

News from the Feminist Caucus, by Anne Burke

Pat Lowther Memorial Award: Open to those who identify as Canadian women poets, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1981 for a book of poetry published in the preceding year. This prize is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, former League of Canadian Poets Chair, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975. The award carries a \$1000 prize is sponsored by the LCP.

[PAT LOWTHER MEMORIAL AWARD 2018 SHORTLIST](#)

[Indianland](#) by Lesley Belleau (ARP Books) | [Bicycle Thieves](#) by Mary di Michele (EWC Press) | [Museum of Kindness](#) by Susan Elmslie (Brick Books) | [Breathing at Dusk](#) by Beth Goobie (Coteau Books) | [Dear Ghost](#), by Catherine Owen (Wolsak & Wynn) | [Admission Requirements](#) by Phoebe Wang (McClelland & Stewart)

2018 Longlist:

- *Indianland* by Lesley Belleau (ARP Books)
- *Feel Happier in Nine Seconds* by Linda Besner (Coach House Books)
- *The Corpses of the Future* by Lynn Crosbie (House of Anansi Press)
- *Bicycle Thieves* by Mary di Michele (ECW Press)
- *Museum of Kindness* by Susan Elmslie (Brick Books)
- *Breathing at Dusk* by Beth Goobie (Coteau Books)
- *Penelope* by Sue Goyette (Gaspereau Press)
- *Linger Still* by Aislinn Hunter (Gaspereau Press)
- *Siren* by Kateri Lanthier (Vehicule Press)
- *Voodoo Hypothesis* by Canisia Lubrin (Wolsak & Wynn)
- *Little Wildheart* by Micheline Maylor (University of Alberta Press)
- *All We Saw* by Anne Michaels (McClelland and Stewart)
- *Otolith* by Emily Nilsen (Goose Lane Editions)
- *Dear Ghost* by Catherine Owen (Wolsak & Wynn)
- *Thing Is* by Suzannah Showler (McClelland and Stewart)
- *Admission Requirements* by Phoebe Wang (McClelland and Stewart)

Thank you to the 2018 Jury: Bruce Meyer, Cheryl Antao-Xavier, Julie Cameron Gray.

Congratulations to all of the finalists and their publishers. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Toronto at the Canadian Writers' Summit in Toronto on Saturday, June 16th, 2018. Visit poets.ca/awards for complete information.

This month, news from Penn Kemp and Bernice Lever and about Calgary's new poet Laureate Sheri D Wilson; poems from new members: Alycia Pirmohamed and M.A. Mahadeo; introductions to new members: Annick MacAskill (whose *No Meeting Without Body* is forthcoming from Gaspereau Press); and P.C. Vandall (whose *Crows Taste Best on Toast* is forthcoming from Oolichan Books). Some previews from University of Toronto Press: *Women and Gendered Violence in Canada* and *Female Doctors in Canada: Experience and Culture*.



Calgary's new poet laureate is known for her 'electric performance style' **The prize-winning poet takes over from Micheline Maylor, who served from 2016 to 2018; before that, Derek Beaulieu served from 2014 to 2016; Kris Demeanor, Calgary's first poet laureate, served from 2012 to 2014.**

<http://calgaryherald.com/entertainment/books/sheri-d-wilson-calgarys-new-poet-laureate>

Sheri D. Wilson will serve as Calgary's fourth poet laureate for a two-year term, acting as an "artistic ambassador" at civic events, and producing literary work that reflects the city.

Published on: April 23, 2018 | Last Updated: April 29, 2018

6:42 PM MDT

<http://calgaryherald.com/life/swerve/5-questions-with-the-mama-of-dada-sheri-d-wilson>

Published on: April 21, 2017 | Last Updated: April 21, 2017 7:36 AM MDT

Calgary poet Sheri-D Wilson wants women to realize their strength after reading *Open Letter*

<http://calgaryherald.com/entertainment/calgary-poet-sheri-d-wilson-wants-women-to-realize-their-strength-after-reading-open-letter>.

Sheri-D Wilson says she has received more than one late-night phone call about her new collection of poetry. They generally come from distraught women who have made it deep into the Calgary poet's new book, *Open Letter: Woman Against Violence Against Women* (Frontenac House Poetry, \$15.95, 104 pages) and landed on what is likely the collection's most distressing entry, Exhibit G — Hidden in Plain Sight. In between the repeated refrain, "A Rape is a Rape is a Rape", the piece depicts disturbing scenes of violence against women.



[Eric Volmers, Calgary Herald](#)

Published on: June 28, 2014 | Last Updated: June 28, 2014 2:31 PM MDT

Events from Penn Kemp

Thursday, April 19, 2018. *Local Heroes* (Insomniac Press) launch. Lecture Theatre, Museum London, [421 Ridout St N, London ON](#).

6:30-7:15pm. Curator Tour, "Women's History"

7:30-8:30. Reading

8:30-9 pm. Book signing

Join London poet and playwright Penn Kemp for the launch of her book *Local Heroes* (Insomniac Press).

Local Heroes is a celebration of regional artists from Greg Curnoe and James Kemp to writers Alice

Munro and Bonnie Burnard, and featuring new poems about explorer Teresa Harris. Promo

film: <https://youtu.be/x-edwKodu0s> .

<http://museumlondon.ca/programs-events/event/2458/2018/04/19>, <https://www.facebook.com/events/181506832475203/>

The theatre will show several short videos on *Local Heroes* by Dennis Siren, Mary McDonald and Western's Community Engaged Learning. The poet will then sign books.

Contact: Museum London, 519 661-0333, info@museumlondon.ca

<https://pennkemp.wordpress.com/2018/04/09/launch-of-local-heroes/>

<https://www.amazon.ca/Local-Heroes-Penn-Kemp/dp/1554832063>

Wednesday, April 25, 8 pm. 'ALT' show, Victoria Poetry Project, [Caffè Fantastico](http://www.caffefantastico.com), 965 Kings Road, Victoria, British Columbia V8T 1W7. <https://www.facebook.com/vicclam/>. <https://www.facebook.com/events/2036375059968730> Contact shayne avec i grec vegabard@gmail.com.

Sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets.

Friday, April 27, 2018. 8pm, The Matrix Hotel. Feature, Wine and Wild Women Wordsmiths, The Edmonton Poetry Festival. Contact: Rayanne Haines, ED. rayanne@edmontonpoetryfestival.com

<http://edmontonpoetryfestival.com/headliners/penn-kemp><http://edmontonpoetryfestival.com/schedule/wine-and-wild-women-wordsmiths-2018>. Sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets.

May 7 - Voicing Colleen Thibaudeau (1925-2012), London's Premier 'First Wave' Poet: Join a lively inter-generational gathering as writers read selections of Thibaudeau's poems, interwoven with interpretive commentary by Peggy Roffey on Colleen's feminist voice. Penn will be reading poems for Colleen from *Local Heroes*.

May 28, 7-8:30 pm, 2018. Judy Rebick and Penn Kemp: "Heroes". Stevenson & Hunt Room, Central Library, [251 Dundas Street London, Ontario N6A 6H9](http://www.251dundasstreet.com) . *Women Trailblazers: Writers and Voices for Change: Heroes*. A reading and lecture series celebrating Canadian women writers in celebration of a century of women's right to vote. Sponsored by Playwrights Guild of Canada.

<https://www.canadianplayoutlet.com/search?q=kemp>. https://encore.londonpubliclibrary.ca/iii/encore/search/CSTrailblazers_OrightresultU?lang=eng&suite=beta

<https://okunhill.wordpress.com/2018/02/10/poet-profile-penn-kemp-and-barbaric-cultural-practice/>

Bernice Lever (Bowen Island, BC), a founding editor of *WAVES*, literary magazine from 1972-1987, at York University, has published ten books of poetry, *Small Acts*, (Black Moss Press, 2016), a teaching English text: *The Colour of Words*, and much short prose, including “The Waiting Room”, (HBS, 1993). Although her BA and MA in English, York, University in the 1970’s came after raising 3 children and teaching elementary school classes, her passion for poetry began in summer school UBC class in 1963 with Margaret Avison and Allan Ginsberg as some of that staff! Her patience with committees has involved her in the Canadian Authors Association, League of Canadian Poets, Federation of BC Writers, World Poetry and local writer groups. She has read poems, (some were prize winners), across Canada, USA and on 4 other continents. She has won four Lifetime Achievement awards, including both League of Canadian Poets & Canadian Poetry Society in 2000, The Ontario Poetry Society, World Poetry 2008, and CAA’s Sangster Award, 2005. As past Writer-in-Residence for Canadian Authors Association, she continues in aiding other writers which she began at Dundurn Press, Toronto - 1979-1984. Retired in 2000 from Seneca College’s English Department, Toronto, she now gives workshops and readings, when she is not writing poetry or watching the deer walk by the seashore since 2001 on Bowen Island. Much more can be appreciated about Bernice on her website: www.colourofwords.com which shows her involvement in the international and rich artistic cultures of greater Vancouver. Once V.P. of the Vancouver Tagore Society, she is now a Life Member. She is also great grandmother with a busy network of family.

Alycia Pirmohamed is a writer from Alberta. She is a Ph.D. student at the University of Edinburgh, where she is studying poetry by second-generation immigrant writers. Her poems explore what it means to be the daughter of immigrants; they grapple with language loss, cultural identity, and displacement. Alycia is the Creative Writing and Reviews editor at HARTS & Minds, and she co-edits the multilingual publication, *The Polyglot*. She received an M.F.A. from the University of Oregon in 2014.

Poems by Alycia Pirmohamed

FADED

(First published in the January 2018 issue of *Glass: A Journal of Poetry*).

Say the word *dark*
translates to how I fold my body

like a fig

against a stippled moon.

Pull a string of sorrows from
my mouth.

Remind me that I am not a swan —

I am a long night of rain
with my mother's eyes.

Hold my *tasbeeh* to my heart.

Imagine we are
elk walking into tall grass.

This dream is the sky opening,

this dream is a river of faces.

This dream is all of the pine trees
replaced with smoke.

I call out to the water and the wind
scatters my thoughts,

fashions distances within me.

I call out *Allah* —

if I look up, I see a ghost
in the canopy.

LIKE MOTHER

(First published in issue 16, spring 2017, of *Dogwood: A Journal of Poetry and Prose*).

Like yucca moth to yucca flower

the kind of balance that shares a namesake—
mother to daughter

milk to mouth and darjeeling tea.

I went to a psychic that knew I had my mother's eyes.
In Marrakesh a woman stopped me to say

we have the same Arabic eyes.

Lately I am curious about genetics. The through line.
The mother of my mother of my mother

the planted seed and its trillion cone flower blossoms.

How to detect light and dark and memory.
How to comb through my mother's silence.

How the eyes are made.

NIGHTS / FLATLINE

(First Published in by the *Connecticut Poetry Society*, 2017).

There were some tones of night
I could not bear,

that I could not gather in my arms
and hold onto.

Small town nights.

Cigarette nights, plumage swelling and drifting
into a grand mal sky.

Nights where I harnessed myself
to the canola fields, alfalfa leaves, elk sightings

unelegiacally, with no magnitude of loss,
no understanding of letting go.

That was fourteen years ago, and by now
the echo is half-dream

made of skimmed milk and cane sugar stars.
The other half?

Radio static, the white noise of prairies
twenty minutes outside of the city

where, for miles,
all you will ever see is that one spotted calf

walking into the sunset.

Smaller nights, smaller even
than the needle of a broken compass

flickering back and forth,
then hovering briefly as if to say—

*you have reached your destination,
or, perhaps, you are not lost.*

Then pointed toward the glimpse of spruce
trees outside my bedroom window

holding close all of the stray cats underneath
as each stammer of lightning

flinched across.

Those are the nights that dial,
that leave a message then hang up, hang you up

under the moon,
into a storm, into solitude.

M.A. Mahadeo is a 24-year-old poet originally from Queens, New York. In Queens, M.A. worked as a writer for the prominent websites *Huffington Post* and *Brit.Co*. Her article, “Why Relationships Don’t Always Have To Take It Slow,” is featured in the book, *Trying to Adult*. Her debut as a Toronto poet can be seen in the second edition of *Blood and Bourbon* with her poem, “Reincarnation.” She most recently has been featured in *Man In The Streets Anthology*, and the *Rejected Lit Zine*.

An Oversized Sweater

I pull the sleeves down my arms,

Hiding the scars of the
Childhood emptiness I felt,
In my oversized sweaters.

Embarrassed of my skin torn to shreds,
Thinking I’d “feel better,”
I never did.
The wool cozying up to my heart,
Beginning to overheat,
With over thinking of others who did not,
Understand that all sizes are beautiful.

I grew,
In hormonal molecules.
I learned to love the pulling of the wool fibers,
Overstretched after washing my soul in the gentleness,

Of self expression.

An oversized sweater hiding myself,
Became the blanket of love,
I felt in my heart.

Death Drop-

A Poem Dedicated to the Old New York Boroughs and The Legendary House of LaBeija Who Helped Me Reclaim My Woman

Death drop,
Drop dead.

16 years old in the middle of the fucking
Wilderness,
And I vogued throughout the house.
“I’m so into voguing right now,”
Face palm,
But I meant it.

16 years old,
Overweight and over obsession with Club
Kids and the New York that never existed again.
I moved to where the F train local stop,
It didn’t exist,
No matter how bad I wanted it.

“I don’t get ready,
I stay ready.”
I fell to the floor,
One leg with my heel next to my head.
Death dropping around the apartment,
Feeling myself as something other than the
Depression holding me when I was first
That 16-year-old.

Death dropping,
Giving me life,
Until I felt alive enough,
enough to drop it.

And for the first time in heels,
I danced in the body I now claimed.

She Was Manic

Manic pixie dream girl,
Throwing keys into oceans,
And dreams into web accounts.

Believing that a cut up, broken mug,
Filled with nothing, but animosity...
That was the root of all love.
Engraved into the Earth,

Parched.

She was manic,
Feeling the most of this world I was given.
Denying help,
For to love the damaged was to her,
The sign of great love like silent films of
Late Millennials.
Staring off,
As those who would walk away.

But it wasn't.
And he loved her anyway.

It wasn't construct from the reels,
It was just that he saw all the perfection,
In what had been broken.

Annick MacAskill

Literary CV

Book *No Meeting Without Body*– Gaspereau Press (April 2018); 80 pp. ISBN 9781554471836

Chapbook *Brotherly Love: Poems of Sappho and Charaxos* – Frog Hollow Press (March 2016); 43 pp. ISBN 9781926948324

Poems Published in Literary Journals and Anthologies

- “Tatiana in Gaspra, 1902” – *Tamaracks: Canadian Poetry for the 21st Century* (Lummox Press; ed. James Deahl) (forthcoming; fall 2018)
- “v” and “ix” from Part I, “Puer (Boy)” and “xi” from Part II, “Puella (Girl)” from *Medulla (Ill Meat)* – *poemeleon* (forthcoming; 2018)
- “Pigeon” – *Grain Magazine* (forthcoming; April 2018)
- “Patience” – *Literary Review of Canada* (April 2018)
- “Vastberaden (Steadfast)” – *Prism International* 55.4 (Summer 2017)
- “i”, “ii”, “iii”, and “iv” from Part II, “Puella (Girl)” of *Medulla (Ill Meat)* – *Versal* 12 (Summer 2017)
- “vi” from Part I, “Puer (Boy)” of *Medulla (Ill Meat)* – *(parenthetical)* (January 2017)
- “*Metamorphoses* 6: 401-674: A Paraphrase in Still Pictures” – *Room Magazine* 39.3 (Fall 2016)
- “xi” and “xv” from Part I, “Puer (Boy)” of *Medulla (Ill Meat)* – *The Puritan* 33 (Spring 2016)
- “Waterfowl” and “Gamos” – *Hamilton Arts & Letters Magazine* 9.1 (Spring 2016)
- “Hymn” – *Petal Journal* (January 2016)
- “Bloor West” – *The Fiddlehead* No. 265 (Autumn 2015)
- “Canadian Poem” – *Arc Poetry Magazine* No. 77 (Summer 2015)
- “Woman as Riot” – *Lemon Hound* (March 2015) (no payment)

- “Reverberate” – *Contemporary Verse 2* Vol. 37, No. 2 (Fall 2014)
- “Charaxos” – *The Steel Chisel* (February 2014) (no payment)

Other

- Book reviews of contemporary poetry, fiction, and non-fiction titles published or forthcoming in *Room Magazine*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *PANK*, *The Puritan*, *Bone Bouquet*, *The Rusty Toque*, and other venues
- “Inverness County” – longlisted for *The Fiddlehead*’s Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize (2018)
- Participation in the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity’s Writers’ Studio (May 2017)
- “Tiller” – longlisted for *The Fiddlehead*’s Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize (2017)
- “*Metamorphoses* 6: 401-674: A Paraphrase in Still Pictures” – nominated by *Room Magazine* for a Pushcart Prize (2016)
- Participation in the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity’s Emerging Writers Intensive (November 2016)

PUBLICATIONS

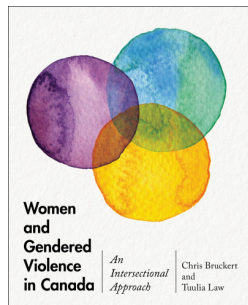
Poetry in print journals; including *Portal Magazine*, *Bare Hands*, *The Poetry Bus*, *Island Writer*, *Nod Magazine*, *Tree Killer Ink*, *The Oddity*, *FreeFall*, *Rolling Thunder*, *Carousel*, *Gargoyle*, *The Midnight Diner*, *Miracle*, *Quills*, *Room*, *Vine Leaves*, *Impressment Gang*, *Kansas City Voices*, *The Freeman*, *The Tishman Review*, *Feathertale Review*, *In Words Magazine*, *The Stinging Fly* and *Prism International*.

Poetry in anthologies; including *Between Earth and Sky Anthology* (Silver Bow Publications) *Bare Hands Anthology* (Bare Hands Poetry) *Blue Max Review Anthology* (Rebel Poetry), *Words Fly Away Anthology* (Fukushima Response Bay Area) *Best of 2013 Anthology* (Writing Knights Press) *Songs for Julia Anthology* (Orphée Poetry) *The Original Van Gogh’s Ear Anthology* Volume 9 (Crossroad Press) *Disorder Anthology* (Red Dashboard) *Resonance Poets, Artists Unplugged 2015 Anthology*, *Poetry with a Dash of Salt*, (Lady Lazarus Press) *Colours of Refuge*, (Authors Press) *Shout it out* (Lost Publications) *Mythos*, (Authors Press) *QR Anthology*, *Moving Beyond Mars* (Red Dashboard) *Grandmothers* (Readme Books).

Poetry published online; including *Bare Hands*, *Corvus*, *The First Cut*, *Folded Word*, *The West of West Review*, *Outburst*, *Full of Crow*, *Leaf Press*, *Primal Urge*, *Ginosko*, *The Oddity*, *Four and Twenty*, *Tongue Magazine*, *Thirteen Myna Birds*, *Red Fez*, *Tower Journal*, *The Original Van Gogh’s Ear*, *Miracle E-zine*, *Whistling Fire*, *Something about Mary*, *Eunoia Review*, *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts*, *Ydgrasil*, *Poetry Pacific*, *Vine Leaves*, *Zetetic*, *Fee.org*, *The Lake*, *Rattle*, *Unprecedented Review*, *Scarlet Leaf Review*, *Sonic Boom*, *Feathertale*, *The Maynard*, *Rats Ass Review*, and *Big Smoke Poetry*.

Collections Published; *Include Something From Nothing*, (Writing Knights Press) *Woodwinds* (Lipstick Press) and *Matrimonial Cake* (*Red Dashboard*).

Crows Taste Best on Toast, (Oolichan Books) BC, to be released in 2018 Print Run-600



Women and Gendered Violence in Canada

Chris Bruckert is Professor of Criminology at the University of Ottawa.

Tuulia Law is Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Science at York University.

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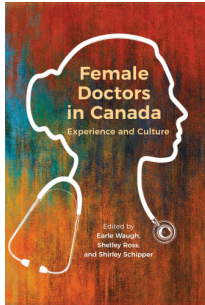
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Female Doctors in Canada: Experience and Culture

Edited by Earle H. Waugh, Shirley Schipper, and Shelley Ross

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Author Information

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