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Authors' Biographies

SEEDS: The Literary Journal of the Sisters of Color

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Sara Addae, a native of Providence, R.I., is currently living, working, gardening and "building" her family in Detroit. Sara helps to produce HIP (Horizons in Poetry), Detroit's longest running poetry series. "Hey Grandma" is an exploration of tribe, as well as a mythical piece based on the fundamental need to turn to an elder for guidance and affirmation."

Lori Anderson, a transplanted westerner (Montana/California), teaches in upstate New York. Her works include *Cultivating Excess* (Eighth Mountain Press) and *Walking the Dead* (Heaven Bone Press).

Ventra Asana, a Detroit native, is a filmmaker as well as the author of *Lightning Blue Thoughts and Love Imaginings* (Cole-Settles, 1994). She has been the featured poet for a number of poetry venues in Detroit including Horizons in Poetry (HIP), The Broadside Poet's Theater and City Poets.

Druis A. Beasley is an artist/educator, poet/writer, vocalist and percussionist. She has been writing and performing her poetry since 1971 and is a founding member of the Sisters of Color Writing Collective (SOC). Her work has appeared in *SEEDS*, *The Little Magazine* and numerous on-line poetry journals. Currently, she conducts writing residencies in upstate New York schools.

Carmen Bagan, Romanian born poet/activist, is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She lives in Ann Arbor where she coordinates the Guild House Poetry Series and is the annual organizer for Ann Arbor's Amnesty International's Literary Benefit.

Mashana Burton is a native of Detroit and is working toward a degree in education. Currently, she works with children at the Inner City Sub-Center. At twenty-two, she is still exploring her talents as a writer.

Esperanza Malavè Cintròn, a founding member of The Sisters of Color Writers' Collective (SOC), is happily mothering her daughter, Lèna, and writing poetry and prose in her native Detroit. She teaches English full-time at Wayne County Community College and occasionally for Wayne State University.

Cherry B. McCutchen was born and raised in the South Bronx, up on the hill. Looking for a way to talk about her "multi-roughneck" experiences, she started writing. Continuing in that roughneck tradition, Cherry is "keeping it in the streets," always remembering "Black," and "most definitely giving back."

stacey DAWES is a Cuban, Jamaican, "American" young woman who is "trying to get her groove on in this crazy world and move even more comfortably in her BLACKNESS through her writing, living and experiencing love."

Perri Giovannucci is the author of *The Love of Three Oranges*, a collection of stories and poems. She is influenced by surrealism, bebop, abstract expressionism and found object art. Perri has won a number of awards and is currently pursuing a master's degree in English at Wayne State University.

Jill hanifan received a Doctorate of Arts from the University of New York at Albany in 1987, and is an activist and community builder for the arts in the Albany area. Her work has appeared in *The Little Magazine*, *13th Moon*, *Contact II*, *Heaven Bone*, and *Earth's Daughters*. She teaches at the State University of New York at Albany and Union College and is studying the poetry of Muriel Rukeyser.

Aurora Harris was born in Detroit to a Filipino mother and an African American father, her work centers on the primacy of diversity, the social issues that plague urban centers, women and the love for city. She reads her work often in Detroit and Toronto and is a member of Detroit's National World Slam Team.

Kaleema Hasan is an "urban love poet," community activist, mother of five and grandmother of five. She is working on her first novel which deals with the realities of urban love. "It is," says Kaleema, "a healing novel."

Lolita Hernandez's poetry and fiction draw on the rhythms and language of her Trinidad and St. Vincent heritage and are tempered by 22 years as a UAW worker at the Cadillac plant in Detroit. She has an MFA in Creative Writing from Vermont College and a well deserved B.S. from the school of life.

Wilma Kahn lives in Galesburg, Michigan. She is a "part-time, temporary, terminal instructor" of writing, literature, creative writing and pedagogy at Western Michigan University. She is a published author of essays, poetry, and fiction; an editor of literary magazines; "underpaid; and seeking better employment."

Nadya J. Lawson is a graduate student at the State University of New York at Albany (SUNYA) and is a member of the Albany Chapter of the Sisters of Color Writing Collective. She is a native of Brooklyn with roots in the Caribbean.

Tanya Manning, poet and playwright, is a graduate student at SUNYA where she is currently working on two masters degrees. Her choreopoem "Mahogany Women's Movements" is being considered for repertory production and she is preparing another of her plays for an Albany area production next year.

Leslie Reese, a prolific poet, has been published in many periodicals, received numerous awards and is the author of *Upside Down Tapestry Mosaic History* (Broadside Press). Although a native of Detroit, Leslie currently lives, works and attends school in Huntsville, Alabama.

Dale Rich is intrigued by the visual image. He studied photography and became increasingly interested in historical photographs which he incorporates into exhibits. Over the past five years, he has helped to develop a number of television documentaries, photo exhibits and newspaper articles that examine various aspects of African-American history.

Ann Morgan Strong, although born in the southwest, has lived in Michigan for nearly two decades. Published in a number of small literary journals, she considers herself a language poet, but is best known for her "womyn based" performance work.

Teresa Tan, poet and visual artist, is a graduate of the Center for Creative Studies. She is of Chinese and Finnish descent and calls herself a "vibrational poet" citing alternative healing, quantum physics and the merging of science and spirituality as the current impetuses for her work which has appeared in *HIPology* (Broadside Press), *Canadian Journal of Political and Social Theory* (Concordia University) and *The Very Inside* (Sister Vision Press/Ontario).

Rayfield Allen Waller is the author of *Abstract Blues* (Broadside Press) and a native of Detroit. He is currently living in Ithaca, New York where he is completing his doctoral dissertation at Cornell University while writing for the *Ithaca Times* and the *Ithaca Journal*.