

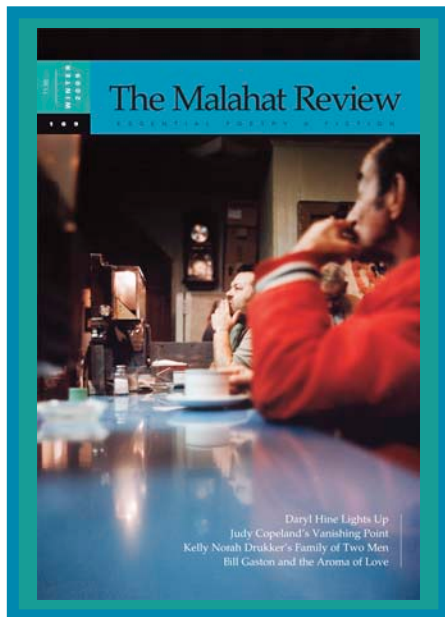
Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

Vol. 6, No. 4, Winter 2009

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1. Issue 169, Winter 2009

In the mail and on newsstands soon!

Judy Copeland's "Where Sea Meets Sky," is the winner of our **2009 Creative Non-Fiction Prize** as selected by judge, John Threlfall, editor of Victoria's entertainment weekly, *Monday* magazine. This essay poignantly captures this New Jersey resident's unusual longing for "emptiness" during her childhood in post-war Japan.

My room needed to be more like the small attic over our garage, where I sometimes went by myself to indulge the secret joy of playing without toys. The attic had a low ceiling, and the air inside felt close, warm, and cocoon-like. Although the attic wasn't empty, its dim lighting made it seem so. Through the tiny window, the late afternoon sun illuminated motes of dust, and one summer day just after I turned four, I sat watching them, hypnotized by their leaping, swirling, dervish-dance, until my legs went numb. Nothing—not my blocks, not my marbles—nothing could be more overflowing with wonder and imagination than an empty room.

Anna Smith's imaginatively realized story "The Score Diary of Billy Bishop" will change forever any preconceptions you may have held about Canada's famed World War One flying "ace." According to Smith, Billy kept track of conquests in love as well as war.

40- 43. Nurses. In Owen Sound and later in Kingston I had met precisely two nurses, ever, and one was also cook and cleaning lady; France is full of them. Are necessary for scores of men limping home with holes where bits should be. Flew up today in plane so heavy that we had to take off guns to get off ground....

44. Nurse, dull. Am pilot. Have replaced sex with kills.

In "The Contender," by **Brett Josef Grubisic**, an academic and his partner find themselves transplanted from "sessional limbo" at Canada's "No. 2 university" in Vancouver to the tenured "Hades" of Lubbock, Texas.

Jeffrey and I are residing on a dry corner lot at 16th Street and Texas Avenue in the modest rancher we bought through Yolanda for the same hopeful/foolish reason that other couples make babies or spend their precious savings on a romantic tropical vacation: to bolster our marriage.

Rescue might sound too drastic, but it's there too. Also, possibly, to forestall arrest, incarceration, court dates, lawyer fees, psychiatric evaluations, and of course the unseemly notoriety that would come with public exposure and scrutiny. Dee Dee says it often, and I have to agree: "I wash my dirty laundry in the basement behind a locked door, thank you very much."

{issue #169 cont'd}

Bill Gaston's "Petterick" is a darkly comic tour de force from this acclaimed writer. As Peter courts Lily, it seems only one thing may be coming between them.

Maybe under the sink a rat had slipped behind things while signing off, its pace of rot stealthily mild. Whatever the smell's source, Lily would soon emerge through it from the dark hallway like a contradiction. She wouldn't fit because she was beautiful. Peter was almost certain she was beautiful.

Also featured in this issue are wonderful poems by **George Elliott Clarke, Antony Di Nardo, Kildare Dobbs, Kelly Norah Drukker, Lise Gaston, Daryl Hine, Elise Levine, Jordan Munteer, Barbara Nickel, Susan Steudel, J. R. Toriseva, and Jan Zwicky.**

Add in our selection of thoughtful and pertinent book reviews of recent Canadian titles, and grace the lot with a "smokin'" cover photo by **Frank Pimentel** and you have yourself a merry little issue!

Seasons Greetings!

2. **The Friends of *The Malahat* launch: January 23, 2010**

Join us as we celebrate the launch of "The Friends of *The Malahat*," a group to bring together lovers of the written word in the Victoria area. We will launch our Winter 2009 (#169) issue the same night.

This double-launch party will take place:
Saturday, January 23, 2010
7:00 - 10:00 p.m.
The Orange Hall, 1620 Fernwood Road, Victoria
Admission is free, all are welcome

Come hear talented Victoria-area writers appearing in our Fall and Winter 2009 issues read from their contributions, including **Eliza Robertson**, author of "Ship's Log," winner of our **2009 Far Horizons Award**, and **Allison Blythe**, author of two poems appearing in our Fall issue.

During the breaks between readings, you may browse:

- Book sale
- "Literary" silent auction

Our program is still firming up, but stay tuned. We'll air the game plan for the evening in a special Friends-edition of *Malahat lite* in January. Note: this is an all-ages event; the refreshments will be free.

If you are in the Victoria area, please come help us celebrate and sign up to be a **Friend of *The Malahat***.

Friendship includes:

- a one-year subscription to *The Malahat Review*
- invitations to four issue launches per year
- free admission to all ticketed *Malahat* events.
- *Malahat lite* delivered quarterly to your inbox
- a 10% discount at Renaissance Books (a fabulous used book store at 14 Bastion Square in Victoria)
- opportunities to interact with fellow readers and writers, new and established
- Other benefits still being finalized

Annual membership: \$45

*During *The Friends'* first year, existing Victoria subscribers may sign up for free.*

3. 2010 Open Season Awards Update

Our inaugural Open Season Awards were a huge success! We received submissions from 202 writers: 28 creative non-fiction entries, 62 fiction entries, and 113 poetry entries (submitting a total of 319 poems).

The finalists are now being chosen by our in-house screeners, and will be passed on to our final judges

Lorna Crozier and **Patrick Lane** to choose winners of the **\$1000** prize in each category.

Keep your eyes on our website for the announcement of the finalists after New Year's and the winners by the end of January.

4. 2010 Novella Prize

You have until **February 1, 2010** to pull that novella out of your bottom drawer and polish it up for our **2010 Novella Prize!**

The winner receives **\$500** plus \$40/page for publication.

The rules:

- enter a single work of fiction between 10,000 and 20,000 words in length.
- entry fee is:
\$35 CAD for Canadians
\$40 US for Americans
\$45 US for International entries
- entry fee includes a one-year subscription to *The Malahat Review*
- winner will be published in our Summer 2010 issue.

Send entries to:
Novella Prize
The Malahat Review
University of Victoria
P.O. Box 1700 Stn CSC
Victoria, BC
V8W 2Y2

For more information go to: www.malahatreview.ca
Queries: malahat@uvic.ca

5. Upcoming Malahat Contests

2010 Far Horizons Award for Poetry

Deadline: May 1, 2010

\$500 Prize, plus \$40/page for publication

Poets not yet published in book form can enter up to three poems (60 lines each max.)

2010 Creative Non-fiction Prize

Deadline: August 1, 2010

\$500 Prize, plus \$40/page for publication

Enter creative non-fiction between 2,000 and 3,000 words

2011 Open Season Awards

Deadline: November 1, 2010

\$1000 Prize in each of three categories: poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction

Poetry: submit up to 3 poems, 150 lines max.

Fiction and Creative non-fiction: 2,500 words max.

Full Guidelines: www.malahatreview.ca

6. Book Sale Recap



Browsers occupy Fine Arts lobby

Our book sale fundraiser, held on November 19th in the lobby of the Fine Arts building on UVic's campus, was a great success. We raised over **\$1000** in sales and donations.

Peter Gray of Renaissance books, deserves a very large thank you for

securing for us a major gift of used books from a private donor.

Lynne van Luven, *Malahat* board member and Associate Dean of Fine Arts, also deserves thanks for coordinating our lobby takeover with UVic's Faculty of Fine Arts, and for donating a large number of books to the sale.



Garth Martens charms
Susan Sanford Blades and Jessie Jones

Last but certainly not least, we must thank all of the volunteers who came out and helped us with poster-ing, driving and sorting books, and table sitting at the sale itself:

Afra Boissevain, Stacey Curtis, Lise Gaston, Anna Johnston, Jessie Jones, Garth Martens, Jeff McAllister, Elizabeth Metcalfe, Andrew Reid, Eliza Robertson, Chelsea Rushton, Aaron Shepard, and Barbara Stewart.



Giant halibut stalks
Chelsea Rushton

Aaron Shepard and Michelle Simms deserve an extra big thank you for helping with the least glamorous job: helping to cart the unsold books to our storage locker (in the rain) after the sale.

Those remaining books will be up for grabs at our Friends launch on January 23!

7. The Pro- Arts Alliance

The Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria was formed to advance the important role the arts play in the life of our community, and to advocate for public sector support. Pro-Art believes that, by working in partnership with our legislators and government agencies, we can sustain and build our region's vibrant cultural sector for the benefit of all of our residents and visitors.

The alliance includes organizations such as:

The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Ballet Victoria
Belfry Theatre
Cinevic
Dance Victoria
Intrepid
Kaleidoscope
MediaNet
Open Space
Pacific Opera Victoria
Story Theatre
Theatre SKAM
Victoria Film Festival
Victoria Conservatory of Music
Victoria Jazz Society
Victoria Symphony

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