

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

JONIS AGEE is the author of 10 books and has won a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, two Loft-McKnight fellowships for fiction, and others. Her most recent books include *Sweet Eyes* (reprint by U of Nebraska P), new and selected stories, *Acts of Love on Indigo Road* (Coffee House), and *The Weight of Dreams* (Penguin). She teaches creative writing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is director of The Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference.

WALTER BARGEN's prose-poem sequences appeared in 2004 in a book called *The Feast* (BkMk P); and a trilogy of poetry collections appeared under one cover in 2003, titled *The Body of Water* (Timberline P).

HADARA BAR-NADAV is pursuing her Ph.D. in creative writing and teaches in the English department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; she serves on the editorial staff of *Prairie Schooner*.

ALIKI BARNSTONE is a poet, translator, critic, and editor. Her most recent books of poems are *Wild With It* (Sheep Meadow, 2002) a National Book Critics Circle Notable Book, and *Madly in Love* (Carnegie Mellon UP, 1997). She is the editor of two poetry anthologies and teaches in the Creative Writing International Program at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

HELEN BAROLINI received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship for her first novel, *Umbertina*. She received an American Book Award for *The Dream Book* and a residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center. Her six other books include *More Italian Hours and Other Stories* (Bordighera, 2001). "How I Learned to Speak Italian" was selected for *The Best American Essays 1998*. Born and raised in Syracuse, she lives in Hastings-on-Hudson.

REMICA L. BINGHAM is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts degree in the Bennington College Writing Seminars and was a 2004 fellow at the Cave Canem Workshop/Retreat. She lives in Norfolk, Va., and is working on a series of interviews with African-American poets.

ANNA BOOTHE has received grants from PEN, the NEA, and poetry fellowships to Georgetown University and the Instituto Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. She has taught creative writing at the University of Missouri and the University of Colorado and now offers a class with the Pacifica adult education program. She wrote

"Beyond Words" for John Neihart, her former instructor and lifelong inspiration.

CHARLEE BRODSKY is a professor of photography at Carnegie Mellon University. In 2001, she was part of a team that received an Emmy for *Stephanie*, a video about living with breast cancer. Brodsky's photographs appear as a book, *Knowing Stephanie* (U of Pittsburgh P, 2003).

CATHERINE BROWDER is a Kansas City-based fiction writer and playwright, whose most recent collection of stories is *Secret Lives* (Southern Methodist UP, 2003). She has received fellowships from the NEA and the Missouri Arts Council.

ANTHONY BUTTS won The Poetry Society of America's William Carlos Williams Award for *Little Low Heaven* (New Issues, 2003). He is the author of *Fifth Season*, winner of the Small Press Book Award. A Detroit native, he is a member of the creative writing faculty at Carnegie Mellon University. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

DAVID CLEWELL has published seven books of poems, most recently *The Low End of Higher Things* (U of Wisconsin, 2003) and *Jack Ruby's America* (Garlic P, 2000). He teaches writing and literature at Webster University in St. Louis. His autographed photo of The Human Blockhead is a highlight in his voluminous archive of corny material.

WILLIAM J. COBB has received a number of awards, including a National Endowment of the Arts fellowship. He is the author of the novel *The Fire Eaters* (W.W. Norton), and a book of stories, *The White Tattoo* (Ohio State UP). He is an associate professor in English at Penn State University. This is his second story in *New Letters*.

JIM DANIELS' most recent books include *Show and Tell: New and Selected Poems* (U of Wisconsin P, 2003) and short fiction, *Detroit Tales*, (Mich. State UP, 2003). A native of Detroit's working-class neighborhoods, he is professor and director of Carnegie Mellon University's creative writing program.

BRENT DOZIER has been writing poetry for a number of years. Originally from Alabama, he now lives in Madison, Wis.

ANGELA ELAM is producer and host of *New Letters on the Air*, from which part of our interview with Mary Gordon is taken.

SUSAN FERGUSON is an independent writer and editor residing on a farm near King City, Mo. She facilitates a community writers group in Kansas City.

ROBERT FUNGE's latest collection of poems, *The Passage*, was published by Elo Press in Dublin (2001). He lives in the Bay area of San Carlos, Calif.

ALLISON FUNK has published three books of poetry, most recently *The Knot Garden* (Sheep Meadow, 2002). She teaches at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, where she edits the national literary journal *Sou'wester*.

SONIA GERNES is a poet, fiction writer and a professor of English at the University of Notre Dame, where she teaches creative writing and American literature. She is the author of four books of poetry and a novel, *The Way to St. Ives*, (Scribners, 1982). She grew up on a dairy farm near Winona, Minn. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

MARY GORDON. One of this country's most important novelists, Mary Gordon lives in New York and is a professor of English at Barnard College. See page 128 for more details. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

MARILYN HACKER is the author of 10 books of poems, most recently *Desesperanto* (Norton, 2003), as well as several collections of translations from the French, including Vénus Khoury-Ghata's *She Says* (Graywolf, 2003). She lives in New York City and Paris. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

CARY HOLLADAY's achievements include the Paul Bowles Prize for Fiction, awarded in 2002 by *Five Points*, and an O. Henry Prize in 1999. She is the author of a novel, *Mercury* (Random House, 2002), and two collections of short stories. A native of Virginia, she teaches creative writing at the University of Memphis, where she also directs the River City Writers Series.

MARK IRWIN is the author of five collections of poetry; his most recent, *Bright Hunger* (BOA), was published this spring. He teaches at the University of Southern California and divides his time between Los Angeles and rural Colorado.

MARILYN KALLET, born in Montgomery, Ala., grew up in New York City and now directs the Creative Writing Program at the University

of Tennessee, where she also holds the Hodges Chair for Distinguished Teaching. She is the author of nine books, including *One For Each Night: Chanukah Tales and Recipes* (Celtic Cat, 2003).

THOMAS E. KENNEDY's books include novels, short collections, literary criticism and anthologies—most recently the four novels of *The Copenhagen Quartet*, 2002-2005. A DVD documentary film on *The Copenhagen Quartet* has been produced by Harper College. His writing appears regularly in the United States and Europe and has won many awards, including the O. Henry Prize. He lives in Copenhagen. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

BRYAN LEBEAU is dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Missouri-Kansas City, host of the weekly public radio show *Talking History*, and author of a number of books, including *Currier and Ives: America Imagined*. He also hosts the TV program *College Hour*, from which part of our interview with Mary Gordon is taken.

AMY McCANN is completing her M.F.A. in poetry at Eastern Washington University. Her work appears in several literary journals.

WALT McDONALD served as the 2001 Texas Poet Laureate. His 21 collections include *Climbing the Divide* (Notre Dame, 2003) and *Great Lonely Places of the Texas Plains* (Texas Tech, 2003). He has received four awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and was an Air Force pilot in Vietnam. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

EMMANUEL MOSES was born in Casablanca, spent his early childhood in France, and lived in Israel from the ages of 10 to 18, when he returned to France where he still lives. He is the author of four collections of poems and two novels, a translator of contemporary Hebrew poetry, notably of Yehuda Amichai. This poem is from his most recent collection *Dernières nouvelles de M. Néant* (Obsidiane, 2003).

JILL OSIER grew up in Iowa and resides in northern Vermont; she is the writing program coordinator at the Vermont Studio Center.

LINDA PASTAN was poet laureate of Maryland from 1991 through 1994; the latest of her 11 books of poems is *The Last Uncle*, recently out in paperback. Other books include *A Fraction of Darkness*, *PM/AM: New and Selected Poems*, and *The Imperfect Paradise*. She was born in New York City and now lives in Potomac, Md. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

ROGER PFINGSTON is a poet and photographer living in Bloomington, Ind. His photographs appear on a regular basis in this magazine.

MICHAEL PRITCHETT has won a Dana Award in fiction and the Iowa Short Fiction Award for his book of stories *The Venus Tree*. He teaches at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and co-directs the Mark Twain Writers Workshop each June.

LUIS QUINTANILLA (1893-1978), a prominent Spanish artist, friend of Juan Gris, Ernest Hemingway and others, spent 37 years in exile during the reign of Spanish dictator Francisco Franco. His art featured here appears on the walls of Haag Hall, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and features the likeness of one of this magazine's former editors, Alexander Cappon, as Don Quixote. For more details, see pages 93 through 110.

PAUL QUINTANILLA is a retired librarian living in New England. In the mural panel "The Ideal World of Don Quixote," he is the child in his mother's arms in the upper right corner. For more information on Luis Quintanilla, readers can see the book *Waiting at the Shore*, by Paul Quintanilla, available through www.lulu.com. Also see the Web site www.lquart.org.

JAMES RAGAN's poetry has been translated into 12 languages in Europe and Asia. He has performed for five heads of state, including Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Václav Havel. His five books of poetry include *In the Talking Hours*, *Womb-Weary*, and *Lusions*. He is a Fulbright professor and director of the University of Southern California's Professional Writing Program. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

LINDA RAMEY received her M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Maryland and now teaches English at the Community College of Rhode Island in Warwick.

TIM SEIBLES is the author of five collections of poetry. He is a former National Endowment of the Arts fellow and a recent finalist for the Library of Virginia Book Award for poetry. He teaches in Old Dominion University's M.F.A. writing program. See page 212 for more details. (*A New Letters on the Air* author.)

BETH SIMON has received two Indiana Arts Council grants and a citation for a notable essay in *The Best American Essays*. She grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and now is an associate professor at Indiana

University-Purdue University, where she teaches linguistics and creative writing.

NOEL SMITH was born and raised in New York City. After graduating from Wellesley College, she went to Eastern Kentucky as a social worker, where she met friends and heard the stories that have turned into many of her poems. She lives with her husband and two cats in the lower Hudson Valley.

MAURA STANTON's fifth book of poetry, *Glacier Wine*, appeared from Carnegie Mellon in 2001. Her poems have appeared in many magazines and in *The Best American Poetry 2003*. Her book of stories, *Cities in the Sea*, is forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press.

PIA TAFDRUP's first nine volumes of poetry recently have been collected into three hardcover editions in Danish. The poem translated here is from her 2002 collection, *The Whales of Paris*.

DAVID WAGONER has published 17 books of poems, most recently *The House of Song* (U of Illinois P, 2002), and 10 novels, one of which, *The Escape Artist*, was made into a movie by Francis Ford Coppola. He was a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets for 23 years and has taught at the University of Washington since 1954. He was the editor of *Poetry Northwest* until its end in 2002.

CHARLES HARPER WEBB's latest book of poems, *Tulip Farms and Leper Colonies*, was published in 2001 by BOA Editions. He edited *Stand Up Poetry: An Expanded Anthology* (U of Iowa P, 2003) and is the recipient of grants from the Whiting and Guggenheim foundations. He is a rock singer turned psychotherapist and professor of English at California State University-Long Beach.

JEANIE WILSON is a Shawnee, Kan., poet. Her book, *Uncurling*, was published by Mid-America Press in 2000. She serves as the director of two education programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

SCOTT BRYAN WILSON has published fiction in several literary journals; a chapbook is forthcoming from Dicey Books. He lives in Providence, R.I.

THOMAS ZVI WILSON's poetry book, *Deliberate and Accidental Acts* (BkMk, 1997), was a runner up for the Thorpe Menn Award. He coordinates The Writers Place Poetry Readings at the Johnson County Public Library in Overland Park, Kan.

ABE LOUISE YOUNG has worked for seven years as a writing teacher and a community artist in the movements for peace and social justice. She is a poetry fellow at the James Michener Center for Writers in Austin, Texas.

*The Don Quixote Frescoes were restored in 1995 by Donna Bachmann,
& photographed for publication by Dennis Conrow.*