

A.C. Forrest Memorial Award

(Judges: Amy Cameron and David Hayes)

The A.C. Forrest Memorial Award is presented annually in honour of A.C. Forrest who was Editor of the United Church Observer for 23 years. It is presented for excellence in socially conscious religious journalism. The A.C. Forrest Award Committee of the United Church Observer Board of Directors together with the Canadian Church Press sponsors this award.

First Place – Canadian Mennonite

Building Up God's Kingdom Together/The Changing Face of
Mental Illness among Mennonites

Authors: Joe Neufeld, Evelyn Rempel Petkau, Bryon Rempel-Burkholder and Ken Reddig
Editor: Ross W. Muir

“Comprehensive, ambitious and hugely under reported, this was a remarkable look at mental illness in our congregations and how the Church might help. The depth of research, originality and relevance made this package stand out.”

First Place – Presbyterian Record

Lost No More

Author: Connie Purvis

“A powerful story very well told. While the stories of refugees has been told before, this was a very compelling and absorbing piece that elevated it to a higher level.”

Honourable Mention – Mandate

For Just Such a Time as This

Authors: Debbie Marshall, Noelle Boughton and Jim Hodgson

“The profiles were tight, full of information and research and the subjects were great choices. As a package, it works very well to highlight the variety of backgrounds and experience in the United Church leadership. It was very interesting to read about these remarkable people. The three writers did a lovely job of capturing their subjects.”

Honourable Mention – The United Church Observer

To the Ends of the Earth, April 2011

Author: Alanna Mitchell

“Beautifully written. A great angle on a topic that has been explored a lot in media – original and moving. This was a unique and fascinating angle on the environmental crisis of our planet. A joy to read from beginning to end.”



2012 Award Winners

Editorial - Magazine

(Judge: Stephen Heckbert)

First Place – *Faith Today*

Commercialization and Its Limits

Author: Bruce J. Clemenger

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

“A strong addition to this discussion with a powerful linkage between these two elements. Very well written, well argued and impactful – an editorial as it should be. Well done!”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

Observations (Christmas), December 2011

Author: David Wilson

“A wonderfully simple powerful story of how family create tradition and cherished moments. An excellent Christmas story about new traditions, new commitments and building a future together – well done!”

Third Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*

A Real Royal Watcher

Author: Laura Kalmar

“A wonderful lead-in to the story to draw the reader into the discussion. Well done – a very good read, and thought provoking about what kind of relationship we do have with Jesus. I enjoyed it!”

Honourable Mention – *Spiritan*

The Medium is the Message

Author and Editor: Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, C.S.Sp.

Designer: Tim Faller

“A great piece linking McLuhan’s messages with the best way to teach – through parables, through examples. A wonderful, well written and well crafted read explaining how best to share the Christian story – well done!”

Editorial – Newspaper

(Judge: Stephen Heckbert)

First Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

Alta. Government's Moral Blindness Jeopardizes our Future

Author: Glen Argan

"An excellent example of how asking the question that seems obvious can produce outstanding results. A very strong, very coherent view on the need for careful thought about resource development – well done!"

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*

Show Genuine Care

Author: Jim O'Leary

"A powerful positioning outlining the need for a strong, effective policy for First Nations in Canada. A very powerful call to account and a great introduction to an editorial position – well done!"

Third Place – *ChristianWeek*

Do the R-I-G-H-T Thing

Author: Doug Koop

Editors: Jerrad Peters and Kelly Rempel

"A great example of things Christians can do to advance society through simple, profound changes. Well written and well constructed – a piece to be savoured. Well done!"

News Story – Magazine

(Judge: Mark Bourrie)

First Place – *Faith Today*

Parents Forgive Their Child's Abductor

Author: Emily Wierenga

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

"This is a very moving piece. The sense of joy, hope, faith and forgiveness that comes through simply grabs the heart. An inspiring story. Wierenga captures the terror of every parent's worst fear and tells how the parents of Kieran Hebert's faith never wavered in spite of the tremendous test that it faced. Told with sensitivity, care and skill. "

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

A Forgotten Injustice, March 2011

Author: Samantha Rideout

“It is a news story that tells the reader something they didn’t know – that Inuit were put through a heart-breaking and sometimes fatal ordeal. Comprehensive, spiritual and artfully written – it is a solid and strong piece of journalism.”

Third Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

Bolivian Mennonite Rape Trial Ends in Convictions

Author and Editor: Ross W. Muir

“The writer tells a story about a bizarre court case in a way that leaves the reader wondering if, in fact, justice was done. It’s obvious the writer worked very hard to be fair to everyone. “

News Story – Newspaper

(Judge: *Mark Bourrie*)

First Place – *The Catholic Register*

TRC Calls Church to its ‘Dark Night of the Soul’

Author: Michael Swan

“The writing is superb. It is obvious the writer listened carefully to the testimony and had a good grasp of the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to the abuse victims. A really solid piece of reporting on what must have been a very difficult arrangement.”

Second Place – *ChristianWeek*

Weekly Volunteer Blitz Helps Clean Up Waterlogged City

Author: Aaron Epp

Editors: Adam Kroeker and Kelly Rempel

“Very strong story about the volunteer effort to repair flood damage in Minot, North Dakota. The reporting is through and the writing very clear. Great reporting on Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS), an organization that has helped so many people in need.”

Third Place – *Crosstalk*

High Youth Suicide Clouds Visit to Moose Factory

Author: Margret Brady

“The words and pictures work together to show the dreadful problem of Native youth suicide”

In-Depth Treatment of a News Event – Magazine

(Judge: Mark Bourrie)

First Place – *Presbyterian Record*

Lost No More

Author: Connie Purvis

“A piece that works on many levels: intriguing subject matter, good grasp of a complex political/military situation. Lots of leg-work and research, with great writing to pull it all together.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

Alone Together, May 2011

Author: Kevin Spurgaitis

“A novel look at how “social media” actually fosters relationships that quite often leaves people isolated but has the promise, if used skillfully to build strong bonds between people of faith. Obviously a lot of work and thought went into this piece.”

Third Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

Sexual Inclusivity Issues

Authors: Various

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“The Mennonite community faced tough soul-searching when its National Assembly needed to debate a sexual inclusivity motion that caused strong feelings on both sides of the issue. *Canadian Mennonite’s* comprehensive coverage of the views of people on both sides of the debate helped ensure understanding of the issue.”

In-Depth Treatment of a News Event – Newspaper

(Judge: Mark Bourrie)

First Place – *The Catholic Register*

Jesuits in Canada

Authors: Michael Swan, Sheila Dabu Nonato, Carolyn Girard and Luc Rinaldi

“A tremendous amount of effort went into this special edition of *The Catholic Register*. The stories were consistently well-written and interesting and the editorial copy was strongly backed by historical and modern images. It’s a collector’s item and is well-deserving of praise and recognition.”

Second Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

A New Day Dawns

Authors: Glen Argan, Lasha Morningstar, Ramon Gonzalez and Chris Miller

“A very thoughtful and celebratory examination of the opening of St. Joseph’s Seminary and issues surrounding the education of a new generation of priests.”

Third Place – *The Anglican Journal*

Special Report on the Military Chaplaincy: “There’s No Life Like It”

Author: Diana Swift, Staff Writer

“Diana Swift consistently researches and writes timely, interesting pieces for the *Anglican Journal*. This time, she wrote an interesting and provocative piece on military chaplains that describe the challenges faced by chaplain recruits and their struggle to not just “fit in” with military culture but also to create ministries within it.”

Features – Magazine

(Judge: Cynthia Shannon)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*

To the Ends of the Earth, April 2011

Author: Alanna Mitchell

“Great topic with original approach: adventure, travel for climate change. Great flow and descriptions of places. Facts and figures well incorporated. Loved it – felt like I was right there on the trip and it’s obvious a lot research went into the article, not just the fun. Author did good job of keeping herself in the story without making story about her. Personal yet objective.”

Second Place – *Faith Today*

The Bodies in My Head

Author: Renée James

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

“Interesting opening. Use of experts, stats and multiple anecdotes. Well-written. Well organized. Good use of quotes. Publication does good job of providing the space needed to do justice to the topic. Great job on the research.”

Third Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

Unwrapping Sexuality

Author: Keith Graber Miller

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“Topical, original. Great job of laying out issue and “solutions.” Easy read. Expert p-o-v gives article great authority while keeping voice and text simple ensures it’s accessible to all readers.”

Features – Newsletter/Newspaper

(Judge: Cynthia Shannon)

First Place – *The Catalyst*

Taxes and Democracy: Two Sides of the Same Coin

Author: Chandra Pasma

“Topical and talkable. Good takeaway given that author explain complex topic in clear, simple language. Addresses problem and provides solutions. Great job – and good writing flow that carries readers through a difficult and touchy subject most would avoid.”

Second Place – *The Anglican Journal*

From Punk to Priest

Author: Leigh Anne Williams, Staff Writer

“Good title – tells readers what to expect. Key moments/turning points touched on. Good quotes: add information and show character. Nice easy writing style.”

Third Place – *The Catholic Register*

Re-examining a 400-year Relationship

Author and Photographer: Michael Swan

“Pretty good snapshot of life in Tulita – especially for kids. Culture comes through along with community.”

Opinion Piece - Magazine

(Judge: Carmi Levy)

First Place – *Geez magazine*

Forget ‘Making a Difference’

Author: Will Braun

“There is a tone to this piece that absolutely sucks the reader in, in a good way, and refuses to let go. Mr. Braun’s opening section – lead paragraph and most of the first page – takes the reader on a journey that forces inner reflection and doubt. It’s a perfect setup for what comes next – as evidenced by the way he pivots the article around the “we can do better” line – and his proposal for a different way of looking at making a difference in the world. The structure, tone

and pacing make you not want to miss a word, not want to miss one lota of what the author is trying to say. This is compellingly vibrant column-writing at its best.”

Second Place – *Presbyterian Record*

Is Multiculturalism Bad for the Church? (Parts 1 and 2)

Author: Daniel Cho

“This is an important article that speaks to one of the most significant challenges facing any church in the new millennium. We toss words like “diversity” around with relative ease, but the author’s choice to tackle the term in this way forces the reader to question whether he/she truly understands and internalizes the word’s definition – and ultimately what it means on both an individual and communal level. The structure is pitch perfect: set up the issue in the first part, asking question after detailed question and floating detailed scenarios of what does and does not apparently work in the pursuit of so-called diversity and multiculturalism; then devote part 2 to answering those questions and laying the groundwork for further discussion.”

Third Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

‘Mennonite’ Not Eaten Here

Author: David Martin

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“This piece opened my eyes. Living relatively close to a number of Mennonite communities in southwestern Ontario, I had a fairly preconceived notion of the Mennonite community and its background. This article forced me to realize that there’s a much broader context out there, and it did in a way that made me want to learn more about my neighbours. I like how the author builds his argument within a framework of first worrying for the future of the church, then laying out the a roadmap for avoiding this fate. It’s an effective way to articulate an argument, and it effectively prepares the reader for what comes next.”

Opinion Piece – Newspaper

(Judge: *Carmi Levy*)

First Place – *Quebec Diocesan Gazette*

Mercenaries or Missionaries?

Author: Jeffrey Metcalfe

“The author does a nice job connecting his father’s post-retirement experience flying into communities in need of assistance to the Church and where it stands on investing mission. The word “balance” keeps coming to mind as I realize just how well the author kept his father’s experience and the imperatives of the church in careful balance throughout the piece. Imagery is also nicely leveraged, with an effective storytelling technique that thoroughly sets the stage for the rest of the thesis to unfold. The author tells us about his dad, then tells us what it means

through the lens of the church. It's simple and it works so well because structure, order and flow are all top notch."

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*

Poor, Misunderstood Fr. Cutié

Author: Fr. Raymond de Souza

"The author makes it very clear, virtually from his first word, where he stands on the subject's behaviour, and its implications for both the Catholic Church and Episcopal Church – and more broadly, readers themselves. There's an unbroken thread of strength of conviction that winds its way through this piece, unerringly reminding the reader on an almost non-stop basis why the author feels as he does. I remember the case well when the headlines first broke, and as sensational stories like this tend to do, it disappeared without a trace fairly quickly afterward. Why this piece works is simple: It reaches beyond the headlines and shares an honest, sharply worded perspective on what this story ultimately means, and what it says about behaviours and consequences. Sure, there's more than a bit of personally-targeted vitriol here, but that's what makes it a crackling good read – that and the fact that opinion is clearly founded in subtly constructed guidance on the rules of the respective churches mentioned here. Media outlets – both mainstream and Church-related – need to do more follow-up-type work, and this is an excellent example for them to follow."

Third Place – *The Anglican Journal*

The Case for Open Communion

Author: The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi

"The author chooses to take on a highly polarizing issue by using a well reasoned, well structured and well researched approach. He takes note of the perspectives of both sides of the topic, then proceeds to slice it down to size, one piece at a time. I admit when I read the first paragraph, I wasn't convinced it was even possible to get both sides to rationally consider the full spectrum of thought. By the time, I was done; I realize he had succeeded in striking a very fine sense of balance."

Column – Magazine

(Judge: Carmi Levy)

First Place – Celebrate!

Getting our Feet Wet, Message in a Bottle and Off the Wall

Author: Ronald Raab, C.S.C.

"The author writes from a powerful place – his own perspective – and never lets the reader forget that. First-person writing of this form is tricky, because the writer runs the risk of not relating his own experiences to those of the reader. No such issue here, as time and again, the

author succeeds in relating his experiences to those any of us might have encountered within our lives. His voice is very real, very engaging, and I couldn't stop reading piece after piece."

Second Place – *The Link & Visitor*

What Can One Woman Do? - The Bodies in my Head,
The Healthy In-Between, Where's the Church?
Author: Renée James

"This masterful series shines the light on a topic that I'm certain many – both in the Church and elsewhere – would probably rather it stayed in the dark. It's an enormously difficult subject to bring up, let alone constructively deal with as this series so clearly has. Each part so perfectly supports the overall narrative, and in doing so effectively breaks through the stigma and provides guidance for those who may be dealing with this form of addiction in their own lives."

Third Place – *Faith Today*

Christ & Culture in Canada
Author: John G. Stackhouse Jr.

"The author does two things exceptionally well. First, he's acutely aware of the influences of modern media on everyday life. He doesn't simply toss in flip references to YouTube, Christopher Hitchens and RSS feeds: He explains why they're meaningful in the lives of his readers and weaves relatable stories around them. Second, he succeeds, time and again, in his aim to build question-and-answer sets around each thesis. Indeed, each of his articles is richly structured process by which readers are given ample guidance in understanding key questions of our time, and more importantly how they might internalize and ultimately answer them. It's a constructive, educational process that's aided and abetted by a writing style that is both genuine and clean."

Column – Newspaper

(Judge: Carmi Levy)

First Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

We Are One
Author: Lasha Morningstar

"I don't often sit in silence after reading a column, but I made an exception here – actually, three exceptions because I needed a moment after reading each piece submitted here. The author writes with a realistic sense of grittiness that is at once hard to watch but also impossible to look away from. The world is an imperfect place, and she manages to force us to look right at it, then wonder how we can – and should relate to it."

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*

Life is so much Better with Good Neighbours; There is Always Hope, and There is Always Faith; A Great Father-Son Chat, and I Owe it to the Cemetery

Author: Robert Brehl

“When I used to write a column for the local paper, I looked inward, to my family and immediate community of friends and neighbours, for inspiration. It’s heartening to see this author do the same and, more importantly, do it better than I ever could. Each of these pieces is a searingly personal view into the life of a seemingly decent husband, dad, family member and neighbour, who seems to stumble across teachable moments with incredible ease.”

Third Place – *The Anglican Journal*

Re-thinking How We do Church: Being Spiritual, Understanding Passover,
When a Non-believer is Chosen

Author: The Rev. Cannon Harold Munn

“The author has a brilliant way of making his experiences come to life. Whether he’s discussing spirituality with a fascinating couple or walking students through the meaning of Passover, you can’t help but think that you’re perched over his shoulder, watching the scene unfold in real-time. Each piece is written from a personal perspective, the through-his-lens voice interwoven with an easy-to-digest lesson on why these moments in time matter at all. I couldn’t put any of them down.”

Department – Magazine

(Judge: Scott Whalen)

First Place – *Mandate*

Notebook

Authors: Various

Designer: Lisa Rebnord

“Strong features with lots of facts and clear narratives. Strong stories and strong content. Links provided at the end. Tightly written and clearly presented. Truly national with stories from western, central and eastern Canada. A rich collection of material, clearly presented and well-designed.”

Second Place – *Faith Today*

Kingdom Matters

Authors: Charlene de Haan, Stephanie Douglas, Emily Wierenga, et al.

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

“A true department, not just a single story or column. Varied styles, lengths of stories, tones, and features/news. Lots of description and colour and all tightly written. An extensive department section and strong photojournalism with crisp design.”

Third Place – *The United Church Observer*

First Look: Gaia, The Living Planet, April 2011; Apology Accepted, June 2011
and World Record Organist, September 2011
Authors: Samantha Rideout and Cory Ruf

“Varied content. Reporting and writing are focused and specific. Very readable. Excellent anecdotes, narrative and description. Really impressive story instincts, with strong results.”

Honourable Mention – *Canada Lutheran*

Practicing Our Faith - April/May, July/August and September 2011
Authors: Various

“Excellent concept of putting ideals to practical work, i.e., helping the poor, being less materialistic. Excellent circular feature structure, with intro, body and kicker. Stories are intimate with strong subject (“face”) of the issue. Colourful, anecdotal feature writing. Well-crafted features with strong readability.”

Honourable Mention – *Faith & Friends*

Every Breath You Take; Lost Weekend and Sophie’s Choice
Authors: Kathryn Mills, Gordon Fedack and Ken Ramstead
Editors: Ken Ramstead and Geoff Moulton

“Clearly told, with focused narratives. Strong examples of personal journalism. Powerful content on the church’s role in everyday lives. Each story has a “face” and a focus and a clear theme. Strong reads, well-crafted and professionally presented.”

Honourable Mention – *Geez magazine*

Civil Disobedience - Spring, Summer and Winter
Section Editor: Christopher Paetkau
Designer: Darryl Brown

“Strong, powerful activist thread. Fascinating reads, intriguing and significant. Strong sources, reworked in magazine’s tone. A true department, varied and diverse.”

Department – Newspaper

(Judge: Scott Whalen)

First Place – *The Anglican Journal*

News Roundup/News Briefs

Authors: Marites N. Sison and Diana Swift

“Strong mix of material, varied in length, angles, tones and style. Strong department focus. An engaging section with a wealth of information clearly presented.”

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*

Youth Speak News - August 14-21, August 28 and September 4, 2011

Editor: Vanessa Santilli

“Very cohesive and detailed stories on World Youth Day in Madrid, including reporting filed from that location. Strong focus and well-written stories. An excellent section of news, features and contributors on the subject – the whole package.”

Letters to the Editor

(Judge: Scott Whalen)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*

Post-Theism Response, April 2011 and Survey Response, October 2011

Editor: Patricia Clarke

“A true “marketplace of ideas.” Impressive contributions, in terms of quantity, scope and tone. Strong sub-heads. Excellent design and presentation. Thoughtful and informative contributions from across the country.”

Second Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

Readers Write

Authors: Various

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“Strong issues with an obviously engaged and thoughtful readership, with clear views. Fonts, styles, leading are excellent choices for design. Topical, issue-driven content. Some beautiful phrasing in letters policy: “We do not countenance rancour or animosity.””

Third Place – *Presbyterian Record*

Letters, May 2011

Authors: Presbyterian Record Readers

“Many submissions. Tightly edited, with strong headlines and crisp design. Some responses to issues raised. Complete text of letters available online. Thoughtful discourse.”

Honourable Mention – *Canada Lutheran*

Post: April/May and July/August 2011

Authors: Various

“Strong design. Error-free copy, excellent editing. Obvious level of engagement with reader’s on magazine’s content.”

Honourable Mention – *The Catholic Register*

Readers Speak Out – Letters to the Editor

Editor: The Catholic Register

“Impressive quantity and quality of submissions. Excellent content, tightly edited. Significant issues with clear positions, nothing serious or controversial are sidestepped.”

Honourable Mention – *Menmonite Brethren Herald*

Letters to the Editor

Editors: Laura Kalmar and J Janzen

“Many issues addressed, with direct positions that are clearly articulated. Editor’s notes and responses are most illuminating. Great headlines.”

Service Journalism

(Judge: Marianne Meed Ward)

First Place – *Canadian Menmonite*

Paying Attention to the Words We Sing

Author: Christine Longhurst

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“Great beginning quote. Excellent take on a topic rarely discussed – courageous and needed. Interesting research on Trinity in song lyrics. Excellent use of song lyrics to illustrate the point about balance. Strikes all the right notes. This piece is challenging, provocative without lecturing – and it needed to be said. Great takeaways for readers to continue to dialogue and put theory into practice in their own churches – plus links to a blog for more information.”

Second Place – *Mandate*

Make Meetings Matter

Author: Matthew Stevens

Designer: Lisa Rebnord

“Excellent analysis of personalities and how to handle them in a meeting – useful tips on meeting basics. Everyone conducting a meeting should read this...a topic rarely tackled but sorely needed, expertly and simply outlines the challenges and personalities and how to respond.”

Third Place – *Faith Today*

How Evangelicals Can Change the World with Social Media

Author: Mary Lou Harrison

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

“Love the outline links to additional information. Straightforward – you tell me what I’m going to get up front. Love the “top tips” at the end - provide some succinct summaries. The “living room” test is a great tool. Good overview and tips as well as anecdotes that give life to the material. Useful, interesting and timely.”

Third Place – *The United Church Observer*

What You Believe (Survey), July/August 2011

Editor: Jocelyn Bell

“Great packaging, lots of material, well structured. The quotes are terrific and add life to the piece. Love the “Twitter message to Jesus” – very timely. Fantastic summary piece by Malcolm about the journey told with honesty, wit and not shying away from the challenge. Provides useful information that individuals can apply as appropriate.”

Media Review

(Judge: *Marsha Lederman*)

First Place – *The Catholic Register*

Enhancing Devotion by Painting with Light; Personal Animus Comes Through;

Hollywood Keeps Dumbing Down the Demonic

Author: John Bentley Mays

“John Bentley Mays has a number of things working for him to create the perfect storm for intelligent arts journalism from a Catholic perspective: he knows his art, he knows his religion, and he has the courage of his convictions. Also – his writing is excellent: concise, smart, clear and interesting. Even if the reader disagrees with this assessment, these columns are highly readable, thought-provoking, and bring a new and intelligent perspective to something that the reader may have already been exposed to through the mainstream media. The range of topics covered was also impressive, and he seems equally comfortable with each subject. John Bentley Mays is a treasure and your readers are lucky to have him. Congratulations.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*
Magazines from the Back of the Rack, January 2011
Stories of Moral Courage, October 2011
Sacred Journeys, December 2011
Authors: Various

“These reviews were an absolute pleasure to read: extremely well written and insightful, smart and engaging, often playful (in a completely appropriate way) and while they were consistently excellent, they were written by a diverse – and creatively selected – assortment of contributors. I absolutely loved the idea of reviewing smaller Canadian magazines, and the reviews were so enthusiastic and energetic. You really got the feeling that the reviewers had immersed themselves in the publications and were determined to relay their experiences to us, the readers. I also appreciate how you group book reviews together: rather than reviewing a group of random books, curating them by theme works well. This is an extremely impressive entry. It would appear that you have cultivated a fine roster of cultural reviews and I applaud the work you’re doing. I had a highly enjoyable experience reading these reviews. Congratulations.”

Third Place – *Canadian Mennonite*
‘Artbeat’ Reviews and Viewpoint
Authors: Vic Thiessen, David Driedger and Will Braun
Editor: Ross W. Muir

“Will Braun’s two pieces were incredibly well-written, insightful, smart and eye-opening. The Zondervan connection was completely unknown to me, but even beyond that revelation, the piece was smart and considered. “The “good news” will be just fine without News Corp.” is an example of some very nice writing. Vic Thiessen’s two film reviews were also very well written, insightful, smart and highly appropriate for the readership. An analytical review through Mennonite eyes seems like the right objective for your publication. David Driedger’s book review was highly intelligent and insightful. I enjoyed and was challenged by each of these pieces; and I learned something from each of them. These are all fine writers. Congratulations to the writers and the editor.”

Theological Reflection

(Judge: Rolf Pedersen)

First Place – *The Catalyst*
The Crux of Justice
Author: Greg Paul

“This well-composed column is an effective reminder that God’s justice is best served in immediate, practical ways; that the crux of the good news is the cross of Christ, or in sharing

our wealth in giving that involves us in direct, personal sacrifice. There is a down-to-earth spirit present in this piece that helps bring the scriptural passage 1 John 3:16-17 to life. Well done!”

Second Place - *The United Church Observer*

Into a Spiritual Wilderness, January 2011

Author: Trisha Elliott

“This magnificent piece takes the position, which it defends rather well throughout, that committing to a faith crisis then “asking good questions and resolving to search for answers is completely biblical, utterly Christian and truly faithful”. The writing is clear. Doubts are regarded as normal and wrestling with one’s faith, rather than subscribing to a blind belief in selected Biblical texts or traditional theology is entirely human. The author takes us beyond the crucifixion story and into new life and – hopefully – greater faith.”

Third Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*

Gathering around the Word to Listen to the Spirit: Community Hermeneutics

Author: Doug Heidebrecht

Editor: J Janzen

“This clearly-written article outlines a practical, democratic, decision-making method within the church. Doug demonstrates this to be an advantageous method that is firmly rooted in scripture. It outlines the conditions needed for success. Furthermore, the article anticipates difficulties and obstacles with this practice of community hermeneutics. But it also helps readers savour the rewards when it is permitted to work. This is a most valuable contribution to an understanding of how the Spirit will be a reliable guide when we let her work.”

Honourable Mention – *The Anglican Journal*

Should We Leave the Money on the Table?

Author: The Ven. Dr. Michael Pollesel

“For the perplexed who may have been wondering why monetary offerings have been hastily whisked from Anglican (and other) altars before being properly blessed during the Great Thanksgiving, this brief, well-composed and persuasive plea should help. Given the importance of money in a non-subsistence economy, it makes sense to ask for an appropriate acknowledgement of this fruit of the worshippers’ often onerous daily labours.”

Theological Reflection – Devotional and Inspirational

(Judge: Rolf Pedersen)

First Place – *Quebec Diocesan Gazette*

The Tambourine Decree

Author: Louisa Blair

“This is a wonderful, original, well-written account, not just of one person’s or one family’s journey of faith through music, but of the unifying and deepening impact of music on human life and community. Louisa Blair writes with flair and humour yet with amazing insight. That, in itself, is a testament to the gift and power of music. Her ecumenism, based on a shared and ever-expanding repertoire of sacred music, is exemplary.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

Homeward Bound, December 2011

Author: Lee Simpson

“This is a beautifully told sad story with a (thankfully and refreshingly) heart-warming ending. It has a ring of authenticity to it mainly because it is typical of many stories out of homeless shelters in Canada. Fortunately in this case there was a waiting, warm pickup truck at the end of this bus journey. The reader is left to work out the next chapter, but the inspiring elements of hope, courage and love are in place.”

Third Place – *Presbyterian Record*

The Improbable Possible

Author: Joyce Engel

“This is a remarkably well-written reflection, not just on the findings of the author’s ongoing professional study of older mothering, but on the knife-edge theme of the merger of the probability of impossibility with an enduring faith in the potential of miracle – that which seems improbable, impossible and beyond the reach of humanly reasoned expectation. Joyce eloquently lays this out in a way that is both professional and intensely spiritual.”

Third Place – *Salvationist*

Doing Chicken Right

Author: Captain Rick Zelinsky

Editor: John McAlister

“This well-written, imaginative article is strong on vivid images, insight and good sense. It seems to hit on a pervasive congregational sin: debilitating envy. There is a lively sense of humour throughout. The four paragraphs of suggestions for overcoming congregational and personal envy and lack of joy are clear and straight-forward. Overall, this is intriguing wise and humorous. Its use of colloquial language, which almost anyone can understand, is excellent. The author’s concern for Christians in general (not just Salvationists) is commendable. All in all, it is an appealing contribution.”

Biblical Interpretation

(Judge: Rolf Pedersen)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*

Giving Thanks Amid Uncertainty, October 2011

Author: Trisha Elliott

“The opening narrative fleshes out the bare bones of the Exodus story imaginatively and effectively. As the author rather profoundly and persuasively argues, the degree of thanksgiving at journey’s end is directly proportional to the toll of the passage. Inasmuch as we despair we are capable of thankfulness. It is from this launching pad that Trisha lifts off with the prominent examples provided by Mary Jo Leddy in her book, *Radical Gratitude*. It’s a wonderful discourse, beautifully and effectively presented.”

Second Place – *Salvationist*

Do Something!

Author: Major Julie Slous

Editor: John McAlister

“This well-written, well-referenced and persuasive piece succeeds in inserting a familiar gospel story into a current social context. As it helpfully sheds new light on an ancient scriptural passage, it also becomes a recipe for empowering Christians to do practical justice, especially when faced with heavy odds and seemingly finite resources.”

Third Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*

You Save Humans and Animals Alike, O Lord

Author: Gordon Matties

Editor: Laura Kalmar

“This is a remarkable article. It is clearly, forcefully and artistically written. It is firmly rooted in scripture and in an older and wiser Hebrew (and Christian) sense of humanity’s place within the cosmos. The author cites numerous scriptural passages that illustrate and illuminate the tradition that holds to the view that there is an intimate relationship between humankind and the rest of creation, which is ignored at our peril. He also cites some of his own fascinating experiences of the divine in nature. These do much to bring the whole to life and make it entirely relevant within the context of the Mennonite Brethren Confession of Faith. Superbly done!”

Honourable Mention – *The Catholic Register*

Worth Comes from God

Author: Fr. Scott Lewis

“A most interesting, well-composed and profoundly thoughtful column woven around the Hebrew concept, *anawim*, or faithful poor. Fr. Lewis finds this to be the common thread to the three readings. Using it, he helps make sense of what might otherwise seem like three unrelated

and one obscure, Old Testament writing. Particularly engaging is the notion that a God-centred humility “begins with honest self-knowledge and acceptance of who we are”.

Narrative (Fiction/Non Fiction)

(Judge: Nancy Wood)

First Place – *Spiritan*

There You See, We Had No One and Now They Are Here

Author: Dr. Mark Azzopardi

Editor: Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick, C.S.Sp.

Designer: Tim Faller

“This is a very strong piece. The description is vivid. The language is active. There is no need for hyperbole when the facts are so dramatic. You manage to write a first-person account without the story being about you. This is very well done. It moved me to tears. Thank you.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

The Other Battlefield, March 2011

Author: Brian Platt

“This story is a wonderful overview of aid programs and issues. There are strong voices from the people involved. The narrative is present but not intrusive. Great job!”

Third Place – *Faith & Friends*

The Kids Are All Right

Author: Ken Ramstead

Editors: Ken Ramstead and Geoff Moulton

“The narrative structure is strong; the beginning of the idea, the progress of the teens, the suspense about the win; the meaning derived at the end. A good piece, with good, strong voices.”

Honourable Mention – *The Anglican Journal*

Walking a Mile in Their Shoes

Author: Kristin Jenkins

“It opens a door on a reality that most readers are unfamiliar with. And it does so in a vivid, compelling fashion. “

Personal Experience – First Person Account

(Judge: Adam Gollner)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*
An Unremarkable Reunion, November 2011
Author: Trisha Elliott

“Great opening! Strong voice, meaningful story – true, sad, honest and strong.”

Second Place – *Faith & Friends*
Free on the Inside
Author: RJ
Editors: Ken Ramstead & Geoff Moulton

“Straightforward language, a real story and a powerful message.”

Third Place – *Celebrate*
What Parishes can do to Minister to Prisoners
Author: Ted Hughes

“Compassionate voice on a controversial topic. Timely – good job tying in contemporary political issues.”

Interview

(Judge: Jerry Hames)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*
Interview with John Dominic Crossan, July/August 2011
Author: Ken Gallinger

“Well-prepared, brief questions. Perceptive in your approach to the interview. You appear to have succeeded by asking follow up questions to get to the heart of the matter at hand. Congratulations – well-deserved award!”

Second Place – *Presbyterian Record*
Famine in Ethiopia: Then and Now
Author: Connie Wardle

“Well prepared, solid questions that come right to the point. “Definitions” sidebar is good heavy with information, yet welcoming to read.”

Third Place – *The Anglican Journal*

Where God Wants Her to Be

Author: Diana Swift

“Well-written interview focussing on important events in the life of a new bishop. Descriptive language of Glasspool and going beyond a one-dimensional picture of a lesbian bishop much appreciated by readers.

Third Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*

Becoming a House of Prayer for all Nations

Authors: Mike Nishi, Xavier Law, Grace Kim, Bindu Sidhu and Dave Chow

Editor: J Janzen

“A challenging assignment that’s well done. Questions are brief and responses are closely edited and to the point.”

Biographical Profile (Living or Dead) - Magazine

(Judge: Nancy Wood)

First Place – *Faith & Friends*

No Limbs, No Limits

Author: Julia Hosking

Editors: Ken Ramstead and Geoff Moulton

“Fascinating story. Loved reading about the experiences that formed this man; his moment of epiphany at 15. Great piece.”

Second Place – *Canadian Mennonite*

In Gratitude of J.S. Bach (Mennos at Work Series)

Author: Dave Rogalsky

Editor: Ross W. Muir

“I learned a lot about Dyck – someone I’d hear on the radio for years. I didn’t know about his own musical career. Fascinating. Very nice bio!”

Third Place – *cmAlliance.ca*

Singing Because of God

Author: Barrie Doyle

“It’s a very thorough look at the life and career of Whyte. Great piece!”

Honourable Mention – *Faith Today*

The Global Disciple: John Stott

Author: Drew Dyck

Editors: Gail Reid, Bill Fledderus and Karen Stiller

“This is a very thorough piece. I get a real sense of the man’s character and impact. This is a beautiful obituary: well-researched and well-written.”

Biographical Profile (Living or Dead) - Newspaper

(Judge: Jerry Hames)

First Place – *The Anglican Journal*

Remembering Roy

Author: Kristin Jenkins

“A very moving account and fearless column in which you placed yourself squarely in the picture too. Honest acknowledgment of your reluctant relationship with Roy. You made him a person I would have enjoyed meeting, I’m sure. Good, good descriptive words. Great introduction and a memorable close. An emotional, memorable read. Kudos! A well deserved first place award.”

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*

Reading the News and Keeping the Faith

Author: Vanessa Santilli

“A perceptive interview with an interesting personality. Excellent interfaith quotes and wonderful recounting of her experience in Rome the day the Pope died. Written with clarity and sensitivity. A very good read and a well-deserved second place!”

(No Third Place awarded in this category)

Poetry

(Judge: D.S. (Don) Martin)

First Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*

Travel Advisory II

Author: Sarah Klassen

Editor: Laura Kalmar

“There’s a delightful interplay of specific concrete images with metaphorical ideas. I like the twist in the middle: “Or was it you?” The white stone from John’s Revelation fits surprisingly

into the poem, given us much to think on. There is just enough here for the reader to be drawn into the scenario. Well balanced."

(No Second or Third place awarded in this category)

Black and White Photo

(Judge: Miguel Vadillo)

First Place – Geez magazine

Untitled (Pigeons Flutter)

Photographer: Colin Vandenberg

Designer: Darryl Brown

"This is inspiring, great and moves the spirit of readers. Everything in this photo is great – opportunity, light and scene."

(No Second or Third place awarded in this category.)

Colour Photo – Magazine

(Judge: Miguel Vadillo)

First Place – Faith & Friends

No Limbs, No Limits

Photographer: Life Without Limbs

Designer: Brandon Laird

"This is an awesome picture from the water. Being there creates a great deal of difficulty. It is crisp, fun, and reflects the story in a very compelling way."

Second Place – The United Church Observer

Antarctica, April 2011

Photographer: Lee Narraway

"Beautiful, crisp and inspiring. At first, it looked to me as a Photoshop effect of transparency. Looking at it in depth, I was amazed by the transparency that the light created on the mountains through the clouds."

Third Place – Mandate

August 2011 Cover

Photographer: Catherine Rodd

"Great expressions, great composition and great management of tones."

Colour Photo – Newspaper

(Judge: Miguel Vadillo)

First Place – *The Catholic Register*

Laura Tabac Breaks Down

Photographer: Michael Swan

“This image captures the entire story. The photographer managed to get a very important instant of the event.”

(No Second or Third place awarded in this category.)

Colour Photo Spread – Magazine

(Judge: Miguel Vadillo)

First Place – *The United Church Observer*

To the Ends of the Earth, April 2011

Designer: Ross Woolford

“It is an overwhelming scene that has an unusual beauty. The time was taken, the light and obviously the landscape itself. Usually images like this lack in emotion not these ones; there is good balance between nature and human on the photos chosen.”

Second Place – *Salvationist*

The Focal Point

Photographer: Ian McKenzie

Editor: John McAlister

“Technically the photos are great. The use of light in the different conditions is very good. Nice selection of pictures to show the work of the photographer.”

(No Third place awarded in this category)

Original Artwork

(Judge: Carson Samson)

First Place – *Presbyterian Record*

Can You Imagine?

Designer: Caroline Bishop

Artist: Violet Lemay

“Loose line work, its playful yet direct. I also like how it can stand alone, without copy – it complements the layout effectively. Unique and original. Love the colour and wash technique! This applies a prevalent style and technique yet avoids the clichés and trips of a stock illustration. Awesome job!”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*
Pacifism in a Post-9/11 World, September 2011
Artist: Marco Cibola

“Dark and foreboding. Direct eye contact to the subject/ headline. It evokes an emotional response and draws the viewer to look beyond the fore subject and look into the background. Great pairing of illustrator and designer – Kudos!”

Third Place – *Mennonite Brethren Herald*
Impression
Artist: Krista Reimer
Editor: Laura Kalmar

“Beautiful, bright and uses the traditional media – paint! This really is a departure from the standard norm. I love the subject – there’s a quiet and reflective beauty in her presentation and posture. Good job! Great work!”

Magazine Front Cover

(Judge: *Brian Morgan*)

First Place – *Presbyterian Record*
November 2011
Designer: Caroline Bishop
Photographer: Paul Jeffrey

“Beautiful photo, well handled (framed just so and going over the nameplate, for example) with a bold and smart headline. This is a beautiful cover.”

Second Place – *Canadian Mennonite*
Say NO to the Logo
Designers: Dan Johnson and Ross W. Muir

“A super-strong and super-confident cover. Nicely designed, and well, un-missable. A smart, confident, committed cover. Excellent.”

Third Place – The United Church Observer
Pacifism in a Post-9/11 World, September 2011
Designer: Ross Woolford

“Clear, good use of type and colour. Perfect illustration. An excellent cover.”

Newspaper/Newsletter Front Page
(Judge: Gordon Preece)

First Place – *The Anglican Journal*
May 2011
Designer: Saskia Rowley Fielder

“Excellent use of art and typography – many entry points – polished presentation. Very well executed – attractive – well deserving of first place.”

Second Place – *The Catholic Register*
The Catholic Vote
Designer: Lucy Barco

“A creative approach to a hard to illustrate topic. A very good example of how a simple illustration can be very effective.”

Third Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*
June 20, 2011
Designer: Glen Argan

“A very strong front where the art and headline work very well together. A very good strong news page.”

Feature Layout and Design – Magazine
(Judge: Brian Morgan)

First Place – *Presbyterian Record*
Looking In, Shouting Out
Designer: Caroline Bishop
Artist: Katy Lemay

“What gorgeous and effective illustrations! Interior design and typographic treatments – the styling, the palette and the rules – are bold, pleasing and effective. Wow, this is a really great package!”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

To the Ends of the Earth, April 2011

Designer: Ross Woolford

“This layout features exceptionally beautiful photography which is very well-handled. Layout is disciplined, clear and logical. Body text is clear and well-set.”

Third Place – *Faith & Friends*

Seed of Hope

Designer: Brandon Laird

Editors: Ken Ramstead and Geoff Moulton

“Beautiful imagery, supported by a clever layout (based on the division of the page into thirds). Good opener, that effectively depicts the story, and the line your writer wished to take through it. This is a very good layout with a pleasing, logical structure.”

Feature Layout and Design – Newspaper

(Judge: Gordon Preece)

First Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

Shepherds for the Forgotten Ones

Designer: Glen Argan

“Strong head – large art – great pull quotes. Simple but very effective. Overall a solid two-page spread – inviting.”

Second Place – *The Anglican Journal*

What’s next for Haiti?

Designer: Saskia Rowley Fielder

“Easy to read, nice timeline and by the numbers box – effective. Overall a solid two pages – good use of colour.”

Third Place – *The Catholic Register*

Raising Up Haiti

Designers: Mickey Conlon and Lucy Barco

“A strong centre spread anchors the package. A good package overall.”

Layout and Design of an Edition – Magazine

(Judge: Brian Morgan)

First Place – *Geez magazine*

Contemplation: Inner Work for Outer Change, Summer 2011

Designer: Darryl Brown

Editor: Aiden Enns

“This is an amazing issue. It has a beautiful cover; it’s well-paced and beautifully-designed. It’s organized in a way that both challenge the reader – the letters and masthead, along with the front-and back-of-book start helps expose the content. The typography in this issue is particularly smart and well-considered. This is amazing and beautiful and has made my day. Perhaps my whole week.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

April 2011 Edition

Designer: Ross Woolford

“This publication has well-set body type, good navigation, and good pacing. The cover story is particularly well-designed, as are small stories like Spirit Story and the Reviews section. Good use of photography throughout. A very good publication and a very good issue.”

Third Place – *Canada Lutheran*

June 2011 – 25th Anniversary Issue

Editor: Lucia Carruthers

Editorial Director: Trina Gallop

Designer: Catherine Crivici

“This is a very clear and well-lead out publication. The photographs are appealing, relevant, and communicative. On the whole the typography is well-designed, and the overall organization of the magazine is logical and clear. You have an excellent, very solid and well-built magazine.”

Layout and Design of an Edition – Newspaper/Newsletter

(Judge: Gordon Preece)

First Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

Issue of January 24, 2011

Designers: Glen Argan and Lasha Morningstar

“Consistent design, typography and design elements work together to create a solid attractive publication. Overall an excellent product – easy to read and navigate through and worthy of a first place finish.”

Second Place – *The Anglican Journal*

December 2011

Designer: Saskia Rowley Fielder

“Attractive, clean easy to read – the added touch of the Christmas ball in the masthead was well done and tasteful. Refreshing, clean, look makes for a solid publication. Well done.”

Third Place – *The Catholic Register*

Christmas 2011

Designers: Mickey Conlon and Lucy Barco

“Good use of art – overall appearance is clean, consistent. Overall easy to read.”

General Excellence – Denominational/Interdenominational Magazine

(Judge: Kathy Ullyott)

First Place – *Geez magazine*

Summer, Fall and Winter 2011

Designer: Darryl Brown

Editor: Aiden Enns

“Love the way you explore per-issue themes, tackling them from a variety of perspectives. Fantastic mix of opinion, personal reflection, faith and challenge, as well as of narrative and feature with quotations, poetry and cartoons. At the same time, your regular sections (Culturocities, Experiments, Civil Disobedience) allow you to deal with news, current events, issues and activism as they emerge. Fantastic display; you really make tiny pull quotes work! I love the design – the graphics-and-pictures features; compelling photography, illustration, typography. Great job! Very thought and action provoking, as per your mandate.”

Second Place – *The United Church Observer*

March, April and May 2011

Editor: David Wilson

“Great relatable, relevant, timely content; and a great mix of personal testimonials, glimpses into individual congregations and explorations of the issues of faith, world issues and theology. Terrific photography and use thereof. Photos are lively and engaging; illustrations and stock well-deployed. Great display and design overall.”

Third Place – *Presbyterian Record*
March, April and May 2011
Designer: Caroline Bishop
Editors: David Harris and Andrew Faiz

“For the most part, I really like your design – it’s elegant, crisp and consistent; your going off-format for your cover stories is very effective, engaging and refreshing. Lovely photography and artwork. The mix of original photography, stock photography, illustration and reader submitted photos work well.”

General Excellence – Specialized Magazine

(Judge: Kathy Ullyott)

First Place – *Mandate*
May, August and November 2011
Designer: Lisa Rebnord
Editor: Rebekah Chevalier

“Covers are clean and compelling. Themed issues are great ways to deliver a variety of content (worship, church life, community building) in a coherent, linked way. Overall, your content mix of practical workbooks, inspiring profiles and intimate testimonials/stories makes for interesting reading that I’m sure is useful to a broadly ranging readership. Your design is fantastic – clean, modern and elegant – you’ve made great use of type and mechanical colour in a design that appeal in spite of not printing in four colour. Great navigation, from your front-of-book section through back pages, and great display.”

Second Place – *Faith & Friends*
January, February and March 2011
Designer: Brandon Laird
Editors: Ken Ramstead and Geoff Moulton

“Your covers are very engaging, using frank and warm images, compelling cover lines and a clean design that communicates lots without overwhelming your digest-size format. Nice uses of the space throughout – your designs have consistency without being boring. Your mix of stories in each issue is very lively – the individual testimonies are inspiring, the profiles interesting and the stories of ministry engaging – each of your lineups is a nice package. I feel your service to your stated mandate, “Inspiration for Living” is bang-on. Good work!”

Third Place – *Focus (CMDS Canada)*
Winter, Spring and September 2011
Editor: Dr. Roger Gingerich

“I really like your cover art – it’s conceptual, provocative and simple – yet clearly communicates and establishes expectations for the ensuing content. Great photos and illustrations throughout your issues as well – very artistic and well-matched to your editorial. Heads are clear and compelling. I expect that the wide range of issues you tackle and, passionately cover and debate is extremely useful and thought-provoking for your readership.”

General Excellence – National Newspaper

(Judge: Carol Goar)

First Place – *The Anglican Journal*

April, May and June 2011

Editor: Kristin Jenkins

“Strong front page with original, newsworthy reporting; challenging, well-written editorial, interesting columns and wide range of intelligent letters. Readers were informed, challenged and welcomed to get involved.”

General Excellence – Regional Newspaper

(Judge: Carol Goar)

First Place – *ChristianWeek (Manitoba Edition)*

March, April and May 2011

Designer: Jeff Lowell

Editors: Jerrad Peters, Kelly Rempel and Doug Koop

“For a regional newspaper, *ChristianWeek* is remarkably ambitious in its scope: from local to global it makes strong relevant links between Christianity and sports, family life, workplace behavior, humour, how to handle crime and how to handle technology. Strong editorial stands; willing to take controversial positions and showcases Christians working to reduce hunger, homelessness and isolation. This paper is a pleasure to read with plenty to think about afterward.”

Second Place – *Western Catholic Reporter*

Issues of October 24, October 31 and November 7, 2011

Editor: Glen Argan

“The Reporter has a clear mission and devotes the resources and energy required to fulfill it. Its reporters make the effort to attend events in person and talk to participants, bringing a human face to issues and events. A fine regional newspaper that clearly connects with its readers.”

Our Judges

Mark Bourrie is a Canadian writer, historian, and Carleton University lecturer. He is the author of several books, including *By Reason of Insanity: The David Michael Krueger Story* (1997), *Flim Flam* (1998), and *Many a Midnight Ship* (2005). His work has also appeared in magazines and newspapers, including *Toronto Life*, *Canadian Business*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *Xinhua* and *The National Post*. He currently writes a popular Canadian political blog for Ottawa magazine.

Before joining Vérité Films, Amy Cameron was Executive in Charge of Production for CBC Comedy (2011-2012) and spearheaded development on the award-winning comedy series *Little Mosque on the Prairie* (Westwind Pictures) and *InSecurity* (Vérité Films). Cameron was the co-creator, co-executive producer and writer of the one-hour dramatic television series *Wild Roses* (2009, CBC) and writer of the short, *Song of Solomon* (2007, Canadian Film Centre), selected for the Montreal World Film Festival. She is the author of *Playing With Matches: Misadventures in Dating* (Anchor, 2005), a collection of stories about women's experiences in dating. Other projects include the features *Get A Life*, *Ivy Turnbuckle & The Magic Nation* and *A False Note*.

Cameron was an editor at *Maclean's Magazine* (2000-2004) and a reporter at *The New Brunswick Telegraph Journal* (1996-2000), where she won a National Newspaper Award. She is a graduate of the Writers' Lab at the Canadian Film Centre (2006) and holds a B.F.A. from Concordia. She is the daughter of Stevie Cameron, an award-winning Canadian investigative journalist, best-selling author and founder of *Elm Street*, a national lifestyle magazine. She lives in Toronto with her husband and two children.

Carol Goar is a Canadian journalist and currently an editorial columnist for *The Toronto Star*. She previously served as the newspaper's editorial page editor, Washington bureau chief and national affairs columnist. Prior to joining the *Star*, Goar also worked for *Maclean's*, *The Ottawa Citizen* and Canadian Press.

Jerry Hames spent his much of his journalistic career writing about religious life, reporting on multitude of Christian events and activities. He was a religion writer for two Canadian daily newspapers, served for 22 years in communications positions with the Anglican Church of Canada, including editor of the *Anglican Journal*, and retired in 2007 after 17 years as editor of *Episcopal Life*, the national publication of the U.S. Episcopal Church. His interests have included research and program planning for religious television and providing services for a Canadian national halfway house movement for ex-prisoners. In 2007 he was named a recipient of the Jeannette Pierce Award by Episcopal Communicators for outstanding commitment to excellence in church communication. He is an honorary life member of both the Canadian Church Press and the Associated Church Press.

David Hayes is a Toronto-based freelance journalist who has written four nonfiction books as well as scores of articles and reviews for major publications, including *Saturday Night*, *Report On*

Business, The Walrus, The New York Times Magazine, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Life (he was the magazine's media columnist in the late 1980s), and *National Post Business* (he served as senior writer from August 2001 until April 2003). He has won seven National Magazine Awards (Gold, Silver and Honourable Mention). A career freelance writer, Hayes has written on a wide range of subjects although his special areas of interest include culture and the arts -- especially popular music -- and media (in addition to award winning feature articles, his second book, *Power and Influence: The Globe and Mail and the News Revolution*, uses Canada's national newspaper to trace the evolution of print journalism since the rise of television). He has also written extensively on business, especially marketing and advertising. He began teaching as a part-time instructor in the School of Journalism at Toronto's Ryerson University in the late 1980s. He was an assistant professor on faculty from 1995 to 2002. He now teaches advanced magazine writing in Ryerson's Continuing Education division and gives workshops on feature writing as well as research, reporting and interviewing techniques. He is considered an authority on literary journalism (the use of dramatic fictional techniques in nonfiction).

The coordinator for the Algonquin Public Relations program, Stephen Heckbert brings almost 20 years experience in strategic communications, media training, public and media relations, media analysis, marketing, writing, and project management to every project. A 2003 honouree as one of Ottawa's "40 under 40" by the *Ottawa Business Journal*, Stephen has provided strategic communications advice and counsel to many senior executives and high-ranking public servants. Stephen began his career as a journalist, working with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, *The Sherbrooke Record* and *The New Brunswick Telegraph Journal* before, during and after completing his studies for a Masters in Journalism at Carleton University. A graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island with a Bachelor's degree in Arts, majors in English and philosophy, Stephen is an accredited public relations practitioner, and is the Past-President of the Canadian Public Relations Society in Ottawa-Gatineau. He has presented on crisis communications, on public engagement strategy and practice, on corporate reputation and expectations management, and on working with political staff in a government environment.

Adam Leith Gollner is the author of *"The Fruit Hunters: A Story of Nature, Adventure, Commerce and Obsession"* (Scribner/Doubleday). His work has appeared in *The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Globe and Mail, The Guardian, The National Post, Maclean's, EnRoute* and others.

As the Western Arts Correspondent for *The Globe and Mail*, Marsha Lederman writes about the arts from Vancouver. Before joining the *Globe*, Marsha worked for CBC Radio in a variety of positions, including National Arts Reporter. Marsha has also worked in private radio, as a reporter, newscaster and talk show host. When she's not working, Marsha can be found in her tiny, overpriced Vancouver home, chasing after her toddler and trying desperately to read a novel for pleasure.

What's a Carmi? Carmi Levy plays many roles on this planet, including journalist, analyst, geek, photographer, cyclist, dog whisperer. His favourite and most meaningful roles, however, are

husband and dad. He writes for some cool places, including *Betanews*, *Processor*, *IT in Canada*, *IT World Canada* and his favourite at *Written Inc.*

D.S. Martin's poetry collections *Poiema* (Wipf & Stock, 2008) **and** *So The Moon Would Not Be Swallowed* (Rubicon Press, 2007) are available at: www.dsmartin.ca

A graduate of Carleton University, Marianne Meed Ward worked for *Faith Today* from 1989, becoming managing editor in 1996 and resigned her position in February 1999. Thereafter she was employed by the *Toronto Sun* as a columnist providing weekly columns on affairs in the '905' area of the greater Toronto area. Currently, she now serves as a councillor in Ward 2 for the City of Burlington.

Born in Vancouver, Brian Morgan attended the Rhode Island School of Design and the Emily Carr University of Art + Design. He has worked on a number of publications including *Saturday Night* and *Macleans*, *Dose and C Magazine* (with Open, Inc.), and *Globe Investor* and *Precedent* (with Jaspal Riyait). Brian is currently the art director of *The Walrus Magazine*.

Rolf Pedersen, a life-professed Third Order Anglo-Lutheran Franciscan, is a former editorial page editor of *The Guelph Mercury* and *The Brandon Sun*. He is a violinist, freelance writer and a non-ordination track student at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary conducting research on sacred spaces.

Gordon Preece has been with the *Winnipeg Free Press* 40 years — 12 years supervising the Advertising Art Department — and since then the Editorial Art Director, responsible for the overall look and presentation of the paper, typography, design of feature pages and packages and graphics. Gordon has won numerous awards for page design and was awarded Thompson Newspapers Designer of the Year. He is a Regional Director on the Board of the Society of News Design representing Western Canada.

Kathy Ullyott has held senior editorial positions on some of Canada's most-recognized magazines. She was editor-in-chief of *Homemakers* for six years, prior to which she served as executive editor for *Canadian Living* magazine, executive editor of *Modern Woman* and managing editor of *Flare*. Currently, she teaches journalism and media studies at the University of Guelph Humber and Humber College.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba (Bachelor of Fine Arts, Honors), Carson began working as a graphic designer in 1999. In 2005, he launched Samson Design Studios. Carson has partnered with a talented group of professionals and innovative minds to provide full-tilt creative services, catered specifically to non-profits, charities and NGOs. His studio's website is <http://www.SamsonStudios.ca> and he regularly updates a Design & Small Business blog at <http://wwwDesignBusiness.ca>.

Cynthia Ann Shannon graduated from Concordia University with a B.A. in journalism in 1996. She joined *Reader's Digest* as a copyeditor immediately after graduation, working her way

up to Associate Editor. At the *Digest*, Cynthia was responsible for the Heroes of the Year program, Word Power and the Living section, among other features. She edited articles for the pickups program and developed original features with freelance writers. Cynthia also spent several years developing and writing content for readersdigest.ca. Cynthia is currently a freelance writer-editor working mainly with non-profit organizations in the Montreal area.

Miguel Vadillo is a senior designer at *The Toronto Star* since 2006. Today he is in charge of the cover of the Greater Toronto section some special inside pages and some weekends the front page of the paper. He has had two nominations for the Canadian National Newspaper awards being part of the team that worked in special investigation coverage for the *Star*. Currently lives in Guelph, Ontario with his partner and son.

Scott Whalen has been a news and feature reporter, writer and editor for community and daily newspapers such as *The Peterborough Examiner* and *The Kingston Whig-Standard* for more than 10 years. For the past decade, he has been training students at Loyalist College's photojournalism program in the art and craft of news and feature writing.

Nancy Wood is a national reporter with CBC/Radio-Canada in Montreal. She started off as a print journalist at *The Montreal Gazette* in 1985. After a stint with *The Toronto Star*, she joined *Maclean's Magazine* as a senior writer before moving to the CBC in 1994.