

January 27, 2015

Dennis E. Bolen has led the literary life since his late teens, experimenting with poetry in high school before taking two university degrees in creative writing. He published seven books of fiction with three different publishers over a career that saw him work as editor for sub-TERRAIN magazine, part-time editorial writer for the Vancouver Sun, and freelance literature critic for several publications. Over the years Mr. Bolen has sat on the executive of the Canadian Authors Association and assisted with the annual Summer Dreams literary Festival. His return to poetry, the largely autobiographical collection *Black Liquor*, was published by Caitlin Press in September 2013. Dennis is Vancouver Island born and raised; a Courtenay-Qualicum Beach-Port Alberny-Victoria trajectory, and *WordStorm* will be the first time in a thirty-odd year writing career that he's had the opportunity to read on his native ground.

Renée Sarojini Saklikar writes *thecanadaproject*, a life-long poem chronicle that includes poetry, fiction, and essays. Work from *thecanadaproject* appears in literary journals, newspapers, and anthologies, including, *ti-TCR / a web folio* (The Capilano Review), *Literary Review of Canada*, *The Vancouver Review*, *Geist*, *Poetry is Dead*, *SubTerrain*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *The Georgia Straight* and *Ryga*, a journal of provocations. The first completed series from *thecanadaproject* is a book length poem, *children of air india*, (Nightwood Editions, 2013) about the bombing of Air India Flight 182 shortlisted for the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize, 2014.

Paulo Da Costa, born in Angola and raised in Portugal, is a writer, editor, and translator living on the West Coast of Canada. paulo's first book of fiction, *The Scent of a Lie*, received the 2003 Commonwealth First Book Prize for the Canada-Caribbean region and the W.O. Mitchell City of Calgary Book Prize. His fiction and poetry have been published in literary magazines around the world and have been translated to Italian, Chinese, Spanish, Serbian, Slovenian, German, and Portuguese. [Web Page](#)

Andrea McKenzie Raine earned a B.A. in English Literature at the University of Victoria. She has attended the successful Planet Earth Poetry reading series (formerly known as Mocambopo) in Victoria, BC since 1997, and participated in the Glenairley writing retreats led by Canadian poet and novelist Patrick Lane in Sooke, BC. In 2005, she published her first book of poetry, titled *A Mother's String*, through Ekstasis Editions. Andrea lives in Victoria, BC with her husband and two young sons. *Turnstiles* is her debut novel. "A prodigious inheritance from a negligent, departed father, given away on impulse, generates a domino-effect of lives altered, one after another. A fascinating read." — Pamela Porter, Governor General Award Winner in Children's Literature for *The Crazy Man* in 2005

Lorne Daniel is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *Drawing Back to Take a Running Jump* (Weedmark, 2012). In the years since he was featured in Al Purdy's *Storm Warning 2: The New Canadian Poets* he has served as writer-in-residence at the University of Lethbridge, published extensively and edited literary periodicals and anthologies. He has also written for newspapers across Canada and won the Jon Whyte Memorial Essay Prize. Lorne lives in Victoria BC.

AltogetherLisa – aka Lisa Webster-Gibson

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Spoken word artist Altogetherlisa is a wonderful mix of Mohawk / Delaware and Scottish Canadian (fierce and frugal). Lisa's identity allows her spoken word performances to delve into a range of topics from her native heritage to life on a Gulf Island. She employs a range of emotions and techniques to provide a bit of something to everyone. Her debut show at the 2010 National Campus and Community Radio Conference was a resounding success and left listeners wanting more. Her current project is an examination of the role that swearing has had on her life... but, without the naughty words in her show. When she isn't performing, she is busy as artistic chair for the Poetry Gabriola Society.

She will be performing at Wordstorm with Andreas Kahre (percussion), Mark Parlett (fretless bass, percussion, suling), and Alex Varty (acoustic and electric guitars). Individually, they've created award-winning theatrical soundscapes, led Vancouver's longest-running gamelan ensemble, and played with artists ranging from John Oswald to Randy Bachman; together they whip all those experiences together into a sound that defies genre categories, and that's ideally suited to poetic collaboration.

In the early '90s **Tracy Myers** was inspired to write and perform spoken word as a soloist influenced by Ani Difranco, Lillian Allen and The Last Poets. Desiring to play with texture, mood, and rhythm and increase audience accessibility Tracy's spoken word project began to include collaborations with other musicians.

Tongue and Groove- initially a trio- has since expanded to include a variety of local artists and musicians. Their second CD, Stories That Live in Bones, was recorded in Nanaimo last year. Check out their 'work-in-progress' website at: www.tongueandgroovemusic.ca

Myron Makepeace has been performing and teaching music for over forty years. A Nanaimo native, he currently plays in many local projects, including Tongue and Groove, and teaches in the faculty of music at VIU.

Sweet Potato Brown is the "blues" name of singer songwriter Shelley Brown. Although she has been seen most recently playing solo with her guitar, she started her musical life on the island as a much sought after roots upright bass player.

In her 10 years living on Vancouver Island, Shelley has lent her bass playing skills and sweet harmony vocals to numerous acts in many genres, including: Bluegrass with Wiseacre, Blues-folk with David Essig and Rick Scott, Hip Hop Funk with Tuber, Folk-noir with Puzzleroot, Party-folk with the Flying Accusations, Swing Jazz with Over Worked and Underplayed, and Celtic Rock with Skellig.

Shelley is ecstatically pleased to embark on the mission of providing the "groove" for Tongue and Groove.

Niki Koulouris was born in Melbourne, Australia. She is a graduate of the University of Melbourne and RMIT University and she has worked as a staff writer for Victoria

University in Australia. Her poetry and prose has appeared in *The Cortland Review*, *Space*, *Metro Magazine*, *Subtext Magazine* and *The Age*. A beer enthusiast, she has been known to start spontaneous lists on napkins of her top India Pale Ales. Niki lives in Toronto. *The Sea with no one in it* is her first book.

Christine Smart was born in Shawville, Quebec, graduated from Queen's University with a B.Sc.N. (1976) and from UVic in Fine Arts, Writing (1997). *The White Crow* is her latest collection of poetry published in 2013 by Hedgerow Press. Her first book, *Decked and Dancing*, won the Acorn-Plantos People's Poet Award in 2007. She lived in Montreal, Edinburgh and Victoria before moving to Saltspring Island, BC where she works as a public health nurse and a writer. Please see her Web Site

Alannah Zeebeck is an alternative-folk singer-songwriter. They write & perform inventive, rhythmic songs that are often moody, and always honest. At the beginning of 2014 they recorded their first solo EP, entitled *Am I Wasting*, and toured Western Canada. They are currently in the beginning of a "52 Song Challenge", in which they will be writing & releasing one song per week for the entirety of 2015, and will be touring Western Canada once again in April 2015.

Pardon Mein French is a music project from singer-songwriter **Tannis Kelm**. She offers a look forward while remembering the past, an encouragement and hope, something to think about while working through the various obstacles we come across along our paths. With a sound that is soothing, playful, honest, and unwilling to stay silent she blends music with poetry that touches on social topics, personal struggles and triumphs. She heads out on tour of Western Canada in April 2015 with fresh demos in hand, hints of a sound to come.

Pat Smekal lives beside the sea, at Nanoose Bay. She fills her life with family, friends, poetry, yoga, hiking, travel, and as much laughter as she can find. Pat's poems have been dubbed "accessible". She is happy with this description, as she wants her words to attract and captivate those who think that poetry must be dull and incomprehensible. Since 2003, Pat's poems have been winning prizes, and have been published in more than forty Canadian anthologies, chapbooks and magazines. In 2009, her own chapbook, *Praise without Mortar*, appeared in print. Her latest publication, *Small Corners, an Album of Poetry*, (Ascent Aspirations Publishing) was launched in 2012. A staunch member of the WordStorm Society of the Arts, Pat often reads her work at literary events on Vancouver Island and beyond.

David Fraser is a poet, spoken-word performer, publisher and editor. He lives in Nanoose Bay, on Vancouver Island. He is the founder and editor of *Ascent Aspirations Magazine*. His poetry has appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Rocksalt, An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry* (Mother Tongue Press), *Poems from Planet Earth* (Leaf Press), *Walk Myself Home* (Caitlin Press) and recently *Wrestling with the Gods Tesseract 18*. He has published five collections of poetry; *Going to the Well*, 2004, *Running Down the Wind*, 2007, *No Way Easy*, 2010, *Caught in My Throat*, 2011 and, *Paper Boats*, 2012. In addition David has co-authored with Naomi Beth Wakan, *On Poetry*, an inspirational book on poetics and poetry and has recently completed a response poem collection, *Maybe*

We Could Dance, with poet Pat Smekal. His forthcoming collection of poetry, *After All the Scissor Work is Done* will be published by Leaf Press in the fall of 2015. He is the artistic director of Nanaimo's spoken-word series, WordStorm www.wordstorm.ca. He participated in Random Acts of Poetry, a national poetry program that brought poetry to the streets of Canada. David is a member of the League of Canadian Poets.

Lawrence Feuchtwanger was born and grew up in South Africa. In 1976, after two years of living in England and travelling across Africa, he came to Vancouver where he has lived ever since. Now retired, he has worked as a journalist, tree-planter, baker and counsellor. His first collection of poems, *Refugee Song* (Signature, 2014) was long-listed for The Writer's Studio (SFU), First Book Competition (2010).

John Beaton is a retired actuary who was raised in the Highlands of Scotland. He lives on an acreage in Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island, where he and his wife have raised five children. John was a moderator of The Deep End poetry workshop at Able Muse Press's Eratosphere website for almost four years. His poetry and prose have been widely published in literary and non-literary newspapers, journals, and websites and he performs regularly at a wide range of spoken word events.

Judy Millar is a Nanaimo-based humorous writer and comedic storyteller. She has entertained readers and audiences around the Island, in Vancouver, in Ontario and as far afield as Switzerland with her funny personal essays, witty short stories and comic "in persona" characters.

A winner of the John Kenneth Galbraith Literary Award, and two-time winner of the Islands Short Fiction contest, Judy has been published in magazines like Reader's Digest and Senior Living, and in journals and anthologies. She is the author of *Beaver Bluff: The Librarian Stories*. Visit her online at www.judymillar.ca.

Lisa Shatzky's poetry has been published widely across Canada and parts of the U.S., including in *The Vancouver Review*, *Room Magazine*, *Quills Canadian Poetry Magazine*, *The Nashwaak Review*, *Antigonish Review*, *The Dalhousie Review*, *Canadian Literature*, *Canadian Woman's Studies*, *The Prairie Journal*, *Jones Av.*, *Grain*, *The New Quarterly*, *Monday's Poem*, and six chapbooks by Leaf Press (edited by Patrick Lane) along with anthologies across Canada and the US. Her poetry book *Blame it on the Moon* was published by Black Moss Press in 2013 and was short listed for the 2014 Acorn Plantos Award for People's Poetry. Her poetry book *Do Not Call Me By My Name*, also published by Black Moss Press, (2011) was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Poetry Award in 2012. Shatzky has also had prose published in *Living Artfully: Reflections from the Far West Coast* (Key Publishing, 2012) as well as poetry in *This Island We Celebrate*, published by the Bowen Island Arts Council in 2013. When not writing Lisa Shatzky works as a psychotherapist on Bowen Island BC where she lives.

Pam Galloway's upcoming book, *Passing Stranger* is a memoir in poetry covering the years of her long marriage, the desire for children, issues of fertility and infertility, pregnancy and loss, motherhood ultimately achieved and eventually a divorce. Its themes will speak to all women who have experienced the joys and the tribulations of married life and motherhood in all their complexities. The interweaving of its story

of divorce after many years of marriage reflects a new reality for many women of middle and past middle-age. Pam's first book of poetry *Parallel Lines* was published in 2006. She collaborated with four other poets on the book *Quintet: Themes and Variations* (Ekstasis Editions, 1998). Her poems have also been published widely in literary magazines and anthologies and twice on the website of the Canadian Parliamentary Poet Laureate. Pam lives in Vancouver. She recently participated in the successful Han Shan Poetry Project (initiated by her Inanna partner, author Susan McCaslin) to save an endangered rainforest in Langley, BC.

Susan McCaslin is a Canadian poet who has published thirteen volumes of poetry, including *The Disarmed Heart* (The St. Thomas Poetry Series, 2014), and *Demeter Goes Skydiving* (University of Alberta Press, 2011), which was short-listed for the BC Book Prize and the first-place winner of the Alberta Book Publishing Award (Robert Kroetsch Poetry Award). She has recently published a memoir, *Into the Mystic: My Years with Olga* (Inanna Publications, 2014). Susan lives in Fort Langley, British Columbia where she initiated the Han Shan Poetry Project as part of a successful campaign to save a local rainforest. She is Faculty Emeritus of Douglas College in New Westminster, B.C.