

Passionate Peace

David Wayne Dunn

Literary House Review

Only The Finest

An Exclusive Collection of
Engaging Stories and Brilliant Poems

Stories & Poetry Featuring
Pushcart Prize Nominees of 2007

Including Outstanding Contributions by a
Gathering of Exceptional Authors and Poets

Dedicated to Exceptional Writing

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Literary House Review

Literary House Review

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Introduction To Literary House

It has been suggested in “Home: The Territorial Core”¹ by Professor J Douglas Porteous whose teaching career and study investigates the important intangible relationships (attachment, aesthetics, ethics, and spirituality) between humans and their environment using both imaginative literature and academic research, the basic reference point for the structuring of space and the focus of spatial activity is the image of *home*. “At the core of the ethological concept of territoriality lies the place we call home.... It is a basic reference point for the structuring of space and the focus of spatial activity.” It is also suggested by Dr. Porteous that home is to be fully appreciated by stepping over its threshold and out into the world. This serves to remind me the psychic space, the “home” that goes with me in my memories, is inevitably charged by my experiences leaving it and returning to mind it time and again. Out and in, home is not just some place and some space; it is a certain image I behave, something at once physical and not physical that houses *me*.

Carried in our embodied psyches, home goes with us whence we go and what matters here stays with us even are we never to see our birth home again. Our memory and our imagination and the twain that twangs the two out and in, holds together what will both “be” and “longs” to be in what belongs and remembers through us throughout our entire lives. Such a journey is not just over the literal threshold and out the door in the morning. It is inward and nightly revisited in our memories within our dreams and is outwardly remembered in our daily reflections and reveries. In short, we remember and imagine our stories of home ‘at home’ *in them* and we do this to share with each other what is valuable and lives on long after we are physically gone.

It has also been noted we move psychologically down from soul to the customs of our body in adumbration. It is in our bearing and in our memory we begin to think *back* and *down*. The way our imaginations serve this movement of our spirit’s bearing, for surely this is what I aspire to describe, Dear Reader, is the way we journey downward to soul.

Philosopher Edward Casey suggests our memories lend weight to our upward-flying thoughts in a lived, customary body. This lived body presents in its habitual bearing a depth to remembering as I recall and reflect the story in which both be-ing and longing reside. I remember by way of these mental images and psychic substances. These psychic images are what makeup my reflective 'stuff.' (And, I would like to suggest these images of psyche make-up in those senses such terms as both 'composition' and 'fantasize' may mean.) I continue to suppose psyche's images are the very 'stuff' of cosmos itself.

Carl Sagan, the noted and late US astronomer, became famous for telling us we are made from the same stuff as are stars. He remarks, in narrating the thirteen part "Cosmos" made to air for PBS television in 1980, "To make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe." Twenty five years later the new "Cosmos" continues to re-imagine and to remember this story of our planet and our own universe through the life cycle mimetic in the birth and death of stars. The telling moves onward and outward. And, this remembering retells beyond Sagan's point of view through the poetic basis of mind that still invents from scratch these personified images of origin that haunt our own in-visible worlds, our own "stuff-in-the-making."

The poets and storytellers for this premier volume of *Literary House* are no less inventive in their own compositions. As a contributor in this making, I can attest. For where I am to make my home from scratch much as the symbolic apple pie is made, I must begin by letting psyche. As the inward-backward dimension of the here and now, psyche as soul-maker turns over my literal and star-dusted outer happenings into personified thoughts. These memory fantasies-as-images have the power to reflect and render visible *their* inner chain of significant formation. To interact with my images and *their* histories is to be inescapably linked with secret worlds, heavens and heavenly 'hells.' Moreover, it is to be in mimesis with them as displayed, no matter my belief or disbelief in their god(s).

Literary House Review

Just as psyche-making allows for the internalizing of events as fictions, fictionalizing, according to James Hillman, turns the logos in our story plots over into the way we come to name our experiences. This logos is precisely the in-sighting power of mind to create a cosmos and give sense to it.² Working together, remembering and imagining continue internalizing and externalizing, gaining and losing the universe.

Fictionalizing is the way our imaginal life presents the story plot our images wish to tell us. These plots *are* our myths; *their* mythos transcends our plots. From this mythic perspective, every literal event is to be re-told over and back, down and in. A synchrony in remembering and imagining, Casey believes our fictions hold both out and in together. "When we imagine something – say, the great god Pan – we imagine out to the figure, extending ourselves body and soul in its direction."³ The felt-sense of our images feel for us down into the image-past as well as outward toward the uncertainties of future; onward as well as in.

Stepping over the threshold out of our literal and into our 'litera' invites taking the next step into poetic thought where our already poetic basis in mind suggests the logos that must operate "from scratch" in the plots of our lives will first have to "invent the universe" that lives it. Just as a detective story asks me to detect a killer, a tragedy asks me to accept the death of a principal and a comedy invites the resolution in conflicts through laughter, poetry invites the shaping and sharing of our stories in new ways.

It is with this mind the editors and publisher of *Literary House* assemble these tales and poetry of approximately fifty authors into our premier edition. It is with much delight, we invite you to 'our house' and hope you enjoy the read.

Stephanie Pope
mythopoetry.com
September, 2007

(Footnotes)

¹ See *Geographical Review*, Vol. 66, No. 4 (Oct., 1976), pp. 383-390

² See *Healing Fiction*, Spring: Woodstock, 1996, p40

³ See *Spirit and Soul*, Spring: Dallas, 1991 "Foreword: Spirit and Soul In Perspective"

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Stephanie Pope, for her eloquent
Introduction to Literary House.

All Pushcart nominations will be announced in November.

It is now my utmost pleasure to present to our readers,
our First Edition of Literary House Review
Victoria Valentine, Literary House Publisher

Literary House Review

Contents		Stories
Introduction by Stephanie Pope		6
Acknowledgments		9
Dedication		14
ARISTOTLE'S PREDICTIONS		25
<i>Arlene L. Mandell</i>		
THE SCARLET TANAGER		39
<i>Davina Moss</i>		
JUST A JOKE		45
<i>Vic Fortezza</i>		
THE ENGAGEMENT		57
<i>Richard Denoncourt</i>		
DOING RIGHT		59
<i>Wayne Scheer</i>		
SMOKERS		67
<i>Russell H. Krauss</i>		
GONE		77
<i>Christine Bruness</i>		
WATERCOLOR SKY		91
<i>Ann Hite</i>		
THE JUDICIAL SECURITY CLASS		97
<i>Anthony J. Mohr</i>		
FOREVER JEANENE		115
<i>J. Nadene Delaney</i>		
STAND AND WALK		127
<i>Steve Cartwright</i>		
NOW I LAY ME DOWN AWAKE		137
<i>June M. Brautigan</i>		
WINTER EYES		153
<i>D.B. Williams</i>		
TAKING HER HOME		175
<i>Elizabeth Dougherty Dolan</i>		
WALKERS WITH THE STORM		187
<i>Vera Charline Wareham</i>		
SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT		205
<i>Victoria Valentine</i>		


Contents		Poetry
A Thousand Days <i>C. Boussom Jr</i>		15
Tidal <i>Kelley White</i>		16
Then <i>Kelley White</i>		17
Battle Cry <i>Annette Nasser</i>		18
A Few Things She Noticed <i>Stephanie Pope</i>		20
Barter <i>Craig Kirchner</i>		22
Mentor <i>Orania Hamilton</i>		24
Guttural "Thank You's" <i>Jacob Erin-Cilberto</i>		44
Each Other's Baby <i>Karla Ungurean</i>		56
Sara <i>Shahe' Mankerian</i>		80
Welkin <i>JF Pytko</i>		82
Persephone Again <i>Ric Williams</i>		83
Vulnerable <i>Patty Mager</i>		85
Yearning <i>Patty Mager</i>		85
Confessions From Within <i>Jennifer Campbell</i>		86

Contents



Poetry

A Boy's Recollection of God	87
<i>Perry S. Nicholas</i>	
Falling Fruit	88
<i>Dennis Patrick Slattery</i>	
Windows	90
<i>Pamela A. MacBean</i>	
Imperfections	108
<i>Janet Butler</i>	
Dreams On The Loose	109
<i>Eric Tessier</i>	
Almost Religion	110
<i>Thomas Paul SternerHowe</i>	
On Winter Evenings	112
<i>Elizabeth Dougherty Dolan</i>	
The Sea Saw	114
<i>Pamela A. MacBean</i>	
Sway	126
<i>Peter Magliocco</i>	
The Warming	166
<i>Peter Magliocco</i>	
Summer Pool	167
<i>Michael Frey</i>	
Jessica	168
<i>Michael Frey</i>	
The Sky & The Sea	169
<i>Jan Oskar Hansen</i>	

Contents		Poetry
The Other		170
<i>Teresa Ann Frazee</i>		
On Naked Knees		172
<i>David Wayne Dunn</i>		
Question		174
<i>Taylor Graham</i>		
Observatory		195
<i>Taylor Graham</i>		
The Bridge		196
<i>EP Allen</i>		
Gotham, Oil on Canvas		198
<i>Michael Lee Johnson</i>		
Backyard Lifeline		199
<i>Sandee Lyles</i>		
Tone Deaf		200
<i>Thomas Michael McDade</i>		
Popcorn		201
<i>Thomas Michael McDade</i>		
Imprint		202
<i>Patricia Brodie</i>		
Bucket Seats		204
<i>Jacob Erin-Cilberto</i>		
Sweet Blue Dawn		215
<i>Olivier Manseau</i>		
The Designer		216
<i>Karla Ungurean</i>		
BIOGRAPHIES		217

Dedication

**"To make an apple pie from scratch,
you must first invent the universe."**

Carl Sagan

US astronomer & popularizer of astronomy (1934 - 1996)