



WAG REPORT

Vol. I

Issue 2

NOV. 26, 2020

Minutes: Nov. 26, 2020.

Attendees: Sharon D., Dennis G., Eva H., Sajeda M., Peta-Gaye N., Howard P., Rick P., Richard S., Sheila T.

1. Confirmation of goals and aspirations

Richard confirmed that the goal of the association is to assist, support and advise the members.

For the time being, the association will be limited to the current members. This will be reviewed at a later date as needed and interest is expressed by other writers.

2. Agendas and Meeting reports

We will be post the minutes of the **WAG ZOOM IN Forum** meetings on the **BOOKz, COOKz, NOOKz** website. Full public accessibility was briefly discussed but left aside for the time being. Hence, the minutes will be viewable by site visitors.

3. Bios of attending members

Any grammar errors, misspellings or typos were made by Richard and not the specific author.

Sharon Deutsh



A registered nurse for 35 years, specializing in Critical Care (Level 1, Trauma Centre); also a volunteer for many causes such as York Region ViCARs.

Being diagnosed several years ago with PTSD as a frontline nurse led to early retirement which had a silver lining, a new life with a love of writing, poetry in particular.

Sharon is currently writing a trilogy of poetry books directed at assisting professionals and non-professionals in coping and dealing with the stresses and anxieties of living lives in trauma situations.

She is also writing a story for young adults related to abuse in childhood as well as a self-help book for people trying to navigate the health care system.

She is a creative dynamo with a passion for painting, weaving, knitting, and needle point.

She sees herself as delving more into technology, drawing and self-development, just a few of the canvasses on her life palette.

Dennis, Gazarek



He and his wife Janet are proud parents to 6 children. After graduating with a B of Commerce, Dennis worked in Sales and Management in the auto business as well being involved in Health, Safety and Employee Training & Development there.

He has coached football at the high school and community level; plays saxophone in a community band and tinkers with machinery and motorcycles in his spare time. During his working career he wrote flyers, ads, memos, manuals and newspaper articles and columns honing and developing his writing skills before diving into the deep end of the literary pool writing books.

After his traditional career ended, he began serious writing and has completed and published two books, *Whacked* and *Be the Awesome Man*. After his first book, he found his computer lacking, so he built a new one with online parts that had the greater capacity he wanted. One of his great prides, a result of writing his books is that his research skills are now one of his greatest strengths as he confirm when taling about *Be the Awesome Man*.

Eva Henn



Eva is a retired Separate School System educator with forty-one years experience. She taught Intermediate grades, mostly Language Arts, History and Geography, where writing was always the focal point. She retired nine years ago and now greatly appreciating her new found freedom that her new chapter of life.

Retirement has given her the time to do the many things which she always wanted to do before retiring. Words always had a tremendous impact and influence on her, so she thought why not put this to greater use? As a result, she wrote "**Towards the Light; A Journey to Freedom,**" a dramatic and suspenseful memoir of her family's escape from the Russians during the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, a truly compelling immigrant story.

Her strength in writing leans more towards research, reporting, journalism, and editorials and she hones her skills with monthly publications on a website.

Additionally, Eva is a budding artist developing her creative skills in water colour painting, drawing and doodle art.

Sajeda Mansour



As an Early Childhood Educator, Sajeda discovered a love of writing: poetry, short stories and children's stories. Her work focuses on love, peace, humanity and nature. She has written almost 50 poems for MWG but her creative soul is not limited to writing only. She loves creating and teaching crafts. She loves nature and tries to capture its beauty in her poetry and in her craft work. Furthermore, she has contributed to more than a dozen books published by MWG. As well as these interests, she has an aural side too, learning to play keyboard the rhythms from which led to song writing. She has even performed on stage. Sajeda is a passionate person and lives with a dream of being an accomplished musician.

Peta-Gaye Nash



An ex-pat of Jamaica, Peta-Gaye came to Canada where her lifelong devotion to writing really took flight. She further developed her love and skills with poetry at the U. of Toronto. Soon she began to appreciate that poetry is not just sonnets, rhyme, and stanza constraints and this awakening open the cover to other forms of writing: short fiction and children's stories. Though she is ambivalent about social media she recognizes its value in helping writers promote and market their work and in that regard she offers to help young writers who may want to delve into their own use of social media.

Howard Pell



In 2014, Howard retired from a career of adult education in the computer field. He began writing a blog on his experiences with retirement primarily for his friends. Friends and family began encouraging him to expand his literary efforts into writing a book which led to his first book about what he had learned about being retired and what he had wished he had known

before his own retirement.

Howard has written and self-published two non-fiction books: *Retire Fit, Fit and Fit*

(www.howardpell.ca) and co-authored *Retire Fit with S.A.F.E. Workouts*

(www.retirefit.life). He has written many short stories and poems and is writing his first novel.

Since retiring, Howard's world has many new aspects to it. He is a writer, videographer, Flamenco promoter, Rotarian and a world traveller. Howard and his wife Rosemary live in Kitchener, Canada.

Rick Pyves



Rick is published author, an avid historian, a genealogist; he is a former a resident of Montreal and a graduate of Concordia University (Sir George Williams) and McGill University becoming degreed as a Bachelor of Science, and a Master of Business Administration and Marketing.

Prior to his writing career, Rick was a senior manager with a major financial services company, a director at Tourism Toronto and a director at Credit Canada. He also served as Chair of the Board Marketing Committee for both of the latter organizations.

Eventually, Rick decided to devote his energy and time to writing, with a particular interest in historical non-fiction with links to his family. His first book, *Night Madness: A Rear Gunner's Story of Love, Courage, and Hope in World War II*, was published in 2012, an riveting tribute to his father an air veteran of WWII. His latest, *Courage, Sacrifice, and Betrayal: The Story of the Victoria Rifles of Canada – 60th Battalion in the First World War* was released in March 2018.

Rick completed his trilogy writing about his maternal, great-grandmother's brother, Sir John James Taylor, Assistant Under-Secretary for Ireland, who was the de facto ruler of Ireland from 1918 to early 1920.

Rick has been honoured by being awarded the *2018 City of Pickering Arts Award* for outstanding contributions to the arts.

Richard Szpin



Richard publishes a website dedicated to seniors, their health, their aging, their well-being and how they can live better. He has written numerous short stories and wrote a regular column for *Ride On* motorcycle magazine before he decided to become a serious motorcycle tourer. He has ridden to every border of Canada and the USA except Alaska and Hawaii. The touring motivated him to capture his experiences and encounters across the two countries and he has now begun writing a thriller based on true stories he discovered on his tours of western Canada.

Richard's professional career was in education teaching history and computers for many years, to students of all ages from 15 to 90...yes, 90. He is a life-long learner whose philosophy is that life is a journey of endless learning, a philosophy he tries to instill in the students he now teaches through his website courses.

Sheila Tucker



For 18 years, Sheila Tucker was a graphic designer/editor for an international firm. After retiring, she launched her very emotional and vivid memoir, *Rag Dolls and Rage*, sales of which are donated periodically to a charity helping victims of abuse. Sheila is the founder of *Poetry & Prose*, a monthly open mic that launched from a cafe in Oakville. She currently hosts it on Zoom allowing writers air time to read brief examples of their work, after which the floor is opened to discussion. Sheila is a member of the *Heliconian Club for Women in the Arts and Letters* (currently editor-in-chief for the club's anthology), as well as *The Ontario Poetry Society* as a member-at-large. Originally from England, Sheila travelled and worked in Europe and the Middle East for a decade: waitress, farmhand, nanny, English teacher, to name a few of her many job experiences. She arrived in Canada in 1985 and now enjoys writing, reading, walking and gardening with her husband. <https://ragdollsandrage.com/category/news-and-reviews/>

Sheila Tucker newsletter



Sheila E. Tucker is launching a free biannual newsletter, *Ponder our Planet*, to be emailed in PDF format. It will be a medley of both humorous and serious articles alongside puzzles, guest poets, artists and photographers, and regular columns such as "Ramblings." To sign up for the newsletter, send a message to: setucker@ragdollsandrage.com, just say "Please add me to your newsletter mailout." You will receive *Ponder our Planet* once in the winter and once in the summer, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

4. *Upcoming ZOOM IN Forum presentations:*

- a) Jan. 21: **Computer backups** explained – Howard P.
- b) Feb. 25: Making a **Media kit** – Dennis G.

5. *Select the topics you would like to see presented...*

send your responses to Richard at zippyonego@gmail.com:

1. *The Joy of Scrivener*
2. *The Necessity of Backing Up*
3. *Cost comparison of Self-publishing vs Publishing house*
4. *Book reports on writer hel books*
5. *Reports on writer tools*
6. *Reports on writer FB groups and web sites*
7. *Exercises for people who computer for hours*
8. *Passwords: simplifying your little black book*
9. *Topic of your choosing*



