

me for answers because I didn't volunteer. While most of the girls flocked to her on the playground during recess, I'd be out on the perimeter by myself. She'd ask me why I didn't join in the fun with the other girls and I'd say, I don't know. She'd see me staring off into space and ask me what I was doing. I'd reply, Thinking.

There weren't many points at which she could connect with me during that time. What great testament to a teacher's commitment to her students and her career that she found a way to encourage me. Language (oh, and chocolate) were the great joys of my school days. I can't really say which was better, a Mars Bar or a spelling bee. Mrs. Flanagan knew of my infatuation for words and found her opportunity to draw me out.

That year, I read Daphne du Maurier, Edna Ferber, Taylor Caldwell, and Pearl S. Buck. Their novels were wonderful rich tapestries weaving adventure and relationships, with big words I had to look up. The dictionary became my friend. And, thanks to Mrs. Flanagan, I read those books with the hearty blessing of the librarian. It was years later that I learned of the conspiratorial guidance between teacher and librarian who directed my reading selections for the next couple of years.

"This one can." Important words at an important time. Simple words that flavored the soup of my life. The teacher who spoke them could not have known what magic she stirred into the mix, but in my brain there is a notch, a cog, a benchmark – something that helped foster a love of books and words. Because of three words spoken decades ago, a teacher made a difference in my life that keeps me writing and reading even today.

Malleable

Kerín Riley-Bishop

Space surrounds us
Void and solid both
Which yearn to shape our form.
We are comprised of
Positive and negative light.
Forces warring for balance
Which we must strive for
Within and without.
That we may walk the paths of our ancestors,
Cross the bridges of forever,
And become our yesterday, today, tomorrow.



*...and we plan
future paths.*

Untitled

Jordan Reyes, age 10

I stood beside the small, clear, and remarkable pond, I stared deep into the six-inch pond, until a soft breeze blew through the strands of my hair.

I still was focused on the sight of the pond until the breeze got stronger and stronger, then it began to sprinkle, then lightning and the sound of thunder began to burst into different places in the sky.

I started to walk trying to act brave during all the commotion, and I walked upon the dead dried leaves listening to the crunching sounds of them, then I began to walk faster, then I began to run.

I was so frightened tears began to pour out of my eyes uncontrollably, and every step I took made my feet numb, and then I was so focused I obviously tripped over a large tree stump, and plus even though I was determined getting home I got back up then I was so out of breath I stopped and bent down, and just a few seconds later I turned around to see what I was running from, then right the second I looked at it, I started running again.

Definitely change 'than' to 'then.' The others are punctuation items that we would change if they appeared in an adult's work. Why not here? The comma after the first 'pond' needs to be a period or at least a semicolon. The ellipsis should be three dots only.

Change 'bend' to 'bent.' I really don't like leaving this as one long, run-on sentence. I don't think the run-on makes it more 'ten-year-old cute,' just unedited. My two cents.

Carlsbad Caverns

Riley McCone at age 11

The Carlsbad Caverns were the best caves I have been in so far. The rocks were amazing; one of them looked like three scoops of ice cream on a cone, and I thought “rock flavored ice cream, Yum!”

I could feel the moist air and its horrid smell. The air smelled like rotten eggs; it was nauseating.

The pools were so clear I didn't see them at first and I thought they were ditches because of the reflection. Sometimes water from the stalactites dripped on my sister and me. My sister freaked out.

There were some stalagmites that looked like popcorn. I could just taste that buttery popcorn. Mmm!

We also got to be the last people to go in a special part of the tour with the bottomless pit; it was marked off. We got to because it was our first trip to Carlsbad Caverns, so we also did not plan very well.

At the end of the tour, we got to go on an elevator to the top. We also got to see the bats fly up from the caves.

I had to give up the West Texas Fair and Rodeo for the Carlsbad Caverns, but I would not trade it for anything. All and all I had a great time.

Untitled

Annalyn Miller, at age 15

I am from Pink Converse and rainbow barrettes.
From the spring day that is the photo-booth photo.
The two laughing girls that are attacking each other.
I am from the notes hidden away in sheet music.
The chords of fragments of broken songs.
The lost voice of the singing bird.
I am from the chocolate mess on the stove.
It's still oozing from many sunny days ago.
From the snapshot moments.
The too big smiles and sparkling eyes,
And fights in the kitchen about who is doing the dishes.
All captured in the Kodak.
From the pearl earrings I had wanted to show off.
I am from the mirror with paintings prisoner inside.
From the strands of multi-colored rainbow yarn hair of the
dish towel doll.
And from the plastic of the glow-in-the-dark bracelet —
“Candy.”
I am from the strawberry patch that made me sick.
From the huge trampoline that felt like a cage.
The glass ballerina that never fit on the Christmas tree.
Smoke that fills your lungs even when Marianne is outside.
I am from the worries that fill my friend, my sister's mind.
The worries and memories that dance through her during the

night.

She is counting the ways she will fail.

I am from out of the dark, begging her to pick roses with me.

“Too afraid of thorns. Too afraid of pain.”

She is more afraid of the tears she has yet to shed.

I am from that fear, those worries, and those tears.

From the glossy picture with bright neon pink hair.

I am from the real world, the one with big problems.

From the spray paint, blue smoke, and broken hearts.

The sad stories that aren't mine, but I'm in them.

I write them. I illustrate them.

I breathe life into them.

The Empty Room

Nate Giesecke, age 15

He was a musician, says the trombone

waiting to be played in the corner;

procrastinator, too, say the stacks of homework

waiting to be finished by the TV;

and a good Christian, too,

says the Bible by the door,

marked, ready to be read on Sunday;

but not one to be organized, say the clothes

thrown everywhere on the floor

longing to be picked up.

A brother lived with him, says the flash drive
full of data, and the new computer
covered with fingerprints; and he had a dog
says the bed made from old towels and cushions.
Money was plentiful, says the Nintendo Wii
and big-screen TV playing in the family room,
and the nights quiet, says the dog sleeping in its bed.
During the day however, the place was packed,
say the directors chairs strewn across the back yard.

Someone was missing, says the empty room
in Sears Nursing Home. The old orthotics
say she was a podiatrist; the choir singing
"Amazing Grace" says she loved God with all her
heart, soul, mind and strength.
And the kid? Memories of his great-grandmother are
engraved into his mind like words on a tombstone.
Nursing home visitations, foot checkups with love
in every moment, Thanksgivings.
Someone was missing, they say.

Aerials

Cody Holloway, age 16

The stifling humidity in the evening air is surpassed only by the sheer number of mosquitoes which swim through it, obsessively seeking an unsupervised child or small dog to carry away into the night. The lake is serene, and the same can be said of the lakeside. Essence of stale beer and cigarette smoke and droning conversation lingers over the contented laziness of the lake's surface. There is a simple stage with an amp and a stool, lit faintly by strings of glowing bulbs that surround its perimeter. A relatively small group of friends and family sits directly in front of the stage, rambling on about how good the dinner of home cooked barbecue was, and how nothing has changed and never will change in their familiar little town. I sit in their midst, absentmindedly immersed in the tranquility and simply existing, when the first note is plucked. My uncle Brent has materialized on stage, cradling on his knee a worn acoustic guitar. The first tone is but a whisper, a mystery that pleads infinitesimal questions of life. But, it is followed by another of its brethren, then another and another, until the floodgate has been fully opened and a seamless torrent of euphony pours forth. Serpentine melody entwines itself about the last rays of the retreating summer sun; this crescendos to the zenith of deep chords that resonate beautifully amongst dark crowned mesquite thorns and red dust. His fire roars through his closed eyes,

reverberating within the nature around him, fervor enveloping his every stroke of metallic string...

As the final harmony faded into nothing, I was drawn out of my mesmerized stupor and back to the lake that had seemingly drifted into the distant past. The idea of ten fingers and a guitar pick (much less a solitary person) blazing with so much energy, so much life, would have been labeled completely absurd to me had I not just witnessed the epitome of human emotion. This is the vividly painted image that I will always idolize and remember. Not only did Brent aid in nurturing my love affair with music (I took up guitar shortly after), but he also left an imprint that has grown to be more significant than anyone will know. My uncle's passion is something I long to experience, to feel, to call my very own; thus, I have emulated how I live my life by his standard: finding something you love to do and expressing it with no bars to hold you back.

Meet the Authors

Lee Ardell is a native Texan, currently living in Houston and Galveston with her husband, Bob. She graduated from Austin College with a degree in history and serves on the College's Board of Trustees. She took up writing after a career in banking. Her work has been published in *New Texas*, *Bayou Review* and *400 Words*.

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

Janis Hughen Bell is a native Houstonian. She graduated from The University of Texas at Austin, where her writing vocation began as editor of the *Cactus* yearbook. After a 30-year career as a commercial interior designer, she retired to pursue writing and art projects. She lives in Houston, Texas and Georgetown, Colorado with husband Richard Bell.

Ann Reisfeld Boutte is a former feature writer for a daily newspaper and a national wire service. Her work has appeared in *New Texas*, *Houston Woman's Magazine*, *My Table*, *Suddenly*, five *Texas Poetry Calendars*, and many other publications. She was a Juried Poet in the Houston Poetry Fest in 2001 and 2005.

Stewart Caffey, a copyeditor, and his wife, Donajean, moved to Abilene when he retired from teaching in 1996. He publishes *The Sidney Eagle*, a quarterly nostalgic newsmagazine about the Sidney school and community (Comanche County, Texas) and serves as newsletter editor for the Abilene Retired Teachers Association. Caffey also remains active in his church, Abilene Writers Guild (past president and lifetime member), and the Texas Oral History Association. His books include *My 20-Year Love Affair*, *A Gallon of White Lightning*, and *Patchwork of Memories*.

Judy Callarman lives in Cisco, Texas. She teaches creative writing and English at Cisco Junior College and is chair of the Fine Arts Division. She enjoys writing mostly nonfiction and has recently discovered she loves writing unrhymed poetry. Several of her works have won contests and been published in newspapers and journals. Two of her long nonfiction narratives were competition finalists in the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference of the Southwest in 2006 and 2007. A short nonfiction work was published in *Passager*. She is working on a collection of World War II memoirs based on letters from her father.

Mary Carter grew up in Amarillo and lived most of her adult life in Lubbock. West Texas culture and landscape continue to influence her writing.

Brianna Cedes recently started writing after twenty years of teaching science on the primary and secondary levels in public schools in Oregon. Her favorite part of her work was encouraging young girls to think about having careers in the sciences. She has four grandchildren and occasionally does messy science experiments in the kitchen with them.

Becky Chakov lived in Minneapolis, Minnetonka and Mound, Minnesota; Los Angeles, Chicago and Philadelphia before moving to Bemidji, Minnesota. She began writing years ago and had poems published in *Poetry Parade*, *Christian Century* magazine, the *Chicago Tribune's* column, "A Line O' Type or Two," and the Bemidji State University's women's anthology, *Dust & Fire 2007*. She is 82.

SuzAnne C. Cole writes from a studio in the woods in the Texas Hill Country. More than 350 of her poems, essays, short stories and articles have appeared in commercial and literary magazines, anthologies, and newspapers. She was a juried poet at the Houston Poetry Fest in 2003 and 2005, a featured poet in 2004, and once won a haiku festival in Japan. She was pleased to be included in the anthology *Silver Boomers*.

Carlos Colon, a librarian in Shreveport, Louisiana, is the author of 11 chapbooks including *Mountain Climbing and Clocking Out*, two collections of haiku and concrete poetry, *Circling Bats and Wall Street Park*, two books of concrete renku written with Raffael de Gruttola. Colon's work has appeared in *Modern Haiku*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Journal of Poetry Therapy*, *Writer's Digest*, *Byline*, and other publications. In addition, he is editor of Shreve Memorial Library's *Electronic Poetry Network*. Colon is featured in a new book, *Haiku: the art of the short poem*, and its accompanying video.

Carol Bryan Cook has hundreds of works of poetry and short stories published. Traveling and living in seven countries and thirty-nine of the fifty states for over twenty-five years allowed her to gather glimpses of people and life along the way. Her travels, unique and myriad experiences, friendships, and losses encountered, provided never-ending material. Stories of heartache, love, life, and entanglements endured and touched her heart. An artist and author retired from the business world, she and her artist husband live beside a tranquil lake in Texas.

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 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!

David Davis is a humorist, cartoonist, writer, and speaker. He is the author of ten published books so far. He grew up in San Antonio, Texas, and currently lives in Fort Worth. Most of his stories draw on his Texas roots, and his "baby-boomer" love of music. Davis is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. His *Jazz Cats* and *Ten Redneck Babies* were both named to the Children's Choice Top 100. *Jazz Cats* was a finalist for the Texas Golden Spur Award. His satirical *Night Before Christmas* books are perennial comedy best-sellers. His picture books, *Texas Mother Goose* and *Texas Aesop's Fables* will delight Texans of all ages. His website is www.DavidRDavis.com.

June Rose Dowis reads, writes and resides in Shreveport, Louisiana. As a church librarian, she is in constant contact with the world of words. Her essays have been published in *Birds and Blooms*, *Byline* and *Appleseeds* magazines. After a year-long stint as a freelance writer for a local publication, she is currently plunging into the world of poetry.

Sharon Ellison

Errid Farland lives in Southern California and writes at a cluttered table where a candle burns to create an aura of serenity. Sometimes she accidentally catches things on fire which turns the aura into angry yellows and reds and sort of wrecks the whole serenity thing. Her stories have appeared in *Barrelhouse*, *Word Riot*, *storySouth*, *Pindledyboz*, *GUD*, and other places. One of her stories received an editor nomination for storySouth's Million Writers Awards.

Judith Groudine Finkel left the practice of law to complete her legal thriller *Texas Justice* and her memoir *The Three Stooges Gene*. Excerpts from the latter, including "My Cousins, the Three Stooges" and "Betty Crocker and Me," appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*. Her short stories have been published in the *Birmingham Arts Journal*, *The Cuivre River Anthology Volume III*, *The Heartland Review* and *Sin Fronteras Journal*. She is the recipient of a Summer Fishtrap 2008 Fellowship.

Sarah Getty's second book of poems, *Bring Me Her Heart* (2006, Higganum Hill Books) received Pulitzer and NBA nominations. Her first collection, *The Land of Milk and Honey*, was published in 1996 by the University of South Carolina Press, as part of the James Dickey Contemporary Poetry Series. Her poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The New Republic*, and *Calyx* and in anthologies including *Birds in the Hand* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004). Sarah has published fiction in *The Iowa Review* and has recently completed a novel about growing up in the Midwest in the Fifties.

Nate Giesecke

Ginny Greene likely arrived on Planet Earth with a blue pencil 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 2009.

Phil Gruis is a former newspaper editor who took up poetry in 2002 – challenging the old dog/new trick theory. His poems have since appeared in dozens of journals, and his photos in a few. He's the author of two chapbooks, *Outside the House of Normal* (2006) and *Bullets and Lies* (2007), both published by Finishing Line Press. He lives on Kootenay Lake in British Columbia, and in North Idaho.

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.

Janet Hartman, a software developer who chose early retirement and spent six years cruising on a sailboat, now lives on land in Beaufort, North Carolina. Her writing has appeared in *SAIL*, *Latitudes & Attitudes*, *Living Aboard*, and the anthology *Making Notes: Music of the Carolinas*. She currently serves as president of Carteret Writers.

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 divides her time between Calgary, Alberta, and Golden, British Columbia. She loves Calgary's sunny skies and puts up with cold, snowy winters because she enjoys downhill skiing. She's had numerous poems published for both adults and children, along with two books of non-fiction and a children's picture book. She is currently writing an historical novel for young adults.

Cody Holloway

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, Flashquake, Salome, Hobart online, Hip Mama, Every Day Fiction* and *The Iconoclast*. You may reach Jeanne at J.holtzman@comcast.net.

Michael Lee Johnson is a poet, and freelance writer. He is self-employed in advertising and selling custom promotional products. He is the author of *The Lost American: From Exile to Freedom*. He has published two chapbooks of poetry. He is also nominated for the James B. Baker Award in poetry, Sam's Dot Publishing. He is a contributor in the *Silver Boomers* anthology about aging baby boomers, by Silver Boomer Books. Michael Lee Johnson presently resides in Itasca, Illinois. He lived in Canada during the Vietnam era and will be published as a contributor poet in the anthology *Crossing Lines: Poets Who Came to Canada in the Vietnam War Era*. He has been published in USA,

Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Turkey, Fuji, Nigeria, Algeria, Africa, India, United Kingdom, Republic of Sierra Leone, Thailand, Kuala Lumpur, and Malaysia. Visit his website at: <http://poetryman.mysite.com>.

Madelyn D. Kamen is a free-lance writer who has published short stories, poems, and essays in local and national magazines and online. Prior to establishing a document development company, she was an associate dean and professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston. She was a graduate of the Leadership Texas Class of 1992, and was listed in Marquis' *Who's Who in the Southwest*, *Who's Who in American Education*, and *Who's Who in America*. She is currently working on an anthology of short stories about everyday life.

Terrence Kandzor lives on Whidbey Island in Puget Sound where he writes part time. His non-fiction entry, "My Next Story," was published in the 2005 *In the Spirit of Writing* anthology. "My Next Story" was recognized as a winner in the annual competition sponsored by the Whidbey Island Writers Association. His story, "The Fall of the Football Hero" was published in the *Silver Boomers* anthology, 2008. "Christmas 1949," a memoir, received an award in the 2007 *In the Spirit of Writing* competition, and was included in the Whidbey Island Writers Association publication. He writes non-fiction and literary short stories that have a touch of the unexpected.

Helga Kidder has lived in the Tennessee hills for 30 years, raised two daughters, a half 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.

Janet Morris Klise is a retired Writer-Editor-Photographer-Darkroom Technician, having fulfilled these duties for 40

years for high school, college, university and federal government publications. She finds that after so many years of loving to read, write and edit, she cannot leave the reading and writing alone. She limits her editing to her own writing and to Letters to the Editor sent to the local newspaper. Janet was born in Monroe, Louisiana, but has lived in California since the age of four. She now resides with her husband Tim, son Jonathan and cat Kaylee in Clovis, California.

Linda Kuzyk is a contributing author of the book, *How To Use the Internet in Your Classroom*, published by Teachers Network. She wrote two state-level award-winning WebQuests. She is a contributing author of the story “Anvil Floats,” which appears in a student literary magazine, *Sneakers, Stilettos, & Steeltoes*, published by Curry Printing and Mailing. Linda's interview with author Simon Rose is posted on the NWFCC website. Kuzyk is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, and the Children's Writers' Coaching Club of the National Writing for Children Center.

Riley McCone

Pat Capps Mehaffey received a degree from Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, and worked as a bank officer for over 30 years. After retirement, Pat and her husband, Howard, moved to a lake home where they enjoy birds, gardening and grandchildren. Pat has published two books of daily devotionals, *Lessons for Living* and *Strength Sufficient for the Day*. Her short stories appear in publications, including *Cup of Comfort*, *Rocking Chair Reader*, *The Noble Generation*, *The Upper Room* and the Guideposts series *When Miracles Happen*. Her work has won awards in journalistic contests.

Annalynn Miller

Carole Ann Moleti lives and works as nurse-midwife in New York City. She lectures and writes on all aspects of women's health with a focus on feminist and political issues. In addition to professional publications, her work has appeared in *Tangent Online Review of Short Fiction*, *The Fix*, *Vision Magazine*, and *Noneuclidean Café*. Carole's memoir *Someday I'm Going To Write a Book*, chronicles her experiences as a public health nurse in the inner city. She is at work on her second memoir *Karma, Kickbacks and Kids*, the title of which is self-explanatory.

Craig Monroe is a leading edge Baby Boomer who holds a B.S. in physics and an M.S. in finance. He is recently retired from the Electronics Industry and is now following his passion of writing fiction on the Florida West Coast. He recently published his first story, a recollection of his younger days in Michigan. He has completed other short stories of various genres and is researching a novel.

Sharon Fish Mooney, a native upstate New Yorker, teaches nursing research and gerontology on-line (MSN, PhD, University of Rochester). Her revised edition of *Alzheimer's — Caring for Your Loved One, Caring for Yourself*, was recently published by Lion Hudson for a UK audience. She has authored and co-authored articles and books on nursing, ethics and spirituality and is a contributing writer for *Christian Research Journal*. She coordinates monthly poetry readings for the Write-On Writers of Coshocton, Ohio. Sharon and her husband Scott spend weekends blazing trails in the woods for their future home and writing/poetry retreat center.

Sharon Lask Munson grew up in Detroit, Michigan. After thirty years of teaching overseas and in Alaska, she is retired and lives in Eugene, Oregon. She has poems in *A Cup of Comfort Cookbook*, has been published in *Sandcutters*, *Manzanita Quarterly*, *Windfall*, *Verseweavers*, and *Earth's Daughters*. She spends her free time biking quiet country roads, writing poetry, gardening in pots, and taking long and interesting road trips to places she has never been.

Bill Neal
