

January 29, 2013

Gary Geddes has written and edited more than forty-five books of poetry, non-fiction, drama, fiction, translation, criticism and anthologies and won a dozen national and international literary awards, including the Commonwealth Poetry Prize (Americas Region), the Lt.-Governor's Award for Literary Excellence, and the Gabriella Mistral Prize from the government of Chile. His two most recent books are *Swimming Ginger* (poetry) and *Drink the Bitter Root: A writer's search for justice and redemption in Africa* (non-fiction). He lives on Thetis Island.

Bernice Lever: A poet, freelance editor and workshop leader, Bernice Lever, enjoys Bowen Island life. Her 10th poetry book is *Imagining Lives*, Black Moss Press, 2012. She edited *WAVES* magazine, 1972-1987. Bernice's travels let her to read poems on 5 continents. Her grammar & composition CD is "The Colour of Words". Active in many writing organizations, she is delighted to hear and help other writers. Bernice gets "high" on words. [Colour of Words Web Site](#)

Diana Hayes studied at the University British Columbia and Victoria, receiving a B.A. and M.F.A. in Creative Writing. Her published books include *Moving Inland*, *The Classical Torso In 1980*, *The Choreography of Desire*, and *Coming Home* (anthology). Her play, *Islomania: Saga of the Settlers*, was produced by Salt of the Earth Productions. She is currently Production Manager for Salt Spring's Theatre Alive, a member of Photosynthesis and started the Salt Spring Seal Swim Team in 2002. Over the past decade, Diana Hayes has expanded her poetic vision into the realm of photographic dreamscapes and narratives. She divides her time between writing, photography, producing literary events and working as a professional fundraiser.

February 26, 2013

Heidi Greco lives about an hour south of Vancouver, in Surrey, where she works as a writer and editor. During National Poetry Month, as part of the LCP's cross-Canada Mayor's Challenge she was commissioned to write a poem about Surrey, which she presented to Council as part of one of their meetings.

Heidi often leads creative writing workshops. Summer of 2012 saw her employed as an instructor in SFU Southbank's outreach program in Surrey.

Her poems, fiction and book reviews have been published in many formats, both print and online. Her poetry collections include *Siren Tattoo*, *Rattlesnake Plantain*, *A: the Amelia Poems* and a novella, *Shrinking Violets*. In addition to poetry and fiction, she writes book reviews and keeps a somewhat irregular and irreverent blog at Out on the Big Limb

Emily McGiffin's poetry has received awards from the Writer's Trust of Canada, the Canadian Authors Association and has twice been a finalist for the CBC Literary Awards. She was born and raised on Vancouver Island and currently makes her home in northwest BC where she works for Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition. Between *Dusk and Night* is her first poetry collection.

Nora Gould writes from east central Alberta where she ranches with her family and volunteers in wildlife rehabilitation with the Medicine River Wildlife Centre. She graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in veterinary medicine. / see

my love more clearly from a distance is her first poetry collection. In 2009 Nora Gould won the Banff Centre Bliss Carman Poetry Award.

March 26, 2013

Jocelyn Shipley: Born and raised in London, Ontario, Jocelyn graduated from York University and has attended the Humber School for Writers. She writes fiction for both adults and teens. She is the winner of the 2011 Surrey International Writers' Conference Writing for Young People Award, and her adult stories have been shortlisted for the CBC Literary Awards, the John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award, and have twice won second place in the Nanaimo Arts Council Short Fiction Contest. Her books for teens include *Getting a Life* and *Seraphina's Circle*, which have been translated into Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish and German for Stabenfeldt's tween girl book club GIRL:IT. She is also co-editor of the story collection *Cleavage: Breakaway Fiction for Real Girls*. Her most recent book is a YA novel, *How to Tend a Grave*. Jocelyn lives in Toronto and on Vancouver Island. For more info, please visit her website and blog at: [Jocelyn Shipley](#)

Wendy Donawa enjoys an academic and writing life from base camp in Victoria. Her poems have appeared *English Quarterly*, *Prairie Fire*, *Room*, *Island Writer*, and *Arc*, and in several chapbooks edited by Patrick Lane. Others are anthologized in *Walk Myself Home* (Caitlin Press, 2010), *Open Heart 5* (Ontario Poetry Society, 2011), and *The Wild Weathers* (Leaf Press, 2012). Her two chapbooks include *Sliding Towards Equinox* (Rubicon Press, 2009) and *Those Astonishments of Sorrow, of Joy* (Leaf Press, 2012). *Reading Canada*, co-authored with Leah Fowler, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press early 2013.

David Fraser lives in Nanoose Bay. His poetry has appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Rocksalt*, *An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry*. He has published five collections of poetry, most recently *Paper Boats*, and a book of poetry and poetics titled *On Poetry*, with Naomi Beth Wakan. He is a member of the Canadian League of Poets and is currently the Regional Rep for the Islands for the Federation of BC Writers. [Web Site](#)

Harvey Jenkins – Book Launch *Haiku Moments on the Camino: France to Finisterre*
- Harvey is a Vancouver Island writer of haiku, poetry and prose. In the summer of 2010, he walked the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage; an 800 km journey across northwestern Spain and has captured that journey in both haiku and prose. Harvey is a member of Haiku Canada and a regular contributor to their various reviews and anthologies. He has received a Sakura Award from the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival in both 2012 and 2011. Harvey is also a member of the BC Federation of Writers and a board member of WordStorm Society of the Arts.

April 30, 2013

Lois Peterson: Lois Peterson's short stories, essays, articles and personal narrative were published internationally for 20 years before she started writing for children. She 2008 she has since published six novels - for readers aged six to 14 - and her book *101-and more-Writing Exercises to Get You Started & Keep You Going* is used

by individual writers, high schools, colleges and writing groups. Lois is also a popular speaker, workshop presenter and storyteller, and works for Surrey Libraries. Blog

Janet Marie Rogers: Janet is a Mohawk/Tuscarora writer from the Six Nations band in southern Ontario. She was born in Vancouver British Columbia and has been living on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people (Victoria, British Columbia) since 1994. Janet works in the genres of poetry, short fiction, spoken word performance poetry, video poetry and recorded poems with music and script writing.

Janet has three published poetry collections to date; *Splitting the Heart*, Ekstasis Editions 2007, *Red Erotic*, Ojistah Publishing 2010, *Unearthed*, Leaf Press 2011. Her 2nd poetry CD titled *Firewater* 2009, gained nominations for best spoken word recording at the both the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards and the Native American Music Awards. You can hear Janet on the radio as she hosts Native Waves Radio on CFUV fm and Tribal Clefs on CBC fm in Victoria BC. Her radio documentary "Bring Your Drum" (50 years of indigenous protest music) won Best Radio at the imagineNATIVE Film and Media festival 2011. She was also commissioned to create a radio art piece by the same company that same year.

Ojistah Publishing (Mohawk word for star) is Janet's publishing label. ikkwenyes or Dare to Do is the name of the collective both Alex Jacobs and Janet started in 2011. Through the collective they produced a poetry CD titled "Got Your Back" a collection of live and studio recordings. ikkwenyes invites artists into their collaborations to create projects that promote the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) culture.

Betsey Struthers: Betsy Struthers has published nine books of poetry – most recently *All That Desire: New and Selected Poems* (Black Moss Press, 2012) -- three novels, and a book of short fiction. She also co-edited and contributed to a book of essays about teaching poetry. She is a past president of the League of Canadian Poets. Winner of the 2010 GritLit Poetry Award, the 2004 Lowther Award for the best book of poetry by a Canadian woman, and silver medallist for the 1994 Milton Acorn Award, her poems and fiction have been published in many literary journals and anthologies. Struthers lives in Peterborough, Ontario, where she works as a freelance editor.

May 28, 2013

Chris Donaldson Hancock has been writing for years as a reporter, newsletter editor for non-profits and as a technical writer. She started writing poetry in 2004 and has been published in anthologies, most recently in *I am the Angel of Old Grey Horses* published by Leaf Press. She has attended Sage Hill in Saskatchewan and retreats at Honeymoon Bay with Patrick Lane. She draws inspiration mostly from childhood experiences. She believes poetry should be read aloud and has read at Words on Fire in Port Alberni and at various open mics.

John Gould is the author of two books of very short stories – including *Kilter*, a finalist for the Giller prize – and the novel *Seven Good Reasons Not to Be Good*, described by the *Vancouver Sun* as "a marvel of delicacy, depth and insight... a damn-near perfect book." His fiction has appeared in literary periodicals across the country, and has been adapted for short films. Gould has worked as an environmental researcher, tree planter, carpenter, and arts administrator. He teaches

writing workshops at UVic and elsewhere, and serves on the editorial board of the *Malahat Review*.

Susan McCaslin, Faculty Emerita, Douglas College and Ph.D. English, is a prizewinning Canadian poet and educator who taught English and Creative Writing at Douglas College in New Westminster, B.C. from 1984-2007. Her work has appeared in literary journals across Canada and the States. She has published eleven volumes of poetry, eight poetry chapbooks, academic articles, essays, and a children's book. Her most recent volume of poetry is *Demeter Goes Skydiving* (University of Alberta Press, April 2011). Her other poetry books include *Lifting the Stone* (Seraphim Editions, 2007) *A Plot of Light* (Oolichan Press, 2004), and *At the Mercy Seat* (Ronsdale Press, 2003). Susan has edited two anthologies on sacred poetry, *A Matter of Spirit and Poetry* (Ekstasis Editions) and *Poetry and Spiritual Practice* (The St. Thomas Poetry Series), and is on the editorial board of *Event: the Douglas College Review*. She is an editorial consultant for *The Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* (Harvard Divinity School). She was the first-place winner of the Mother Tongue Chapbook competition for *Letters to William Blake*, judged by P.K. Page in 1997; the first-place winner of The Federation of B.C. Writers' Literary Writes in 2006; and the grand prize winner in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction's* annual poetry contest in 2006. Susan lives in Fort Langley, British Columbia with her husband. She has a book of essays, *Arousing the Spirit: Provocative Writings*, forthcoming from Wood Lake Books in 2011. [Web Site](#)

Dhanook Singh was born in Georgetown, Guyana. His family moved to Toronto when he was ten. He went from a wealthy prominent family to an inner-city Toronto neighborhood. He attended the University of Western Ontario where he blossomed and began writing poetry. He earned several science related degrees studying biology, physics, teaching, and some philosophy, ending up in Vancouver, B.C. as a secondary science and biology teacher.

Growing up in colonial British Guyana with deep Indian roots and then settling in Canada, he has both eastern spiritual and a western scientific perspective. He is an avid outdoorsman and naturalist with a deep connection to wilderness. Dhanook is a lover of life and enjoys observing people and nature. Married recently, he is passionate about teaching young people.

September 24, 2013

Caroline Adderson is the author of three novels *A History of Forgetting*, *Sitting Practice*, *The Sky Is Falling*, two collections of short stories *Bad Imaginings*, *Pleased To Meet You* as well as eight books for young readers. Her work has received numerous prize nominations including the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, two Commonwealth Writers' Prizes, the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist, the Governor General's Literary Award and the Rogers' Trust Fiction Prize. Winner of two Ethel Wilson Fiction Prizes and three CBC Literary Awards, Caroline was also the recipient of the 2006 Marian Engel Award for mid-career achievement. She lives in Vancouver with her husband and son.

Dawn Marie Kresan's poetry has appeared in a number of literary journals, including *The Dalhousie Review*, *Carousel*, *Vallum*, *Lichen*, *The Windsor Review*, *Prairie Journal*, *CV2*, *The Antigone Review* and *Event*. Her first full-length poetry collection will be published by Tightrope in 2013. She lives in Kingsville, Ontario, with her husband and their daughter.

October 29, 2013

Jim Friesen was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1953 and studied Creative Writing at Red River Community College in the mid 1970's. He came to the west coast in 1979 and has worked for over thirty years in health care, specifically in long-term care in Vancouver's down-town east side.

Jim's poetry has been published in *The West Coast Review* and *Minus Tides* and he has done a number of readings in Vancouver over the years, often collaborating with musicians. He has created one book of poems, *The Paradise Theatre*, published by Gravity Press.

Besides writing and publishing his own poetry, Jim is very proud to have worked with Andrew Brown, as both an editor and designer, on Andrew's first book of poetry, *Crow's First Word*. In recent years Jim's focus has moved primarily to photography as his means of expression. His photos can be seen at Little Eye Studio . "I have always loved poetry, even when I have not always understood it. The poets colored my view of the world in a way I will always be grateful for. Although I have no illusions regarding the importance of my own work, I am proud to feel that I am a part of a fabric of people that stretches across Canada, and around the world, for whom poetry is an important, if not essential, part of life."

Paul Headrick lives in Vancouver, where he was born and raised. His novel *That Tune Clutches My Heart* (Gaspereau Press) was shortlisted for the BC Book Prize for Fiction. *The Doctrine of Affections* (Freehand Books), a collection of short stories about music, was a finalist for the Alberta Fiction Award.

Andrew Brown was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He received his bachelor of art's degree in 1977 from U.B.C. and his professional teaching certificate from Simon Fraser University in 1978. He taught high school English and drama for thirty three years in Vanderhoof, Parksville and Nanaimo. He has two daughters, Corrina and Meredith. He lives with his wife Lili in Qualicum Beach and is a frequent reader at WordStorm in Nanaimo and the Qualicum Acoustic Cafe in his home town. He also acts in Echo Productions whenever possible. Andrew's debut book of poetry, *Crow's First Word*, was published by Gravity Press in 2008. His second book is expected to be published in the fall of 2013. Andrew Brown enjoys his retirement very much and hopes to continue to be creative and active for many years to come.

Arleen Paré is a Victoria writer and poet. Originally from Montreal, she spent two decades working in Vancouver mental health services. *Leaving Now* (Caitlin Press, 2012) is a mixed-genre novel and her second book. *Paper Trail*, her first book (NeWest Press, 2007) was also mixed-genre and won the Victoria Butler Book Prize in 2008. It was also short-listed for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, BC Book Awards. She has been published in several literary journals and in a number of

anthologies. In 2012, she graduated from UVic's Creative Writing Program with an MFA in poetry.

November 26, 2013

Madeleine Natrass is retired from teaching in French Immersion programs in both Alberta and BC and lives on Vancouver Island. Her work has been published in *Quills*, *Tower Poetry*, *Other Voices*, *filling station*, *Freefall Magazine*, *Women and Environments Magazine*, *the new quarterly*, *CV2*, online in *Branch Magazine* and Leaf Press Monday Poem and in several anthologies including *Walk Myself Home*, an anthology to end violence against women.

Cornelia Hoogland is a Canadian poet. She is currently a professor at the University of Western Ontario and lives in London, Ontario. However, she attributes her childhood on densely wooded Vancouver Island, B.C., with inspiration for her writing. Hoogland has performed and worked internationally in the areas of drama and poetry. "The land inside Coyote: Reconceptualizing human relationships to place through drama" (In D. Booth & K. Gallagher (Eds.), *How Theatre Educates: Convergences & Counterpoints*, 2003) marked Hoogland's research into place-based education.

Woods Wolf Girl (Wolsak and Wynn, 2011) is Hoogland's 5th book of poetry, and is based on the fairy tale, *Red Riding Hood*. *Crow* (Black Moss Press, 2011), released a month after *Woods Wolf Girl*, is Hoogland's 6th book. Her newest selection, a chapbook titled *Gravelly Bay* (Alfred Gustav Press, 2012), is forthcoming.

Hoogland's poetry has been shortlisted for the CBC literary awards; the nominations include selections from her books *Cuba Journal* as well as her second and third books of poetry *You Are Home* and *Marrying the Animals*. Her recent awards include finalist placements for the Stephen Dunn Poetry Award, The Broome Review (USA); the Malahat Review Long Poem Competition; and Descant's Winston Collins Best Canadian Poem. Her writing in the area of Aboriginal, place-based education was recently featured in the Huffington Post.

Hoogland is the founder and the co-artistic director of Poetry London (www.poetrylondon.ca), an organization that brings prominent writers into lively discussion with London writers and readers. She can be reached at chooglan@uwo.ca. Hoogland divides her time between London, ON., and Hornby Island, B.C.

Leanne McIntosh was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. She has published two books of poetry: *The Sound the Sun Makes* and *Liminal Space*. Her poems have appeared in literary journals, anthologies and a series of chapbooks edited by Patrick Lane. She is a regular participant in local reading events and she volunteers poetry sessions at the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society. She has lived in Nanaimo, British Columbia for 43 years.