

## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

**CONGER BEASLEY JR.**'s most recent book is *Messiah: The Life and Times of Francis Schlatter* (Sunstone P, 2008). He won the 1991 Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence for *Sundancers and River Demons: Essays on Landscape and Ritual* (U of Arkansas P, 1990) and a Western Writers of America Spur Award for *We Are a People of This World: The Lakota Sioux and the Massacre at Wounded Knee* (U of Arkansas P, 1995). In 2009, Sunstone plans to reprint his first novel, *Hidalgo's Beard: A California Fantasy*, originally published in 1979. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**PHILOMENE BENNETT** has had more than 100 solo, two-person and group exhibitions throughout the United States. Her many distinctions and honors include being a nominee for the National Artists Award (1984, 1985 and 1987) and the recipient of a Purchase Award at the Sixth Mid-America Exhibition at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo. Her work is in permanent collections throughout the United States, including the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art in St. Joseph, Mo., and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City, Mo.

**ANDREA HOLLANDER BUDY** is the recipient of the Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize, the D.H. Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, and two poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. She is the author of three full-length poetry collections, most recently *Woman in the Painting* (Autumn House, 2006). She served as editor for *When She Named Fire: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry by American Women* (Autumn House, 2009) and is the writer-in-residence at Lyon College, where she was awarded the Williamson Prize for Excellence in Teaching. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**DAVID CLEWELL** became Missouri's second poet laureate in March 2010; he has published seven collections of poems and two book-length poems. He teaches writing and literature at Webster University in St. Louis, Mo.

**TOM CORBIN** is a bronze sculptor, furniture designer and painter. His work is represented in the public collections of the United Nations and the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, among others, and in many private collections, including those of Frank Sinatra, Jack Nicholson, and the Prince and Princess of Hanover.

**KATHRYN JANKUS DAY** holds a B.A. in art history. Her artwork is represented by the Strecker-Nelson Gallery in Manhattan, Kan.

**ROBERT DAY's** book of essays, *The Committee to Save the World* (Western Books, 2009), has been nominated as a Kansas Notable Book. He has received an N.E.A. fellowship, a Yaddo fellowship, and the Edgar Wolfe Award for distinguished fiction. His 1976 novel, *The Last Cattle Drive*, was a Book-of-the-Month-Club selection. He lives in Maryland, France, and Kansas. (*A New Letters on the Air* author).

**MICHAEL DOWNS'** book of memoirs and literary journalism, *House of Good Hope* (U of Nebraska P, 2007), won the *River Teeth* Literary Nonfiction Prize. His short fiction has been mentioned among other distinguished stories in *Best American Short Stories* and earned him a literary fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in Baltimore, Md., where he teaches creative writing at Towson University and directs the school's reading series.

**PHIL ESTES** is a recent graduate of the M.A. in Creative Writing Program at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

**GLORIA BAKER FEINSTEIN's** photographs are included in the collections of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, and the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography; Yellow Bird Press has published two books of her work, *Convergence* and *Among the Ashes*. Following her first trip to Uganda in 2006, she founded Change the Truth, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing assistance to the children living at St. Mary Kevin Orphanage. She lives in Kansas City, Mo.

**STUART FRIEBERT** has published 13 books of poems; the most recent was *Speak Mouth to Mouth* (WorldTech, 2009).

**ALICE FRIMAN's** latest book, *The Book of the Rotten Daughter*, was published by BkMk Press in 2006. She lives in Milledgeville, Ga., where she is poet-in-residence at Georgia College & State University. (*A New Letters on the Air* author).

**GARY GILDNER** has received a National Magazine Award for Fiction and Pushcart Prizes in fiction and nonfiction. Among his 21 books of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction are *Cleaning a Rainbow* (BkMk P, 2007) and a reissue of his memoir about coaching baseball in Poland, *The Warsaw Sparks* (U of Nebraska P, 2008). (*A New Letters on the Air* Author.)

**SHEA GORDON** has been exhibiting paintings, drawings and sculptures for nearly 40 years. Her work, which often explores environmental issues, resides in the permanent collections of the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in Buenos Aires, Argentina. *New Letters* featured her art in the winter of 1998.

**FIONA GOWIN** is eight years old and entering third grade at Notre Dame de Sion in Kansas City, Mo., where her favorite subjects are art, science and “recess.” She loves to look for insects and read about mythology and fantastical creatures.

**SUSAN GRIGSBY**'s first picture book, *In the Garden with Dr. Carver*, will be released from Albert Whitman & Co. in the fall of 2010. She lives in St. Louis, Mo., and teaches poetry writing for K-12 programs.

**CHARMALEE GUNARATNE** is a licensed architect from Sri Lanka. She co-founded Eco Abet, a non-profit organization that provides architecture and design services to poor and underserved communities. She is the director of outreach design at Summit Architecture in Kansas City, Mo.

**PEREGRINE HONIG** is a recipient of the Art Omi International Artists' Residency, a Charlotte Street Foundation award, and an ArtsKC Inspiration Grant. She is the youngest living artist to be included in the permanent collection of the Whitney Museum of American Art. In 2010, Honig produced a magazine titled *Widow* in collaboration with Landfall Press and competed on Bravo's reality show *Work of Art: The Next Great Artist*. She lives in Kansas City, Mo.

**MARK IRWIN**'s sixth collection of poetry, *Tall If*, appeared from New Issues in the fall of 2008. He teaches in the graduate creative writing program at the University of Southern California and lives in Los Angeles, Calif., and Colorado.

**JANET KUEMMERLEIN** was awarded the Kansas Arts Commission Master Artist Fellowship in 2009. Her fiber works have been exhibited at the Chicago Institute of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Museum of Art and Design in New York, and the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art in Sedalia, Mo. She lives in Prairie Village, Kan.

**LANCE LARSEN** has received awards or fellowships from Sewanee, Ragdale, The Joseph Campbell Foundation, The Cultural Arts Council

of Houston, and, most recently, the National Endowment for the Arts (2007). He won the Writers at Work nonfiction fellowship prize. His poetry books include three collections of poetry: *Backyard Alchemy* (U of Tampa, 2009), *In All Their Animal Brilliance* (U of Tampa, 2005), and *Erasable Walls* (New Issues, 1998).

**STEPHANIE LEEDY** has spent many years involved with artists and buildings in the Crossroads Art District in Kansas City, Mo. She operates a neon-arts studio.

**LINDA LIGHTON**'s ceramic sculptures can be found in collections across the globe. She has participated in more than 48 solo shows and more than 157 group exhibitions, including the 2010 International Academy of Ceramics exhibition at the Sevres Museum in France. *New Letters* featured her art in fall 2007 and winter 1996.

**NORMAN LOCK** is the recipient of the Aga Kahn Prize, given by *The Paris Review*, and fellowships in prose from the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He is the author of the novels *A History of the Imagination* (FC2, 2004), *Land of the Snow Men* (Calamari P, 2005), *Shadowplay* (Ellipsis P, 2009), *The Long Rowing Unto Morning* (Ravenna P, 2007), and *The King of Sweden* (Ravenna P, 2009).

**DANIEL LUSK**'s latest collection is *Kissing the Ground: New & Selected Poems* (Onion River P, 1999). He teaches poetry and creative writing at the University of Vermont.

**KATIE MANNING** was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize and is a doctoral fellow in English at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She serves as poetry editor of *Rougarou: An Online Journal*.

**LOU MARAK** is a painter, illustrator, and cartoonist. He graduated from the Kansas City Art Institute in 1958, and his work can be found in the collections of the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Mulvane Art Museum in Topeka, Kan., and the Hallmark Fine Art Collection.

**THOMAS MCCARTHY**'s books include the short story collections *The Last Survivor* (1985) and *Final Days: And Other Stories* (2002) and the novels *A Fine Country* (Citron P, 2000) and *The Coast of Death* (Serving House Books, 2010). He was born in Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland, and now lives in Peterborough, England.

**CHAD MCCRACKEN** lives in Chicago; once a lawyer, he now is a philosophy professor.

**AMY MEYA** is primarily a self-taught ceramic artist who lived and worked in the Netherlands for five years. Her work was commissioned for the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts' groundbreaking ceremony in 2006. She lives in Kansas City, Mo.

**EDWARD MORIN** is the 2009 co-winner of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize. His most recent of two poetry collections is *Labor Day at Walden Pond* (Ridgeway P, 1996). He is also editor and co-translator of the poetry anthology *The Red Azalea: Chinese Poetry Since the Cultural Revolution* (U of Hawaii P, 1990). He has taught English at Wayne State University, in Michigan, and the University of Michigan.

**ROGER PFINGSTON's** photographs have appeared in recent issues of *Limestone*, *Tattoo Highway*, and *The Sun*. His poetry has appeared recently in *Lumina*, *DMQ Review*, *Milk Money*, *Sin Fronteras*, and the *Innisfree Poetry Journal*. He lives in Bloomington, Ind., and his photos have appeared often in *New Letters*, but not for many years. It's good to have him back.

**CAROLINE SHTEAMER** received a B.F.A. in art history from the University of Kansas and a master's in education from the University of Missouri-Kansas City; she teaches art at Apache Elementary School in Shawnee Mission, Kan., and is planning for a September wedding.

**MAUREEN SEATON** is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and a Pushcart Prize. Her books include a collection of poems, *Cave of the Yellow Volkswagen* (Carnegie Mellon U P, 2009), and a memoir, *Sex Talks to Girls* (U of Wisconsin P Living Out Series, 2008), which won the Lambda Literary Award. She teaches poetry at the University of Miami.

**DANIELLE SELLERS** was the recipient of the Grisham Poetry Fellowship at the University of Mississippi. Her first book, *Bone Key Elegies*, was published by Main Street Rag. She lives in Oxford, Miss.

**GARY SOTO's** most recent collection is *Baseball in April and Other Stories* (Harcourt Paperbacks, 2000). He is the author of 11 poetry collections, most notably *New and Selected Poems* (Chronicle Books),

a 1995 finalist for both *The Los Angeles Times* Book Award and the National Book Award. *Poetry* honored him with the Bess Hokin Prize and the Levinson Award. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He lives in California. (A *New Letters on the Air* author.)

**BRIAN SWANN** has published books in various fields, including seven books of poetry and five collections of short fictions. His most recent, *Born in the Blood: Essays on Translating Native American Literature*, is forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press. He is a professor of English at The Cooper Union.

**RICHARD TERRILL** is the author of two collections of poems and two books of creative nonfiction. His most recent books include a collection of poems, *Almost Dark* (U of Tampa P, 2010), and *Saturday Night in Baoding: A China Memoir* (U of Tampa P, 2006). He is the recipient of the Minnesota Book Award and the Associated Writing Programs Award for nonfiction. He teaches creative nonfiction and poetry writing in the M.F.A. program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**G. C. YOUNG** is a law student who lives in Washington, D.C.

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\* "New Letters on the Air authors" have featured readings and interviews on the half-hour radio series *New Letters on the Air*. For cassettes and CDs of those programs, contact us at (816) 235-1159, [radio@newletters.org](mailto:radio@newletters.org), or visit [www.newletters.org](http://www.newletters.org).