

grabbed us like an undertow,  
dragging tired children

to their weary rest  
and back again,  
for another round  
of summer.

## *Tip Boxes*

*Karen Neuberg*

Betty taught me  
to open one more button and bend  
while serving men  
hot turkey dinners and foamy Coke floats.  
She had beautiful, pale breasts  
which she lifted and pressed  
with her upper arms  
as she leaned.

Elsie glided slowly in gum-soled shoes,  
plates above her head.  
She was a white-haired, red-lipped, powdered twig  
who belonged in a room with doilies.  
Annie, an apple-cheeked dumpling,  
had hands capable of serving  
a scoop of ice cream so perfectly placed  
it hid the moldy crust on the last piece of pie.

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*"Nature gives you the face you had at twenty; it is up to you to merit*

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They instructed me to clean the grill  
with seltzer and pumice stone;  
to shine the counter and chrome  
endlessly with a tired rag.  
I opened my second button and let my pale hair fall  
across my eye, Veronica Lake-ish.  
I put all my tips into the grey metal box with my name  
that took its place among the others under the counter.

That summer,  
between the end of high school  
and the beginning of college,  
I read my Suggested Reading,  
counted my change, and waited.

## *Happiness*

*Suzanne C. Cole*

It didn't take much today  
to flood me with joy —  
succulent oranges glowing  
on a blue pottery plate,  
scarlet velvet tulips drooping  
over an alabaster vase,  
the busy beaks of robins poking  
through the debris of winter,  
an unsought smile brightening  
a familiar face —  
may it always be so.

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*the face you have at fifty." Coco Chanel ~\$~ "You're only young once,*

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## *Through Eyes of Love*

*Elizabeth Simpson*

I was nine years old and sweltering in the heat of a Canadian prairie summer when the postman came up our steps on Clifton Street. My father had replaced our storm doors and windows with screens, and I was inside looking out when the postman knocked. His face brightened as my mother moved toward us, and I assumed his smile was in response to her beauty. I'd not yet learned that love has ways of magnifying pleasure in a child's eyes.

My father, whom I looked up to in the physical and metaphorical sense, stood five foot ten, but seemed a giant to me with his curly silvering hair. Neighboring women whispered that he was handsome, but I'd learned to see through his eyes when he praised my mother's porcelain skin and her smiling eyes. As she came toward the door on that hot summer morning, the postman stooped down to tell me my freckles came from catching sunbeams through our screen door. *You've been sprayed with beauty marks*, he laughed, and I believed him.

I was the middle child, padded on each side by a sister who also had freckles, though our parents had none. My mother complained that all her daughters looked like our father. My older sister said it was proof that we were adopted. I told my mother to stand behind the screen door and let the sun freckle her face to match ours. My younger sister toddled away when we stared at her freckled nose and knees.

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*but you can be immature forever." John Greier ~S~ "An old young*

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Though our freckles made clear we were sisters, our coloring differed. My older sister's hair was auburn, and reddish-brown freckles speckled her nose. My hair was dark brown, my cheeks criss-crossed by light brown freckles. My blond younger sister wore pale orange freckles that encouraged the boys to tease her. In grade three she came home in tears. My older sister and I checked our knees before breathing a sigh of relief.

Mother caught rain water to wash the thick curls that rested on our shoulders and then trimmed the bangs over our three broad foreheads. I was in my teens by the time I realized that her complaint about caring for our hair was a mask she wore to cover her pride. *Except for your freckles, you're all like your father*, she would say, a touch of sadness in her voice. It was then I realized the hair surrounding her delicate face was thinner and less buoyant than ours.

Our mother took us to a photographer when each of us reached our ninth birthday. He turned out airbrushed pictures that modified a portion of our freckles. As young adults, we hung these photographs in our separate bedrooms and wondered why our mother allowed him to tamper with reality. By then we had lost our preoccupation with freckles and talked instead of dancing, swimming, and homework.

I was seventeen when I learned that not everyone was as forgiving about freckles as my boyfriend was, this boy I'd met at fifteen and would marry at nineteen. That summer I got a job as a typist for the Provincial Health Services. When a senior official expressed his pleasure in hiring me, I thought he was referring to my typing speed. Instead, he asked me to pose for a poster that would advertise the link between drinking milk and healthy teeth. I walked the hour to and from the office thinking perhaps I might become a Hollywood star. The morning the photographer arrived, I brushed my teeth twice and worked hard

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*man, will be a young old man." Benjamin Franklin ~§~ "There are*

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to keep my lips from trembling as I smiled into the bright lights from one angle and then another.

My photograph was blown up the size of a kitchen table. Smiling back was the person I saw every morning in the mirror – a girl with perfect teeth. What I didn't know was that I was about to learn the truth in the expression that pride cometh before a fall. *Who would have guessed your freckles would stand out like that?* Mother asked, powdering my face before I left home. *I hadn't realized how many freckles you had,* the senior official confessed. *That's what you get for going to the beach with your boyfriend,* my older sister huffed. *The only beauty that counts is the one that comes from your heart,* my father said. *I love every freckle,* my boyfriend said, kissing my cheeks.

Having failed to be beautiful, I decided to make my mark saving lives. I applied to enter nursing in a city where no one knew me, and was accepted in Manitoba at the hospital where I'd been born before my father was transferred to Saskatchewan. A month before my eighteenth birthday, I arrived back at Misericordia, the hospital I'd left when I was five days old. There, I slept on a cot in a room I shared with two strangers. We each had a locker similar to the ones in high school and were expected to store all our belongings in it. The bathroom in the hall had no lock and was shared by all the girls on our second floor.

In two weeks I came to hear the word “misery” whenever anyone said the word Misericordia. In the late fifties, nursing students worked the wards immediately after their arrival, changing beds and bathing patients. I had no brothers and had never seen my parents or sisters naked. I ran away the morning I was scheduled to bathe a man, and returned to be reprimanded when darkness fell and I had nowhere else to go. The next day I was put on the terminal ward to bathe an old woman. She whimpered when I touched her with my soapy cloth. I promised

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*only three ages for women in Hollywood - Babe, District Attorney,*

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myself that I would not allow a stranger to bathe my grandma when she was dying.

On secret ballots, the girls in my class voted me their Freshie Queen. I was expected to compete with other girls from other careers for the crown awarded to the most beautiful student. I woke up from nightmares of bright lights shining on my freckled face. I felt ashamed for pretending to be someone I wasn't. I made an appointment with Mother Superior, the woman none of us had seen. In her dimly lit office, she reminded me that my classmates were depending on me to prove myself a worthy candidate. I phoned home to ask my mother why she had given birth in a Catholic hospital when we were Presbyterians. She said she trusted nuns not to think about their boyfriends while she was in labor, and remained deaf to my plea to return home.

In spite of her, I got on a train for the twelve hour ride back to Saskatchewan. My father and grandmother stood on the platform, their arms open to welcome me. Mother's absence was her way of saying she was ashamed of me. I steeled myself against her attempts to make me right my wrong by returning to the hospital.

Years later, living alone on my thirtieth birthday, I enrolled at university to finish the degree I'd been laboring over at night classes for years while I spent my daylight hours as a secretary. In autumn, I moved to Vancouver and at age thirty-five graduated with a Master's degree from the University of British Columbia. When I was given a sessional position at the university, my mother expressed her pride in my accomplishment. Just as my heart began to swell, she asked if I'd ever believed I'd graduate and teach at a big university with spectacular rose gardens. Her face crumpled when I told her my achievement had become possible only after I'd escaped her disappointment.

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*and Driving Miss Daisy." Goldie Hawn ~§~ "As you get older it is*

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Now, having reached my sixty-sixth birthday and retired from my career, I realize that only in the end do we see the beginning with clarity. Cancer has taken the lives of both my mother and sister. Later, I survived my own cancer and comforted my husband through his. I have seen what a difference devoted nurses make to our well-being. Still, I have not forgotten the disappointment on my mother's face when I came home. Nor have I forgiven myself for the harsh words I used to defend my decision.

As age spots multiply on the backs of my hands, I've come to realize we understand the workings of a mother's heart only after we mature. My mother had grown up on a Canadian homestead where medical help was too far away to contemplate. Now, I take flowers to her grave and whisper how grateful I am that she was finally proud of me. I have learned that affection within families surpasses understanding. I am reminded that I'm beautiful in the only way I can be – in the eyes of those who love themselves enough to love me too. Perhaps our sole responsibility to parents is to be grateful they blessed us with life in all its imperfections.

## *Vocations Club*

*Paula Sergi*

We met on Tuesdays, after school  
with Sister Mary Agnes,  
the two Mary Lous, Julie, Kay and me  
to learn about being nuns.

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*harder to have heroes, but it is sort of necessary." Ernest Hemingway*

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The convent sounded good to me —  
a room of my own, a single bed,  
time to think and pray, no arguments  
over what we'd watch – *Bonanza* versus *Dragnet*,  
or who would get the couch.  
I dug those crazy nun outfits, and hated hand-me-downs  
with too-long sleeves and too-tight waists.  
I'd take the smell of polished wood and incense  
over burnt grilled cheese and sour milk.  
I'd have a good job, teaching kids  
and all the chalk I'd want,  
long, unbroken pieces that echoed off the board,  
all eyes on me as I'd tap directions,  
conducting my classroom all day.  
People, I'd begin, today we're talking about. . .  
whatever I want to!  
Nuns got great rosaries with fancy beads  
and lots of gifts at Christmas.  
And the solitude of celibacy sounded pretty good,  
better than worrying about French kissing  
like my sister, better than pining for men,  
like Mom, whose men left anyway.

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~§~ *"The Sixties was the worst time in the world to try and bring up*

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## *Peek-a-Boo Freckles*

*Linda O'Connell*

Freckles, did you slide through my wrinkles and splatter in a  
splotch on my hand?  
Please, please, help me understand.

When I was young, I pancake-make-uped you away,  
but I wouldn't dare apply that stuff to my face today.

Facial sludge makes wrinkles more pronounced  
and so, heavy makeup I've denounced.

I smear slippery night-time cream onto my face and hands  
as though I am greasing crevices of crinkled Bundt cake pans.

I wonder freckles, yes I do,  
how on earth did you squeeze through?

I tug my face upwards at either side—  
Oh, that's where the rest of you freckles hide!

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*a child. They were exposed to all these crazy things going on." Nancy*

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## *As She Ages*

*Kerin Riley-Bishop*

Her skin is slightly weathered now  
leathered now  
I do not know when she got older  
I still see myself so young

It is odd how time passes  
how age skips one while settling on another  
like a fickle tornado – this house, this house  
skip this one

When lines show on my face  
I consider them treasures  
trophies of laughter and tears  
My years  
accumulated; good and bad.

Her skin is weathered now  
leathered now  
I do not ponder long on how  
but, when?

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*Reagan ~S~ "You know you're getting old when the candles cost more*

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## *Hold That Thought*

*Gail Denham*

There's a moment.  
It includes laughter.  
A dance anoints the time  
into a sponge that bounces  
and jiggles until tears of mirth  
make the occasion so juicy,  
it nearly slips away, but we  
clutch the event hard, close  
to our hearts, as if it were  
the keys to eternity,

which, of course, it is.

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*than the cake." Bob Hope ~§~ "Forty is the old age of youth, fifty is*

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*...To Wrinkles*

*Steve Cartwright*



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*the youth of old age.” Victor Hugo ~§~ “A stockbroker urged me to buy*

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## *About the Authors*

**Carol Ayer** was born in Berkeley, California, in the early 1960s. She grew up in Orinda, California, and graduated from UC Berkeley. Her publication credits include *Woman's World* magazine, two Chicken Soup series books, *The Prairie Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *flashquake*. She has won awards from WOW-Women on Writing, *Artella Magazine*, and *Brady Magazine*.

**Roy A. Barnes** writes from southeastern Wyoming. His poetry and prose have appeared at *The Goblin Reader*, *Swimming Kangaroo*, *Heritage Writer*, *C/Oasis*, *Literary Liftoff*, *Poesia*, *The First Line*, and *Skive Magazine*. Roy's favorite baseball player is Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson, and his favorite team has always been the New York Yankees.

**Glenda Beall** reinvented herself in her late fifties, and followed her life-long passion. From writing as a child sitting high in a chinaberry tree, she came full circle and began publishing her work in 1995. She presently serves as Program Coordinator for the North Carolina Writers' Network West. Glenda is on faculty at the John C. Campbell Folk School. She also teaches at a junior college and in a church adult education program. Her classes are for senior adults who want to write about their lives for their children and grandchildren. She is a multi-genre writer, having published poetry in literary magazines, essays in anthologies and slick magazines. One of her stories will appear in *Cup of Comfort for Horse Lovers*. In her "spare" time, Glenda writes articles for the Valley River Humane Society

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*a stock that would triple its value every year. I told him, at my age, I*

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newsletter and for local newspapers. She also maintains a blog for her writers' group: [www.netwestwriters.blogspot.com](http://www.netwestwriters.blogspot.com).

**Betty Wilson Beamguard** writes full-time, specializing in magazine features, short fiction, and humorous essays. She has received over 30 honors for her writing, and her work has appeared in *Women in the Outdoors*, *South Carolina*, *Sasee*, *ByLine*, *The Writer* and more. In her humorous novel, *Weej and Johnnie Hit Florida*, two middle-age women spend a week in Florida trying to lose the jerk who is following them. Her most recent book is the biography of a woman who drives a draft horse with her feet – *How Many Angels Does It Take: The Remarkable Life of Heather Rose Brooks*. [www.home.earthlink.net/~bbeamguard](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~bbeamguard)

**Renie Burghardt**, who was born in Hungary, is a freelance writer with many credits. Her writing has appeared in 60 anthologies, like the Chicken Soup series, *Chocolate for Women*, Cup of Comfort series, Guideposts Books, *God Allows U-Turns*, God's Way Books, and many others. She has also been published in magazines like *Mature Living*, *Mature Years*, *Midwest Living*, *Missouri Life*, *Cat Fancy*, *Angels on Earth*, and others. She lives in a beautiful rural area and loves nature, animals, reading, writing, hiking, gardening, nature photography, and spending time with her friends and family, especially her three granddaughters. You can visit her blog here: [www.renieburghardtsworld.blogspot.com](http://www.renieburghardtsworld.blogspot.com).

**brenda wise byrd** is a grandmother who still lives in the Alabama town where she was born. She began journaling as a young teen and her joy in writing developed from that early beginning. Widowed at 26, she has seen life from a perspective none of us would choose, but one that has given her a greater appreciation of life and everyday pleasures. Much of her writing comes from observing the people and nature around her and transforming those "snapshots" into life lessons and inspirational moments. She has been locally published and is now seeking a broader audience.

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*don't even buy green bananas." Claude D. Pepper ~S~ "Live your life*

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**Steve Cartwright** (artist) bio needed

**Al Carty** is a Californian retired to the high plains of New Mexico. He grows garlic and chilis and roams the piñon-juniper hills and writes about the thoughts he finds there. He has been romancing the Muse for a long time. Sometimes she dances for him and sometimes she hides among his thoughts. Since he discovered that re-writing makes her smile, his stories and poems have been accepted by *Menda City Review*, *5th Story Review*, *Written Word*, *Anthology Builder*, *Age of Consciousness*, and *Cause and Effect Magazine*.

**Sally Clark** lives in Fredericksburg, Texas, with her husband, their children, and their grandchildren. Sally has practiced for retirement her entire life. When she finally achieved her goal in 2001, Sally began writing stories and poetry for children and adults. Her work has been published in the Chicken Soup series, the Cup of Comfort series, and several of June Cotner's gift books. Her poetry for children appears in Blooming Tree Press' *Summer Shorts* and *Sweet Dreams*. In the Christian field, Howard Books, Integrity Publishers, and Tyndale House have published her stories and poems.

**SuzAnne C. Cole** writes from a studio in the woods in the Texas Hill Country. She's published more than 350 poems, essays, short stories and articles in commercial and literary magazines, anthologies, and newspapers. She's been both a juried and featured poet at the Houston Poetry Fest and once won a haiku festival in Japan.

**TJ Coles** was raised and lived most of his life in the Pacific Northwest, in a large town that preferred to think of itself as a small town. He spent most of his summers on his grandmother's ranch and has worked as a logger, in mining, as a forest fire fighter, and as a security guard. TJ has been telling stories since he was eight years old. Some of them have even been

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*and forget your age." Norman Vincent Peale ~\$~ "My generation,*

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true. A number of magazines and dozens of online publications have published Coles' work. His day job is in civil engineering.

**Ginger B. Collins'** sailing tales have appeared in *Cruising World* and *Living Aboard Magazine*. Both *The Atlanta Journal Constitution* and *The Cincinnati Inquirer* have published her articles in their Sunday Travel Sections. She has two pieces of short fiction scheduled this summer in *Pig Iron Press*, a flash fiction story this winter in *LunchHour Stories*, and a story in "Voices of..." anthology, coming early in 2009 from LaChance Publishing. Recently retired from Atlanta to Canada's Cape Breton Island, Ginger and husband, Melvin, plan a retirement of sailing local and distant shorelines. Her web site is [www.GingerBCollins.com](http://www.GingerBCollins.com).

**R. Scott Comegys** lives in Shreveport, Louisiana, where she is a late-bloomer Boomer. Vintage 1952, she is a single mom with one daughter in college and a son in high school. She toils by day as a civil servant, fondly recollecting manual typewriters with tri-carbon inserts. And, although life is good with digital cable, she dearly misses the Indian Head TV test pattern.

**Carole Creekmore**, a Baby Boomer who grew up in rural eastern North Carolina, is a widow with two adult children, two lovely granddaughters, and an English Bulldog, Okie. With degrees in English from Wake Forest University, she teaches composition, literature, creative writing, and humanities at an Atlanta area college, writes prose and poetry whenever inspired, and enjoys traveling, genealogy, and photography. She has had several articles and poems published over the years, as well as the essay "Holiday Expectations – Then and Now" recently published in *Silver Boomers*.

**Barbara Crooker** has been writing poetry for more than 30 years, with credits in magazines such as *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Margie*, *Poetry East*, *Smartish Pace*, *Nimrod*, *River City*, *Yankee*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Poetry International*, *The Denver Quarterly*, *America*, *Highlights for Children*, and anthologies such as

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*faced as it grew with a choice between religious belief and existential*

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*Good Poems For Hard Times* (Viking, edited by Garrison Keillor), *Sweeping Beauty: Contemporary Women Poets Do Housework* (University of Iowa Press), and *Boomer Girls* (University of Iowa Press). She has two full-length books, *Radiance* and *Line Dance*, both from Word Press. She grew up in the mid-Hudson Valley in the fifties, went to college in New Jersey in the sixties, and now lives and writes in rural northeastern Pennsylvania.

**Barbara Darnall**, the daughter of a high school English teacher and a West Texas lawyer and rancher, has been surrounded by words all her life and grew up telling stories and writing scripts for her playmates to perform. She graduated from Baylor University with B.A. and M.A. degrees in drama, and taught at the college level for several years. She writes poetry, articles, and personal narratives, and has written and directed numerous short dramas for her church. She has copyedited one book and several manuscripts, and, as a tax consultant for more than thirty years, she particularly enjoys the letter-writing contests she occasionally gets into with the IRS!

**Mary Deal**, a native of Walnut Grove, California, in the Sacramento River Delta, has lived in England, the Caribbean, and now resides in Kapaa, Hawaii. She has published three novels: *The Tropics: Child of a Storm-Caught in a Rip-Hurricane Secret*, an adventure trilogy; *The Ka*, a paranormal Egyptian fantasy; and *River Bones*, her first thriller which is set in her childhood hometown area. *Down to the Needle* will be her next thriller due out early 2010 and set along the California coastline. Learn more about Mary, read short stories, novel excerpts, and writing tips on her web site: [www.writeanygenre.com](http://www.writeanygenre.com).

**Gail Denham**, a native Oregonian, has showcased her state with poetry, short stories, and photography for over 30 years. Her work has been published in national and international magazines. In addition, she enjoys leading writing workshops. Married, with four sons and (almost) 13 grandchildren, plus two great-grands, she and

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*déspair, chose marijuana. Now we are in our Cabernet stage." Peggy*

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her husband now live in central Oregon where Denham was raised. Life was quieter and slower when Denham grew up in Redmond and even in the years they brought up their family. She definitely appreciates the simple life best.

***Terrí Kirby Erickson*** of Lewisville, North Carolina, is the author of a book of poetry entitled, *Thread Count*. Her work has been published or accepted by *The Broad River Review*, *The Dead Mule*, *Pisgah Review*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Paris Voice*, *Old Mountain Press*, *Thieves Jargon*, *Forsyth Woman*, and the Hickory Women's Resource Center anthology *Voices and Vision: A Collection of Writings By and About Empowered Women*. The Northwest Cultural Council also selected her work in 2006 and 2007 for an international juried poetry exhibit.

***Joanne Faries***, originally from the Philadelphia area, lives in Texas with her husband Ray. She considers herself fortunate to be able to pursue a writing career after eons in the business world. Published previously in *Doorknobs & Bodypaint*, Joanne writes short stories, flash fiction, and poetry. She has works on ALongStory Short.com, Associatedcontent.com, in *Shine* magazine, *Chicken Soup for the Soul Kids in the Kitchen*, and has started a novel. Joanne enjoys reading and movies, and is the film critic for the *Little Paper of San Saba*. She is a member of Trinity Writer's Workshop in Bedford, Texas.

***Margaret Fieland***, born and raised in New York City, has been around art and music all her life. Her poems, articles and children's stories have appeared in, among others, *Main Channel Voices*, *Echolocation*, and *Stories for Children Magazine*. You may visit her web site, [www.margaretfieland.com](http://www.margaretfieland.com).

***Betty Jo Goddard*** traveled a packed road since her birth in Windsor, Illinois. While on that road, she acquired a BS from Illinois State, an MA from University of Colorado, and twenty-five years of teaching's bruises, successes, smiles, and love. Betty Jo

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*Noonan ~§~ "Middle age is when your age starts to show around your*

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retired from teaching in 1983, and now lives on a ridge top in Alaska with her three errant huskies. Since retiring from teaching, she's taken up writing as a hobby. This hobby gives her fun, and, when she tosses her lines in the publishing world's waters, enough bites to keep her dogs well fed.

***Ginny Greene*** likely arrived on Planet Earth with a bluepencil clutched in her fist. Past president of Abilene Writers Guild, her writing life includes years of newspaper lifestyle features, a newspaper column, and a handful of newsletters, including seven years editing the Guild's newsletter. For fun, Ginny writes poems and works crossword puzzles. She edits everything, even street signage, especially yard sale signs, even in her sleep. She's happiest seeing her love of words spilled over to her children and grandchildren, including daughter, Karen, also a Silver Boomer Books editor. While still loving her Northwest hometown, Ginny is at home with Larry near Abilene, Texas and her grown family. Ginny's book *Song of County Roads* is scheduled for publication in the fall of 2008.

***Rhoda Greenstone***, for the past two decades, has instructed Southern California college students in the joys of language arts and humanities. In a former life, she served as editor, feature writer, critic, and photo-journalist for many publications, including *The Hollywood Reporter*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Malibu Times*, and *Classics West Magazine*. A chapter she wrote deconstructing her poem "A Letter From L.A." will appear in *Poem, Revised* (Marion Street Press) in 2008. Her poetry, short stories and essays have appeared in various journals. Currently she is arbitrating with a muse who insists on dictating – at the least convenient times – a novel about a family of artists set to self destruct, called *Lost Paradise*.

***Jane Gwaltney*** was born on Travis Air Base near San Francisco, but has resided in St. Louis, Missouri, most of her life. A member of Midwestern Writers of Horror and Writers Under the Arch, she has twice received Honorable Mention in The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror. Her poetry, fiction, and art appear in *Dreams and*

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*middle.*" Bob Hope ~§~ "Few people know how to be old." François De

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*Nightmares, Mothering Magazine, Yellow Bat Review, Spinning Whorl, Redsine, The Blue Lady, Breath and Shadow, Champagne Shivers, Simulacrum, Aoife's Kiss, and more.* Her novella *Darkness, Darkness* is available in trade paperback.

**Becky Haigler** is retired after 24 years of teaching Spanish and reading in Texas public secondary schools. Her poetry has appeared in national and regional periodicals. Her short stories for adolescents have been published by several denominational publishing houses. Two of her magic realism stories are included in the anthology *Able to...* (NeoNuma Arts Press, 2006.) Becky currently resides in Shreveport, Louisiana, with her husband Dave Haigler. She is the mother of two daughters and grandmother of three granddaughters. Becky is currently working on a collection of magic realism stories. More of her poetry appears on her family blog, [www.xanga.com/anchorpoet](http://www.xanga.com/anchorpoet).

**Heather Haldeman** lives in Pasadena, California and began writing nine years ago after her oldest son left for college. She has been married to her husband, Hank, for 29 years and has three children. She has published several personal essays and is currently writing a book.

**Joy Harold Helsing** is an ex-salesclerk, ex-secretary, ex-textbook editor, ex-psychologist, ex-college instructor, ex-New Englander, ex-San Franciscan who now lives in the Sierra Nevada foothills of Northern California. Her work has appeared in *Bellowing Ark, Brevities, Byline, California Quarterly, Centrifugal Eye, Leading Edge, The Mid-America Poetry Review, Möbius, Poetalk, Poetry Depth Quarterly, The Raintown Review, Rattlesnake Review, Writers' Journal*, and elsewhere. She has published three chapbooks and one book, *Confessions of the Hare* (PWJ Publishing).

**Frances Hern** splits her time between Calgary, Alberta, and Golden, British Columbia, both in Canada, where she writes poetry, non-fiction and children's fiction. Her books include *Norman*

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*La Rochefoucauld ~§~ "My only fear is that I may live too long. This*

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*Bethune* (James Lorimer), *Arctic Explorers* (Heritage House) and *Aunt Maud's Mittens* (Scholastic Canada). She has also recently published poetry and prose in *Silver Boomers* and *Poetry for Big Kids* (Neil Harding McAlister).

*Linda Oatman High* is the author of 21 books, as well as a journalist/poet/songwriter. Linda's newest book is *The Hip Grandma's Handbook*, and Linda blogs regularly on [www.hipgrandma.com](http://www.hipgrandma.com), a site for (cool) Boomer grandmothers. Earning her MFA at Vermont College, she will graduate the same year that her grandson graduates from kindergarten! A frequent presenter at conferences, libraries, and schools, Linda may be contacted at [lohigh@frontiernet.net](mailto:lohigh@frontiernet.net).

*Jeanne Holtzman* is an aging hippie, writer and women's health care practitioner, not necessarily in that order. Born in the Bronx, she prolonged her adolescence as long as possible in Vermont and currently lives with her husband and daughter in Massachusetts. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in such publications as *The Providence Journal*, *Writer's Digest*, *The First Line*, *Twilight Times*, *Chick Flicks*, *flashquake*, *Salome*, *Hobart Pulp online*, *Hip Mama*, *EveryDay Fiction* and *The Iconoclast*. You may reach Jeanne at [J.holtzman@comcast.net](mailto:J.holtzman@comcast.net).

*Jo Anne Horn-Burks* is a self-proclaimed dabbler. She dabbles in writing, oil painting, playing piano and says she has just enough talent to keep herself amused. She worked as a secretary in various fields before remarrying in 1975. She attended The University of Texas at San Antonio for two years before relocating to Lake Brownwood, Texas. For twelve years, she worked, along with her husband, as an EMT with their volunteer fire department.

*Juleigh Howard-Hobson's* work has recently appeared in *Lucid Rhythms*, *The Barefoot Muse*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *Umbrella*, *The Chimaera*, *Loch Raven Review*, *Every Day Stories*,

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*would be a subject of dread to me." Thomas Jefferson ~S~ "I'm like*

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*Shatter Colors Literary Review, The Raintown Review, Mobius, Fourteen Magazine, Perspectives* and... *Silver Boomers*. She is a tail-end member of the Baby Boom generation, a bit more punk rock than Woodstock.

**Michael Lee Johnson**, a poet and freelance writer, is self-employed in advertising and selling custom promotional products. He's author of *The Lost American: From Exile to Freedom*, has published two chapbooks of poetry, is nominated for the James B. Baker Award in poetry, Sam's Dot Publishing, and contributed poetry to *Silver Boomers*. Currently living in Itasca, Illinois, U.S.A., he lived in Canada during the Vietnam era and will be published (early 2008) in the anthology *Crossing Lines: Poets Who Came to Canada in the Vietnam War Era*. His web sites include [poetryman.mysite.com](http://poetryman.mysite.com) where his other sites are linked.

**Karen Karlitz** grew up in Forest Hills, New York, during the 1960s. (What she remembers, she thoroughly enjoyed.) She worked as an associate editor and writer for *Pharmacy Times* magazine before relocating to California. For several years she was a regular contributor to the *Los Angeles Times*, and also worked as a writer and editor for *Beverly Hills 90210* and the *Brentwood News*, and *Santa Monica Sun*. Her work has appeared in these publications, as well as in the *Miranda Literary Magazine* and the *Foliage Oak Literary Magazine*. Currently, she lives and writes short stories in south Florida.

**James Keane** resides in northern New Jersey with his wife and son and a menagerie of merry pets. He has been writing and revising his poetry over the course of the hundred years since he earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English Literature at Georgetown University. He has been privileged to have his poems appear, most recently, in *The Houston Literary Review*, the *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *The Chimaera*, the *Taj Mahal Review*, and

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*old wine. They don't bring me out very often, but I'm well preserved."*

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*Contemporary American Voices*, where he was the Featured Poet of the August 2007 issue.

**Helga Kidder** has lived in the Tennessee hills for 30 years, raised two daughters, half a dozen cats, and a few dogs. She received her BA in English from the University of Tennessee, and MFA in Writing from Vermont College. She is co-founder of the Chattanooga Writers Guild and leads their poetry group.

Her poetry and translations have appeared in *The Louisville Review*, *The Southern Indiana Review*, *The Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Comstock Review*, *Eleventh Muse*, *Snake Nation Review*, *Voices International*, *Moebius*, *Free Focus*, *Phoenix*, *Chug*, and others, and three anthologies.

**Blanche L. Ledford** is a native of Hayesville, North Carolina. She grew up during the Great Depression in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina and often writes about this time. Her work has appeared in *Blue Ridge Guide*; *Lights in the Mountains*; *Looking Back*; *Sand, Sea & Sail*; *Night Whispers*, and other journals. She's an avid reader and member of Georgia Mountain Writer's Club.

**Larry Lefkowitz'** stories, poems, and humor have been published in literary reviews and magazines in the U.S., England, and Israel where he lives. He has self-published humor books, and is currently trying to find a publisher for his novel *Lieberman*. It concerns the assistant to a literary critic who is asked by the critic's wife following the latter's death to complete his unfinished novel. Though set in Israel, the novel is universal in theme and is replete with literary allusions. Larry is also trying to find a publisher for his detective novel, *Trouble in Jades* about a series of murders in a jades museum.

**Denton Loving** makes his home in Speedwell, Tennessee. He works in the advancement offices at Lincoln Memorial

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*Rose F. Kennedy ~S~ "The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is*

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University, where he also assists directing the Mountain Heritage Literary Festival. His short story, “Authentically Weathered Lumber,” was chosen in 2007 as the first winner of the Gurney Norman Prize for Short Fiction, a contest judged by Mr. Norman through the literary journal *Kudzu*. Loving’s poetry has also appeared in *The Birmingham Arts Journal*.

**Eileen Malone** lives in the coastal fog of the San Francisco Bay Area where she directs the Soul-Making Literary Competition, which she founded in 1994, and hosts/produces “Pen Women Presents,” interviews with creative people on Access San Francisco Channel 29. She is widely published, and last year two of her poems were nominated for Pushcart prizes.

**Arlene Mason** is an author and freelance technical writer who lives with her husband, a miniature poodle and a calico cat outside of Dallas, Texas. She writes on a variety topics, drawing from her diverse experience. She has contributed articles to a varied collection of online and print magazines. She says that writing keeps her sane; most people agree.

**Janet McCann** has poetry in journals such as *Kansas Quarterly*, *Parnassus*, *Nimrod*, *Sou'wester*, *Christian Century*, *Christianity and Literature*, *New York Quarterly*, *Tendrill*, *Poetry Australia*, and *McCall's*, among many others.

**Lyn Messersmith** is a third generation rancher, a freelance writer, newspaper columnist, and purveyor of horse sense, nonsense, and occasional wisdom. She is affiliated with Nebraska and South Dakota Humanities Councils and, with a friend, offers writing workshops and historical programs of original music and poetry based on the lives of people who helped open the West.

Lyn has published two books of poetry. *Ground Tied* won a 2004 Will Rogers Medallion Award from the Academy of Western Artists. Her book of daily reflections is titled *My Sister Mariah; the Journal of a Windwalker*.

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*what is important.” Martin Luther King, Jr. ~S~ “It is a sobering*

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**Anthony J. Mohr** writes from his home in southern California. His essays, memoirs, and short stories have appeared in *Bibliophilos*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Circle Magazine*, *Currents*, *Literary House Review*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *Skyline Magazine*, and *Word Riot*. Two of his works have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His hobbies include hiking, travel, horseback riding, and improv theater.

**Michael Neal Morris** has published online and in print in *Borderlands*, *Lynx Eye*, *The Concho River Review*, *Illya's Honey*, *The Distillery*, *Dogwood Tales Magazine*, *The GW Review*, *Liberty Hill Poetry Review*, *The Mid-South Review*, *Chronogram*, *Contemporary Rhyme*, *Haruah*, *T-Zone*, *Flash-Flooding*, *Glassfire Magazine*, and *Mouth Full of Bullets*. He lives with his wife and children just outside the Dallas area, and teaches at Eastfield College. He is seeking publication of his first collection of stories, *The End of the Argument*, and his collection of poems, *Wrestling Light*.

**Sheryl L. Nelms**, Kansas native, graduated from South Dakota State University in Family Relations and Child Development. Her poems, stories and articles have appeared in periodicals and anthologies including *Readers' Digest*, *Modern Maturity*, *Capper's*, *Kaleidoscope*, *Grit*, *Cricket*, over 4,500 times. Twelve collections of her poetry have been published.

Sheryl has taught writing and poetry at conferences, colleges and schools. She was a Bread Loaf Contributor at the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference, Middlebury, Vermont. She has served as editor for many journals, including her current post as essay editor of *The Pen Woman Magazine*, the membership magazine of the National League of American Pen Women. She holds membership in The Society of Southwestern Authors, Abilene Writers Guild, and Trinity Arts Writers Association.

**Karen Neuberg** is retired after 40 years working as an information specialist, public librarian, marketing researcher, and social worker. Her work has appeared or is pending in literary journals

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*thought, that when Mozart was my age he had been dead for two*

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and anthologies including *Phoebe*, *Poems Niederngasse*, *42Opus*, *Louisville Review*, and *Riverine, An Anthology of Hudson Valley Writers*. She's a Pushcart and Best of the Net nominee, holds an MFA from the New School, and lives in Brooklyn, New York, and West Hurley, New York, with her husband. They are about to become grandparents for the second time.

*Linda O'Connell's* work has appeared in several Chicken Soup series books, numerous anthologies, periodicals and literary magazines. Linda is a seasoned early childhood teacher in St. Louis, Missouri. She also teaches a senior citizen memoir writing class.

She and her husband, Bill, have a blended family of four adult children, and nine grandchildren who tickle their fancy.

*Quanah Parker*, Kansas-born in 1946, is a distant cousin of his Indian Chief namesake. His family moved to Abilene, Texas, then Norman, Oklahoma, returning to Abilene so Quanah and older brother Quay could attend Abilene Christian University, "getting them away from Philistine OU women." Both brothers sold Bibles to put themselves through college and law school. After University of Texas Law, Lt. Parker led an Army MP Platoon from 1971 to 1972 and was a Captain in the Reserves from 1974 to 1982. An Abilene resident, he's practiced law for 35 years. His daughter Padgett and son Paden live in Austin, and son, Pride, daughter-in-law Allison, and granddaughter Pressley in Houston.

*Meg Pearce* lives in northern Ontario with her retired military firefighter husband and is surrounded by most of her family. Some of her short stories can be found in the anthology *Confabulation* published by Winterblue Publishing in June, 2008.

*Yvonne Pearson* is a writer and clinical social worker who lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her poetry and essays have appeared in a variety of publications, including *Sing, Heavenly Muse!*,

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*years." Tom Lehrer ~S~ "Getting older is no problem. You just have*

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*Transformations*, *Wolf Head Quarterly*, *Poetry Calendar 2000*, and *Studio One*. She is the recipient of a Loft Creative Non-Fiction Award, has participated in readings at The Loft, the University of Minnesota, and the American Association of University Women, St. Paul branch, and is the co-author of several books.

**James Penha**, a native New Yorker, has lived for the past sixteen years in Indonesia. *No Bones to Carry*, Penha's most recent volume of poetry, is available from New Sins Press at [www.newsinspress.com](http://www.newsinspress.com). Among the most recent of his many other published works are articles in the NCTE's *Classroom Notes Plus*; fiction at *East of the Web*, *BigPulp*, and *Ignavia*; and poems in *THEMA* and in the anthologies *Queer Collection* (Fabulist Flash Publishing), *Only the Sea Keeps: Poetry of the Tsunami* (Bayeux Press), and *Silver Boomers*. Penha edits a web site for current-events poetry at [www.newversenews.com](http://www.newversenews.com).

**Diana M. Raab**, M.F.A., essayist, memoirist and poet, teaches at the UCLA Extension Writers' Program and the Santa Barbara Writers Conference. A columnist for InkByte.com, she writes and lectures on journaling. Her memoir *Regina's Closet: Finding My Grandmother's Secret Journal* is a finalist for Best Book of the Year by *ForeWord Magazine*. She has two poetry collections, *My Muse Undresses Me* and *Dear Anais: My Life in Poems for You*. Her writing has appeared *The Writer*, *Writers Journal*, *Skylight Review*, *Rosebud*, *The Louisville Review*, *Palo Alto Review*, *Oracle*, *The Binnacle*, *Homestead*, and *Red River Review*. She's the recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Book award for *Getting Pregnant and Staying Pregnant: Overcoming Infertility and High Risk Pregnancy*. Visit her web site: [www.dianaraab.com](http://www.dianaraab.com).

**Kerín Riley-Bishop** is an editor and partner of Silver Boomer Books. She is a poet, photographer and casual painter. A deep spirituality and love of nature provides ample fuel for her writing endeavors. She is a member of local writing and critique groups, and currently has several writing and photography projects

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*to live long enough." Groucho Marx ~§~ "The older I grow the more*

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pending. She lives in West Texas with her partner, Mason, and their two children.

**Barbara B. Rollins** lives in Abilene, Texas, a judge who writes while waiting for lawyers. A member of SCBWI, her children's books include the novel *Syncopated Summer* and a forensic series *Fingerprint Evidence*, *Ballistics*, *Cause of Death*, and *Blood Evidence*. Her work has appeared in *Byline*, *Kidz Ch@t*, *R\*A\*D\*A\*R*, and *Off the Record*, an anthology of poetry by lawyers. The past president of Abilene Writers Guild maintains the group's web site as well as those of other nonprofits besides her [www.SharpWriters.com](http://www.SharpWriters.com). Like many Baby Boomers, she shares her husband with two dogs while worrying about aging parents, two sons, and daughters-in-law. She is a principal in Silver Boomer Books.

**Ruth Sellers**, 83 years old and a retired teacher, lives with her husband, Doug, on a farm in Runnels County, Texas. She has written for publication since the early 1990s. Her credits include publication in *Crafts 'n' Things*, *World and I*, *History Magazine*, newspaper articles in *Abilene Reporter-News*, *Winters Enterprise*, *Ballinger Ledger*, and prizes in many writers' contests. She taught school at primary level and at the Reading Center in Abilene, Texas. She has done freelance writing since her retirement from teaching in 1980, and is a past president of Abilene Writers Guild.

**Doug Sellers**, a lifetime manic-depressive, encourages others dealing with the condition. Now age 77, he retired from school teaching in 1979. He lives simply and writes about good times from his past. He keeps membership in Abilene Writers Guild current (1992 to present), and wins awards in their contests. Doug lives with his wife of 37 years, Ruth, on a farm in Runnels County where he stores his collection of antique farm machinery. He graduated from Hardin-Simmons University, 1970, with a Master's Degree in Administrative Education. He is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, 1952 to 1956.

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*I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom." H. L.*

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**Paula Sergi** is the author of *Family Business*, a collection of poems from Finishing Line Press, May, 2005, and co-editor of *Boomer Girls: Poems by Women from the Baby Boom Generation*, University of Iowa Press, 1999. She received a Wisconsin Arts Board Artist Fellowship in 2001. Her poetry is published regularly in such journals as *The Bellevue Literary Review*, *Primavera*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review* and *The American Journal of Nursing*. She holds an MFA in creative writing from Vermont College and a BSN from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Elizabeth Simpson** was a college instructor and continues to run an Author-Reading Series. She has published two nonfiction books: *The Perfection of Hope: Journey Back to Health* (1997), nominated for the B.C.Book Prize and VanCity Award and translated into Spanish; and *One Man at a Time: Confessions of a Serial Monogomist* (2000), nominated for the B.C.Book Prize. She has also published short stories: *Slipping the Noose* (Seal Press 2004). Two of her short stories were broadcast on CBC radio: “Dressed for Suicide” (April 2002) and “Puppy Love” (October 2003). Currently she is working on a novel, *The Marmalade Moon*.

**J. J. Steinfeld**, fiction writer, poet, and playwright, lives in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. He has published a novel, *Our Hero in the Cradle of Confederation* (Pottersfield Press), nine short story collections, three by Gaspereau Press – *Should the Word Hell Be Capitalized?*, *Anton Chekhov Was Never in Charlottetown*, and *Would You Hide Me?* – and a poetry collection, *An Affection for Precipices* (Serengeti Press). His short stories and poems have appeared in numerous anthologies and periodicals internationally, and over thirty of his one-act and full-length plays have been performed in Canada and the United States.

**Judith Strasser** has published two poetry collections, *Sand Island Succession: Poems of the Apostles* and *The Reason/Unreason Project*, and a memoir, *Black Eye: Escaping a*

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*Mencken ~§~ “How old would you be if you didn't know how old you*

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*Marriage, Writing a Life*. Her work has appeared widely in literary journals, including *Poetry*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Witness*, and *Prairie Schooner*. Her blog, *In Lieu of Speech*, reflects on her life as a survivor of metastatic stomach cancer. ([www.inlieuofspeech.blogspot.com](http://www.inlieuofspeech.blogspot.com))

***Kathie Sutherland*** is a Canadian poet, essayist and workshop facilitator. Her journaling workshops promote awareness and personal growth, and empower others to find meaning and purpose in their everyday experiences. She is passionate about journaling for self-discovery. Her prose was recently published in *Silver Boomers*; *Outside of Ordinary: Women's Stories of Transformation*; *WestWord*, membership magazine of the Alberta Writers Guild; in *Canadian Grandparent*; *The Toronto Globe & Mail*; and *The Edmonton Journal*. Her poetry appears on the following web sites [www.women-at-heart.com](http://www.women-at-heart.com); [www.blueskiespoetry.ca](http://www.blueskiespoetry.ca); and [www.leafpress.ca](http://www.leafpress.ca).

***Andrea Zamarrípa Theisen*** was born and raised in Uvalde Texas. At age 13, she dropped out of 7<sup>th</sup> grade to begin working full time. She started writing in her late 40s, contributing to the newspaper *La Voz de Uvalde*, *Catholic Digest*, and South West Texas Junior College's *The Palm Leaf*.

***Lisa Timpf*** lives near Everett, Ontario, where she enjoys walking in the woods, observing nature, and organic gardening. Her poetry and creative non-fiction have appeared in a variety of venues, including *The Country Connection*, *Canadian Stories*, *the Creemore Echo*, and *Horizon Magazine*. Her writing credits include one non-fiction book, entitled *St. George's Lawn Tennis Club: The First Hundred Years*.

***Suellen Wedmore***, Poet Laureate *emerita* for the small seaside town of Rockport, Massachusetts, has been awarded first place in the *Writer's Digest* rhyming poem contest and was selected as an international winner in the *Atlanta Review* annual contest. Recently her chapbook *Deployed* was selected as winner of

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*are?" Leroy (Satchel) Paige ~S~ "You're getting old when all the names*

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