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Authors' Biographies

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Authors' Biographies

(Although the writers have composed their own biographies, some changes have been made for consistency of editorial form.)

Lori Anderson

Currently studying electronic arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Lori lives and works in upstate New York. She is the author of *Cultivating Excess* (Eighth Mountain Press) and has been published in a number of anthologies.

Marsha R. Carruthers

An actress, wordsmith, healer and writer/editor of articles on health issues, Marsha has an intense interest in global peace and alternative approaches to health. Performing, singing, writing, being physically active, traveling and meeting new people are all additional spokes in her ever expanding wheel of consciousness.

Esperanza Malavé Cintrón

A founding member of the Sisters of Color Writers Collective and founder of the Detroit Chapter, she holds a doctorate in English Literature from The State University of New York. Her work has been published in several anthologies including *Double Stitch* (Beacon Press), *Erotique Noire* (Doubleday), and the forthcoming *Wayne State University Press Anthology of Detroit Poets*. She lives in Detroit with her eight year old daughter, Lena, and teaches writing at Wayne County Community College. "Margaret and Belle" is from *Shades*, a collection of interwoven vignettes.

druis

Also known as Druis A. Beasley, she is an artist/educator and storyteller. She has been performing her work since 1971, and is a founding member of the Sisters of Color Writers Collective. She is also the founder and artistic directory of The Tellers of Tales Collective. druis conducts literary and storytelling residencies throughout New York State, and is currently working on her first volume of poetics, and a two woman performance work.

jil hanifan

Currently teaching science fiction and occult literature as well as creative writing at The State University of New York, jil lives, writes and performs her work in Albany, NY. Her work has appeared in *Big Scream*, *Earth's Daughters*, *13th Moon*, *Two Girlz*, and *Out of the Catskills* among others. Her most recent chapbook, *wethergirls: wind rose*, is available through TA'WIL Books and Documents, 6 Madison Place, Albany, NY 12202.

S. P. Holland

Having lived in Michigan and California, Holland is currently living, working on her novel and teaching in up-state New York at The State University of New York at Albany. "children love ice cream" is from her novel in progress, *How Bhubba the Socrates Got to Be Neither*.

Efua Korantema

A lover of language, dance and African art of the diaspora, her poetry has been published in *The Black Scholar* and *Seeds*. Efua was a modern and jazz dancer until 1986, and has excelled in the art of photography for a number of years. Her photographs have been exhibited at Arts Extended Gallery among others. She has one daughter, Kalah Leone Smith, a journalism student at Wayne State University.

Denise Maclin

A student at Detroit Job Corp. Center, she has been writing poetry since she was nineteen years old. She was born and raised in Detroit. Maclin says that she enjoys writing poetry about the issues and obstacles she encounters.

Cecilia Rodríguez Milanes

Born in New Jersey to Cuban parents, she studied writing, literature and women's studies at the University of Miami (B.A. 1981) and the State University of New York at Albany (D.A. 1989). Her work has been collected in *Paper Dance*, *Iguana Dreams*, *Little Havana Blues* and other collections of Latino writing. Currently, she is Associate Professor of Latino/a literature at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. At present she is working on a novel as well as editing a collection of Latino/a life stories. Cecilia is also one of the three founding members of the Sisters of Color Writers Collective.

k l moore

"a leonine quarter-of-a-century year old writer from Detroit," pens every poetic work in lower case except God. She says, "Words expand the atmosphere in which I breathe; whenever I deny myself writing, my lungs shorten, literally." Moore acknowledges, "God, for saying not so when I thought otherwise of my blessing, and my mother for potty training with books."

Yun-Sook Kim Navarre

Born in Seoul, Korea, Navarre is a transracial adoptee (international/interracial adoption) who was raised on Detroit's east side. Currently, a social worker for the City of Detroit's Head Start Family Service Center, she is working on my master's at Wayne State and is planning a year abroad teaching English in Korea. She also models and acts for

various campus and community productions trying to represent minority women to the fullest. Her work has also appeared in the *Metrotimes*.

Mwtabu S. Okantah

Currently, Director of the Center of Pan-African Culture at Kent State University, he also serves as Poet in Resident in the Department of Pan-African Studies. He is author of *Cheikh Anta Diop: Poem for the Living* (1997), *Collage* (1984) and *Afreeka Brass* (1983). His poem "see her" is from "as '...and, in 1981,'" which appeared first in *Afreeka Brass* in 1983.

Gerri Stone

Several of her poems were published in the anthology *At the Edge of Mirror Lake*. She is currently working on *Matters*, a book of poems on healing and empowerment. She lives in Southfield, MI with her husband Leroy.

Michael Van Tull

A performance poet, Van Tull performs his work on radio and at a variety of other venues. He currently works with WGPR's (107.5 FM) *Community Highlights* and as an agent scheduling arts events in metropolitan Detroit. He is currently working on his first collection of poetry which will be soon published and recorded.

Debraha K. Watson

"Weaving stories together with bits and pieces of truth, folklore, and dreams," Debraha is "a Black woman, mother, sister-friend living in Detroit, MI." She has two jobs: a freelance writer of short stories and commentaries, and a teacher of "adults in an urban community college setting." Her work has appeared in the *Detroit Writer's Guild's Days Dawn and Paradise Valley Days*.

Karen Williams

A member of The Detroit Black Writers Guild, Karen lives in Inkster, MI. She is a 1999-2001 Cave Canem Fellow and has been published in various poetry and fiction anthologies and journals. An earlier version of Karen's short story "The Night Club" appeared in the *Detroit Writer's Guild's Days Dawn: An Anthology of Short Stories*.

Helena Yago

An active member of the Detroit Chapter of the Sisters of Color, Helena is a native of Highland Park who writes hard-hitting, REAL poetry in the Hip-Hop tradition. She currently works as a paralegal, and is raising her two sons to strive hard and to respect themselves as young black men.