
Escape in a Rocking Chair

Jenna Wright

My earliest childhood memory of Mom is sitting in a plaid platform rocker in a corner of our first home, a two-story red brick on a sloping hill. There is a tall floor lamp by the chair, but the light is not on – no need. Our newspaper comes in the afternoon. Mom will read it all later, but first she gathers me, her three-year-old daughter, into her lap and holds me closely, snuggled into a peaceful lull. She reads me the comic strips from the newspaper. I can hear my mother breathing as she rocks and clutches me close to her, and then we laugh at the latest escapades of Beetle Bailey. The silent air again is broken with our laughter as Dagwood outwits Blondie or Mr. Dithers, Nancy and Sluggo get into benign mischief, or a doctor and nurse save a life from a dreaded but little – known disease. I don't remember the names of the fictional doctor-nurse characters, but perhaps they reminded my mom of her days – just five years before – at the hospital where she had been head nurse.

I sometimes wonder how she felt about going from that thriving small-town hospital nurses' station that she commanded during and just after World War II to that quiet rocker in the farm house on the rich green hill at the city limits of a hamlet of a few hundred people – only seventeen miles away, but a world from her career. She must have embodied some remorse about

walking away from her profession – at least from time to time. After all, I – her captivated, awed child audience smiling up at her in that cocoon rocker as she read – could not comprehend the demands on a woman in the 1940s and 1950s whose aspirations to be a doctor were crushed by the financial and cultural limits of the day.

In the years to come, I would sometimes see her get a far-away look in her eyes when she would recount how she literally had her suitcase packed after applying to be a Navy nurse in WWII – an appointment with potential for medical school. Then, she would look at me and explain – for me or herself, I don't know how the doctor in charge of the hospital dashed her hopes when he offhandedly commented that she wasn't going to the Navy for he had deemed her "essential" to the medical needs of this rural West Tennessee region. Then, Mom would tell me how she unpacked and went back to the daily hospital routine.

Whatever she felt about giving up her nursing profession, she never shared in depth with me as a small child, in fact, never shared throughout her life. Now, in her silence, I will never know. But I do know that she was my first reading teacher, enticing me with the exciting world of reading in that rocking chair cocoon and offering me an invitation to join her in that world which would present both of us opportunities for encouragement and escape.

Discovery of the Ancient Tomes

Madeleine Kuderick

The year: 3,020

Expedition: Ancient books

We found a vault beneath the earth and voyaged in to look.

The smell near overtook us with a scent we did not know
like the wooded forest samples from the earth of long ago.

The catacombs were brimming with these ancient artifacts,
with these bound and paper volumes, with these dusty, yellow
stacks.

My researchers took images. They sampled and they scanned.
They weighed and measured every tome, but not how we had
planned.

It started with my linguist as he tried his first decode.
He slipped into a corner where the *classic* books were stowed.
“The print beneath my fingers . . . there’s some kind of
strange effect.

The ink on skin connection. It defies my intellect.”

He started turning pages as though he were mesmerized.

Then every archeologist put books before their eyes.

“It makes me want to curl up. It brings me such a calm.”

Then even my young diggers started leafing through the psalms.

“It’s not like modern digests that we plug into our brain.”
They gazed upon the pages of an ancient called Mark Twain.
“These books give us a *feeling*. They’re not useless as they seem.”

And soon the books had hypnotized each member of my team.

“If only I could break the code,” my linguist said at last.
These books could be a portal to the future and the past.”
That’s why we toiled night and day. We knew we must succeed,
And soon discovered ancient gold – the lost art – how to read.

About the Authors

Carol Ayer was born in Berkeley, California, where she learned to read at the age of five. She credits her discovery of reading as the impetus for her desire to become a writer when she grew up. Her wish came true. Her essays have been published by *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Prairie Times*, and www.runnersworld.com.

Lucile Barker is a Toronto poet, writer and activist. She has had over 400 poems published in North American magazines. She also writes reviews and articles in community papers. Since 1994, she has been the co-ordinator of the Joy of Writing, a weekly workshop at the Ralph Thornton Centre. Recent publications include *Bird's Eye Review*, *350 Poems*, and inclusion in *October is Dada Month*.

Elizabeth Barton has been writing stories for just about as long as she can remember and is currently working on her first novel. She lives in Chicago with her husband and two cats. Her recent accolades include second place in the View House Publishing short fiction contest and placement in the WOW Women on Writing spring (third place) and summer (runner up) flash fiction contests. When she is not writing, Elizabeth is an avid reader and enjoys travel, theater, and wine. She also loves dabbling in, but never mastering, various pursuits including drama, sewing, painting, ceramics, and stained glass work.

Ann Marie Byrd, Ph.D., is a freelance writer and dissertation doctor. Her publications have appeared in *America in WWII*, *Literary Mama*, *Long Story Short*, *Puffin Circus* and numerous other

journals and magazines. She is a 2009 Pushcart Prize nominee. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida, with her husband and son.

Carol Carpenter's poems and stories have appeared in numerous online and print publications, including: *Margie*, *Snake Nation Review*, *Neon*, *Georgetown Review*, *Caveat Lector*, *Orbis*, and various anthologies, the most recent are *Not What I Expected* (Paycock Press, 2007) and *Wild Things* (Outrider Press, 2008). Her work has been exhibited by art galleries and produced as podcasts (Connecticut Review and Bound Off). She received the Hart Crane Memorial Award, Richard Eberhart Prize for Poetry, the Jean Siegel Pearson Poetry Award, Artists Among Us Award and others. Formerly a college writing instructor, journalist and trainer, she now devotes her time to writing in Livonia, Missouri.

Mary Carter currently lives, reads and writes in Shreveport, Louisiana. This is her third appearance in the anthologies of Silver Boomer Books.

Susan Pirie Chiavelli was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, where she attended Lake Forest Park Elementary School (the first grade setting for this poem). She currently lives in Santa Barbara, California. Her poetry has appeared in *Rattle*, and her award winning fiction and nonfiction have appeared in *Chattahoochee Review*, *Minnetonka Review*, *580 Split*, *Other Voices*, *New Millennium Writings*, and elsewhere.

SuzAnne C. Cole is a retired college instructor, wife, mother, and grandmother. She and her husband have traveled and hiked the world including Iceland, China, Nepal, Panama, Peru, Chile, Australia, New Zealand, Britain, Ireland, and Russia. Her essays have been published in *Newsweek*, *the Houston Chronicle*, *the San Antonio Express-News*, *the Baltimore Sun*, *Personal Journaling*, and *Troika* as well as many anthologies. She writes in a studio in the woods in the Texas Hill Country. She's pleased to have had poems published in the Silver Boomer Books anthologies *This Path*, *Freckles to Wrinkles*, and the original *Silver Boomers*.

Annemaria Cooper is a writer from a small rural village in Scotland. Her works have appeared *Menda City Review*, *Byker Books*, and *Secret Attic*. She is passionate in her belief to inspire, encourage, and help writers as a community on Chapterseventynine.com with the motto, “as you learn pass it on.”

Carol Creekmore, a baby boomer who grew up in rural North Carolina, is a widow with two adult children, two lovely granddaughters, and an English bulldog named Okie. With degrees in English from Wake Forest University, she teaches English, Creative Writing, and Humanities, writes poetry and prose, and enjoys traveling, genealogy, and photography.

Tim Damiani lives in Jacksonville, Florida, with his family. By day he works as a geriatric psychiatrist watching old people become young, and by night he watches his young children become older. He is fascinated by the events that lead people to know who they are and by the stories which give them new ways to express that discovery, whether they are aging up or down.

Amanda C. Davis lives in central Pennsylvania. She has been a destructive tester, an apple grower, a radio newsreader, and a combustion engineer. Learn more about her at www.amandacdavis.com.

Frances Davis's stories, essays and poems have appeared in *Calyx*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The Vincent Brothers Review*, *Reed Magazine*, *Passager*, *Quercus Review*, *Re(verb)*, *Memoir* and several anthologies and online journals. Her travel writing appears in *Italy*, *A Love Story* and *Mexico*, *A Love Story*, published by Avalon Books. She is a winner of the Lamar York prize for nonfiction and a Pushcart prize nominee. She writes a column for *Coastal View News* and serves on the editorial board for *Community of Voices*, a Santa Barbara anthology.

Gail Denham's essays, news articles, poetry, short stories, publicity work, and contest entries have been published in magazines, newspapers, and books, nationally and internationally (including one poem accepted by Silver Boomers) for over 35 years.

Denham's illustrative photos have appeared in many publications. She leads workshops at Northwest conferences. Denham and her husband have four sons with (going-on) 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Her family provides inspiration for her writing.

Liz Dolan's first poetry collection, *They Abide*, has been published by March Street Press. A five-time Pushcart nominee, Liz has won a 2009 fellowship as an established professional from the Delaware Division of the Arts. In addition, a yet-to-be-published manuscript, *A Secret of Long Life*, has been nominated for the Robert McGovern Prize, Ashland University. She has also been published in *On the Mason Dixon Line: An Anthology of Contemporary Delaware Writers*. She lives with her husband in Rehoboth Beach. Her nine grandchildren live one block away.

Tammy A. Domeier lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her beloved husband, dog, two fat cats and one skinny cat. She worked briefly as a technical writer and has had so many different jobs and has been on so many job interviews that she would like to compile a book detailing the post traumatic stress of it all! She continues to read as much as she can and occasionally tries to write as well.

Sharon Hogan Ellison is a native Texan. During years of singing, playing piano and directing church choirs, she has written and directed several Christian plays. She puts her BBA in Management to use as a physician's office manager, and found another creative outlet by joining Abilene Writers Guild. She has won several contests, has been published in *Proceedings* and *Nostalgia* magazines, and has a story in Silver Boomer Books anthology, *This Path*. Sharon and her husband, Sterling, enjoy being Gramma and Grampa while their son and daughter-in-love raise the grandchildren.

Joanne Faries, originally from the Philadelphia area, lives in Texas with her husband Ray. Published in *Doorknobs & Bodypaint*, *Off the Coast*, *Orange Room Review*, and *Salome* magazine, she also has stories and poems in *Shine* magazine, *A Long Story Short*,

and *Bartleby-Snopce*, and *Freckles to Wrinkles*. Joanne is the film critic for the *Little Paper of San Saba*.

Gretchen Fletcher won the Poetry Society of America's Bright Lights, Big Verse competition and was projected on the Jumbotron as she read her poem in Times Square. Her poetry has been published in numerous journals and anthologies including *upstreet*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Inkwell*, *The Mid-American Poetry Review*, and *Poetry as Spiritual Practice* by Robert McDowell. She leads writing workshops for Florida Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress. Her chapbook, *That Severed Cord*, was published by Finishing Line Press.

Carol Folsom practices law in Jacksonville, Florida, and writes poetry and prose at night to save her sanity, such as it is. She has a journalism degree and a Master's in communications as well as her law degree and thinks of herself as a poor Chatsworth Osborne, Jr. (Google Dobie Gillis if you must.) She was a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy for three years, defending and prosecuting courts-martial, and has since practiced maritime law, insurance defense and worker's compensation law. She loves to travel, especially in Europe, and enjoys playing piano and singing alto in a bad but sincere church choir.

David Galassie is an HR specialist in Columbia, South Carolina, who enjoys movies, TV, music, comic books, history, and animation. A frequent contributor to the retro '50s/'60s website, *Rewind the Fifties*, he chronicles many notable musical acts of the 1960s, to include obscure bands and one-hit wonders, and the cultural trends he personally lived through in the '60s and '70s. His work can be seen at *alongstoryshort.com*, *associatedcontent.com*, and *Storyhouse.org*. He has been published in *Good Old Days Specials* and *Reminisce* magazines, and was recently interviewed on BBC radio about his recollections of the syndicated children's newspaper feature, Cappy Dick.

Lewis Gardner's poems and plays have been published and performed throughout the U.S. and in several other countries. More than 60 of his poems and light verse pieces have appeared in *The New*

York Times. His play “Pete & Joe at the Dew Drop Inn” will appear in *Best American Short Plays 2008-2009*. He is an editor, publicist, and teacher of writing.

Ginny Greene

Cathy C. Hall loved reading children’s stories so much that now she writes her own. She’s currently working on a humorous, young adult paranormal mystery (which may include more genres, if she can fit them in). Cathy also writes true-life stories, poetry, plays, essays and songs, as well as somewhat serious articles and interviews. She lives in Georgia with her dog, the Beneficent Mr. Hall, and an occasional grown kid or two. For more about Cathy, check out her website, www.cathy-c-hall.com.

Dixon Hearne teaches and writes in southern California. His work has been twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize, and his new book, *Plantatia: High-toned and Lowdown Stories of the South*, is nominated for a 2010 PEN award. Other short fiction appears in *Post Road*, *Cream City Review*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, and several inspirational books from Adams Media. He is currently at work on a novel and another short story collection.

Holly Helscher has been freelance writing for several years. Her credits include stories in *Desert Dog News* and *Girlfriend 2 Girlfriend*. She recently was runner up in a flash prose contest for Women on Writing. Holly is the president of Brown Mackie College, Tucson, and has a doctorate in metaphysics as well as a master’s degree in community counseling. Her bachelor’s degree is in English literature which she claims was really more of an avocation since her love of reading is so strong. Holly is currently working on a mystery set in her hometown of Loveland, Ohio.

Deb Hill currently lives in hills of Tennessee with her husband Mike and five of their seven children. She has adopted five, birthed two, and fostered many children and is also a grandmother to four. She truly enjoys reading and writing simple verse.

Anna G. Joujan was born in South Dakota, as a Canadian citizen, and was raised in Zambia, the child of missionary teachers. Since her family's move to the U.S., Anna spent her childhood and early adulthood traveling throughout the world, thanks to various educational and work opportunities. France, China, Peru, and Jamaica were some of the stops in her journeys. Her undergraduate degree in French Literature led to a Masters in Information Sciences, and to work as a college and high school librarian, and a cross country coach. She has also returned to Zambia multiple times to teach for individual families and for local schools, while continuing to pursue her passions of writing, artwork, photography...and running to a fault.

Jennifer Schomburg Kanke currently works as an academic advisor for both undecided and pre-law students at Ohio University. Her poetry has previously appeared in *Earth's Daughters* and *Review Americana* and she has served as the book review editor for a journal of contemporary experimental prose, *Quarter After Eight*, since 2008.

Mary Potter Kenyon lives in Manchester, Iowa, with her husband David, four of their eight children, and shelves full of books. She has been published in magazines such as *Home Education*, *The Sun*, *The Writer* and in the anthologies *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul*, *Voices of Caregiving*, *Women Reinvented* and *Love is a Flame*.

Nancy Julien Kopp draws from her growing-up years in Chicago and many more in the Flint Hills of Kansas for essays, stories, poems, and articles. Her work is in nine *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books, two *Guideposts* anthologies, and other magazines, newspapers, and ezines. A former teacher, she still enjoys teaching through the written word.

Madeleine Kuderick is an emerging author and poet. Her published work appears in anthologies like *Chicken Soup*; *Christmas Miracles* (St. Martin's Press) and the *Ultimate* series books (HCI Publishers). Her writing often lends a voice to those who are struggling or disadvantaged. In particular, she is a strong advocate for

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children who face learning disabilities. Most recently, she was invited to share her poem “Can you read what I read?” at the International Reading Association’s Southeast Regional Literacy Conference in New Orleans, November 2009. More information is available at her website: www.madeleinekuderick.com.

Marjorie Light is a writer and National Board Certified English teacher. By day, she introduces 7th graders to the joys of reading and writing; by night, she taps away on her laptop in the “writing cave.” She writes for both mid-grades and young adults, which includes historical fiction and modern realism. Marjorie was an Air Force brat; her meteorologist father kept them moving frequently. Her mother’s work as an aide inspired one of her novels. When she grows up, she would like to be a skateboarder and graffiti artist. For now, she is content to meddle in her two college-aged children’s lives.

Penny MacPherson, a Florida resident, holds both a B.A. from Wells College (Aurora, NY) and a Master’s of Teaching degree from the University of Virginia (Charlottesville.) She has offered poetry workshops at various elementary schools. MacPherson conducts women’s healing through writing workshops, spiritual writing intensives, and community poetry readings. She has authored six books of poetry. Her work has appeared in such publications as *Just Another Writing Magazine*, *Beginnings: a Magazine for Emerging Writers*, *Access, Expressions*, *The Glens Falls Post Star*, *Discovery: the John Milton Magazine*, and *Muscadine Lines: a Southern Journal*.

Keri Mathews lives with her husband, two kids, and four dogs in the mountains of West Virginia. She attended Binghamton University and has been writing for fourteen years. She homeschools her two children and helps run her husband’s business. In her free time, she reads constantly and does puzzles of the logic and jigsaw variety.

Anthony J. Mohr writes from his home in southern California. His essays, memoirs, and short stories have appeared in or are upcoming in *Bibliophiles*; *Chicken Soup for the Soul - True Love*; *The Christian Science Monitor*; *Currents*; *The Kit-Kat Review*; *The LBJ*:

Avian Life, Literary Arts; Literary House Review; Oracle; Skyline Magazine; Word Riot; and ZYZZYVA. He has appeared in *Freckles to Wrinkles* and *This Path*. Since he is a recovering lawyer, he also has been published in several bar journals and law reviews. His hobbies include hiking, travel, horseback riding, reading, and improv theater.

Beth Morrissey followed her love of literature to a position as a school librarian before becoming a full time freelance writer. Her work has appeared in a variety of online and print publications including *Self, Girls' Life* and *The Writer* magazines as well as anthologies like *Chicken Soup for the Soul Getting Into College* and *My First Year In the Classroom*. Visit Beth online at www.bethmorrissey.com.

Jason Mullin earned his M.F.A. in fiction from the Northeast Ohio Master of Fine Arts Consortium. His prose has appeared in various small literary journals, and a production of an original play debuted at Cleveland Public Theatre in 2008. Currently, he is the Liberal Arts Program Director at Bryant and Stratton College in Parma, Ohio. He reads and writes as often his lovely wife, his teenage son, his infant son, and his two dogs allow.

Theresa Nelson has a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing. She taught English and literature classes at Edmonds Community College for five years. She has had over 40 poems and prose pieces published. Her favorite pastime is curling up with a warm blanket and a good book.

Robbi Nester teaches writing (what else?) at Irvine Valley College in Irvine, California. She has published poems most recently in *Qarrtsiluni* and *Caesura*, and recently completed a series of 15 yoga sonnets. These and other things appear on her blog, *Shadow Knows*, at robbi-shadowknows.blogspot.com.

Linda O'Connell is an award-winning writer and poet whose work appears in numerous anthologies, periodicals, literary magazines, books and newspapers. Linda is a teacher, wife, mother and grandmother who understands how something as simple as drumming

fingers on a porch rail can create a life-time memory. Read Linda O'Connell's blog, Write from the Heart (lindaocconnell.blogspot.com).

Dionne Obeso specializes in freelance magazine writing, and has written on just about every possible topic. She lives in California with her husband and son, but would move to London in a heartbeat. She spends her spare time playing with yarn or studying circus arts, and hopes to perform. You can learn more about her at DionneObeso.com.

Dale Ogren, a native Texan and former resident of Abilene, now lives in northern Minnesota with her husband and love of her life, Al Ogren. They travel, enjoy their home and garden in Buhl and time at their cabin on Mirror Lake, where they hike, fish, and cross country ski. Dale's published writings include poems, a cookbook, a series of daily inspirational messages for a commercial web site, a short story and articles for *Christian Woman* magazine. Her picture book was accepted by Raven Productions for publication in 2012.

Carl Palmer, nominated for the Pushcart Prize in Poetry and the Micro Award in flash fiction. Formerly of Old Mill Road in Ridgeway, Virginia, he now lives in University Place, Washington.

Patricia Hopper is a native of Dublin, Ireland, and lives in West Virginia. She earned a B.A. and M.A. from WVU . She received honors from WVU such as the Waitman Barbe Creative Writing Award and the Virginia Butts Sturm Award. She has received numerous awards from the West Virginia Writers' competitions ranging from second place to honorable mention. Her fiction and non-fiction has been published in magazines, reviews, and anthologies.

James Penha, a native New Yorker, has lived for the past seventeen years in Indonesia. A collection of his adaptations of classic Indonesian folk tales has won the Cervena Barva Press fiction chapbook contest. *No Bones to Carry*, the latest volume of Penha's poetry, is available from New Sins Press at www.newsinspress.com. Penha edits a website for current-events poetry at www.newversenews.com.

Donna Alice Patton is a writer living in rural Ohio. A freelance writer, she writes a children's page for several Ohio newspapers and works for an online educational supplement provider. One day soon she hopes to have a children's book published. Until then, she is planning her next visit to the Little House sites.

Marian M. Poe writes less like a boomer and more like a silver boomerang. A published writer since she was the young wife of an Air Force officer, she continues returning to stories and poems. She also takes time for grandchildren, walks in the neighborhood and playing Boggle. Her most recent story appeared in the Summer 2008 journal published by THEMA Literary Society of Metairie, Louisiana. One of her haiku will appear in the Sumer 2010 issue of *Modern Haiku*.

Carol McAdoo Rehme most prizes of all her childhood memorabilia her first library card with its hand-stamped due dates, gold star stickers, and achievement buttons. More than five decades later, she still has a passion for print. Carol's 25-year career of freelancing includes ghostwriting, editing, and compiling anthologies; her award-winning vignettes appear widely in inspirational collections. Carol's publications include *The Book of Christmas Virtues*, five gift books, and her latest release, *Chicken Soup for the Empty Nester's Soul: 101 Stories about Surviving and Thriving When the Kids Leave Home*. Learn more at www.Rehme.com.

Alyssa Riley is the daughter of two boomers, and it has influenced her writing ever since she picked up the pen in grade school. Raised in Massachusetts, she moved to Philadelphia to pursue her Bachelor's in English. She has been published in a few college magazines around Philly, where she is also active in the slam poetry scene.

Kerín Riley-Bishop

Philippa Roberts is a professional writer from the UK who has published ebooks, short stories, poetry, reviews and journalism, at intervals, over a period of about twenty years. Her work has appeared in a wide range of publications, from children's magazines, *Horizon* and

Aquila, to *Cadenza* and *Quality Women's Fiction*. It has also appeared in a number of anthologies, including children's poetry from Oxford University Press. Philippa edited print editions of *Winter Jasmine*, *The Golden Glory has Fled* and *A Wartime Poetry Journal* – books of poetry by her grandmother, Effie M. Roberts – for her own publishing company, Fractal Publishing.

Robert B. Robeson was commander and operations officer during his tour with the 236th Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) in Da Nang and also commanded the 63rd Medical Detachment (Helicopter Ambulance) in Landstuhl, West Germany. He earned 35 medals in combat and has been decorated for valor eight times, including two Distinguished Flying Crosses and two Air Medals with "V." Robeson has been published over 725 times in 250 publications in 130 countries, including the *Reader's Digest*. He's also a professional (life) member of the National Writers Association and the Military Writers Society of America.

Barbara B. Rollins has been a teacher, Christian educator, legal secretary, lawyer, and judge. Finally, she's a has-been-each-of-those and a fulltime author, editor, and publisher. Her books include *A Time for Verse – poetic ponderings on Ecclesiastes* from Eagle Wings Press imprint of Silver Boomer Books, to be followed in 2011 by *A Crowd of Witnesses – Two Big Books and Us*, written with OAStepper, author of *Slender Steps to Sanity – Twelve-Step Notes of Hope*. Earlier books include a set of forensic books for children and her young adult novel, *Syncopated Summer*. Barbara's name appears on some books, and she claims all Silver Boomer Books as her own, having given birth to them on her computer. She's not a has-been wife and mother, and hopes soon to spoil twin grandsons.

Helen Ruggieri is a lifelong reader and supporter of libraries. She has published prose recently in *The Scream*, *Lost*, *The Heartlands*, *SimplyHaiku.com*, and *FragLit.com*. Her poetry has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Minnesota Review*, *Labor*, and elsewhere. See *HelenRuggieri.com*.

Kate Powell Shine has studied creative writing at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, and the Writer's Center in Bethesda, Maryland. She is currently studying gerontology in the Human Sciences graduate program at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Her poems have been published in magazines and anthologies including *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *FuseLit*, *Clearfield Review*, and *Poems Against War*.

Bobbye Samson is a West Texas judge who vents by spilling out poems and essays. Her work appeared in *Silver Boomers*, a collection of prose and poetry by and about baby boomers.

Betty Thomason's writing has been published in *Frontier Times*, *Confederate Veteran Magazine*, *Good Old Days*, *Small Town Texas*, and short pieces in *Parents*, *Lady's Circle*, *Alaska*, and *Mature Living*. She sold thirty devotionals to *Iam3rd.com*. Along with nine other contestants, she won honorable mention in *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*'s, "Mysterious Photo Contest" in 1994. Betty loves old windmills and her article, "Windmills Helped Settle the West," appears on The American Windmill Co. website. Betty is a retired RN and lives with her husband, Keith, in west Texas. Besides writing, she paints with acrylics, draws cartoons, and plays canasta.

Tammy Tillotson lives in Chase City, Virginia, with her husband and two small tireless boys, with whom she shares her never-ending love of reading. She earned her Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Hollins University and her award-winning poetry appears and is forthcoming online and in several anthologies.

Tim Tomlinson was raised on Long Island, New York, where books other than *My First Catechism* and the *Cub Scout Handbooks* were looked on with suspicion. Listening to songs, in particular Bob Dylan's, and reading about groups, in particular The Beatles and the Grateful Dead, led him to novels and poems and histories ignored by the reading lists of his public school classes. That reading begat other reading, begat still other reading, which led to the rest – a tragedy with a happy ending.

Dale Myra Tushman's writing started with notes to Santa, semi-maturing into first lines and phrase bites on the inside of match books, finally arriving at bound book and small screen. Her poetry took on a life of its own in the last two years; all prior pieces have been prose. Ms. Tushman is very excited about the way this new work has been received. A transplanted New Englander, a psychotherapist, living in a piece of the very deep south which dearly loves its crazy people, she notes she is hardly noticed among the bougainvilleas and Spanish moss.

Anne Valente lives in Ohio and is the assistant editor of *Storyglossia*, a journal of fiction. Her writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Necessary Fiction*, *Monkeybicycle*, *Keyhole*, the *Diversion Press Poetry Anthology*, and the *Decameron Anthology of Short Fiction*, among others.

Stephanie Vanderslice is a writer and creative writing teacher at the University of Central Arkansas. She has published fiction and nonfiction in anthologies such as *Knowing Pains: Women on Love, Sex and Work in their 40's* and *Mothers in All But Name* and many others. In addition, she is passionate about improving the teaching of creative writing in higher education and has written and/or edited several books and articles on the subject. She also writes about the writing, reading and teaching life in her blog www.wordamour.wordpress.com She lives in Conway, Arkansas, with her husband and two sons.

Wendy Vardaman, www.wendyvardaman.com, has a Ph.D. in English from University of Pennsylvania. Co-editor of the poetry journal *Verse Wisconsin*, www.versewisconsin.org, her poems, reviews, and interviews have appeared in *Poetry Daily*; *Breathe: 101 Contemporary Odes*; *Riffing on Strings: Creative Writing Inspired by String Theory*; *Letters to the World*; *Poet Lore*; *qarrtsiluni*; *Mezzo Cammin*; *Nerve Cowboy*; *Free Verse*; *Wisconsin People & Ideas*; *Women's Review of Books*; *Rain Taxi Review*; *Rattle and Portland Review*, among others. She is the author of *Obstructed View* (Fireweed Press 2009), works for a children's theater, The Young Shakespeare Players, and does not own a car.

Donna Duly Volkenannt got her first byline in high school as a reporter for *Prom*, a St. Louis-based magazine for teens. Also while in high school, classmates encouraged Donna to become a go-go dancer. Instead of buying go-go boots, she got a job as a stenographer while attending college at night. She is a retired DOD management analyst and a writer who reviews books for *Book Reporter*. When not spending time with her husband and grandchildren, scrambling to meet deadlines, and wondering if she would've made it as a go-go dancer, Donna blogs about writing on *donnasbookpub.blogspot.com*.

Phylis Warady is the author of six historical novels set in Regency England. In addition, her award-winning short stories, essays and light verse are regularly featured in magazines, literary journals and anthologies published in the USA and Canada. Her most recent credit is her short story titled "All the Way to Heaven" published in the *2009 Oasis Journal* by Imago Press.

Suellen Wedmore, Poet Laureate emerita for the small seaside town of Rockport, Massachusetts, has twice been published by Silver Boomer Books ("All I Knew About Marriage" in *Silver Boomers* and "Chemical Warfare" in *Freckles to Wrinkles*.) She has been widely published and recently had two poems nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Her chapbook *Deployed* was winner of the Grayson Books annual contest and her chapbook *On Marriage and Other Parallel Universes* was recently published by Finishing Line Press. She has been awarded first prize in the Writer's Digest Rhyming Poem Contest, was an International winner in the Atlanta Review Annual contest, and was a winner in the 2009 New Millennium Obama Contest.

Patricia Wellingham-Jones is a former psychology researcher and writer/editor, published in many journals and Internet magazines, including *HazMat Review*, *Edgz*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *Ibbetson Street* and *Wicked Alice*. She has a special interest in healing writing, leads a cancer center writing group, and has work in several anthologies on related subjects. She writes for the review department of the new journal, *Recovering the Self: a journal of hope and healing*. Poetry chapbooks include *Don't Turn Away: poems about breast cancer*;

End-Cycle: poems about caregiving, Apple Blossoms at Eye Level, Voices on the Land and Hormone Stew.

Laura Madeline Wiseman is a doctoral candidate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she teaches English. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Feminist Studies*, *MARGIE*, *Arts & Letters*, and elsewhere. She is the author of two forthcoming chapbooks *My Imaginary* (Dancing Girl Press) and *Ghost Girl* (Pudding House).

Jenna Wright is a faculty member in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin where she teaches fiction and creative nonfiction. She is a baby boomer who in her 50's went back to graduate school to get an M.F.A. in creative writing. Her writings have appeared in several journals, including *Calliope*, and the workbook text *Poetry Analysis: Understanding and Critiquing Poetry*. Additionally, she has received honors in both nonfiction and national poetry contests.

B.J. Yudelson has written countless newsletters, solicitation letters, and annual reports for nonprofit agencies in Rochester, New York. Now retired, she writes memoir, yearns for warm weather when she can, and has published two volumes of poetry. She is an academic who does not cap 'master's degree,' but some other writers have done so, in the bios and in the main text. Online sources say the generic phrases 'master's degree' or 'bachelor's degree' are not capped, but 'Master of Arts degree' or 'Bachelor of Science degree' is. Might need to run a search and destroy on those phrases in the book.

Recovering Editors

The Quartet

I'm marking it for the furtive recovery anthology.
what's a furtive recovery?
it's when you recover but don't let anyone know.

great title, for a comic book.
we're getting unruly here.

PHLHBBHH
(that's a raspberry) ;)
We don't speak Irish.

Just giving you grief.
Just driving you crazy.
But it's such a short drive!

dictatorial was the word
on the tip of my tongue
or fingers?

how do you know
when an elephant's been in your refrigerator?
footprints in the jello

I need to turn up the heat.
I'm just a bit jelly.
Relish the thought!
Oh stop before ice cream!
Lettuce escape this madness!

Fun knee.
Eye agree.

Other Books from
Silver Boomer Books

Silver Boomers
prose and poetry by and about baby boomers
March, 2008

Freckles to Wrinkles
August, 2008

This Path
September, 2009

Song of County Roads
by Ginny Greene
September, 2009

**From the Porch Swing ~ memories of our
grandparents**
July, 2010

From
Laughing Cactus Press

imprint of Silver Boomer Books:

Poetry Floats
New and selected Philosophy-lite

by Jim Wilson
August, 2009

Bluebonnets, Boots and Buffalo Bones

by Sheryl L. Nelms
September, 2009

not so GRIMM
gentle fables and cautionary tales

by Becky Haigler
November, 2009

Three Thousand Doors

by Karen Elaine Greene
August, 2010

From

Eagle Wings Press

imprint of Silver Boomer Books:

Slender Steps to Sanity ~
Twelve-Step Notes of Hope
by OAS stepper, Compulsive Overeater
May, 2009

Writing Toward the Light ~ A Grief Journey
by Laura Flett
July, 2009

A Time for Verse
poetic ponderings on Ecclesiastes
by Barbara B. Rollins
December, 2009

Survived to Love
by Ed H
August, 2010-

White Elephants
by Chynna T. Laird
January, 2011-

