



6-15-2009

## Contributors

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### Recommended Citation

Westview Staff (2009) "Contributors," *Westview*: Vol. 29 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.  
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol29/iss1/2>

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# Contributors

**Howard Bahr** of Jackson, MS is a novelist best known for his *Pelican Road* and a series of three Civil War novels: *The Black Flower*, *The Year of Jubilo*, and *The Judas Field*. He is the Visiting Writer at the 2009 Westview Writers' Festival.

**John Bradshaw** of Norman, OK knows which side of his toast is buttered. To him, it's always darkest just before the dawn. He recently led a horse to water, but he was unsuccessful in his efforts to make it drink.

**Kaci Carpenter** was born and raised in Murray, Kentucky, which besides being the unofficial birthplace of radio, is also semi-famous for its occasional vampire cults. Kaci is currently a student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where she is majoring in English writing and was named Outstanding Creative Nonfiction Student for the 2007-08 school year.

**Kevin Collins** of Weatherford, OK talks to the trees, but they never listen to him. He has had comparable experiences with students. On these occasions, he prunes the students and sprinkles fertilizer on the ground where their roots can access it.

**Robert W. Cosgriff** is a retired Navy Commander now residing in Fairfax, VA after living in California, Italy, Guam, and the Philippines. In addition to writing, his interests include birding, running, and American history. His poems have appeared in various journals, such as *California Quarterly*, *Carquinez Poetry Review*, *Crucible*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, and *Studio One*. His collection, *Silent Tasting*, was published in 2005.

**Diane Shipley DeCillis** is from West Bloomfield, MI. She is the co-editor of *Mona Poetica*, an anthology of poetry on art. Her work has been published in *Nimrod International Journal*, *Phoebe*, and other journals. She won the Crucible Poetry Prize 2005 and the 2005 MacGuffin National Poet Hunt, and she was nominated for a 2009 Pushcart Prize.

**Stan Hardegree** is an English instructor at West Central Technical College and a graduate student at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton. He is the former owner of the *Villa Rica Voice*, a weekly newspaper published in rural west Georgia.

**J. Todd Hawkins** grew up in Forth Worth and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in English and psychology. He also studied at the University of Oxford. He works for an educational publisher, developing and editing testing materials for social studies and language arts students. His poetry has appeared in *Antietam Review*, *Wisconsin Review*, and others.

**Martha Holmes** is an Ancram, NY writer. She has been a columnist for a Journal-Register Company newspaper for three years and has work published in *The MacGuffin* and other journals. She has received much praise for her work in the film industry.

**Laura Johnson** is a poet who resides in Geronimo, OK and writes on issues of family and mental health.

**Jill Jones** is the chair of the Department of Language and Literature at Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a scholar of British novelist Netta Syrett. Her 2000 article in *Popular Music and Society*—"The Delight of Words: The Elizabethan Sonneteers and American Country Lyricists"—is legendary at SWOSU. Her work has also appeared in *The Dictionary of Literary Biography* and other venues.

**Marilyn Gilbert Komechak** is the author of three books: *Getting Yourself Together*, *Morals and Manners for The Millennium*, and *Paisano Pete: Snake-Killer Bird*, for which she won the Oklahoma Writers Federation's Best Juvenile Book Prize for 2003. She works as a psychologist in Fort Worth, TX.

**Marsha Koretzky** has practiced law for the last 20 years in Orange County, NY, where she represents children in the Family Court. She is currently pursuing an MFA in creative writing through Vermont College and working on her first short story collection.

**Cheryl Loetscher** writes from Colorado. Her poems have appeared widely, and a number have won prizes and distinctions in literary contests across the United States. She was awarded the 2008 Douglas Freels Poetry Prize by the FCCJ Writers' Festival, and her first collection of poems, *Unclaimed Baggage*, published by Finishing Line Press in 2007, received the 2008 Jean Pedrick Chapbook Award from the New England Poetry Club.



**Joanne Lowery** lives and works in Kalamazoo, MI. Her poetry has appeared in many literary magazines, including *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Eclipse*, *Smartish Pace*, *Cimarron Review*, *Atlanta Review*, and *Poetry East*. Her most recent publication is *Jack: A Beanstalk Life* from Snark Publishing.

**Corey Mingura** of Hollis, OK will be graduating this year from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. His essay, "The 2000 Presidential Oppression" has been published on line, and his "Cash is Conqueror: The Critique of Capitalism in 'The Western Emigrants' and 'Sonnet: The Age of Gold'" is forthcoming in a special edition of *The Simms Review*.

**Sheryl Nelms** is a poet living in Clyde, TX who writes on the subject of nature.

**J. Alan Nelson** is a writer and lawyer from Waco, TX. His works have appeared in numerous literary journals, including *Wisconsin Review*, *South Carolina Review*, *Fulcrum*, *Red River Review*, *Adirondack Review*, *Red Cedar Review*, *Identity Theory*, *Kennesaw Review*, and *Driftwood Review*.

**Judith Pokras** is the director of a basic skills program and a part-time assistant professor for expository writing and critical thinking. She is currently writing reflective nonfiction essays that touch on personal and societal issues. She is the author of the college textbook, *Contexts in the College Curriculum*.

**Susannah W. Simpson** is a poet from Old Westbury, NY. She is a founding member of the New Mexico Poetry Alliance and Poets for Peace, Long Island chapter. Her

work has appeared in *Carquinez Poetry Review*, *Descant*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, *Fox Cry Review*, *Nimrod*, *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, and many other venues.

**Theresa Sutton** teaches high school English in Wappinger Falls, NY and works as an adjunct in the education department at Marist College. She serves on the executive board for the New York State English Council and for the Mid-Hudson English Language Arts Council. A mother of two, she lives in Poughkeepsie, NY, where, in addition to teaching and writing, she enjoys cooking and knitting.

**Martha Modena Vertreace-Doody** is a poet from Chicago, IL and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellow. She is a professor of English and Poet-in-Residence at Kennedy-King College. Her most recent book, *Glacier Fire*, won the Word Press Poetry Prize.

## Illustrations

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