



The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce
The 2020 Word Awards Shortlist
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2019

TORONTO, ON — The 2020 Word Awards Short List was announced Live on May 8th through an online Zoom Conference and then onto YouTube and shared on The Word Guild's Facebook Page. The show, hosted by Soul H₂O Host, Author, Blogger and Awards Coordinator, Sherry Stahl was a success; providing promotion for Canadian Christian writers featured on the list.

Board Chair, David Kitz welcomed everyone to the online show and introduced The Word Guild Board. Sponsors graciously helped broadcast the news and announced names of those shortlisted in their respective awards classes.

Novelists, bloggers, columnists, apologists, theologians, and songwriters were among those who were recognized. Shortlisted books range from self-published to co-publishing to traditionally published. Articles were written in the smallest of local publications to national newspapers and magazines.

This year's Awards Celebration is sure to be an amazing event!

Winners will be honoured and celebrated on the evening of Saturday, June 13, 2020 at The Word Awards Celebration being held online streaming in both YouTube and Facebook Live. Joe Amaral and Sherry Stahl will host this year's awards ceremony.

***“This will be the first time The Word Awards will be broadcast globally!
So, Canadians can cheer on their favourite author, wherever they might be.”***, said Stahl.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of so many writers in the past year, awards will be given out in 54 categories for books, stories, articles, poetry, and blogs published in 2019 and reaching both Christian and Mainstream audiences.

Jack Taylor from Vancouver, BC was the most read name as he garnered five Short List nominations. First-time author Melanie Stevenson takes an impressive four nominations. Both Taylor and Stevenson published two books in 2019. Five authors were each shortlisted three times, tripling their chances of taking home a glass award for the win. They were Janet Surette, Margaret Gibb, Cathie Ostapchuk, Patricia Paddey and Deb Elkink. Many entrants were shortlisted in two categories, doubling their odds of being announced as a winner during The Word Awards Celebration.

“It's a credit to each of the nominees, already, whether they win an award or not, to have their work brought forward. It's a remarkable accomplishment to celebrate”
~Former Chair of The Word Guild Board, Thomas Froese

To all those on the various Short Lists, Congratulations!

Sponsors are noted by Category and Short List nominees are recorded alphabetically by last name. Should you be interested in partnering with The Word Guild in sponsoring The Word Awards, send an email to awards@thewordguild.com.

Now, here is The 2020 Word Awards Short List...

UNPUBLISHED WORK CLASSES

FRESH INK {Student Writing Awards} Sponsored by Crossroads Christian Communications

- Julia Friesen: North York, ON *"A Broken Violin"* (Tyndale University & Seminary: Toronto, ON)
- Kaitlyn Hogeterp: Centreville, NS *"His Mercy is More"* (Redeemer University: Hamilton, ON)
- Kaitlyn Hogeterp: Centreville, NS *"When We Were Kids"* (Redeemer University: Hamilton, ON)
- Kail Levasseur: Hythe, AB *"The Book"* (Homeschooled)
- Rachel Reid: Hamilton, ON *"The Personal Poems of Aliana Charon"* (Westmount Secondary School, Hamilton, ON)
- Sarah VanZandbeek: Edmonton, AB *"The Messiah Beside Me – The Criminal on the Cross"* (Homeschooled)

IN THE BEGINNING {Unpublished Author Awards} ~ Sponsored by The Deep Dive Author Club

- Colleen Albert: Vegreville, AB *"Singing Mom Home"*
- Paul C Breen: Burlington, ON *"Hammerlock"*
- Paul C Breen: Burlington, ON *"Ronnie the Bee"*
- Paul C Breen: Burlington, ON *"Saying Goodbye to Heather"*
- Kelly L Ditmars: Victoria, BC *"All That It Takes"*
- Johanna Janssen: Jordan Station, ON *"When Towers Fall"*
- Evelyn Pedersen: Mississauga, ON *"Through Her Lens"*
- Mary van der Kroef: Frances, ON *"The Branch"*

CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT {Unpublished Manuscript Awards} ~ Sponsored by Castle Quay Publishers

- Eugene Aucoin: Dieppe, NB *"Are You Wired to Believe or to Doubt? – A Faith Lift"*
- Eugene Aucoin: Dieppe, NB *"The Appeal of God – From Sense to Sensibility"*
- Susan Cullen: Chatham, ON *"Encryption"*
- Larry McCloskey: Ottawa, ON *"Inarticulate Speech of the Heart"*
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB *"April's Promise"*

DIGITAL ENTRY CLASSES

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – CHRISTIAN

BLOG

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB *"#FosterMasculinity"* (Eleanor Bertin Blog)
- Vahen King: Edmonton, AB *"My Father's Eyes"* (Vahen King Blog)
- N.J. Lindquist: Markham, ON *"My Father's Story"* (N.J. Lindquist Blog)

COLUMN SERIES

- Caroyln Arends: Surrey, BC *"Getting our Stories Straight"* & *"It Takes a (Global) Village"* (Faith Today)
- David Guretzki: Ottawa, ON *"Cross Connections"* (Faith Today)
- Todd Stahl: Leamington, ON *"Taker or Giver"* & *"Wet Sponge"* (Promise Keepers Canada)

COLUMN SINGLE

- Roland De Vries: Montreal, QC *“The Missing Cup”* (Christian Courier)
- Derek Schuurman: Grand Rapids, MI *“Dear Ben: Letter to a Young IT Worker”* (Christian Courier)
- Christina Van Starckenburg: Esquimalt, BC *“What I Didn’t Know About Prayer”* (Christian Courier)

INSPIRATIONAL/DEVOTIONAL

- Sarah E Ball: Cochrane, AB *“Not Just a Christmas Lyric”* (testimony & testimony/Enrich)
- Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON *“The “Oh!” of God”* (The Bible Advocate)
- Darlene Pinter: Moose Jaw, SK *“Birdwatching and Looking for God at Work”* (Faith Today)

LONG FEATURE

- Maxine Hancock: Vancouver, BC *“Costly Grace and Severe Mercy: Theological Resonances in Louise Penny’s Three Pine Mysteries”* (CRUX)
- Amy MacLachlan: Burlington, ON *“Bucking the System: Can we end chronic poverty in Canada?”* (Faith Today)

NEWS

- Angela Bick: Newcastle, ON *“Power Trips”* (Christian Courier)
- Craig Macartney: Ottawa, ON *“How hope rose from the ashes of the Rwandan genocide”* (Faith Today)
- Eleanor Shepherd: Pointe Claire, QC *“A Stitch in Time”* (The Salvation Army of Canada and Bermuda Territory)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

- Carolyn Arends: Surrey, BC *“Stoicism isn’t Spiritual”* (Faith Today)
- Deb Elkink: Cypress Creek, AB *“The Mosaic of Humanity”* (Self)
- Patricia Paddey: Mississauga, ON *“Practising the Practices of My Faith”* (Faith Today)

POETRY

- Sandy Ayer: Vancouver, BC *“Snow Angels”* (CRUX)
- Dagmar Morgan: Mississauga, ON *“There is no Free Meal”* (Love is Moving Movement)
- Dagmar Morgan: Mississauga, ON *“Things My Father Calls Me”* (Love is Moving Movement)

PROFILE/HUMAN INTEREST

- Eleanor Shepherd: Pointe Claire, QC *“An Interrupted Life, Remembering Karen Morris”* (The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory)
- Jordan Hageman: Stoney Creek, ON *“Trading One Dream for Another”* (testimony & testimony/Enrich)
- Craig Macartney: Ottawa, ON *“Persecuted, But Not Struck Down: How three persecuted Christians – from Iraq, Egypt, and Myanmar – are making Canada home”* (Faith Today)

SHORT STORY

- Eleanor Bertin: Botha, AB *“Like Wool”* (The Mosaic Collection)
- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB *“Ever Greening”* (Rolled Scroll Press)
- Tara K. Ross: Milton, ON *“Pressing into Stillness”* (Self)

ARTICLE / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET PUBLICATIONS

SHORT STORY

- Marcia Laycock: Blackfalds, AB *“A Surgery of Pain and Silence”* (PS I Love You)
- Tara K. Ross: Milton, ON *“Searching for Spotlights”* (The Wells Street Journal)



MISCELLANEOUS SHORT LIST DIGITAL ENTRIES

- Marcia Laycock: Blackfalds, AB “*A Surgery of Pain and Silence*” (PS I Love You)
- Anne Cattaruzza: Longueuil, QC and Kim Feeney: Saint-Lambert, QC “*Searching for Sheida*”
- Paul Heintzman: Chelsea, QC “*Bill Mason’s Environmental Ethics: Ideas for Outdoor Educators*” (Pathways: The Ontario Journal of Outdoor Education, Published by The Council of Outdoor Educators in Ontario)
- David Kitz: Orleans, ON “*Kitz: The slow, silent type – Confessions of an Ottawa male misfit*” (The Ottawa Citizen)
- Alex (Alexandra) Newman: Toronto, ON “*Christian Postsecondary schools are a good investment: Report highlights benefits to the spiritual and academic lives of youth*” (Faith Today)
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “*No Such Thing As Unplanned*” (The Graphic Leader)
- Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “*Peace We Often Forfeit*”

THE DAVID MAINSE BEST BLOG OF THE YEAR AWARD ~Sponsored by Crossroads Christian Communications

- Jonathan Puddle: Guelph, ON “*Jonathan Puddle*”
- Vahen King: Edmonton, AB “*Going Farther*”
- Melanie Stevenson: Cambridge, ON “*Melanie Stevenson*”

TERRENCE L. BINGLEY AWARD SONGWRITING AWARD ~ Sponsored by The Bingley Family

- Elise Arsenault: Hamilton, ON “*In The Velvet*”
- Brooke Nicholls: Oshawa, ON “*The Darkness Doesn’t Scare Me*”

PUBLISHED BOOKS CLASSES

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN

- Tim Huff: Aurora, ON “*Make Way for the Christmas Hush*” (Castle Quay)
- Janet Surette: Barrie, ON “*Scarlett’s Spectacles*” (B & H Publishing)); Illustrated by Shane Compton
- Christie Thomas: Sherwood Park, AB “*Quinn’s Promise Rock*” (Harvest House): Illustrated by Sydney Hanson

YOUNG ADULT

- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC “*The Cross Maker*” (Word Alive Press)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC “*The Cross Maker’s Guardian*” (Word Alive Press)
- Jennifer L. Willcock: “*Exit Stage Right*” (Word Alive Press)

CONTEMPORARY

- Dora Dueck: Delta, BC “*All That Belongs*” (Turnstone Press)
- Deb Elkink: Cypress County, AB “*The Red Journal*” (Rolled Scroll Press)
- Melanie Stevenson: Cambridge, ON “*One More Tomorrow*” (Word Alive Press)

HISTORICAL

- Cheryl Bristow: St.Catharines, ON “*A Shield in the Shadows*” (Xulon Press)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC “*The Cross Maker*” (Word Alive Press)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC “*The Cross Maker’s Guardian*” (Word Alive Press)

ROMANCE

- Melanie Stevenson: Cambridge, ON “One More Tomorrow” (Word Alive Press)
- Jack Taylor: Vancouver, BC “*The Cross Maker’s Guardian*” (Word Alive Press)
- Blossom Turner: Kelowna, BC “*Anna’s Secret*” (Elk Lake Publishing Ltd.)

SUSPENSE/SPECULATIVE

- Kevin Dautremont: Moose Jaw, SK “*Scars*” (Word Alive Press)
- Sara Davison: Guelph, ON “*Vigilant*” (Mountain Brook Ink)
- Janet Sketchley: Dartmouth, NS “*Hidden Secrets*” (Self)

BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

- Amanda W. Benckhuysen: Grand Rapids, MI “*The Gospel According to Eve: A History of Women’s Interpretation*” (IV Press)
- James R. Payton Jr.: Mount Hope, ON “*The Victory of the Cross: Salvation in Eastern Orthodoxy*” (IV Press)

INSTRUCTIONAL

- Margaret Gibb: Brantford, ON “*Faith, Life and Leadership: Vol 2*” (Castle Quay Books)
- Patricia Paddey of Mississauga, ON and Karen Stiller of Ottawa, ON: “*Craft, Cost, & Call: How to Build a Life as a Christian Writer*” (Friesen Press)

APOLOGETICS/EVANGELISM

- Michael W. Goheen of Surrey, BC and Jim Mullins: “*The Symphony of Mission*” (Baker Academic)
- Jen Pollock: East York, ON “*Surprised by Paradox: The Promise of “And” in an Either-Or World*” (IV Press)

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- Karen Henein: King City, ON “*God’s Healing Power*” (Word Alive Press)
- Mary A. Kassian: Sherwood Park, AB “*The Right Kind of Strong*” (Thomas Nelson Press)
- William J. Webb: Waterloo, ON and Gordon K. Oeste: Cambridge, ON “*Bloody, Brutal, and Barbaric?: Wrestling With Troubling War Texts*” (IV Press)

CULTURE

- Paul H. Boge: Winnipeg, MB “*The Sound of Hope: The Ernesto Pinto Story*” (Square One World Media)
- Ruth Coghill: Bobcaygeon, ON and Sarah Davison: Guelph, ON: “*Unborn. Untold. True Stories of Abortion and God’s Healing Grace*” (Word Alive Press)
- Don Hutchinson: Ottawa, ON “*Church in Society: First-Century Citizenship Lessons for Twenty-First Century Christians*” (Word Alive Press)

CHRISTIAN LIVING

- Paul H. Boge: Winnipeg, MB “*The Sound of Hope: The Ernesto Pinto Story*” (Square One World Media)
- Margaret Gibb: Brantford, ON “*Faith, Life and Leadership: Vol 2*” (Castle Quay Books)
- Cathie Ostapchuk: Oakville, ON “*Brave Women, Bold Moves*” (Word Alive Press)

INSPIRATIONAL

- Ruth Coghill: Bobcaygeon, ON and Sarah Davison: Guelph, ON: “*Unborn. Untold. True Stories of Abortion and God’s Healing Grace*” (Word Alive Press)
- Gregg Hinzelman: Georgetown, ON “*What are You Trusting God for?*” (Self)
- Todd Soltysiak: Caledon, ON “*I Learned it Through the Grapevine: Wisdom Comes in Bunches*” (Self)

DEVOTIONAL

- Fred Ash: Calgary, AB *"Inspiration for a Man Cave"* (Elm Hill)
- Heather Rodin & Becki Baxter: Selwyn, ON *"Appointed"* (Self)
- Melanie Stevenson: Cambridge, ON *"Soul Focus – Trials"* (Word Alive Press)

LIFE STORIES

- Valentina Gal: Fergus, ON *"Philipovna: Daughter of Sorrow"* (Guernica Editions)
- Helena Smrcek: St. Agatha, ON *"Pitchforks and Pedicures, How We Got Our Hobby Farm"* (Self)
- Justin D Wiesinger: St. Albert, AB *"The Childlike Heist"* (Self)

LES MOTS DES PRIX

VIE CHRÉTIENNE

- Susan Doherty: Westmount, QC *"Le Jardin des Fantomes"* (Les Éditions De L'Homme)

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET CHILDREN ~ Sponsored by That's Life! Communications

- Tim Huff: Aurora, ON *"Make Way for the Christmas Hush"* (Castle Quay)
- Sally Meadows: Saskatoon, SK *"When Crocodiles Cry: 365 MORE Amazing Facts About the Animal Kingdom"* (Siretona Creative)
- Cindy Palin: Olds, AB *"To Willow's House for Tea"* (Word Alive Press); Illustrated by Desiree Abt-Tomkow

BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET

LIFE STORIES

- Caran Jantzen: Abbotsford, BC *"Grow. Cook, Eat. Share. A Memoir"* (The Homestead Press)
- David Stiller: London, ON and Patricia Paddey: Mississauga, ON: *"Circle of Opportunity – Stories of Lives Changed"* (Graf-Martin Communications)

MISCELLANEOUS BOOK SHORT LIST ENTRIES

- Dorene Meyer: Norway House, MB *"Bannock and Sweet Tea"* (Gold Rock Press)
- Susan Doherty: Westmount, QC *"The Ghost Garden"* (Random House Canada)

BOOKS – BEST BOOK COVER AWARD ~ Sponsored by Cowlick Studios

- *"Embrace: Clinging to Christ Through the Pain of Pregnancy Loss"* (Word Alive Press); Cover Design by Word Alive Press; Author Liz Mannegren: Vancouver, BC
- *"Surprised by Paradox: The Promise of "And" in an Either-Or World"* (IV Press); Cover Design by David Fassett, Author Jen Pollock Michel: East York, ON
- *"Scarlett's Spectacles"* (B&H Publishing); Illustrated by Shane Compton; Author Janet Surette: Barrie, ON

BOOKS – BEST NEW CANADIAN AUTHOR

- Cathie Ostapchuk: Oakville, ON *"Brave Women, Bold Moves"* (Word Alive Press)
- Melanie Stevenson: Cambridge, ON *"One More Tomorrow"* and *"Soul Focus"* (Word Alive Press)
- Janet Surette: Barrie, ON *"Scarlett's Spectacles"* (B&H Publishing)); Illustrated by Shane Compton

Copies of the 2020 Shortlist Media Release in both .docx and .pdf can be found on our [media page](#) and recorded on the [Finalists Page](#).