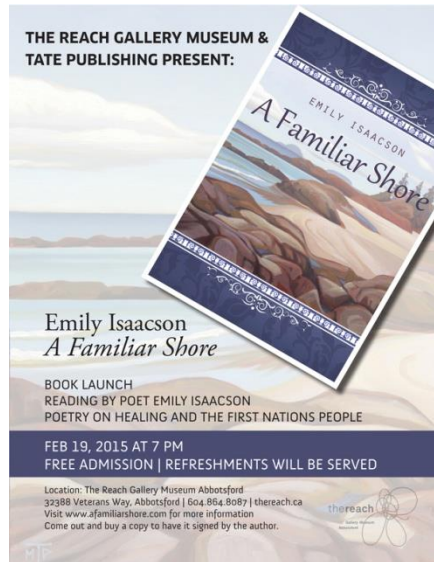
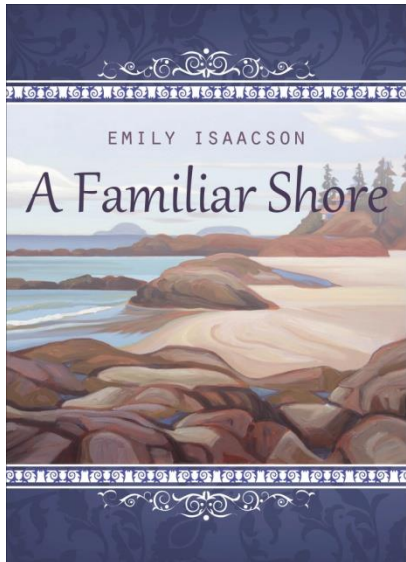


Canadian Poet Tells of the Sacred Circle

February 17, 2014.



“The will is a strong force that will shape a person, a future, and even a nation...
When we are fearful, we have forgotten our destiny.”

–Emily Isaacson, *A Familiar Shore*

Emily Isaacson, Canadian author, officially releases her new book *A Familiar Shore* today. Emily Isaacson is the founder and director of The Emily Isaacson Institute in Abbotsford. As an arts advocate, she speaks about Restorative Justice and its influence on art and health. She believes hearing a poet's voice is sacred and powerful: it is a presence that shines amid oppression and despair. She says, “Hearing poetry live makes its nuances and colour come to life.” Her poetry launch this Thursday night on healing and the First Nations People will coincide with the exhibit on display at The Reach Gallery Museum, 'Decolonize Me.'

Isaacson is a holistic art theorist, and often shares the benefits of art as a creative process. Isaacson has trained in Creative Writing and Restorative Justice. Her themes include the sea, healing, forgiveness, and reparation. In her new book, *A Familiar Shore*, darkness represents the negative things that have happened to us. The stars shine through our night with insight. She has sectioned her poetry in 88 sections, named after the 88 constellations.

Isaacson began writing poetry at age ten, where she grew up on Vancouver Island. She was first published at age thirteen for her poem, "The Wild Madonna". She has

now published over 1,400 poems in eight books of poetry, establishing her as a beloved Canadian author.

As it says on her blog, *Raspberries in January*, “Emily Isaacson doesn't wait for an invitation to write... and her colleagues write too, with austere result. Under the blue moon, the beauty of darkness would always be the electricity of a word, the spark of divinity, the myth of reason, and the coming of age of a great many poetic spirits who usually wander free.” She is an active member of the Fraser Valley Poets Society which meets monthly in Abbotsford, B.C. and has drawn hundreds of thousands of people to her websites online with her multimedia art tapestry, called Clay Road. (www.clayroad.net)

Isaacson has volunteered her time at various local art galleries, including The Act, the MAC, and The Reach. Her focus on the arts has a holistic angle. She knows from personal experience that the arts have a self-discipline that can help people suffering from depression and disease. “These are only obstacles,” Isaacson asserts. She herself has suffered from depression in the past, and was even diagnosed with a mental illness. Her approach to healing is one of walking the long road of reparation. This entails forgiveness, empathy, and compassion.

Isaacson’s clients at Bakerview Wellness Centre in Mission, B.C. can attest that her nutrition program is unique and wholesome. Her idea of using colour-wavelengths in foods to heal people with various diseases began in 2005. Since then she has taught both students and educators about healing with colour-based nutrition. She has held seminars, support groups, and offered her teachings online.

Isaacson’s new book of poetry boasts a palette of forty colours, listed at the end of the book in a table. They are descriptors in the second line of forty poems on the left side of the page. Isaacson’s main character is a woman named Sea, who embodies the ocean. A personified ‘sea’, she is diagnosed with bone cancer. She recovers in the book using aboriginal medicine.

“How can this benefit aboriginal children who opt to forego chemotherapy?” Isaacson wonders. Only this year the issue has been a controversial one that has come into the forefront with arguments on both sides. “When the 11-year-old girl, a member of the New Credit First Nation near Hamilton, Ont., and her parents decided to stop chemotherapy after the first round left her so weak she had to be carried around, doctors at McMaster Children’s Hospital in Hamilton reported the matter to Brant Family and Children’s Services, as by law under the Child and Family Services Act they were obligated to do.

“A team at the Brant agency, led by executive-director Andy Koster, investigated and quickly decided they would not intervene.” (See National Post articles May 22, 2014 and June 6, 2014). This young girl claimed to have seen a vision of Christ that

compelled her in the direction she went in opting to forgo standard cancer treatment during the writing of Isaacson's book.

The Rainbow Program is not only intuitive and non-numerical, it is now the focus of a book of poetry, written by Isaacson herself. Writing about nutrition and nature from a fictional standpoint is one of her goals, the other is inspiring people to change.

"When we are willing to do something different than we have done before, it is a step in the right direction," she says.

Emily Isaacson will launch her new book, *A Familiar Shore* on February 19 at 7 PM at The Reach in Abbotsford, B.C.

For more information visit www.afamiliarshore.com.
