

AUTHORS & PRESENTERS for MONTANA FESTIVAL OF THE BOOK 2009

Rich Aarstad is the archivist/oral historian for the Montana Historical Society Research Center. He has worked for the historical society since 2001. He is the co-author of, *Naming Montana: From Alzada to Zortman*.

Claude Alick is the author of, *Dancing with the Yumawalli: Inspired by True Events*.

Ellie Arguimbau has been an archivist at the Montana Historical Society for 32 years. Ellie is also one of the co-authors of, *Naming Montana: From Alzada to Zortman*.

Thomas Aslin's publications include a chapbook, *Sweet Smoke*, from Red Wing Press of West Sacramento, California and a book length collection, *A Moon Over Wings*, from Clark City Press of Livingston, Montana.

Nona Babcock has self-published her first juvenile novel, *Little Wolf's Adventure: A Medicine Dream and Warrior Ghosts*. She lives in Clinton.

Rick Bass is the author of twenty-four books of fiction and nonfiction, including, most recently, a memoir, *The Wild Marsh*. A book about the Yaak Valley, *Why I Came West*, was a 2008 finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He is a member of the Yaak Valley Forest Council and an enthusiastic supporter of Senator Jon Tester's Senate Bill (S1470).

Ellen Baumler is the Montana Historical Society's interpretive historian and National Register sign program coordinator. Ellen is an award-winning author of many articles and books including *Girl from the Gulches: the Story of Mary Ronan* and *Dark Spaces: Montana's Historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge*. Ellen is a longtime member of the Humanities Montana Speaker's Bureau. She is also a contributing author to the new *Montana Place Names from Alzada to Zortman*. Her third, and most recent, book on this topic is *Montana Chillers: 13 True Tales of Ghosts and Hauntings*.

Brian Blanchfield is the author of *Not Even Then*, a book of poetry published by University of California Press. He has taught creative writing and literature at Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn; in Los Angeles, at Cal Arts and Otis College of Art; and in Missoula, where he is the 2008-2009 Richard Hugo Fellow in Poetry at The University of Montana.

Judy Blunt received the Whiting Writers' Award in 2001. Her collection of nonfiction essays, *Breaking Clean*, won the PenJerard Award, Mountains and Plains Nonfiction Book Award, Willa Cather Literary Award, and was a *New York Times* Notable Books. Judy's short pieces have appeared in *Oprah Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Big Sky Journal*, and others. She is currently an associate professor in the English Department at The University of Montana.

Peter Bowen was born in 1945, attended U-Michigan, and now lives in Livingston. He is the author of the Gabriel Du Pré Montana Mystery Series including the novels, *Nails*, *Stewball*, and *Tumbler*.

James Lee Burke's most recent novel is *Rain Gods*. Over the years he has published twenty-five novels and one collection of short stories. The stories have appeared in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *Best American Short Stories*, *News Stories From The South*, *The Southern Review*, *Antioch Review* and *Kenyon Review*. His novels, *Heaven's Prisoners*, *Two for Texas*, and *In The Electric Mist with Confederate Dead* were adapted as motion pictures. His novel *The Lost Get-Back Boogie* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Kevin Canty's sixth book, a collection of stories called *Where The Money Went*, was published by Nan A. Talese/ Doubleday in July 2009. He is also the author of two previous collections of short stories *Honeymoon*, *A Stranger in this World*, and three novels, *Nine Below Zero*, *Into the Great Wide Open*, and *Winslow in Love*. His short stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *Tin House*, *Glimmer Train*, *GQ*, *Story*, and *The New England Review* and elsewhere; his essays in *Vogue*, *Details*, and *The New York Times* and *The Oxford American*, among many others. He lives and writes in Missoula, Montana.

Casey Charles is Professor of English at The University of Montana, Missoula, where he teaches law and literature, gay and lesbian studies, and Shakespeare. *The Sharon Kowalski Case: Lesbian and Gay Rights on Trial* was nominated for a Publishing Triangle Award in 2004, and his poetry chapbook, *Controlled Burn* (2007) was named as one of the ten best Montana publications of the year by the *Missoula Independent*.

More recently, poems chosen by Carolyn Forché appeared in *The Comstock Review*. He was a resident at the Montana Artists Refuge in August, 2007.

Mary Jane Charlo is a member of the Confederates Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation and was raised at the St. Ignatius Mission.

Victor Charlo is a revered elder and spiritual leader of the Salish people. His first book of poems, *Put Sey* (Good Enough) has just been released. Charlo lives in Dixon, on the Flathead Reservation.

Phil Condon's books are *Nine Ten Again* (stories), recipient of the Elixir Press 2008 Fiction Award; *Montana Surround* (essays); *River Street* (stories); and *Clay Center*, a novel which received the New Orleans Faulkner Society award and was named one of the top ten first novels of 2004 in the American Library Association's *Booklist*. Condon has received an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship and his work has appeared in *The Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Epoch*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Manoa*, and many other journals. He teaches Environmental Writing and Literature in the Environmental Studies Program at The University of Montana in Missoula.

Geraldine Connolly is the author of three poetry collections: *Food for the Winter*, *Province of Fire*, and *Hand of the Wind*, recently published by Iris Press. Her poems and articles have appeared in *Poetry*, *Shenandoah*, *The Gettysburg Review* and *The Washington Post*. She has been awarded two NEA fellowships and the Yeats Prize. She served as editor of *Poet Lore* and taught at Johns Hopkins, The Writers Center in Bethesda and the University of Arizona Poetry Center. Her work appears in many anthologies.

Nancy Cook teaches in the English Department at The University of Montana, Missoula. Her publications include work on the language of U.S. water policy, on ranching, on Montana writers, and on authenticity in western American writing. Currently, she is at work on a book-length study of women who lived and worked in western National Parks. She also contributed an essay to *All Our Stories Are Here*.

Raymond Cross is a professor of law at the University of Montana Law School. Professor Cross' legal career in Indian Country is chronicled in a new book entitled *Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes and the Trial That Forged A Nation*.

Patty Dean has been the Curator of History for The Montana Historical Society since December 2008. Patty has served as a board/commission member for the Montana Preservation Alliance, Drumlummon Institute, Helena/Lewis & Clark County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Montana Heritage Commission.

Edwin Dobb is a Butte native and fourth-generation descendant of Cornish tin miners and Irish copper miners. A former magazine editor, Dobb has been an independent writer for almost twenty years. National publications he's written for include *The New York Times Magazine* and *Harper's*. He is the co-writer and co-producer of the feature-length documentary film *Butte, America*. Dobb has been a periodic visiting lecturer at the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, where he teaches creative nonfiction.

Chris Dombrowski is the author of *By Cold Water*, a collection of poems, and *Fragments With Dusk In Them*, a chapbook. His poems have appeared in *Bloomsbury Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Crazyhorse*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Poetry*, and others. He is an instructor of creative writing at The University of Montana, served as writer-in-residence at Interlochen Center for the Arts, and in the 406 Writers' Workshop.

Joyce Doyle is a young adult librarian at the Missoula Public Library.

Roger Dunsmore is a University of Montana humanities professor emeritus. His works include three volumes of poetry plus a collection of essays on native literature.

Debra Earling teaches Fiction and Native American Studies at The University of Montana. Her novel, *Perma Red*, was published in 2002. Her publications also include stories in *The Last Best Place: A Montana Anthology*, *Talking Leaves: Contemporary Native American Short Stories*, *Circle of Women: Anthology of Western Women Writers*, and *Wild Women: Anthology of Women Writers*.

William Farr is Associate Director for Humanities and Culture at the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West, and Professor of History at The University of Montana, Missoula. He is the author of *Montana: Images of the Past* and *The Reservation Blackfeet, 1882-1945*, and most recently, of *Julius Seyler and the Blackfeet*.

Debbie Florence works for the Missoula Cultural Council.

Michelle Foltz is an orthopedic surgeon who has spent much of the last 16 years working in public and charity hospitals in developing countries. Her book, *A Leg to Stand On*, is a collection of stories about the humanitarian organization SIGN, Surgical Implant Generation Network. SIGN makes orthopedic implants designed for treating the injured poor in developing countries and has created a unique paradigm of professional support combined with education.

Jamie Ford is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hotel On The Corner Of Bitter And Sweet*, which was an IndieBound Next List selection, and a Borders Original Voices pick. He is an alumnus of the Squaw Valley Community of Writers and a survivor of Orson Scott Card's Literary Boot Camp.

David Gilbert is the author of *The Normals: a novel* and the short story collection, *Remote Feed*. His stories have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *GQ* and *Bomb*.

Karen Gonzalez is a children's librarian at the Missoula Public Library.

Jamie Grady has published 14 novels – including *Mad Dog*, which has been optioned by Hollywood. James donated a portion of *Mad Dogs* hardback sales to our University. Besides novels, James has worked in film for HBO, CBS, FX, Stephen Cannell Productions, director John Woo and major studios. His short stories have won numerous prizes. For his career, France awarded James its *Grand Prix du Roman Noir* and Italy honored him with its Raymond Chandler medal.

Keir Graff is the author of three novels: *One Nation, Under God*; *My Fellow Americans*; and under the pseudonym Michael McCulloch, *Cold Lessons*. His short stories have appeared in diverse publications, from the *Portland Review* to the *Chicago Reader*. Graff is also Senior Editor of *Booklist Online*.

Andrew Sean Greer has published stories in *Esquire*, *STORY magazine*, and *The New Yorker*. His novels include *The Story of a Marriage*, which was an Amazon Best Book of 2008, and the 2004 bestseller and TODAY show book club choice: *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*. He is the recipient of the Northern California Book Award, the California Book Award, the NY Public Library Young Lions Award, an O Henry Prize, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Public Library.

Tami Haaland's poetry was recently included in *Letters to the World*, *Poems Across the Big Sky*, *Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart*, and *High Desert Journal*. Her work has been featured at the National Book Festival, on *Verses Daily* and on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*. She teaches at Montana State University-Billings.

Michael Harmon is a Young Adult Novelist. His novels include: *The Last Exit to Normal*, *Skate*, and *Brutal*.

Brady Harrison is an associate professor of English at The University of Montana-Missoula. He is the author of *Agent of Empire: William Walker and the Imperial Self in American Literature* and was the editor and contributor to the collection of essays entitled, *All Our Stories Are Here: Critical Perspectives on Montana Literature*. He was also the editor of the scholarly edition of Richard Harding Davis's *Soldiers of Fortune*.

Sue Hart has taught English at Montana State University-Billings for over forty years. She has published widely on western literature and has served as both a presenter with the *Speakers Bureau* and a discussion leader for Humanities Montana. She is the recipient of a Governor's Award in the Humanities, a Governor's Award for AIDS Education, the Montana Historical Society's Trustees Educator's Award, a PEN Award for Syndicated Fiction, and most recently, a WILLA Award.

Roger Hedden's plays have been performed at the Lincoln Center Theatre, The Ensemble Studio Theatre, Naked Angels, and Atlantic Theatre Company. He wrote the screenplay, based on his play, for the film *Bodies, Rest & Motion*. He co-wrote and produced the film *Sleep with Me* and wrote and directed the film *Hi-Life*. He is the playwright in residence at the Montana Rep.

Franses Hermann is the author of the book, *The Grandmother Who Flew As A Dragon*. In addition, she is the author of *Yes We Are! The Living Body of Christ* and has told her stories on public radio.

Jim Hogan. During his 48 years as a diocesan priest, in addition to pastoral ministry in Butte, Helena, Browning and three Missoula parishes, he taught in four diocesan high schools, St. Patrick School of Nursing and at the University of Montana. In July 2006, he completed 22 years as pastor of Christ the King Parish and the Director of Catholic Campus Ministries at the University of Montana. Father Hogan was named Peacemaker of the Year in 2000 by Missoula's Jeannette Rankin Peace Center.

Tim Hunter is the co-author of *Over The Edge* and director of *River's Edge*, *Tex* and other features including *Far Side of Jericho*, co-written by James Crumley. In TV, Hunter did key episodes of *Twin Peaks*, *Homicide*, and the pilot of *Beverly Hills 90210*, plus more recent episodes of *Mad Men*, *Deadwood*, *Carnivale* and *Dexter* among many other shows.

Lowell Jaeger teaches creative writing at Flathead Valley Community College in Kalispell, Montana. His poems are forthcoming in *The Iowa Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Poetry East*, and *The California Quarterly* among others. Jaeger's collections of poems include, *War On War*, *Hope Against Hope*, and *Out of a Long Sleep*. Currently, Lowell Jaeger serves as editor of Many Voices Press and is busy compiling *New Poets of the American West*, an anthology of poets from western states.

Danell Jones's poetry, fiction, essays, and reviews have appeared in the *Denver Quarterly*, *Beyond Baroque*, *Red River Review*, *Ginkgo Tree Review*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, *Tonopah Review* and *Virginia Woolf: Themes and Variations*. She has a Ph.D. from Columbia University and is currently a Visiting Associate Professor at Montana State University, Bozeman. Her book on Woolf and creative writing, *The Virginia Woolf Writers' Workshop: Seven Lessons to Inspire Great Writing* (published by Bantam Dell) recently came out in paperback.

Sherry Jones is perhaps best known for her controversial debut novel, *The Jewel of Medina* an international best-seller scheduled for translation into 20 languages. *The Sword of Medina*, a sequel, was published recently.

Lauren Kessler is the author of five works of narrative nonfiction, including Pacific Northwest Book Award winner *Dancing with Rose* (published in paperback as *Finding Life in the Land of Alzheimer's*), Washington Post bestseller *Clever Girl* and Los Angeles Times bestseller *The Happy Bottom Riding Club* — which David Letterman, in fierce competition with Oprah, chose as the first (and only) book for the Dave Letterman Book Club. Kessler appeared twice on his late-night show. She is also the author of Oregon Book Award winner *Stubborn Twig*. Her journalism has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, *O magazine*, *Utne Reader*, *The Nation*, *newsweek.com* and *salon.com*.

Caroline Keys was chosen for the 2009 Montana Artists Refuge Residency where she plans to complete her MFA thesis, a nonfiction writing project that addresses themes of identity, class, landscape, and culture through her experiences. When she's not writing, teaching, or reading submissions for *Tin House* magazine, Caroline spends most of her time making music. Just before her Western residency at the Montana Artist Refuge, Caroline spent some time getting re-acquainted with the South as a Fellow at the Hambidge Center in Georgia.

Michael Koepf worked for nineteen years as a commercial fisherman. His first novel was *The Fisherman's Son*. He is formerly a journalist and teacher and has worked on a screenplay on Lewis and Clark for Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks SKG.

Bill Konigsberg is an award-winning sports writer and novelist who recently moved to Billings, Montana from New York City. His first novel, *Out of the Pocket*, won this year's Lambda Literary Award for best Young Adult/Children's novel. Bill has written for The Associated Press and ESPN.com, and his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Denver Post* and *Arizona Republic*. He has won a GLAAD Media Award and currently has two more Young Adult novels under contract with Penguin.

Kate Kronen is the author of several short stories and poems published in the Montana Writers' Guild anthologies *A Blend of Voices* and *Montana Voices*. She is at work on a mystery novel entitled *Haunt His Grave*.

Melissa Kwasny is the author of *Reading Novalis in Montana*. She is the author of two other the books of poetry, *The Archival Birds* and *Thistle*, winner of the Idaho Prize. She is also the editor of *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800-1850*.

Dennis Lehane is the author of eight novels, including *Mystic River*, *Gone, Baby, Gone*, *Shutter Island* and *The Given Day*. He lives with his wife and daughter in Boston and the West Coast of Florida.

Samuel Ligon is the author of a collection of stories, *Drift and Swerve* (Autumn House 2009), and a novel, *Safe in Heaven Dead* (HarperCollins 2003). His stories have appeared in *The Quarterly*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Story Quarterly*, *Noise: Fiction Inspired by Sonic Youth*, *Post Road*, *Keyhole*, *Gulf Coast*, *New England Review*, and elsewhere. He teaches at Eastern Washington University's Inland Northwest Center for Writers, in Spokane, Washington, and is the editor of *Willow Springs*.

Laura Lippman was a reporter for twenty years, including twelve years at *The* (Baltimore) *Sun*. Her novels have been awarded the Edgar @, the Anthony, the Agatha, the Shamus, the Nero Wolfe, Gumshoe and Barry awards. She is the author the Tess Monaghan series that includes nine novels, including *Baltimore Blues*, *Charm City*, *Butchers Hill*, and *In Big Trouble*. Her most recent novel is *Life Sentences*.

Kathleen Little Leaf (Blackfeet) is a chemical dependency counselor at the Missoula Indian Center and a member of the Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness movement.

Donna Love is the author of *Loons*, *Diving Birds of the North*, *Awesome Ospreys*, and *Fishing Birds of the World*. Her book, *Awesome Ospreys*, became a Skipping Stones Honor Award winner in Nature and Ecology for promoting ecological understanding and cooperation around the world. Donna's recent books *Henry the Impatient Heron*, and *Animals Count In Grand Canyon National Park* were both released in 2009. Donna is currently working on two more books for Mountain Press: *A Wild Child's Guide to Glacier National Park* due out in early 2010, followed by *A Wild Child's Guide to Yellowstone National Park* in 2011.

Richard Manning is a freelance magazine writer, with essays and articles published in *Harper's*, *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, *Wired*, *Men's Journal*, *OnEarth*, and *The Los Angeles Time* among various others. He is the author of eight books including, *Rewilding the West: Restoration in a Prairie Landscape*, *Against the Grain*, *Food's Frontier*, and *Grassland: The History, Biology, Politics and Promise of the American Prairie*. *One Round River* was named a significant book of the year by *The New York Times*.

Neil McMahon is the author of *Dead Silver* and *Lone Creek*, which take place in and around Helena. He has also written four thrillers starring Dr. Carroll Monks. McMahon lives in Missoula.

Dana McMurray is in the Youth Services Department of the Missoula Public Library.

Deidre McNamer Author of the novels *Rima in the Weeds* (HarperCollins, 1991), *One Sweet Quarrel*, *My Russian*, and *Red Rover* (Viking, 2007). Stories and essays have appeared in the *New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, *Doubletake*, *New York Times* opinion page, and elsewhere. She currently teaches creative writing at The University of Montana.

Maile Meloy's most recent book is a collection of short stories, *Both Ways Is the Only Way I Want It*. She is also the author of the story collection *Half in Love* and the novels *Liars and Saints* and *A Family Daughter*. Meloy's stories have been published in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, and *The Paris Review*. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 2007 was named one of *Granta's* Best Young American Novelists. She was born and raised in Helena, Montana, and now lives in Los Angeles.

Ginny Merriam worked as an award-winning reporter and editor at the *Missoulian* newspaper for 20 years. She also taught reporting and editing as an adjunct in the journalism school several semesters. In 2006, she went to work for the City of Missoula and Mayor John Engen as the communications director for the City. She works steadily as a freelance journalist and is a frequent contributor to *Montana Magazine*.

Mark M. Miller most recent book is entitled, *Adventures in Yellowstone*. His research has appeared in scholarly journals including *Journalism and Mass Communications Quarterly*, *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Globe Pequot has scheduled his new book, *Adventures in Yellowstone: Early Travelers Tell Their Tales*,

Janice Mineer is the author of the children's picture book: *Gingerbread from the Heart*. She is an expert in the creation of enchanting gingerbread houses and was the driving force behind the construction of an eight foot tall gingerbread house as a fundraiser for the local Ronald McDonald House.

Rick Newby is executive director of Drumlummon Institute and editor-in-chief of *Drumlummon Views*, the online journal of Montana arts & culture (www.drumlummon.org). A poet, editor, independent scholar, and cultural journalist, Rick is a member of the Montana Arts Council and the steering committee of the Helena Festival of the Book. In 2009, he received the Montana Governor's Award for the Humanities.

Jack Nisbet is the author of *Purple Flat Top*; *Singing Grass*, *Burning Sage*; *Visible Bones*; and two books about fur trader David Thompson: *Sources of the River* and *The Mapmaker's Eye*. Nisbet's current project, *The Collector: David Douglas and the Natural History of the Northwest*, explores the interactions of this early Scottish naturalist with the landscape and culture of our region.

Sheryl Noethe is a poet, teacher, and founder/artistic director of the Missoula Writing Collaborative. Her collection of poetry, *The Ghost Openings*, received a Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award, and her new collection, *As Is*, was published in 2009.

Deborah Richie Oberbillig writes about the cool accomplishments of 40 birds that reside in, or migrate through, Montana in *Bird Feats of Montana*. She is an award-winning writer and has also taught interpretive writing to federal and state agencies and nonprofit groups.

Karl Olson lives in Missoula and works for the Missoula Public Library. In 2008 he was co curator of Montana's first Out at the Library exhibit and series devoted to lesbian and gay literature and history. He is a contributor to *All Our Stories Are Here*.

Peter Orner is the author of the novel, *The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo* a Finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, and the story collection, *Esther Stories*. His stories have been anthologized in *Best American Stories* and the *Pushcart Prize Annual*. Orner has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim and Lannan Foundations. Currently, he is a Kittredge Writer-in-Residence at The University of Montana, Missoula.

William Pack published his first short story, *Saints and Patrons*, in 2007. *The Bottom of the Sky* is his first novel. He has been interviewed on NPR affiliates, morning talk shows, commercial radio, *Voice of America*, *Forbes*, and PBS syndicated talk show *Between the Lines*. Before pursuing his writing career, Bill worked as a broker with a major Wall Street firm. Simultaneously, for several years, he was CEO of a private food manufacturing/distribution company affiliated with Beatrice Foods.

Robert Pack is the author of nineteen books of poetry, including: *Still Here, Still Now, Elk in Winter, Rounding it Out, Minding the Sun,* and *Fathering the Map: New and Selected Later Poems*. His most recent book of criticism is, *Belief and Uncertainty in the Poetry of Robert Frost* and his earlier collections of essays are, *The Long View: Essays on the Discipline of Hope and Poetic Craft* and *Affirming Limits*. He is currently completing a book about Shakespeare's major plays: *Choice and Necessity*. He teaches at The University of Montana in the English Department and the Honors College.

Greg Pape, Montana's Poet Laureate 2007-2009, is the author of seven books of poetry, most recently *American Flamingo*. His awards include a Pushcart Prize, the Richard Hugo Memorial Award for Poetry, the Vachel Lindsey Poetry Award and two National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships.

Wendy Parciak has worked as a wilderness ranger and biologist for numerous state and federal agencies. She also studied cello at the Juilliard School of Music. She wrote *Requiem for Locusts*, her first novel and recipient of the 2008 Montana Honor Book Award, to explore how people react when confronted by a psychotic individual whose life is more out of control than their own.

George Pelecanos is a *New York Times* bestselling author and a two-time winner of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize who regularly garners four-star reviews from coast to coast. The author of 16 novels set in the D.C. area, Pelecanos was an Emmy-nominated writer-producer on HBO's critically beloved *The Wire* and is an essayist and independent-film producer. He is also the author of the novel, *The Way Home*.

Charlene Porsild the Associate Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico.

From 2001-06 she was the Director of the Montana Historical Society Research Center where she assembled the team that wrote the new, *Montana Place Names: From Alzada to Zortman*. Currently Dr. Porsild serves as the Board Chair of the Museum Development Association in Santa Fe and as a member of the Geographic Place Names Review Committee for the State of New Mexico.

Jim Rains teaches on the Native American Studies faculty at Montana State University – Billings. Jim is a contributor to the recently published anthology of critical essays about Montana literature titled *All of Our Stories Are Here: Critical Perspectives on Montana Literature*

Robert Rath is a freelance illustrator whose passion is children's books. His work includes *The Great Monte Mystery, First Dog, Montana Chillers,* and *Yellowstone's Hot Legends and Cool Myths*. Rath lives in Bozeman.

Jody Rave has spent the last 13 years working as a daily newspaper journalist, working as a business and American Indian beat reporter at papers in Idaho, Utah, Nebraska and Montana. She is currently a full-time graduate student at the University of Montana where she is working on a book about the Interior Department's management of American Indian land.

Peter Richards is the author of *Nude Siren* and *Oubliette*, both from Wave Books. His honors include an Academy of American Poets Prize, The John Logan Award, and a Massachusetts Center for the Book Honors Award. He has taught at Harvard University, Tufts University, and Museum School of Fine Arts, Boston. His chapbook *Hibernal* is forthcoming from Empyrean Press.

Diane Sands is the development officer in from The Historical Museum at Fort Missoula.

David Sedaris is an author, essayist, playwright, and humorist. He is the author of the *When You Are Engulfed In Flames, Naked, Me Talk Pretty One Day,* and *Dress Your Family in Corduroy And Denim, Barrel Fever* and *Holidays on Ice*. He has been nominated for three Emmy awards for Best Spoken Word and Best Comedy Album. In collaboration with his sister, Amy Sedaris, he has written half-a-dozen plays including, *Stump the Host, Stitches, One Woman Shoe,* which received an Obie Award, *Incident at Cobbler's Knob,* and *The Book of Liz*. His work is also frequently featured in *The New Yorker*.

Prageeta Sharma, author of *Bliss to Fill; The Opening Question*, winner of the 2004 Fence Modern Poets Prize; and *Infamous Landscapes*, is Director of the Creative Writing Program at The University of Montana. Sharma's poems and writing have appeared in *Art Asia Pacific, Bomb, Boston Review, Fence, Women's Review of Books* and other journals.

Brian Shovers has been a reference historian and more recently Director of the Library at the Montana Historical Society for the past sixteen years. He lived in Butte for the decade of the 1980s, where he served as President of the Butte Historical Society and editor of the *Speculator*, a journal published by the Butte Historical Society. Shovers has written a number of articles on Butte's industrial past for *Montana, The Magazine of Western History*.

David Simon is a Baltimore-based author, journalist and writer-producer of television specializing in criminal justice and urban issues, most notably the HBO series, *The Wire*. His books include, *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets. The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood*.

Lisa Simon is a teacher, reader and scholar of poetry with a Ph.D. from University of Washington, Seattle, specializing in literary modernism. She is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Missoula, Montana and is involved in as many humanities education projects as daylight will allow.

Corby Skinner has served as the director of the Writer's Voice of the Billings Family YMCA since 1991. He also serves as the state coordinator for "TumbleWords," a literary project of the Western States Arts Federation. This past June, he was awarded a Governor's Humanities Award by Humanities Montana and Governor Schweitzer and Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger.

Andrew Smith's essays and poetry have been published in literary and national magazines, including *Gulf Coast, Surface, GQ,* and *Ploughshares*. He has taught at the University of Iowa, the Gotham Writers' Workshop, and is an Assistant Professor in the Media Arts program at the University of Montana He co-wrote and co-directed the critically-acclaimed feature film *The Slaughter Rule* as well as *The Wide Open*.

Kathleen Snow has published two novels, *Night Walking* and *Aguahega* and she has written for *Harper's* and *Women in Natural Resources*, among other magazines.

Robert Stubblefield teaches at The University of Montana. He has published fiction and personal essays in *Dreamers and Desperadoes: Contemporary Short Fiction of the American West, Hayden's Ferry Review, Left Bank, The Clackamas Literary Review, Cascadia Times, Oregon Humanities, Open Spaces, Oregon Salmon: Essays on the State of the Fish at the Turn of the Millenium,* and *High Desert Journal* among others. Robert's story "Preserves" is forthcoming in *Best American Stories of the West*.

Mark Sullivan is the author of seven novels, including *Triple Cross, Serpent's Kiss, The Purification Ceremony and Labyrinth. The Fall Line*, his debut novel, focused on the world of extreme skiers and was named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year.

Dorothea Susag is the author of *Roots and Branches: A Resource of Native American Literature*. A retired English teacher, she works as an Independent Education Consultant and as an Indian Education Curriculum Specialist for OPI.

Brooke Swaney is a twenty-nine year old independent filmmaker and a 2009 resident of the Montana Artists Refuge. Her first short film, played at several festivals and was nominated at the 2005 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco. Currently, Brooke is working on her graduate thesis film at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. This fall she has returned to Montana to shoot and direct her thesis.

Theresa Tamura is a photographer based in Walla Walla, Wash. She is working on a documentary book about Idaho's Minidoka Relocation Center, now a national historic site where more than 9,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. She taught photojournalism at The University of Montana School of Journalism from 2002 to 2007. Previously, she was a photojournalist at several daily newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Seattle Times*.

Heidi M. Thomas has had a penchant for reading and writing since she was a child. After getting a degree in journalism from the University of Montana, she worked for the Daily Missoulian newspaper. She has published numerous magazine articles and a novel, *Cowgirl Dreams*, which is the first in a series about strong, independent Montana women.

Rachel Toor is the author of *The Pig and I: Why It's So Easy To Love An Animal And So Hard To Live With A Man and Personal Record: A Love Affair with Running*. She graduated cum laude from Yale University and spent ten-plus years climbing the editorial ladder in the publishing industry, after which she became an admissions counselor at Duke University.

Paul VanDevellder is the author of the books *Savages and Scoundrels: The Untold Story of America's Road to Empire through Indian Territory* and *Coyote Warrior: One Man, Three Tribes, and the Trial that Forged a Nation*. He has had stories featured in *Stanford Magazine*, *Audubon*, *The Native Press*, *Forbes* and on *Smithsonian.com*, and *Historynet.com*.

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