

January 30, 2012

Cathy Ford was born in Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, and grew up in northern British Columbia. She has a B.F.A. and an M.F.A. from the University of British Columbia (1978). She now lives on Mayne Island, and in Sidney, B.C., working as poet and fictioniste, publisher, editor, and teacher. She was President of the League of Canadian Poets in 1985/86, and one of the founding members of the League's Feminist Caucus in 1982. From 1984 to 1986 she was a member of a national task force of Women and Words, working to create a draft constitution for a national association of PanCanadian Women and Words. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Literary Storefront from 1980 to 1982, and is also a member of the Federation of British Columbia Writers and PEN.

Jude Neale was born three months premature in Northern British Columbia. She is a twin and shared the early white cold memories of childhood with her beloved brother. Jude has had a life-long struggle with bipolar illness, and in her second book, *Only The Fallen Can See*, she writes of despair or longing like a lover, a dangerous friend. She has taken the journals she kept during her long battle and whittled them down to their essence, bringing a rare and moving glimpse into the emotional ravages of mental illness.

Jude has had strong support from journal, anthology and internet publishers, including *The Antigoneish Review*, Leaf Press, and *Ascent Aspirations*, and has released one volume of poetry, *The Perfect Word Collapses*. A trained Mezzo-Soprano, her passion is making music, so she likes to write the song of a poem, exploring rhythm and colour in verse. Her unique voice can be heard in the textured beat of each carefully crafted poem, provoking both thought and the deep insight of a survivor.

Judy Millar is a writer of humorous and serious short stories, essays, poems and song lyrics. She has won numerous awards for her writing including the 2009 John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award, and the 2009 and 2010 Nanaimo Short Fiction contests.

She is currently readying a collection of her short stories for publication. She also enjoys performing her work solo—and as part of the writing/performing duo WordChickz. She moved to Nanaimo from Kitchener, Ontario in 2007.

February 27, 2012

Karen Enns is from southern Ontario, where she was born and raised in a Mennonite farm community. Her poetry has appeared in *The Fiddlehead*, *The Antigoneish Review*, *Grain Magazine*, *PRISM international* and *The Malahat Review*. She lives in Victoria, B.C. *That Other Beauty* is her first poetry collection.

Eve Joseph grew up in North Vancouver. As a young woman she traveled widely before moving to Victoria where she now lives with her family. Her first book, *The Startled Heart*, was shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. *The Secret Signature of Things* is her second poetry collection.

Patrick Friesen, formerly of Winnipeg, now lives on Vancouver Island, writing and teaching part-time at the University of Victoria. He writes poetry, essays, drama, scripts, songs, and text for dance and music. Friesen has collaborated with various musicians including Big Dave McLean, Cate Friesen and Marilyn Lerner, and with choreographer/dancers Margie Gillis and Stephanie Ballard. Friesen has recorded two CDs of text and improv music with Marilyn Lerner, and with Lerner, cellist Peggy Lee and percussionist Niko Friesen. His most recent poetry book is *Jumping in the Asylum* (Quattro Press, 2011).

March 26, 2012

Bill Levity is the genial host of, 'For The love of Words'; a monthly spoken word night at the Duncan Garage Showroom that is in its fifth year and going strong. He has also parlayed his particular form of word Schtick at the Islands Folk Festival and Poetry Festival Gabriola. Bill's other artistic loves are MCing, songwriting and acting. He's been active with the Shawnigan Players for over twenty years in such groundbreaking roles as Jim Keegstra in 'Ilsa, Queen of the Nazi Love Camp', and David in 'Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love'. A good panto is never far away; his favourite roles being , Griselda, The Ugly Stepsister, and The Evil Queen in Snow White. Bill's poetry usually trends towards sex, wit and beer; the nature is usually tightly woven through all three.

Missie Peters is a spoken word artist from Victoria, B.C. She is the inaugural recipient of the M Award for Favourite Spoken Word Artist and a two-time Victoria Slam Champion. She is the director of Not Your Grandma's Poetry and the Victoria Spoken Word Festival. When not improvising with the spoken word duo SpeakEasy she is preparing for her new solo show The Secret Lives of Scientists.

April 16, 2012

Cynthia Woodman Kerkham was born in Toronto and raised in Hong Kong and Vancouver. She has a degree in Asian Studies and English literature from UBC and has worked as an au pair in France, a potter, a journalist and a teacher. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals including The Antigonish Review, Room, CV2, The New Quarterly, The Malahat Review, Passages North, Grain and Prairie Fire. In 2009 she won the Federation of BC Writers Literary Writes Competition, and in 2011 she won the Malahat Review's Open Season Award for poetry. Good Holding Ground, her debut collection of poems, was published in spring 2011 by Palimpsest Press. When not sailing the Westcoast, she lives with her family in Victoria in a constant state of renovation.

Lorna Crozier was born in 1948 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. As a child growing up in a prairie community where the local heroes were hockey players and curlers, she "never once thought of being a writer." After university, Lorna went on to teach high school English and work as a guidance counsellor. During these years, Lorna published her first poem in *Grain* magazine, a publication that turned her life toward writing. Her first collection *Inside in the Sky* was published in 1976. Since then, she has authored 14 books of poetry, including *The Garden Going on Without Us*, *Angels of Flesh*, *Angels of Silence*, *Inventing the Hawk*, winner of the 1992 Governor-

General's Award, *Everything Arrives at the Light*, *Apocrypha of Light*, *What the Living Won't Let Go*, and most recently *Whetstone*. Whether Lorna is writing about angels, aging, or Louis Armstrong's trout sandwich, she continues to engage readers and writers across Canada and the world with her grace, wisdom and wit. She is, as Margaret Laurence wrote, "a poet to be grateful for."

Since the beginning of her writing career, Lorna has been known for her inspired teaching and mentoring of other poets. In 1980 Lorna was the writer-in-residence at the Cypress Hills Community College in Swift Current; in 1983, at the Regina Public Library; and in 1989 at the University of Toronto. She has held short-term residencies at the Universities of Toronto and Lethbridge and at Douglas College. Presently she lives near Victoria, where she teaches and serves as Chair in the Writing Department at the University.

Beyond making poems, Lorna has also edited two non-fiction collections – *Desire in Seven Voices* and *Addiction: Notes from the Belly of the Beast*. Together with her husband and fellow poet Patrick Lane, she edited the 1994 landmark collection *Breathing Fire: Canada's New Poets*; in 2004, they co-edited *Breathing Fire 2*, once again introducing over thirty new writers to the Canadian literary world.

Her poems continue to be widely anthologized, appearing in *15 Canadian Poets X 3*, *20th Century Poetry and Poetics*, *Poetry International* and most recently in *Open Field: An Anthology of Contemporary Canadian Poets*, a collection designed for American readers.

Her reputation as a generous and inspiring artist extends from her passion for the craft of poetry to her teaching and through to her involvement in various social causes. In addition to leading poetry workshops across the globe, Lorna has given benefit readings for numerous organizations such as the SPCA, the BC Land Conservancy, the Victoria READ Society, and PEERS, a group committed to helping prostitutes get off the street. She has been a frequent guest on CBC radio where she once worked as a reviewer and arts show host. Wherever she reads she raises the profile and reputation of poetry. [Web Site](#)

WordStorm would like to thank the Inn on Long Lake, 4700 North Island Highway, V9T 1W6 Nanaimo for providing the accommodation for Lorna Crozier while she is in Nanaimo for her reading and for her workshop.

The Inn on Long Lake is the Jewel of Nanaimo hotels on Vancouver Island. Located on picturesque Long Lake, travelers are drawn to its doors with the promise of beautiful sunrises and the feel of having nature at their own front door.

Please visit the Inn on [Long Lake Web Site](#).

May 28, 2012

Martha Royea lives in Gibsons, BC. Poetry is a major passion – reading, writing, hearing, speaking it and translating poems from the Spanish. Her poems appear intermittently in chapbooks and anthologies, including several Leaf Press publications edited by Patrick Lane. Her own chapbook, *If I Could Pray*, was

published by "26 Leaves" in 2007 and reissued by request in 2011. *Love Songs for Dead Mothers* is still developing.

Liz McNally is an émigré; part of a large, now distant, Irish family. True to her heritage, she is prone to melancholy and humour in equal measure and feels there's nothing a great poem or a good song won't fix.

Liz is an observer. She takes her notebook everywhere to capture the extraordinary poetry of people's lives in ordinary moments. She has enjoyed the company of other poets in a handful of Chapbooks and dreams of a time when she can say the words "my recently published book of poems".

Savannah Featherstone is not running the contracting business that she and her husband own, you can find her upholstering old chairs or in her art studio combining paper, glue, and paint on different types of canvas. Although she has written poetry off and on since an early age, it has only been in the last few years that poetry has taken a significant and defined place in her creative practice. Savannah lives in North Saanich with her husband, a loyal and neurotic Border Collie and two extremely spoiled felines.

Dan Lundine was born and raised on Vancouver Island. When high schools had tired of him, he joined the RCMP in January of 1962 and was immediately sent to Regina, Saskatchewan to train. After seven years of service, Dan left the force and obtained a teaching degree at the University of Regina. He then taught school for thirty years in Regina, West Germany, and Langley, BC. Upon leaving the classroom, Dan and his wife, Carol, moved to French Creek on Vancouver Island and operated a bed and breakfast for a number of years. They are now retired and living in Qualicum Beach, BC.

September 25, 2012

Yvonne Blomer lives in Victoria, BC where she works as a poet, memoirist, writing teacher, event organizer and mom. She was born in Zimbabwe and came to Canada when she was two years old. With her husband she has taught in Japan, cycled in Southeast Asia and lived in the UK where she completed an MA in Creative Writing: Poetry. Her poems have twice been shortlisted for the CBC Literary awards and have appeared in literary journals in Canada, the US, Japan and the UK. Her first collection of poetry, *a broken mirror, fallen leaf* (Ekstasis Editions), was shortlisted for The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award in 2007. She is the host/organizer of the Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series in Victoria, B.C. In 2012 Yvonne's illustrated series of poems *Bicycle Brand Journey* will launch with Jack Pine Press. Please see the poster for her most recent book, *The Book of Places*.

Naomi Beth Wakan has published over forty books including *Sex After 70* and other poems and the ALA selection, *Haiku – one breath poetry*. Her books of essays from Wolsak and Wynn, are *Late Bloomer-on writing later in life*, *Compositions – notes on the written word*, *Bookends – a year between the covers*, and *A Roller-coaster ride – thoughts on aging*. Her poetry and essays have appeared in many magazines including *Geist*, *Resurgence*, *Senior Living*, *Still Point Quarterly* and *Room*. She is a

member of The League of Canadian Poets, Haiku Canada and Tanka Canada. She lives on Gabriola Island with her husband, the sculptor, Elias Wakan. [Web Site](#).

October 30, 2012

Judy Millar is a writer of humorous and serious short stories. She has won numerous awards for her writing, including the 2009 John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award. She was a finalist in the 2011 and 2009 Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competitions. She is in demand as a spoken word performer of her original material, and is excited to be launching her first humorous short story collection, entitled *Beaver Bluff: The Librarian Stories*.

Richard Osler, poet and money manager, lives in Duncan, B.C. His chapbook of small poems *Where the Water Lives* was published by Leaf Press in 2012. His poems have appeared also in journals including *CV2*, *Malahat Review*, *IslandWriter*, *Antigonish Review*, *Prairie Fire* and *Ruminant Magazine*. In 2011 he was shortlisted for the Malahat Open Season Awards in poetry. He also leads poetry workshops in drug and alcohol recovery centres.

Pat Smekal lives by the sea, at Nanoose Bay. She loves words, pebbles, avocados and Australian pelicans, but dislikes lumpy porridge and anything that has a lot of buttons.

Pat's poems have been dubbed "accessible". She is happy with this description, as she always hopes her words will appeal to people who tend to head for the hills whenever poetry is around.

Her poetry has been winning prizes since 2003, and has been published in many Canadian anthologies, chapbooks and periodicals. In 2009, her own chapbook, *Praise without Mortar*, appeared in print. Her latest work, entitled *Small Corners*, was published this year by Ascent Aspirations Publishing.

November 27, 2012

Joe Rosenblatt was born in Toronto in 1933. Over the years, Rosenblatt has written more than 20 books of poetry, several autobiographical works and his poems have appeared in over thirty anthologies of Canadian poetry over his forty year career as a poet. His poetry books have received major awards, such as the Governor General's award for poetry in 1976 and the BC Book Prize in 1986. His most recent book, published fall, 2011 is a collaborative work, a savagely satirical epistolary exchange with Vancouver poet Catherine Owen. *Dark Fish & Other Demons*, publisher, Black Moss Press, Windsor. For the past 33 years Rosenblatt has been living in a beach resort community of Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island with his wife Faye and their generational cats.

Catherine Owen is a Vancouver poet and writer, the author of nine collections of poetry. A book of essays and memoirs called *Catalysts* is due out in 2012 through Wolsak & Wynn. Her work has won and been nominated for awards including the AB Poetry Prize, been translated into three languages and been toured across North America. You can find more information about her at her website: [Catherine Owen](#)

Kim Clark's debut fiction collection, *Attemptations* (Caitlin Press), was launched in 2011 and one of its novellas has been optioned for a 90 minute feature film. Her chapbook, *Dis ease ad De sire, the M anu S cript* (Lipstick Press), came out in April, 2012 and her new poetry collection, *Sit You Waiting*, hit bookshelves in August, 2012 via Caitlin Press. She lives in Cedar on Vancouver Island.