

Photographer's Biography

Jim Bones was 15 years old when the family got a Brownie 8mm camera. It was Christmas 1958, just before the Air Force moved them cross-country from Virginia to Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, where his father would continue serving as an officer. That trip marked the birth of a photographer, with a special interest in capturing scenes of mountains, deserts, oceans, and missiles. By the time Jim entered the University of Texas, Austin, in 1962, he had already lived in Florida, Texas, California, Maryland, and Virginia.

At the university, his interests became as migratory as his future life would become, from aerospace engineering to physics to geology before finding a home in the fine arts. He also became a teaching assistant to Russell Lee, noted depression-era Farm Security Administration documentary photographer. Encouraged by Lee, Jim began a lifelong love affair with 4x5 inch format cameras.

In 1970, Jim received a Corporation for Public Broadcasting Career Fellowship at KERA-TV in Dallas, to produce environmental films and nature poems incorporating large-format images and motion picture film. From 1972 to 1973, as a Texas Institute of Letters Dobie-Paisano Fellow, Jim was the first photographer and artist to spend a year at the former J. Frank Dobie Ranch, near Austin. The photographs from his residency were published in 1975 as *Texas Heartland: A Hill Country Year*, with text by John Graves.

Jim worked in Tesuque, New Mexico from 1975 to 1978, as a dye transfer printing assistant to premier large-format color nature photographer Eliot Porter. His continuing career as a freelance photographer and writer developed from these experiences.

Jim Bones' other books include *Texas Earth Surfaces* (1970), *Texas Wild* (1976), *Texas West of the Pecos* (1981), *Rio Grande, Mountains to the Sea* (1985), *Texas, Images of the Landscape* (1986), *Seeds of Change: The Living Treasure* (1994), *The Smithsonian Guides to Natural America: The South-Central States* (1996), and *A Long View Southwest* (2012). Fifty years of Jim's work in the Big Bend were featured in Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine, April 2015, and in the 2016 Big Bend National Park Calendar, for the 100th Anniversary year of the National Park Service.

In 1994, Jim began conducting workshops and teaching about seedball use for Living Art Landscape Rehabilitation, a technique he learned from Masanobu Fukuoka, author of *A One-Straw Revolution*, while on assignment in Japan. His online video, *The Seedball Story*, has been viewed more than 121,000 times and copied around the world. In the video he challenges the viewer: "Ask yourself, whose heart have you touched today, and whose eyes have you opened, and to what? To truth and beauty, I trust. Life is art. The rest is just artifact."

Poets' Biographies

Mike Alexander started out in New York City. After relocating to Houston, he ran the Mausoleum readings for six years at what is now Avant Garden, in the Montrose area. His work has appeared in various decadent magazines, chapbooks, and poetry websites. His first full-length collection, *Retrograde*, appeared in 2013. Over the years he has been a featured poet at the Houston Poetry Fest, a contributing editor for *lyric poetry review*, a board member for Mutabilis Press, a member of Public Poetry's first selection committee. At present he is coordinating a small reading soirée called Poetry FIX, at FIX Coffeebar.

Gloria Amescua, a CantoMundo fellow and Hedgebrook alumna, is the author of the poetry chapbooks, *Windchimes* and *What Remains*. A workshop presenter, she has also been published in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *di-verse-city*, *Kweli Journal*, *Generations*, *Texas Poetry Calendar*, *Acentos Review*, *Pilgrimage*, *Bearing the Mask: Southwestern Persona Poems*, *Entre Guadalupe y Malinche*, and *The Crafty Poet II*. She won the Austin Poetry Society and Christina Sergeyevna Awards. Her poem "Chanclas, Find Our Ground" was the artist's choice for *Rattle's* March 2017 Ekphrastic Challenge. She has also received the 2016 New Voices Award Honor for her picture book manuscript in verse, *Luz Jiménez, No Ordinary Girl*.

Jenny Browne is the 2017 Texas State Poet Laureate. The author of three collections of poems, *At Once*, *The Second Reason*, and *Dear Stranger*, she is currently a professor of English at Trinity University where she teaches courses in creative writing, women and gender studies, and environmental literature. She has received the Cecil Hemley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and two fellowships from the Writers' League of Texas. Her poems and essays have appeared in numerous publications, including *American Poetry Review*, *Boston Review*, *Oxford American*, *The New York Times*, and *Tin House*. She lives in downtown San Antonio with her husband, photographer Scott Martin, and their daughters, Lyda and Harriet.

Stan Crawford is an attorney and poet who lives in the Heights in Houston, Texas, with his wife Dawn and their menagerie of pets. His poems have been published in a number of journals and anthologies, including *The Comstock Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Water-Stone Review*, and *Illya's Honey*. His poetry collection, *Resisting Gravity* (Lamar University Literary Press), was a Finalist for the Bob Bush Memorial Award for First Book of Poetry in 2017.

Sarah Cortez, Councilor of the Texas Institute of Letters, has poems, essays, book reviews, and short stories published in journals, e.g., *Texas Monthly*, *Rattle*, *The Sun*, *Pennsylvania English*, *Louisiana Literature*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, and *Southwestern American Literature*. She placed as a finalist for Writers' League of Texas, Los Angeles Book Festival, and PEN Southwest Poetry; she won a PEN Texas Poetry Award. Her anthologies have won the Southwest Book Award, International Latino Book Awards (ILBA), Border Region Librarians Assn. Award, Press Women of Texas Editing Award, and Skipping Stones International Honor Award. Her recent anthology, *Vanishing Points: Poems and Photographs of Texas Roadside Memorials*, won Southwest Book of the Year, ILBA, Press Women of Texas Award, and First Prize in Editing from the National Federation of Press Women.

David E. Cowen is the author of three books of poetry: *Sixth and Adams* (PW Press, 2001), *The Madness of Empty Spaces* (Weasel Press, 2014), and *The Seven Yards of Sorrow* (Weasel Press, 2016), the latter two were named to the Bram Stoker Preliminary Ballot for their respective years of publication. He has published poems, fiction, and nonfiction in journals in the United States, Great Britain, and Australia, and was editor of the Horror Writers Association's *Poetry Showcase Vols. III and IV*. He is the current president and a lifetime member of the Gulf Coast Poets in Texas.

Carolyn Dahl was the grand prize winner in the 2015 national ekphrastic poetry competition ARTlines2 and a finalist in Public Poetry's Work-themed contest in 2017. She has been published in various literary magazines, such as *Copper Nickel*, *Rock & Sling*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Plainsongs*, and twenty-five anthologies (most recently in *Texas Weather* and *Poetry Box: Music*). Also an artist, she is the author of the fabric dyeing and painting books *Transforming Fabric 1 & 2*, the nature printing/essay book *Natural Impressions*, and co-author of *The Painted Door Opened: Art and Poetry* (www.carolyndahlstudio.com).

Robin Davidson is author of two poem chapbooks, *Kneeling in the Dojo* (Finishing Line Press) and *City that Ripens on the Tree of the World* (Calypso Editions), and a full collection, *Luminous Other* (Ashland Poetry Press), as well as recipient of the Ashland Poetry Press's 2012 Richard Snyder Memorial Publication Prize. She is co-translator with Ewa Nowakowska of *The New Century: Poems from the Polish of Ewa Lipska* (Northwestern University Press), and is the recipient of, among other awards, a Fulbright professorship at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, and a National Endowment for the Arts translation fellowship. She was named the 2015-2017 Poet Laureate for the City of Houston and was a finalist for Texas State Poet Laureate in 2017. She is professor of literature and creative writing for the University of Houston-Downtown.

Margo Davis's poems have appeared in *Light: A Journal of Photography & Poetry*, *Wisconsin Review*, *Midwest Quarterly*, *Slipstream*, *Agave Magazine*, *A Clean, Well-Lighted Place*, and several *Texas Poetry Calendars*. Forthcoming poems are to appear in *Civilized Beasts*, *Vine Leaves Literary Journal*, and a Main Street Rag anthology. She thrives on closely observing others, film, photographs, and natural settings.

Kelly Ann Ellis lives, works, and writes in Houston, Texas, where she obtained an M.A. in English Literature from the University of Houston. She is a member of Poets in the Loop and co-founder of HotPoet, which produces events that promote poetry and music in Houston. She has been published in various journals and received awards from Bay Area Writers League and San Gabriel Writers League. She also had two winning poems in Public Poetry's inaugural ARTlines contest in 2012, and her work was showcased in the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. She teaches at Spring Early College Academy and the University of Houston.

Carolyn Tourney Florek is a poet and visual artist who lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after living in Houston, Texas, for more than thirty years. Her poetry has been published in *Texas Review*, *Illya's Honey*, and several Houston Poetry Fest anthologies, among other publications. Her poem, "Over Flat Creek," published in the *2018 Texas Poetry Calendar*, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is co-founder with her husband, Bob, of Mutabilis Press. She was artist-in-residence at Bandelier National Monument, fall of 2015. She now divides her time between poetry, painting, gardening, and volunteering with the New Mexico Center for Therapeutic Riding and the Santa Fe National Forest.

Priscilla Frake is the author of *Correspondence*, a book of epistolary poems. She has published poetry in numerous anthologies and in dozens of journals, including *Verse Daily*, *Nimrod*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *Medical Literary Messenger*, *Carbon Culture Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Crack the Spine*, *The Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, and *The New Welsh Review*. Her honors include the Lorene Pouncey Award at the Houston Poetry Festival and a Pushcart nomination. She lives in Sugar Land, Texas, where she is a studio jeweler.

John Gorman lives in Galveston, Texas, and directs the monthly Poets Roundtable critique group. He is a professor emeritus of literature at University of Houston-Clear Lake where he was part of its founding faculty. His poems, gathered in four chapbooks, have appeared in many journals in Texas, nationally, and in Canada. He has been active with First Friday, Houston Poetry Fest, Public Poetry, and other reading series.

Lucy Griffith lives on a ranch beside the Guadalupe River near Comfort, Texas. She's a retired psychologist and happiest on a tractor named Ruby, a muse with 25 horsepower. She has work in *Bearing the Mask: Southwestern Persona Poems* (Dos Gatos Press) and was recently a finalist in Public Poetry's Work-themed contest in 2017. A series of essays, "The View from Rusty Bend," have been published in *The Texas Star*.

Ann Howells has edited *Illya's Honey* for eighteen years, recently going digital: www.IllyasHoney.com, and adding a co-editor. She serves on the board of Dallas Poets Community and has been named a "Distinguished Poet of Dallas" by the city. Her chapbooks are *Black Crow in Flight* (Main Street Rag), *Letters for My Daughter* (Flutter), and *Softly Beating Wings* which won the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest for 2017 (Blackbead). Her books include *Under a Lone Star*, illustrated by J. Darrell Kirkley (Village Books), and an anthology of Dallas/Fort Worth poets she edited, *Cattlemen & Cadillacs* (Dallas Poets Community). Her work appears widely in small press and university journals; she has four Pushcart nominations.

Cindy Huyser is the author of *Burning Number Five: Power Plant Poems* (co-winner, 2014 Blue Horse Press Poetry Chapbook Contest) and an editor of *Bearing the Mask: Southwestern Persona Poems* (Dos Gatos Press, 2016). Her poetry has been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize and has recently appeared in *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Red River Review*, and *Watermelon Isotope* (<https://watermelonisotope.com>).

Sharon Klander holds an M.A. in English from the University of Houston Graduate Creative Writing Program and a Ph.D. in American literature and creative writing from Ohio University. In 1994, she began her full-time teaching of literature, creative writing, and rhetorical analysis at Houston Community College-Central. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Republic* and *New Letters*; one of her poems, a Notable Finalist for Inkwell, was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Other poems, along with essays on the creative process, are featured in several anthologies, including *The Art and Craft of Poetry*, *The Writing Room: Keys to the Craft of Fiction and Poetry*, and in two Mutabilis Press anthologies, *The Weight of Addition* and *Improbable Worlds*. Her published scholarship concerns poetry by John Haines and Colette Inez.

Gordon Magill has had many careers, including restaurateur, journalist, teacher, exhibit writer, freelance writer, and poet. He has worked for *The Evening Star* and *Washington Post* newspapers, operated wine country restaurants in California, and taught in public schools and at the Institute of American Indian Arts. He has traveled widely in the American West and backpacked in some, if not all, of the ranges of the Western Cordillera. He currently lives in Austin, Texas, and frequently participates in poetry readings there. He is married to Linda Marie, a fabulous poet and artist. His ekphrastic poems draw on experiences in California and Nevada.

Wade Martin is co-editor of the *Texas Poetry Calendar* (Dos Gatos Press) and a 2014 Pushcart Prize nominee (*Illya's Honey*). He is currently pursuing a M.F.A. in poetry at Texas State University. His poems have appeared recently in *Freshwater*, *Bird's Thumb*, and *Sagebrush Review*.

David Meischen has been honored by a Pushcart Prize for his autobiographical essay, "How to Shoot at Someone Who Outdrew You," included in Pushcart Prize XLII. Recipient of the 2017 Kay Cattarulla Award for Best Short Story from the Texas Institute of Letters, he has fiction, nonfiction, or poetry in *Borderlands*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *The Ocotillo Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Talking Writing*, and elsewhere. Co-founder and managing editor of Dos Gatos Press, he lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with his husband—also his co-publisher and co-editor—Scott Wiggerman.

John Milkereit lives in the Montrose area of Houston, Texas. He is a rotating equipment engineer working at an engineering contracting firm. His poems have appeared in various literary journals, including *San Pedro River Review* and the *Texas Poetry Calendar*. His chapbooks are *Home & Away* and *Paying Admissions* (Pudding House Press, 2010). He completed a low-residency M.F.A. in creative writing at the Rainier Writing Workshop in Tacoma, Washington. His full-length collection of poems, *A Rotating Equipment Engineer Is Never Finished*, was published March, 2015 (Ink Brush Press).

Laura Peña was born and raised in Houston, Texas. She holds a B.A. in English literature and an M.A. in Education. She is a bilingual elementary school teacher. She has been published in *di-vêrsé-city*, *Boundless*, *Houston Poetry Fest anthology*, *The Bayou Review*, *Harbinger Asylum*, *Illya's Honey*, *Red River Review*, and the *Texas Poetry Calendar*. She is a member of Gulf Coast Poets, the Poetry Society of Texas, Academy of American Poets, Writers' League of Texas, and the critique group, Poetry Works Workshops. She organizes Poetry Out of Bounds each year, which is the official kick-off event for Houston Poetry Fest.

Elina Petrova lived in Ukraine and worked in engineering management until 2007. She has many Russian and Ukrainian publication credits, and a book of Russian poems. She now works in a Houston law firm. Her poetry has been published in *Texas Review*, *Texas Poetry Calendars*, *FreeFall* (Canada), *Voices de la Luna*, *Harbinger Asylum*, *Illya's Honey*, *Melancholy Hyperbole*, *Panoply*, the anthologies of the Waco, Houston, and Austin poetry festivals, *Untameable City* (Mutabilis Press), Poetry anthologies of the American Southwest (Dos Gatos Press), and *Selfhood* (India). She is a frequent reader at Rice Gallery's Words & Art. Her first book of poetry in English, *Aching Miracle*, was released in September, 2015.

Lee Robinson's first poetry collection, *Hearsay*, won the 2004 Poets Out Loud Prize from Fordham University Press and the Violet Crown Award from the Writers' League of Texas. She has published poetry, essays, and short stories in many magazines and journals, including *Harper's*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Texas Observer*. She has also published two novels, a young adult novel, and a second poetry collection. With her husband, Jerald Winakur, she was the 2009 recipient of Gemini Ink's Literary Excellence Award. She practiced law in Charleston, South Carolina, for over 20 years and now teaches at the Center for Medical Humanities and Ethics, UT Health, San Antonio, Texas.

Nelson Sager is a retired distinguished professor emeritus in English, from Sul Ross State University, where he taught in the Department of Languages and Literature. He resides in Alpine, Texas, with his wife Jane and their black cat "Mr. Cools."

Varsha Saraiya-Shah's poetry collection, VOICES, was published by Finishing Line Press. Her work appears in anthologies and journals such as *Asian Cha*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Convergence*, *Right Hand Pointing*, *Texas Observer*, and *UT Press*. An eye for life's little wonders energizes her poetry. She is a frequent reader at Rice Gallery's Words & Art. She works in Houston, Texas, and serves on the Mutabilis Press Board. She's an active member of Matwaala South Asian Poets' Diaspora.

Rebecca A. Spears, a poet and essayist living in Texas, is the author of *The Bright Obvious*. Her poems and essays are included in *TriQuarterly*, *Crazyhorse*, *Calyx*, *Verse Daily*, *Birmingham Poetry Review*, *Barrow Street*, *R.kv.ry*, *Nimrod*, *Relief*, *Image*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Texas Review*, and other journals and anthologies. She has received awards from the Taos Writers Workshop, Vermont Studio Center, and The Writers Colony at Dairy Hollow; she is a recent Pushcart nominee and has been a finalist for the Iowa Review Poetry Award.

Sandi Stromberg has been featured on Houston Public Media's "Voices and Verses" and guest edited Mutabilis Press' most recent anthology, *Untameable City: Poems on the Nature of Houston*, one of 12 books chosen for the Houston Chronicle's 2017 Readers Challenge. She has been a juried poet nine times in the Houston Poetry Fest, and has poems in *Texas Poetry Calendars*, *Colere: A Journal of Cultural Exploration*, Poetry anthologies of the American Southwest (Dos Gatos Press), *Illya's Honey*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Red River Review*, and anthologies, including *TimeSlice*, *The Weight of Addition*, *Improbable Worlds*, *Crossing Lines (Main Street Rag)*, *Goodbye, Mexico*, *Selfhood (India)*, and the *Texas Weather Anthology*, among others.

Larry D. Thomas, a member of the Texas Institute of Letters and the 2008 Texas Poet Laureate, has published several award-winning collections of poetry including *As If Light Actually Matters: New & Selected Poems*, which received a 2015 Writers' League of Texas Book Awards Finalist citation. He lives in the high Chihuahuan Desert of Far West Texas with his wife and two long-haired Chihuahuas. Among his best friends are the Chihuahuan raven, puma, great horned owl, coyote, javelina, mule deer, gray fox, Texas horned lizard, thick-handed scorpion, black-tailed jackrabbit, diamondback rattlesnake, and blue quail.

Chuck Wemple has written poetry for more than twenty-eight years; served as co-editor of *Spiky Palm*; met his wife Mary at a poetry reading, and is the President of Mutabilis Press. His poetry incorporates themes of mythology, magical realism, and the occasional circus bear. His poem "Some Nights Tiny Furies" placed third in the Austin International Poetry Festival Anthology competition in 2015.

Mary Wemple is a poet, artist, and creator of Words & Art, a reading and workshop series inspired by the art in Houston. She holds degrees in English and studio art from the University of Houston and is currently at work on an M.F.A. in studio art at MICA in Baltimore. Her poetry has been published in *di-vêrsé-city*, *Houston Poetry Fest Anthology*, *Harbinger Asylum*, and her art shown at the Inman Gallery, DiverseWorks, and Lawndale Art Center.

Sasha West's first book, *Failure and I Bury the Body*, won the National Poetry Series and the Texas Institute of Letters First Book of Poetry Award. Her poems have appeared in *The Kenyon Review Online*, *West Branch*, *The Southern Review*, *Copper Nickel*, and elsewhere. Her awards include a Bread Loaf Writers' Conference Fellowship, Rice University's Parks Fellowship, and a Houston Arts Alliance grant. She is on the creative writing faculty at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

Marilyn Westfall has published poetry, fiction, essays, and interviews over many years, including interviews with three Texas poets laureate in *Lone Star Literary Life*. Her poetry has appeared in various magazines, most recently in *Illya's Honey*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *Pilgrimage*, *Gravel*, *Concho River Review*, *Red River Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, and *Right Hand Pointing*. It has been anthologized in *Bearing the Mask: Southwestern Persona Poems*.

Allyson Whipple is an M.F.A. candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Texas at El Paso. She is the author of two chapbooks, most recently *Come Into the World Like That* (Five Oaks Press, 2016). She served as co-editor of the *Texas Poetry Calendar* from 2016 to 2018. She teaches writing and yoga in Austin, Texas.

Scott Wiggerman is the author of three books of poetry: *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets, Presence*, and *Vegetables and Other Relationships*; and the editor of several volumes, including *Wingbeats: Exercises & Practice in Poetry*, *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku & Haiga*, and *Bearing the Mask: Southwestern Persona Poems*. Recent poems have appeared in *A Quiet Courage*, *Ocotillo Review*, *Red Earth Review*, *Switched-on Gutenberg*, and *Chelsea Station*. He is an editor for Dos Gatos Press of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Connie Lane Williams holds an M.A. in literature from Angelo State. Her awards include Sigma Tau Delta and Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers. She has been a featured poet or workshop facilitator for Fort Concho Museum Press, Langdon Review, Kelton Conference, AIPF, West Texas Snyder. Her reviews may be found in *Concho River Review*, *mythopoetry*. She is listed in *Quotable Texas Women* (Texas A&M, 2005) and *Beat Texas* (Lamar University Press). She is author of *Dancing Backwards in Texas* (Slough Press) and founder of Forrest Fest, a non-profit, whose mission is to provide working artists a venue and literary opportunities for an underserved rural community. She is an adjunct professor of English and lives in Lamesa, Texas.

Jerald Winakur, a retired geriatrician, is a clinical professor of medicine at UT Health San Antonio where he teaches medical humanities and ethics. His first book, *Memory Lessons: A Doctor's Story*, chronicles his life in medicine and the journey he took with his father who developed Alzheimer's disease. His first volume of poetry, *Human Voices Wake Us*, is published by Kent State University Press in its "Literature and Medicine" series. An avid birder, he lives in the Texas Hill Country where he is attempting to restore the native prairie on his small ranch, looking more and more like a fool's errand in these drought-stricken times.

Judith Youngers, a dangerous logophile, has always been fascinated by words, but educational pieces and curriculum design dominated her writing until three years ago when poetry began to surface in surprising ways. Now, after taking a number of poetry classes to hone her craft and with an ongoing Texas Hill Country writer's support group, she writes in a number of poetic forms via her muse, a small owl named Athena. She favors a weathered Adirondack chair near her secret garden in Comfort, Texas, as a fruitful place for musing and writing when she is not murdering snails or humming haiku with Hank, her cowdog.

Vanessa Zimmer-Powell is a Houston poet and speech-language pathologist. She attended the University of Texas-Austin where she received a B.A. in English, and a B.S. and M.A. in communication sciences and disorders. Since she began publishing her work in 2013, she has published more than 40 poems in various journals and anthologies, including *Ekphrasis*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, and *San Pedro River Review*. Her poetry has aired on KTRU, Houston Public Radio, and the Rick Steves radio program. She was the winner of the 2016 Houston Poetry Fest ekphrastic competition, a 2013 Rick Steves haiku award, and received honors at the 2013 Austin Poetry Festival. Her chapbook, *Woman Looks into an Eye*, was published by Dancing Girl Press in the summer of 2017.