

SHANGWE NEWS ISSUE 13 – May 2009

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1. Welcome

Welcome to the 13th edition of *Shangwe News* – the quarterly on-line newsletter that aims to keep you informed of past events and gives you a preview of future topical events, along with the opportunity to network and/or contribute a poem or article. The purpose of *Shangwe News* is to promote new and diverse creative writing.

If you have any comments or information for the newsletter please email:
nicole@shangwe.com

2. Shangwe Writers' Mentoring Sessions

Shangwe Writer's Mentoring sessions are based on a broad definition of creativity. "Creativity" being the power to make the choices that impact on our lives. We work collaboratively to maximise your potential and regenerate your enthusiasm to achieve your specific goals and vision.

Writers' Mentoring sessions will help you:

- Clarify your writing goals, purpose and passion
- Identify and constructively address any obstacles
- Build a bridge to realise your writing goals
- Realise your dreams, clarify vision, develop a step-by-step action plan and follow through with your writing commitments

What it is like to work together:

Writers' Mentoring sessions can be conducted every two weeks or four weeks in person, depending on your needs. However, once a mentoring programme is agreed, it is advisable to keep to the programme for consistency and to ensure you get the most benefit. A minimum of 6 sessions is advisable.

Together we assess your current situation and develop a mentoring action plan and writing programme to meet your short and long term goals. Sessions would usually last for one

hour (minimum), and use a variety of visual and/or written expressive techniques designed to help you tap into your own writer's creativity.

Fees are £35 per hour or £50 for one and a half hours inclusive of preparation and post session feedback. A discount is available if 6 sessions are booked and paid for in advance.

Sessions are held at a mutually convenient meeting space.

To book please email: nicole@shangwe.com or telephone Nicole Moore on 07846 542321.

3. Shangwe Writing Group – Expressions of Interest Wanted

Interested in developing your writing talent by focusing, sharpening and clarifying your writing skills? Interested in meeting likeminded people to share writing goals and receive constructive guidance?

If you are interested in signing up to **Shangwe Writing Group**, which will focus on the genre of poetry and life writing, particularly how to make memories into memoirs, ideas into essays and life into literature, then please email: nicole@shangwe.com, by **Tuesday, 30th June 2009** the latest, outlining your writing goals and what you would like to get out of the writing group.

Shangwe Writing Group will be led by Nicole Moore, a freelance writer/editor, creative writing tutor and published poet. She is the founder of Shangwe www.shangwe.com and the co-founder of Words of Colour Productions www.wordsofcolour.com. Nicole has edited, produced and independently published two anthologies of poetry and autobiographical essays – *Brown Eyes* (2005) and *Sexual Attraction Revealed* (2007).

4. Poet's Corner – Leandra Gebrakedan

Introducing: **Leandra Gebrakedan** who was born in Ethiopia and came to England at the age of five. Leandra is the eldest of five children and has a love of languages and a desire to travel more.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is situated in the Horn of Africa.

There is a good reason for that, we Ethiopians are as strong as a Rhino, and Haile Salassie has been known as the conquering Lion of Judah.

Never colonised thanks to our victory in 1896, Battle of Adwa.

The chant could be heard throughout the land 'Min alle, Teqel min alle? Ageren le sew, ageren le sew, alsetim alle!'

Translated, 'What did Teqel (Haile Selassie's horse's name) say? I won't give my country to foreigners, he said.

In Japan, Ethiopia became appreciated as the first non-Caucasian power to defeat Europeans.

The fossil of Lucy an Ethiopian's oldest three million year old skeleton can be found in museums.

Although, as an Ethiopian I admire Robert Frederick Zenon Geldof, and hold him in great stead.

Holding *Band Aid* in 1984, helped ease the famine when eight million people were at risk of starvation, dying dead.

I want my country to be remembered for its churches in Lalibela and Axum.

For its fragrant berbere and perfume.

It has many famous people, Menelik I, the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Haile Gebreselassie, In September 2008, at the age of 35, he won the Berlin Marathon.

Afewerk Tekle a celebrated artist's works include the mural *Last Judgement* in the Adigat Cathedral in Tigray.

Also exhibited at the Biennale of Aquitaine, France in July 1997.

We are proud people, so of my country I am proud.
I live in the land of the free, so may my voice be loud.

L. Gebrakedan

5. Shangwe News – Next Edition

Shangwe News is distributed to a target audience of black & mixed-race women of African & Caribbean descent in the UK and to other relevant and interested parties. If you would like to write an article of between 500 to 1000 words (max) or submit a poem (any theme) for the next issue of *Shangwe News*, the copy deadline date is: **20th July** for the August 2009 edition. Please email your submissions to: nicole@shangwe.com

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