

Scissortail 2011: Bios of Authors

Jonis Agee was born in Omaha, Nebraska and grew up in Nebraska and Missouri, places where many of her stories and novels are set. She was educated at The University of Iowa (BA) and The State University of New York at Binghamton (MA, PhD). She is Adele Hall Professor of English at The University of Nebraska — Lincoln, where she teaches creative writing and twentieth – century fiction. She is the author of twelve books, including five novels — *Sweet Eyes*, *Strange Angels*, *South of Resurrection*, *The Weight of Dreams*, and her most recent, *The River Wife* — and five collections of short fiction — *Pretend We've Never Met*, *Bend This Heart*, *A .38 Special and a Broken Heart*, *Taking the Wall*, and *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*. She has also published two books of poetry: *Houses* and *Mercury*. Agee's awards include *ForeWord Magazine's* Editor's Choice Award for *Taking the Wall* and the Gold Medal in Fiction for *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*; a National Endowment for the Arts grant in fiction; a Loft-McKnight Award; a Loft-McKnight Award of Distinction; and two Nebraska Book Awards (for *The Weight of Dreams* and *Acts of Love on Indigo Road*). Three of her books — *Strange Angels*, *Bend This Heart*, and *Sweet Eyes* — were named Notable Books of the Year by *The New York Times*. Additionally, she has stories and essays in *The Iowa Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Natural Bridge*, and elsewhere. Finally, Jonis owns some twenty pairs of cowboy boots, some of them works of art, loves the open road, and believes that ecstasy and hard work are the basic ingredients of life and writing.

A fifth generation Oklahoman, **Rilla Askew** is the author of three novels and a collection of stories. Her short fiction has appeared in a variety of literary magazines and has been selected for Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards. Her first novel *The Mercy Seat* was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award and received the Western Heritage Award and the Oklahoma Book Award in 1998. Her novel about the Tulsa Race Riot, *Fire in Beulah*, received the American Book Award in 2002 and was Oklahoma's One Book One State selection for 2007. Her most recent novel, *Harpsong*, was nominated for the Dublin IMPAC Prize and received the Oklahoma Book Award, the Western Heritage Award, the Willa Cather Award from Women Writing the West, and the Violet Crown Award from the Writers League of Texas. The recipient of a 2009 Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Askew received her MFA in Fiction from Brooklyn College. She has taught in the MFA Creative Writing Programs at Brooklyn College, Syracuse University, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and the University of Central Oklahoma, where she currently serves as Artist in Residence. She is married to actor Paul Austin, and they divide their time between New York and Oklahoma.

Paul Austin's professional life spans forty years plus and includes acting and directing On and Off Broadway, Off-Off Broadway, summer stock, and regional theaters around the nation, as well as acting for television and film, including roles on *West Wing*, *Law and Order*, *Cosby*, and the films, *Palookaville*, *Thirteen Conversations*, *Tune in Tomorrow*, and *Sommersby*. Among recent stage appearances were the Foreman in Vaclav Havel's *Audience and Late Night Conspiracies*, a collection of his own writings at New York's Ensemble Studio Theatre, where he is a long time member. Mr. Austin has directed first productions of a number of new plays, including Percy Granger's *Eminent Domain* at the Circle in the Square on Broadway. He most recently appeared as Neils Bohr in Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen* at the University of Oklahoma. He has written for and about the theater in essays, poetry, plays, and *Spontaneous Behavior*, a book on acting. One of his recent works, *Dreaming Angel*, was included in *More Monologues for Men by Men* and was also published in *Newport Review*. He was for many years the Artistic Director of The Image Theatre in New York, where he produced plays and taught acting. He was a tenured faculty member at Sarah Lawrence College for twenty years. Mr. Austin is currently Artistic Director of The Liberty Free Theater in upstate New York. He and his wife, Oklahoma

native and writer, Rilla Askew, divide their time between the Catskill mountains of New York and the Sans Bois.

Since he attended last year's Scissortail Festival, **Alan Berecka** has read at the DPF literary festival in Lithuania, had poems taken by journals such as *The Concho River Review*, *Blue Rock Review* and *Ruminate*; he was included in *Travelin' Music: A Poetic Tribute to Woody Guthrie*, and had his book *Remembering the Body* published by The Mongrel Empire Press. But perhaps his best moment came when he read the blurb which Ken Hada wrote for *Remembering the Body*: "You will laugh and cry as you read these poems, but most of all, you will think what a good and haunting thing it is to be human." Berecka is a librarian at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Joey Brown began as a fiction writer, and after a few short story publications, she completed a Master of Arts in English with a concentration in Creative Writing at the University of Oklahoma (1995). She remained at OU to complete a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies, with concentrations in Creative and Professional Writing, in 2000. She has published poems, short stories and essays in several national journals including *Rhino*, *The Mid-America Poetry Review*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *The Chaffin Journal*, *Quiddity*, *Phantasmagoria*, *Westview*, *Argestes*, *Journal of the West*, *Front Range Review*, *storySouth* and *The Florida Review*. Last year her poetry collection, *Oklahomaography*, was published by Mongrel Empire Press. Joey's work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize three times.

Nathan Brown is a poet, musician and photographer from Norman, Oklahoma. He's published five books of poetry, the most recent of which, *Two Tables Over*, won the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. Previous titles include: *Not Exactly Job*, *Ashes Over the Southwest*, *Suffer the Little Voices* and *Hobson's Choice*. He is anthologized in *Two Southwests* and also recently released a new album, *Gypsy Moon*.

After receiving an MA in Literature from Wright State University in Dayton Ohio, **James Brubaker** moved to Oklahoma to begin work on a PhD in Creative Writing at OSU. His short stories are forthcoming or have appeared in *Confrontation*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Rabbit Catastrophe Review* and *The Cupboard*. He is also a co-editor for the music section of the online arts journal, *The Fiddleback*.

J. Don Cook, whose hometown is Ada, is an artist, writer and photographer. As a photojournalist, he was nominated three times for a Pulitzer Prize, one of them when he worked for the *Ada Evening News* in the seventies covering a double drowning when cousins fell through thin ice. The forthcoming essay and poem were written after Mr. Cook covered the famine in Ethiopia in the eighties. The University of Oklahoma Press just published a collection of his photographs and essays titled *Shooting from the Hip*.

Since earning an MFA from Wichita State University in 1996, **Jeanne Dunbar-Green** has taught as an adjunct at various colleges and universities, the last four years at East Central University and Murray State College. She is currently halfway through writing a new novel, tentatively entitled, *Okieland*, and about as far through a novel co-written with her husband Richard, tentatively titled, *The Bee Tree*. Her latest story was published in *Sugar Mule* as well as in *Ain't Nobody That Can Sing Like Me: New Oklahoma Writing*.

Phil Estes is a first-year PhD student in Creative Writing at Oklahoma State University. Currently he is working on a poetry manuscript titled *High Life*. Poems from this manuscript have appeared (or are forthcoming) in *Harpur Palate*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Willow Springs*, *Greensboro Review* and *PANK*.

Robert Ferrier received BA in Journalism and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of four published novels at SynergEbooks.com. His poems

have been published in ten literary journals. His collections, "Rhythms," and "Ambient Light," won Best Book of Poetry awards in 2004 and 2006 contests sponsored by the Oklahoma Writers Federation, Inc. He has begun a video chapbook series, "The Dante Dreams: Inferno," on YouTube. Robert was a 2006 nominee for Poet Laureate of Oklahoma.

The work of **Bayard Godsave** has appeared in *Cream City Review*, *Confrontation*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Florida Review*, *Bryant Literary Review*, *Cimarron Review* and the *Evansville Review*, among other places. He has completed two book-length manuscripts, and both are looking for publishers: *The Torture Tree*, a novel, and a collection of short stories called *The Gas Mask* (which includes "La Revolution du Ventose"). In 2001 Bayard received his MFA from Minnesota State University, Moorhead; in 2008 he received his PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and currently he is an Assistant Professor of English at Cameron University.

Nicole Goodwin is a single mother, writer and poet born and raised in New York City. She has performed at many spoken word venues including two featured performances at V-Day Poetry Benefit Concert on Feb 2005, and the Defenders of Love Benefit on Feb 2008 and panelist for the 2009 National Black Writers Conference & Bi-Annual Symposium "Honoring the Work and Life of Octavia E. Butler." Her further literary achievements include the publications in three non-fiction anthologies: *We Got Issues: A Young Woman's Guide To A Bold, Courageous and Empowered Life There By Hangs A Tale: The Birth Issue*, and the August Issue of *Underwired Magazine*, poetic inclusion in the 2008 *Voices of Israel Anthology*, The City College of New York's publication, *Promethean*, along with a creative non-fiction piece printed in City College's *Global City Review*. She was also the Student Editor/Contributor of the Poetry/Arts Journal entitled *Escriba!/Write!* for Hostos Community College, which received the 2006 CCHA Eastern Region Small Journal Award and the recent recipient of The Riggs Gold Medal Essay Award from The City College of New York's English Department.

Aaron Gwyn is an accomplished short story author and novelist. He was born in Tulsa and grew up on a farm in central Oklahoma. He holds degrees from East Central University, and Oklahoma State University and completed his PhD in English from the University of Denver. He is an associate professor of English at University of North Carolina - Charlotte where he teaches fiction writing and contemporary American fiction. He is the author of the short story collection, *Dog on the Cross* (Algonquin Books, 2004) and of the novel, *The World Beneath* (W.W. Norton, 2009). His fiction has appeared in *New Stories From the South*, *Esquire*, *McSweeney's*, *Glimmer Train*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and numerous other literary magazines. *Dog on the Cross* was a finalist for the 2005 New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award founded by actor Ethan Hawke and author Rick Moody.

Ryan Habermeyer received his MFA from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and currently teaches composition and literature at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas. His fiction has recently appeared in or is forthcoming from *The Cincinnati Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Blue Mesa Review*, *Red Cedar Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Bitter Oleander*, *Arroyo Literary Review*, and *Fairy Tale Review*.

An advocate for peace, freedom, and equality **Shirley Hall** challenges social, economical, religious, and political agendas through controversial poetry and essays. Her work is provocative, inspirational, and insightful. As a voice for the people behind the story, her poems minister to current affairs and emotions befitting the times. Shirley says, "My poetry is a teaching tool. It forces mankind to confront the consequences resulting from their decisions and face the snubbed realities of today's "everyman". Shirley has presented her poems in colleges and universities, and at social and professional venues. Her

book *One Day* was selected among 10 others as required reading for a Humanities class at the University of Maryland. Her latest book is titled *Listen*.

Carol Hamilton has upcoming publications in *South Carolina Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Art Times*, *Willard and Maple*, *Avocet*, *Quercus Review*, *Sunstone*, *Karamu*, *The Aureorean*, *Louisiana Literature*, *Abbey*, *Ibbetson Street*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Poem*, *Listening Eye*, *California Quarterly* and others. She has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize. Her latest works include *Master of Theater: Peter the Great*, released by Finishing Line Press, and a chapbook from Pudding House Press, *Umberto Eco Lost His Gun*, a book of peace poems.

Having finished her novel *Cold Sunshine*, and drafting a second titled *Venus Flytrap*, **Tara Hembrough** is looking for an agent. She graduated with her PhD in creative writing, fiction, and modernism, from Oklahoma State University in December. At OSU, she taught introductions to Creative Writing and Literature as well as reading for the *Cimarron Review*. She recently moved to Southern Illinois where she teaches English at John Logan College. A member of the Southern Illinois Writers' Guild, an excerpt of *Cold Sunshine* is published in the SIWG's anthology.

Arn Henderson is an architect and Professor Emeritus of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma. He has authored two books of poetry, *Document for an Anonymous Indian* and *The Surgeon General's Collection*. He also co-edited *The Point Riders Great Plains Poetry Anthology* and his work has appeared in several journals including *World Literature Today*, *Nimrod*, *Interstate*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Renegade 10*, *Broomweed Journal* and *Crosstimbers*.

Jim Hunter was educated at Miami University and earned his Master's at Virginia Tech. He has been an actor, a writer, a cook, an accountant, a paramedic, and he currently teaches English at East Central University. His one published novel is called *Drawing Constellations*.

Jordan Jacobs teaches high school English in Lawton, Oklahoma. He has been writing poetry for approximately five years and has been published in both print and online journals, such as *Borderline*, *Cooweescoowee*, and *The Whiskey Monologues*. Jordan also performs at open mics and feature sets at various concerts around the state. In 2008, he self-released a chapbook of poetry entitled *Sucking the Salt from God's Sweat*.

Hardy Jones is the Director of Creative Writing at Cameron University. His writing has been awarded two grants and he has had over twenty-five pieces of fiction and nonfiction published in journals. His short story "Snow" appeared in the *Dogzplot Flash Fiction Anthology 2009* and his novel *Every Bitter Thing* was published in 2010 by Black Lawrence Press.

Sara Kaplan received her M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Idaho and her M.A. in poetry from Miami University. Her chapbook, *Touring West of the Mississippi* is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press and her first chapbook, *Moon Talk*, is published with Trilobite Press. Kaplan's been the recipient of the Academy of American Poets Prize and has been nominated several times for a Pushcart. Individual poems have appeared in *The Antioch Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *LIT 9*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Talking River Review*, *The Meadow*, *InLand*, *Ruminare*, *The New Vilna Review*, *decomp* magazine, *Failbetter*, *Splash of Red*, & *MO: Writings from the River*.

Dr. Abigail Keegan is a Professor of English and Women's Literature at Oklahoma City University. In addition to essays on American and British writers and numerous poems, she has published two books of

poetry, *The Feast of the Assumptions* and *Oklahoma Journey* and a critical book, *Byron's Othered Self and Voice: Contextualizing the Homographic Signature*. In 2007 she received a merit award from *Byline Magazine's* Silver Anniversary Poetry chapbook competition. *Depending on the Weather*, her latest book of poems, was published by Village Books Press, 2011.

Jennifer Kidney is a freelance scholar and published poet. She is the author of five books of poetry: *Field Encounters*, *Endangered Species*, *Animal Magnetism*, *Women Who Sleep with the Dogs*, and *Life List*. She has twice been nominated for Oklahoma Poet Laureate-by the Oklahoma Library Association in 2006 and by the Jim Lucas-Checotah Public Library in 2008, when she was one of three finalists for the distinction. She has a B.A. with Highest Honors in English from Oberlin College and a M.Phil. and Ph.D. in English from Yale University and more than twenty years of university level teaching experience. She has also worked as a technical writer, poet-in-the-schools, and arts administrator. For twenty-two years, she oversaw the statewide reading and discussion program, "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma," and has made hundreds of "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma," scholar presentations on almost as many books. Kidney has won awards for her poetry, technical writing, and brownie baking. She lives in Norman with three cats and her dog Lizzie.

Norbert Krapf began to write poetry in 1971 after moving from Indiana to Long Island, where he taught at Long Island University for 34 years and directed the CW Post Poetry Center there for 18 years. Norbert retired in 2004 and moved back to Indiana with his family. He served as the second official Indiana Poet Laureate 2008 -2010. Since the return to Indiana he has published *Sweet Sister Moon* (2009) and *Bloodroot: Indiana Poems* (2008) after previously publishing *Invisible Presence* (2006) with photographer Darryl Jones; the prose memoir *The Ripest Moments: A Southern Indiana Childhood* (2008); and a jazz and poetry CD with pianist-composer Monika Herzig, *Imagine – Indiana in Music and Words* (2007). Norbert received the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America (1999) and served as Fulbright Guest Professor in American Poetry in Germany at the Universities of Freiburg (1980-81) and Erlangen-Nuremberg (88-89).

Chuck Ladd has successfully taught English in public schools in Southern Oklahoma and Northern Texas for over thirty years while also serving as adjunct professor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University for fifteen years. He has also published a number of poetic works in a variety of journals and literary periodicals, but has dedicated himself to the advancement of Howard Starks' poetry. **Howard Starks** was born in 1929 in Shidler, Oklahoma. He served in the U.S. Army before earning a degree in English Education from East Central Oklahoma State University. He was all-but-dissertation Ph.D in English at the University of Oklahoma where he taught as a graduate assistant before teaching at the University of Nevada in Reno and the University of Colorado in Boulder. In 1968 He became a professor of English and Humanities at Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he served until his retirement in 1995. In retirement Starks finally found time to collect and work on his poetry, mainly at the behest of fellow professors Elbert and Marion Hill and Dennis and Billie Letts. At Southeastern in Durant, Oklahoma, Tracy Letts, the son of Billie and Dennis began to view Howard as a mentor and would take the title of his Pulitzer Prize winning play "August: Osage County" directly from the title of one of Howard's poems. Starks only published book was *Family Album (A Collection of Poetry)* in 1996 and became a finalist in the 1997 Oklahoma Book Awards. A *New York Times* best-selling novelist, a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, a number of prize-winning poets, a nationally acclaimed western artist, a number of actors from stage and screen, several other novelists all praise his work and consider him a friend and mentor. Howard Starks died in Durant, Oklahoma April 7th, 2003.

Billie Letts has received national and international recognition since starting her first novel at age 54.

The award-winning author is a native of Tulsa. She retired as an English professor from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1995. Letts is the author of four screenplays, including the filmed version of *Veritas, Prince of Truth*, and numerous short stories. *Where The Heart Is* was her first novel and it reached the coveted No. 1 slot on *The New York Times*' paperback bestseller list. It was chosen as a read for Oprah Winfrey's Book Club, has been published in 14 countries with more than three million copies sold and was made into a movie by 20th Century Fox in 2000. Her other novels are *Honk And Holler Opening Soon*, *Shoot The Moon*, and *Made In The USA*. Letts won the prestigious Walker Percy Literary Award at the 1994 New Orleans Writers Conference and the Oklahoma Book Award for fiction in 1996 and 1999. *Honk and Holler Opening Soon* was chosen as the "Oklahoma Reads Oklahoma" book in 2004.

J.C. Mahan, known as "Catfish" to the Oklahoma poetry circuit, says "Life is poetic. We just need to right it down, paint it, record it, sing it, or throw it on a potter's wheel." J.C. is a hair stylist, potter, artist practicing in the Oklahoma City area. He has four self published poetry books: *West Texas Gypsy*, *Tilling Native Soil*, *Entertaining Madness*, and *Conversing Art and Love*. His latest manuscript, in progress, is *Land Lords and Lovers*, a comparative look at the commercial aspects of relationships.

George McCormick has published stories and poems most recently in *Shenandoah*, *The Laurel Review*, *Concho River Review*, and *Acreage Journal*. He splits time between Lawton, Oklahoma and Cook City, Montana. His story, "The Mexican", comes from a book collection entitled, *The Salton Sea*.

Ben Meyers' first book of poems, *Elegy for Trains*, was recently published by Village Books Press. His poems have appeared in *Ruminant*, *The Mid-America Poetry Review*, *Mobius*, *Byline*, and other journals. Several of his poems are forthcoming online at *poetrybay.com* and as part of the *Red Lion Square poetry podcast*. His poem, "Tornado," is scheduled to be featured in the "Walt's Corner" column of the *Long Islander* newspaper, and his poem, "A Small Town Mourns its First Casualty," was included by Lee Bennett Hopkins in his book *America at War* (illustrated by Stephen Alcorn and published by McElderry Books, 2008). His essays on poetics have appeared in *Studies in Philology*, *English Literary History*, *English Literary Renaissance*, and other journals. Ben earned a Ph.D. from Washington University and currently is an associate professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Jeanetta Calhoun Mish holds a PhD in American Studies from the University of Oklahoma. She is a poet, scholar and editor of Mongrel Empire Press. Her first book, *Tongue Tied Woman*, won the Edda Poetry Chapbook Competition for Women in 2002. Her second collection, *Work is Love Made Visible* (West End Press, 2009), won the 2010 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry, the 2010 Western Heritage Award for poetry from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the 2010 WILLA Award for Poetry from Women Writing the West. She was awarded a 2010 residency at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Arts. She is a faculty member of the Red Earth Creative Writing MFA program at Oklahoma City University.

Phillip Carol Morgan is the award-winning author of *The Fork-in-the-Road Indian Poetry Store* (Salt Publishing, 2006), co-author of *Reasoning Together: The Native Critics Collective* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008), author of *Chickasaw Renaissance* (Chickasaw Press, 2010) and *Who Shall Gainsay Our Decision? Choctaw Literary Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century* (Chickasaw Press, forthcoming 2011). The father of three children, he collaborates professionally with Kate Morgan, his painter-sculptor wife of 30 years, and lives on his family's original allotment farm in the northwestern region of the Chickasaw Nation. He is a member of the Academy of American Poets and holds a PhD in Native American literature from the University of Oklahoma.

Melissa Morpew, a native of Tennessee, is an associate professor at Sam Houston State University. Her work has appeared in such journals as *The Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Alaska Quarterly Review* and *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*. She is the recipient of an Individual Artist's Grant in Poetry from the Tennessee Arts Commission, winner of the Randall Jarrell International Poetry Prize, and winner of the W.B. Yeats Society Award in Poetry. She has been four times nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her poetry collections include *Hunger and Heat: The Missionary Letters* and *The Garden Where All Loves End*, and *Fathom*. Her two most recent collections are *Weeding Borges' Garden* and *Bluster*.

John Graves Morris, Professor of English at Cameron University, is the author of *Noise and Stories* (Plain View Press, 2008). His poems have appeared in such journals as *The Chariton Review*, *The Concho River Review*, *Jelly Bucket*, *Westview*, *Crosstimbers*, *Blood and Thunder*, among others.

E. K. Mortenson works as an instructor in the Creative and Professional Writing MFA program at Western Connecticut State University. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies and literary journals, both in print and online. He is the author of *Dreamer or the Dream* (Last Automat Press, 2010), *What Wakes Us* (Cervena Barva Press, forthcoming), and was the 2008 recipient of the Leslie Leeds Poetry Prize. He lives in Connecticut with his wife and two children.

Karen Neurohr has been researching Wilma McDaniel's life and writing since 2007 by conducting oral history interviews with twenty-eight of her family and friends for the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program of the Oklahoma State University Library. Along with other content, her interviews are being added to a library website about McDaniel and her legacy --<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/mcdaniel>. Karen is an Associate Professor and Assessment Librarian at Oklahoma State University where she is working on a doctoral degree in higher education. She holds a Master's in Library Science from the University of North Texas and a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from Northeastern State University. She co-chairs the Oklahoma Literary Landmarks Program for Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) and serves as a Board Member for the Oklahoma Center for the Book of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

Jason Poudrier is an Iraqi Freedom veteran who was awarded the Purple Heart. He was privileged to read from his manuscript of war poems titled "Baghdad International" at the 2008 and 2009 Scissortail Creative Writing Festivals and was the recipient of the John G. Morris Poetry Prize in 2008. His work has appeared in an anthology of Oklahoma Writers, the *New Mexico Poetry Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *Sugar Mule*, and Cameron University's *Gold Mine*.

Elizabeth Raby has a new manuscript titled *This Dazzling Heartbreak*. She has two previously published poetry collections with Virtual Artists Collective: *The Year the Pears Bloomed Twice* (2009), and *Ink on Snow* (2010). She also has three previously published chapbooks. One of the poems from *Ink on Snow*, "Bride-to-Be," was selected as the winning poem for Angelo State University's 2010 Kelton Poetry Contest. Elizabeth was a poet-in-the-schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and for the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. She recently read and conducted a workshop at the New Mexico Women Author's Book Festival. She has lived with her husband Jim in Santa Fe since 2001.

Dean Rader's first book of poems, *Works & Days*, won the 2010 T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize. Poems in the book also garnered the 2008 *Crab Creek Review* Prize and the 2009 *Sow's Ear* Poetry Prize. Other poems have been published in *Colorado Review*, *POOL*, *Connecticut Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Quarterly West*, and others. Dean also reviews poetry regularly for *The San Francisco Chronicle* and *The Rumpus*, and he blogs about the intersection of arts/media/politics/culture at *The*

Weekly Rader. Dean is also widely published in the field of American Indian Studies. His book *Speak To Me Words: Essays on Contemporary American Indian Poetry* (edited with Janice Gould) was published in 2003 and earlier this year, he curated a special issue of *Sentence* devoted to contemporary American Indian prose poetry. His book, *Engaged Resistance: American Indian Art, Literature, and Film*, is forthcoming in April of 2011 from the University of Texas Press. Dean lived in Oklahoma for the first 18 years of his life and still consider it home. Presently, he is a professor at the University of San Francisco, and lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jill, and son, Gavin.

The poems and essays of **Carol Coffee Reposa** have appeared or are forthcoming in *The Atlanta Review*, *Coal City Review*, *The Formalist*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *The Valparaiso Review*, *The Texas Observer*, and other journals and anthologies. She has three collections of poetry: *At the Border: Winter Lights*, *The Green Room*, and *Facts of Life*. Nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize, she also has received three Fulbright-Hays Fellowships, the first for study in Russia (1995), a second for research in Peru and Ecuador (1999), and a third for work in Mexico (2005). A professor emeritus of English at San Antonio College, she still serves as nonfiction editor for *Concho River Review*.

Jason Roberts is pursuing a doctorate in English with a Creative Writing emphasis at Oklahoma State University. He is in his sixth year, and says with luck, he will graduate this summer. (though given our economy, he says he is not sure he wants such luck!). This is Jason's second appearance at Scissortail Festival.

Steven Schroeder grew up in the Texas Panhandle, where he first learned to take nothing seriously, and his poetry continues to be rooted in the experience of the Plains. He teaches at the University of Chicago in the Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults and at Shenzhen University (China). In addition to numerous poetry and philosophy publications in regional, national and international journals, Schroeder's poetry book titles include: *A Dim Sum of the Day Before* (Ink Brush Press, 2010), *a guest giving way like ice melting: thirteen ways of looking at laozhi* (Ink Brush Press, 2010), *Six Stops South* (Cherry Grove, 2009), *The Imperfection of the Eye* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2007), *Fallen Prose* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2006), *Theory of Cats* (Pudding House Publications, 2003). He has also edited or contributed to several anthologies such as *on the no road way to tomorrow* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2009), and *Two Southwests* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2008).

Regina Schroeder was raised by anarcho-syndicalist wolves in an urban jungle. She was permanently warped by early exposure to atonal music, west Texas, Piaget, and the picture books of Eugene Ionesco.

Carl Sennhenn is a retired English professor, Poet Laureate of Oklahoma 2001 - 2003 and winner of the 2006 Oklahoma Book Award in poetry for his book *Travels Through Enchanted Woods*. Currently Carl teaches one literature class a semester at Rose State and a creative writing class for senior adults in Continuing Education at Rose. Poems in "An Irish Idyll" will appear in a forthcoming book of poetry.

Karen Eileen Sisk received her M.A. in Literature and Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in 2008. Since then, she has been working on a doctorate in Creative Writing with an emphasis in poetry at Oklahoma State University. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Nexus* and *Permafrost*. Her current working poetry collection is titled *Ruins*.

Sandra Soli's career includes radio broadcasting, regional theater in the U.S. and Europe, and special projects such as taping Tokyo Rose segments for military training. She has published articles, short fiction for adults and children, photography, and poetry. A past author of the month for *Highlights Magazine*, she received the 2008 Oklahoma Book Award in poetry, LSU's Eyster Poetry Prize, and two

nominations for the Pushcart Prize. Active with arts organizations and known for mentoring writers around the state, she serves on the board of the Oklahoma Center for the Book, teaches by E-mail and by invitation, and enjoys collaborative projects with artists in other disciplines; she has worked with dancers, artists, musicians, actors, and clergy to develop new works. Sandra holds an honors M.A. from UCO. Annually, she coordinates a special project for National Poetry Month and also volunteers many hours each year at the Civic Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

Retired insurance adjuster **Jim Spurr** graduated high school in Shawnee, Oklahoma and completed a degree from Oklahoma Baptist University. Born in Crystal City, Texas, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army having served in the 82nd Airborne. Some of his poems have been published nationally, fifteen magazines and ten states. His book, *Open Mike/Thursday Night*, was a finalist for the 2008 Oklahoma Book Award, and his book *It's Cool at 2AM* won second place 2009 at Palettes and Quills, Ithaca, N.Y. Another collection is forthcoming in 2011. He and his wife live in Shawnee where he has been co-host of the highly popular Shawnee reading since 1993.

Jane Vincent Taylor's first book of poems was a joint collection with Judith Tate O'Brien entitled *By the Grace of Ghosts*. It was a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award in 2005. In 2007, Jane collaborated with Anita Skeen in a collection of poems, *When We Say Shelter*. In 2008 Jane and Anita co-edited a collection of essays, poems and stories by Ghost Ranch writers entitled *Once Upon a Place: Writing from Ghost Ranch*. Jane wrote her latest book, *What Can Be Saved*, (Finishing Line Press) on her own – if you don't count the duet of voices from her childhood that make up the collection. Jane has a Master's in Creative Writing from University of Central Oklahoma, a Master of Library Science and a BA in Women's Studies from the University of Oklahoma. She is a Virginia Center for Creative Arts Fellow. Journal publications include *Red Cedar Review*, *Whetstone*, *Enigmatist*, *Red Plains Review*, *Calyx*, *Flyway*, *Third Wednesday*, *Rhino*, among others. Recent activities are posted at janevincenttaylor.blogspot.com.

Andrew Terhune is originally from Memphis, Tennessee. He is the author of the chapbooks *Helen Mirren Picks Out My Clothes* (The Greying Ghost Press, 2009) and *Handle This Bludgeon and Run Me Through* (Tilt Press, 2008). He currently lives in Stillwater, Oklahoma with his wife and two daughters, where he is pursuing a PhD in English/Poetry at Oklahoma State University.

Larry D. Thomas was the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate, and is a member of the Texas Institute of Letters. Born and reared in West Texas, Thomas has lived in Houston since 1967. He graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in English literature. He started writing poetry seriously in the early 1970s during his four-year tour of duty in the U.S. Navy. After his discharge, he was hired by the Harris County Adult Probation Department where he rose from the rank of probation officer to unit supervisor and ultimately to branch director, the position he held until his retirement in 1998. Thomas has published widely in regional and national journals. His first book collection, *The Lighthouse Keeper*, was published by Timberline Press in late 2000 and was selected by the Small Press Review as a "pick-of-the-issue" (May/June 2001). He has since then published six additional collections of poems which have received several prestigious prizes and awards including a Western Heritage Award, two Texas Review Poetry Prizes, three pushcart nominations and five Spur Award finalist citations from the Western Writers of America. Other titles include the recently released *A Murder of Crows* (Virtual Artists Collective), *The Skin of Light, New and Selected Poems*, *The Fraternity of Oblivion*, *Where Skulls Speak Wind*, *Stark Beauty* and *Amazing Grace*.

Hugh Tribbey's poetry has most recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Sugar Mule*, *Otoliths*, *Experiential-Experimental Literature*, and *Moria*. He is the author of five collections of poetry: *Finish Your Sentence*, *Juvjula Detours*, *Asteroid*, *Waitinale Glasses*, and *Mime Box*. Hugh holds a Ph.D. in Practical Poetics and Contemporary Literature from Oklahoma State University and teaches literature and creative writing at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma.

Alvin Turner is Dean Emeritus of Humanities and Social Sciences and Professor of History at East Central University. He remains active in research, writing history and poetry and pastoring a small Presbyterian church. His recent books include a poetic history *Hanging Men* and a biography of progressive preacher L.W. Marks (Mongrel Empire Press, 2009).

Ron Wallace has four volumes of poetry, all published by TJMF Publishing of Clarksville, Indiana: *Native Son (American Poems from the Heart of Oklahoma)*, a finalist in the 2007 Oklahoma Book Awards, *Smoke and Stone (The Voices of Gettysburg)* and *I Come from Cowboys... and Indians*, the winner of the 2009 Oklahoma Writer's Federation Best Book of Poetry Award. His latest book is *Oklahoma Cantos*. Ron is a native Oklahoman whose Scots/Irish roots are woven securely into his Choctaw, Cherokee, Osage lineage. He is currently an adjunct faculty member of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. His work has been published in numerous magazines and anthologies such as: *Sugar Mule*, *Crosstimbers*, *Encore*, *NFSPS Prize Poems*, *Grandmother Earth XIV*, *di-verse-city 2010*, *Walt's Corner in The Long Islander*, *The Enigmatist* and *Travelin' Music (A Poetic Tribute to Woody Guthrie)*.

Mark Walling is a professor in English at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. He has fiction and poetry in issues of *New Plains Review*, *Louisiana Literature*, *South Dakota Review*, *Chariton Review*, *Sugar Mule*, among others, and in the recent anthology *Aint Nobody That Can Sing Like Me: New Oklahoma Writing*.

Sarah Webb is a retired English professor from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. She serves as poetry editor for *Crosstimbers* and is co-editor for *Just This*, a zen arts magazine from the Austin Zen Center. Sarah performs poetry chorally in Quartet, a poetry performance troupe (with Carol Hamilton, Carl Sennhenn, and Dena Madole). Her essays and poetry have been published in *Zen Bow*, *Zen Gong*, *Just This*; *The Oklahoma English Journal*, *Sugar Creek*, *Westview*, *Passager*, *The Enigmatist*, and *The Appalachee Quarterly*, among others.

Dan Wilcox is the host of the Third Thursday Poetry Night at the Social Justice Center in Albany, N.Y. and is a member of the poetry performance group "3 Guys from Albany" (who travel the country reading and writing poetry in every city named "Albany" in the country, including Albany, Oklahoma). As a photographer, he claims to have the world's largest collection of photos of unknown poets. His chapbook *boundless abodes of Albany* is available from Benevolent Bird Press of Delmar, NY. You can read his Blog about the Albany poetry scene at dwlcx.blogspot.com.

Jim Wilson's MFA in creative nonfiction (2007) is from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a professor of English at Seminole State College in Seminole, Oklahoma, and resides in West Ada, Oklahoma. His memoir-in-progress is *The Journeyman*, which is about becoming an archaeologist in 1980s, civil war Lebanon. Since 2007, Jim has taught creative writing in Ada for the Chickasaw Nation's Summer Arts Academy. In 2009 he initiated Going Forward/Looking Back, a community archaeology and creative writing project at the Daggs' Prairie site in West Ada.