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# The Writers at The Pass of the North

Marcia Hatfield Daudistel

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# Carl Hertzog

Lecture Series



## *The Writers at The Pass of The North*

Marcia Hatfield Daudistel

Editor, *Grace and Gumption: the Women of El Paso*

Editor, *Literary El Paso*;

2010 BRLA Southwest Book Award winner;

and Co-Author, *Authentic Texas:*

*the People of the Big Bend* (2013)





# Carl Hertzog Lecture Series



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# *The Carl Hertzog Lecture Series*

The Hertzog Lectures, inaugurated on February 5, 1989, and presented biennially to honor the memory and life work of the "Printer at the Pass," J. Carl Hertzog (1902-1984).

A premier typographer and book designer long before his association with the University of Texas at El Paso, Mr. Hertzog brought his international renown to the then-Texas Western College in 1948. He launched Texas Western Press in 1952, serving as its director until his retirement in 1972.

Books bearing the distinctive Carl Hertzog colophon reached a standard of excellence that is unexcelled to this day.

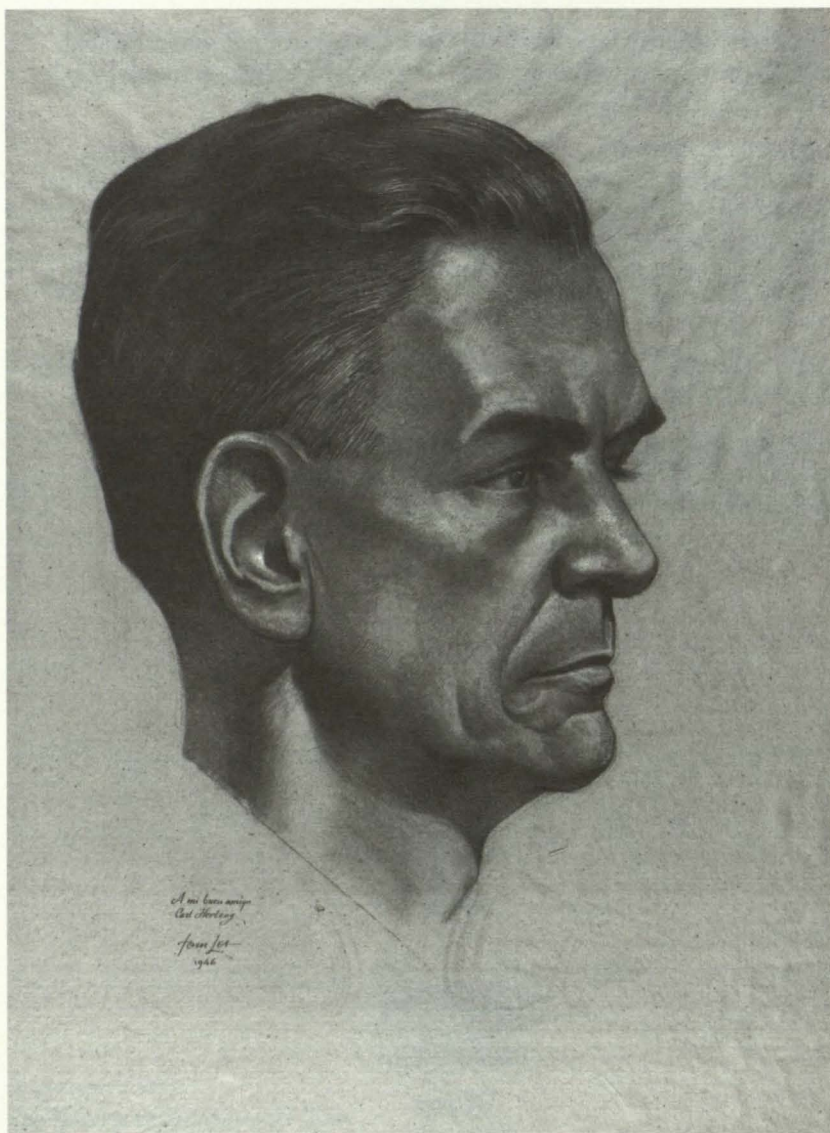
The University Library's Special Collections Department is the repository of the extensive collection of Carl Hertzog books and papers.

The Carl Hertzog Lectures and the biennial Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design are sponsored by the Friends of the University Library at the University of Texas at El Paso.



**Texas  
Western  
Press**

The University of Texas at El Paso



(Drawing by Tom Lea 1946)

J. Carl Hertzog  
1902 – 1984



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**March 25, 2012**

Carl Hertzog lecture series, no. 15



# **The Writers at The Pass of The North**

by Marcia Hatfield Daudistel

I would like to thank the Friends of the University of Texas at El Paso Library for selecting me as the fifteenth Hertzog Lecturer. I also thank Claudia Rivers and the staff of the UTEP Library Special Collections for their assistance and Richard Jarvis for making the PowerPoint slides that accompany this lecture.

This year I am going to focus the lecture on El Paso and honor our internationally known book designer and typographer Carl Hertzog. I will discuss many El Paso writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. If I were to start at the beginning of El Paso's literary history, we would begin before the 1500s.

Everyone has a soundtrack of his life, the music that evokes the memories of our experiences. These soundtracks are personal and we resist any lists compiled to determine the best music that others have compiled. In literature, there is a literary canon, a body of work that is determined to be the best literature in the world or different countries or genres. Others have decided what is in the canon. Only the cannon spelled with two Ns is made of iron.

A personal literary canon should be fluid. All readers determine the writing that has changed their lives because literature is a transformative experience when you recognize yourself or your life through the eyes of a writer. Ultimately it is up to each reader to decide what writings are timeless, ring true and are insightful. Today we will be looking at the vast talent that has come out of El Paso that tells the story of us through fiction, poetry, journalism and non-fiction. At the end of the lecture, hopefully you will have discovered writers that can be added to your own canon.

Carl Hertzog (1902-1984) was born in Lyons, France while his father was touring as a concert musician. He was raised in Pittsburgh after the death of his father. Tom Lea said of Hertzog: "When he was eight years old, he stuck his nose in the neighborhood print shop and smelled that printer's ink and it got him, just like linseed oil got me when I was young." By the time Hertzog graduated from high school in 1919, he was qualified as a journeyman typesetter.



In 1923, he came to El Paso to work for the W.S. McMath Company as a layout man. While shop foreman, he produced the books *La Lepra Nacional* by Gonzalo de la Parra and *Just Me and Other Poems* by Owen White. He met artist Tom Lea in 1937, asking him to provide the drawings for the ads for the Paso Del Norte Hotel. Their collaboration, that also included José Cisneros, changed the face of Texas publishing. Through Tom Lea's friendship with the iconic Texas writer J. Frank Dobie, Lea illustrated and Hertzog designed several of Dobie's books.

The many books that resulted from the Lea and Hertzog lifelong friendship included the famous two volumes *The King Ranch* (1957). Originally meant to take a year to produce, the project took five long and frustrating years to complete. Tom Lea told the story that at the end of the third year, Carl Hertzog called him one evening and said, "You son of a bitch, you ruined my life," and hung up the telephone. A few minutes later, Vivian Hertzog, Carl's wife, called and said "Tom, you do know Carl's been drinking, don't you?"

The editor of *The King Ranch*, Francis Fugate, was flown to the King Ranch to present the latest edited manuscript. After that meeting was over, he was driven to the plane to return to El Paso. He got out of the truck and tore the manuscript into tiny pieces and threw them on the ground. Although the project was a long and sometimes difficult one it became an enduring Texas classic.

The limited edition saddle blanket book was bound with a facsimile of the King Ranch saddle blanket cover and is highly sought after by collectors today. Alfred Knopf, among other New York publishers, wanted to publish the trade edition of *The King Ranch*. Knopf began a correspondence with Hertzog to obtain the publishing contract for the book that started a friendship and correspondence that spanned several years. As a result of that relationship, Hertzog designed two books for Alfred A. Knopf, including the classic *Goodbye To A River* by John Graves (1960). The trade edition of *The King Ranch*, published by Little, Brown, won a 1957 Fifty Books of the Year award.

In 1949, Hertzog became an instructor in the Department of English and started the college print shop at Texas Western College. He established Texas Western Press in 1952. The first book published with the Texas Western Press imprint was *The Spanish Heritage of the Southwest* by Francis Fugate, illustrated by artist José Cisneros, who also illustrated several other books for Hertzog including *Riders*



*Across the Centuries*. The early publication list of Texas Western Press was very eclectic: *Bells Over Texas* by Bessie Lee Fitzhugh; *Forgotten Legions* by Val Lehman and the best-selling *The Lasater Philosophy of Cattle Raising*, which might be described as a holistic approach to cattle raising. It becomes clear that Hertzog's publishing decisions were based on which books he wanted to design and produce rather than an adherence to a formal mission statement. He was the recipient of many awards, including four from the Texas Institute of Letters. His distinctive colophon graced books that still represent the most exacting standards, creativity and attention to detail.

Artist, muralist, illustrator and novelist Tom Lea (1907-2001) was born and raised in El Paso. Tom Lea, Sr., his father, was the mayor of the city during the Mexican Revolution. At the age of seventeen, Lea went to Chicago to study under the muralist John Norton at the Chicago Art Institute and became his apprentice. He worked as a mural painter and commercial artist in Chicago until 1933 when he moved to Santa Fe, and briefly worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA). When a newly widowed Lea returned home to El Paso in 1936, he met and married single mother Sarah Dighton, who became his life partner and muse. He received the commission to paint murals for the Texas Centennial celebration at the Hall of State at the Dallas Fairgrounds. His friendships with book designer and publisher Carl Hertzog and writer J. Frank Dobie led to a career in writing and book illustration, in addition to his painting. Lea illustrated Dobie's *Apache Gold*, *Yaqui Silver* and *The Longhorns*. He was also a prolific writer; his novels *The Brave Bulls* and *The Wonderful Country* were both published in New York and were made into major motion pictures.

Francis Fugate (1915-1992), in addition to editing *The King Ranch*, went on to publish many books. Texas Western Press published his last book, *Arbuckle's: the Coffee that Won the West*. Fugate died in the final page proof process.

José Cisneros (1910-2009) began his distinguished career painting advertising on the sides of trolley cars in El Paso, but used his talents much more appropriately when he began illustrating books for Carl Hertzog, including *Riders Across the Centuries* that showcased his lifelong passion for early Spanish horsemen and their armament. The country of Spain honored him for his remarkable and prolific career. United States Presidents have collected his art.



C.L. Sonnichsen (1901-1991) was born in Iowa and raised in Minnesota. He earned his Ph.D. in English Philology from Harvard. "At that time Harvard offered no Ph.D. in English or American Literature," Sonnichsen recalled, "the degree was in English Philology, like it or not, and that was the way we had to go, though few of us wanted to make a career out of the Anglo-Saxon infinitive." The literature courses that Sonnichsen completed concentrated on English Literature, particularly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the middle of the Depression, when faculty positions were scarce, Sonnichsen accepted a summer teaching position at the Texas College of Mines, but stayed at the University for the rest of his distinguished academic career. The focus of Sonnichsen's scholarship turned to regional history when he was informed by then College President John G. Barry that he would teach a course in "Southwestern Literature." Barry was influenced by the writings of J. Frank Dobie and his course "Life and Literature of the Southwest" at the University of Texas at Austin. When Dobie originally suggested the course title he was told there was no such thing. "You may deny that there is literature here," he said, "but you can hardly deny that there is life." Sonnichsen became a self-described "grassroots historian," blazing the trail in Southwest lore and literature.

Clara Emily Guion Aguirre (1904-1997) began writing poetry when she was nine and published her last book of poetry in her nineties. In the midst of a full and active life, which included raising six children, she never stopped writing. Her first published book was *The Poplar Tree, Collected Poems 1918-1968*, selections from a half-century of poems she had written.

Bernice Love Wiggins (1897-?) lived in El Paso, far from the center of literary activity during the era known as the Harlem Renaissance. As a child she was encouraged by her teachers to write poetry. Her poems were published extensively in newspapers across Texas. *Tuneful Tales* is her self-published book of poetry that gives voice to the small but active and distinguished African-American community of El Paso during the 1920s and 1930s. No further information could be found on her whereabouts after she left El Paso in the 1930s.

John O. West (1925-2010) collaborated with José Cisneros on several books, including the biography *José Cisneros: An Artist's Journey*. John was also a distinguished folklorist and historian and made his career as a professor in the Department of English at the University of Texas at El Paso.



Wilbert H. Timmons (1915-2008) joined the faculty of Texas Western College in 1949, where he retired as Emeritus Professor of History after nearly thirty years of teaching. During his service as Director of the Mexican Microfilm Project from 1971-1978, archives from Chihuahua and Durango, Mexico were preserved on over two thousand rolls of microfilm at the UTEP library. Author of numerous scholarly articles, he also published several books including *El Paso Borderlands History*, the winner of the T.R. Fehrenbach award by the Texas Historical Commission for best Texas history in 1990.

### The Journalists

Owen White (1879-1946) graduated from El Paso High and briefly attended The University of Texas at Austin. In 1920, he became a columnist for the *El Paso Herald*. His first book *Out of the Desert* came to the attention of H.L. Mencken, then the editor of *The American Mercury*, which led to a long-standing friendship and correspondence. *The New York Times* reviewed the book and sent White to cover the story of the inauguration of Texas governor Miriam “Ma” Ferguson, then offered him a job. He moved to New York in 1925, working as a freelance writer until he became associate editor and staff writer at *Collier’s* until 1940. His articles also appeared frequently in *The American Mercury* and the *New York Times Magazine*. He was nationally recognized for his articles on political corruption, particularly in Texas.

Amado Muro (1915-1970) is the pseudonym of writer and newspaperman Chester Seltzer. His career was very controversial since it was discovered after his death that he was not, in fact, Hispanic. Raised in Cleveland, his father, Louis B. Seltzer was the influential journalist and editor of *The Cleveland Press*. Chester attended the University of Virginia and Kenyon College. He rode freight trains, worked in labor camps, lived in the Fruit Pickers Cot house, Red’s flophouse, and was, for a time, a seaman. While a newspaperman in Bexar County, Texas during World War II, he was sentenced to prison at Lewisburg Penitentiary for his objections to military service. After his release, he came to work at the *El Paso Herald-Post* and married Amada Muro, a native of Chihuahua City, Mexico, slightly changing her name for his pen name. Muro worked at Texas newspapers in Dallas, San Antonio, Wichita Falls and Galveston and California, New Mexico and Louisiana newspapers. He



wrote stories of his travels across the United States and in the villages of Mexico. His story "María Tepache" was published in *The Best American Short Stories of 1969*. He is the author of *The Collected Stories of Amado Muro*, which is widely anthologized. He lived in the Sunset Heights neighborhood of El Paso when not riding the rails or living among farm workers, strikers and the dispossessed. He died of a heart attack in front of Zamora's News Stand on Paisano Drive in El Paso.

Peggy Hull (1889-1967), named Henrietta Eleanor Goodnough/Deuell/Skidmore, was first published when she was sixteen years old. She is a singular figure during the early history of El Paso women journalists. Hull was not only married three times, but she also served as a State Department accredited World War I field correspondent. Before her assignment in World War I, Hull was in Mexico alongside General Pershing for the "Punitive Expedition." Dressed in the latest styles from Paris when not in war zones, she was a glamorous figure. Peggy drew the jealous attention of her male fellow journalists who, in an effort to send her home, started rumors that her accomplishments were due to romantic relationships with the generals.

Virginia Turner (1916-2001) made her career with the *El Paso Herald Post* from 1944-1969. Her relentless work ethic as a reporter led to her promotion as City Editor of the *El Paso Herald Post* in 1959. This position served as a source of strength and empowerment for women journalists, because it provided Turner a position of leadership and supervision of other journalists that was uncommon for women.

Rubén Salazar (1928-1970) was born in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico and was raised in El Paso. In 1946, he enrolled in the College of Mines and Metallurgy, but left to serve two years in the U.S. Army. He returned to school in 1952, earning his B.A. in journalism from Texas Western College in 1954 while working as a reporter at the *El Paso Herald-Post*. Salazar's groundbreaking career was a series of firsts: the first Mexican-American reporter to work at an El Paso newspaper; the first Mexican-American columnist at the *Los Angeles Times*; and the first Mexican-American foreign correspondent when he covered the U.S. intervention in the Dominican Republic. The *Los Angeles Times* sent Salazar to Vietnam and he also served as bureau chief in Mexico City. He returned to Los Angeles in 1969 to report on the emerging Chicano Movement. In 1970, he became news director at the Los Angeles Spanish television station KMEX. During his coverage of the Chicano National Moratorium on August 29, 1970,



Salazar was killed when Los Angeles County Sheriff officers fired a tear gas projectile into the Silver Dollar Café, striking Salazar in the head. Many familiar with the circumstances surrounding this incident believe that Salazar's death was not accidental and continue to push authorities to re-open the investigation. Since his death, several parks, libraries and buildings have been named in Ruben's memory. He was posthumously awarded a special Robert F. Kennedy Award, and was honored by the United States Postal Service with the issuance of a first class stamp in 2008. Salazar was honored by the University of Texas at El Paso with the creation of the Ruben Salazar Spanish Language Media Program in 2003, and was named a Distinguished Alumnus in 2008.

Bryan Woolley was raised in Fort Davis, Texas and began his award-winning career in journalism as a stringer for the *El Paso Times* while he was still a student at Fort Davis High School. Woolley worked as a journalist in Kentucky, Alabama, and Oklahoma, and then returned to Texas to work for the *Dallas Times-Herald*, then for *The Dallas Morning News* until his retirement. He is the author of four novels including *Some Sweet Day*, which has remained continuously in print since 1973, under three different publishers. Bryan has published six collections of his feature stories and essays, two children's books, three novels and several books of non-fiction. His work frequently reflects his great love for El Paso. He is a winner of the PEN Western Literary Award for Journalism; he is also the recipient of four awards from the Texas Institute of Letters and four Texas Headliner Awards. He is past president of the Texas Institute of Letters. In 2007, he was appointed a Teaching Fellow in the Sam Donaldson Center for Communication Studies by his alma mater, The University of Texas at El Paso.

Robbie Farley Myrick-Villalobos (1954-2004) had a prolific publishing career that lasted barely more than twenty years. From 1981 until 2004, she wrote in *The Prospector*, *The El Paso Times*, *The El Paso Herald-Post*, *El Diario de Juárez*, and *El Paso, Inc.*, among other regional publications. Robbie was also an activist for women journalists.

Ramón Rentería, an award winning and enduring popular columnist for *The El Paso Times*, writing on all things El Paso, was born in Valentine, Texas. In addition to his column, he is a veteran reporter and editor. He has worked for forty years in print journalism in southern California, New Mexico and Texas. He has covered crime



news, education, the courts, city politics, entertainment and U.S./Mexico border issues. He has received awards for his feature stories and for journalistic excellence including a 1995 Texas Headliner Award for feature writing.

Alfredo Corchado, award winning journalist and Mexico bureau chief for *The Dallas Morning News*, was born in Mexico, but immigrated to the United States at the age of six. He worked with his family of migrant farm workers in California. His family moved to El Paso, where he attended UTEP and began his career. He is known for his courage and determination to write about the violence and drug-related crime that occurs along the U.S.-Mexico border. Corchado was awarded the Nieman Fellowship from Harvard University in 2009. He now makes El Paso his home.

Photojournalist and essayist Beatriz Terrazas was born and raised in El Paso. In 1994, she was part of a team of journalists at the *Dallas Morning News* that won a Pulitzer for a project on violence against women. Her essays have been widely published and anthologized.

### **The Publishers**

Frank Mangan (1921-2009) was born and raised in El Paso, and served in the Air Force in England, France and Germany during World War II. He worked for twenty-eight years in advertising and public relations for the El Paso Natural Gas Company. After his retirement, Frank and his wife Judy Peterson Mangan founded Mangan Books in 1979 and published titles as varied as corporate and military history, gunfighter biographies and new age channeling, including the book *El Paso in Pictures*, which has been re-released by Texas Christian University Press. Mangan Books was the publisher of many of the books of Leon C. Metz, such as *The Shooters* and *John Wesley Hardin: Dark Angel of Texas*.

Lee and Bobby Byrd are the co-publishers of Cinco Puntos Press, a highly respected independent publishing house that has successfully drawn national attention to writers and artists from our border region. Their mission is to bring the multicultural literature of the American Southwest, the U.S.-Mexico border region and Mexico to a national audience. The Byrds founded Cinco Puntos Press in 1985 in their home in the Five Points neighborhood. The Press is now located on Texas Ave. With a clear and dedicated vision, they have enhanced the cultural profile of El Paso. Their children's books, some written



by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, are now being recognized as important teaching tools for a student population that represents our nation's 21<sup>st</sup> century demographic. Both, Bobby and Lee Byrd, are also accomplished writers and poets.

Bobby Byrd grew up in Memphis, Tennessee. In addition to his numerous books of poetry in his award-winning writing career, including the books *Get Some Fuses for the House*, *On the Transmigration of Souls in El Paso*, *White Panties*, *Dead Friends* and *Other Bits and Pieces of Love*, he is also co-editor of two award-winning non-fiction border anthologies.

Lee Merrill Byrd was born and raised in New Jersey. Her novel *Riley's Fire* was named one of the Top Ten Best books of 2006 by *People Magazine*; her collection of short stories *My Sister Disappears* received a Texas Institute of Letters award. She is also the author of two children's books. Lee was a recipient of the 1997 Dobie-Paisano Fellowship and a Cultural Freedom Fellowship from the Lannan Foundation in 2005.

Maceo Dailey, a faculty member in the Department of History and Director of African-American studies at UTEP, is the co-editor of the book *Wheresoever My People Chance to Dwell* and his scholarly essays and book chapters have appeared in many publications. He served as chair for the Board of Directors of Humanities Texas for two terms, among other Texas organizations. Maceo was instrumental in the re-publishing of *Tuneful Tales* by Bernice Love Wiggins, bringing that early work back to life. In addition to his distinguished academic career, he and his late wife, Sondra Banfield Dailey founded Sweet Earth Flying Press. When Sondra discovered a hidden gem, a manuscript *Boy of the Border* by Langston Hughes in his papers housed at Yale, she obtained permission for the Press to publish it. An important discovery, the book came to the attention of the *New York Times*.

### The Writers and Poets

Leon Claire Metz, a historian, lecturer and writer, was born and raised in Parkersburg, West Virginia, but made El Paso his home after his military service as a staff sergeant stationed at Fort Bliss. He is the author of seventeen books including: *Trailing Billy the Kid*; *Desert Army: Fort Bliss on the Texas Border*; *Pat Garrett: The Story of a Western Lawman*; and *El Paso Chronicles*. Leon is featured in many magazines, newspapers and historical journals and often appears on the History Channel, A&E and the BBC's programs on the west.



Bill Wright, an Abilene native and award-winning photographer and writer, was a familiar face in El Paso during his first career in business. After he sold his business to his employees, Bill began a distinguished second career as an author and photographer. He gained the trust of the Tigua Indians and worked among them for six years, interviewing and photographing them. As a result, his book *The Tiguas: Pueblo Indians of Texas*, published by Texas Western Press, stands as the definitive study of the contemporary tribe. His many books include: *The Kickapoo: Keepers of Tradition*, *Portraits from the Desert: Bill Wright's Big Bend* and *The Texas Outback: Ranching on the Last Frontier*. He has exhibited his photographs internationally as well as throughout the United States.

Nancy Miller Hamilton retired in 1990 as Associate Director of Texas Western Press. Hamilton edited and wrote for the University's magazine *Nova*, and for *Roundup*, the magazine of Western Writers of America. She is the author of *Ben Dowell: El Paso's First Mayor* and *UTEP: A Pictorial History* as well as many articles for journals and other publications and is a past president of Western Writers of America.

Elroy Bode is known throughout Texas for what is called his "word sketches," centered mainly on El Paso and the Texas Hill Country. He made El Paso his home from 1959 and taught for more than thirty years at Austin High School. While he was stationed in San Antonio in the Air Force, he began writing these sketches after his short stories were rejected. He decided: "I would never again write anything the way I thought I was 'supposed to.' I would never write in order to make money and I would only write about those things that I cared about. If I never got published, fine. I would write strictly for me about those moments of intensity that would not let me alone—that seemed to be the very stuff of my life." These word sketches vary in length from a few paragraphs to essay length and are sensitive observations about everyday life, the moments that are often ignored, that reflect a love of El Paso and its people and landscape. His critically acclaimed books include: *Texas Sketchbook*; *Home and Other Moments*; *This Favored Place*; *Commonplace Mysteries* and *In a Special Light*, among many others.

Dale L. Walker, a former Director of Texas Western Press, has been a freelance writer since 1960. He is the author of many historical books, biographies and literary studies, including *Legends and Lies*:



*Great Mysteries of the American West*; *The Boys of '98*; *Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders*; *The California Gold Rush*; and *The Calamity Papers: Western Myths and Cold Cases*, among many others. His books have won many awards, including the Owen Wister Award from the Western Writers of America for his lifetime contributions to Western history and literature. His periodical work has appeared in more than 130 magazines and newspapers. Dale has also served as books editor for *The El Paso Times*, books columnist for the *Rocky Mountain News*, and has recently retired as consulting editor for Forge Books (Macmillan) of New York.

Cormac McCarthy, arguably one of the most high profile novelists in the country, lived in El Paso for over twenty years. He attracted an avid following with the establishment of the Cormac McCarthy Society, devoted to the academic examination and discussion of his works at its annual meetings. It was here in El Paso where he departed from his Southern Gothic novels, one of which, *Blood Meridian*, led to an enduring comparison to William Faulkner. His western novels, written while he was here, have earned him a Pulitzer, four Academy Awards for *No Country for Old Men* and a National Book Award. He is considered by many to be one of the most important writers in the late 20<sup>th</sup>-early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. He has frequently been mentioned as a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Novelist and short story writer Rick DeMarinis was born in New York City and taught fiction writing at San Diego State University, Arizona State University and at UTEP, where he retired as a Professor. He is the author of eight novels including: *The Burning Women of Far Cry*; *The Year of the Zinc Penny*, named a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year; *The Mortician's Apprentice*, and most recently, *Mama's Boy*. He has published four collections of short stories including: *Jack and Jill*; *Under the Wheat*, winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, and *The Voice of America*.

Not all stories are easily told or heard. A critical time in the literary history of El Paso occurred in the 1960s and 1970s during the rise of the Chicano Movement. The seeds of this movement began in 1848 at the end of the Mexican-American War when the establishment of the U.S.-Mexico border instantly created nearly one hundred thousand new U.S. citizens. One day you are living in your native country speaking your native language, and then the next day you are living in a foreign country, speaking a foreign language. In response to segregation and discrimination, organizations such as The Order



of the Sons of America and the Knights of America were created in Texas to establish rights for these citizens.

Chicano activism during the 1960s and early 1970s attracted national attention and occurred at the same time as the Civil Rights movement, which focused primarily on African-Americans. When desegregation was mandated, it also resulted in the closing of the segregated Mexican schools in Texas. Former students of those schools clearly remember that frequently their schools only had the name "The Mexican School." During this time, previously silenced voices in the Hispanic community emerged on the political and artistic scene. Although attention to ethnic politics is usually centered on the West Coast, the first Raza Unida Party national convention was held in El Paso in 1972.

Out of this period of activism, a new genre of literature was born. Poets Ricardo Sánchez, Abelardo Delgado, who joined Cesar Chavez in the farmworkers movement, Arturo Islas, artist and writer Antonio Burciaga, and journalist Rubén Salazar, are only a few of these influential writers who began their work in El Paso. Rejected by mainstream publishers, these writers sometimes founded their own publishing houses. Then, when national attention to their work grew, they assumed their rightful place along with their contemporaries with East Coast publishing houses. It is our particular bilingual and bi-national environment that has produced El Paso's groundbreaking writers.

Poet, writer and educator Tomás Rivera (1935-1984) was born in Crystal City, Texas and along with his parents, worked as a farm laborer in South Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Michigan and Minnesota. He received an English degree from Southwest Texas State University while continuing to work in the fields during the summer. Rivera earned his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and came to El Paso as a Vice President at UTEP. He was serving as Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside at the time of his death. His experience as a migrant worker was the context of his novel *And the Earth Did Not Part*, which won the first Quinto Sol Prize for literature in 1970 and is considered a milestone in Chicano literary history. The novel was published during the height of the Chicano labor struggles and the rise of the La Raza Unida party and resonated with those suffering injustice. His poetry and literary essays have been cited as crucial in the study of Chicano/a literature of the 1970s.



Poet, activist and academic Ricardo Sánchez (1941-1995), was born and raised in El Paso. His writing is strongly influenced by his early years as a member of the *pachuco* subculture of the Barrio del Diablo. Sánchez used the blend of idiomatic phrases of English and Spanish known as *caló* in his work in addition to Spanish and English. Joining the Army after dropping out of high school, he earned entrance into Officer Candidate School, but a series of events and tragedies resulted in two prison terms for armed robbery. While incarcerated, Sánchez used that time to write and became a librarian and teacher. After he was paroled in Texas, he earned a high school equivalency certificate while his writings were already being anthologized and published. With only a GED, Sánchez was employed as a staff writer and humanities instructor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He founded Mictla Publications in 1971 with the mission of publishing the works of Chicano writers who were ignored by mainstream publishers. When his first book *Canto y Grito Mi Liberación*, an important work defining the Mexican-American experience, originally published by Mictla, was published again by Anchor Books, Doubleday in 1973, he received national attention. When it was discovered that writer Amado Muro was actually Chester Seltzer, Ricardo, protecting the tenuous toehold in publishing that Hispanic writers had finally achieved, was outraged, convinced that no Anglo could write about that reality. Time has placed Amado Muro firmly among the Hispanic writers of the Southwest because, as Larry McMurtry wrote in the *New York Times*, Muro's great love and empathy with the people of El Paso and Mexico earned his place there. Dagoberto Gilb included Muro in his definitive anthology *Hecho en Tejas*. Ricardo retired as a Professor at Washington State University and returned to El Paso to die. He is widely anthologized and the author of many volumes of poetry including: *The Loves of Ricardo*; *Selected Poems*; *Perdido*, and *Gritos Norteños*. His writing gave voice to a Chicano perspective of the world and the dynamics of living on the border.

Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado (1931-2004) is considered one of the grandfathers of the Chicano literary revival of the 1960s and 1970s. Poet, writer, activist and community organizer, Lalo was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, but moved to El Paso at the age of twelve and lived in a tenement in Segundo Barrio. After graduating from Bowie High School in 1950, he worked in local restaurants and construction. In 1955 he began his community outreach by helping



the impoverished youth of the neighborhood to identify educational opportunities and to find jobs. He entered Texas Western College and graduated with a B.A. in Spanish in 1962. During the 1960s, he worked with César Chávez in the farmworker movement, went on a thirty day fast to protest the living conditions on the south side of El Paso and began to publish his poetry, which still resonates with Chicano/a writers today. His first book of poetry *Chicano: 25 Pieces of a Chicano Mind* contains his iconic and widely anthologized poem "Stupid America," followed by *It's Cold: 52 Cold-Thought Poems of Abelardo* and the award-winning novel *Letters to Louise*. In addition to his writing, he became the Executive Director of the Colorado Migrant Council, taught Chicano Studies for seventeen years at Metropolitan State College of Denver and helped establish many university Chicano Studies programs throughout the western United States. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarian Awards Committee and was posthumously appointed as the first Poet Laureate of Denver.

José Antonio Burciaga (1940-1996), a poet, artist, muralist, and activist, was born in El Paso and attended the University of Texas at El Paso and the San Francisco Art Institute. Burciaga, under the pen name El Indio Hispanic was the creator of cultural and political cartoons, many of which were published in newspapers and magazines across the United States and were syndicated through Hispanic Link. His many books include: *Restless Serpents*; *Weedee Peepo*; *Drink Cultura: Chicanismo*, and *Undocumented Love* that was the winner of the American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. He received the 1995 Hispanic Heritage Award for Literature. Burciaga was a founding member of the comedy troupe Cultura Clash and also a talented and accomplished muralist. The critically acclaimed mural "The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes," featuring images of César Chávez, Ché Guevara, Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Frida Kahlo, Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. is located at the Casa Zapata at Stanford University. Burciaga's articles were published in *The Los Angeles Times*, *Texas Monthly*, *Vista* and *Hispanic Magazine*. Long considered one of the most important voices of the Chicano/a Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, his work is widely anthologized and most recently the subject of the book *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes*, edited by Daniel Chacón and Mimi R. Gladstein, published in 2008.



Arturo Islas (1938-1991) was born in El Paso and graduated from El Paso High, earning a Sloan Scholarship to Stanford University. Planning to become a neurosurgeon, he soon realized his talent for language and literature and went on to earn a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford in 1971. He was among the first Chicanos in the United States to earn a doctorate in English. Islas remained to teach at Stanford, becoming Stanford's first tenured Chicano faculty member. The Bay Area Reviews Association selected his first novel, *The Rain God*, part of a planned trilogy about three generations of a Mexican-American family much like his own in El Paso, as one of three best novels in 1984. The second novel of the trilogy was titled *Migrant Souls*. When he was interviewed in 1990, Islas characterized the reluctance of East Coast publishers to publish Chicano literature as "A willful ignorance on the part of the machines that produce the books that we read." Islas was working on the last book of the trilogy when he died. *La Mollie and the King of Tears* was published posthumously.

Estela Portillo Trambley (1936-1999) was a playwright, fiction writer and poet born and raised in El Paso. She earned a B.A. and M.A. in English at the Texas College of Mines. She is considered a pioneer in Chicana literature with her themes of women rebelling against male domination. Her play "The Day of the Swallows" won the Quinto Sol Award in 1973. Her plays have been widely produced throughout Texas, New Mexico, California and Mexico. In 1975, her collection of short fiction *Rain of Scorpions and Other Writings* was published, followed by the novel *Trini* published in 1986. Her writing has been the subject of scholarly and critical study. She taught English at the high school and college levels, hosted radio and television shows and was resident dramatist at El Paso Community College. Portillo Trambley was the Presidential Chair in Creative Writing at the University of California, Davis.

John Rechy is a native El Pasoan and a novelist, playwright, essayist and memoirist. He is the author of the groundbreaking and controversial novel *City of Night*, a semi-autobiographical story about a gay hustler in New York City, which has been continuously in print since 1963. Now considered a modern classic, *City of Night* was published to great acclaim and nearly hysterical outraged criticism, but remained a bestseller. John has written twelve novels including *Numbers*, *The Fourth Angel*; *Bodies and Souls*; *The Miraculous Day of Amelia Gomez*; and *The Coming of the Night*. The memoir *About My Life and the Kept Woman*, set in El Paso, is his most



recent work. His essays and reviews have been widely published in many prestigious publications. He is the recipient of the Publishing Triangle's William Whitehead Award for Lifetime Achievement and the first novelist to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the PEN Center USA. His alma mater, the University of Texas at El Paso, named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 2007. He is a faculty member at the University of Southern California in the Master of Professional Writing Program.

The current and emerging writers continue to enlarge and enhance the body of work begun from the pioneers of that literary movement. The number of awards they have won for their writing is staggering. *Poets and Writers* magazine named three El Pasoans in their list of the Most Influential Writers in the World: Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Pat Mora and Cormac McCarthy.

In the face of the racist efforts in Arizona to ban many books authored by Latinos and suppress their writings, Dagoberto Gilb, in a recent interview was delighted that his books *The Magic of Blood* and *Woodcuts of Women* were included. His only disappointment was that his latest book has not made the list yet, but he is hopeful. He said about Arizona: "The usual insight to explain the ignorance about us is that we're invisible to them. We're not treated as if we're from here, that we have our history here, that our land and history is part of the country's land and history. They (the governing culture) have an ocular disease like macular degeneration: delighted to find tasty tacos and enchiladas in front of them, but they don't see any faces, only the hands that made them."

Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a prolific novelist, poet, young adult and children's author, born in the small farming village of Old Picacho outside Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was awarded a Wallace E. Stegner fellowship in poetry from Stanford University, where he completed his Ph.D. While at Stanford, his first book of poetry, *Calendar of Dust*, was published and won the 1992 American Book Award. His books are published in the national publishing houses of New York, the prestigious poetry publishing house Copper Canyon Press and El Paso's Cinco Puntos Press. He is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Carry Me Like Water*, *The House of Forgetting* and *Names on a Map*, among others. Ben is also the author of the poetry collections *Dark and Perfect Angels*, *Elegies in Blue*; and the young adult novels *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood*, a multiple award winner that was named one of the top ten books

of the year in 2004 by the American Library Association and was a finalist for the L.A. Times Book Prize of 2005 for the Best Book for Young Adults. He is the author of three bilingual children's books, *A Gift from Papa Diego*; *A Perfect Season for Dreaming* and *Grandma Fina and Her Wonderful Umbrellas*, recipient of the Texas Institute of Letters award for the best children's book of 1999. Ben is currently the Chair of the Creative Writing Department at UTEP.

Dagoberto Gilb was born in Los Angeles, but made his home for many years in El Paso. Dagoberto spent most of his adult years as a construction worker and journeyman, a high-rise carpenter with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara and is the author, most recently, of *Before the End, After the Beginning*, a short story collection, and the novel *The Flowers* (Grove Press). His previous books include *Gritos*, an essay collection that was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award; *Woodcuts of Women*, and *The Magic of Blood*, the winner of the 1994 PEN/Hemingway award and PEN Faulkner finalist. He also edited the definitive collection *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas Mexican Literature*. His *Winners on the Pass Line* was the first book published by Cinco Puntos Press. His powerful writing is anthologized widely and the recipient of awards including the Guggenheim and Whiting. His fiction and nonfiction has appeared in a range of publications such as *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and *The Texas Observer*. He now lives in Austin and teaches in the MFA program at the University of Houston, Victoria.

Denise Chávez is a novelist, short story writer, playwright and actor has her roots in New Mexico, Texas and México. Born in New Mexico, she calls Las Cruces and El Paso her "two home towns." Her novels include the award winning *Face of an Angel*, winner of the American Book Award and *Loving Pedro Infante*. She was the 2003 Hispanic Heritage Foundation Award Honoree at Kennedy Center. The title story of her short story collection *The Last of the Menu Girls* has been published in the Norton Anthology of American Literature. Growing up in a family of storytellers, she identifies with that oral tradition and calls herself a "performance writer." In her writing, she refuses to italicize Spanish words, not wanting to set them apart in any way. Denise is the Artistic Director of the highly successful Border Book Festival and is also the founder of Sin Fronteras, Writers Without Borders. Her latest book



is *A Taco Testimony: Meditations on Family, Food and Culture*. She is currently at work on a novel *The King and Queen of Comezón*,

Poet and literacy advocate Pat Mora was born and raised in El Paso. She received a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Texas at El Paso. She was the recipient of several prestigious fellowships, including the Kellogg National Leadership Fellowship and a National Endowment of the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry. She is the author of the poetry collections *Agua Santa: Holy Water*; *Adobe Odes*; and *Borders* that both received Southwest Book Awards from the Border Regional Library Association and is the author of the non-fiction books *House of Houses*, and *Nepantla: Essays from the Land in the Middle*. Additionally, she is a prolific writer of books for children and young adults including: *A Birthday Basket for Tía* and *The Desert is My Mother*. She was twice awarded the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award, for *Tomás and the Library Lady* and for *A Library for Juana: The World of Sor Juana Inés*. Pat is the founder of El Día de los Niños/ El Día de los Libros, Children's Day/Book Day, a family literacy initiative, now housed at the American Library Association.

Poet and essayist Ray Gonzalez was born and raised in El Paso. He is the award-winning author of ten books of poetry, including *The Heat of Arrivals* and *Cabato Sentora*. He is also the author of three collections of essays: *Memory Fever*; *Renaming the Earth: Personal Essays* and *The Underground Heart: A Return to a Hidden Landscape*. Gonzalez has also written two collections of short stories. He is the editor of twelve anthologies, most recently *No Boundaries: Prose Poems by 24 American Poets*. Poetry Editor of the Bloomsbury Review for twenty-two years, he also founded the poetry journal LUNA in 1998.

Daniel Chacón, born in Fresno, California, has an MFA in Fiction Writing from the University of Oregon. El Paso has been his home for the past fourteen years. He is the author of the short story collections *Chicano Chicanery* and *Unending Rooms*, the winner of the 2007 Hudson Book Prize, and the novel *and the shadows took him*. His plays "King of the Fruit People", "Speak Thru the Wind" and "The Finest Tastiest Carrot, Ever" have been produced in California and Oregon. Daniel is also co-editor of the book *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes: The Selected Works of José Antonio Burciaga* with Mimi Gladstein, a winner of the American Book Award. His fiction has appeared in such journals as *Bilingual Review*, *Colorado Review*



and *New England Review*. Currently, he is Associate Professor in the Bilingual Creative Writing MFA program at The University of Texas at El Paso. He is now working on his latest collection of short stories, *The Hotel Juárez*. He is co-host of the radio show Words on a Wire with Benjamin Sáenz.

Sergio Troncoso was born and raised in El Paso, graduated from Harvard, and studied international relations and philosophy at Yale University. His book of short stories, *The Last Tortilla and Other Stories* won the Premio Aztlán Award for the best book by a new Chicano writer. His novel *The Nature of Truth* was published in 2003. Troncoso's stories have been widely anthologized in books such as *The Norton Anthology of Latino Literature* and *Hecho en Texas: An Anthology of Texas-Mexican Literature*. His most recent books are *Crossing Borders: Personal Essays* and *From This Wicked Patch of Dust*. Sergio lives in New York City but is a frequent visitor to his family in El Paso.

David Romo was raised in both El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. Historian, essayist, cultural activist, translator and musician, his book *Ringside Seat to a Revolution: An Underground Cultural History of El Paso and Juarez: 1893-1923* was published in 2005 by Cinco Puntos Press. His essays have been published in *The Texas Observer*.

Tanya Maria Barrientos was born in Guatemala, but came to El Paso in 1963 with her family. Her father is UTEP Department of Psychology professor emeritus Guido Barrientos. She was a reporter, editor and columnist for twenty-five years at the Dallas Times Herald and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She has taught writing at the Stonecoast MFA program in Maine and Bryn Mawr College. Author of two novels, *Frontera Street* and *Family Resemblance*, as well as numerous essays and short stories, she was awarded the prestigious Pew Fellowship in the Arts.

Richard Yañez was born and raised in El Paso. *El Paso del Norte: Stories on the Border*, his first book, was a finalist for the Texas Institute of Letters first book award. His work has been anthologized in collections such as *U.S. Latino Literature Today* and *Our Working Lives: Short Stories of People and Work*. His most recent book is the novel *Cross Over Water*, set in El Paso. A founding member of Con Tinta, a coalition of Chicano/Latino writer-activists, he is also a contributing editor to *BorderSenses*. Richard is currently an assistant professor at El Paso Community College.



Carolina Monsiváis was born and raised in El Paso. She received her M.F.A. in poetry at New Mexico State University. Her book *Somewhere Between Houston and El Paso: Testimonies of a Poet*, received the Premio Poesía Tejana award. Her poetry is anthologized in *U.S. Latino Literature Today*. A dedicated advocate and activist in the field of violence against women and children, she co-founded The Women Writers' Collective, a community based group that showcases the talents of women writers while raising awareness for issues related to women.

Sasha Pimentel Chacón was born in Manila and raised in Atlanta, Saudi Arabia and New York. Her most recent book, a poetry collection titled *Insides She Swallowed*, is the winner of the 2011 American Book Award. Her poems in the collection address immigration, sexuality and hunger. Her poems and essays have been widely published in prestigious journals. She is a multiple Pushcart Prize nominee and is an assistant professor in the UTEP Department of Creative Writing.

Marian Haddad was born in El Paso to Syrian immigrants, growing up among three languages and cultures: English, Arabic and Spanish. Her chapbook of poems, *Saturn Falling Down*, was published at the request of Texas Public Radio in correlation with their Hands-On Poetry Workshops. Marian's poetry collection *Somewhere Between Mexico and a River Called Home* is currently in its third printing. The poem "Transmountain Drive" has been anthologized in various periodicals. Her latest collection of poetry is *Wildflower. Stone*. Marian's current book projects are another collection of poetry and a collection of personal essays about growing up Arab American in a Mexican American border town.

Christine Granados was born and raised in El Paso. Her collection of short stories *Brides and Sinners in El Chuco* was a finalist in the short story category for the *Foreword Magazine* Book of the Year Award. Her story "The Bride" was anthologized in *Hecho en Tejas: An Anthology of Texas-Mexican Literature*. She works as a freelance writer and journalist and a university lecturer.

Mimi Reisel Gladstein was raised in El Paso. She is the author of *The Ayn Rand Companion*, *In Search of Steinbeck: A Continuing Journey* and co-editor of *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes: Selected Works of Jose Antonio Burciaga*, winner of the American Book Award, *Feminist Interpretations of Ayn Rand*, and author of numerous scholarly journal articles. She is also a contributor to the



book *Grace and Gumption: the Women of El Paso*. Mimi has been recognized internationally for her John Steinbeck scholarship and teaching and was named the Steinbeck Scholar of the Decade. Her subjects of scholarly expertise include John Steinbeck, Ayn Rand and Ernest Hemingway. She is Full Professor in the Department of English at UTEP. In 2003 she received the award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement in the College of Liberal Arts.

Lex Williford was born in El Paso. His book, *Macaulay's Thumb*, was co-winner of the 1993 Iowa School of Letters Award for Short Fiction. Both his fiction and non-fiction have appeared in such publications as *American Literary Review*, *Poets & Writers*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Southern Review*. His stories have been widely anthologized in such publications as *W.W. Norton's Flash Fiction*, *The Iowa Award: The Best Stories 1991-2000*, and *The Eloquent Short Story*. He is a co-editor of the *Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction* and most recently the *Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*. He is currently the director of the online MFA program and teaches in the bilingual writing program at the UTEP.

Leslie Ullman is the author of three poetry collections: *Natural Histories*; *Dreams by No One's Daughter* and *Slow Work Through Sand*. Her poems have appeared in magazines such as *Poetry* and *The New Yorker* as well as numerous anthologies. For twenty-seven years she was a professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Cynthia Farah Haines was born and raised in El Paso. A photographer, film critic and scholar, she retired as an Associate Professor of Film Studies at UTEP. She is the author and photographer of *Literature and Landscape: Writers of the Southwest*, which received the C.L. Sonnichsen Book Award from Texas Western Press; the co-author of *Colors on Desert Walls: The Murals of El Paso* with Miguel Juárez and *Showtime! From Opera Houses to Picture Palaces in El Paso*. Cindy is the recipient of the Conquistador Award, the highest honor presented by the city of El Paso, for her contribution to the arts and was inducted into the El Paso Women's Hall of Fame. Currently a member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association and the Kansas City Film Critics' Circle, she reviews foreign, art and independent films for the Kansas City NPR affiliate.

Poet, novelist and essayist Howard McCord was born and raised in El Paso. He is the author of more than thirty books of poetry, fiction



and travel writing including: *Maps, Mirrors, The Poems, The Fire Visions, Swamp Songs and Tales* and the *Duke of Chemical Birds*. His short novel *The Man Who Walked to the Moon* was published in French translation in 2008. He retired as a faculty member in the Department of English at UTEP.

Janice Woods Windle, former head of the El Paso Community Foundation, is also the author of *True Texas Women*, made into a miniseries for television. She is also the author of the best-selling *Hill Country* and *Will's War*.

Robert Skimin (1929-2011) was the author of the award-winning *Chikara!*, which was made into a television miniseries. Author of fourteen best-selling novels, he received a Pulitzer Prize nomination for *Apache Autumn*.

Poet Sheryl Luna was born and raised in El Paso. Her first poetry collection *Pity the Drowned Horses* won the Andres Montoya Poetry Prize and she was anthologized in *Hecho en Tejas*.

Robert Burlingame (1922-2011) came to Texas Western College in 1954, where he retired as Emeritus Professor in 1989. He has published three books of poetry including: *This Way We Walk*; *Eighteen Poems* and three chapbooks. His poems, essays and reviews have been widely published and anthologized in such publications as: *Pushcart Prize III*; *The Weight of Addition: an Anthology of Texas Poetry*; and *Inheritance of Light*. His most recent work has appeared in *Texas Review*; *Baltimore Review*; and an anthology of the Texas Poetry Calendar titled *Big Land, Big Sky, and Big Hair*.

The largest concentration of writers in El Paso can be found on the UTEP campus. The majority of the women who wrote chapters for the book *Grace and Gumption* are faculty members. This is the photograph of the contributors.

This photograph of the writers who came to sign the anthology *Literary El Paso* at Barnes and Noble, are but a few of the inspired and talented writers of El Paso. I ask that the writers in the audience please stand and accept our thanks for beautifully telling our story to the world and ourselves.



**Marcia Hatfield Daudistel**

Editor, *Grace and Gumption: the Women of El Paso*

Editor, *Literary El Paso* (2010 BRLA Southwest Book Award winner)

Co-Author, *Authentic Texas: the People of the Big Bend* (2013)



## Marcia Hatfield Daudistel

### BIOGRAPHY

Marcia Hatfield Daudistel is the editor, most recently of *Grace and Gumption: the Women of El Paso*, published in 2011 and *Literary El Paso*, winner of the 2010 Border Regional Library Association Southwest Book Award, published in 2009, both by TCU Press. She has been selected as the recipient of the 2012 Literary Legacy Award from El Paso Community College to be presented in September 2012.

Marcia is the West Texas/Trans Pecos Regional Editor of *Texas Books in Review* and is a member of the advisory committee for the Made in Texas: Cultivating Teachers to Engage Mexican American Literature in Middle and High School Classrooms project. She is a member of the Friends of the University of Texas at El Paso Library Board and has presented at the 2009 Texas Book Festival and moderated at the 2011 Festival. She is the 2012 Women's History Month Conference keynote speaker and has presented at the Texas State Historical Association.

As the former Associate Director of Texas Western Press of the University of Texas at El Paso, she published over seventy books on the history and cultures of the Southwest and established the bilingual imprint Frontera Books.

She is currently at work on the book *Authentic Texas: the People of the Big Bend* with co-author and award-winning photographer, Bill Wright, to be published by UT Press in 2013.



**Robert Tauber**

**2011-2012 Recipient of the Carl Hertzog Award  
for Excellence in Book Design**

Title: Solche Sensationen / Such Sensations

Author: Louisa Bertch Green

Publisher: Logan Elm Press, 2010  
The Ohio State University Libraries

Printer: Logan Elm Press  
The Ohio State University Libraries



**Remarks by Robert Tauber at the Carl Hertzog Lecture,  
March 25, 2012:**

***The Award:***

The Hertzog Award is unquestionably the most prestigious for book design in the USA. The Ohio State University Libraries and I are grateful to have received this award and it is an honor to be selected from 70 entrants.

My sojourn in El Paso has been made more meaningful by UTEP's charm and commitment to excellence. I want to thank President Natalicio, Robert Stakes, Lydia Limas, Jackson Curlin, Sam Moore and John Byrd for their gracious and generous welcome. My wife and I delight in all the attention we have received. We will look back in wonder at our time here with all the many creative and warmhearted people we have met.

Ironically, it turns out that I share something in my own history with Carl Hertzog:

After a brief, unhappy fling at the United States Naval Academy, Carl Hertzog returned to Pittsburgh and worked in a local printing plant. A pair of older coworkers observed Hertzog's fascination with book design and urged him to pursue his interest at the Carnegie Institute of Technology's School of Printing and Publishing. He entered in 1921 where he met Porter Garnett, who had just established his famous Laboratory Press. Porter Garnett became a principal influence in Hertzog's early design work.

In 1978, when I wrote my first proposal to establish a laboratory/teaching press in the Department of Art Education at Ohio State, I stole many of my ideas from a copy of Porter Garnett's *A Documentary Account Of The Beginnings Of The Laboratory Press*, which he wrote, handset from metal types and printed by hand on dampened handmade paper using Carnegie's laboratory iron hand press in 1927.



***The Ohio State University Libraries' Center for Book Arts  
& Logan Elm Press:***

The Ohio State University has a substantial presence within the academic community. With almost 65,000 students and a total annual budget of more than 5 billion dollars, The Ohio State University places among the top 20 public institutions as a world renowned institution of higher learning known for its academic excellence. With almost 8 million volumes and distinguished special collections, OSU libraries are ranked among the very top research libraries in North America.

At The Ohio State University, the traditional arts of the book are alive and well. OSU Libraries' Center for Book Arts is dedicated to preserving and advancing the age-old technology of the book. We bring together editors, designers, scholars, writers, craftspeople and artists for hands-on, interdisciplinary teaching and learning experiences.

The OSU Libraries' Center for Book Arts hosts a variety of teaching and learning experiences throughout the year, including credit and non-credit courses, workshops, seminars, lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions and conferences open to OSU students, faculty and staff as well as members of the community at large.

The OSU Libraries' Book Arts Laboratory occupies approximately 2,100 sq. feet in the OSU Libraries' Tech Center, and provides the facilities for the study and preservation of fine printing, binding, typography, papermaking and related book arts; most importantly, the Book Arts Lab serves as a collaborative research space for faculty and students to pursue creative exploration and the construction of knowledge through the Arts of the Book. The Logan Elm Press, the publishing imprint of The Libraries' Center for Book Arts, produces unique, handmade limited edition books and ephemera that reflect the creative talents and interests of The Ohio State community. Many Logan Elm titles have won praise for their workmanship and literary and



artistic significance. The Logan Elm Press imprint appears on all of the works published by the OSU Libraries' Center for Book Arts and is the hallmark of the learning and creative processes the Book Arts Laboratory promotes.

### ***The Book:***

*Solche Sensationen/Such Sensations, Food & Philosophical Reflections of Chef Hubert Seifert* began with a visit to the Logan Elm Press by Louisa Bertch Green in the spring of 1990, when we discussed my idea for this book, which originated from two other books: *The Shepheardes Calender* by Edmund Spenser, first published in 1579, which depicts a man's entire life through the course of one year, with each month accompanied by a woodcut; and *Onze menus de Paul Gauguin* by Robert Rey, published in 1950, which reproduced the watercolor menus Gauguin painted for the guests at a dinner party in his Tahitian home three years before his death in 1903.

Louisa spent the better part of the following year working with Chef Hubert in his kitchen re-creating and testing all of the menus; she then transcribed and edited the text for this book from voice-activated tape recordings. Then, I designed this book to comprise twelve meals, each accompanied with its menu, recipes and presentations, to tell the life of Chef Hubert Seifert from the age of fifteen to almost the present day.

Like almost all of the Logan Elm Press book projects, *Solche Sensationen/Such Sensations* exists as a collaborative effort: Michael Greenler composed the text in LTC Garamont digital typefaces using Adobe *InDesign*; Tyson Sutherland processed the photopolymer plates and printed the pages of this book on Zerkall mouldmade paper using a Number 4 Vandercook letterpress. Twelve dry-point monoprint menus by Anthony H. Rice were printed from copper plates on an intaglio press on dampened Arches Wove mold made paper. The twelve initial letters were hand drawn by Ann Alaïa Woods, who also designed the calligraphy etched into the copperplates for the menus. Craig Jensen and Gary McLerran at Book Lab II in San Marcos, Texas, sewed each copy

onto vellum tapes and into the handmade, gelatin-sized CavePaper covers of black walnut- and indigo-stained raw flax. Each book is housed in a drop-spine box covered in black Italian linen with one of the original copper intaglio monoprint plates inlaid into the cover of the box. The edition was limited to 26 copies numbered and signed by the chef, author, artist, calligrapher and designer. Everyone involved in the making of this book extends special acknowledgement and gratitude to Amber Tauber for her constant support for me and for the Logan Elm Press.

Robert Tauber  
Columbus, Ohio  
April 11, 2012



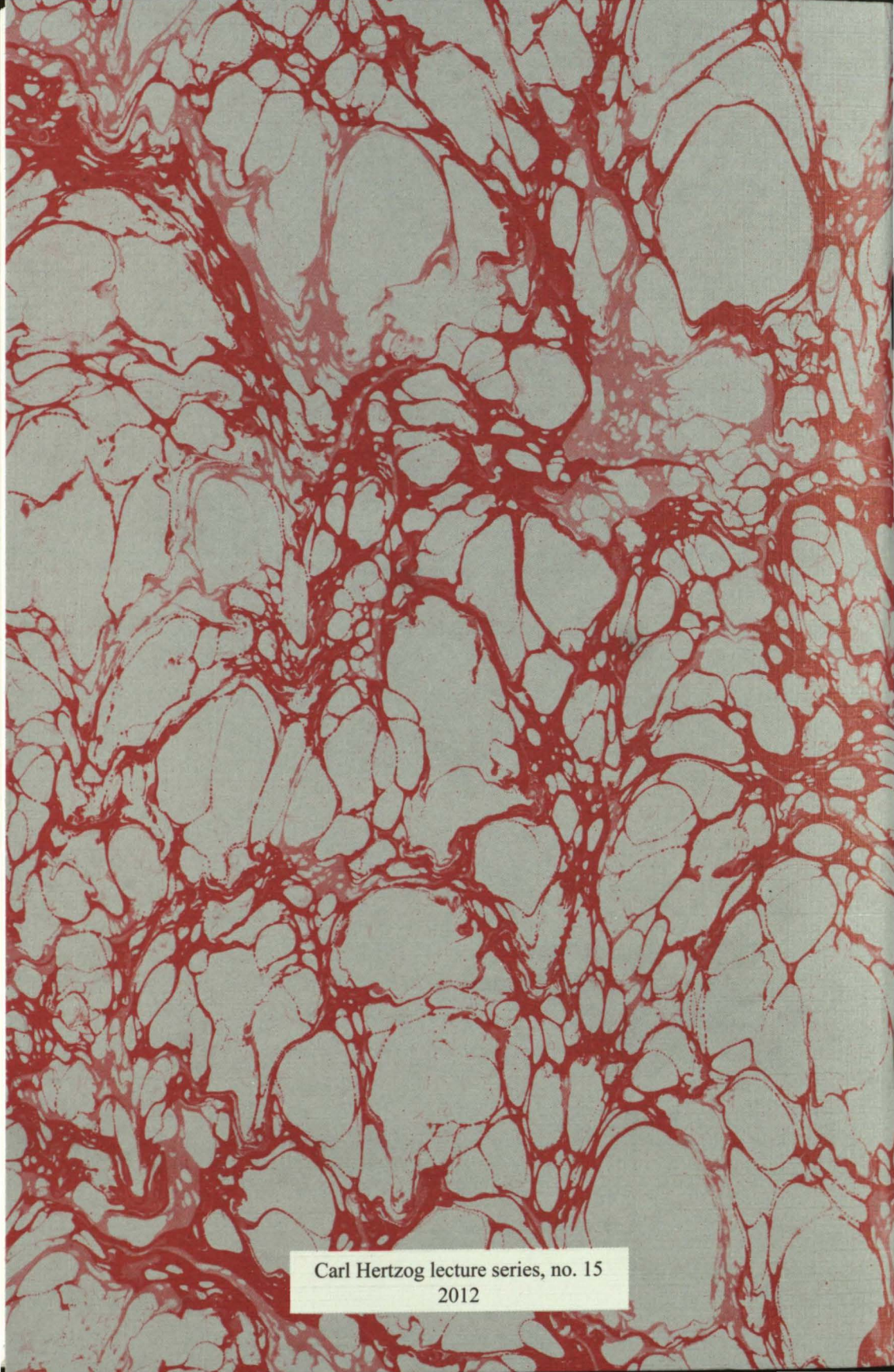
## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Robert Tauber**

Tauber holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in the Visual Arts with a minor in Art Education from Denison University (1969), and Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree in Printmaking with a minor in Art History from The Ohio State University (1973). Tauber also studied in Cuenca, Spain, and Guanajuato, Mexico. For over thirty-five years he has taught Book Arts courses for undergraduate and graduate students, and has presented numerous workshops, lectures and demonstrations nationally and abroad. Tauber has directed the Logan Elm Press & Paper Mill, The Ohio State University's Arts-of-the-Book Laboratory, from 1979 to the present. Currently, he is the Book Arts Specialist in the OSU Libraries Department of Preservation & Reformatting.







Carl Hertzog lecture series, no. 15  
2012