

Bren Simmers is the author of two collections of poetry, *Hastings-Sunrise* (Nightwood Editions, 2015) and *Night Gears* (Wolsak and Wynn, 2010). She is the winner of an Arc Poetry Magazine Poem of the Year Award, was a finalist for The Malahat Review's Long Poem Prize and has been twice longlisted for the CBC Poetry Prize. Her work has been anthologized in *Alive at the Center: Contemporary Poems from the Pacific Northwest* (Ooligan, 2013). She currently lives in Squamish, BC.

Patrick Friesen is an award-winning author, formerly from Winnipeg, now living in Victoria. He adapted his book *The Shunning* for stage; it premiered at the Prairie Theatre Exchange in 1985 and was performed in 2011 at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. He has also collaborated with various musicians, choreographers and dancers and recorded two CD's of text and improv music. Friesen was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award for poetry and the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize in 1998 and 2003 and won the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award in Manitoba in 1996 and the ReLit Award for Poetry in 2012. "Crazy Bone's solitary life on the margins is at once a performance of the archetypal feminine forever at odds with patriarchal order and a libretto for the wayward, solitary, and vulnerable spirit of art, passion, and expression."—Sharon Thesen, author of *Oyama Pink Shale*"This poem is a single penetrating take into the mind of the deeply disenfranchised. It seizes the margin as its centre and looks out from there, seeking the whole amid the broken. Always, Patrick Friesen is a poet who understands the necessity of, and insists upon, compassion."—Anne Michaels, author of *Correspondences*In her archetypal journey, Crazy Bone lives on the edge of the world, at the edge of time, wandering the mid-path of her life, on the outskirts of a small town. She is caught in her own monologue, soul-talking, listening to herself, to the river. Crazy Bone is an eccentric, a trickster, a fool, a wild woman laughing, a campesino, who through loss is slowly finding her way back to herself by remembering, wandering the night, hearing her own wild thinking. She says 'who if I look can see me' and 'there's always a door in the rubble'. In the forest she has her own rituals to place her feet on the earth again, though sometimes she floats or spins on her toes, blurts a curse or licks blood. Society has not valued her and has dismissed her presence as irrelevant but Crazy is cleverly sure of herself, and she tests the reader as her path flows through a world of the sleeping. In her rambling she references writers, singers, artists, theologians, tight-rope walkers, philosophers, not as experts but as guides along the way. You won't forget her voice once she has passed you on her way to the river.

Jane Munro's sixth poetry book, *Blue Sonoma* (Brick Books), won the 2015 Griffin Poetry Prize. Her previous books include *Active Pass* (Pedlar Press), *Point No Point* (McClelland & Stewart) and *Grief Notes & Animal Dreams* (Brick Books). Her work has also received the Bliss Carman Poetry Award, the Macmillan Prize for Poetry, been nominated for the Pat Lowther Award, and is included in *The Best Canadian Poetry 2013*. She is a member of the collaborative poetry group Yoko's Dogs (<http://yokosdogs.com/>) whose first book, *Whisk*, was published by Pedlar Press. (<http://janemunro.com/>)

Raoul Fernandes lives and writes in Vancouver, BC. He completed the Writer's Studio at SFU in 2009 and was a finalist for the 2010 Bronwen Wallace Award for

emerging writers and a runner up in *subTerrain's* Lush Triumphant Awards in 2013. He has been published in numerous literary journals and is an editor for the online poetry magazine The Maynard. His first collection of poems, *Transmitter and Receiver* is out this Spring from Nightwood Editions.

Tina Biello grew up in a small logging town, Lake Cowichan, B.C. She studied Theatre at UBC and now finds herself writing. Her poems have appeared in chapbook anthologies edited by Patrick Lane since 2008. Her solo chapbook, 'Momenti', published by Leaf Press was shortlisted for the Bressani Prize and was part of a multi-disciplinary art exhibition of poetry and watercolour in Montreal and Vancouver. These poems have also been composed into a CD of music called 'Dolci Momenti'. Her first full length book, 'In the Bone Cracks of the Walls' was published by Leaf Press in 2014 and was translated into Italian in 2015. She presented it in Italy at Molise Cinema in Aug of 2015. Her second full length book, 'A Housecoat Remains' has just been released by Guernica Editions.

Patricia Young, born in Victoria, BC where she still lives, is the author of nine collections of poetry and one of short fiction. She has two grown children and is married to the writer, Terence Young.

She has taught at the University of Victoria, served as Editorial Assistant of the Malahat Review, on the board of the Victoria School of Writing, and also as writer in residence at various universities, most recently in 2008 where she was the WIR at the University of New Brunswick. She received the Arc Poem of the Year Award in 2009 and 2010. Selections of her poetry were also short-listed for the CBC Literary Competition in 2009 and 2010.

Terence Young lives in Victoria, B.C., where he teaches English and creative writing at St. Michaels University School. He is co-founder of The Claremont Review, an international literary journal for young writers. His first book of poetry, *The Island in Winter* (Signal Editions, 1999), was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award and the Gerald Lampert Award. Since then, he has published a collection of stories, *Rhymes With Useless* (Raincoast, 2000), which was one of two runners-up for the annual Danuta Gleed award, a novel, *After Goodlake's*, which received the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize in 2005, and a second collection of poetry, *Moving Day* (Signature Editions, 2006), which was nominated for both the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize and The City of Victoria Butler Book Prize for 2006. In 2008, he was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence, an honour shared with fifteen other teachers from across Canada that year. A second collection of fiction, *The End of the Ice Age*, was released from Biblioasis Press in the spring of 2010. A story from that collection, "That Time of Year," was included in Oberon Press's

recent edition of Best Canadian Stories 11 (2012).

Kevin Spenst is the author of *Jabbering with Bing Bong* (Anvil Press) and the chapbooks *Pray Goodbye* (the Alfred Gustav Press), *Retractable* (the serif of nottingham), *Happy Hollow* and the *Surrey Suite* (self-published), *What the Frag Meant* (100 tetes press) *snap* (Pooka Press), and *Surrey Sonnets* (JackPine press). He has done a one-man show at the Vancouver Fringe Festival and over a hundred readings across the country. His work has won the Lush Triumphant Award for

Poetry and has most recently appeared in *BafterC*, *Poetry is Dead*, *Lemon Hound* and the anthology *Best Canadian Poetry 2014*.

Tricia Dower was a business executive before reinventing herself as a writer in 2002. Caitlin Press will publish her second novel *Becoming Lin in Canada* in March 2016. Her debut novel *Stony River* (Penguin Canada, 2012) was shortlisted for the Canadian Authors Association Award for Fiction. Leapfrog Press will publish it in the United States in October 2016. Her short-story collection, *Silent Girl* (Inanna, 2008), was long-listed for the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and the George Ryga Award for Social Awareness in Literature. She won first prize for creative nonfiction in *subTerrain* Magazine's 2015 literary awards competition. Her short fiction also has appeared in magazines in Canada, Portugal and the United States. A dual citizen of Canada and the United States, Dower lives and writes in Brentwood Bay, BC. Website: www.triciadower.com.

Sandy Shreve's fifth poetry collection is *Waiting for the Albatross* (Oolichan, 2015). It combines photos and found poems she crafted from the vivid prose in a diary her father, Jack Shreve, kept while working as a deck-hand on a tramp freighter in 1936. Her previous books include *Suddenly, So Much* (Exile Editions, 2005) and *Belonging* (Sono Nis Press, 1997). Recent work has appeared in her chapbooks *Level Crossing* (The Alfred Gustav Press, 2012) and *Cedar Cottage Suite* (Leaf Press, 2010). She co-edited, with Kate Braid, the anthology *In Fine Form – The Canadian Book of Form Poetry* (Polestar, 2005; second edition forthcoming from Caitlin Press in 2016), edited *Working For A Living*, a collection of poems and stories by women about their work (Room of One's Own, 1988) and founded BC's Poetry in Transit program. Her work is widely anthologized and has won the Earle Birney Prize for Poetry and been short listed for several prizes, including the Milton Acorn People's Poetry Award and the National Magazine Awards for poetry. <http://www.sandyshreve.ca>

Elena Johnson's first book of poetry, *Field Notes for the Alpine Tundra* (Gaspereau Press, 2015), was written and researched during her time as writer-in-residence at a remote ecology research station in the Yukon's Ruby Range. Her poetry has been longlisted for the CBC Literary Awards and shortlisted for the Alfred G. Bailey Poetry Prize. Her work is featured in *Lemon Hound's* New Vancouver Poets folio and has appeared in literary journals across Canada and in the UK, as well as in four anthologies. She lives in Vancouver.

Trevor Carolan began writing for *The New Westminster Columbian* at age seventeen. His many books include non-fiction, poetry, a novel, translations, and anthologies. His recent work *The Literary Storefront* recalls Vancouver's vibrant arts scene of the 1970s-80s. *Powerground*, his new Eco-Lit documentary film interviews renowned West Coast writers and artists and was received enthusiastically at its European premiere. His latest book *New World Dharma* (SUNY Press), collects his interviews and encounters with renowned Buddhist writers, teachers and leaders from the past 25 years. The International Editor of *Pacific Rim Review of Books*, he teaches English & Writing at UFV.

Fred Stenson is a novelist, non-fiction writer and film writer. His most recent novel is *Who By Fire* (Doubleday Canada, 2014). Stenson is the author of more than 150 film and video scripts, including two seasons of the documentary series *World of Horses* (first aired by Discovery Canada). He has edited two collections of Alberta writing, *Alberta Bound* (1986) and *The Road Home* (1992). Stenson was a founding member of the Writer's Guild of Alberta, serving as its president in 1996. He has been on the council of The Writers' Union of Canada three times. Since 2001 he has been director of the Wired Writing Studio at the Banff Centre. He has been the humor columnist for *Alberta Views Magazine* since its inception in 1999.

John Pass's poems have appeared in 19 books and chapbooks in Canada, and in magazines in the US, the UK, Ireland and the Czech Republic. He won the G.G. in 2006 and the Dorothy Livesay Prize in 2012. His latest book is *Forecast: Selected Early Poems 1970 – 1990* (Harbour 2015).

Theresa Kishkan has worked in a range of genres, publishing collections of poetry, personal essays, three novellas, three novels, and memoir/natural history. Her work has been nominated for many prizes, including the Ethel Wilson Prize, the Hubert Evans Award (twice), the Pushcart Prize, and National Magazine Awards; her *Phantom Limb* won the inaugural Creative Nonfiction Collective Readers' Choice Award. She is currently at work on a fourth novella as well as *Euclid's Orchard*, a series of connected essays exploring family and cultural history. She lives with her husband John Pass on the Sechelt Peninsula.

Jennifer Manuel is the author of the novel, *The Heaviness of Things That Float*. She's been a *Western Magazine* Finalist and recipient of The Storyteller's Award at the Surrey International Writers Conference. She's a teacher for the writing course, *The Story Intensive*, and she mentors writers from around the world. A long time activist in Indigenous issues, she now runs The TRC Reading Challenge, an effort to get people to read The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. The CBC named Jennifer a 2016 Writer to Watch.

The Heaviness of Things That Float explores the delicate dynamic between remote First Nations communities and the non-Indigenous outsiders who go to work there. The *Vancouver Sun* called it "a remarkable novel, one deeply of our time and place in BC and Canada." Author Diana Gabaldon says Manuel's writing is "astonishing in its intimacy, delicate complexity, and sense of compassion."

Andrew Brown was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He received his bachelor of art's degree in 1977 from U.B.C. and his professional teaching certificate from Simon Fraser University in 1978. He taught high school English and drama for thirty three years in Vanderhoof, Parksville and Nanaimo. He has two daughters, Corrina and Meredith. He lives with his wife Lili in Qualicum Beach and is a frequent reader at WordStorm in Nanaimo and the Qualicum Acoustic Cafe in his home town. He also acts in Echo Productions whenever possible. Andrew's debut book of poetry, *Crow's First Word*, was published by Gravity Press in 2008. His second book was published in the fall of 2013. Andrew's most recent collection is *Shadow Road* also by Gravity Press. Andrew Brown enjoys his retirement very much and hopes to continue to be creative and active for many years to come.