

2010 Presenter Bios

SHELIA JOYCE is a poet, book reviewer, and actor from Madison County, KY. With her husband Ken Pyle she has owned, cooked for, and performed at their Louisville, KY restaurant/theatre/music hall, The Rudyard Kipling, for twenty-five years. In her biography, Shelia writes, "Sheila in her childhood was told her name was Theodora Sheila Joyce Strunk. Her little classmates back in Madison County Kentucky thought this was pretty funny. They laughed and marked Sheila for life. Nevertheless, she went on to graduate from Berea College with a major in English and to receive the very first Masters Degree in English-speech-dramatic arts awarded by the University of Kentucky. When Sheila began writing articles and book reviews and acting in plays, she gave herself the stage nom de plume of Sheila Joyce. She discovered upon writing for her birth certificate when she was getting married for the first time that the state health department knew her only as baby girl Strunk. She could have renamed herself anything. But after all those years of suffering, she figured "Oh the hell with it," and sent back the whole Theodora Sheila etc., etc. She's been married a couple of times and has toyed with signing her books as TSJSH Pyle in the manner of the renowned MFK Fisher. The IRS finds her however she signs, and happily so do her social security checks. In 1981 Shelia's booklength poem about her late father, "Theodore Gamblin Strunk" was a finalist in the annual contest sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. She is a member of The Cherokee Writers Roundtable."

ANNETTE ALLEN is poet and essayist. She is the recipient of the Witte Award for her poetry collection, *Country of Light* (1996) and the Guy Award from the Winston Salem Arts Council for the collection, *What Vanishes* (2006). Her poetry has been published widely in anthologies and magazines, such as *Southern Poetry Review*, *Boulevard*, and *Poetry East*. She has received three state arts council poetry awards, and two NEH summer fellowships, one at Yale and one at Columbia. A MacDowell Colony Fellow, Allen was awarded an International Residency in Germany from the Virginia Center on the Arts and more recently a Kentucky Arts Council Poetry Fellowship. Her research and teaching interests are poetry, Modernism, Virginia Woolf and phenomenology, creativity, and the literary imagination of the American South. She is an Associate Professor of Humanities and Director of the Humanities Doctoral Program at the University of Louisville.

JEN WOODS is the co-founder with her brother Eric Woods of Typecast Publishing, home of *The Lumberyard*, "a magazine for poetry and design" which has hand-set type and collage elements. The magazine combines visual and written media with letterpress-printed covers and top-notch poetry, and is published twice-yearly. Jen was formerly an associate editor of Sarabande Books.

BEVERLY GIAMMARA is a poet and technical writer. She has published poetry in the Kentucky Poetry Review, Wind, Approaches, The Thinker, and Arabel and has more than 100 articles in technical journals. She is currently finishing a novel which she hopes is a thriller. Beverly came to Louisville in 1964 from the University of Florida to run a laboratory at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. In Louisville she studied creative writing under Dr. David Maurer and as an outgrowth of this class, joined the Louisville Writers Club, eventually serving until 1990 as the group's President. Subsequently Beverly became a student of Dr. Leon Driskell, and joined his Friday Writer's group. Beverley pursued her writing career while she was a widow working to raise three sons as she continued her own education.

CONSTANCE ALEXANDER is an award-winning columnist, playwright, and independent producer of radio documentaries. She has received grants from The Kentucky Foundation for Women, the Kentucky Arts Council, and the Ragdale Foundation. Her work, *Promises to Keep*, a community outreach effort on end-of-life issues, was funded by Sound Partners for Community Health, a program of the Benton Foundation funded by the Robert Wood Johnson. For the project, Constance scripted and edited a documentary radio series about end-of-life issues; published more than 60 articles; facilitated community forums and training sessions; and helped organize a range of arts-related activities including poetry readings, art exhibits and plays. *Promises to Keep* was nominated for a Peabody Award, and named a semi-finalist for a Batten Award from the Pew Center for Civic Journalism. Constance completed her undergraduate work at The College of New Jersey and University of Copenhagen. She has an M.A. in Education, and an MBA in Management is from Pace University, NY. She is a member of the Kentucky Oral History Commission and the Four Rivers Center, a regional arts center; Co-founder and artistic director of the West Kentucky Playwrights Festival; and an alumni of Leadership Kentucky.

CRYSTAL WILKINSON is an Affrilachian poet, short story writer, and founding member of the writing group, the Affrilachian Poets which was created in Lexington in 1991 to celebrate the rural traditions of African Americans in Appalachia. Her first volume, the short story collection *Blackberries, Blackberries* was published in 2000. Her second volume *Water Street* was published by Toby Press in 2002. *Water Street* was a long-list finalist for the prestigious Orange Prize and short-listed for a Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation Legacy Award in fiction. *Blackberries, Blackberries* was named Best Debut Fiction by *Today's Librarian* magazine. Ms. Wilkinson has been published in the anthologies *Confronting Appalachian Stereotypes: Back Talk from an American Region* (University of Kentucky Press, 1999); *Gifts from Our Grandmothers* (Crown Publishers, 2000); and *Gumbo: Stories by Black Writers* (Doubleday, Harlem Moon Press, 2002). Her work has also appeared in various literary journals, including *Obsidian II: Black Literature in Review*, *Southern Exposure*, *The Briar Cliff Review*, *LIT*, *Calyx*, *African Voices* and the *Indiana Review*.

Ms. Wilkinson grew up on a farm in Casey County, where her connection with nature, a recurring theme in her work, began. Hers was the only black family in the area during her childhood, and she had mixed feelings about her upbringing, her tight-knit family and their dependence on the land as tobacco farmers. These themes are also reflected in her work.

CATE FOSL is Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, and Director of the UofL Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. Before entering the academy, she worked in newspaper journalism and for a variety of social justice organizations in the South, including a stint as lobbyist and associate legislative director for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. It was through that organization that she met Anne Braden. Ms. Fosl began doing oral history interviews in the 1980s as a way of getting at the untold parts of history, and oral history became one of her life's passions. In 2000, she received her PhD in history from Emory University in her home city of Atlanta. Her current research examines grassroots movements for sexual freedom vis-à-vis an oral history-based case study of Louisville's lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender rights movement and its intersections with race- and gender-based activism. A 2005-06 Social Science Research Council sexuality fellowship supported that research, and in 2005 she won the Catherine Prelinger Non-Traditional Scholars Award of the Coordinating Council for Women in History to facilitate that research.

ERIN KEANE is the author of two poetry collections, *Death-Defying Acts* and *The Gravity Soundtrack*. She is a staff writer for *Velocity* and *The Courier-Journal*, covering theatre, books and pop culture. Her poems, essays, and reviews have appeared in many magazines and anthologies, including *Redivider*, *Minnetonka Review*, *The Lumberyard*, *MOTIF: Writing by Ear*, *Nimrod*, *Phoebe*, *New Southerner*, *Now & Then* and *Louisville Magazine*.

Keane earned her MFA in creative writing at Spalding University. She teaches Pop Music in American Literature and Writing for New Media at Bellarmine University, creative writing courses in National University's MFA program and high school creative writing workshops for the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts.

A recipient of a fellowship from the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts and the Al Smith Fellowship from the Kentucky Arts Council, she directs the InKY Reading Series in Louisville and serves on the editorial boards of *New Southerner* and *The Heartland Review*.

KATHLEEN DRISKELL is an award-winning poet and teacher. She serves as the Associate Program Director of Spalding University's brief-residency Master of Fine Arts in Writing Program in Louisville, Kentucky, where she is Associate Professor of Creative Writing. Her most recent collection of poems, *Seed Across Snow* (Red Hen), was listed as a national bestseller by the Poetry Foundation. She is the author of one previous book of poetry, *Laughing Sickness* (in its second printing), and the editor of two anthologies of creative writing. Her poems have appeared in many nationally known literary magazines including *North American Review*, *The Southern Review*, and *The Greensboro Review*. Kathleen has won grants from the Kentucky Arts Council and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. She lives with her husband and two children in an old country church built before The American Civil War.

SUE TERRY DRISKELL is a poet and the recipient of an Al Smith Fellowship from The Kentucky Arts Commission. Her poems have appeared in *The American Voice*, *Arable*, *The Greensboro Review*, *The Louisville Review*, and on-line at *Poetry.com*. Sue's most recent collection of poems, *Drawn Into Someone's Passion*, was published in 2009 by *Finishing Line Press*. Ms. Driskell lives in Louisville, Kentucky

SARAH GORHAM is a poet, essayist, and publisher who resides in Prospect KY. She was born in Santa Monica, California in 1954. She received her MFA from the University of Iowa in 1978 and her BA in 1976 from Antioch College.

Four Way Books published her third collection of poetry *The Cure* in 2003. Her fourth *Bad Daughter* will appear in 2011. The others include *The Tension Zone* (1996), which won the 1994 Four Way Books Award in Poetry, judged by Heather McHugh, and *Don't Go Back to Sleep*, published by Galileo Press in 1989. She co-edited the anthology *Last Call: Poems on Alcoholism, Addiction, and Deliverance*, with Jeffrey Skinner, published in 1997 by *Sarabande Books*.

Gorham's poems and essays have been published widely in *Best American Poetry 2006*, *Poetry*, *The Nation*, *AGNI*, *American Poetry Review*, *Arts & Letters*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Grand Street*, *The Paris Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Ohio Review*, *Georgia Review*, *Southern Review*, *Missouri Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Western Quarterly Review*, and *Poetry Northwest*, where in 1990 she won the

Carolyn Kizer Award. In 2002 she and poet Jeffrey Skinner served as poets-in-residence at the James Merrill House in Stonington, Connecticut. Other awards include grants and fellowships from the Kentucky State Arts Council, the Kentucky Foundation for Women, the Delaware State Arts Council, the Connecticut Commission on the Arts, Yaddo, and MacDowell. In 1983, she received the Gertrude Claytor Prize from the Poetry Society of America and won the 2000Prairie Schooner Reader's Choice Award.

In March 1994, Gorham founded Sarabande Books, Inc. a small press devoted to the publication of poetry, short fiction, and literary nonfiction. Gorham serves as President and Editor-in-Chief. She is the wife of poet Jeffrey Skinner, the mother of Laura and Bonnie Skinner, and the grandmother of Lucille and Josephine.