

January 31, 2008

Hiede Brown is 61 years old and has lived on Gabriola Island for the last 18 years. She claims that older is indeed better as she has never felt better than she does now. As proof she describes recently receiving her Masters degree in Liberal Studies, after starting back to school at age 50, and her full-time commitment to birthing the Gabriola Commons -- a 26 acre community property. Other commitments and joys of her life are her 2 children, her granddaughter Grace, and her budding relationship. She says that each day seems to open a new door in her life, and the more she opens, the more she learns and grows and truly lives. Her most recent book is *Friendly Erotica*.

Bonnie Edwards has worked at a variety of jobs but loves storytelling best. Raised in Toronto, Canada, she now lives on an island within view of Coastal Mountains, the ocean and the City of Vancouver. In 2006, she helped launch the Kensington Aphrodisia erotic romance line in the anthologies *The Hard Stuff* and *Pure Sex*. In 2007, readers can expect an exciting new paranormal series set in a haunted bordello with *Midnight Confessions* (March) and its sequel *Midnight Confessions II* (June). Connected novellas will follow in *Built* (August) and in her single author anthology, *Thigh High*, (February 2008). A long time member of Romance Writers of America, she can be reached through her Contact page. [Web Site](#)

Feb. 28, 2008

Wendy Morton: During the day, Wendy Morton is an insurance investigator. During the night, she's a poet, with two books, *Private Eye* and *Undercover*, published by Ekstasis Editions. On Friday nights she hosts Planet Earth Poetry at the Black Stilt Cafe, a weekly poetry venue in Victoria. In the past she has boarded WestJet flights, read poems to the passengers, and wrote poems as "the poet of the skies." She loves to promote poetry anywhere, will stop strangers to read them poems, and otherwise commit random acts of poetry, sometimes in a PT (poetry travels) Cruiser supplied by Chrysler. Once she got stopped by a cop for speeding, read him a poem and thus avoided a ticket." - Leaf Press. Her most recent book of poetry is *Gumshoe*.
[Can. Poetry](#)
[Random Acts of Poetry](#)
[Words at Large](#)

Carol Matthews is a writer and consultant who has worked as a hospital social worker, Executive Director of a family service organization, and as an instructor and dean at Malaspina University-College. She is a frequent book reviewer for *Event Magazine* and the *Malahat Review*, and writes a quarterly column for *Relational Child and Youth Care*, some of which have recently been published as a book entitled *The First Three Years of a Grandmother's Life*. Carol's short stories have appeared in many literary journals, e.g. *The New Quarterly*, *Room of One's Own*, *The Canadian Journal of Fiction*. Her collection of short stories, *Incidental Music*, was published by Oolichan Books in September 2007 and her non-fiction narrative, *Reflections on the C-Word: At the Centre of the Cancer Labyrinth* was published in November 2007.

[ABC BookWorld](#)
[Incidental Music](#)

Sharron Berthchilde who refers to herself as the "Ancient Ingenue" has been passionately pursuing acting since her release from the dreary workaday world several years ago. She has since been fortunate enough to have studied with a number of excellent acting teachers. She also landed a number of roles in film, t.v. and theatre and has relished every one.

March 25, 2008

Diane Clarence has written innumerable professional newsletters and novel-length undergrad papers. Her work as a program developer, nurse and firefighter/first responder fires her writing. A founding member of the Big Picture Window Writers Group, she also joins Easy Writers to fuel her enduring quest to write. As a teen, she was recruited to publish a weekly newsletter for the *Kamloops News*. She has poems published in the e-zine, *Fireworks III* and *Island Writer Magazine*. Dianne's current project is a fictional novel about nurses.

Margaret Murphy started sharing stories as a child, with puppet shows in her backyard in Ottawa. Storytelling lead to writing, in a great circle of creating, listening and sharing. Stories are her passion. Margaret especially loves coaching and teaching storytelling workshops. Celebrating stories of Canadian women who paved the way is one of her greatest joys. Around Town Tellers (Nanaimo) now gather monthly to share stories at Coyote's Cafe, Terminal Ave.

April 29, 2008

Kendall Patrick is a singer songwriter from Ladysmith, BC. She has 7 years of classical piano training under her belt, taught herself guitar and has been writing songs since grade 7. She is currently attending The Malaspina Jazz program, majoring in voice. She released her first album, House of Ink, in 2007, which includes a beat poetry piece called "The Girl Rant". "The Girl Rant" was written to empower young girls into awareness out of the media-driven conventions of today's popular culture, which heavily emphasizes superficiality. "The Girl Rant" has received recognition from the Oprah Winfrey Show, and has been taken to local schools. The power of this piece has inspired Kendall to continue writing for empowerment and she is currently on a mission to begin "The Girl Rant Movement". She will be performing at The Vancouver Island Music Festival in Comox in 2008. You can find her music at [My Space](#)

AURAL Heather is Heather Haley, Roderick Shoolbraid and "a sublime fusion of song and spoken word". Shoolbraid is a dazzling guitarist, composer, sound designer and DJ. Haley is a maverick poet, singer, author and media artist often found pushing boundaries and always on the vanguard. "A Canadian national treasure," Haley started writing verse in high school influenced by poets like bp Nichol, ee cummings and Susan Musgrave.

Her life as a bona fide artist began on the stage of the infamous Smilin' Buddha fronting the all-girl band the Zellots. She was a member of The 45s with Randy Rampage and Brad Kent of DOA and the Avengers. Later she formed HHZ-Heather Haley & the Zellots-praised by music critic Craig Lee as one of "Ten Great LA Bands". She has made a commitment to honesty, feeling, craft and a sense of the

absurd. "Supple and unusual", her work asks all the questions a nice girl's not supposed to ask.

[Web Site](#), [Reverbnation](#), [My Space](#)

ON PAPER: "Sideways" and the forthcoming "Window Seat"

ON DISC: "Princess Nut " by AURAL HEATHER on RPW Records, spring 2008

ON SCREEN: videopoems "Dying for the Pleasure "and Purple Lipstick

ON STAGE: "Unique, sublime fusion of song and spoken word."-ZULA Presents

May 27, 2008

Naomi Wakan: Born in London, England. Graduated with a degree in Social Work from Birmingham University. Emigrated to Canada and brought her family (Beverly Deutsch, a graphic artist and Adam Deutsch, a computer systems analyst) up in Toronto. Worked as a psychotherapist specializing in early childhood traumas. Remarried to the sculptor, Elias Wakan, and travelled extensively including living two years in Japan. With Elias had a small publishing house, Pacific-Rim Publishers, that published educational books which Naomi wrote and illustrated. She and her husband moved to Gabriola in 1996 and opened a studio, Drumbeg House Studio, where Elias makes wood sculpture and Naomi paints, writes and does fabric art. During this period Naomi has moved from writing books geared to children to books for an adult market. Her essays and poetry have appeared in *Resurgence*, *Geist*, *Room of One's Own*, *Kansai Time Out*, *Far East Journal* and many other magazines and web-sites. She has read her writings on CBC and in poetry venues. She is also a member of Haiku Canada, The League of Canadian Poets and is on the board of Poetry Gabriola.

Michael Armstrong has been acting, directing and writing for the theatre in British Columbia for 35 years. He also has experience with stage management, set design, lighting and sound, and has worked with community theatre companies around the province. He has been a member of Theatre BC for most of the past 25 years. He has taught acting for teens and adults privately and in the school system for the past ten years. He is a published poet and playwright, alumnus of the Banff playRites Colony, and past president of the Federation of BC Writers. He has a BA in English Literature and BC Teaching Certificate. Recent teaching credits also include a brief stint at York University teaching Theatre History. Michael has taught workshops for community theatre and schools in acting, writing, directing, and improvisation. His play, *In Their Nightgowns, Dancing*, was published in 2005 by UNBC Press. Recently, he has also released a CD of spoken word and jazz, *Crow Songs*, with the jazz ensemble, Vinyl Groove. Professional acting credits include McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, Ben Weatherstaff in *The Secret Garden*, and Pseudolus in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Professional directing credits include dinner theatre, touring productions, and musicals such as *Cabaret* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He has extensive experience with young actors and community players and is available to work all over the province directing, teaching workshops and offering dramaturgy sessions for plays in rehearsal or production.

Sept. 18, 2008

Mike Matthews in the past taught English at Malaspina University/College for a long, long time. Before that he attended several universities, flunking as often as he passed, and hung around in libraries, sneering, or in coffee houses and beer parlours, shouting. He has published a gamut of stuff-poems, articles, essays, rants disguised as fiction --in a gamut of publications - tiny ones like *Tish*, *Delta*, and *Pugn*, - and titanic ones like the *Globe and Mail*. He'd rather eat than write, but he enjoys both activities. He lives on Protection Island with his patient wife and a dog who is encouraged to chase deer.

Bernice Lever, member and past executive on national writing organizations, has been publishing poems for decades, but she still gets high on words. From 1972-1987, she edited WAVES in Ontario; now she enjoys life on Bowen Island, BC. BLESSINGS, Black Moss Press, 2000. Find more about her on www.colourofwords.com.

October 16, 2008

Kim Goldberg is still one step ahead of the law somewhere on Vancouver Island. She is believed to be camped out along the scrubby margins of poetry and other indeterminate art forms. Do not approach without a tranquilizer dart. Innocent readers of *Prism*, *Dalhousie Review*, *On Spec*, *The New Quarterly*, *Cahoots* and other magazines have all been subjected to her ravings in recent months. (She has always maintained her innocence in the matter of "Spirit Mop" and the other unchained appliances that began springing up in Nanaimo's historic Old Quarter during the Spirit Bear invasion of Fall 2006.) Prior to her life of aesthetic crime she was a journalist for many years reporting on politics, media and environment. FBI profilers believe that a Chi Gong overload may have super-heated her synaptic pathways, leading to her subsequent unraveling. Despite her life on the lam, she somehow managed to organize and curate the Urban Eyes Art Exhibition in 2006, held at two Nanaimo galleries and featuring the work of 52 local artists and architects on the theme of urban development. She has reportedly launched a publishing enterprise under the baffling moniker of Pig Squash Press (suspected to be code for some future barnyard uprising) to further disseminate her brain-addled, photo-poetic manifestos.

Mary Ann Moore is a poet, writer and writing teacher in Nanaimo. She offers one to one mentoring as well as workshops that rejuvenate people and their creativity. Since moving to Nanaimo three years ago, Mary Ann has facilitated community building circles for the mental health community. In the Fall of 2008, she will be teaching writing courses through Continuing Studies at Vancouver Island University. Mary Ann's book reviews have been published most recently in *The Vancouver Sun*; her fiction and a personal essay in *Prairie Fire*. Her poetry has been published in various journals and anthologies including chapbooks edited by Patrick Lane. Her poem, "Unpacking", won third prize in the Federation of BC Writers Literary Writes contest. [Web Site](#)

Marjory Dow is a cellist, living in Nanaimo, who performs with other musicians in a variety of genres from Folk to Baroque. She and guitarist Michael Waters made a collaborative CD in the spring of 2008 called Spirit Space. They often perform

together on the island in various venues. On March 27, 2009 they will be performing in concert at the Capitol Theatre in Port Alberni.

Daeva N. Guest is a humble and dedicated student of both the Sacred and the Silly. Although her performance works emerge primarily through improvisational forms of theatre, dance and voice, Daeva has written and performed two children's plays, two performance poems and a one-woman musical theatre piece called, *A Man Named Fred*, based on her 2001 mystical meeting with a homeless Christian streetpoet, the late Fred Schraeder. Daeva lives in Nanaimo and offers chant nights and authentic voice classes called *Singing Home the Sacred*. She dearly loves collaborating with other artists to create new forms of expression and communication.

November 20, 2008

Cindy Shantz has been published in several newspapers including *The Globe and Mail*, *The Vancouver Sun*, and *The Times Colonist*. Her stories have won awards at The Santa Barbara Writer's Conference. In Switzerland her works have appeared in newspapers and magazines and in an anthology of short stories, essays and poetry. In 1990 Cindy moved from Nanaimo to Switzerland to marry a Swiss. She lived in the German part of Switzerland for nine years where she taught English conversation and literature classes, wrote stories, essays and poetry, and learned Swiss German which, she is convinced, is even more difficult than yodeling! She returned to Nanaimo with her husband in 2000, and In 2004 wrote and produced her first play: *Cat Tales: "What's in a Name?"* Along with David Fraser, Cindy is a co-founder of WordStorm. She loves to encourage people to display their talents and to provide a supportive venue for them to do this.

Yvonne Blomer completed her MA in Creative Writing: Poetry with distinction at The University of East Anglia in 2006. She has been widely published in Canada and internationally. She has work forthcoming in *The Antigone Review* and *Rocksalt an anthology of contemporary B.C. poetry*. Most recently she was a finalist in the CBC Literary Awards in 2007. Her first book, *a broken mirror, fallen leaf*, was short listed for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award in 2007. Yvonne also writes regular reviews for *Arc Magazine* and for *The Antigone Review*. She has been teaching private courses in poetry and memoir for the past eight years.

Pamela Richardson is finishing up her PhD in Special Education at UBC with as much poetic and creative fervor as she can pack into an academic adventure. She can often be found hanging out with child prodigies, and young people who are far far (far) more clever than she. Pamela has been in Special Education since the age of 10 and has been writing poems and stories since about that age too. Come to think of it, she hasn't changed much but her address in the past 25 years. She lives in Yellowpoint, BC.