

*****News from the League*****

***** HAPPY NATIONAL POETRY MONTH! *****

POETRY PLANET - NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April is National Poetry Month (NPM) and throughout the month, The League of Canadian Poets (LCP) will be featuring several renowned poets who will present a series of readings in cities across Canada. The theme for our 11th anniversary is POETRY PLANET and artists and NPM participants have been encouraged to discuss and elaborate on themes of poetry related to the planet, land, culture, nature and how we define Canada. Poetry Planet is for everyone. It will include all perspectives from the very first Canadian artists, Aboriginal Peoples to today's youth whose art reflects the diversity of the land and languages of Canadian landscapes and cultural climates. Poetry that is everywhere. Themes will touch on natural phenomena, conservation, ecological knowledge, peaceful and respectful interaction with nature, a holistic view of the environment and how these principles can lead us towards an inspiring path. For more info: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/npm.htm>

CHECK OUT THE LEAGUE'S SECOND ANNUAL CROSS CANADA POETRY BLOG!

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the League of Canadian Poets is proud to sponsor the second annual cross-Canada poetry blog open to all League of Canadian Poets members. This year's theme is "Poetry Planet" and during the month of April a different League member's work will be featured daily. The blog also features a National Al Purdy Day page. Thank you, once again, k.g. Sambrano for putting together this wonderful new cyber celebration of National Poetry Month. Be sure to check out the blog: <http://lcpnationalpoetrymonth2009.wordpress.com/>

**THE LEAGUE ANNOUNCES THE SHORTLIST FOR THE 2009
PAT LOWTHER AND GERALD LAMPERT MEMORIAL AWARDS**

Congratulations to the authors for their fine work, and many thanks to this year's jurors. Winners will be announced during the LCP Poetry Fest and Conference in Vancouver, BC on June 13, 2009. (Please see <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/awards.htm> for author bios and book descriptions).

Lowther Shortlist 2009:

What Stirs by Margaret Christakos (Coach House Books)
Kahlo: The World Split Open by Linda Frank (BuschekBooks)
The Office Tower Tales by Alice Major (The University of Alberta Press)
The Given by Daphne Marlatt (McClelland & Stewart)
Breaker by Sue Sinclair (Brick Books)
I can still draw by Heather Spears (Wolsak and Wynn)

Lampert Shortlist 2009:

Evening Land by Adam Chiles (Cinnamon Press)
Crabwise to the Hounds by Jeramy Dodds (Coach House Books)
Fond by Kate Eichhorn (BookThug)
What if red ran out by Katia Grubisic (Goose Lane Editions)
The Invisibility Exhibit by Sachiko Murakami (Talonbooks)
Late Night With Wild Cowboys by Johanna Skibsrud (Gaspereau Press)

YOUNG POETS' WEEK: APRIL 6-12, 2009

The League of Canadian Poets is gearing up for the 11th annual National Poetry Month, and young poets are centre stage. During April 6 – 12, 2009, Young Poets' Week will feature exciting projects and initiatives, across the country and online.

The League's youth website, www.youngpoets.ca, will be offering tips to teachers and educators throughout Young Poets' Week to help them get their students enthused about poetry and the spoken word. Youth will also have a chance to have their poetry critiqued by established mentors on-line. Throughout April, the League will

also offer a unique opportunity for students to meet, listen and converse with young poets through renowned poets who will visit Ontario classrooms. For the second year running, young poets will have the opportunity to post poetry videos on our forums alongside professional poets, filming in Canada and around the world.

Once again, the League will be partnering with provincial writers' organizations to conduct a large-scale program to help bring poets into classrooms of schools across the country. Twenty poets will be reading to students in four provinces. The League will also be adding additional funds to their existing Poets in the Schools program, which will allow Ontario educators the opportunity to have a poet conduct a school-wide or classroom reading free of charge.

In association with the League, the National Film Board of Canada's Mediatheque in Toronto, will also be joining in the celebrations. Check out their guided viewing list of poetry films featured on digital viewing stations. (more info at: www.nfb.ca/mediatheque)

Also, winners of our Poetic License Contest for youth will be announced during Young Poets' Week. Look for an announcement on the www.youngpoets.ca website, and for the winning poems to appear in the April issue of Re:Verse, the League's bi-lingual on-line e-zine.

NEWS FROM THE FEMINIST CAUCUS COMMITTEE

As the shortlist for the 2009 Pat Lowther Memorial Award will be announced this month and 2010 is the year which would have been Pat Lowther's 70th Birthday, it seems suitable that we take a retrospective view of previous winners of the Pat Lowther Memorial Award. M. Travis Lane was the first recipient in 1981 with her *Divinations and Short Poems 1973-1978*. Heather Spears won this prestigious Award in 1987, 1989, and 2002. Bronwen Wallace and Diana Brebner won in 1984 and 1994 respectively. Lorna Crozier won in 1993 and 1996. For full report: www.poets.ca/linktext/newsletter

POETS WANTED FOR YOUNG POETS WEEK, APRIL 6-12, 2009

This year the League is looking for published poets who can fill the following volunteer opportunities to help raise the profile of Canadian poetry:

- 1) Online Mentorships: If you have an interest in helping one or more young poets improve their craft, this is the spot for you. Duties include visiting poetry forums every 1-2 days during the week and providing comments on poems.
- 2) Video Poetry Café: Do you have a digital video camera and an inclination to inspire youth? Have you ever created poetry videos? If so, we are looking for poets who like the idea of spreading the word about poetry through video clips. Through a unique online poetry cafe, we want to show Canada's poets to youth and inspire them even more. Send us your files at elizabeth@youngpoets.ca and we will feature them on our very own Web channel: <http://ypca.blip.tv>. If any of the above opportunities interest you, please contact Elizabeth Robert for more information with a brief bio at elizabeth@youngpoets.ca

LCP POETRY FEST AND CONFERENCE 2009 NOW ONLINE!

The LCP Poetry Fest and Conference will be held in Vancouver, BC from June 12 – 14, 2009. Please see the League's webpage (<http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>) for the registration form, schedule, accommodations and helpful links. Visit: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/agm.htm>

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

See: <http://www.poets.ca/linktext/memb.htm>

***** Poetry Events This National Poetry Month*****

National Poetry Month event listings are also posted online at:
<http://www.poets.ca/linktext/npm.htm>

2009 CALGARY INTERNATIONAL SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL

April 01 – 05 Calgary, April 15 – 17 Banff

This week! The largest Spoken Word Festival in Canada opens with sweet splendor! Fifty internationally acclaimed artists are landing in Calgary during National Poetry Month (April) to unleash the pinnacle of high-octane poetic pitch. STAR STUDDERED HEADLINERS: Lillian Allen (Toronto) – Dub's lead originators, Juno Award winning artist, 2009 Golden Beret recipient! Regie Cabico (Washington) – Nuyorican & Def Jam Star. John Giorno (New York City) – For over 5 decades, an innovator in poetry & performance, Andy Warhol's close

friend & collaborator, Spoken Word revolutionary, founder of Giorno Poetry Systems, New York underground mastermind. Raine Maida (Los Angeles) – Leader of Our Lady Peace! Ras Michael (Jamaica, Los Angeles) – In the 1st Bob Marley band, Rastafarian priest, renowned Nyabingi specialist, creator of over 30 albums and more awards than we can mention! Robert Priest (Toronto) – Author of 15 books of poetry, Dr. Poetry on CBC's Wordbeat; his words have been debated in the legislature – a hot button renegade! And many more amazing people. Check out our website for more details: www.calgaryspokenwordfestival.com. CONTACT: Sheri-D Wilson – 403.686.4292

AUTHORS AT HARBOURFRONT CENTRE

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30pm: Brigantine Room, 235 Queens Quay West, Toronto, ON. George Elliott Clarke reads from his latest collection, I & I. Also reading are Robert Carr, who presents his debut novel, Continuums, and Bruce Jay Friedman, who reads from his new story collection, Three Balconies. Ania Szado hosts. Tickets: \$8/FREE to AUTHORS members & students, 50% discount to members of the League of Canadian Poets. Box Office: 416-973-4000. For more info: www.readings.org

MORRIS HOUSE READING SERIES

Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 8 p.m. at Bishop's University, Bandeen Hall, 2600 College Street, Sherbrooke, QC. Alistair MacLeod, an award-winning Canadian author and retired professor, will read from and discuss his work as part of the Morris House Reading Series on Thursday, April 2 at 8:00 p.m. in Bandeen Hall, 2600 College Street, Sherbrooke. Free admission, with a reception and door prizes to follow. Call 819-822-9600, extension 2625 for further information.

BEN MCNALLY BOOKS

Thursday, April 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Ben McNally Books, 366 Bay Street (South of Queen Street), Toronto, ON. Barry Dempster launches his new collection Love Outlandish.

LUCSCULPTURE SCHOOL AND STUDIOS ARE ORGANIZING POETIC NIGHTS

The LucSculpture School And Studios are organizing Poetic Nights every first Thursday of the month in its own Gallery. Next event Thursday April the 2nd at 7 pm till 10 pm. The two features for this evening are Renata Duma and Edward Baranosky with David Berger has the Musical guest. This is an Open Stage: you can read, tell, sing one of your favourite poem! Lucsculpture School & Studios, LucSculter Skol ha Studius (Breton), 416 461 7936, 663 Greenwood Avenue, Second building north of the Danforth, Toronto, ON. Relief through creativity. For more info: www.lucsculpture.blogspot.com.

CROSS-BORDER POLLINATION:

RACHEL ROSE AND VPL PRESENT AN EVENING OF POETRY AND FICTION:

Samuel Green is the first ever Poet Laureate of Washington State. His newest book, The Grace of Necessity, won the Washington Book Award for Poetry. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for Poetry.

Fiona Tinwei Lam is the author of two collections of poetry, Enter the Chrysanthemum, (Caitlin Press, 2009) and Intimate Distances (Nightwood, 2002), and is the co-editor of and a contributor to the prose anthology, Double Lives: Writing and Motherhood (McGill-Queen's, 2008).

Phyllis Levin is the author of four volumes of poetry, most recently May Day (Penguin, 2008), and is the editor of The Penguin Book of the Sonnet; she teaches at Hofstra University and lives in New York.

Nancy Pagh's No Sweeter Fat won the Autumn House Press book prize and Floating Bridge Press recently released her chapbook, After. She teaches at Western Washington University.

Nilofar Shidmer is the author of Shirin and Salt Man (Oolichan Books, 2008). Her book is nominated for this year's BC Book Prizes. Iranian born, she lives far from home and her daughter.

Leslie Walker Williams is the author of The Prudent Mariner, (University of Tennessee Press, 2008) winner of the Peter Taylor Prize for the Novel and the Morris Hackney Literary Award.

Friday, April 3rd, 7 p.m. at Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver, BC. Admission is free. Seating is limited.

14 TRACTORS LAUNCH

Friday, April 3, 2009, 14 Tractors Launch at 4:30 p.m. at the Luther Collage at the University of Regina - Room

100, 3838 Waskana Parkway, Regina, SK. Come join us in celebration for Gerald Hill's launch of his brand new poetry book 14 Tractors. At this event, poetry and photography meet over wine and cheese. At this event, we will be featuring a slide show of Shelley Sopher's striking photographs, along with a reading and book signing with Gerald Hill. Dave Margoshes, author of Bix's Trumpet will also be there to introduce Gerald's wonderful new work. For more info: <http://www.luthercollege.edu/>

CALGARY INTERNATIONAL SPOKEN WORD FESTIVAL (SIDEBAR EVENT)

Saturday, April 4, 2009, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Central Library, John Dutton Theatre, #163 -115 9th Ave SE, Calgary, AB. Western Swing Reprised - a border crossing, rabble rousing celebration of Prairie Poets from all points of the stubble-jumping compass. Readings by Richard Stevenson, Lynda Monahan, Vivian Hansen, Stuart Ian McKay, Angela Kublik, Lori D. Roadhouse, D.A. Herrington, Andy Michaelson, Kelly-Anne Reiss, Dymphny Dronyk (host).

HOPE FOR WILDLIFE SOCIETY WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTRE

Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Hope for Wildlife Society Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Centre, 5909 Highway 207, Seaforth, NS. Deirdre Dwyer, author of two poetry collections, The Breath that Lightens the Body and Going to the Eyestone, will read from a work-in-progress called Glooscap's Children and from other recent work about nature. There will be an Open Mike after the reading and a short tour of the Society's facilities. Contact Dee Dwyer at 902-220-9114 or at dandhans@ns.sympatico.ca for more details. For more info: www.hopeforwildlife.net

SPEAKING CROW

Featured reader: Andris Taskans, host: Colin Smith, date: Tuesday, April 7 2009, time: reading starts 7:00pm. SHARP. Two open-mic sets to follow. Location: Aqua Books 274 Garry St., Winnipeg, MB. Why: Because your soul burns for poetry! Andris Taskans, born and stayed put in Winnipeg, has helped create, manage, and edit Prairie Fire magazine for over 30 years. Which is a manifest history --- the barbed wire fence around a prairie field, if you like. What is subterranean is that he's also been a poet. Jukebox Junkie, a chapbook of his verse, was published by Turnstone Press in 1987.

FIONA TINWEI LAM LAUNCHES ENTER THE CHRYSANTHEMUM

Fiona Tinwei Lam launches Enter the Chrysanthemum, a new collection of poems about family, love and loss, published by Caitlin Press <http://www.caitlin-press.com/> at The Sylvia Hotel in Vancouver on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:30 pm along with Marguerite Pigeon who is launching her new poetry collection, Inventory with Anvil Press. She will also be reading with Washington's poet laureate, Sam Green, New York poet, Phillis Levin, Seattle poet, Nancy Pagh and BC poet and BC Book Prize nominee, Nilofar Shidmehr on Wednesday, April 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Vancouver Public Library downtown. You can also hear her read during BC Book and Magazine Week on April 23 at 6:30 pm with Kate Braid at the Montmartre Café.

MARINE MUSEUM OF THE GREAT LAKES

Monday, April 6 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Marine Museum of the Great Lakes, 55 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON. Carolyn Smart launches her new collection Hooked, seven poems.

ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

Harbord House, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor, Toronto, ON, Monday April 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Free - a hat is passed. The Rowers Pub Reading Series has as its April features: Sandra Campbell (Getting to Normal, Stoddart Publishing, 2001); John B. Lee (The Place That We Keep After Leaving, Black Moss Press, 2008); and, Andrew Pyper (The Killing Circle - Doubleday Canada, 2008). We acknowledge financial assistance from The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada; The League of Canadian Poets; Tighrope Books, and donations from Scott Griffin and Alexander McCall Smith. For more info: www.owerspubreadingseries.com or (647) 430-7365.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF POETRY OF RESISTANCE

Poetry readings and music on Tuesday, April 7/09, 8:00 p.m. at Cervejaria, on College just west of Ossington, north side, Toronto, in preparation for The First International Festival of Poetry of Resistance, in honour of the Cuban Five, to take place April 24-30/09. Free admission and all are welcome! Our eleventh event feature poetry readings by Wafa Aouchiche; Farzad Babadi, Shannon Maguire, Thomas Maracle, Mohammad Ali, Gitanjali Lena, Carla mesa, Marge Lam. Music by Lowell Conrad Bowen, Vibrant Rise, Symbolik, and Harold Hosein! Open mic always part of programme. Event to be hosted by Mende (Charles Roach). Contact information: resistancepoetryfest@gmail.com or 416 603 9858. For more info and full schedule: <http://www.freethecuban5.com/index.html>

UBC ROBSON SQUARE BOOKSTORE

Please join the Robson Reading Series in celebrating National Poetry Month with readings by poets Kate Braid and Ray Hsu on Thursday, April 9th at 7 p.m. Kate Braid's *A Well-Mannered Storm* is a striking and masterful volume of poems that imagines a correspondence between the great Canadian pianist Glenn Gould and a fan known only as "K." Joining Kate will be bassist Clyde Reed, one of the founders of the NOW Orchestra and a Vancouver jazz scene favourite. Vancouver newcomer, poet Ray Hsu will ride the lively line between the traditional and the experimental with a reading full of surprises from his 2005 Gerald Lampert Award-winning collection, *Anthropy*.

As always, admission is free, coffee/tea and cookies will be served, and the audience will have an opportunity to ask the authors questions about their work and writing process during a cozy conversation following the reading. For more info: <http://www.robsonreadingseries.ubc.ca>

TREE READING SERIES

Tuesday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m., Tree Reading Series at the Ottawa Arts Court (at the corner of Daly Avenue and Nicholas Street, just across from the Rideau Centre.) Sue Sinclair will read from her collection *Breaker*.

OPEN WIDE A WILDERNESS: CANADIAN NATURE POEMS

Wilfred Laurier University Press is publishing the first anthology of Canadian nature poems, a survey from colonial times to the present. Edited by Nancy Holmes and with an introduction by Don McKay, this book is a major poetry event. Launches will be held in BC and Ontario in April during National Poetry Month. The following are launch dates with featured poets at each venue. Please come out and celebrate if you're in the area. (This volume contains poems by many of the frequent LCP Listserv poets such as Heather Spears, Harold Rhenisch, Anne Simpson and many others!)

- April 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Reading: John Terpstra, Adam Dickinson, Brian Henderson, Cornelia Hoogland at The Bookshelf, 41 Quebec Street, Guelph, ON. Free refreshments. Cash bar. Hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Contact: The Bookshelf at 519-821-3311 or Clare Hitchens, WLU Press 519-884-0710 ext. 2665.
- Wednesday, April 15th, 7: 00 p.m. – 9 p.m. Reading: Roo Borson, Karen Connelly, Dennis Lee at Type Books, 882 Queen St. West, Toronto, ON. <http://www.typebooks.ca/>. Contact: Clare Hitchens, WLU Press 519-884-0710 ext. 2665.
- Thursday, April 16th, 2009, 7:30 pm- 9 p.m. Reading: Cornelia Hoogland, John B. Lee, Julie Berry at Landon Branch, London Public Library, 167 Wortley Rd., London, ON. Hosted by Poetry London and Wilfrid Laurier University Press. Contact Carolyn Doyle 519-439-6240 or Clare Hitchens, WLU Press 519-884-0710 ext. 2665
- Monday, April 20th, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Readings: J. Michael Yates, John Pass, John Donlan, Tim Lilburn, David Zieroth, Elise Partridge, Barbara Nickel, Russell Thornton at UBC Bookstore Robson Square, 800 Robson St., Vancouver BC. Coffee bar open. Contact: UBC Bookstore [treena07@interchange.ubc.ca]

WORDSTORM

Thursday, April 16 - doors open at 6:30, readings at 7 p.m. at Acme Food Co, 14 Commercial Street in the Bombay Lounge, Nanaimo, BC. Sue Wheeler is the featured reader at a Nanaimo reading series - Wordstorm - which includes a featured reader, two invited lightning readers, and an open mike. Tickets are \$3 at the door, and as it usually sells out, people should arrive early to be sure to get in. Ticket sale proceeds go to the winner of the open mike contest. For more info, contact David Fraser at ascentaspirations@shaw.ca or phone Cindy Shantz at 722-2566

ATWATER POETRY PROJECT

Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m., Atwater Poetry Project at the Atwater Library and Computer Centre, 1200 Atwater Avenue, Westmount, QC. Carolyn Smart, Jan Conn, Barry Dempster and Sue Sinclair will read from their new collections *Hooked*, seven poems by Carolyn Smart, *Botero's Beautiful Horses* by Jan Conn, *Love Outlandish* by Barry Dempster and *Breaker* by Sue Sinclair.

OLIVE PRESS RELEASES OF 'FEAST DAYS'

Olive Press is pleased to announce the release of 'Feast Days' a collection/melody of nearly lost poems & new poems by Carmelo Militano. Carmelo was the recipient of F.G. Bressani award for poetry in 2004 and his prose work 'The Fate of Olives' was short-listed twice: in Manitoba for the Eileen McTavis Skyes Book award in 2007

and in B.C. for the F.G.Bressani non-fiction award in 2008. 'Feast Days' is being officially launched with a reading at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Polo Park, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

LAUNCH OF P E R M I S O

Launch of Ronna Bloom's P E R M I S O on Thursday 16 April 2009, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Hart House Library, Second floor, Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.

INANNA PRESS LAUNCHES GRAVITY MATTERS

Inanna Press launches Gravity Matters by Sonja Greckol will be launched in Toronto on April 16, 2009 at XEXE Gallery, 624 Richmond Street West, Toronto, from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Greckol's poems track off-opposing impulses for both 'gravity and flight,' as she imagines what it is to stand at both sides of the barricades inside our own consciousness, calibrating the complex weave of reason and rapture. A gorgeous, intelligent cherner of a debut.

—Margaret Christakos

History and personal history, defiant elegy and hymns to the warmly embodied self, Gravity Matters manages to find the charged moment, goes to work there, 'offer[ing] whiskey with poppy seed cake'. We feel this gravitational pull, as readers; an altering, cumulative wind unveiling the sly half-truth in, 'zephyr shivers/the copse/on the landfill,/and no/thing changes,/apparently'. These poems are honest, unafraid of the mistakes in a life, the missteps of memory.

—Ken Babstock

These are poems about survival—which is to say, poems about grief and how the soul survives it. 'When he is dog meat, she weeps // at the cruelty of farming: the horse without / wings cannot be saved by naming.' All the themes of this book are triumphantly summed up and extended in its central poem, Greckol's haunting, monumental 'Emilie Explains Newton to Voltaire.' With eloquence and unceasing formal invention, the horse with wings (Pegasus, or poetry) tries to save mortal life by naming what it was.

—Frank Bidart

POETRY'Z OWN WEEKEND FESTIVAL

Thu Apr 16 - Sun Apr 19, 2009. Some of Canada's finest poets are scheduled to read from their work over the 4-day event. POW! features poetry readings, lecture presentations, discussions exploring the world of poetry, a special session designed for kids, and a panel exploring the subject, "Whither the Book/Wither the Book.

Scheduled for April 17 thru 19, poets Mike Barnes, Jacqueline Larson, Paul Brown, Ted Amsden and Cobourg Poet Laureate Eric Winter are some of the poets signed up for the event. Professional actor David Calderisi will present the works of Robert Service, John Keats and Samuel Taylor Coleridge in an evening of recitation from memory.

POW! celebrates National Poetry Month across Canada. The municipal council of the Town of Cobourg has officially designated April 16 thru 19 as "Poetry Weekend in Cobourg."

Conceived by Cobourg poet James Pickersgill, the idea for the festival was inspired by an annual weekend festival held in Cobalt, Ontario. "If they can have a successful festival way up there," he thought, "why not in Cobourg?", a town that has become a sought after venue for out-of-town poets to read their work through the auspices of the Cobourg Poetry Workshop which holds monthly public readings of the work of local poets. Such a CPW evening will precede the festival on Thursday April 16 with poets Edward Carson, Carla Johnson and Grahame Woods presenting their work at "Meet At 66 King East," where the POW! Festival will be held in the inviting surroundings of a unique bistro overlooking Victoria Park and, beyond that, Lake Ontario.

"Many out-of-town poets and publishers already view Cobourg as a poetry place," Pickersgill noted, "but they will be convinced of that now that Town Council has declared POW's Thursday to Sunday as Poetry Weekend in Cobourg."

Admission to the 6 festival events is \$6 each or a Weekend Pass can be purchased for \$30.00. Admission to the 6.30 pm Opening Reception on Friday April 17 is \$10 which includes a glass of wine and hors d'oeuvres. All tickets can be purchased by going to Meet at 66 King East, by phoning (905) 372-7616 or by emailing poetryzownweekend@sympatico.ca. Other poets in the full weekend line-up are: Carmine Starnino, JonArno Lawson, Art Cockerill, Linda Hutsell-Manning, Jo Ellen Bogart, Diana Kuprel, Marek Kubisa, Karen Dukes, Roz

Bound, Marta Cooper, Oana Avasilichioaei and Ronna Bloom. More information on the internet:
http://www.inkbottlepress.com/POW/pow_open.htm

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH READING IN SASKATOON

Friday, April 17th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Willow Studio, Saskatoon, 148 2nd Avenue North. Poets: Louise Halfe, Wynne Nicholson, Lia Pas, Kelly-Anne Riess and Glen Sorestad. Please join us for a unique reading. The audience will travel through the studio to view art installations and hear poetry. The Willow Studio is located in the old Saskatoon News Agency/Book Store. It's a very groovy place. For more information please contact Katherine Lawrence - kalawrence@shaw.ca

5TH ANNUAL POETRY GALA

Saturday, April 18 - 1:30 p.m., 5th Annual Poetry Gala at the Richmond Hill Public Library, 1 Atkinson Street, Richmond Hill, ON. Featuring readings from Carolyn Smart, Sue Sinclair, Barry Dempster, Steve McOrmond, Matthew Tierney and Lola Lemire Tostevin. Hosted by Barry Dempster Refreshments and book table. The Richmond Hill Public Library is located at the southwest corner of Yonge Street and Major MacKenzie (buses run north from Finch station, 20-30 minute ride)

COWBOY POETRY WEEK IS CELEBRATED EACH YEAR DURING APRIL NATIONAL POETRY MONTH IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

In 2009, Cowboy Poetry Week—the eighth annual—is celebrated April 19-25. CowboyPoetry.com initiated Cowboy Poetry Week, and for the celebration's second year, in April 2003, the United States Senate passed a resolution, with unanimous approval, recognizing our Cowboy Poetry Week celebration. Twenty states' governors and other officials have recognized Cowboy Poetry Week since, and many activities take place in communities across the West and beyond. For more info: <http://www.cowboypoetry.com/week.htm>

OAK BAY LIBRARY

Sunday, April 19, 2009, Rosalee van Stelten, 2 p.m., Oak Bay Library, 1442 Monterey Avenue, Victoria (Oak Bay), BC. Info: http://gvpl.ca/about_the_library/branche. Rosalee van Stelten reads from her new poetry book, Pavlov's Elephant, in which she evokes "landscape and spectacle, sadness and laughter, myth and family fable, places past and present." Book sales and signing.

POW! POETRY'ZOWN WEEKEND FESTIVAL

POW! Poetry/zOwn Weekend Festival on April 19th at 3pm Ronna Bloom reads with Marta Cooper and Oana Avasilichioaei. Meet at 66 King Street East, Cobourg, Ontario. For more info: <http://inkbottlepress.com/POW/pow-open.htm>

(W)RITES OF SPRING IN SASKATOON

Sunday, April 19th, 7:30 p.m., Flint, 259 2nd Avenue South, Saskatoon. Poets: Lynda Monahan, Jeanne-Marie de Moissac, Lia Pas, Bruce Rice and Jacob Scheier (2008 GG Winner). We have joined forces with TIP so look out. Come early as we expect a capacity crowd. We will be asking everyone to make a modest donation to the League of \$5 (or more) as this is our annual fundraiser. Door prizes, raffles, poetrypoetrypoetry. For more information please contact Katherine Lawrence - kalawrence@shaw.ca.

TYPE BOOKS

Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. at TYPE Books, 883 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON. Carolyn Smart will read from her new collection Hooked, seven poems.

AL PURDY PARTY TRIBUTE NIGHT

A Fund-Raiser for the Al Purdy A-Frame Trust on National Al Purdy Day (http://www.poetrymap.ca/news_item.php?NewsID=35). April 21st is the anniversary of Al Purdy's death in 2000 and so we will gather to pay tribute to one of the 20th century's great poets Al Purdy "The Voice of the Land", "One of the Greatest Poets Canada has ever seen." And to raise funds for the Al Purdy A-Frame Trust. There will be a raffle and a silent auction of rare Purdy memorabilia courtesy of the Trust and Eurithe Purdy. Admission by on a sliding scale of \$5 - \$15 or whatever you can donate. With tributes by: George Bowering, Lionel Kearns, Sean McGarragle, Heather Haley, Sr. Duncan, Rodney Decroo, Al Mader, Warren Dean Fulton, Rc Weslowski, plus other guests to be announced soon. There will also be an open mic for any Al Purdy inspired poems you might have. Poems, stories, video, a raffle, beer, & a party atmosphere celebrating a Canadian National treasure. Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at Café Deux Soliels, 7:30-11PM, Vancouver, BC.

WESTERN SWING CELEBRATES NATIONAL AL PURDY DAY

Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 5 - 9 p.m. at the Northfork Artist Residency, 5 miles north of Hythe, Hwy 59 (NW-14-74-11 W6M), Hythe, AB. Cover: \$10. In celebration of National Al Purdy Day we're having a party out at our Northfork Artist Residency. Northfork was created in much the same spirit as Purdy's A frame as a place where artists of any genre can retreat from the world and focus on their creativity. Hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided. Please bring your own libation. \$10 cover charge will be donated to the Al Purdy A-frame project. Northfork is easy to find - email Dymph (dymphny@telus.net) for directions. Readings by Dymphny Dronyk, Karen Bass & Peace Country Artists & Writers. www.blueskiespoetry.ca

ROBSON READING SERIES

Thursday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Robson Reading Series at UBC Library/Bookstore at Robson Square, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver, BC. Celebrate National Poetry Month With Us Act 2: David O'Meara reads from Noble Gas, Penny Black. With Elise Partidge.

THE YELLOW DOOR READINGS

Tuesday, April 23, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the The Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer, Montreal, QC. Cover: \$5. An Evening of Poetry, Prose & Music featuring Carolyn Zonailo, Sheri-D Wilson, Ian Ferrier, Moe Clark, Fortner Anderson, Kaie Kellough and Ilona Martonfi.

EDMONTON POETRY FESTIVAL (FROM APRIL 23 TO APRIL 26)

- Friday, April 25 at 8 p.m. at Audrey's Books, 10702 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB. David O'Meara reads from Noble Gas, Penny Black. With TL Cowan. Audrey's is celebrating 50 years of independent bookselling and is a welcome space for writers and readers. Browse the shelves before, between and after the readings. For more information, call 780-423-3487.
- Saturday, April 26 from 1:30 p.m. at the Edmonton Public Library. Master class - What makes a poem or performance work (or not?) Listen in while special guest poets David O'Meara and Jacob Sheier and local poets share and critique their work.

POETRY HAPPY HOUR

Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 3 - 6 p.m. at the Artery, 9535 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB. POETRY HAPPY HOUR - presented by the League of Canadian Poets, the Edmonton Poetry Festival and House of Blue Skies. Readings by Dymphny Dronyk (host), League of Canadian Poet members: Maurice Mierau, Lori Cayer, Mari-Lou Rowley, Andy Michaelson, Jenna Butler, Bob Stallworthy, Glen Sorestad, and House of Blue Skies poets Marlene Dean, Allan Boss & Pierrette Requier and Edmonton poet Jonathan Meakin. For more info: www.edmontonpoetryfestival.com

POETRY & PIANO

A performance of poetry & piano by RONNA BLOOM & PETER DICK @ an exhibition of paintings by Ann Bald-Bloom. Saturday April 25th and Sunday April 26th, 4 pm both days at The Toronto Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Ave., Toronto, ON.

YELLOWHEAD ROTARY ARTS FESTIVAL

Sunday, April 26, 2009, Yellowhead Rotary Arts Festival, from 1 - 3 p.m. at the Hinton Centre, Switzer Drive, Hinton, AB. WESTERN SWING REPRISED COMES TO HINTON!! Readings by Dymphny Dronyk (host), Maurice Mierau, Lori Cayer, Mari-Lou Rowley, Andy Michaelson, Jenna Butler, Bob Stallworthy, Paulette Dube, Angela Kublik. For more info: www.yraf.com

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH - WESTERN SWING

Sunday, April 26, 2009 from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre, Connaught Drive, Jasper, AB. Readings by Dymphny Dronyk (host), Maurice Mierau, Lori Cayer, Mari-Lou Rowley, Andy Michaelson, Jenna Butler, Bob Stallworthy, Paulette Dube, Angela Kublik.

***** Poetry News *****

THE GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE 2009

The Griffin Poetry Prize 2009 shortlist will be announced Tuesday, April 7, 2009. This year's judges are Saskia Hamilton, Dennis O'Driscoll, and Michael Redhill. The 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize Anthology will be published by House of Anansi Press in June. Founded in 2000, the "Griffin" awards two literary prizes of \$50,000 each. A Canadian prize is given to a living poet resident in Canada; an international prize is given to a living poet from any country in the world. Listen to Noah Richler's interview with Scott Griffin, founder of the Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry and the Griffin Poetry Prize. To learn about The Griffin Trust for Excellence in Poetry, visit their web site.

MONTREAL POET ARRIVES IN VANCOUVER FOR INAUGURAL RESIDENCY

Historic Joy Kogawa House welcomes first writer-in-residence. Historic Joy Kogawa House is pleased to announce our first writer-in-residence, Montreal poet John Asfour. Upon arriving in Vancouver, Asfour said: "I am pleased to be chosen as the first writer-in-residence at Kogawa house. I'm here to learn how a community like the Japanese Canadian would turn a part of their historical suffering into something positive by establishing a place where writers can live and work. Japanese Canadians were very supportive of the Arab-Canadian community and what it had to endure after September 11." Asfour is the author of four books of poetry in English and two in Arabic. He translated the poetry of Muhammad al-Maghut into English under the title *Joy Is Not My Profession* (Véhicule Press), and he selected, edited and introduced the landmark anthology *When the Words Burn: An Anthology of Modern Arabic Poetry, 1945–1987* (Cormorant Books). The majority of the writer's time in residence will be devoted to work on a book of poems entitled *Blindfold*, which exposes the "rich and strange" possibilities of a life that has undergone some frightening transformation and is displaced from its element. The book is partly autobiographical—born in Lebanon, Asfour was blinded in 1958 at age 13 during the Civil War there. The poems also explore feelings of loss, displacement and disorientation experienced by the disabled and relates them to immigrant themes that Asfour has previously addressed. Asfour suggests that the disabled often feel like foreigners in their own land, hampered by prejudice (sometimes well-meaning), communications barriers and the sense of "limited personality" that characterizes the second-language learner. While in Vancouver between now until the end of May, Asfour will present poetry workshops to a variety of audiences, in collaboration with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Simon Fraser University's Writers Studio and the Vancouver Public Library. Opportunities for consultation on work in development are also available. Further information can be found on the website of the Historic Joy Kogawa House Society at www.kogawahouse.com and TLC The Land Conservancy of BC, at www.conservancy.bc.ca or by calling (604) 263-6586.

THE SAWCHUK POEMS HAS BEEN NAMED A FINALIST FOR THE 2008 WINTERSET AWARD

Congratulations to Randall Maggs whose book *Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems* has been named a finalist for the 2008 Winterset Award administered by the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council. About *Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems* " . . . Randall Maggs gets closer than any biographer to the heart of the darkest, most troubled figure in the history of our national game. This may be the truest hockey book ever written." – Stephen Brunt, *Globe and Mail* and *SportsNet*

Randall has been busy travelling across the country and in the United States promoting his book since it was published in February 2008. He will be in Pasadena, Victoria and Nanaimo this week - he has read in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Toronto, Peterborough, Hamilton, Orillia, Windsor, Boston, Detroit, East Lansing, Fredericton, Halifax, Woody Point (Newfoundland) and Corner Brook as well as Dublin, Cork and Waterford, Ireland.

2008 CBC LITERARY AWARD IN THE POETRY CATEGORY

Congratulations to Sue Goyette who has won the 2008 CBC Literary Award in the Poetry category for her poem "Outskirts". The winning entries will be published in *Air Canada's enRoute* magazine between March and August and were read on CBC Radio's *Between the Covers* on Sirius Satellite Radio during the week of March 2nd. Or you can find them at the cbc.ca/podcasting page.

Sue Goyette has published two books of poems: *The True Names of Birds* (Brick Books) and *Undone* (Brick Books) and has been nominated for the Governor General's Award, the Pat Lowther Award, the Gerald Lampert Award, the Atlantic Poetry Award and the Dartmouth Book Award. Her novel, *Lures* (HarperCollins) was short-listed for the Thomas Head Radall Atlantic Fiction Award. She lives in Halifax and is currently renovating an old house and writing in a new room. She teaches creative writing at Dalhousie University and leads a workshop for teenage writers at Alderney Gate Public Library. She also participates in the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia's Mentorship and Writers in the Schools programs.

***** Literary News *****

MATTHEW CHURCH ELECTED CHAIR OF TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

TORONTO (Wednesday, March 18, 2009) - The Toronto Public Library Board announced the recent election of Matthew Church to the position of Board Chair. Church joined the Library Board in 2004 and acted as Vice-Chair in 2007.

"I'm excited to help shape the future of Toronto Public Library, particularly as this time of economic uncertainty when libraries are more vital than ever to our city's wellbeing," said Church. "Like many Torontonians, I'm passionate about the library and believe that a flourishing library system is key to a strong city. I'm looking

forward to working with my fellow Board members and Chief Librarian Jane Pyper to help Toronto Public Library thrive and evolve.”

A key objective of the Board is to ensure the library is successfully implementing its new strategic plan. The library conducted extensive research about the future of Toronto and consulted with the community to determine how it could best respond to the city’s needs. The plan focuses on the following key areas:

- Engaging Toronto’s diverse communities
- Addressing the city’s growing income gap
- Expanding access to technology and online services
- Supporting creativity and culture
- Supporting a sustainable library by protecting our resources and future.

Matthew Church’s professional background spans the literary and not-for-profit sectors. He currently oversees marketing and communications at Evergreen, a national charity that facilitates and funds community- and school-based greening projects in cities across Canada. Church has also worked as a director of marketing and communications at a national AIDS agency and, before that, as a magazine editor and writer for over 20 years.

Eman Ahmed was elected as Vice-Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board. Eman works for the Canadian Council of Muslim Women and for Action for Neighbourhood Change and volunteers on the Board of the Bloor Information and Life Skills Centre, a not-for-profit agency providing social services to diverse ethnic communities.

Other Toronto Public Library Board members are: Councillor Paul Ainslie, Adam Chaleff-Freudenthaler, Councillor Janet Davis, Ann Decter, Tina Edan, Kathy Gallagher Ross, Okeima Lawrence, Councillor Chin Lee, Councillor Anthony Perruzza, Councillor Adam Vaughan, Kate Wilson.

ATLANTIC INK, THE WRITERS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 SHORT LIST

Four provinces! A weeklong fanfare of writers, books, readings, workshops! May 4 to 9, 2009! The shortlists have been announced. Five first time writers are being recognized for debut novels championed by some of Canada’s most innovative small presses. www.atlanticink.ca is resplendent with readings, signings, workshops and the complete details of the nominated authors and books for the May celebration when writers will be applauded from Charlottetown to Saint John, Fredericton to Wolfville, St. John’s to Halifax from May 4 through 9. Collectively travelling an estimated 23,872 km, all paths will converge in Halifax on Friday, May 8, 7 pm at the Saint Mary’s University Sobeys Building in the Scotiabank Theatre. Alistair MacLeod will deliver ATLANTIC INK’s first keynote – A Writer’s Life: Geography as Inspiration – as prelude to four readings by the winners of this year’s writers’ book prizes.

This year’s nominees are:

12th annual Atlantic Poetry Prize

- Shades of Green, Brent MacLaine, The Acorn Press
- Breaker, Sue Sinclair, Brick Books
- Sky Atlas, Alan R. Wilson, Fitzhenry & Whiteside

19th annual Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children’s Literature

- Lightning and Blackberries, Joanne Jefferson, Nimbus Publishing
- The Nine Lives of Travis Keating, Jill MacLean, Fitzhenry & Whiteside
- Submarine Outlaw, Philip Roy, Ronsdale Press

19th annual Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize

- Quintet, Douglas Arthur Brown, Key Porter Books
- Evidence, Ian Colford, The Porcupine’s Quill
- Skin Room, Sara Tilley, Pedlar Press

32nd annual Evelyn Richardson Non-fiction Prize

- Dangerous World: Natural Disasters, Manmade Catastrophes, and the Future of Human Survival, Marq de Villiers, Penguin Canada
- Loyalists and Layabouts, Stephen Kimber, Random House Canada
- Halifax at War, William D. Naftel, Formac Publishing

Schedule of Events: All events for Atlantic Ink, The Writers Festival, except where indicated, are free and open to all members of the public (dates and times are subject to change. Visit www.atlanticink.ca for up-to-the-minute details, changes and additions).

THE WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA ANNOUNCES WRITING FOR CHILDREN COMPETITION 2009

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to launch its 13th annual Writing for Children Competition, which invites writers to submit a piece for children up to 1,500 words in the English language that has not previously been published in any format. A \$1,500 prize will be awarded to an unpublished Canadian writer, and the entries of the winner and finalists will be submitted to three publishers of children's books. The deadline for entries is April 24, 2009.

Writing for children is a popular yet challenging genre to write in, whether for the youngest of children or teenagers. "Writing for children at its best speaks to young people without pandering to them, and whether through entertaining, educating, or enlightening, instills a love of reading that lasts a lifetime," says Deborah Windsor, the Union's Executive Director.

The Union initiated the Writing for Children competition to discover, encourage, and promote new writers of children's literature. The Competition has grown in popularity since its inception, last year attracting 933 submissions from every region of Canada.

The Union is delighted to announce an esteemed group of jurors for the Competition. Norma Charles has written several award-winning books for children, including *The Girl in the Backseat*, which received the Moonbeam Bronze Medal in 2008. She also won the 2005 Chocolate Lily Award for *All the Way to Mexico*, and the Sheila Egoff Prize for Children's Literature in 2002 for *The Accomplice*. Former CBC journalist Kathy-Diane Leveille, a former finalist in the Writers' Union's Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers, published her first collection of short stories *Roads Unravelling* in 2003. Her debut novel, *Let the Shadows Fall Behind You*, will be released this spring. Noted children's writer Eric Walters is a two-time Red Maple (for *We All Fall Down* and *Rebound*) and three-time Silver Birch (for *S.T.A.R.S.*, *Trapped In Ice*, and *Camp X*) award winner who has received numerous other accolades for his writing, including a UNESCO Honours Selection for *Caged Eagles*.

To be eligible, submissions must be written by Canadian citizens or landed immigrants who have not been published in book format in any genre and who do not have a contract with a book publisher. Any text, fiction or nonfiction, up to 1,500 words, in the English language, that is original and not previously published in any format, is eligible. A typed, double-spaced entry in a clear twelve-point font on white paper, not stapled or exceeding maximum word length, along with an entry fee of \$15 (cheque or money order) per submission, should be sent to The Writers' Union of Canada at: 90 Richmond Street East, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1P1. The deadline for submissions is April 24, 2009. Submissions on computer disk or faxes will not be accepted. For complete rules and regulations, please go to http://www.writersunion.ca/cn_writeforchildren.asp.

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

******* Opportunities *******

Please note: The opportunities, contests or markets listed in this electronic newsletter are only an informational resource. We encourage all poets to thoroughly investigate all contests or markets before submitting their work.

POETS WANTED FOR YOUNG POETS WEEK, APRIL 6-12, 2009

The League of Canadian Poets is gearing up for the 11th annual National Poetry Month, and young poets are centre stage. During the second week of April, Young Poets' Week will feature exciting projects and initiatives, across the country and online. This year the League is looking for published poets who can fill the following volunteer opportunities to help raise the profile of Canadian poetry:

- 1) Online Mentorships: If you have an interest in helping one or more young poets improve their craft, this is the spot for you. Duties include visiting poetry forums every 1-2 days during the week and providing comments on poems.
- 2) Video Poetry Café: Do you have a digital video camera and an inclination to inspire youth? Have you ever created poetry videos? If so, we are looking for poets who like the idea of spreading the word about poetry through video clips. Through a unique online poetry cafe, we want to show Canada's poets to youth and inspire them even more. Send us your files at elizabeth@youngpoets.ca and we will feature them on our very own Web channel: <http://ypca.blip.tv> If any of the above opportunities interest you, please contact Élisabeth Robert

for more information with a brief bio at elizabeth@youngpoets.ca

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR VICTORIA BOOK PRIZES

The Victoria Book Prize Society is now accepting submissions for the 6th annual City of Victoria Butler Book Prize and the 2nd annual Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize competition honours a member of the local literary community with \$5,000 for the best book published for adult readership in the categories of poetry, non-fiction, fiction and biography. The Bolen Books Children's Book Prize honours members of the children's books literary community and presents \$5000 to the author/illustrator of the best book published in the area of books for youth. "We are pleased to continue our commitment to supporting arts and culture in the community," said Mayor Dean Fortin. "For the sixth year, the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize will honour literary achievement and showcase the incredibly talented authors who make the Capital Region unique." Guidelines and submission forms are available at www.victoriabookprizes.ca. Books must have been published between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 to be considered this year. Submissions may be made to the City of Victoria's Community Development Office, at 633 Pandora Avenue between April 14 and May 29, 2009. Two independent juries comprised of representatives of the literary arts community will be appointed by the Victoria Book Prize Society to review and assess adult and children's literature entries based on their literary or illustrative merit. VBPS President, Mary Virtue is proud to announce that these awards represent some of the largest literary prizes, at city level, given in Canada. With their recent website update, Mary hopes that submissions will continue to climb as the Society casts a wider net. She also looks forward to another sell-out gala on October 14, 2009, at the Union Club of Victoria. Finalists for both prizes will be announced in September. Last year's City of Victoria Butler Book Prize winner was Paper Trail (NeWest Press) by Arleen Paré and Mechanimals (Orca Book Publishers) by Chris Tougas won the inaugural Bolen Books Children's Book Prize. For further information contact: Neil Williams, VBPS 250-598-6405 or info@victoriabookprizes.ca or Check the website at www.victoriabookprizes.ca.

EVENT MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL NON-FICTION CONTEST

Three winners will each receive \$500 (plus publication payment). Publication in Event 38/3 (December 2009). Other manuscripts may be published. Preliminary judging by the editors of Event.

Final Judge: John Burns is executive editor of Vancouver magazine. Previously, he was managing editor and books editor of the Georgia Straight. He has worked as an editor, reporter, and freelance reviewer and broadcaster, and is currently working on this third book, a novel for teens. He teaches Writing for Magazines at Capilano and Kwantlen universities.

Myrna Kostash, Andreas Schroeder, Sharon Butala, Tom Wayman, Di Brandt, Terry Glavin, Karen Connelly, Charles Montgomery and Timothy Taylor are some of our past judges.

Writers are invited to submit manuscripts exploring the creative non-fiction form. Check your library for back issues of Event with previous winning entries and judges' comments. Contest back issues are available from Event for \$9 (includes GST and postage; US\$9 for American residents; CAN\$13 for overseas residents).

Note: Previously published material, or material accepted elsewhere for publication, cannot be considered. Maximum entry length is 5000 words, typed, double-spaced. The writer should not be identified on the entry. Include a separate cover sheet with the writer's name, address, phone number / email, and the title(s) of the story (stories) enclosed. Include a SASE (Canadian postage / IRCs /US\$1). Douglas College employees are not eligible to enter.

Entry fee: Multiple entries are allowed, however, each entry must be accompanied by a \$29.95 entry fee (includes GST and a one-year subscription; make cheque or international money order payable to Event). Those already subscribing will receive a one-year extension. American and overseas entrants please pay in US dollars. Deadline for entries: Postmarked April 15, 2009.

ARC: CANADA'S NATIONAL POETRY MAGAZINE

Arc: Canada's National Poetry Magazine invites entries to its International Poem of the Year Contest. 1st Prize: \$1500; 2nd Prize: \$1000; 3rd Prize: \$750. Contest Entry: Entry fee is \$23, in Canadian funds, which entitles you to a one-year subscription of Arc mailed to a Canadian address, beginning with the Winter 2010 issue. (If you already have a subscription, you can give your new one-year subscription to a friend. Please include their mailing address.) Alternately, you can choose to have one issue sent to a U.S. or overseas address. You can pay your contest entry fee through the online [poetry stand](http://poetrystand.com) where we accept Visa, Mastercard, paypal, and e cheques. Alternately, you can send a cheque or money order with your mailed contest submission.

Contest Rules: All contest submissions must be submitted by post mail. All cheques or money orders should be in Canadian funds and made out to the Arc Poetry Society. Arc welcomes Poem of the Year entries from Canada, the United States, and around the world, but if you live outside Canada we still need to receive your entry fee in Canadian funds. It is easiest if you use the [Poetry Stand](#) to submit your contest entry payment. Otherwise, you should be able to obtain a money order in Canadian funds from your post office, if you are not able to write a cheque in Canadian funds. Entrants may submit up to two unpublished poems with your \$23 fee. To include extra poems, add \$5 per poem. No e-mail submissions accepted. Length of each poem must not exceed 100 lines. Entrant's name, address, e-mail and phone number must not appear on the poems, but instead on a separate sheet that also lists the titles of the poems entered. Judging is blind. No entrants (including winners, honourable mentions, or authors of Editor's Choice poems) may substitute, before, during, or after judging, a revision of any poem already submitted to the contest. No poems will be returned. Judging: Arc editorial consortium. Next Deadline: Entries must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2009. Only winners will be notified by October 15, 2009.

Privacy Notice: Unless you indicate otherwise, Arc may share addresses of entrants to the 2008 Poem of the Year Contest with similar literary magazines or related organizations for promotional purposes. If you would like your address information kept private, write "Please don't share my address" near your address information on the sheet you include with your submission. Your request will be honoured.

Shortlist: 50 shortlisted poems, pending permission of their authors, will be eligible for the Readers' Choice Award. Visit this site between September 1 and September 30, 2009 to read poems contending for Readers' Choice and cast your vote! Publication: Winning poems will be published in Arc's Winter 2010 issue (published December 2009). Send entries to: Poem of the Year Contest, Arc: Canada's National Poetry Magazine, P.O. Box 81060, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 1B1.

CALL FOR POETS - APRIL 17, 2009

The Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon. Do you write poetry? Do you read poetry? Do you love poetry? Do you hate poetry? Here's your chance to spring poetry on an unsuspecting world. Fifteen minutes is all it takes. From 9am to 9pm on Friday, April 17, 2009, poets all over Canada and in the U.S. will be speaking poetry aloud to random passers by, to assembled audiences or to no one in particular. Take part and have your poetry join the flock of words that will fly across the country. How do you participate? Anytime before April 17th you can sign up for a time slot by filling in our short online form at cookedandateen.com. You can choose any time of day and any length of time. How does it work? On the day of the marathon a poet will start reading 15 minutes of poetry at 9am. As soon as they're finished another poet somewhere else will read for 15 minutes, and on it will go throughout the day until 9pm. You may get an incredible feeling on the day of the Marathon. As you get ready to start your reading you know there is another poet somewhere finishing up and as you finish, you know there's someone out there to carry on. Poets feel connected from coast to coast. Where are all the other poets? We will distribute a schedule of all the poets who have signed up so you can see who is reading where and when.. What will happen to all this poetry? Poets are encouraged to create documentation of their reading: video, audio, still photography, sketches or a combination of the above. These records will be posted the Cooked and Eaten website. Don't be shy. This is about bringing poetry in all it's forms to all the corners of daily life. If you've got fifteen minutes of poems, or can make one poem last 15 minutes, you're in. If you aren't a poet, but have a favourite poem or three you'd like to read, you're in. If you do performance poetry or spoken word, all the better. If you know a number of poets you can get together to read for an hour or share 15 minutes. Each reader who signs up is emailed a printable .pdf of a Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon poster to put up and flier to hand out at his or her chosen venue explaining the event to passers by. Where have people read their poetry in past marathons? Locations include (but are certinally not limited to): Bookstore, hospital, street corner, hotel, shopping mall, art gallery, cafe/restaurant, retail store, bus stop, on a plane, favourite park, theatre, school/classroom, backyard party, farm, at home, sculpture garden, under and old growth tree, in a canoe on a lake, library, to a cherry tree in bloom, at the beach, at the gym. Where do I send my photos and videos? Once you have finished your reading, you can send your archived media (photos, audio, video, sketches, etc.) to: readings@cookedandateen.com. I have a big group of poet friends, can I organize something in my own city? Yes! Many groups are starting to organize their own poetry mini-marathons under the Cooked and Eaten Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon title. You can put together your own twelve hours or you can put together one, two or four hours, whatever you like. If you have a group and would like to participate, send me an email at readings@cookedandateen.com if you have questions, need support or would like more information about setting up a marathon, short or long, in your own town. For Information and photos of last year's event: www.cookedandateen.com

BARRIO POETRY POSTER

L’Affiche Barrio Poetry Poster. Nous sommes maintenant bilingues. Posted in Libraries from coast to coast and on the street in Toronto. Envoyez vos texts chez nous: Dianne Reid, 117 Budea Cres., Scarborough, ON M1R 4W2.

SEEKING VIDEOPOEM SUBMISSIONS

Pacific Cinémathèque and curator Heather Haley are seeking videopoem submissions from around the world for the annual Visible Verse screening and performance poetry celebration. SEE THE VOICE: Visible Verse is North America's sustaining venue for the presentation of new and artistically significant poetry video and film. Official guidelines: Visible Verse seeks videopoems, with a 15 minutes maximum duration. Either official language of Canada is acceptable, though if the video is in French, an English-dubbed or-subtitled version is required for consideration. Videos may originate in any part of the world, however. Works will be judged on true literary merit. The ideal videopoem is a wedding of word and image, the voice seen as well as heard. Please, do not send documentaries, as they are outside the featured genre. Videopoem producers should provide a brief bio, full name, and contact information in a cover letter. There is no official application form nor entry fee. Send, at your own risk, videopoems and poetry films/preview copies (which cannot be returned) in DVD NTSC format to: VISIBLE VERSE c/o Pacific Cinémathèque, 200--1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2L7, Canada. Selected artists will be notified and receive a screening fee. Deadline: Sept. 1, 2009. For more info: hshaley@emspace.com

CALL FOR THE COOKED AND EATEN 2009-2010 SEASON

It's now really easy to apply to read at the Cooked and Eaten. All you need to do is go to our online Writer's Application and fill out as much information as necessary. Your name and info will be added to the list of applicants and you will be considered for a reading next season. Deadline for Canada Council Eligible Readers: FEBRUARY 15, 2009; Deadline for all other readers: MAY 15, 2009. [Guidelines](#) for readers are available on our website at: <http://www.cookedandateen.com/about/getcooked.html>. In our online application you can express your interest in reading at our special events, which include: The Dog Days of Summer Open Mic at the Pig's Ear Tavern (August); The 20 Minute Word Project (September); Artsweek Site Specific Readings (September); Children's Readings at Titles Bookstore (late November); December Open Mic; Valentines Erotica Night (February 2010); The Poetry of Everyday Life Marathon (April 17, 2009). We'll be sending another call just for the poetry marathon, so if that's your thing, you can let us know now, but we'll be sending out a special call just for that day during the month of February. If you have any questions or want to let us know what you think of our new online application process, please send us an email (readings@cookedandateen.com).

DESIGN CONTEST - PROFESSIONAL GIG

Interested in designing for the Arts? The Calgary International Spoken Word Festival is now accepting prototype design for our 2010 festival! It's easy, what we're looking for is a postcard that represents who we are. Check out our other festival designs on our website – the winner will develop their festival designs from the prototype. Be Seen... If chosen, your design will be the face of the largest Spoken Word Festival in Canada, and will be circulated on thousands of programs, posters, handbills and web-material around the world. Exposure... You can show yourself to the world and this will be an excellent addition to your portfolio. Get Paid... If you win you will get paid and this will be negotiated. Deadline: May 15, 2009. Interested parties should send their prototypes and inquiries to festival director, Sheri-D Wilson at sheridwilson@shaw.ca.

2009 PRAIRIE FIRE PRESS AWARDS

2009 Prairie Fire Press - McNally Robinson Writing Contests Bliss Carman Poetry Award - Judge: Don Domanski, Short Fiction - Judge: Paul Quarrington, Creative Non-Fiction - Judge: Charles Wilkins. \$6,000 in prizes. First prize in each category \$1,250, 2nd prize \$500, 3rd prize \$250. Deadline: November 30, 2009. For information contact: Prairie Fire Press, 423-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1H3. Phone: (204) 943-9066, E-mail: prfire@mts.net, or check out our web site for guidelines at www.prairiefire.ca.

******* Events, Reading & Workshops *******

GREAT BLUE HERON WRITING WORKSHOP

The Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop will run from June 30 to July 5, 2009 at St. Francis Xavier University, in Antigonish, NS. Brian Bartlett – poetry; Lorri Neilsen Glenn – memoir; Alistair MacLeod – fiction; Donna Morrissey – fiction; Colleen Murphy – playwriting. For more information, feel free to contact Brenda Riley at gbheron@stfx.ca. And have a look at the website: www.stfx.ca/workshops/gbheron

JUST WRITE WORKSHOPS 2009

Just Write Workshops 2009 facilitated by Dawna Proudman.

- Loving your Muse, Saturday 23 May. Nourish your longings. Turn over the compost of your creative experience. Transform obstacles into tools. Prepare the soil. Feed your imagination. Plant your words. Invoke the light. For beginners and everyone in need of a little sustenance and renewal.
- Wrestling with Your Inner Critic (with affection and humour) Sunday, 24 May. Develop divinely creative ways to edit, deepen and spin your writing on its (metaphorical) ear! Give your internal critic a towel and maybe some smelling salts but definitely take away his or her whistle! Learn the art of picking oneself up off the mat, time and time again. Get your worst editing frustrations up against the ropes. Perfect your victory dance!

Author of Elements of Grace, editor of Strong in My Skin and Saugeen Stories, and co-founder of the Words Aloud Spoken Word Festival, Dawna Proudman has facilitated JUST WRITE! workshops for students of all ages since 1993. As one of Owen Sound's Poets of the Month, her interview, bio and a selection of her poetry can be viewed at www.owensound.library.on.ca, (click on Poet Laureate and Poet of the Month Icon, then click on Dawna Proudman in left hand column). 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., fee: \$85 per day includes lunch, materials & refreshments. Sign Up for Both Days: \$150. Accommodation, Breakfast & Dinner: \$80/person/night. SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE RESERVE EARLY. dproudman@sympatico.ca or (519) 369-5867, Durham, Ontario.

SUMMER WRITING ON SALT SPRING:

June 19-22 retreat with Lorraine Gane. Explore the rich terrain of your deepest writing during this four-day retreat on magical Salt Spring Island. A sense of possibility will emerge for this new writing, along with renewed vigor for ongoing projects. Accommodation ranges from rustic cabins for \$40 a night single and mid-ranged motel rooms to luxury b&bs (list provided; also see <http://www.gulfislands.net>). The retreat costs \$375 (\$325 with registration and \$100 deposit by May 1), which includes four writing sessions (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), lunch and optional one-on-one consultation (group dinner extra). Writers working in all genres and levels of experience welcome. Lorraine Gane is a poet, writer, teacher and editor. Her writing has been widely published in magazines, journals and newspapers across North America. She has taught at the University of Victoria and Vancouver Island University, and is now working on a new collection of poems, "The Blue Halo," and a book on writing. For more information: ganegoodger@saltspring.com; 250/537-5294.

******* New Members *******

CAROLINE MORGAN DI GIOVANNI – FULL MEMBER

Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni grew up in suburban Philadelphia. She came to Toronto in 1966 to attend St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto. She married Alberto Di Giovanni in 1972, and has lived in Toronto ever since, serving as a school board trustee, then a municipal councillor, and a community volunteer. A writer, editor, and occasional speaker on Italian Canadian writing, she edited Italian Canadian Voices: A Literary Anthology, 1946-2004 (Mosaic Press, 2004). Caroline and Alberto raised three children who all still live in Toronto.

DEBBIE OKUN HILL – ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Debbie Okun Hill started writing poetry seriously about four years ago. Since then, over 115 of her poems have been or will be published in over 50 different publications including Quills Canadian Poetry Magazine, Ascent Aspirations Magazine, The Saving Bannister, Leaf Press Monday's Poem, and the New York based MOBIUS.

Her work has already received prizes from the 2006 Canadian Poetry Association, the 2007 Dan Sullivan Memorial, the 2006 Toward the Light and other contests. She is the 2007 recipient of the Ted Plantos Memorial Award and in 2008 Beret Days Press published her first chapbook Swaddled in Comet Dust. She is an Executive member of The Ontario Poetry Society, a co-host of a monthly spoken word/open mic event, and has read her poetry in numerous Ontario cities.

******* Members News *******

RONNA BLOOM

- The launch of Ronna Bloom's P E R M I S O on Thursday 16 April 2009, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Hart House Library, Second floor, Hart House, 7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON.
- A performance of poetry & piano by RONNA BLOOM & PETER DICK @ an exhibition of paintings by Ann Bald-Bloom. Saturday April 25th and Sunday April 26th, 4 pm both days at The Toronto Heliconian Club, 35 Hazelton Ave., Toronto, ON.
- POW! Poetry'zOwn Weekend Festival on April 19th at 3pm Ronna Bloom reads with Marta Cooper and Oana Avasilichioaei. Meet at 66 King Street East, Cobourg, Ontario. For more info: <http://inkbottlepress.com/POW/pow-open.htm>

ALLAN BRIESMASTER

Allan will be reading in the following three National Poetry Month-related free events in the Greater Toronto Area:

Saturday, April 11th, 10:30 -12:30, at the Bathurst Clark Resource Library, 900 Clark Ave. West, a block west of Bathurst, in Thornhill. The 90-page anthology *Earth to the Moon* will be launched, featuring members of the Vaughan Poets Circle and other poets who reside in Vaughan. (Allan has three poems in the book.) There will be an open mic and refreshments. See <http://www.vaughanpl.info/libraries/view/2>.

On Monday, April 20th, 7:30 -10:00, Allan and fellow poets Caroline Morgan Di Giovanni, Beatriz Hausner, Barbara Landry, and Rob Rolfe will read from their work at the Wychwood Art Barns Community Gallery. The Gallery is on Christie St., a block south of St. Clair. See <http://www.torontoartscape.on.ca/places-spaces/artscape-wychwood-barns>.

For Al Purdy Day, Tuesday, April 21st, at 7:30, Allan is reading at a party, open to all, honouring the great poet at Ellington's Music and Café, 805 St. Clair Ave. West (at Winona). 416-782-7944. Others involved are emcee and performer Honey Novick, poets James Deahl and Kent Bowman, Prof. Stephen Scharper, and performers Armando Espana and Allie Ho-sang.

TERRY ANN CARTER

Terry Ann Carter has won the Lucy Maud Montgomery Award for haiku presented by the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies on the 100th anniversary of Anne of Green Gables. The award was presented by LMM's grand daughter. Terry Ann Carter presented four poetry workshops to youth at the Wabano Aboriginal Health Centre, Ottawa, during the month of March. For Poetry Month Terry Ann will be reading (with Ronnie Brown) at the Ottawa Public Library, Sunnyside Branch, April 2nd, for "The Canal Mug Poetry Series": April 3rd at The Cove in Westport, April 5th at the Smith's Falls Railway Museum, and April 16th at Immaculata High School, Ottawa, with Colin Morton, Susan McMaster and Marty Gervais.

SONJA DUNN

During a recent Jamaican holiday in January of 2009 Dorothy Joan Harris and Sonja Dunn had the great pleasure of visiting four classes in Granville Primary School in the parish of Trelawny, near Montego Bay. They had a fine time sharing a bit of Canada and performing for the enthusiastic children. They were pleased to be able to leave some books for the school library.

MARILYN GEAR PILLING

Marilyn Gear Pilling won the \$1000. Descant Magazine Winston Collins prize for "Best Canadian Poem 2008" for her poem *Billy Collins Interviewed Onstage at Chautauqua*. The poem will be published in the fall issue of Descant magazine.

SONJA GRECKOL

Inanna Press launches *Gravity Matters* by Sonja Greckol will be launched in Toronto on April 16, 2009 at XEXE Gallery, 624 Richmond Street West, Toronto, from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

Greckol's poems track oft-opposing impulses for both 'gravity and flight,' as she imagines what it is to stand at both sides of the barricades inside our own consciousness, calibrating the complex weave of reason and rapture. A gorgeous, intelligent cherner of a debut.

—Margaret Christakos

History and personal history, defiant elegy and hymns to the warmly embodied self, *Gravity Matters* manages to find the charged moment, goes to work there, 'offer[ing] whiskey with poppy seed cake'. We feel this gravitational pull, as readers; an altering, cumulative wind unveiling the sly half-truth in, 'zephyr shivers/the copse/on the landfill,/and no/thing changes,/apparently'. These poems are honest, unafraid of the mistakes in a life, the missteps of memory.

—Ken Babstock

These are poems about survival—which is to say, poems about grief and how the soul survives it. 'When he is dog meat, she weeps // at the cruelty of farming: the horse without / wings cannot be saved by naming.' All the themes of this book are triumphantly summed up and extended in its central poem, Greckol's haunting, monumental 'Emilie Explains Newton to Voltaire.' With eloquence and unceasing formal invention, the horse with wings (Pegasus, or poetry) tries to save mortal life by naming what it was.

—Frank Bidart

SUSAN MCCASLIN

Susan McCaslin has a new chapbook forthcoming this May from The Alfred Gustav Press: Series Two. This new press produces invigorating, original, previously unpublished poetry in a creatively designed handmade artifact signed by the poet. Susan's *Persephone Tours the Underground* contemporizes the Greek myth of Persephone's abduction into the underworld as a paradigm for cultural ills such as eating disorders, perfectionism and materialism, while also sounding new notes of hope about how the matrix of the feminine and masculine might be repaired. Subscriptions are available for \$10 in total for the three issues above, including chapbooks by Matt Rader and Christopher Levenson. The subscription deadline is April 1, 2009. Please send cash or your cheque (along with your mailing address) payable to David Zieroth at: The Alfred Gustav Press, 519 2nd Street East, North Vancouver, BC, V7L 1E1. For more information: dzieroth@telus.net.

CARMELO MILITANO

Olive Press is pleased to announce the release of 'Feast Days' a collection/melody of nearly lost poems & new poems by Carmelo Militano. Carmelo was the recipient of F.G. Bressani award for poetry in 2004 and his prose work 'The Fate of Olives' was short-listed twice: in Manitoba for the Eileen McTavis Skyes Book award in 2007 and in B.C. for the F.G.Bressani non-fiction award in 2008. 'Feast Days' is being officially launched with a reading at McNally Robinson Booksellers, Polo Park, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

FIONA TINWEI LAM

Fiona Tinwei Lam launches *Enter the Chrysanthemum*, a new collection of poems about family, love and loss, published by Caitlin Press <http://www.caitlin-press.com/> at The Sylvia Hotel in Vancouver on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:30 pm along with Marguerite Pigeon who is launching her new poetry collection, *Inventory* with Anvil Press. She will also be reading with Washington's poet laureate, Sam Green, New York poet, Phillis Levin, Seattle poet, Nancy Pagh and BC poet and BC Book Prize nominee, Nilofar Shidmehr on Wednesday, April 5, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Vancouver Public Library downtown. You can also hear her read during BC Book and Magazine Week on April 23 at 6:30 pm with Kate Braid at the Montmartre Café.

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