 – 29/06/2014



**THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF
PEN INTERNATIONAL
A World Association of Writers**

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SA PEN PRESS RELEASE 26/06/2014: Margie Orford is new President of PEN South Africa by Raymond Louw, Vice-President of SA PEN

Photo courtesy of L. Jobson



Margie Orford, the noted crime novelist and award-winning journalist, has been elected President of PEN South Africa by the institution's executive committee with effect from June 19. She succeeds Anthony (Tony) Fleischer, who was president for many years and died after a short illness on June 5 at his home in Cape Town.

London-born Margie Orford grew up in Namibia and South Africa. While at the University of Cape Town she was detained by the apartheid government's police during the State of Emergency in 1985 and wrote her final examinations in prison. She travelled widely and studied

under author J M Coetzee, the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature, worked in publishing in the newly independent Namibia and gravitated into training under the African Publishers' Network. In 1999 she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship and while in New York she worked on a ground-breaking archival retrieval project, *Women Writing Africa: The Southern Volume*.

She is renowned for her crime writing but has also produced children's fiction and school text books. She has also directed films and lives in Cape Town.

Two new members of the executive committee were welcomed, Carole Bloch, Director of the *Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa* (PRAESA), a multilingual education organisation affiliated to the University of Cape Town with a focus on transforming approaches to early biliteracy teaching and learning, developing story books, reading materials, and nurturing a love of reading through the development of reading clubs, and **Mervyn Sloman**, who opened the Book Lounge in Cape Town in December 2007, in the belief that there was space for a bookshop that did things a little differently.

Bloch is the founder and implementing leader of Nal'ibali National Reading – for Enjoyment Campaign and series editor for *Best Loved Tales*. Among her areas of academic specialisation are early literacy and biliteracy learning and teaching, multilingual reading and promotion and children's literature development in African settings.

Sloman says that at the core of the Book Lounge is the belief that a bookshop is more than just a retail space in which the product sold happens to be books. A bookshop is a space in which ideas should be exchanged and debated, a space which provides access to writers for readers and vice-versa. PEN South Africa recently held two "PEN dialogue events", *Sexuality and the law: a debate on cultural politics in Africa with South African PEN* and *The Politics of Publishing and Bookselling* at the Book Lounge. In August 2008, PASA (Publishers Association of South Africa) voted the Book Lounge the best independent bookshop in SA (just eight months after opening) and a year later it was voted the best overall bookshop in South Africa.

Sloman also founded Open Book Cape Town in 2011, an international literary festival, which has become an annual event. It has four main goals: to present a truly international literary festival in Cape Town; to promote South African writers to an international audience; to increase the love of books and reading among the youth of Cape Town; and to encourage diverse audiences to attend events at the festival.

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Book Launch: *Sister Moon* by Kirsten Miller, 30th June 2014, Durban

Kirsten Miller will be launching *Sister Moon* at St. Clements, 191 Musgrave Road, Durban, 6.00 p.m. Telephone (031) 202-2511 for further information/table bookings.

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Book Launches: *Broken Monsters* by Lauren Beukes, Cape Town

Tuesday, 1st July, 5.30 for 6.00 p.m. – The Book Lounge. RSVP to booklounge@telkomsa.net / (021) 462 2425. Lauren will be in conversation with journalist Rebecca Davis.

Thursday, 3rd July, 6.00 for 6.30pm – Kalk Bay Books. RSVP to events@kalkbaybooks.co.za / (021) 788-2266. Lauren will be in conversation with Ann Donald.

In the city that's become a symbol for the death of the American dream, a nightmare killer is unravelling reality. The new thriller from Lauren Beukes, author of *The Shining Girls*.

Detective Gabi Versado has hunted down many monsters during her eight years in Homicide. She's seen stupidity, corruption and just plain badness. But she's never seen anything like this.

Clayton Broom is a failed artist, and a broken man. Life destroyed his plans, so he's found new dreams – of flesh and bone made disturbingly, beautifully real.

Detroit is the decaying corpse of the American Dream. Motor-city. Murder-city. And home to a killer opening doors into the dark heart of humanity.

A killer who wants to make you whole...



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WordFest!, National Arts Festival, 5th to 12th July 2014, Grahamstown

SA PEN event

SA PEN Vice-President Professor **Geoffrey Haresnape** will be talking on PEN and the repression of poets worldwide, with a focus on China.

Date: **Wednesday, 9th July 2014**

Time: 10.30 a.m.

Cost: Free

Venue: Seminar Room 2, Eden Grove Building, Lucas Avenue

Professor Haresnape will also be reading from his anthology *Where the Wind Wills* at 15.30 p.m., Wednesday, 9th July 2014, at a free open mike session to be MCed by fellow SA PEN member Harry Owen. Venue: Launch Pad.



Calling all festival book lovers!

There are scores of activities to enjoy at **Wordfest 2014** with a wide range of book launches, lectures, performances, seminars, exhibitions, displays, workshops, open mike sessions, a restaurant and retail book outlet.

See **WordStock**, our daily literary newspaper in *Cue*, for details of each day's Wordfest programme, as well as book reviews and interviews. Featured authors launching their new books this year include:

Professor **Tim Noakes** • Judge **Edwin Cameron** • **Maureen Quin**
Sihle Khumalo • **Angela Makholwa** • **Mzwakhe Ndlela** • **Kgebetli Moele**
Patricia C. Henderson • **Ingrid Winterbach** • **Mzukisi Qobo** • **Hazel Crampton**
Advocate Vusi Pikoli • **Bongani Madondo** • **John Carlin** • **Denis Hirson**

The ever-popular **Readers & Writers Restaurant** is back, with fresh produce from local farms, at least one **Tim Noakes** meal a day, fabulous coffee & cake and a wide variety of eats.

And don't forget the free lunch-time music performances in the foyer!

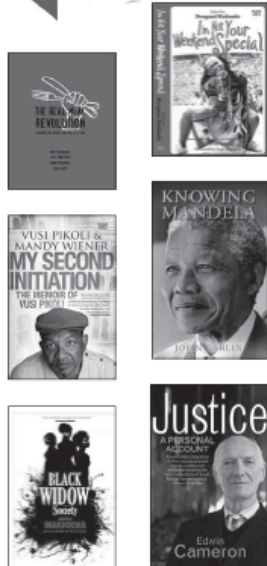
All events take place in or near the **Eden Grove Building**, **Lucas Avenue**, just below the **Botanical Gardens**. Each event lasts an hour, unless otherwise stated, and has a question and answer session.

Advance bookings can be done on-line (www.nationalartsfestival.co.za), through the **Festival Call Centre (0860 002 004)**, or in person at the **Monument Box Office** which is open between **08:30 and 18:00 Monday to Friday** and from **08:30 to 14:00 on Saturdays**. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The full **Wordstock** schedule of events can be found on page 140 in the **National Arts Festival** programme.



Sponsored by:



Other **WordFest!** Events featuring **SA PEN** members are:

Saturday, 5th July - 16:30 p.m. Judge **Edwin Cameron** launches *Justice: A Personal Account*, a superb memoir & meditation on law in South Africa. Chair: Judge **Jeremy Pickering**. Cost: **R10**. Venue: **Seminar Room 2**

Monday, 7th July - 15:30 p.m. **Open Mike**. **Harry Owen** & team open a space at the Festival for new & established poets and writers. Get up there and show the soul of SA. Cost: **Free**. Venue: **Launch Pad**.

Monday, 7th July - 16:30 p.m. **Zakes Mda** launches *The Sculptors of Mapungubwe*, an epic novel set in the ancient kingdom of Mapungubwe with parallels to contemporary South Africa. Cost: **R10**. Venue: **Red Lecture Theatre**.

Thursday, 10th July - 15:30 p.m. **Open Mike**: PE's **Helenvale Poets**, **Leonie Williams**, **Denise Fillis**, **Byron Armoed**, **Shanice Du Preez** and **Ignasius Corduroy** take the microphone, then open to the floor. MC: **Harry Owen**. Cost: **Free**. Venue: **Launch Pad**.

Friday, 11th July - 11:30 a.m. Professor **Tim Noakes** launches *The Real Meal Revolution*, part myth-busting science, part mouth-watering cookbook that will transform your diet. Cost: **R20**. Venue: **Red Lecture Theatre**

Friday, 11th July - 15:30 p.m. **Open Mike**: **Harry Owen** & team open a space at the Festival for new & established poets & writers. This session opens with a reading by **Denis Hirson**. Cost: **Free**. Venue: **Launch Pad**.

Mike van Graan's new play *The Return of the Ancestors* will premier at the National Arts Festival and his plays *Rainbow Scars* and *Brothers in Blood* are making return visits to the Festival. Mike's piece with Siv Ngesi, *Born Free*, is also on.

Chris Mann will be launching *Rudiments of Grace*, a book of poems, at this year's National Arts Festival, as well as *The Ballad of Dirk de Bruin*, a play-in-verse featuring David Butler.

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Congratulations Corner!

Congratulations to **Max du Preez** on winning this year's *Sunday Times* Alan Paton prize for *A Rumour of Spring*.



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Putin's Bad Language - by PEN International's Cathal Sheerin

Email dated 26/06/2014

Dear Friends,

As many of you will know, free expression in Russia has been under legislative attack for at least the last two years. On 1 July 2014, a law banning the use of profanity in theatre, film, art and other cultural events will come into force. On the same day, a draft law outlawing the use of foreign words in public speech will be discussed by the State Duma. PEN's European researcher and campaigner, Cathal Sheerin, recently wrote an article about this new, pernicious attack on free speech.

Please feel free to share, re-post, comment. The article can be found at the *Huffington Post*: http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/cathal-sheerin/vladimir-putin_b_5531467.html

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AERODROME (aerodrome.co.za) turns one at the beginning of July! **3rd July, Cape Town**

We'd be delighted for you to join us for celebratory snacks, a glass of wine, and to hear some big news we're dying to share with you.

When: 18.30 for 19.00 pm, **Thursday, 3 July**

Where: 2nd Floor, 73B Rose Street, Bo-Kaap (the building is on the corner of Rose Street and Church Street)

RSVP: By 30th June PLEASE - Am@aerodrome.co.za

We look forward to seeing you soon!
Alex and the AERODROME team

we're turning **one**

Please join us for celebratory snacks and a glass of wine.

THURSDAY 3 JULY

6.30pm for 7pm | 2nd Floor, 73B Rose Street, Bo-Kaap

PLEASE RSVP BY 30 JUNE - am@aerodrome.co.za

Wine supplied by *Spier*¹⁶⁹²



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Fox & Raven call for submissions. Deadline = 15th August 2014

Fox & Raven publishers are looking for the best speculative fiction short stories South Africa has to offer for their second annual *ravensmoot* anthology, *ravensmoot: utopia/havoc*.

The genre for the submission is urban fantasy, and the setting has to be a South African city (real or imaginary). “We want stories where the city is an imperative element of the story; where the reader can feel the heartbeat of the concrete rising around them. Most importantly, we want you to explore the themes of utopia and havoc, and how these two extremes are inextricable from one another.”

Stories should be between 8 000 and 10 000 words. First prize = R3 000 cash plus R1 000 in book vouchers. Second prize = R2 000 cash plus R500 in book vouchers. Third place = R1 000 cash plus R500 in book vouchers.

Submissions close **15th August 2014**. A longlist will be announced on 1st October 2014. All stories on the longlist will be published in a limited edition print anthology, as well as an eBook version. The winners will be announced on the launch day of the print anthology,

Go to <http://www.foxandraven.co.za/portfolio/submission-ravensmoot-utopiahavoc/> for further information.

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Publications received

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

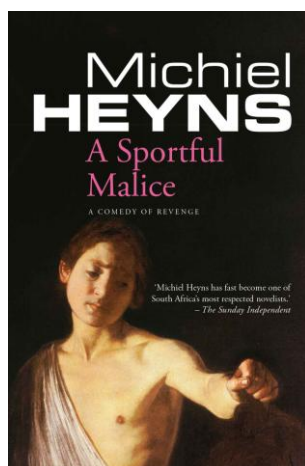
- *Carapace 100* bumper issue, May 2014
 - *The Taipei Chinese Pen – A quarterly journal of contemporary Chinese literature from Taiwan*, Winter 2013, No. 166
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Forthcoming events

- ❖ **Tokyo International Book Fair** – 2nd to 5th July 2014, Tokyo, Japan.
www.bookfair.jp/en/
 - ❖ **National Arts Festival** - 3rd to 13th July 2014, Grahamstown.
www.nationalartsfestival.co.za
 - ❖ **Wordfest!** – 5th to 12th July 2014, Grahamstown.
<https://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2014/programme/2014complete-v2.pdf>, page 140
 - ❖ **Fermoy International Poetry Festival** – 31st July to 4th August 2014, Ireland.
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fermoy-International-Poetry-Festival/670944919601851>
 - ❖ **International Literacy Day** – 8th September 2014
 - ❖ **Open Book Festival** - 17th to 21st September 2013, Cape Town.
www.openbookfestival.co.za
 - ❖ **Cape Town Fringe** - 25th September to 5th October 2014.
www.capetownfringe.co.za
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Members' Publications

A Sportful Malice by Michiel Heyns



When a South African literary scholar, Michael Marcucci, is offered, via a Facebook contact, a house in the Tuscan village of Gianocini, he accepts with alacrity. This is just the space and quiet he needs to complete his study of Tuscan appropriations. But even before he has boarded his plane at Stansted Airport: an obnoxious old man jumps the boarding queue, and Michael is given the evil eye by a belligerent bover boy covered in tattoos. Nor is this to be the last meeting with these objectionable characters: they turn up in unexpected places, first in Florence and then in Gianocini itself, with a frequency that cannot be purely coincidental.

In the meantime Michael is pursuing his own extracurricular agenda, through the streets of Florence and the passages of the Uffizi, then through the alleyways of Gianocini, only to find himself the object of mysterious designs and the subject of some very disturbing paintings.

Add to this the innocent but curious Wouter, the refined but startlingly rude harridan, Sophronia, the beautiful but supercilious Paolo and a dog called Thanatos – the Tuscan sun never shone on a more bizarre mix.

After the sophisticated comedy of *The Typewriter's Tale* and *Invisible Furies*, and the poignant ironies of *Lost Ground*, Michiel Heyns here returns to the broader comedy of *The Reluctant Passenger*, in a scintillating tale of love, revenge and *trippa*.

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Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a Festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? The compiler would welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the SA PEN e-newsletter. Please e-mail your contributions to rudebs@icon.co.za.

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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 SA PEN members. Any questions regarding entry rules, entry processes, festival programmes, etc., should be forwarded direct to the relevant organisers. SA PEN 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.



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Please note that SA PEN Newsletters are available to members and to the public on the SA PEN website at <http://www.sapen.co.za/newsletter-archive>