

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

LCP POETRY FESTIVAL AND CONFERENCE PACKAGES

Members who are registered for the LCP Poetry Festival and Conference will receive their LCP Poetry Festival and Conference packages in the mail. Please contact the office if you do not receive it by the time you leave for the conference or if there is anything you would like us to include or post on the website. We will be in the office until Wednesday, June 18. See you in St. John's!

ELECTIONS AT THE AGM

One of the main tasks at the annual LCP Poetry Festival and Conference is to elect the people who will serve on the League's National Council for the upcoming year. Here is the slate of candidates to date:

President: Dennis Reid

Past President: Maurice Mierau

Vice-President: Joe Blades

Treasurer: Ray Mitchell

Regional Reps:

NL/NS rep:

NB/PEI rep:

Quebec/Nunavut rep: Angela Leuck

Ontario rep: Elizabeth Greene

Toronto rep: k.g. sambrano

Manitoba rep: Lori Cayer

Saskatchewan rep: Katherine Lawrence

Alberta/NWT rep: Dymphny Dronyk

BC/Yukon: Yvonne Blomer

Associate rep:

Please note: We are still seeking candidates for the **Newfoundland/NS, New Brunswick/PEI**. All positions are open to members who wish to stand for election, and nominations may be made from the floor at the LCP Poetry Festival and Conference for by emailing: Mary Ellen Csamer <mecsamer@yahoo.com>.

***** Poetry & Literary News *****

'PEOPLE'S POET' AL PURDY'S STATUE UNVEILED

Eurithe Purdy sat at the feet of her late husband, renowned poet Al Purdy, on Tuesday as a statue of him was unveiled at Queen's Park. "His pose to me looks so natural, as if he could almost walk away from where he's reclining," she said. The three-metre-tall black bronze statue has Purdy perched atop two rocks and staring south onto the grounds of the park, site of the Ontario legislature. The poet died in 2000 at age 81. Literary luminaries attending the event, including Margaret Atwood, Dennis Lee and John Ralston Saul, remarked on the significance of having a poet honoured on the grounds of a government landmark. For full CTV article: http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/20080521/purdy_statue_080521/20080521

CALIFORNIA NATURE POET WINS \$100,000 U.S. POETRY PRIZE

Gary Snyder, a poet known for his verse about nature and spirituality, has won the United States' richest poetry prize, the \$100,000 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. Snyder, 78, began writing in the 1950s as a member of the beat movement along with Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. He spent most of the '60s in a Zen monastery in Japan. He was the inspiration for Japhy Ryder in Kerouac's *The Dharma Bums*. Now a professor emeritus of English at the University of California, Snyder lives in northern California. The jury called him "a deeply learned and meditative artist, an impassioned ecologist, and a poet of great scope. For full CBC article: <http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/story/2008/04/29/poetry-prize.html>

KIDS MAKE IT A GRAND POETRY SLAM

Youngsters got creative with words during a poetry performance. The children from eight primary schools throughout Todmorden took part in Todmorden Poetry Slam, organised by the Touchwood Project. It saw around 200 pupils perform their own pieces at Ferney Lee School, Todmorden. Pupils collected local stories before retelling them in their own special way. For full Halifax Courier article:

<http://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/Kids-make-it-a-grand.4135397.jp>

KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

Koffler Centre of the Arts has announced the winners of the 20th anniversary Helen and Stan Vine Canadian Jewish Book Awards. The Awards celebrate excellence in Canadian writing reflecting Jewish themes and subjects including history, fiction, Yiddish and other fields. Among this year's winners is a book about a controversial Holocaust hero by Anna Porter, and a breathtaking novel by John Miller, an exciting new voice in Canadian fiction.

The Joseph and Faye Tanenbaum Award in History

- Kasztner's Train: The True Story of Rezső Kasztner, Unknown Hero of the Holocaust by Anna Porter, Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre

The Beatrice and Martin Fischer Award in Fiction

- A Sharp Intake of Breath by John Miller, Publisher: The Dundurn Group

The Frances and Samuel Stein Memorial Award in Youth Literature

- Out of Line: Growing up Soviet by Tina Grimberg, Publisher: Tundra Books

The Samuel and Rose Cohen Memorial Award in Biography/Memoir

- They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust by Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Mayer Kirshenblatt, Publisher: University of California Press

The Abe and Fay Bergel Award in Scholarship on a Jewish Subject

- Converts, Heretics, and Lepers: Maimonides and the Outsider by James Diamond, Publisher: University of Notre Dame Press

The Abraham and Eve Trapunski Award in Yiddish Literature

- Representing the Immigrant Experience: Morris Rosenfeld and the Emergence of Yiddish Literature in America by Marc Miller, Publisher: Syracuse University Press

The Canadian Jewish News Award in Poetry

- Laike and Nahum: A Poem in Two Voices by Ruth Panofsky, Publisher: Inanna Publications and Education Inc.

The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Award in Holocaust Memoir and Literature

- Bits and Pieces by Henia Reinhartz, Publisher: The Azrieli Foundation

This was an exceptional year for Canadian books reflecting Jewish themes. Over one hundred submissions were considered by a distinguished jury, chaired by writer Edward Trapunski, along with Cynthia Good, Sara Horowitz, Marjorie Gann, Judy Wolfe, Beatrice Fischer, Adam Fuerstenberg, Judith Ghert, and Dorothy Shoichet. The Awards will be presented by the Koffler at a special ceremony in Toronto on June 4th at 8:00 PM at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. This free event is open to the public and all are welcome. Complete details on the event and all the winners are available at www.kofflerarts.org. Michael Wex — playwright, performer and bestselling author of Born to Kvetch and Just Say Nu, will be the special guest speaker for this year's Awards. Wex has been hailed as a "Yiddish national treasure" and has almost single-handedly brought Yiddish back into the North American mainstream with his wickedly funny overview of the language and culture. For more info: www.kofflerarts.org.

GIANTS OF POETRY AND SPORT

Love Of Mirrors by Gary Hyland, Coteau Books, \$19.95

Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems by Randall Maggs, Brick Books, \$20

Here are two very large books of poetry, one from a giant of letters here in Saskatchewan and one about a giant of sport. Moose Jaw's Gary Hyland, with help from editor, Amy Caughlin, has put together a selection of poems from six of his collections, along with a substantial number of new ones, while Newfoundland poet Randall Maggs has gotten into the life, mind, and times of champion NHL goalie Terry Sawchuk to give readers some idea of what might have been going on inside the talented and troubled warhorse of the six-team era. For full The Star Phoenix article:

http://www.canada.com/saskatoonstarphoenix/news/weekend_extra/story.html?id=b7ec61d6-7928-4129-828f-95c1055b0382

SLAM POET CHILLS HIS AUDIENCE

The Cambie brings an intimate event for folk music lovers and any one who is a fan of spoken word. Shane Koyczan brings his penetrating, but non-obtrusive voice that so often provokes a range of emotions from his world-wide audiences. His smoky voice can chill or sooth even the immovable. He doesn't do vocal exercises, which indicates that his soft baritone sound probably comes from his expensive cigarette habit. Couple that voice with award-winning spoken-word lyrics and this man's passion will pat your back, pierce your thoughts, or scratch your very core. For full Nanaimo Daily News article:

<http://www.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/story.html?id=c1a60872-80f5-465f-8290-5b7d9f13e29a>

TEENS GOING FROM BAD TO VERSE

Eight years ago, Vancouver's Sara Bynoe unearthed her old boyfriend's teenage love poems. These maudlin masterpieces were hilarious. So she phoned a girlfriend to enjoy a mutual guffaw. That nasty yukfest was the seed for Teen Angst Poetry Night. For this performance, 27-year-old Bynoe reads her self-penned teen poems, then invites audience members to read their own horrific teen musings (e-mail her at sarabynoe@gmail.com to sign up). Bynoe's interest in teen writing spun off into a successful website in which people worldwide post their poems. She wrote a 2005 book, Teen Angst: A Celebration of Really Bad Poetry, and hosts a monthly open-mike night at Vancouver's Railway Club for those who relish bad teen prose. For full article:

<http://www.canada.com/cityguides/victoria/story.html?id=15be778e-cc30-4457-bbc2-36682415f8de>

DEADLINE EXTENSION FOR GREAT BLUE HERON WRITING WORKSHOP

The deadline for registering for the Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop has been extended to June 15th, 08. The 2008 Great Blue Heron Writing Workshop (July 1-5) at St. Francis Xavier University invites mid-level writers to engage in small-group sessions in one of four categories: fiction, playwriting, poetry, or magazine writing and creative non-fiction. This workshop offers a supportive atmosphere in which participants learn from established writers. Daniel MacIvor – Playwriting; Bob Bancroft - Magazine Writing & Creative Non-Fiction; Anne Compton – Poetry; Michael Crummey – Fiction; Madeleine Thien – Fiction. For more information, please see the following:

<http://www.stfx.ca/workshops/gbheron/index.htm> or phone Brenda Riley at 902.867.4532 or email gbheron@stfx.ca

RUBICON PRESS ANNOUNCES SEVERAL NEW OFFERINGS

Rubicon Press is thrilled to announce several new offerings from a host of talented poets! Recently released chapbooks include: Bill Howell's Ghost Test Flights; Michaela A. Gabriel & Alex Stolis' small confessions & pebbles of regret; Hugh Fox's Alex; rob mclennan's the acts; Crystal Hurdle's "Ajar" (broadside). Upcoming releases before the end of the 07/08 season include: Alan Loney's Day's eye; Joanne Arnott's Longing/Four poems on diverse matters; Claire Sharpe's Casual Notation of Earth-Shattering Events.

The winner of Rubicon Press' Second Annual Midwinter Chapbook Competition, Marcus McCann, will head up the 2008/09 publishing season in September with his high-energy collection The tech/tonic suite. Stay tuned! Visit us online at www.rubiconpress.org for chapbooks, broadsides, t-shirts and submission info!

THE WORDWRIGHTS CANADA WEB PAGE CANADIAN LINKS OF INTEREST TO WRITERS

Ever wondered how other poets work and feel about their artistic lives? The Wordwrights Canada Web page Canadian Links of Interest to Writers <<http://www3.sympatico.ca/susanio/WWClinks.html>> is developing a set of annotated links to books of essays, memoirs, and interviews by and with Canadian poets, titled Canadian Poets on Their Art and Writing Life. Suggestions for further titles by/with Canadian poets about their writing experience and aesthetic practice are always welcome. Please e-mail wordwrights@sympatico.ca.

21ST ANNUAL TRILLIUM BOOK AWARD FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

English Language Finalists for The Trillium Book Award:

- Gil Adamson, The Outlander (House of Anansi Press)
- Lorna Goodison, From Harvey River (McClelland & Stewart)
- Barbara Gowdy, Helpless (HarperCollins Publishers)
- Robert Hough, The Culprits (Random House Canada)
- Dennis Lee, Yesno (House of Anansi Press)
- Ray Robertson, What Happened Later (Thomas Allen Publishers)

English Language Finalists For The Trillium Book Award For Poetry

- Emily Schultz, Songs for the Dancing Chicken (ECW Press)
- Rob Winger, Muybridge's Horse (Nightwood Editions)
- Rachel Zolf, Human Resources (Coach House Books)

French Language Finalists for the Trillium Book Award

- Andrée Christensen, Depuis toujours, j'entendais la mer (Les Éditions David)
- Michel Dallaire, l'anarchie des innocences (Les Éditions L'Interligne)
- Gilles Lacombe, La Jouissance des nuages de la pensée (Les Éditions L'Interligne)
- Pierre Raphaël Pelletier, L'Œil de la lumière (Les Éditions L'Interligne)
- Richard Poulin, Enfances dévastées, tome 1 : L'Enfer de la prostitution (Les Éditions L'Interligne)
- Michèle Vinet, Parce que chanter c'est trop dur (Prise de parole)

French Language Finalists for The Trillium Book Award for Poetry

- Tina Charlebois, Poils lisses (Les Éditions L'Interligne)
- Christian Milat, Douleureuse aurore (Les Éditions David)

SHEILA FISCHMAN, ANGUS MCLAREN WIN CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS MOLSON PRIZES

Montrealer Sheila Fischman, one of Canada's top literary translators and Angus McLaren, a University of Victoria professor and world-renowned expert on the history of sexuality, are the winners of this year's Molson Prizes, presented by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Ms. Fischman, who has translated more than 125 books by such well-known writers as Gaétan Soucy, Anne Hébert and Michel Tremblay, is the winner of the Molson Prize in the Arts. Dr. McLaren, a Distinguished Professor of History (Emeritus) at the University of Victoria, and author of at least 10 books on the history of sexuality, gender and reproduction, is the winner of the Molson Prize in the Social Sciences and Humanities.

Two Molson Prizes, worth \$50,000 each, are awarded every year to distinguished Canadians, one in the arts and the other in the social sciences or humanities. The prizes recognize the recipients' outstanding lifetime achievements and ongoing contributions to the cultural and intellectual life of Canada.

Of this year's recipients, the jury said: "With more than 125 translations of works by Quebec authors to her credit, Sheila Fischman has introduced Canada's French-language literature to countless English-language readers both at home and abroad. Her phenomenal body of work has made a significant contribution to Canadian heritage by giving expression to a wide range of voices and building bridges between the two cultures. Literary translation is an under-recognized art form, an act of creation in which the creator is often anonymous. Ms. Fischman has perfected this art form and deserves to be applauded by all Canadians."

"Angus McLaren is an imaginative and prolific historian who has increased significantly our understanding of sexuality, gender and reproduction, and other related topics. Dr. McLaren's insightful scholarship, encompassing many books and articles, sheds new light on issues that are an important part of our social fabric. Drawing on a rich array of sources and addressing historical experience broadly, his writing emerges out of a deep engagement with international scholarship yet it is accessible to a broader public. Translated and republished in many languages, this body of research has brought him international recognition as a leading figure in a number of fields of inquiry."

Established in 1964, the Molson Prizes are funded from the income of an endowment given to the Canada Council for the Arts by the Molson Foundation and now valued at more than \$2.6 million. The Council administers these awards in cooperation with the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and, following a nomination process, both laureates are selected by a joint peer jury. The winner of last year's Molson Prize in the Arts was composer, conductor and music educator Alex Pauk. The Molson Prize in the Social Sciences and Humanities went to University of Waterloo philosophy professor Paul Thagard.

For more information about these awards, including nomination procedures, contact Janet Riedel Pigott, Endowments and Prizes Program Officer, at 613-566-4414, or 1-800-263 5588, ext. 4116, e-mail: janet.riedel@canadacouncil.ca or Joanne Larocque-Poirier, Head, Endowments and Prizes at 613-566-4414, or 1-800-263 5588, ext. 5041, e-mail: joanne.larocque@canadacouncil.ca

NATIONAL CAPITAL WRITING CONTEST AWARDS

At the Winners Circle Awards Evening last night, the Canadian Authors Association - Ottawa Branch honoured the best writers in Ottawa and area. Adult categories were sponsored by the Ottawa Citizen, Collected Works Bookstore and Read's Book Shop, including Short Story, Essay and Poetry. Prizes for 1st Prize, 2nd and 3rd place at \$250, \$75, and \$50 respectively, in all categories. Philanthropist Dave Smith sponsored the Youth Short Story category, for writers 13 to 17 years of age, with cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places of \$250, \$75, and \$50 respectively.

Youth Short Stories - Judge - Rhonda Stephenson
First Place - The Most Complicated Puzzle - Alanna Ferguson
Second Place - Turning Point - Samantha Morin
Third Place - Crowsong - Gabriel Wainio-Theberge

Honourable Mentions

Layla's Garden - Samantha Chown
Partner - Cameron R. H. Chown

Adult Short Story - Judge - Fred Kerner

First Place - Better Together - Tesni Ellis
Second Place - Julian's Feast - Wayne Ng
Third Place - A bolt from the Blue - Beverley Ann Colpitts

Honourable Mentions

The Wee Hours - Mary Hagey
The Veiled Virgin - Anne Kathleen McLaughlin
God Spelled Backwards - Ruth Latta

Essays - Judge - Matt Bin

First Place - Prolific - Ruth Latta
Second Place - The Poetry Proposal (E-20) - Roy Thomas
Third Place - Water is Life - Krista Ranacher

Honourable Mentions -

Pencil Thin and Other Fashions - Iris Winston
On Spell-Checkers - Jon Peirce
An Essay on the Merits of Planning Your Own Demise - Derek North
Poetry - Judge - Bernice Lever
First Place - One Oak - Christy Cochrane
Second Place - Autistic - Marcia Taylor
Third Place - Even Though You're Dead - Lise M. Rochefort

Honourable Mentions -

Tea Leaves - Carol A. Stephen
Winter - Gabriel Wainio-Theberge
He was a Big Man - Lynne Alford
For further information, contact Sharyn Heagle, President, Canadian Authors Association - Ottawa Branch
613-821-2485.

WINNERS OF POETRY IN MOTION ANNOUNCED

Along with rising gas prices comes another reason to jump on a Winnipeg Transit bus; a fresh batch of bus-riding poems have just been chosen for Poetry in Motion 2008. Poetry in Motion is an arts initiative organized by the Manitoba Writers' Guild, with help from the Canada Council. Every two years a series of six to eight poems are chosen from the work of almost 100 entrants. The chosen poems are transferred onto Winnipeg Transit Interior advertising placards, where they will be seen and read by thousands of Winnipeg commuters. The poets whose work is chosen receive an honorarium and they are also acknowledged on the placards with a byline and a short biography. The poets whose work will be excerpted on Winnipeg Transit vehicles for Poetry in Motion 2008 are Katherine Bitney, Sharon Caseburg, Méira Cook, Gloe Cormie, Carolyn Creed, Victor Enns, Ken Kowal and A. Mary Murphy. They are in good company; the first two winners of the new Aqua Books Lansdowne Prize for Poetry/Prix Lansdowne de poésie, Brandon's Laurie Block and Winnipeg's Alison Calder, were two of the chosen poets in past Poetry in Motion competitions. The jurors for this year's Poetry in Motion competition were Manitoban writers Sarah Klassen, Chandra Mayor and Colin Smith. An official unveiling will occur later this summer. For more information, call 942-6134.

TWO WINNER'S ANNOUNCED AS RECIPIENTS OF THIS YEAR'S BPNICHOL CHAPBOOK AWARD

Phoenix Community Works Foundation (PCWF), sponsor of the bpNichol Chapbook Award, just announced the winner or rather the winner's of the 2008 bpNichol Chapbook award. This year saw so many deserving and noteworthy entries that the Judges Bev Daurio and Richard Truhlar had a difficult time narrowing down a single winner. As a result, two winners will share the award, Jay Millar, Toronto poet, editor, publisher and virtual bookseller for *Lack Lyrics* and Cara Benson with her entry *Quantum Chaos & Poems*. Cara lives in New York

City, but is published in Canada by BookThug, which coincidentally is owned and operated by award winner, Jay Millar. Looks like a double win for Millar! Cara's work appears in print and online. She teaches poems every Tuesday at NY State Prison and edits the online lit/artjournal *Sous Rature* www.necessetics.com/sousrature.html. Both winners will be featured later this week on www.bpNichol.ca – the new website developed by the Artmob project in collaboration with Ellie Nichol, and designed as a not-for-profit community initiative. For Media Inquiries or to set-up interviews please contact Natalie @ (416) 964-3380 or write natalie@pcwf.ca.

SHORT LIST ANNOUNCED FOR THE DANUTA GLEED LITERARY AWARD

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce the short list of nominees for the eleventh annual Danuta Gleed Literary Award. The Award recognizes the best first English-language collection of short fiction by a Canadian author published in 2007. Judges Genni Gunn, Donna Morrissey and Fred Wah short-listed the following nominees:

- Andrew Hood: *Pardon Our Monsters* (Esplanade)
- Liane Keightley: *Seven Openings of the Head* (Conundrum)
- Roberta Rees: *Long After Fathers* (Coteau)
- Valerie Stetson: *The Year I Got Impatient* (Oolichan)
- Tom Wayman: *Boundary Country* (Eastern Washington University Press)

The jury commented upon, “. . . the diversity of language and voice in the short-listed titles. Particularly strong were the authors' approaches to the emotional landscape of their characters, rendering their stories as evocative in the telling, as they are universal in scope. ” (Jury)

The Award consists of cash prizes for the three best first collections, with a first prize of \$10,000 and two additional prizes of \$500. The winners will be announced in Toronto, Ontario on May 24, 2008, during the Annual General Meeting of The Writers' Union of Canada. Their names will be posted on the Union's website (www.writersunion.ca). For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

JOANNE LAROCQUE-POIRIER APPOINTED HEAD OF ENDOWMENTS AND PRIZES AT THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS

Robert Sirman, Director of the Canada Council for the Arts, announced today that Joanne Larocque-Poirier has been appointed Head of Endowments and Prizes, effective immediately. Ms. Larocque-Poirier joined the Canada Council in 1998 to head the Millennium Arts Fund, a special program aimed at funding arts projects to mark the new millennium. In 2001, she joined the Council's Writing and Publishing section as the program officer responsible for administering the Governor General's Literary Awards, Canada's oldest and most prestigious literary prizes, as well as the Grants to Literary and Art Magazines program. In 2005-06, she served for seven months on a temporary assignment as manager of the Canada Council's 50th anniversary celebration and later managed the Writing and Publishing component of the Supplementary Operating Funds Initiative. A native of Alexandria, ON, Ms. Larocque-Poirier holds an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Ottawa and began her career as a curatorial assistant in contemporary art at the National Gallery of Canada. She remained at the National Gallery from 1993-1998 as Project Manager, Exhibition Management. As Head of Endowments and Prizes, Ms. Larocque-Poirier will be responsible for the design, planning, administration and overall direction of the Canada Council's national program of prizes, fellowships and awards for artists and scholars, including the Killam Program and the Musical Instrument Bank. She will also direct the Council's efforts toward acquisition of new endowments, handle donor and sponsor relations, develop policy regarding prizes, fellowships, awards and donations and act as an advisor to other agencies and foundations on questions of prize administration, adjudication and funding policy. For more info: www.canadacouncil.ca.

WINNERS OF THE 2008 ATLANTIC BOOK AWARDS

After a week brimming with Book Festival events across all four Atlantic Provinces, including readings, signings, writing workshops, murder mystery tours and more, the nominees for the ninth annual Atlantic Book Awards convened at the Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth. The air was frenetic with anticipation as copies of the 25 shortlisted books were snatched up from booksellers in the lobby. Ten different book prizes were awarded plus the Mayor's Awards for Illustration and for Cultural Achievement in Literature.

CBC-Radio One host Don Connolly opened the Ceremony with panache and continued to charm the audience as he presided over the proceedings. Mayor Peter Kelly took to the stage and awarded the Mayor's Award for Cultural Achievement in Literature to publishing up-and-comer Robbie MacGregor, co-publisher at Invisible Publishing, an ambitious company founded in 2007 and based in Halifax and Montreal, whose books have

already garnered national praise. The Mayor's Award for Excellence in Book Illustration was presented to Len Wagg for his photographic portraits of Nova Scotia's most beautiful – and often secret – natural treasures in *Wild Nova Scotia* (text by Bob Bancroft, Nimbus).

The recipient of numerous awards throughout his rich and fascinating career, Marq de Villiers swept up both the Evelyn Richardson Prize for Non-fiction and the Dartmouth Book Award for Non-fiction for his unique account of Nova Scotia's most famous and beloved sailing vessel, *The Witch in the Wind: The True Story of the Legendary Bluenose* (Thomas Allen). Stewart Donovan had also been nominated for the Richardson and Dartmouth prizes for *The Forgotten World of R. J. MacSween: A Life* (CUB Press). Also nominated for the Richardson was Steven Laffoley for *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder* (Pottersfield), and the final nominee for the Dartmouth prize was A. J. B. Johnston for *Endgame 1758: The Promise, the Glory and the Despair* (CUB Press).

Beatrice MacNeil received the Dartmouth Book Award for Fiction (sponsored by Jarislowsky-Fraser) for her tale of three Cape Breton sons serving in World War II, and the family members who await their return, *Where White Horses Gallop* (Key Porter Books). The other nominees were David Doucette for *North of Smokey* (CUB Press) and Carol Bruneau for *Glass Voices* (Cormorant).

The 20th annual Booksellers' Choice Award went to New Brunswick author Jacques Poitras for *Beaverbrook: A Shattered Legacy* (Goose Lane), a book of investigative journalism with characters and a plot so thrilling it's hard to believe it's not fiction. The other shortlisted titles were Steven Laffoley's *Hunting Halifax: In Search of History, Mystery and Murder* (Pottersfield) and Harvey Sawler's *Twenty-first Century Irvings* (Nimbus). Poitras was invited on stage a second time, with his publisher, Susanne Alexander of Goose Lane Editions, to accept the prize for Best Atlantic Published Book, sponsored by Friesen's Corporation and Hignell Book Printing. The runners-up were Nimbus Publishing for *Gracie, The Public Gardens Duck*, written by Judith Meyrick and illustrated by Richard Rudnicki; and Goose Lane Editions for *Miller Brittain: When the Stars Threw Down Their Spears* by Tom Smart.

Prolific New Brunswick writer K.V. Johansen received the Ann Connor Brimer Award for Children's Literature for her enchanting YA novel, *Nightwalker: The Warlocks of Talverdin* (Orca), the first book in a new series. The Award was presented by Ann's sister, Sara Smith. Also nominated for this year's Award were Valerie Sherrard for *Speechless* (Dundurn) and Alice Walsh for *A Sky Black with Crows* (Red Deer).

The Lillian Shepherd Memorial Award for Illustration was presented by Carolyn Gillis to first-time illustrator Richard Rudnicki for his delightful depiction of Judith Meyrick's story of one duck's quest for a good meal, *Gracie, The Public Garden's Duck* (Nimbus). Also shortlisted were Eric Orchard for *A Forest for Christmas* (Nimbus) and Nancy Keating for *A Puppy Story* (Tuckamore).

Presented by Mary Jane Copps, President of the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Poetry Prize was awarded to Don Domanski for his breathtaking, Governor General's Award-winning masterwork, *All Our Wonders Unavenged* (Brick). George Murray's *The Rush to Here* (Nightwood) and Anne Simpson's *Quick* (McClelland & Stewart) were also nominated for the Prize.

The Margaret and John Savage First Book Award went to first-time novelist Stephanie Domet for *Homing: the whole story (from the inside out)* (Invisible Publishing), a tale that could only be based in Halifax — of love, grief, and the potential for healing that comes from the sometimes surprising interconnections of lovers, friends and neighbours. Also nominated were Fred Armstrong of Newfoundland for *Happiness of Fish* (Jespersion) and New Brunswick's Bob Mersereau for *The Top 100 Canadian Albums* (Goose Lane).

The show wrapped up with the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize, now worth the healthy sum of \$15,000, awarded to Don Hannah for his beautiful story of one woman's unusual journey home, *Ragged Islands* (Knopf). The ever-charismatic and award-winning author, Donna Morrissey, presented, and the Award's patron, Tom Raddall II was also in attendance. Bernice Morgan's *Cloud of Bone* (Knopf) and David Adams Richards' *The Lost Highway* (Doubleday) had also been shortlisted for this year's Prize.

The Atlantic Book Awards are presented by the Steering Committee of the Atlantic Book Festival, which is made up of representatives from the Atlantic Independent Booksellers' Association, Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association, Atlantic Area Publishers' Representatives, Ann Connor Brimer Award Committee, Dartmouth Book Awards, Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Awards, Nova Scotia Library Association, Halifax Public Libraries, Halifax Regional Municipality and Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. Nominees and winners are chosen by independent peer juries.

The Steering Committee acknowledges the generous support that has made the Festival a reality: Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Council for the Arts, Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage, CBC-Radio One, *The Chronicle Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegram*. For full details, including author bios and more, visit www.writers.ns.ca/bookfest08

CANADIAN AUTHORS ASSOCIATION 2008 LITERARY AWARDS

The Canadian Authors Association announced today the winners of its annual awards competition for literary works published in 2007. Introduced in 1975, the CAA Literary Awards continue the association's long tradition of honouring Canadian writers who achieve excellence without sacrificing popular appeal. The five finalists were chosen from among over 300 nominations. The 2008 CAA Literary Awards winners are as follows:

- CAA/MOSAID Technologies, Inc. Award for Fiction
Paulette Jiles, Utopia, TX, for *Stormy Weather*
(HarperCollins Canada. ISBN: 9780002006040)
Prize: \$2500 and a silver medal
- CAA/Lela Common Award for Canadian History
Robert Wright, Toronto, for *Three Nights in Havana*
(HarperCollins Canada. ISBN: 9780002006262)
Prize: \$2500 and a silver medal
- CAA/Carol Bolt Award for Drama
Colleen Murphy, Toronto, for *The December Man (l'homme de décembre)*
(Playwrights Canada Press. ISBN: 9780887545955)
Prize: \$1000 and a silver medal
- CAA Award for Poetry
Asa Boxer, Montreal, for *The Mechanical Bird*
Véhicule Press. ISBN: 9781550652277)
(Prize: \$1000 and a silver medal)

Author bios are available at www.canauthors.org/awards/winners.html

******* 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.

CANADA COUNCIL SEEKS PARTNERSHIP AND NETWORK COORDINATOR, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Canada Council for the Arts is presently recruiting for the position of Partnership and Network Coordinator, Strategic Initiatives. Please post this vacancy internally or forward this e-mail to candidates that may be interested in this position. Please visit our website at www.canadacouncil.ca to view the posting. Applications should be submitted to Rachelle Malone, Human Resources, no later than June 6, 2008 at competition@canadacouncil.ca quoting competition number 1702T. For more information or for a complete job profile, please contact Rachelle Malone at 613-566-4414 extension 4114 or at 1-800-263-5588 extension 4114. Applications can also be sent by fax to 613-566-4323. The Employment Application Form must be completed and submitted in order to be considered for this position. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

WINNIPEG PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MANITOBA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES INVITE APPLICATIONS

Winnipeg Public Library and Manitoba Public Library Services invite Applications for the Position of Writer-In-Residence for 2008-2009. The Winnipeg Public Library and the Public Library Services Branch of Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport are seeking applications for the 2008 edition of their Writer-in-Residence program. From an office at Winnipeg's Millennium Library, the Writer-in-Residence will work with emerging writers across the province via email and by phone as well as through individual consultations, group workshops and programs within the city of Winnipeg.

The residency will begin October 1, 2008 and run for ten months, subject to funding. The Writer-in-Residence

will spend a minimum of 40% of the time (14.5 hours per week) on public consultation work and 60% (20.5 hours per week) on his/her own writing. Criteria: The successful applicant must have had at least two books published professionally and be a resident of Manitoba. Previous experience in teaching, writing or as a manuscript evaluator/editor/mentor would be an asset. Salary: \$2500 per month.

Application: Your letter of application must include the following:

- History of literary publications in poetry, drama, fiction or non-fiction
- Statement of personal mentoring philosophy
- Experience in conducting writing courses, workshops, editing, etc.
- Description of the personal writing project that would be worked on during the residency

Application deadline: July 18, 2008. Apply to: Writer-in-Residence Selection Committee, Millennium Library Reader Services, 251 Donald St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3P5. Note: Previous applicants and former Writers-in-Residence may submit an application for consideration.

MALAHAT REVIEW

B.C. and the Green Imagination-A Call for Submissions The Malahat Review will devote its Winter issue to the Green imagination. Submissions of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and book reviews that engage with the idea of B.C. by residents and non-residents are welcome. Deadline: June 1st (postmark date) and complete guidelines can be found at http://malahatreview.ca/bcgreen_contest/2007_announcement.html

2008 WRITING CONTESTS. 3 CONTESTS. \$6,000 IN CASH PRIZES.

2008 Prairie Fire Press - McNally Robinson Writing Contests Bliss Carman Poetry Award - Judge: Marilyn Dumont, Short Fiction - Judge: Michael Winter, Creative Non-Fiction - Judge: Lawrence Hill. \$6,000 in prizes. First prize in each category \$1,250, 2nd prize \$500, 3rd prize \$250. Deadline: November 30, 2008. 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.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

This information was sent to you by the Canada Council for the Arts, one of the four founding members of the Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Foundation. If you have questions about making a nomination, please direct them to Whitney Breithaupt at the Foundation by phone at (613) 241-5297 x 203 or by email at whitneyb@ggpaaf.com <mailto:whitneyb@ggpaaf.com>. The Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement and The Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Performing Arts. Deadline for 2009 nominations: June 15, 2008. Nominations are now open for Canada's most prestigious awards for excellence in the performing arts. They recognize lifetime artistic achievement in the fields of theatre, dance, classical music, popular music, film, and radio and television broadcasting as well as for voluntarism in the performing arts.

Each recipient of the Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award receives a \$25,000 cash prize and a commemorative medallion. The recipient of the Ramon John Hnatyshyn Award for Voluntarism in the Arts receives a specially commissioned sculpture by a Canadian artist and a commemorative medallion.

Your participation in the nomination process is crucial to ensuring that deserving Canadian performing artists and volunteers are honoured for their lifelong commitment to the arts. Visit www.bce.ca/ggawards for full details of the nomination process.

BUFFALO RUNS

Buffalo Runs Press seeks submissions for its inaugural poetry series. The series will be released as pocket-sized books featuring roughly eight to twelve pages of work from three poets from different regions in Canada. Submissions to the series should be for 8-12 pages of poetry. At 30 lines per page, this equals a maximum of 350 lines. For more details, please visit www.buffalorunspress.ca.

GRAIN EDITOR WANTED

Grain magazine, the award-winning literary journal published by the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, is seeking an editor. Working creatively as part of a small team, the editor manages all editorial and production aspects of the magazine. The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild acts as publisher of the magazine and the editor reports to the board through the executive director of the Guild. The successful applicant will have experience in the selection, editing and copy-editing of literary manuscripts, knowledge of production and printing processes, strong organizational and administrative skills including grant-writing and demonstrated abilities in budgeting and personnel management. The candidate will demonstrate an ability to work both independently and in a team

setting. Knowledge of the Canadian literary community is expected and familiarity with CanLit journal publishing is an asset. Located in Saskatoon, this is a three-year, half-time employment contract offering \$19,000 per annum and a benefits package after three months. Applications for the position must be received by August 13, 2008. Please forward your resume including a description of your editorial approach to *Grain* Competition, The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, Box 3986, Regina SK S7K 3K1 or to ed.swg@sasktel.net. For a more detailed job description, please visit the *Grain* website at www.grainmagazine.ca.

THE ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL SEEKING LITERATURE OFFICER

The Ontario Arts Council is a publicly funded arm's-length agency of Ontario's Ministry of Culture whose primary purpose is to award grants to professional artists and arts organizations.

Literature Officer

Salary range: \$55,481 - \$83,224

Location: Toronto

Term: 5 year renewable

Start date: September 15, 2008

You are an accomplished professional within the literary arts whose broad knowledge of the interrelationships and complexities affecting the literary community in Ontario makes you the ideal candidate to support the advancement of the field through Ontario Arts Council's granting programs.

Your 6+ years of work experience in the literature field, combined with your leadership skills, innovativeness and thoughtful approach regarding the diverse needs of Ontario's literary communities, enable you to act as a critical link between them and the Ontario Arts Council. Responsibilities include:

- Delivering and evaluating granting programs;
- Managing and facilitating the peer assessment granting process;
- Assessing grant requests in collaboration with jurors and advisors;
- Developing policies, programs, strategies and services relevant to the literary communities and the Ontario Arts Council's priorities;
- Providing guidance and support to applicants applying to OAC;
- Increasing access to, and awareness of, OAC and its programs;
- Anticipating and responding to the development needs of the field;
- Networking, attending events on evenings and weekends, and traveling throughout Ontario;
- Supervising, managing and collaborating with staff in a team setting;
- Overall management of the office workflow, including budget responsibilities and monitoring and analyzing granting data.

Qualification criteria:

- Working knowledge of the history, current status and issues of the literature field, including literary cultural industries;
- Understanding of the administration of funding literary arts activities and organizations is an asset;
- Effective and responsible management of budgets and staff;
- Effective oral and written communication and presentation skills;
- Computer literacy in Excel, Word and database programs;
- Sound project planning, organizational skills, judgment and ability to problem-solve and multi-task;
- Excellent interpersonal and consultative skills;
- Known for your initiative, flexibility, discretion, dependability and collaborative nature;
- Understanding of how Ontario's culturally diverse and Aboriginal voices are represented in literature.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a cover letter and resume, by June 20, 2008 to: Ontario Arts Council, FILE # 01-08, Human Resources Office, 151 Bloor St. West, 5th Floor, Toronto, ON M5S 1T6 Web: www.arts.on.ca Email: OACjobs@arts.on.ca

THE ACORN-PLANTOS AWARD FOR PEOPLES POETRY

The Acorn-Plantos Award for Peoples Poetry is awarded annually to a Canadian poet, based on a book published in the previous calendar year. The work should follow in the tradition of Acorn, Livesay, Purdy, Plantos and others by being accessible to all people in its use of language and image. The award is open to any living poet who is a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. The work may be entered by the poet or the publisher. The deadline for entries published in 2007 is June 30, 2008, received. To enter, send five copies and

a cheque for \$25.00 for each title to: Acorn-Plantos Award, c/o Jeff Seffinga, 36 Sunset Avenue, Hamilton, ON, L8R 1V6. For further information contact jeffseff@allstream.net.

***** Events, Readings & Workshops *****

ROWERS PUB READING SERIES

Wednesday, June 11 at Harbord House, 150 Harbord Street, 2nd floor (416 961-6277), 7:30 pm, Free. A celebration of the first year of the Rowers Pub Reading Series, and a chance to get to know the people behind it, with very short readings by its five directors: Ian Burgham; David Clink; Catherine Graham; Ned Hagerman; and Halli Villegas. Let there be cake! (and a solitary candle). We acknowledge financial assistance through The Canada Council for the Arts through The Writers' Union of Canada, and a donation from Alexander McCall Smith. For more information visit rowerspubreadingseries.com [note: the second season will begin October 1]

DON'T LET YOUR WRITING DREAMS TAKE A VACATION THIS SUMMER! GROW THEM!

Find inspiration at the Canadian Authors Association Annual Conference - CanWrite! July 3-6 in Edmonton. Learn how to source new material, break into new markets, try new genres, polish your word gems and get your writing out there! If you can't attend the entire conference, invest in yourself with a day of professional development or take in a keynote address. Mingle and celebrate with publishers, agents, writers and readers who enjoy a good book at the National CAA Awards Presentations Gala. Listen to the National Literary Award winners at a reading at the Timms Centre. Where will you find inspiration this summer? Learn more at www.canauthorsalberta.ca/CanWrite

POETRY AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OR, POETRY AND THE SACRED HOO-HAH

Listening to poetry is an act of opening. So is writing it. One invites the other. In this day-long workshop, we will use poems and conversations as jumping off points to explore what poetry points to. We'll look at what words like mystery, spirit and soul mean to each of us. What images do they conjure? What gestures? How do they feel in your mouth? We will listen and write. Go deeper into the sacred hoo-hah of poetry, working with poems of Raymond Carver, Rumi, Eduardo Galeano, Jane Hirshfield, Mary Oliver and, most importantly, yourself. Saturday June 21st, 10am-4:00pm; fee \$130. Includes a spread of home-made muffins and cookies. Lunch available in local shops or bring your own. Location: Greenwood & Danforth, Toronto contact ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

WRITING YOUR WAY OUT OF A PAPER BAG

Is there a recurring frustration or a block that keeps throwing itself at you? This three hour intensive workshop includes a brief talk about blocks, frustrations and the tactics we use to avoid/deal with situations. It proposes "writing into the block" and employs at least three writing opportunities in the session. They are meant to open the experience to let some air in and see what's there, and, perhaps, offer the possibility of new directions. This is done in a creative, non-didactic way and it doesn't promise to solve anything! It's meant to be fun. Tuesday July 8th, 9:30am-12:30pm; fee \$75. Morning snacks will be provided. Location: Greenwood & Danforth, Toronto contact ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

CUSTOM-MADE WORKSHOPS

Perhaps you'd like to attend a writing workshop that doesn't exist yet! Something that appeals to you directly. Here are some thoughts: if you're a member of book club that's shy around poetry but curious; or if you're in a gardening group or a meditation group, if you're a painter, or a doctor, or a baker, and are interested in gathering some people to explore the crosscurrents of poetry and your particular interests, let me know. I'd be delighted to design something for your group. Contact: ronna.bloom@utoronto.ca

THE ROBSON READING SERIES PRESENTS

Karen Houle and Rob Winger on Tuesday, June 3, 7 pm at the UBC Bookstore Robson Square - 800 Robson Street, Plaza Level. Free admission. For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit our website at <http://www.robsonreadingseries.ubc.ca/>

The Cross-Border Pollination reading series with Lorna Crozier, Alice Derry, Fiona Tinwei Lam, Patrick Lane, George McWhirter, and Rachel Rose on Thursday, June 5, 7 pm at UBC Bookstore Robson Square - 800 Robson Street, Plaza Level. Free admission. For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit our website at <http://www.robsonreadingseries.ubc.ca/>

COOKED AND EATEN, MONDAY, JUNE 2, GORDON BEST THEATRE

VOL. 8, Issue 14, June 2, 2008 at The Gordon Best Theatre, 216 Hunter St. W, Peterborough, 8:00pm, 45 or PWYC featuring Glen Dresser, Kate Marshall Flaherty, Ruth Panofsky and Anne Gray.

THE WHITE ROCK AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL

The White Rock and District Community Arts Council is hosting another event in its literary series. The evening of Monday June 2nd will see Governor-General's Award finalist, poet Brian Henderson reading from his latest collection, *Nerve Language*. Doors open at 7 pm, the reading is at 7:30. Address of the gallery is #90-1959-152nd Street, South Surrey – in the 'south arm' of Windsor Square Mall. Parking is at the back of the building. For more info: www.whiterockartscouncil.com

SHARON SINGER READS AT HALIFAX PUBLIC LIBRARY

Toronto-born Sharon Singer is a dynamic performance poet and "wordsinger." Her latest work, "Global Warming" is a book and CD collaboration with jazz legend Bob Mover of New York City. She will be presenting an hour-long program of recent poems and spoken word. This reading is sponsored by the Writers Union of Canada and the Halifax Public Library. Free Admission. In the Music, Art & Film Program, Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library Halifax, Nova Scotia on Tuesday, June 17, 2008 at 7:00 pm.

Sharon Singer has published four books of poetry: *Global Warming* (Lyricalmyrical Press, 2008), *Moses* (Batsheva Books, 2007), *The Last Years of the Natural World* (Rising Phoenix Press, 2002), and *Fire Rider* (Fire Mountain Press, 1996). She has also written librettos and lyrics included on two CDs: *Hail, Canadian Art Song*, composer Colin Mack, soprano/producer Doreen Taylor-Claxton; and *Sunrise*, composer Marko Lukac. Her own spoken word and jazz saxophone CD "Global Warming" just released this year, is a collaboration with the eminent sax player Bob Mover of New York City. Sharon is both a page poet and a spoken word performer who is engaged by the rhythms and sonorant qualities of language. Her work focuses on history, relationship -- to the self and to others -- and the placement of experience in emotional context.

EVOCATIVE FESTIVAL OF ORAL PERFORMANCE

June 19 – June 21, 2008, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The eVOCative Festival is an international gathering of artists celebrating storytelling and oral performance, organized in conjunction with The Oral, the Written, and Other Verbal Media conference at the University of Saskatchewan. eVOCative will treat audiences to dynamic world-class performances in oral storytelling, song, and poetry in such border-crossing genres as spoken-word, computer-mediated performance, Aboriginal hip hop, dub, and sound poetry. The festival will also host workshops in storytelling, spoken-word performance, and video poem-making.

The Festival has two main shows:

- A Performance Cabaret featuring Montreal-based spoken-word and movement artist Catherine Kidd, sound poets bill bissett of Toronto and Adeena Karasick of New York, and Toronto-based dub artists ahndri zhinamandiel and d'bi.young.anitafrika, 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 20, Oak Room of the Park Town Hotel, Saskatoon.
- A Crow Hop Café featuring performances from local Cree singer and storyteller Joseph Naytowhow; Métis writer Maria Campbell; Anishinabe poets Kimberly Blaeser of Milwaukee and Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm of Cape Croker, Ontario; Cree-Métis poet and stand-up comedian Neal McLeod; and a dynamic group of young, local hip hop artists, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 21, Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, 228 – 20th Street West, Saskatoon.

For more information, visit the festival website <https://ocs.usask.ca/evocative> or e-mail susan.gingell@usask.ca.

TORONTO BOOK LAUNCH

On Tuesday, June 3rd Montreal poet Maxianne Berger will join Domenico Capilongo for a joint book launch in Toronto at Nicholas Hoare Bookstore, 45 Front Street, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Join us for this free evening of readings by two talented poets.

The launch will be one stop on Maxianne's Ontario tour with her new book *Dismantled Secrets*. She will also be reading at Hamilton's LitLive on Sunday, June 1 (at the Sky Dragon Centre), Grey Borders in Niagara Falls on Thursday, June 5 (at Four Triple Five, the Living Arts Centre), and at Toronto's IV Lounge on Friday, June 6. If you can't come out and see Maxianne, tune in to CIUT 89.5 FM on June 3rd at 10:00 pm to listen to a live interview and reading with Maxianne. Visit the Wolsak and Wynn website for tour details.

<http://www.wolsakandwynn.ca/document.asp?id=1>

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

WINONA BAKER

Winona Baker read with others for: *Cooked and Eaten* outdoors in front of The Poets' Gallery, at Mermaids Mug and with Mildred Trembley and Joy Newell at the Nanaimo Library. Winona has published poetry in a USA

anthologies Honoring Motherhood, Tug of the current and the Loose Thread, A haibun in Takeout, and poetry in online publications: Cahoots and Haiku Project.

SONJA DUNN

Sonja Dunn celebrated National Poetry Month with readings in Sudbury, Ontario at Macleod P.S. and at Guitars Alive, an annual event which she emceed.

She has a new book, Simply Symmetry, Rubicon Publishing Inc. It is based on a chant from an earlier book, Math Chants, and is co-authored by Larry Swartz, distributed by Abrams and Co. in the USA.

CATHERINE GRAHAM

Catherine Graham's third collection of poetry, *The Red Element* (Insomniac Press), was launched May 21st at the Dora Keogh, Toronto. www.catherinegraham.com

SUSAN IOANNOU

If you've ever doubted yourself as a writer, this book is for you. From three decades of editing, teaching, and writing fiction and poetry, Susan Ioannou shares the thorns and honey of the literary life. She knows the aesthetic and personal challenges a literary artist faces. "When we write, we are up against the wall. Who am I? What do I feel? What do I think? Writing forces us to be alone with our thoughts, to work through the wrinkles of our own living." At the same time, when the lines are flowing, there is no greater high—what keeps a writer addicted. Ioannou offers ample light and balm, encouragement and inspiration. There's laughter too, as fable and satire poke gentle fun at foibles and absurdities on the literary scene, and remind all writers of the importance of holding true. *Holding True: Essays on Being a Writer*, by Susan Ioannou, 184 pages, paper ISBN 978-0-920835-29-6, Toronto: Wordwrights Canada, 2008, \$19.95

<http://www3.sympatico.ca/susanio/feature.html>

BERNICE LEVER

Bernice Lever's "Spring Rain" won first place and "Gingerbread House". Won her Honourable Mention, as part of the www.springpulsepoetryfestival.com.

LIA PAS

Lia Pas will be launching a new JackPine Press chapbook--*Husk*--which was created in collaboration with artist and designer Ed Pas. The launch is on June 18, 8pm at Betsy & John's Garden, 734-7th Avenue North, Saskatoon. Please check the JackPine website for more information on the launch and to order the book:

www.jackpinepress.com

MARILYN GEAR PILLING

Poems by Marilyn Gear Pilling won second and third prize in the Ontario Poetry Society's spring contest: "Understanding T. S. Eliot At Last" (2nd prize) and "Lilacs" (third prize). The poems were originally published in Pilling's second collection of poetry, *The Life Of The Four Stomachs*, out from Black Moss Press in 2006.

St@nz@ is distributed monthly to members of the League of Canadian Poets. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or post a notice, send an e-mail to readings@poets.ca If members don't have e-mail access, we'll be happy to send print summaries by snail mail. Please send a note to the League office requesting us to do so. Address: 920 Yonge St. Ste.608, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 3C7. Send news to readings@poets.ca.

The League of Canadian Poets receives operating funding from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Toronto Arts Council.