

January 15, 2009

Linda Thompson is a Port Alberni writer who has discovered that performance is the most darned fun she's had in years! In the glare of the spotlight her alter-egos have been known to bust out and blurt a poem or warble a song. In her spare time Linda buys books and travels, not necessarily in that order. She has studied with Derek Hanebury, author, poet and writing instructor extraordinaire at North Island College & Sheri-d Wilson, "one of North America's most compelling Spoken Word...poets" at the Victoria School of Writing.

Barbara Pelman has taught English for many years in the Victoria School District. She has been involved in various poetry activities in the community, including Random Acts of Poetry and National Poetry Month festivities. She is a frequent participant as well as a featured reader at the Black Stilt Cafe, and this year arranged for her students to be featured readers as well. She is largely responsible for the beautiful "poetry walls" in downtown Victoria, painted by her students. Her poems have been published in various literary journals including *Descant*, *Antigonish Review*, *Event*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Dalhousie Review*, and *Quills*. Her glosas have won awards, including the Federation of BC Writers first prize in 2003. Her first book of poetry, *One Stone* was published by Ekstasis Editions in 2005, and her second book, *Borrowed Rooms* will be published by Ronsdale Press in the fall of 2008.

Richard Arnold lives on a modest acreage near Errington, BC. He teaches English at Malaspina University College in Nanaimo. Besides writing and reading poetry, he likes spending time with his family, hiking, canoeing, and camping. His work has been published in many print and electronic places across North America. He has two collections of poetry to his credit: a chapbook from Leaf Press (2002) and a haiku pamphlet from Island Scholastic (2003).

February 19, 2009

Hilary Peach: Audio poet Hilary Peach is an inter-disciplinary performer whose work marries song and poetry. For 15 years she has performed internationally at events that include the Vancouver International Folk Music Festival, Montreal's Voix Des Ameriques, and the Poetry International Festival in Rotterdam. She has released an exquisite debut CD, *Poems Only Dogs Can Hear*, in which she suspends surreal vignettes inside a matrix of music. Peach was a finalist in the 2004 CBC Radio Poetry Face-Off, and has recently released a short film, *Pennsylvania*. She is currently working on a literary collection of poetry and a Folk Opera about her boilermaking work called *Suitcase Local* with musicians Andreas Kahre, Alex Varty and Leah Hokanson. Hilary Peach is Artistic Director of the Poetry Gabriola Festival.

Judith Millar: WordStorm audiences who have wanted to hear more of Judith Millar's humorous pieces won't want to miss February 19! A writer of short stories, essays, poems and song lyrics, Judith has published over 100 pieces, and has won awards for her creative writing in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Recent awards include first prize in Hamilton's "Creative Keyboards" Short Story Contest. She recently has also published a number of children's song lyrics on children's entertainer RONNO's CDs, released by New Jersey publisher Kimbo Educational. A

former corporate communications manager, Judith moved to Nanaimo, BC from Kitchener, Ontario in 2007.

Zlatko Zvekich has performed across Europe on the keyboards prior to his settling in Ontario. After moving to Vancouver Island in 2001 Zlatko has switched from playing the Hammond Organ (B3) to playing classical, nylon string guitar. He studied all major musical styles in order to accompany his inventive tunes and story-like poems with rich harmonies and parts progressions. Arrangements of his music crisscross boundary between classical, jazz, and folk guitar playing. Since coming to Nanaimo Zlatko completed over 100 songs and he is working presently on recording his 4th CD titled Best Nothing Vol. 4.

March 19, 2009

Ann Graham Walker is a working journalist, a former CBC current affairs radio producer, and a former speechwriter to (now deceased) NS premier and humanitarian, Dr. John Savage. She's had poetry published in the *Rocksalt Anthology*, *PRISM International*, *the Gaspereau Review*, *Pitkin Review*, *the Windfire Anthology*, Leaf Press's Monday's Poem series, and two chap books edited by Patrick Lane: *All that Uneasy Spring* (2007) and *A Small Grace* (Fall, 2008). She is a graduate of Goddard College's MFA/Creative Writing program, and is currently working on her novel about growing up in 1950s Argentina: *The Girl in the Garden*. Ann's lived all over the world – mostly due to her father's job in the film industry when she was growing up. She first came to North America when she travelled from her previous home in Australia to go to college in the States, at 18. She came to Canada in 1973 and lived in Nova Scotia for a very long time – raising three kids there with her husband Joseph – before the kids flew the nest and Ann and Joseph moved to Nanoose Bay, in 2002. They're still there – in Nanoose Bay – not retired yet but hiking a lot, walking their border collie, serving as butlers to three rescue cats who've agreed to live with them, and reflecting on the fact that one of the big reasons they moved here was mild winters. She'll be reading on March 19th from *The Girl in the Garden* – a novel she's currently revising for the last time before sending it out, so she's hoping that many of you will give her feedback.

Tricia Dower was a business executive before reinventing herself as a writer in 2002. Her short fiction has appeared in *Room of One's Own*, *The New Quarterly*, *Hemispheres*, *Cicada*, *NEO*, *Insolent Rudder* and *Big Muddy*. Born in New Jersey, she now lives and writes in Victoria, BC, where she served on the board of the Victoria School of Writing. *Silent Girl* is her first book.

Glen Sorestad, a Life Member of the League of Canadian Poets, was born in Vancouver, but has lived in Saskatchewan most of his life. He taught school for over twenty years, founded Thistledown Press with his wife Sonia, and remained its President until he and Sonia retired from publishing in 2000. Sorestad was appointed the first Poet Laureate of Saskatchewan in November, 2000. He and Sonia have lived in Saskatoon since 1967. Sorestad has over a dozen books of poetry to his credit and his poems have appeared in over 40 anthologies and textbooks. He has

given public readings of his work in every province of Canada, in 15 U.S. states, as well as in France, Norway, Finland and Slovenia.

April 16, 2009

Joelene Heathcote writes poetry, fiction, and non-fiction essay. She has published widely and won many awards. Her work has been included in anthologies, *Breaking the Surface* (SonoNis Press, 2000), *Mocambo Nights* (Ekstasis Editions, 2001), *Translit Vol.* (Blitzprint, 2006), and *String to Bow* (Leaf Press, 2005). Her collection of poetry, *What's Between Us Can't Be Heard* (Ekstasis, 2002), was a finalist for the Pat Lowther Award. *Inherit the Earth* (Rubicon Press, 2006), and a chapbook of poems, 2007. She is currently at work on a larger collection of poetry and a book of short stories.

Sue Wheeler was born in Texas in 1942. In 1964 she received a B.A. from Rice University in Houston. In 1972 she immigrated to Canada and has lived since on a seaside farm on Lasqueti Island, British Columbia.

May 21, 2009

Susan Stenson's work has appeared in several literary magazines, most recently, Fiddlehead, Geist, CV2 and sub-TERRAIN and anthologies including Threshold: six women six poets, Vintage '99 and 2000, and No Choice But to Trust. In 2004, she won first prize in the ARC Poem of the Year Contest, Lush Triumphant, sub-TERRAIN Magazine's Annual Writing Contest and the Rona Murray Prize for Poetry, sponsored by the Victoria Arts Council. She also won first prize in the Great Canadian Literary Hunt, This Magazine's Poetry Contest 2000, the League of Canadian Poets National Contest in 1999 and the Hawthorne Chapbook Award in 1997 for her manuscript, A Little Less Swing, A Little More Sway. Her poems have been short listed several times for the CBC literary prize and are also featured on buses throughout British Columbia in the Poetry in Transit program. As a participant in the national literacy Random Acts of Poetry Weeks, 2004 and 2006, Susan has read poems to politicians, police officers, principals and pupils. Her work has also been commissioned for CBC radio's Out Front Program. Sono Nis Press published her first book of poems, *Could Love a Man*, spring 2001, to rave reviews in several magazines including Arc, Malahat Review, Boulevard, Monday, and Prairie Fire. She lives ecstatically in Victoria with her family where she co-publishes The Claremont Review, a literary magazine for writers aged 13 to 19 which was Write Magazine's choice for magazine of the year, 2001. Susan teaches English and creative writing to high school students in Saanich School District, has taught at Kamhlaba United World College in Mbabane, Swaziland and for The Victoria School of Writing. She is a regular on the roster of literary festivals, most recently for Poetry Africa in Durban, South Africa, Words Aloud 3, in Durham, Ontario, and for Forest Fest, in Port Alberni, British Columbia.

John Beaton is a retired actuary who was raised in the highlands of Scotland and has lived in Qualicum Beach since 1988. He recites humorous poetry at Celtic gatherings and performances of the musical group "Celtic Chaos". He moderates a metrical poetry workshop on the internet and his poetry has been published in newspapers, literary and fishing magazines, and internet sites and journals.

September 17, 2009

Isa Milman is a poet, visual artist and occupational therapist who has lived in Canada for the past 30 years. Her first poetry collection, *Between the Doorposts*, won the 2005 Poetry Prize at the Canadian Jewish Book Awards. She has also published a chapbook, *Seven Fat Years*, and her work has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies.

A daughter of Holocaust survivors, Isa Milman was born in a displaced persons camp in Germany before immigrating to Boston. She graduated from Tufts University, then lived in San Francisco and Paris, involving herself in improvisational dance and theatre activities. She obtained her masters degree in rehabilitation science, and secured a job teaching occupational therapy at McGill University. She currently works as a program coordinator at the Victoria Epilepsy and Parkinson's Centre.

From the author:

I was born into a family that lost almost everything. Our inheritance was a few photographs, an ancient tradition, and memory. My mother kept our family history and tradition alive – and though she passed this on through stories, teachings and songs, she didn't write it down. From a very early age, I felt that it was my mission to do so. How else to acknowledge my parents' and grandparents' lives? It's hard to explain how precious and deep is this impulse to insist that existence matters. It's a comfort to me to think that in my small way, during my time on earth, I can contribute to the discourse, add my few pages to the astonishing history of human letters, and hope that here and there, a spark flies, a heart opens, souls meet. We're here but for an instant, but we've left a memento of ourselves behind. That's why I write.

Lorraine Gane was born in Niagara Falls, Ontario, and grew up in Toronto. In the mid '70s, she graduated from Carleton University's Honours Journalism Program, then worked as a full-time writer and editor for major Canadian newspapers and magazines until 1989, when she began freelancing. In the early '90s, she also started teaching writing at universities and colleges such as Ryerson, McMaster and Georgian, as well as conducting her own private workshops. Selections from Lorraine's first poetry book, *Even the Slightest Touch Thunders on My Skin* (Black Moss Press, 2002), were shortlisted for the Canadian Literary Awards in 1997 and the League of Canadian Poets chapbook contest in 2000. Lorraine moved to Salt Spring Island, B.C. in 1998, where she lives with her partner. She is working on the next two volumes of poetry to complete a trilogy on love, loss and renewal. She is also working on a book about writing, among other projects. Lorraine gives talks on writing at universities and other locations and teaches writing through online courses and workshops to students across Canada.

October 15, 2009

Jay Ruzesky has recently guest-edited a special issue of *The Malahat Review* on environmental literature called "The Green Imagination". His novel about a medieval monumental astronomical clock is called *The Wolsenburg Clock* and has just been published by Thistle-down Press. He was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1965 and

raised in Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Calgary, and Kelowna. He studied at Okanagan College (with John Lent), the University of Victoria (with Constance Rooke), the University of Windsor (with Alistair MacLeod), and at the Banff Centre for the Arts (with Don Coles and Don McKay). His poems and stories have appeared in Canadian and American journals such as *Caliban*, *Prism international*, *Canadian Literature*, *Event*, *Saturday Night*, *Descant*, *Border Crossings*, and *Poetry Northwest*. His books include *Blue Himalayan Poppies* (Nightwood, 2001), *Writing on the Wall* (Outlaw Editions, 1996), *Painting The Yellow House Blue* (House of Anansi, 1994), and *Am I Glad To See You* (Thistledown, 1992). He is on the editorial board of the *Malahat Review* and teaches English, Creative Writing and Film Studies at Vancouver Island University. Essays, interviews and art criticism have appeared in *Brick*, *Poetry Canada Review*, and selected gallery publications. He is currently working on another novel, a play, and a manuscript of poems. He lives on Vancouver Island. [Web Site - Recent Book](#)

Michael Kenyon, born in Sale, Cheshire, is the author of nine books, most recently *The Beautiful Children*, a novel (Thistledown Press, Spring 2009), and a collection of poems, *The Last House* (Brick Books, Autumn 2009). He has lived for over forty years on Canada's West Coast and presently divides his time between Pender Island and Vancouver, having in both places a private therapeutic practice. [The Beautiful Children link](#)

John Lent was born in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in 1948; he grew up in Edmonton, Alberta. He studied at the University of Alberta from 1965-71, concentrating in his graduate studies on Modernist art movements and experiments with form. He was taught by the noted Canadian novelist, Sheila Watson, and the Canadian playwright, Wilfred Watson. Lent's thesis was on the plays of T.S. Eliot : an analysis of "the schizophrenic adjustment we all have to make to the demands of Western society--a society that imposes material, social and spiritual roles." Lent pursued Doctoral studies at York University on Malcolm Lowry and the issue of subjectivity. For the last twenty years he has taught English literature and Creative Writing at a number of universities: Alberta, Notre Dame (Nelson), Regina, and Okanagan University College. Lent currently lives and teaches in Vernon, British Columbia. [Media Link](#)

November 26, 2009

Margaret Doyle: With her background in theatre, Margaret has an abiding love of the spoken word, having written three plays, performance pieces and monologue's including, *Winter Variations*, a one-act play made up of thirty-one poems that was produced by her theatre company on the Sunshine Coast. Her poetry is likewise infused with a dramatic voice and is full of tactile imagery and provocative subjects. Margaret's work has been published by *Midwifery Magazine*, *Ascent Aspirations Magazine*, online at Leaf Press, and in the *Chiron Review*. More recently, Margaret has been enjoying writing non-fiction and has been published in *Monday Magazine*, *Alberta Hospitality Magazine*, and various blogs including Todd Lucier's www.tourismkeys.ca. In her 'day job', Margaret writes about tourism frequently on her blog, and consults small business on how to craft their 'message'.

Dinah D: "Dinah D is a West Coast gem, a real rarity, whose presence, style, and sound will all stick in your head from the very first time you hear her. Dinah is not

only a solid upright bass player—thumping out that low register downbeat almost effortlessly—she’s also a gifted singer; a seductive contra-alto with a wry sense of humour. Dinah’s skill as a performer is backed up by strong song-writing talent with roots that go deep—far back to the days of Viper jazz—and a sound that is steeped in the blues. If you get the chance to see Dinah perform, do not hesitate to make the gig!" -James Booker, CHLY Radio Malaspina

Kate Braid: Please visit her [Web Site](#)