

To: SA PEN Members

**E-Newsletter No. 9/2013 – 26/05/2013**



## THE SOUTH AFRICAN CENTRE OF PEN INTERNATIONAL

**A World Association of Writers**

P O Box 732, Constantia, 7848, Cape Town

email: [rudebs@icon.co.za](mailto:rudebs@icon.co.za) (Secretary), [anthonyf@icon.co.za](mailto:anthonyf@icon.co.za) (President)

[www.sapen.co.za](http://www.sapen.co.za) or <http://www.facebook.com/southafricanpen>

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### PEN Charter Studzinski Award

Our collaboration with Zambian PEN has successfully concluded with an awards ceremony held at the British Council, Lusaka, on the 16th March 2013. The winning students were Peter Nawa, 19, a student at Chongwe Secondary School, for his short story entry and Loliwe Phiri, 18, a student at Kabulonga Girls High School, for her poetry entry. The winners each received a Lenovo laptop computer.

On average, 240 pupils participated in the mentoring programme which entailed four mentors making a total of ten visits to the four schools, three girls' schools and one boys' school. The creative writing competition was open to all PEN School club members in all the schools and covered poetry and short stories. The competition was administered by three independent judges, Nicholas Kawinga, Daniel Sikazwe and Malita Banda, all members of Zambian PEN, who selected the final winners from the 60 submissions received.

Morgan Chipopu, Zambian PEN Project Manager reports: "We are happy with the way our competitions were administered. Gratitude also goes to South African PEN and its donors for having supported the centre with ZAR10 000,00 which facilitated the successful completion of the project."



*A mentor visits Chongwe Secondary School*



*Peter Nawa receives his award*

To read more refer to newsletter number 5/2013 (23/03/2012) and visit <http://pen-international.org/newsitems/infocus-zambian-pen/>

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**April letter from John Ralston Saul, International President, to the PEN membership**

12 May, 2013

Dear PEN members, Dear friends,

First a regret. Ethiopian PEN has just held its annual Congress. Last year I was able to be there for the first ever gathering which took place in uncertain circumstances. I am very sorry not to have been able to return this year. The situation in the country remains the same, the Centre, led by Solomon Hailemariam, is working hard to develop programs and Antonio Della Rocca from the International Board was there along with a group from Norwegian PEN led by their Anders Heger.

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As a part of the lead up to the Reykjavik Congress, Eric Lax, Laura McVeigh and myself were in Iceland. I have been going to Reykjavik for years for different reasons. Each time I am struck in some fresh way by how literary the city is. Just for a start, Iceland has more writers and more readers per capita than anywhere else. For perhaps the first time, the Congress will be fully integrated into a major literary festival. And the Congress will be integrated into the city with the Delegates also playing their role as writers.

Sjón and his members are deeply committed and I believe the partnership with the Reykjavik International Literary Festival is a great model for the future.

Finally, we are all working hard to find support for as many delegates as possible.

One important thing to add is that during this Congress, we will solidify and begin to build our

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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

- *Italian PEN Club magazine 22/23* (a double issue). In Italian. Received via email. Also available online at [www.penclub.it](http://www.penclub.it)

digital freedom of expression by expanding our use of the digital declaration.

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A few days later we launched *The PEN Report: Creativity and Constraint in Today's China*. This Report represents 5 years of work by PEN International, the Independent Chinese PEN Centre and the American PEN Centre. The result is a very different approach to the situation. It is on our website (<http://www.pen-international.org/>). Please read it and use it.

You will see that its approach to freedom of expression is fully integrated into our reality as writers and the reality of China as a great literary civilization.

We launched the *Report* from New York, close to the United Nations, with Salman Rushdie, Yu Jie, Chen Guangcheng, Marian Botsford Fraser and Peter Godwin. They all took part in a press conference which I chaired.

When you read it you will sense the frustration we all feel. The Chinese authorities do not need to damage their country's reputation in this way. There is no honour in employing 20 to 50,000 internet police or imprisoning 40 writers or provoking constant incidents with writers. The result is clear: the writing community is becoming increasingly determined to serve the public good.



Best wishes to you all,  
John Ralston Saul

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**The Sunday Times Literary Award Shortlists**

The shortlists were announced at the Franschhoek Literary Festival last weekend and comprise:

The Alan Paton Award for non-fiction:

*The Last Afrikaner Leaders* by Hermann Giliomee (published by Tafelberg)

*Biko: A Biography* by Xolela Mangcu (published by Tafelberg)

*Rat Roads* by Jacques Pauw (published by Zebra Press)

*Killing for Profit* by Julian Rademeyer (published by Zebra Press)

*Endings & Beginnings* by Redi Thlabi (published by Jacana Media)

The Sunday Times Fiction Prize:

*The Institute for Taxi Poetry* by Imraan Coovadia (published by Umuzi)

*For the Mercy of Water* by Karen Jayes (published by Penguin Books SA)

*Entanglement* by Steven Boykey Sidley (published by Picador Africa)

*The Unlikely Genius of Dr Cuthbert Kamazuma* by Chris Wadman (published by Jonathan Ball)

*The Book of War* by James Whyte (published by Jacana Media)

The winners of both awards will be announced on the 29th June in Johannesburg. Congratulations and hearty good luck to SA PEN members Imraan, Karen and James.



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**Message to the Members of PEN from Laura McVeigh, Executive Director**

24th April 2013

Dear Friends,

It has been wonderful to see so many of you over the recent weeks – first in Bled, at the PEN International Board meeting and the Writers for Peace conference, and then in Krakow at the Writers in Prison Committee conference, where I also had the opportunity to speak with many of our ICORN colleagues.

These times when we can meet in person are so helpful in understanding PEN and the ways in which we can best work together. We were also able to introduce some of the staff from the international secretariat at these events and I hope that too has been helpful in putting faces to names. An up-to-date list for the team can be found at: <http://www.pen-international.org/who-we-are/staff/>

We were able to share and present some of the recent pieces of PEN International’s work at both events – including the ‘Write Against Impunity’

anthology, the recent China Report <http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/china-report/>, and an update on our digital freedom work. My thanks to all PEN centres involved in these projects. The China Report launched in the World Voices Festival in New York was accompanied by an Open Letter signed by over 150 leading writers and artists and the report received wide coverage in the international media.

Particular highlights of the Writers for Peace meeting included a fruitful discussion on the role of PEN and the future, and roundtable sessions on the writer in relation to peace. It was good to have all four committee Chairs taking part along with many members of the International Board. Our thanks to Slovene PEN for their warm welcome. In Krakow, we had the opportunity to take part in a vibrant programme of workshops and presentations on topics including digital security, publishing and translation in a globalised world, the Horn of Africa, Freedom of Expression in the Arab Spring and a series of fascinating Frontline

Reports. Our thanks to our partners Polish PEN, ICORN and the Milosz Literary Festival.

These meetings show the value of time together to share ideas and learning.

I look forward to seeing many of you later this year in Reykjavik, Iceland. We had Sigurdur Pálsson, Board member of PEN Iceland, join us at the PEN International Board meeting in Slovenia and he shared news of the Congress planning and activities with PEN members there. This year's Congress will include readings by delegates in a series of venues around the city, a partnership with the wonderful Reykjavik Literature Festival and a series of Free the Word! events on Digital Freedom, Linguistic Rights and the New Voices Award amongst many others. You can register and find out more here: <http://www.pen-international.org/congress-2013/>

May is a busy month with Free the Word! activity including participation at Hay Beirut (<http://www.pen-international.org/newsitems/pen-international-at-hay-festival-beirut-2013/>) and Hay-on-Wye festival in Wales. In Beirut, PEN Lebanon led a fantastic programme of events covering censorship and publishing, women's participation in the Arab uprising and exploring the role of the writer in divided societies and

writers from PEN Jordan and PEN Egypt took part. Now, this week we take part in Hay-on-Wye in Wales with a series of PEN International and English PEN events taking place. One of the festival highlights will be the Raymond Williams Lecture given this year by Elif Shafak in association with PEN International and President John Ralston Saul will introduce the lecture.

In latest staff news, Cathal Sheerin – who many of you will know already – joins the team once more – this time as Europe Researcher within the Writers in Prison Committee team. And we are delighted to officially welcome Ann Harrison as the incoming WiPC Programme Director. Ann starts on 10th June and will be in touch with all members soon afterwards. We also welcome back Jena Patel who is coordinating the Congress planning in the run up to this year's event.

My thanks to all PEN Centres sending in news to share on the website and newsletter – it is good to be able to share your news amongst all PEN Centres and more widely. Please do continue to send your latest news to Sahar Halaimzai ([Sahar.halaimzai@pen-international.org](mailto:Sahar.halaimzai@pen-international.org)).

All the best,  
Laura McVeigh  
Executive Director

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### **English PEN - First Editions, Second Thoughts**

English PEN was at Sotheby's, London, earlier this week for their fundraising auction *First Editions, Second Thoughts*. Fifty authors had generously annotated a first edition of their most famous book, to be sold on behalf of English PEN.

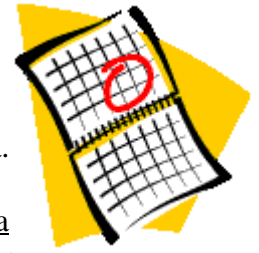
“We are delighted to report that the sale raised a total of £439 200. The headline lot of the evening was a first edition of *Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone*, personally annotated and illustrated by J.K. Rowling. The sale room fell silent as two determined bidders vied for the prized edition. Bidding leapt in increments of up to £25 000 and the hammer finally fell, to a round of applause, on a £150 000 telephone bid. The second-highest price of the auction was achieved for the much-loved children's classic *Matilda* by Roald Dahl, with new illustrations by Quentin Blake, which sold for £30,000.

“Further highlights of the sale include Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Remains of the Day*, which sold for £18 000; Julian Barnes' *Metroland*, which sold for £14 000; Alan Bennett's *The Uncommon Reader*, which fetched £11 000; Seamus Heaney's *Death of a Naturalist*, which brought £17 000; Colm Toibin's *The Heather Blazing*, which sold for £15 500; Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* which sold for £16000; Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, which fetched £14 500 and Ralph Steadman's richly illustrated *Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas* by Hunter S. Thompson, which sold for £14 500.”

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**Forthcoming events**

- ❖ **National Short Story Day** - 21st June 2013. [www.shortstorydayafrica.org](http://www.shortstorydayafrica.org)
- ❖ **The National Arts Festival** - 27th June to 7th July 2013, Grahamstown. [www.nationalartsfestival.co.za](http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za)
- ❖ **International Poetry Festival** – 6th to 13th July 2011, Medellin, Columbia. [www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org](http://www.festivaldepoesiademedellin.org)
- ❖ **Jozi Book Fair** - 25th to 26th August 2013, Johannesburg. [www.jozibookfair.co.za](http://www.jozibookfair.co.za)
- ❖ **Open Book Festival** - 7th to 11th September 2013, Cape Town. [www.openbookfestival.co.za](http://www.openbookfestival.co.za)
- ❖ **PEN International Congress** - Reykjavic, Iceland from 8th to 11th September.



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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](mailto:rudebs@icon.co.za).

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Please note that SA PEN Newsletters, from issue no. 1 of 2013 onwards, are henceforth available to members **and** to the public on the SA PEN website at <http://www.sapen.co.za/newsletter-archive>

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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.

