

# Income tax clinic for the self-employed

*There were a few surprises at the February 26 general meeting. The first was seeing Gillian Faulkner in the chair's role, subbing for Ken Weinberg.*

**by Grace Cherian and Noreen Shanahan**



*Peter Messaline,  
tax preparer*

**G**ILLIAN DID AN EXCELLENT JOB, CLEARLY unperturbed by our new webcasting and the increased audience as a result.

The next surprise—further news of Gilda Mekler's death—was a devastating reminder to many of the precariousness of our lives. Lee d'Anjou spoke briefly about Gilda's passing and requested donations to help her family with their needs. Gilda's case was also a reminder to take care of ourselves; she passed away in the wee hours of the morning, having spent the night at her computer on an editing assignment.

After tea, we were treated to Peter Messaline's entertaining and enlightening income tax clinic. And this was a welcome surprise. Peter specializes in preparing tax returns for freelancers,

particularly for artists. He has been successfully doing this work for many years and has acquired a great deal of expertise, which he shared with us that evening. Peter is also a talented member of Toronto's cultural community, having worked as a performer for the past 40 years. His Web site states: "I am a Canadian performer, tax preparer, and writer." So combining his two areas of expertise—and sometimes hamming it up for the webcam—Peter shared with us some of the most efficient ways to keep tax records. Thank you, Peter, for an informative and entertaining tax clinic. Thank you also to Gillian, for stepping in to fill Ken's shoes, and to Lee, for reminding us to pay attention to our health. The least we can do is reach into our pockets and show support to our fellow editor Gilda. ☘