

**Joan Bishop** grew up in San Francisco, California, and graduated from the University of California at Berkeley. Thereafter she taught high school history in Montreal, Canada, and Nether Providence, Pennsylvania.

In 1972 she, her husband, Don, and their three children moved to their present home, Helena, Montana. Joan worked in the Archives of the Montana Historical Society. As a freelance writer she contributed articles to the journal, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*.

Presently her fondness for Montana, its history and culture, is expressed through service on behalf of public libraries. She is completing her ninth year as a Lewis and Clark Library Trustee. She also travels throughout the state as a Trustee Trainer for the Montana State Library.

**Bill Borneman** lives in Helena, Montana, with his wife, Patti. He works as a contract painter, dabbles in the “book business” ([www.bedrockbooks.com](http://www.bedrockbooks.com)), and plays Lo Prinzi guitars. His degree in philosophy from The University of Montana aids him in each of these endeavors. Borneman is currently a member of the poetry performance quartet, *The States of Matter*, a group devoted to the sonic realization of poetic occurrences. He is perhaps best known as the genial host of the literature reading series, “Naked Words,” held in the Rathskellar of the Montana Club, Helena.

**Dorothy Bradley** is the District Court Administrator in Gallatin County. She served in the Montana House of Representatives for sixteen years during which time she had the

opportunity to work with Dave Walter on budgets and issues important to the Montana Historical Society.

A Billings native, **Ron Brey** has been the Assistant City Manager in Bozeman since 1990 after working as a community planner in Missoula, Butte, Helena, and Bozeman. His work in Bozeman involved various community design and “smart growth” initiatives including Bozeman’s first sign regulations, big box store economic impact mitigation measures, several urban renewal districts, Bozeman’s Neighborhoods Program, the adoption of development impact fees and most recently providing staff support for a broad based community effort to provide for affordable workforce housing in Bozeman.

Apart from his work with the City, Ron was a founding board member of the Gallatin Valley Land Trust and currently volunteers for Family Promise, an organization that provides temporary shelter and sustenance for homeless families.

Ron has a B.A. in History and a M.S. in Rural, Town and Regional Planning from The University of Montana and met Dave Walter while employed at the Montana Historical Society in the late 1970s. He resides in Bozeman with his wife Claire Cantrell and border collie, Lucy—who are all adjusting to an empty nest with the departure of grown daughters Libbie and Rosa.

As a boy, **Robert Bringhurst** spent a “brief but crucial” period of his youth in Montana, living in Missoula, Great Falls, Butte, and Billings before his family moved to Alberta. One of North America’s finest poets, scholars, and translators, Bringhurst has, he writes, “felt myself at home in a thousand named and

nameless places in that long spine of mountains, steppe and desert which I've walked, in bits and pieces, most of the way from the Yukon to Peru.”

A mere listing cannot give the full range and depth of Robert's concerns, but it can tell something of the passion, intelligence, and high craft he brings to every subject he engages. With Haida sculptor Bill Reid, Robert is coauthor of *The Raven Steals the Light*, recently reissued with a preface by Claude Lévi-Strauss. *The Black Canoe* (1992), Robert's study of Bill Reid's sculpture, is a classic of Native American art history. Design schools and publishers throughout North America and Europe rely on his book *The Elements of Typographic Style*, which master type designer Hermann Zapf has championed as “the Typographer's Bible.” Robert is also translator of the extraordinary trilogy *Masterworks of the Classical Haida Mythtellers*, and his collections of poems include *The Calling: Selected Poems 1970–1995*; *The Book of Silences*; *The Old in Their Knowing*; and *Ursa Major*, a polyphonic work for six speaking voices, written in English, Latin, Greek, and Cree.

An ongoing Bringhurst project, which seems essential to our understanding of this place, is an encyclopedic work tentatively entitled, “The Classical Literatures of North America,” a guide to works by Native American storytellers that survive in the original languages.

**J. M. Cooper** works at the Montana Historical Society Photograph Archives and as a waiter at a popular Helena restaurant. His photographs are in many private collections and can be viewed exclusively at the A. L. Swanson Gallery in Helena.

**Michele Corriel** is a freelance writer and poet living and working in the Gallatin Valley. Her work is as varied as the life she's led, from the rock/art venues of New York City to the rural backroads of Montana. Published regionally and nationally, Michele has received a number of awards for her nonfiction as well as her poetry.

Painter **Sandra Dal Poggetto** has exhibited her work widely in the Northwest and California. Her paintings were most recently seen at PDX Contemporary Art in Portland and the Yellowstone Art Museum. She had a solo exhibition in spring 2006 at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she was also a visiting artist. Her essays on art and hunting have been published in *The Structurist*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, and *Northern Lights*, and anthologized in *The New Montana Story*, edited by Rick Newby, and *Heart Shots: Women Write About Hunting*, edited by Mary Zeiss Stange. Dal Poggetto studied art in Italy in 1974 and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Art Studio with honors from the University of California, Davis. In 1982 she earned her Master of Arts in Painting and Drawing from San Francisco State University. She lives in Helena, Montana.

**Patty Dean** received her A.B. in history from Carroll College and an M.A. in History Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program/State University of New York. In the early 1980s, she was Curator of Collections at the Montana Historical Society and later founding curator of the Arkansas Arts Center Decorative Arts Museum in Little Rock. She worked at the Minnesota Historical Society for sixteen years, first as Museum

Collections Manager and later as Supervisory Curator, and was thrilled to return to Helena in summer 2005.

Patty's many research projects and publications have focused on model farm homes, Twin Cities furniture designers and tastemakers, and late twentieth-century Minneapolis rock & roll. Patty is currently a contract historian at the Montana Historical Society identifying and documenting African-American heritage resources in the institution's collections, and she teaches the course, "Pop, Rock, and All That Jazz," at Carroll College. She serves as a board member of the Montana Preservation Alliance and Drumlummon Institute.

Livingston photographer and writer **Lynn Donaldson** grew up on her family's ranch near Denton, Montana. Though she covers the Northern Rockies for *People, Travel + Leisure*, *the New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Sunset*, *Western Interiors & Design*, and many others, she is happiest when traveling to quirky, one-horse towns in search of county fairs, dusty bars, and rodeo queens.

**Roger Dunsmore** came to The University of Montana—Missoula as a freshman composition instructor in 1963, and he continued on in the Humanities Program until 2003. He received his MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) from UM in 1971, under the guidance of Richard Hugo and Madeline DeFrees, and was a founding member of the Round River Experiment in Environmental Education. From 1976 to 2003, he taught in the Wilderness and Civilization Program in the Forestry School at UM. In 1991 and again in 1997 he was the exchange fellow between UM and Shanghai

International Studies University in mainland China.

Roger's many books include *On the Road to Sleeping Child Hotsprings* (1971; revised edition, 1977); *Lazslo Toth* (1977); *Bloodhouse* (1987); *The Sharp-Shinned Hawk* (1987); and *Earth's Mind: Essays in Native Literature* (1997). In 2001 Roger ran the twenty-second annual wilderness lecture series, "The Poetics of Wilderness," the *Proceedings* of which (edited by Dunsmore) were published by UM in 2002. Camphorweed Press published Roger's *Tiger Hill: China Poems* in 2005, and the Montana Arts Council awarded Roger an Individual Artists Fellowship in 2001 for a selection of those poems.

After two years of retirement, Roger resumed full-time teaching in the English Department at UM—Western in Dillon, MT, in 2005. Also in 2005 he was shortlisted to the governor for the post of the first Montana Poet Laureate. In 2006 he worked as one of nine editors under the leadership of Lowell Jaeger compiling *Poets Across the Big Sky*, an anthology of Montana poetry. His volume of twelve poems selected from over forty years of writing, *Roger Dunsmore's Greatest Hits*, will be forthcoming from Pudding House Press in 2007. He is married to the poet, painter, and Yoga teacher, Jenni Fallein. Between them they have five children and three grandchildren.

A major force in the drive for the recognition, exhibition, and appreciation of modern and contemporary art in Montana, **Donna Forbes** was the Director of the Yellowstone Art Center from 1974 to 1998, when "we reopened the newly renovated and greatly expanded building, changing its name to the Yellowstone Art Museum."

During those twenty-four years, the Yellowstone's staff

grew from four to seventeen, with an exhibition program that focused primarily on the contemporary art of the region and the recent work of nationally recognized artists. Major publications accompanied every exhibition and a dynamic speakers program of artists, critics, and museum directors from throughout the United States enhanced the exhibitions. The museum's collection—devoted primarily to regional contemporary artists, the Poindexter Collection of abstract expressionist work, and historic regional work—grew to over 2,000 works of art. Under Donna's leadership, the Art Center provided art education in the Billings and region's schools.

Donna attended Montana State College, Pratt Institute, and Eastern Montana College. During her tenure at the Art Center, she attended the Harvard Business School's summer session for arts administrators, and the University of California at Berkeley's Museum Management Institute, having served on the committee that founded that program in 1980. She served on various National Endowment for the Arts and Montana Arts Council panels and was a member of the board of the American Federation of Arts until her retirement.

**Audrey Hall's** photographs appear regularly in numerous national publications. Her images from the documentary *Frontier House* were critically acclaimed by 13WNET in New York and Wall to Wall Television in London. Working also as a writer and producer, Audrey has completed over forty feature, commercial, and editorial projects, including the independent film *Steal Me*, selected to premiere at the 2005 Sundance Film Festival.

**Mary S. Hoffschwelle** teaches American women's and social history at Middle Tennessee State University. She earned her B.A. at Chatham College, her M.A. at the College of William and Mary, and her Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University.

Mary is the author of *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: Reformers, Schools and Homes in Tennessee, 1900–1930* (1998) and *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South* (2006). Born in Billings, Montana, she spent most of her childhood in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; her mother grew up in that city's multiethnic East Liberty neighborhood. Mary returned to Montana as the Curator of the Original Governor's Mansion for the Montana Historical Society from 1981–85.

**Lowell Jaeger** has taught creative writing at Flathead Valley Community College for the past twenty-five years. He is a 1981 graduate of the Iowa Writers Workshop. Two collections of his poems (*War On War* and *Hope Against Hope*) were published by Utah State University Press. He has also published numerous chapbooks, including *The Banana Man*, *Star-Crossed*, *Black Ice*, and *Nobody Special*, which were published by Pudding House Press during the past year. Currently Jaeger is editing (with an editorial board of nine other Montana poets) "Poems Across the Big Sky," an anthology of more than 100 poets from all corners of the state. In 2005, Lowell was one of three poets shortlisted for the position of Montana's first Poet Laureate. He is also a self-employed silversmith/goldsmith. Lowell and his wife, Amy, and their three teenagers live in Bigfork.

**Melissa Kwasny** is the author of three books of poetry, *Reading Novalis in Montana* (Milkweed Editions, forthcoming

2008), *Thistle* (Lost Horse Press, 2006) and *The Archival Birds* (Bear Star Press, 2000), as well as the editor of *Toward the Open Field: Poets on the Art of Poetry 1800–1950* (Wesleyan University Press, 2004). She lives south of Helena.

**Ari LeVaux** is a freelance writer in Missoula. He pens a syndicated food column, under the name Chef Boy Ari, that appears in the *Missoula Independent* and many other weekly newspapers.

**Amy Brakeman Livezey** hails from the Midwest. As a child she was enchanted with the western landscape, culture, and fragrances and worked her way through college on dude ranches and hunting pack trips. She moved permanently to the region in 1993 after studying film at the University of Iowa and Syracuse University, and receiving her MFA from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Livezey's current artistic focus is in oil painting and short filmmaking. Her employment has been in the advertising and construction industries, but her passion has been constructing images that expound upon the relationships between humanity and nature. She lives in Helena, Montana, with her husband, Dale Livezey. They can both be found among the ice boaters who gather in winter months at Canyon Ferry Reservoir.

Growing up in rural Ohio, artist **Dale Livezey** started messing around with oil paints when he was ten. His move to Montana in 1978 at the age of twenty began his focused study of landscape painting. Dale has been showing his work throughout the region for over twenty-five years. His paintings have been

used on numerous "Montana" book covers, including *The Big Sky* by A. B. Guthrie, Jr., and *The Tall Uncut*, by Pete Fromm. He is represented by the Stremmel Gallery in Reno, Nevada, and the A. L. Swanson Gallery in Helena. Dale lives with wife Amy, and son Neal, on the outskirts of Helena.

Besides being one of Montana's most accomplished postmodern painters, **Gordon McConnell** is the state's leading writer on contemporary art. Today an independent studio artist, curator, and critic, Gordon was for many years chief curator at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, where he was instrumental in assembling and shaping that museum's unparalleled Montana Collection. Gordon has had solo exhibitions at the Nicolaysen Art Museum, the Yellowstone Art Museum, and numerous private galleries, with others forthcoming at Wyoming's Ucross Foundation and Goucher College, Baltimore.

Most recently, his paintings are featured in *Out West: The Great American Landscape*, a group show organized by Meridian International Center in Washington, D.C. *Out West*—featuring sixty-eight works by fifty contemporary artists of the American West—will tour China throughout 2007; the Chinese tour begins at the National Art Museum in Beijing and subsequently travels to the Silk Road cities of Urumqi and Xi'an, Shanghai, and additional venues.

**Claudia Montagne** was raised and educated in Southern California, receiving a B.A. in Microbiology from the University of California Riverside. After moving to Montana in 1971, she raised two children and returned to the workforce as a Nursing Home

Ombudsman under the tutelage of Walter Marshall. She worked for twenty years in secondary teaching, chemical dependency treatment, and HIV prevention in Montana. Since 2001, she has been associated with the Montana Artists Refuge, first as a volunteer grant writer and, for the past three years, as Executive Director. In many of these positions, she developed expertise in program design, planning, implementation, and evaluation, as well as grant writing and event planning. Her next chapter as the first development director for Montana ACLU is about to begin. She is also a practitioner of Iyengar Yoga, studying with Judy Landecker and teaching at the Downtown Athletic Club in Helena.

Executive Director of Drumlummon Institute and editor of *Drumlummon Views*, **Rick Newby** is currently completing a lengthy biographical essay on the life and work of Norman Jefferis “Jeff” Holter, the Montana physicist who developed the now-ubiquitous Holter Heart Monitor in his laboratory in Helena; an excerpt from this text will appear in the Spring 2007 issue of *DV*. Newby is also compiling, with Lee Rostad, the selected poems of Grace Stone Coates; Drumlummon Institute will publish this collection in Fall 2007.

**Caroline Patterson** is an editor at Farcountry Press and the editor of the recently published anthology, *Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart*. She has published fiction in journals including *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Seventeen*, *Southwest Review*, and *Epoch* and nonfiction in magazines including *Seventeen*, *Sunset*, and *Via*. She recently relocated to Helena with her husband, the writer Fred Haefele, and their children, Phoebe and Tobin.

**Paul S. Piper** was born in Chicago, lived for extensive periods in Montana and Hawaii, and is currently a librarian at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington, “who spends more time than I should writing at work.” His work has appeared in various literary journals including *The Bellingham Review*, *Manoa*, *Sulfur*, and *CutBank*. He has three published books of poetry—*Now and Then* (Flying Trout Press), *Movement Apparent Song* (Mountain Moving Press), and *White* (Zettel Press), and a new manuscript, *Winter Apples*, has just been accepted by Bottom Dog Press. He has also had the privilege of being included in the books *The New Montana Story* (Riverbend Press) and *America Zen* (Bottom Dog Press). In addition, he is co-editor of the books *Father Nature* (University of Iowa Press) and *X-Stories: The Personal Side of Fragile X Syndrome* (Flying Trout Press).

**Robert W. Putsch, III, MD**, who makes his home on Phantom Springs Ranch at Canyon Creek, Montana, was a founder of the Cross Cultural Health Care Program in Seattle, Washington. Since it began in 1992, the CCHCP has been “addressing broad cultural issues that impact the health of individuals and families in ethnic minority communities in Seattle and nationwide.”

**John Reddy** has photographed landscapes in Montana and elsewhere since 1974. John earned a B.S. in photography from Montana State University’s Film & TV Department. His work has been extensively published in Montana and around the country. John’s pictures appear regularly in *Montana Magazine* and have been seen in *Popular Photography*, *American Heritage*, *Sunset*,

*Montana Living*, *Men's Journal*, *National Geographic Books*, *Outside*, *Smithsonian Guide to Historic America*, and many other publications.

John's photography is featured in the Compass American Guide (Fodors) book, *Montana*, available in bookstores throughout the U.S. John also collaborated with friend and colleague, Chuck Haney, on two coffee table books, *Wild and Beautiful Glacier* and *Wild And Beautiful Montana II*, published by Farcountry Press. A softcover book, *Glacier Impressions*, is also available.

John is represented in Japan by Aflo, in the U.S. by Altrendo and Panoramic Images, and in the U.K. by Alamy. John recently made the switch to Nikon digital but still enjoys working with a Toyo 4X5 camera and a Hasselblad XPAN panoramic camera.

**Wilbur Rehmann** is a Helena jazz saxophonist who has been playing saxophone since he was in the fifth grade, and he travels the state playing jazz with the Wilbur Rehmann Quintet. His Quintet's music has been heard on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Songs Considered*. The Quintet has produced and released two CDs, *Back Home Jazz* and *Mann Gulch Suite*. Wilbur is also a freelance writer whose articles have appeared in *Montana Outdoors*, *Montana Magazine*, the *Independent Record*, and the *Billings Gazette*, and he has contributed chapters to two books, *Montana Fishing Guide* and *The Native Home of Hope*. Besides writing, playing jazz, and fishing, Wilbur is an enthusiastic ceramicist and works frequently at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena. In his spare time he collapses.

**Peggy Riley** holds a master's degree in English from the University of California at Berkeley and a master's degree in

history from Montana State University–Bozeman. This turned out to be a serendipitous combination when she came into possession of a packet of over forty poems written by her great-grandfather, a coal miner in Roundup, Montana, at the beginning of the twentieth century. For the past few years, with the help of family and colleagues, she has worked sporadically on genealogical and historic research, writing, traveling, visiting Montana, and generally collecting any kind of information that might illuminate her great-grandfather's life, times, and poetry.

Peggy recently retired after teaching English and California history for over twenty-five years at Las Positas College in Livermore, California. She has published several articles, including one about using poetry in an English classroom and one about the founders of the African American Episcopal Church in Great Falls, Montana, an outgrowth of her master's in history work. Peggy now divides her time among dramaturgical work for two small theater companies, working on her great-grandfather's poetry, remodeling her house, and gardening. She lives in Livermore with her husband of fifty-one years.

Designer and thinker **Lori Ryker** of Livingston, Montana, is the executive director of Artemis Institute and a partner in Ryker/Nave Design. She is also editor of *Mockbee Coker: Thought and Process*, published by Princeton Architectural Press in 1995, and author of *Off the Grid: Modern Houses and Alternative Energy* (reviewed in this issue). Her follow-up title, *Off the Grid Homes: Case Studies for Sustainable Living*, is due out from Gibbs Smith in May 2007.

**Clay Scott** is a Montana-based journalist and writer. He lived and worked for many years in the Middle East and Europe, including the Balkans and Russia. Among the languages he speaks are Arabic, Hebrew, Serbo-Croat, Bulgarian, French, Spanish, German and Danish.

Since returning to the United States in 2000, Clay has made his home in Helena. He produces radio stories and documentaries for National Public Radio's environmentally focused radio news magazine, *Living on Earth*, and other public radio programs. He won the 2003 Society of Environmental Journalists award for a radio documentary on two endangered southern rivers. His story of two Western Shoshone sisters in Nevada won the 2004 Exceptional Merit Media Award.

In 1961 **Mary Scriver** arrived in Browning, Montana, to teach high school English and found a life. With Bob Scriver throughout the Sixties, she learned to cast bronzes alongside him, but left when he divorced her. Subsequently she had two other careers—one as an animal control officer back in her hometown of Portland, Oregon, and another as Unitarian-Universalist minister preaching prairie theology through both the U.S. and Canada. Unable to stay away from the reservation, she returned to teach again in Heart Butte, then bounced back to Portland. Now she has “retired” to Valier, Montana, where she reads and writes all day and half the night.

**Ada Melville Shaw** (see editor's note to the selection from “Cabin O'Wildwinds”).

When he was still a young artist, **Irvin “Shorty” Shope** showed his work to Charles M. Russell. Like Russell, Shope lived in Montana and worked as a cowboy before beginning his artistic career. Unlike Russell, who moved to Montana as a teenager, Shope had grown up there, worked on his family's ranch, and decided at an early age to combine his love of the West with a career in fine art. He attended Reed College in Oregon and graduated with a degree in fine art from The University of Montana.

In 1925, Shope, who was then twenty-five years old, visited Russell and cautiously showed him a portfolio of his drawings. Russell was impressed, and wrote on the back of one of the drawings, “These drawings of Shope's are all good.” He signed the inscription with his trademark buffalo skull. That simple sentence became one of Shope's most treasured possessions. Russell also offered some words of advice. He asked Shope if he were intending to head east to further his artistic education. When Shope said that he was, Russell said, “Don't do it. The men, horses, and country you love and want to study are out here, not back there.”

Shope did study in the East for a while; but remained a resident of Montana until his death in 1977. Throughout his career, Shope received encouragement and instruction from some of the West's greatest artists, such as E. S. Paxson, Will James, and Harvey Dunn, who was both his teacher and mentor.

Like these artists, Shope took whatever artistic work was available to him; illustrating books and calendars (and magazine articles), drawing maps of Western exploration for school classrooms, while continuing to paint the men and women of the historic West. A longtime resident of Helena, Montana, Shope died in 1977 at age seventy-seven.

**Mark Stevens** is the art critic for *New York* magazine. He has also been the art critic for *The New Republic* and *Newsweek* and has written for such publications as *Vanity Fair*, *The New York Times*, and *The New Yorker*. He lives in New York City. With his coauthor Annalyn Swan, he received the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Biography for *DeKooning: An American Master* (Knopf, 2005).

**Alexandra Swaney** has engaged in a variety of pursuits having mostly to do with culture, music and the wellbeing of Montana's peoples and landscapes. For several years, Alexandra was keyboardist-singer-songwriter in the popular Montana-based bands Cheap Cologne and the Jane Finigan Quintet and continues to perform as a jazz pianist and composer.

In the position of folklife director for the Montana Arts Council (from which she has very recently retired), Alexandra concentrated on outreach, documentation, and support for the many ethnic, regional, and occupational cultures and artists across the state. She curated and toured *Bridles, Bits and Beads*, the first statewide exhibit of folk and traditional arts. More recently, she has presented Montana performing artists at the Library of Congress and the Seattle Folklife Festival, produced a CD of the original songs of Chippewa Cree elder Pat Kennedy, and together with Leni Holliman; a radio series, *Montana Living Treasures*. The six-part half-hour series documents individuals such as rancher-environmentalist Bill Ohrmann and Cheyenne flute-maker Jay Dale Old Mouse.

**Thomas Thackeray**, who has two grown children and two growing grandchildren, was born and raised along the Milk River on Montana's Hi-Line. After working as an optician for seventeen

years, he left that occupation to teach high school English in Roundup, Montana. In his classroom, Thackeray emphasizes writing as a means of thinking and understanding, and writes himself to model its uses. Thackeray holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Montana State University-Northern.

**O. Alan Weltzien**, Professor of English at UM-Western, has been a keen student of Montana literature since his arrival in the Beaverhead Valley in 1991. Weltzien has edited *The Literary Art and Activism of Rick Bass* (2001) and co-edited *Coming Into McPhee Country: John McPhee and the Art of Literary Nonfiction* (2003). He has also edited *The Norman Maclean Reader* (forthcoming, 2008). In addition, he has a memoir, *At Home on Camano: Summers in a Puget Sound Life*, under consideration at a press. Weltzien has received two Fulbright Fellowships (Poland, 1989-90, and Bulgaria, 1997-98) as well as a University of Montana Faculty Exchange Award (Australia, 2003). He teaches a broad range of American, Western American, Montana, and Environmental literature courses. He also climbs as many Montana peaks as he is able.

**Bridget R. Whearty** was born in Helena, Montana. She attended the University of Montana where she earned her B.A. in English Literature and Creative Writing, with minors in French and Women's Studies. She is currently working on her doctorate in medieval literature at Stanford University. She cooks poorly, sleeps rarely, and makes very good coffee.

**Florence Williams** is an award-winning graduate of The University of Montana's creative writing department and is a

contributing editor for *Outside Magazine* and environment and science editor for *Drumlummon Views*. She also writes articles and essays for the *New York Times*, *New Republic*, *High Country News*, and other publications. She serves on the board of *High Country News* and on the steering committee of the Helena Festival of the Book.

**MJ Williams** is a Montana native, second generation trombonist and vocalist. She started sitting in with local jazz players at age sixteen. In 1986 she received a Montana Arts Council fellowship grant to spend three months in New York City where she audited classes with Sheila Jordan at City College and went to clubs and concerts. In 1987 she produced an album of jazz standards and was a featured performer in the New York City Women in Jazz Concert at the Universal Jazz Coalition. Later that year she performed at the National Women's Music Festival and moved to Seattle where she attended Cornish College and studied with Jay Clayton and Julian Priester and performed regularly with Randy Halberstadt and Phil Sparks.

Since returning to Montana in 1991 she has been performing steadily, returning to Seattle for the Bumbershoot Festival with the trio ThreeForm with whom she co-produced two CDs. She is a founding member of the Montana Artists Refuge, a residency program for visual artists, writers, and musicians. In 1999 the MJ Williams Trio produced their first CD entitled *I Can Hear Your Heart*. In 2000 Williams performed on and co-produced a CD with New York composer/pianist/vocalist Cynthia Hilts. This CD was a pilot project focusing on rural/urban collaboration. Since 2001 Williams has continued to work with the MJ Williams Trio

and the Williams, Roberti, White Trio, releasing the CD *Driving At Night* which was favorably reviewed in the Paris jazz magazine *Jazz Hot*. For the last three years Williams has performed in Paris at Le Sept Lezard, a legendary jazz club with the Jobic LeMasson Trio and the Joe Makhholm Quintet. Williams continues to perform with her trio as well as the Kelly Roberti Sextet.