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## Contributors

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# Contributors

**Ann Applegarth** lives and writes in Roswell, New Mexico, where she teaches poetry classes for adults and children and where she served as poet-in-residence for the High Plains Writing Project at ENMU. The recipient of an Academy of American Poets prize at UNM in 1980, her poems have been widely published in the small press, online, and in the Linda Rael art book *Living in Green Acres*.

**Judy Bertelsen** is a semiretired physician/geriatrician. She earned her B.A. with honors in English and political science from U.C. Berkeley, her Ph.D. in political science from University of Oregon, and her M.D. from Brown University. She has made her living as a professor of political science and, after completing medical school, a primary care physician. She grew up on a farm in the central valley of California; her current yard's soil is native clay (deposited eons ago by an ancient river) from which she built a small earth oven, which is put into service making wood-fired sourdough pizza. She has participated in the Tin House Writer's Workshop from 2009-2013, Surprise Valley Writers' Conference from 2008-2013, and Yosemite Writers Conference in 2007, where she was awarded first prize for her poetry. Her work has appeared in *Decomp* and the *Kabita Campus* poetry collection.

**John Bradshaw** was born in Colorado and ostensibly raised in California. After a tour in the Navy (where he served as a mop-technician in the Aleutian Islands), he turned his calloused hand and jaded eye to academia (a small country hidden in the Alps). He has attended universities in Louisiana, Iowa, and Oklahoma (and has yet to be apprehended). Bradshaw is currently teaching English and Philosophy at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He winters in Weatherford and summers in Norman. But he poems wherever he can.

**Dr. Viki Pettijohn Craig**, who earned her Ph.D. at Florida State University, has written poetry, non-fiction prose, and short fiction from her teens to the present. Most recently, she has had poetry and prose published in OU's journal *Blood and Thunder* and non-fiction prose in the *Oklahoma Humanities Journal*. Years ago, her poetry, author

interviews, restaurant reviews, and other non-fiction prose pieces were published in *Westview*. She is glad to be a contributor again. Craig's story, "The Real Thing," featured in this issue, won the 2014 *Westview* short story competition.

**Lynn Hoggard** received her Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Southern California and taught at Midwestern State University, where she was professor of English and French and the coordinator of humanities. In 2003, the Texas Institute of Letters awarded her the Soeurette Diehl Fraser award for best translation. For several years, she was arts writer for the *Times Record News* in Wichita Falls, Texas, and wrote more than six hundred articles, features, and reviews. She has published five books: three French translations, a biography, and a poetry anthology. Her poetry has appeared in *13th Moon*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, *Concho River Review*, *Descant*, *New Ohio Review*, *Soundings East*, *Summerset Review*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal*, *Wild Violet*, and *Xavier Review*, among others.

**Mary Soon Lee** was born and raised in London, but became a naturalized U.S. citizen in March 2003. She is married with two children and two cats. Her poetry has appeared in *American Scholar*, *Atlanta Review*, *Cider Press Review*, and *Rosebud*.

**Audrey Lentz** has a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Texas at Dallas and has spent much of her academic career in writing workshops. She has lived in Texas and South Carolina and calls Oklahoma City her home. She is passionate about many genres of writing including fiction, poetry, and nonfiction. She currently participates in Red Dirt Poetry events in Oklahoma City and runs a personal blog at [AudComments.blogspot.com](http://AudComments.blogspot.com).

**Helen Maxson** was raised in New England, and she still misses the mountains of Vermont and the beaches of Rhode Island. However, after teaching English at SWOSU for twenty-five years, she also misses the wide horizon and open spaces of Oklahoma when she goes back to the Northeast to visit. She prefers Red Dirt music to classical for listening, and buffalo to hamburger for dinner.

**Benjamin Myers** is a winner of the Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry and the author of two books: *Lapse Americana* (NYQ Books 2013) and *Elegy for Trains* (Village Books Press 2010). His poems may be read in *32 Poems*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Nimrod*, *Tar River Poetry*, *The New York Quarterly*, and many other journals, as well as online at *Verse*

*Daily, Devil's Lake, DMQ* and other poetry sites. He is the Crouch-Mathis Associate Professor of Literature at Oklahoma Baptist University.

**James B. Nicola** has had over 300 poems published in sundry periodicals and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. A Yale grad and stage director by profession, his book *Playing the Audience* won a Choice Award. As a poet, he also won the Dana Literary Award and a People's Choice award (from Storyteller), was nominated for a Rhysling Award, and was featured poet at New Formalist. His children's musical *Chimes: A Christmas Vaudeville* premiered in Fairbanks, Alaska—with Santa Claus in attendance opening night.

**John Nizalowski** has published one book, a multi-genre work entitled *Hooking the Sun*, on Farolito Press. In addition, his writings have appeared in various magazines, including *Puerto del Sol, Weber Studies, Blue Mesa Review, Chiron Review, Bloomsbury Review, The Albany Review, The Listening Eye, Fish Drum, Harp, Creosote, Snowy Egret, Convergence*, and *New Mexico Poetry Review*. A number of anthologies have also featured his work: *The Blueline Anthology* (Syracuse Univ. Press), *Reading Under the Sign of Nature* (Univ. of Utah Press), *Rekindling the Inner Light* (Frank Waters Foundation Press), *The Spirit That Wants Me: A New Mexico Anthology* (Duff, Inc.), and *Harvest From the Hills* (Seven Buffaloes Press). Currently, he is an instructor in creative writing, composition, and comparative mythology at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado, and is working on a biography of Southwestern author Frank Waters.

**Gwynn O'Gara** is Sonoma County Poet Laureate Emerita, 2010-2012. She is the author of *Snake Woman Poems* (Beatitude Press) and two chapbooks, *Fixer-Upper* (d-press) and *Winter at Green Haven* (Word Temple Press). She lives in Northern California and has taught with California Poets in the Schools for over twenty years.

**John Peterson** lives with his wife, Tessa, and their two sons in Sierra Madre, CA. He graduated from Claremont Graduate University with a master of arts in literature and creative writing and a doctor of philosophy in English. John teaches literature and writing courses at Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.

**Lora D. Reiter**, (1904-1991), Kansas Centennial Poet, was better known as an essayist than poet,

but her poems are perhaps more formidable. She was completely self-taught, but her learning was deep and wide because she read everything she could find, including a good deal of poetry. She especially respected Robert Frost, Joseph Auslander, Emily Dickenson, Shakespeare, and Milton, and her instincts, like Wordsworth's, turned her to the natural world for instruction in order, ferocity, beauty, mystery, and meaning. She forged her visions from her observations. Although she wrote in multiple forms, including free verse, she preferred the demanding structure of the sonnet, and she became expert in the form. This poem, "Fantasia," demonstrates her command of rhythm, rhyme, sentence formation, and image in that while the poem is very tightly built, we are scarcely aware of any of the poetic elements. Even the comparisons are subtle: sound is filigree or the tension waiting in a bell. Her poems have recently been collected in *Poppies in the Wheat*, available on Amazon or from [lorakreiter@yahoo.com](mailto:lorakreiter@yahoo.com).

**Lora K. Reiter** was much influenced by her mother's love of nature and poetry, and her own writing frequently uses images from her country background as well as her travels in Mexico, Asia, and Europe. A retired professor of literature, she is currently completing a book, *From Ash Creek to China and Back*.

**Robert Rothman** graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, undergraduate and graduate school (J.D.). He lives in Northern California, near extensive trails and open spaces with the Pacific Ocean over the hill. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Alembic, Cold Mountain Review, Diverse Voices Quarterly, Existere, Foliage Oak, Front Range Review, Grey Sparrow, The Griffin, Mary: A Journal of New Writing, Pank Magazine, RiverSedge, Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, and *Wild Violet Magazine*.

**Tonya Ward Singer** writes poetry and prose in the slips of time between parenting young boys and running a business helping English-language learners excel in public schools. Her creative work has appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the anthology *Expat: Women's True Stories from Life Abroad* (Seal Press, 2001), and online journals. She has also published literacy resources with Scholastic, Pearson-Longman, and Oxford University Press. [www.tonyasinger.com](http://www.tonyasinger.com).

**Scott Spradlin** grew up in California but now currently resides in Oklahoma. He has never before been published and doesn't ordinarily write poetry. He is thirty-three years old and works at a grocery store.

**Ashley Underwood** grew up in Forgan, Oklahoma, which is not much more than a speck on the landscape of the Oklahoma Panhandle. She graduated from SWOSU with a BA in English Writing and a minor in Pre-Law in May, 2012, and has continued her education through the University of Oklahoma's Legal Assistant Education program. She will graduate with a Paralegal Certification in August, 2014. She currently works as a legal secretary at Tisdal & O'Hara law firm in Clinton, Oklahoma, and plans to become an attorney in the future. However, the last thing she wants to do is sit in another classroom, so she has decided to take a few years off from school after she receives her certification. She is active in theatre through Southwest Playhouse in Clinton, Oklahoma, and enjoys it immensely. Underwood's story, "Strands," featured in this issue, won the 2014 *Westview* student short story competition.

**Suellen Wedmore**, Poet Laureate emerita for the small seaside town of Rockport, Massachusetts, has been widely published. She was awarded first place in the *Writer's Digest* rhyming poem contest, her chapbook *Deployed* was selected as winner of the Grayson Press annual contest, and she was awarded a writing residency at Devil's Tower, Wyoming. Her chapbook *On Marriage and Other Parallel Universes* was recently released by Finishing Line Press. After 24 years working as a speech and language therapist, she retired to pursue an MFA in Poetry at New England College, graduating in 2004.

**Victor Wolf** is a writer, bassist, and composer who lives in Weatherford, and who received an associates in music at Northern Oklahoma College before transferring to SWOSU. He is excited to be published in *Westview*, and to graduate from SWOSU with an English Writing degree and music minor. You can follow him on twitter: @vectorwolfmusic.

**David Wyatt's** poems have recently appeared in *ABZ*, *Natural Bridge*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, and are forthcoming in *Kestrel*, *Poetry South* and *The Georgia Review*, from which he received the inaugural Loraine Williams Prize in Poetry this past summer.

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