

January 28, 2014

Daniela Elza's work has appeared nationally and internationally in over 80 publications. *the weight of dew* (Mother Tongue Publishing, 2012) is her debut poetry collection. In 2011 she received her doctorate from SFU and self-published *the book of it* (Ebook and print). Daniela's poetry book *milk tooth bane bone* was published by Leaf Press in 2013. In the poetry community Daniela has contributed in the capacities of a contest judge, guest-editor for journals/anthologies, organizer and promoter of events, workshop facilitator, coordinator and host of Twisted Poets Literary Salon etc.. She currently serves on the Board of the *Capilano Review* and is editor at *Cascadia Review*.

Jan DeGrass writes in Gibsons, British Columbia, where she is Arts and Entertainment columnist for the *Coast Reporter* newspaper, and contributes a regular arts feature to *Coast Life* magazine.

She leads a writing critique group and assists other authors with editing their manuscripts (www.edityourwords.ca). She has received a national award for a business article that contributed to Canadian co-operative literature and was a winner for Best Coverage of the Arts by a national newspaper association. She is the author of a corporate history book and a cookbook, *Take Potluck! 101 Tasty, Simple Dishes for Your Potluck Party*.

Her award-winning article, "Loving in Leningrad", based on a true experience in the Soviet Union, drew on her university background in Russian language and literature and became the genesis of *Jazz with Ella*.

More about *Jazz with Ella* can be found on her website: [Jan DeGrass](#)

About *Jazz with Ella*:

While on a study tour of the Soviet Union during the austere Brezhnev years, Jennifer, a Canadian student, is swept off her feet by a handsome Soviet man, Volodya. He is a discontented jazz pianist whose idol is singer Ella Fitzgerald—for him the symbol of everything mysterious and musical that can happen only in the west. Jennifer visits his haunts—and his bedroom—in Leningrad, and learns that he is under surveillance for consorting with foreigners.

Jennifer refuses Volodya's desperate pleas to help him defect, and she leaves for the last leg of her trip, a Volga River cruise. But the romance is not over. Despite interference from her fussy professor, Chopyk, and a fierce tour guide, Natasha, Jennifer decides to risk it all.

"A richly layered, complex story of love and opportunism." –Betty Keller, author, *A Thoroughly Wicked Woman* and *Better the Devil You Know* "*Jazz with Ella* by Jan DeGrass is an absorbing tale of intrigue, containing many moments of passionate lovemaking and spine-tingling suspense. –Ben Nuttall-Smith, author, *Blood, Feathers & Holy Men*.

Mary Ann Moore's latest chapbook of poetry is *You Are Here* (Leaf Press, 2012). Her personal essay, "Who I Am, Here," is included in *Living Artfully: Reflections from the Far West Coast* (The Key Publishing House, 2012). One of her poems is

included in *Poems from Planet Earth* (Leaf Press, 2013). Mary Ann's book of poetry, *Fishing for Mermaids, Mining for Light*, will be published by Leaf Press in 2014. She leads Writing Life women's writing circles in Nanaimo and offers a mentoring program called Writing Home: A Whole Life Practice. [Web Site](#)

March 25, 2014 Spoken Word Night

Missie Peters is an award-winning spoken word performer from Victoria, BC. She is a two-time Victoria Slam Champion, the former slam master, one half of the improvised spoken word duo SpeakEasy and the director of Not Your Grandma's Poetry. She currently produces the annual Victoria Spoken Word Festival. Her poetry finds the personal in the political and finds the metaphor in the mundane. She is also a huge science fiction geek.

"intelligent and whimsical" – *Times Colonist*

"has the inherently sassy smarts and sensual irony" – *Monday Magazine*

[Web Site](#)

[Not Your Grandmother's Poetry](#)

Kendall Patrick: In a sea of singer/songwriters Kendall Patrick stands apart with a firm belief in the power of her voice to help others find strength in themselves. This 25 year old Ladysmith-born artist is an accomplished vocalist, writer, guitarist, and pianist who works to touch other people, relate to them and have them identify with her experience. On stage, Kendall brings intimacy and humour to a performance where nothing's sacred. Audiences call her live performance "fabulous", "inspiring", and "captivating"; she regularly packs coffee houses and other intimate venues and her fan base keeps growing.

Kendall has been writing songs since elementary school. As her technique and content has evolved she has met much success which has taken her around North America, weaving through coffee houses, bars, conferences, schools, and music festivals. With daring personal honesty and empowering political commentary, Kendall brings people together.

Career highlights include her first self-booked tour, touring with a favourite artist and spoken-word giant Shane Koyczan, performing at the International Media Literacy Conference in Detroit, and recording her latest album with "Summer of '69"'s Pat Steward and Doug Elliot. She is currently recording with Juno-award nominated producer/engineer Rick Salt, who introduced her to Steward and Elliot, and has taken her under his wing to help get her music out there.

She believes whole-heartedly in the power of her music to make a positive impact on the world. Her Operation Empowerment Interactive Youth Assembly combines music, visuals, and beat poetry, which she uses to help teenagers look honestly at their choices around media influence. She has a unique ability to connect with youth on their own level. Her project has caught attention from the Oprah Winfrey Show. Although it didn't make it on the air, it fuelled her fire to continue the cause.

[Web Site](#)

Sebastien Wen is a poet, playwright and spoken word artist based out of Calgary and Vancouver.

His poetry has been featured in the spoken word DVD *Poets Asking For Exile* (2011) and magazines such as *Cicada* (2012), *The Claremont Review* (2012) and *Ascent Aspirations* (coming 2013). Excerpts from his play *The Backseat* have been featured in Alberta Theatre Projects' *Fresh Prints* (2011).

He has featured as a performer in the Calgary Spoken Word Festival (2012) and The People's Poetry Festival (2012). Sebastien is studying English, History and Philosophy in his first year at the University of British Columbia. He strives to do things to your brain with his tongue.

April 29, 2014

Emilia Nielsen: In 2013-2014, Emilia Nielsen is a Teaching Fellow at Quest University in Squamish, BC. She holds a BFA from the University of Victoria, a MA from the University of New Brunswick and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. During her studies, she was the recipient of several British Columbia Arts Council Senior Scholarships and two Canada Graduate Scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for Masters and Doctoral research and writing. Her poetry has appeared in literary journals across Canada including *The Antigone Review*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Event*, *Descant*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Room Magazine*, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry by Prism International. *Surge Narrows*, published by Leaf Press in 2013, is her debut collection of poetry.

May 27, 2014

Derek Hanebury is a poet who also writes fiction and creative non-fiction. His first book of poetry *Nocturnal Tonglen* was released in 2006. His poems and stories have been published in many magazines and broadcasted on CBC radio; and his first novel, *Ginger Goodwin: Beyond the Forbidden Plateau*, went to a second printing. He has a Master's Degree in Creative Writing from UBC and has been instructing at North Island College in Port Alberni since 1988 where he currently teaches English and creative writing.

Peter Such was born in England and came as a youngster to Canada in 1953. He worked loading freightcars for the Canadian National Railways and in uranium mines, Elliot Lake. He graduated from Victoria College, University of Toronto and was a working class member of "the group that revitalized Canadian Literature in the '70s...no one in Canadian Literature is as eclectic as Peter Such." (Oxford Companion to Canadian Literature) He has written tv series, film documentary, drama, opera librettos, academic works, poetry, short stories, nonfiction and novels. He is a founding member of The Writers' Union of Canada and founding vice-president of CMPA. He is also a founder/publisher of *Impulse* magazine and a former editor of *Books in Canada*. He has been a writer-in-residence at U. of T. (Erindale) and instituted the first Can. Lit. courses offered at Ryerson, U. of T., and York University, where he founded the Centre for Distance Learning and Teaching Technology. He is an international lecturer and consultant on Canadian Studies and

Internet Learning. He is married to artist Joyce Kline. After many years of working in other genres he is currently completing a new novel, *Forevering*, while living in Finland, courtesy award from Finnish Academy.

June 17, 2014

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 Antigone 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.

Linda K. Thompson is writing from the damp edge of the continent. She has been slogging away for the past decade, one line at a time. Linda was short listed for the *Malahat Review* Far Horizons Prize for her poem "Botany for Beginners" and recently received an honourable mention in the Troubadour International Poetry Prize out of London, England for her poem "Gloria". Linda's first chapbook, *Four Small People in Sturdy Shoes*, is finally out there in the world Web Site

Murray Reiss was born in Sarnia, Ontario, and lives on Salt Spring Island, BC, with his wife Karen, a ceramic sculptor. Since moving to Salt Spring in 1979 he's been a pizza maker and ice cream scooper, special education teacher and child care worker, and coordinator of the Salt Spring Water Council. For four years in Vancouver he was B.C. coordinator of Tools for Peace, doing solidarity work to support Nicaragua's revolution. He currently works as a freelance editor and environmental writer. His poetry and prose have been published in literary magazines and anthologies in Canada and the United States, including *Rocksalt: An Anthology of Contemporary BC Poetry* and *Poems from Planet Earth*, and short-listed for a number of prizes and awards. His chapbook, *Distance from the Locus*, was published in 2005 by Mothertongue Press. He also performs with singer-songwriter Phil Vernon as the "folken-word" duo Midnight Bridge, with one CD out so far. *The Survival Rate of Butterflies in the Wild* is his first full-length collection. *The Survival Rate of Butterflies in the Wild* has won the League of Canadian Poets' Gerald Lampert Award for the best first book of poetry published in Canada in 2013.

Sept. 30, 2014

Naomi Beth Wakan is the inaugural Poet Laureate of Nanaimo (2013). She has published over 50 books. Her essays are in *Late Bloomer-on writing later in life*; *Composition: notes on the written word*; *Bookends – a year between the covers*; and

A Roller-coaster ride – Thoughts on aging (all from Wolsak and Wynn). Her poetry books include *Sex after 70* and other poems and *And After 80...* (both from Bevalia Press). *Some Sort of Life*, is her recent book of memoirs (2014). Naomi 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. [Naomi's Web Site](#)

Kate Braid has published five books of non-fiction and five of poetry, including co-editing with Sandy Shreve the ground-breaking book of Canadian form poetry, *In Fine Form*. Her work has won or been short-listed for a number of awards and is widely anthologized. She has recently begun collaborating with musicians in her work. She has written extensively about her fifteen years as a carpenter including two books of poetry and her most recent work, a memoir, *Journeywoman: Swinging a Hammer in a Man's World*. [Her Web Site](#)

Photos by Barry Peterson

John Terpstra has published nine books of poetry and three of creative non-fiction. *Brilliant Falls*, his most recent poetry book, was short-listed for the Raymond Souster Award. A new work of non-fiction, *The House with the Parapet Wall*, is appearing this Fall 2014 from Gaspereau Press. One of his poems, entitled "Giants", was installed on plaque on the edge of the Niagara Escarpment overlooking Hamilton, where he lives and works as a carpenter and cabinetmaker.

Oct. 28, 2014

Yvonne Blomer was born in Zimbabwe and came to Canada when she was two years old. Her first collection *a broken mirror, fallen leaf* was shortlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. Yvonne has also published two chap books *Landscapes and Home: Ghazals* (Leaf Press, 2011) and *Bicycle Brand Journey* (JackPine Press, 2012), and is the co-editor of *Poems from Planet Earth* (Leaf Press, 2013) out of the Planet Earth Poetry reading series, of which she is the Artistic Director. In 2014 her third collection of poems *As if a Raven* was released with Palimpsest Press. She's currently working on a cycling memoir called *Sugar Ride*.

November 25, 2014

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.

Katrin Horowitz's new novel, *The Best Soldier's Wife*, chosen as a finalist in The Great BC Novel Contest, is described by the judges as 'gripping and well-written.' She published her first novel, *Power Failures*, in 2007 following two lengthy volunteer assignments with CESO in Sri Lanka. The book, a murder mystery set in a small coastal village on the south coast of Sri Lanka, focuses on the myriad levels of betrayals in a complicated world.

In 2008 Katrin attended the Victoria School of Writing summer program, where she worked with Steven Galloway. She went on to win a prize in a Victoria competition

with a short story entitled 'Blues for a Bridge' and has contributed short pieces to an international anthology called *Saying Goodbye* (Dream of Things Press, 2010) and Quadra Books' *Pathways Not Posted*. Katrin lives in Victoria, BC. Katrin writes a blog at Quadra Books

Kathryn Para is an award-winning, multi-genre writer with a MFA in Creative Writing from UBC. Her fiction, non-fiction and poetry have been published in *Grain*, *Room of One's Own*, *Geist*, *Sunstream*, and *Vancouver Review*. She is the 2013 winner of Mother Tongue Publishing's Search for the Great BC Novel Contest. Her stage play, *Honey*, debuted in 2004. She has also written, directed and produced short films. She lives in Gibsons, BC. *Lucky* is her first novel. Visit her web site

Finalist for the Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize WINNER of the 2nd Search for the Great BC Novel Contest

"Astonishing in scope and depth, Astonishing as a first novel, Para's depictions of the war scenes in *Lucky* are stunning, her understanding of the political forces at play, astute; these sections ring with a profound authenticity. Yet it's the heartbreaking, personal account of Ani that is so enlightening. We're reading of a woman who is angry about being a "woman in a man's mythology."—MAC Farrant
VAN SUN

"*Lucky* is a beautiful, harsh novel, tension-filled, its language startling and fresh. It's also funny, thanks to the unflinching perceptions of its daring and damaged protagonist, Ani, war photojournalist and surly survivor. Lucky me. I got to read this book first."— Caroline Adderson, Final Judge for the 2nd Search for the Great BC Novel Contest.

"Meet lucky photojournalist, Ani—destination Fallujah. Meet her friends, the Pams—diazepam, clonazepam, lorazepam—and her bottomless bottle of vodka. Watch all distinctions vanish in the fog of war—as the witness becomes the participant, the innocent the guilty. Nothing is neutral at the end of this road—any image can be used by anybody for any purpose—but that ultimately doesn't matter because the righteousness of any cause is erased by the logic of violence. Kathy Para's debut novel raises the ante on the word 'blistering.' Once you start down her harrowing road, you won't be able to get off."—Keith Maillard, author of *Gloria* and *The Difficulty at the Beginning Quartet*

"With *Lucky*, Kathy Para has written a gorgeous, lyrical and globe-spanning ode to damage and to recovery, a powerful examination of the thornily entangled ethics of photography, war, love and humanity."—Michael Christie, author of *The Beggar's Garden*