

BIOS OF POETS 2019

ALEXANDER, SHARON

Sharon Alexander - Poet, birdwatcher and dog walker, divides her time between the mountain town of Idyllwild and at the foot of the beautiful Santa Rosa mountains in the desert. Her book, *Instructions in My Absence*, won the 5th Biennial Chapbook Contest from Palettes & Quills. *Voodoo Trombone*, a chapbook, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2014. Her poetry appears in various journals and anthologies.

ANTOLIN, SUSAN

Susan Antolin fell in love with modern Japanese poetry while living in Japan in the late 1980's. She is currently the editor of the biannual print journal *Acorn: A Journal of Contemporary Haiku* and newsletter editor for the Haiku Poets of Northern California (HPNC). She is a past president of HPNC, former editor of the HPNC membership journal, *Mariposa*, and former editor of *Ripples*, the Haiku Society of America newsletter. Her work has appeared in journals and anthologies in the U.S. and abroad. Her collection of haiku and tanka, *Artichoke Season*, was published in 2009.

BLOSSOM, LAVINA

Lavina Blossom is a painter and mixed media artist as well as a poet. Her poems have appeared in various journals, including *3Elements Review*, *The Innisfree Poetry Journal*, *Kansas Quarterly*, *The Literary Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Poemeleon*, and *Prompt and Circumstance*. She is an Associate Editor of Poetry for *Inlandia: a Literary Journey*. And she teaches visual art to seniors.

BRANTINGHAM, JOHN

John Brantingham is Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park's first poet laureate. His work has been featured in hundreds of magazines and on *Writer's Almanac* and *The Best Small Fictions 2016*. He has seven books of poetry and fiction including *The Green of Sunset* from Moon Tide Press. He teaches at Mt. San Antonio College.

BOUSQUET HARRIS, CINDY

Cindy Bousquet Harris is a poet, photographer, and a licensed marriage and family therapist. Her poetry appears in journals, including *Ghost Town Literary*

Magazine, Eclectica, and Inlandia: A Literary Journey, and in several anthologies. She has lead poetry workshops for youth and adults. Her book manuscript, *Ice in Heaven*, was a finalist for the 2018 Hillary Gravendyk Prize. She lives in southern California with her husband and children. You can contact her at:

cmbharris@netzero.net

CARLSON, RALPH R. S. Carlson (Ralph), retired from Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, CA in 2014. His poems have appeared in *The Texas Review; Poet Lore; The Cape Rock; Genre; The Hawai'i Review; Sunstone; War, Literature and the Arts; Colere; Slake; Whale Road Review, et. al.* Carlson's poetry book, **Waiting to Say Amen**, is available in print or electronic formats from Lulu.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Amazon.com.

CARTER BROWN, ANDREA

Andrea Carter Brown is the author of *The Disheveled Bed* and an award-winning chapbook, *Brook & Rainbow*. A new chapbook, *Domestic Karma*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press. Her poems have won awards from *Five Points, River Styx*, and the Poetry Society of America. Currently she is Series Editor of the Washington Prize, Word Works longest-running poetry book imprint. She lives in Hollywood, where she grows lemons, limes, oranges, and tangerines in her backyard.

CHATTERTON, MICAH

Micah Chatterton's first collection, *Go to the Living*, was published by Inlandia Books in 2017. His work is forthcoming or has appeared in *EcoTheo, Best New Poets 2013, B O D Y, Tupelo Quarterly, Ruminant, LETTERS*, and *Slice*. He lives and teaches writing in the Inland Empire region of southern California.

CHUC, TERESA MEI

Poet Laureate of Altadena, Editor-in-Chief, **Teresa Mei Chuc** is the author of three full-length collections of poetry, *Red Thread* (Fithian Press, 2012), *Keeper of the Winds* (FootHills Publishing, 2014) and *Invisible Light* (Many Voices Press, 2017). Teresa was born in Saigon, Vietnam and immigrated to the U.S. under political asylum with her mother and brother shortly after the Vietnam War while her father remained in a Vietcong "reeducation" camp for nine years. Her poetry appears in journals such as *Consequence Magazine, EarthSpeak Magazine, Hawai'i Pacific Review, Kyoto Journal, The Prose-Poem Project, The National Poetry Review, Rattle, Whitefish*

Review, Verse Daily and in anthologies such as *New Poets of the American West* (Many Voices Press, 2010), *With Our Eyes Wide Open: Poems of the New American Century* (West End Press, 2014), and *Mo' Joe* (Beatlick Press, 2014) and *Inheriting the War: Poetry and Prose by Descendants of Vietnam Veterans and Refugees* (W.W. Norton, 2017). Her chapbook of poetry is *How One Loses Notes and Sounds* (Word Palace Press, 2016). Teresa is a graduate of the Masters in Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont and teaches literature and writing at a public high school in Los Angeles. Teresa is a co-founder and member of The Regenerative Collective and works towards regenerating land and community through such projects as habitat restoration with native plants. Teresa is also a certified domestic violence advocate. In addition to writing poetry, Teresa loves going to the mountains, practicing tai chi and Shaolin staff, playing on her violin, and weaving coil baskets.

CLEMENTS, MARCYN DEL

Marcyn Del Clements has been published in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Appalachia*, *Eureka Literary Magazine*, *Flyway*, *frogpond*, *Hollins Critic*, *Literary Review*, *Lyric*, *Pilgrimage*, *Sijo West*, *Snowy Egret* and some 600 other publications. Some of her other interests besides poetry are: photography, botanizing, birding, dragonfly watching, singing in the Claremont Chorale and in choir at Saint Ambrose Church, stamp collecting, playing recorders, learning the Celtic harp and playing Native American flutes. She has converted her swimming pool into a pond, so she can swim with her koi.

CREAGAN, MICHAEL

Michael Creagan, the oldest of seven children, grew up in New Haven and Hamden, Connecticut. He graduated in 1970 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and has been working as a doctor ever since. For the past 37 years, he has worked as an emergency medicine specialist in southern California. He is currently working in the emergency Department at the VA hospital in Loma Linda, California. Twice married and twice divorced, he lives in Claremont, California, with his dog, Rebecca.

DAVIS, CAROL V.

Carol V. Davis is the author of *Because I Cannot Leave This Body* (Truman State Univ. Press, 2017), *Between Storms* (TSUP, 2012) and won the 2007 T.S. Eliot Prize for *Into the Arms of Pushkin: Poems of St. Petersburg*. Twice a Fulbright scholar in Russia, she teaches at Santa Monica College and Antioch Univ. LA and winter 2018 in Siberia.

D'ELLEN

D'ellen (formerly known as Dawn Allred-Viotto) started writing poetry over thirty years ago when she discovered it cost much less than therapy. She is an internationally published poet and short story writer and a member of the Southern California Haiku Study Group. She is currently working on a compilation of poems from her world travels and resides in Apple Valley, CA with her five fur babies.

FITZPATRICK, MARY

Mary Fitzpatrick is a Pasadena resident and a fourth-generation Angeleno in whom native plants & poetry have found a home. Her poems have been published in six anthologies and in numerous poetry journals nation-wide and in the UK. She is director of marketing & development at a small elementary school in Los Angeles.

GALASSO, WILLIAM SCOTT

William Scott Galasso is the author of fifteen books of poetry and the editor/contributing poet of *Eclipse Moon*, (2017), the 20th Anniversary issue of SCHSG. His latest collection, (2018) *Mixed Bag*, (A Travelogue in Four Forms), haibun, tanka, haiku sequences and short poems is now available on Amazon.

GALLOWAY, LUCIA

Lucia Galloway's three poetry collections include *The Garlic Peelers*, co-winner of the Quill's Edge Press 2014 chapbook contest; *Venus and Other Losses*; and *Playing Outside*. Recent poems have appeared in *Tar River Poetry*, *The Sow's Ear*, *Nimrod*, *Moria*, and *Mid-American Review*. Her new book, *Some Words for Meanwhile*, is due from Future Cycle Press in October. Lucia co-hosts Claremont's Fourth Sundays Poetry and enjoys singing in several choral groups.

GARCIA, JERRY

Jerry Garcia is a poet, photographer and filmmaker from Los Angeles, California. His poetry can be read in various journals and anthologies including, *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond*, *Coiled Serpent Anthology*, *Voices from Leimert Park Redux*, and his latest collection, *On Summer Solstice Road*. Access to Jerry's writing and multimedia is available at www.gratefulnotdead.com.

GREENBAUM-MAYA, KAREN

Karen Greenbaum-Maya is a retired clinical psychologist, German major, two-time Pushcart and Best of the Net nominee, and, photographer. Her work has appeared in journals and anthologies including *B O D Y*, *Sow's Ear Poetry Review*, *Comstock Poetry Review*, *Off the Coast*, *Otoliths*, *Naugatuck Poetry Review*, and, *Measure*. Kattywompus Press publishes *Burrowing Song* and *Eggs Satori*, with *Kafka's Cat* to appear in Spring 2019. Kelsay Books publishes *The Book of Knots and their Untying*. She co-hosts Fourth Sundays, a poetry series in Claremont, California.

HAMMONS, GEORGE

HARMON, CHARLES

Charles Harmon first published a story in the local newspaper in fourth grade and has produced hundreds of poems, songs, stories, articles, photographs, artwork, screenplays and a novel. He is assembling his collected poems and trying to get two books published. He uses poetry and songs to motivate the students he teaches in English composition and reviewed, edited and contributed to five textbooks for Houghton Mifflin. He is a world traveler and has had poetry published in various reviews and anthologies.

HATCH, TIM

Tim Hatch writes poetry that explores themes of abuse, fragility, and our human obligation to one another. He earned his MFA at Cal State San Bernardino, and his poetry has appeared in *East Jasmine Review*, *The Vehicle (Eastern Illinois University)*, *Touch: The Journal of Healing*, and *Apeiron Review*. He teaches composition at Riverside City College, and Cal State San Bernardino. He is currently working on an untitled collection of poetry / memoir that has managed to outsmart him, and which will be published on its own timetable, which may or may not coincide with his own schedule, it's completely out of his hands.

HENLEY-ERICKSON, CATHY

Cathy Henley-Erickson, Professor of English Emerita from The University of LaVerne, earned her B. A. in English from Mills College and her M. F. A. in poetry from U C Irvine. While at ULV, she was department chair, Director of the Writing Program, and in 2002 received the Excellence in Teaching Award. For many years, she conducted ULV's monthly diversity film series, "How Does Our Garden Grow?" and was the Claremont Courier's resident movie critic from 1984 to January of 2009. She is the first poet laureate of the city of LaVerne. Her other volunteer interests include CLASP, Shoes That Fit, and The Claremont Chorale. She and her husband, Joe Erickson, have lived together in the San Gabriel Valley since the late '60s and at Mt. San Antonio Gardens since 2010. They often spend time with their combined families of six children, fourteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

IANNACI, ELIZABETH

Elizabeth Iannaci is a widely published and anthologized Los Angeles-based poet whose work most recently appeared in *The Saranac Review*, *Verse Wisconsin*, *Crab Creek Review*, and *Italian Americana* to name a few. She has read at venues in the US, Slovenia, Istanbul, and Paris. Ms. Iannaci earned her MFA in Poetry from Vermont College of Fine Arts and was a finalist for the *New Letters* Literary Award. Her latest chapbook, *The Virgin Turtle Light Show: Spring 1968* has just been released on Latitude 34 Press.

KAPLAN, GENEVIEVE

Genevieve Kaplan is the author of *In the ice house*, winner of the A Room of Her Own Foundation's poetry publication prize, and three chapbooks. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals, including recent work in *Third Coast*, *Thrush*, and *Poetry Northwest*. Find her online at <https://genevievekaplan.com/>.

KRONENFELD, JUDY

Judy Kronenfeld's most recent books of poetry are *Bird Flying through the Banquet* (FutureCycle, 2017), *Shimmer* (WordTech, 2012), and *Light Lowering in Diminished Sevenths*, 2nd edition (Antrim House, 2012)—winner of the 2007 Litchfield Review Poetry Book Prize. Her poems have appeared in *Cider Press Review*, *Cimarron Review*, *Connotation Press*, *DMQ Review*, *Ghost Town*,

Miramar, Natural Bridge, One (Jacar Press), Rattle, Valparaiso Poetry Review, and other journals, and in more than two dozen anthologies.

LA FONTAINE, BEVERLY

Beverly LaFontaine is a California gal whose poetry has appeared in a number of journals, including MORIA and Spillway. Six of her poems appear on Walk a Mile in My Shoes, a sculptural public art project created by artist Kim Abeles for Los Angeles Cultural Affairs.

LEONARD, KATHY

Kathy Leonard is a Middle-School English Teacher in the inland empire, and is active in the Raven's Poetry Group in Claremont and Valley Poets in Glendora. She has poems published in *California Quarterly, Alta Dena Poetry Review, Pegasus,* and other local collections in the San Gabriel Valley. Her poem, *Cadaver Bone* was a second prize winner in the Lois J. Dalton Memorial: Humanity Category in the 2012 *California Federation of Chaparral Poets Annual Contest*. She embraces literacy and poetry as agents of change and empowerment. Poet Colleagues describe her, "as a bold poet of raw emotional power, who explores personal themes of life-roles, loss, and other issues common to the human experience."

LIPKIN, ELLINE

Elline Lipkin is a poet, nonfiction writer, and academic. Her book of poems, *The Errant Thread* was chosen by Eavan Boland for the Kore Press First Book Award and she is the current Poet Laureate of Altadena.

LIVINGSTON, ELLEN

LUKSTEIN, JANIS ALBRIGHT

Janis Albright Lukstein was introduced to poetry at an early age by her father who wrote about special occasions and would read his rhyming verse aloud. She is a member of the Southern California Haiku Study Group and has had her work published in several haiku group anthologies. She resides on the Palos Verdes Peninsula with her husband who also enjoys writing a three line haiku with an "ah hah".

MARTINEZ, CHLOE

Chloe Martinez's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in publications including *Waxwing*, *The Normal School*, *The Collagist*, *PANK*, and *The Common*, and have been twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is a book reviewer for *RHINO* and a reader for *The Adroit*. She is the Program Coordinator for the Center for Writing and Public Discourse at Claremont McKenna College, as well as Lecturer in Religious Studies. See more at www.chloeAVmartinez.com.

MC CONNEL, FRANCES RUHLEN

Frances Ruhlen McConnel has been a nature lover and nature poet since her wanderings during childhood years in Tennessee and her youth in Alaska. Her totem animals are the moose, the wolf, and the cow—the latter from generations of dairy farmers in her father's family. She is retired from teaching in the Creative Writing Department at UCR and now co-chairs with Lucia Galloway the steering committee that runs the Claremont Public Library's Poetry Reading Series, Fourth Sundays. She has published two books of poetry, *Gathering Light*, and *The Direction of Longing* and a chapbook of mostly haiku, *White Birches, Black Water*.

MC DONALD, STEVE

Steve McDonald lives with his wife Marlyle in Murrieta, California, where he writes poetry and leads poetry workshops. His books *House of Mirrors* (Tebot Bach, 2013), *Golden Fish / Dark Pond* (Comstock Review, 2014), and *Credo* (Brick Road Poetry, 2018) can be found on Amazon and on his website: www.stevemcdonaldpoetry.com

NICHOLAS, SHALI

Shali Nicholas has a BA in English and Psychology from Pitzer College as well as a Master's in Education from Claremont Graduate University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Cal State San Bernardino. s. Nicholas lives and teaches in the San Bernardino Mountains with her husband. Their empty nest is filled with four dogs and three cats. They often giggle during staff meetings but they DO NOT raise their hands with unnecessary questions. On occasion, Mr. Nicholas washes dishes so s can write or grade papers. Please follow her on Twitter @shaliorange!

NIPPELL, JANET

Janet Nippell is a Pasadena poet, with poems recently in *Miramar*, *Askew*, Tia Chucha's *Coiled Serpent* Anthology, and the *Altadena Poetry Review*. With Ben Yandell, she wrote *Mostly on Foot - A Year in L.A.* (Floating Island, 1989), narrating long walks in two voices.

PEARSON, CANDACE

Candace Pearson - Candace Pearson's poems for children have been published in *Cricket Magazine* and in the anthology, *Sharing the Seasons: A Book of Poems*. She also has an ebook of schoolyard poems, *First Bell, Second Bell*. Her collection for adults, *Hour of Unfolding*, won the Liam Rector First Book Prize for Poetry from Longwood University.

PERI, CECE

Cece Peri - Cece Peri's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Malpais Review*, *NoirCon*, *Literary Alchemy*, *Beyond the Lyric Moment*, *San Diego Poetry Annual*, and *Wide Awake: Poets of Los Angeles and Beyond*. She lives and writes in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains.

RINNE, CINDY

Cindy Rinne creates art and writes in San Bernardino, CA. She is Poet in Residence for the Neutra Institute Museum and Gallery in Silver Lake, CA. Cindy is the author of seven books: *Mapless* with Nikia Chaney (Cholla Needles Press), *Moon of Many Petals* (Cholla Needles Press), *Listen to the Codex* (Yak Press), and others. A finalist for the 2016 Hillary Gravendyk Prize. Her poetry appeared or is forthcoming in: *Anti-Herion Chic*, *Outlook Springs*, *Storyscape Journal*, *The Halcyone Literary Review*, several anthologies, and others. www.fiberverse.com

ROBERTSON, MARILYN

Marilyn Robertson lives in Northeast LA. She has published in various places including *Askew*, *Verse-Virtual*, and *Speeclessthemagazine.org*. She is an observant appreciator of gardens.

ROGERS, SUSAN

Susan Rogers considers poetry a vehicle for light and a tool for positive energy. She is a practitioner of Sukyo Mahikari, a spiritual practice promoting positive thoughts, words and action. Her poetry was recorded for the Pacific Asia Museum's award winning audio tour and is included in numerous anthologies and journals including *Eclipse Moon*, *Carrying the Branch: Poets in Search of Peace*, *Silk and Spice*, *The Best Poems of San Diego*, *Meditations on Divine Names*, *Kyoto Journal*, *Pirene's Fountain*, *Tiferet* and *Saint Julian's Press*. Her poem "The Origin is One" was made into a short film by Yoshikazu

Ysa, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzPA9zeC0Qc> and was performed at the televised Akigami Ice Festival in Gifu, Japan. She was nominated for a Pushcart in 2013 and 2017. Lois P. Jones interviewed her for KPFK's Poet's

Café: <http://www.timothy-green.org/blog/susan-rogers/>

RUSCIO, BETH

Beth Ruscio won honorable mention for the 2017 Two Sylvias Prize and was a finalist for The Sunken Garden Prize. An accomplished actress (upcoming in the romantic comedy feature *The Unicorn*) and playwright, her poems have appeared most recently in *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Cultural Weekly*, *California Journal of Poetics* and the soon to be published anthology *1001 Nights*.

SANDSTROM, CATHIE

Cathie Sandstrom is a military brat who calls Sierra Madre home. A Pushcart nominee, her poems appear on the website of the Academy of American Poets at poets.org and in *The Southern Review*, *Ploughshares* and others. Essays are included in *The Poetry Mystique* and online at the C.G. Jung Society of Saint Louis.

SCHAFFER, DALE

Dale Schaffer is the North American Liaison Officer of The Beatrix Potter Society, based in England. She graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a BS in Social Sciences and a Master's Degree in Education. She was a teacher for 33 years in the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District teaching 3rd, 5th and 6th grades. Her interest in Beatrix Potter grew from using Beatrix Potter's little books to teach writing, science and art. She joined the Society in 1993 and has served as the North American Liaison Officer for over 15 years. She also started the Reading Beatrix Potter Program in the United States, in 2001, when she retired from

teaching. Dale, while the Organizer for 14 years, held reading events at venues including: the Huntington Library, the Los Angeles County Arboretum, the Monterey Museum of Art, the Pasadena Public Library, the Santa Barbara Public Library, the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, the Philadelphia Free Library, the Morgan Museum, the Toronto Public Library, New York Public Libraries, the Cotesen Children's Library at Princeton, the Sherman Gardens, the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens and in England's Lake District at Wray Castle (where the Potter family spent one holiday), at The World of Beatrix Potter, and at the Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead.. She now reads in schools, libraries, bookstores and various other venues as well as gives talks about Beatrix Potter.

SCRUGGS, PATRICIA L.

Patricia L. Scruggs's poetry collection, *Forget the Moon*, was published in 2015. Her poems have appeared in *ONTHEBUS*, *Spillway*, *RATTLE*, *Calyx*, *Cultural Weekly*, *Crab Creek Review*, and the anthologies *13 Los Angeles Poets*, *So Luminous the Wildflowers* and *Beyond the Lyric Moment*. Weeds flourish in her garden, as do the sunflowers.

SPIKER, DENNIS

Dennis Spiker left the world of civil service management fourteen years ago and now pursues the sporting arts of poetry and prose. His literary weight-lifting has appeared in *Mikrokosmos* and *Spectrum*. He's been seen sparring over coffee, wrestling in workshops, and dodging into his local critique group at a restored citrus packing house. He's hopelessly obsessed with the challenge of squeezing his thoughts into words, a truly sentential addiction from which he seeks no cure.

STEELE, TONI SIAMIS

Toni Siamis Steele was born in South Dakota. When her family moved to California, she became an early teenage surfer. Toni has had various careers including aircraft company executive, college administrator, educator, and counselor (to make use of her degree in psychology). Avid reader and world traveler, she is also a life-long environmentalist and civil rights activist.

STEVENSON, TERRY

Terry Stevenson - Terry Stevenson's poems have appeared in numerous publications and anthologies and he has given many featured readings in the

Southern California area including the Los Angeles Public Library as part of the New Poets Series.

TCHAKALIAN, JACQUELINE

Jacqueline Tchakalian – A poet and visual artist, Jacqueline Derner Tchakalian's book *The Size of Our Bed* was published by Red Hen Press in 2015. Her work has appeared in *St. Petersburg Review 7*, *Eclipse*, the anthologies *Beyond the Lyric Moment* and *Not My President*. She received a Special Merit Award from *The Comstock Review 2017*.

TERZI, JUDITH

Judith Terzi is the author of *Casbah* and *If You Spot Your Brother Floating By* (Kattywompus). Her poetry appears widely in literary journals and anthologies, has garnered prizes and honorable mentions, as well as nominations for Best of the Net and Web. A poem about Malala Yousafzai was included in *Keynotes*, a study guide for the artist-in-residence program for State Theater New Jersey. For many years a teacher of French language and literature in Pasadena, CA, she has also taught English at California State University, Los Angeles, and in Algiers, Algeria. "Museum of Rearranged Objects" will be published by Kelsay Books later this year.

THOMPSON, LYNNE Lynne Thompson was the winner of the Tucson Literary Award (Poetry) in 2017, the Stephen Dunn Poetry Prize in 2016 and a Master Artist Fellowship from the City of Los Angeles for 2015-16. Thompson is the author of *Start with a Small Guitar* and *Beg No Pardon*, winner of the Perugia Book Award and the Great Lakes Colleges New Writers Award.

TORREGROSSA, MARY

Mary Torregrossa is a storyteller and a story-listener, a practice honed in her job as an ESL teacher in Southern California. She follows a Quaker tradition of "listening twice" when writing poetry. And a mother's practice of "wait, and wait again" to divine the essence of whatever the muse is about to share. Her book *My Zócalo Heart* is available from Finishing Line Press.

UNIS, GEORGETTE

Georgette Unis writes about the complex relationships between people, often in the natural settings of mountain forests, deserts and urban gardens. Her poetry is published in various literary journals and her chapbook, *Tremors*, was published by Finishing Line Press in September, 2018.

WASHINGTON, ROMAINE

Romaine Washington is the author of *Sirens in Her Belly*, a collection of poems. Washington is a fellow of The Watering Hole, South Carolina and IAWP, UCR. She is currently a workshop facilitator for Inlandia in San Bernardino.

WILLIAMSON, JOHN R.

Born on Wright Patterson Airforce Base in Fairborn, Ohio, **John R. Williamson** grew up as the son of a journalist-turned Episcopal priest and a schoolteacher-turned homemaker-turned schoolteacher. He attended Azusa Pacific University, where he earned a BA in 1991 and an MA in 2009. In 1994, Williamson began his first year of teaching at Shandong Institute of Economics in Jinan, Shandong, PR China. He currently teaches English to middle school students at The Gooden School, a private k-8 Episcopal School in Sierra Madre, CA. He started and published a poetry and art journal called *Grapevine* from 1988-1994 and won the Cornerstone Poetry Slam in Chicago in 1990 with his poem "Hot Jazz." Since the mid 1990s, poetry has remained a private pursuit for Williamson. He has written thousands of poems and thousands of songs since the late 1980s and continues to sing regularly in the Los Angeles area with his two-piece group, the c'est la vies.

https://www.reverbNation.com/johnrwilliamsonandthecestlavies?profile_view_source=header_icon_nav

WILSON, KATHABELA

Kathabela Wilson leads poetry workshops and hosts three meetings a week in Pasadena, including Thursdays at Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden. She recently published *Stone Lantern*, an anthology including haiku and related forms by garden poets. She has won awards for her haiku and tanka, publishes in many journals, and hosts a weekly online Poets Salon. She is secretary for Tanka Society of America.

WILSON, RICK

Rick Wilson is a member of British Haiku Society and Tanka Society of America. He has published in haiku group and conference anthologies. He is professor emeritus of mathematics at Caltech and a player and collector of historical flutes and flutes of the world. He accompanies Kathabela Wilson in all performances, including conferences in Portugal and Japan, and plays improvisations for writing sessions and performances.

YEE, SHARON LYNNE

Sharon Lynne Yee is a long time kindergarten and primary grade teacher who has a creative way to express her love of nature and people. Sharon is learning to write haiku by joining haiku groups that give opportunities to workshop and share.