



# The Key Publishing House Inc.

A102/230-1075 Bay St. Toronto, Ontario Canada M5S 2B2

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## **A Unique Anthology for Women Writing on Family**

*Women Writing on Family* is for women who have wanted to write about family but haven't known how to start. It is also for women already writing about family but need some help, encouragement, and guidance. Editors are expert librarians and writers with immense experience on the topics of writing and publishing. Among the thirty-nine contributors are the bestseller author Cathy Gildiner and award winning author Aubrey Hirsch. The anthology is written by successful women writers based on their experience in fifty-five chapters centered on writing about family and tackle topics from personal and legal issues, juggling motherhood and career, making the most out of family experience to publishing, marketing, and promotion.

### **The essays include:**

- The Parent Trap: Five Mistakes to Avoid When Writing Essays about Family by Anne Witkavitch
- Today's Freelancing Momma: A Look Into the Dual Career of Writing and Motherhood by Daphne Butas
- Using Writing as a Means of Surviving and Transgressing Family Violence and Trauma by Anna Saini
- Mothers and Daughters: Telling Shared Stories by Diane LeBlanc
- From Memoir to Fiction by Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa
- The Roles of Women in Narrative by Mary Rice
- Potential Markets for Family Writings by Rebecca Tolley-Stokes
- On Believing What You Have to Say Is Worth Writing by Sheila Bender

"....just a sampling of the gems of advice, technique, professional tips, and encouragement that make up this valuable book."

—Linda Rodriguez, 2010 Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence

### **Key factors that Editors emphasize:**

- Women have a special interest and talent in writing about family.
- Women often turn to family for inspiration or subject matter.
- Women have a struggle in getting published: statistics show the disparities.

Editors are available for interviews and can be reached through The Key Publicity Heather Smith, e-mail: media@thekeypublish.com, Tel: 416-935-1790.



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### Book Synopsis

*Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* provides guidance and insight for women who write about family. Award winning women writers from all walks of life share their experiences in planning, composing, editing, publishing, teaching, and promoting work in a variety of writing genres. Readers will learn to tackle sensitive family issues and avoid pitfalls in memoir writing, poetry, fiction, and others. Filled with tips, exercises, and anecdotes, this anthology is appropriate for both well-seasoned writers and those just beginning.

### About the Editors

**Carol Smallwood's** work has appeared in *English Journal*, *Michigan Feminist Studies*, *The Yale Journal for Humanities in Medicine*, *The Writer's Chronicle*, and *The Detroit News*. She's included in *Best New Writing in Prose 2010*; *Who's Who in America*, and *Contemporary Authors*. She edited *Writing and Publishing: The Librarian's Handbook*, American Library Association, 2010; was short listed 2009 for the Eric Hoffer Award for Best New Writing; she's a National Federation of State Poetry Societies Award Winner. *Lily's Odyssey* and *Contemporary American Women: Our Defining Passages*, are recent books.

**Suzann Holland**, currently Director of the Monroe Public Library in Wisconsin, earned both an MLIS and an MA in History from UW-Milwaukee in 2000. Previous writings have appeared in *VOYA*, *Public Libraries* (2010 Winner of Public Libraries Feature Award); *The PLA Reader for Public Library Directors and Managers* included in Neal-Schuman, 2009; *Local & Regional Government Information (How to Find It, How to Use It)* included in Greenwood Press, 2005. She is currently working with the permission of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Estate on her first solo book, *The Little House Literary Companion*.

### Contributors

Diana Amadeo, Sheila Bender, Lee Skallerup Bessette, Jenn Brisendine, Daphne Butas, Ingeborg Gubler Casey, Karen Coody Cooper, Laila Dahan, Lela Davidson, Martha Engber, Christin Geall, Cathy Gildiner, Caroline M. Grant, Carol Hawkins, Aubrey Hirsch, Kate Hopper, Anne Ipsen, Colleen Kappeler, Amber E. Kinser, Madeleine Kuderick, Diane LeBlanc, Jen Lee, Corbin Lewars, Geri Lipschultz, Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa, Arlene L. Mandell, Ann McCauley, Judy M. Miller, Rosemary Dunn Moeller, Yelizaveta P. Renfro, Mary Rice, Lisa Romeo, Anna Saini, Cassie Premo Steele, Rebecca Tolley-Stokes, Anne Valente, Kezia Willingham, Anne Witkavitch, Gayle Zinda.



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### Endorsements

"Family is what creates us, sustains us, bedevils us, confuses us, loves us, destroys us, and defines us. For writers--particularly women writers--family is also a rich vein of subject matter that can be both nourishing and overwhelming, often at the same time. This volume examines a wide variety of family-related issues from points of view that range from the practical to the philosophical, but all focused on how they impact women who write."

—Eleanor Lerman, author of *The Sensual World Re-Emerges* (Sarabande Books, 2010) and *Janet Planet* (Mayapple, 2011), among other volumes

"*Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* is like a good conversation with writer-friends who share their experiences and help you think about your own approach to writing and publishing. If you want to preserve your family history for future generations, write a memoir, or just explore your own family's stories, this book is full of accessible and useful suggestions."

—Ellen Bass, poet and faculty in the Pacific University MFA program; *The Human Line* (Copper Canyon Press, 2007)

"From how to deal with relatives who feel betrayed to finding bits of time to write while raising children to blogging and writing for the internet, *Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* is a major resource for women who write about family in nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. Lela Davidson's essay about using research and creative imagination to bring your ancestors to life on the page, Rosemary Moeller's on writing with respect about devoutly religious families and communities when you are a freethinker, and Kezia Willingham's on taking the risk to write your own truth are just a sampling of the gems of advice, technique, professional tips, and encouragement that make up this valuable book."

—Linda Rodriguez, *Heart's Migration* (Tia Chucha Press), 2010 Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence

"This is a comprehensive work that belongs on any nonfiction writer's bookshelf. Not only does it address the legal and emotional costs that come with the challenge of writing about family, it offers insights into how one can nurture a rewarding writing career in conjunction with a demanding day job and family obligations."

—Jennifer Tang, New York City librarian and freelance writer for *Newsweek*, *L.A. Times*, and *Fitness* magazine



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“This extraordinary collection of insightful, well-written essays will serve splendidly as both guidebook and motivator for any woman who is writing seriously and living her life fully. Matters as diverse as family dynamics, realistic time-management, marketing strategies—even ways of writing more effectively—are covered here with great sensitivity and common sense.”

—Marilyn L. Taylor, Ph.D., Wisconsin Poet Laureate, 2009-2010; *Going Wrong* (Parallel Press, 2009)

“Writing about family carries out the writing instructor’s dictum of writing about what you know, but brings along the very family issues that draw writers to the subject in the first place. Besides a range of thoughtful pieces that capitalize on family strengths yet confront any issues head on, *Women Writing on Family* offers new writers sage advice on finding the time to write, using the Internet to advantage, and successfully publishing their work—on any topic.”

—Phyllis Holman Weisbard, University of Wisconsin System Women’s Studies Librarian, and Publisher, *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women’s Studies Resources*

“With all the rhetoric today about family, it is nice to see a volume that actually deals with family in way that is creative, honest, and tasteful. *Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* provides sensible guidelines to use and savor. Not to be missed by those studying family history. The stories and ideas contained within are jewels of wisdom that women will find useful. Oh and men can get something out of this book too!!!!”

—Robert G. Weiner, associate humanities librarian, Texas Tech University; contributor, *History of the Holocaust* (Routledge, 2011); Editor, *Captain America and the Struggle of the Superhero* (McFarland, 2009)

“The essays in *Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* are written by experts in the field who balance keen intellect and practical tips with a sensitivity for personal histories. This is an a must have work for anyone interested delving into the complex and rich world of family histories.”

—Sarah Passonneau, Iowa State University, assistant professor

“It is only natural for women, traditional keepers of language and storytellers, to share their experience on writing memoirs and recording a family history. From conception to



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delivery, this anthology covers a wide variety of aspects that a woman writer may encounter on her journey."

—Vera Gubnitskaia, Youth Services Manager, Orange County Library System; contributor: *Librarians As Community Partners: An Outreach Handbook* (ALA editions, 2010)

"As women, we have unique perspectives on life experiences. These experiences deserve an audience. This book will be invaluable to women needing guidance with the emotional, ethical, and professional avenues of getting their stories in print."

—Colleen Driscoll, Breitung Township Schools, Michigan, Media Specialist

"If you're interested in learning how to craft and market stories about family, *Women Writing on Family* features a wealth of experienced writers and editors to help you through every phase of the process. This comprehensive book deals honestly with the emotional, legal and practical aspects of writing close to the heart."

—Kerol Harrod, Writer/Co-Producer of *Library Larry's Big Day*, Denton Public Library, Denton, Texas; First-Place Winner of 2010 TATO A Programming Awards

"This is a book of practical advice on writing about a sometimes messy subject, the family. Read the whole thing through, or dip in a topic you are interested in, and you'll come away with a clear view on how to start and finish writing."

—Wayne Jones, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

"People interested in writing, teaching, and publishing family-focused stories, narratives, poetry, or books will appreciate the practical and helpful contributions in *Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching, and Publishing*. Including tips on writing fiction and nonfiction as well as publishing, marketing, and promotion, this excellent anthology is timely, important, and especially relevant for writers interested in the family."

—Donald G. Frank, Professor Emeritus, Portland State University

"Just as every place has a story, so does every family. *Women Writing on Family* gives you the essentials on writing, teaching and publishing about family. Real, detailed advice from women who know. If you want to share your family stories, this book is not to be missed."

—Chris Helvey, author of *Purple Adobe* and Editor-in-Chief of *Trajectory*



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"From finding inspiration to practical advice about marketing and legal issues, these experienced authors' essays serve as a roadmap for anyone putting pen to paper to capture their family's story."

—Jason Kuhl, Library Operations Director, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, Arlington Heights, Illinois

"The contributors, all published authors, to *Women Writing on Family: Tips on Writing, Teaching and Publishing* provide invaluable help to women authors on the more difficult than expected task of turning their family experiences into quality, marketable literary works. This rich treasure trove of advice ranges from finding time to write to crafting family history through a personal style to publishing and promoting the resulting publications in the Internet age."

—Dr. Robert P. Holley, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, contributor, *Writing and Publishing: the Librarian's Handbook* (ALA Editions), 2010, author of over one hundred publications



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### Foreword

I so wish I had a book like this while I was working on my collection of personal essays, my memoir. This was the first thought that came to my mind when I was asked by Carol Smallwood to write the foreword for this very useful collection of essays. Writing about family is easier said than done. What we have to remember is that thinking about something is not the same as putting those very thoughts down on paper, especially when we have to deal with facts, emotions, and feelings. We are taught that sincerity in writing makes the most impact. Yet, when it comes to writing about family, do we truly reveal everything indiscriminately? And if we want to, then how do we go about it in the best and fairest possible way?

Reading Martha Engber's essay would have taught me how to write about my difficult aunt without offending the other members of her family. Lela Davidson would have taught me how to write about grandmothers with more relevant details. That would have truly enhanced my own essay on my dear grandmother. Yelizaveta Renfro, whose work I admired while we were in MFA workshops together, would have taught me a thing or two about incorporating family in nonfiction. Granted that the memoir is about myself, but then what relevance does the "I" have without family? The title of Kezia Willingham's essay was exactly what I was doing whilst writing my book. Maybe my family would have had an easier time if I had read this essay first!

We are all familiar with the adage that "writing cannot be taught." But we do need guidance. All of us have our own distinct voices when writing the personal essay, but a general overview of the "how to" or "when" or "why" is a must before and during the writing process. This anthology strives to do just that and succeeds admirably. It covers all aspects involved with writing about family—from the craft of writing to legal issues involved and essays that serve as a guide to finding time to write and using the Internet as a research tool amongst others. There are also valuable writing exercises for you before you start on your own account of your family. And last but not least, there are essays on marketing strategies for your work. It is an "all-in-one" anthology, a must for any writer of creative nonfiction, and especially one who is thinking of writing about family.

During the publication process of my own book, I remember chickening out and removing offending material as late as when I was reading proofs from the publisher. Maybe I would have left them in or at least reworded them had I read the essays in this collection. Now I will always be left with the thought, what if?

#### **Supriya Bhatnagar**

Director of Publications, Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP), editor of *The Writer's Chronicle*, author of the memoir *and then there were three* (Serving House Books, 2010)



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### About the Contributors

Multi-award winning writer, **Diana Amadeo**, has written three books: *There's a Little Bit of Me in Jamey* (Albert Whitman & Company, 1989), *Holy Friends* (Pauline Books and Media, 2005), and *My Baby Sister is a Preemie* (Zondervan, 2005). Her essays have appeared in seven *Chicken Soup for the Soul* books and over 550 other publications. Yet, she persistently, tweaks and rewrites her thousands of rejections with eternal hope that they may yet see the light of day.

**Sheila Bender's** memoir, *A New Theology: Turning to Poetry in a Time of Grief*, appeared in 2009 from Imago Press. Other books include *Creative Writing Demystified* (McGraw-Hill, 2010), and *Writing and Publishing Personal Essays*, Second Edition (Silver Threads, 2010). She's written for *The Writer's Chronicle*, *Writer's Digest* magazine, and *The Writer*; she publishes weekly articles at Writing It Real.com. Two book titles are available electronically at IAJW.com and Liberty.com.

**Lee Skallerup Bessette** teaches writing at Morehead State University in Kentucky. Dr. Bessette has a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta, Canada. She has published numerous academic essays, but also has had her writing about parenting and work/life balance appear in *The New York Times* Motherload blog and on Insidehighered.com. She edited *Anne Hebert: Essays on Her Works* (Guernica Editions, 2010). Her blog is at collegereadywriting.blogspot.com.

After thirteen years in the secondary English classroom, **Jenn Brisendine** now pursues fiction and non-fiction projects and freelances educational materials. Her literary non-fiction essay "Twists in the Plot" appears in *The Maternal Is Political* (Seal Press, 2008), and her work has also appeared in *Mom Writer's Literary Magazine* and *Literary Mama*. She has an MA in fiction writing and lives in southwestern Pennsylvania with her husband and two sons.

**Daphne Butas** is a feature writer for AOL, and a specialist in educational content for various publishing houses. She holds a BA in American History and English from the University of Maryland, and her work has appeared in: *Motherverse*, *Momazine*, *The Virginia Construction Journal*, *Fighting With JEB Stuart: Major James Breathed and the Confederate Horse Artillery*, and *The Navy Mutual Aid Association Newsletter*. Daphne lives with her family and writes outside of Washington, D.C.

**Ingeborg Gubler Casey** received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1967. She's taught psychology, including courses on the





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psychology of women, at the college level, practiced psychotherapy for forty years and given many workshops on understanding dreams. Her memoir about her relationship with her schizophrenic mother, *The Heart Moves in a Circular Direction: A Story of Healing* (iUniverse, 2007) includes dreams and inner dialogs.

After fourteen years at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), **Karen Coody Cooper** now works at the Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Initially studying journalism, she completed a BA in anthropology/sociology at Western Connecticut State University and a Master of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma. She authored *Spirited Encounters: American Indians Protest Museum Policies and Practices* (AltaMira Press, 2007) and co-edited *Living Homes for Cultural Expression* (NMAI, 2005).

**Laila Dahan** teaches academic writing at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. She is the author of *Keep Your Feet Hidden: A Southern Belle on the Shores of Tripoli* (Melrose Books, 2009). Her co-edited book entitled *Global English and Arabic: Issues of Language, Culture, and Identity* is forthcoming from Peter Lang Publishers. Laila holds MAs in Political Science and TESOL and is currently writing her doctoral dissertation on language education and Arab identity.

**Lela Davidson's** award-winning essays have appeared regularly in family and parenting magazines throughout the country. Her family humor column, "After the Bubbly," was honored in 2006 by the Oklahoma Writers Federation. Her memoir pieces have appeared in *Visions* literary journal and the *Story Circle Journal*. She balances deadlines with two children, a traveling husband, volunteer work, friends, wine, and chasing after the world's fastest dog. She is also the parenting columnist on HubPages.com and a regular contributor to ParentingSquad.com.

**Martha Engber** received a 5-star rating from the Midwest Book Review for *The Wind Thief*, (Alondra Press, 2009). She appears in *Contemporary American Women: Our Defining Passages* (All Things That Matter Press, 2009). Martha wrote, *Growing Great Characters From the Ground Up* (Central Avenue Press, 2007). She's had a full-length play produced in Hollywood and fiction in *Watchword*, *Iconoclast*, *Anthology*, *Bookpress*, *Berkeley Fiction Review* and others. She maintains [marthaengber.blogspot.com](http://marthaengber.blogspot.com), a Q & A blog for writers.

**Christin Geall** teaches nonfiction at the University of Victoria. Her columns, reviews and essays have appeared on *Literary Mama*, in *Galleries West*, *Red Berry*



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*Review, Slow, Motherwords*, Monday, and recently in *Walk Myself Home* (Caitlin Press, 2010). Her work is forthcoming in *Becoming: Women's Stories* (Nebraska), and *21st Century Motherhood* (Demeter). A graduate of the Stonecoast MFA, Christin's thesis garnered representation from an American agency, and she has been struggling with retrospection ever since. <http://christingeall.wordpress.com>

**Cathy Gildiner** has written two memoirs entitled *Too Close to the Falls* (ECW Press, 1999) and *After the Falls* (Viking, 2010). The first was nominated for the Trillium award and won the different drummer's award. *Seduction* (Knopf, 2005) is a novel about Darwin and Freud and was listed in *Der Spiegel* in Germany as a top mystery. All three books have been on the best sellers' lists and have been internationally nominated for various prizes. Cathy presently lives in Toronto.

**Caroline M. Grant** is editor-in-chief of Literary Mama.com, where she writes a regular column, *Mama at the Movies*. She is also co-editor of the anthology *Mama, PhD: Women Write About Motherhood and Academic Life* (Rutgers University Press, 2008). Her new book is called *The Dish: Making the Meals that Make Your Family*; her essays have been published in a number of journals and anthologies. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two sons.

**Carol Hawkins** obtained her PhD at the University of New Hampshire in 1999; her MA in English from the University of Colorado in Denver. Most recently, she held the position of Writing Center Director at Colby College in Maine and at the American University in Bulgaria. Dr. Hawkins directed the Freshmen English Program at the University of Maine in Fort Kent and appears in the *National Women's Studies Journal*, and *Praxis: A Writing Center Journal*.

**Aubrey Hirsch's** stories, essays and poems have appeared in numerous literary journals including *Hobart*, *Third Coast*, *The Los Angeles Review* and *The Minnetonka Review*, and in the anthology *Pittsburgh Noir* (Akashic Books, 2011). Her work has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and the Micro Award and honored on the short list of Glimmer Train's Fiction Open. She currently serves as the Daehler Fellow in Creative Writing at Colorado College in Colorado Springs.

**Kate Hopper** teaches writing at The Loft Literary Center. She has an MFA in creative writing and has been the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship and a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant. Her writing has appeared in *Brevity*, *Literary Mama*, and *The New York Times* online. *Use Your Words: A Writing Guide for Mothers*,



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is forthcoming from Viva Editions in 2012, and she's finishing a memoir, *Ready for Air*. She's an editor at *Literary Mama*.

**Anne Ipsen** has self-published two memoirs: *A Child's Tapestry of War* (Beaver's Pond Press, 1998) about her WWII Danish childhood and *Teenage Immigrant* as a youth in Boston. The historical novels, *Karen from the Mill* (Beaver's Pond Press, 2005) and *Running before the Prairie Wind* (Ibus Press, 2009), follow Karen from adolescence on a Danish island to married immigrant life in Minnesota. *At the Concord of the Rivers* (Ibus Press, 2011) is set in Puritan New England. An experienced teacher, Dr. Ipsen conducts workshops *On Being an Independent Writer*.

**Colleen Kappeler** is a writing teacher, editor, and writer. Colleen has edited books for several published writers and taught hundreds of writers in the past 10 years. Her essays have appeared in national publications like *MOMSense*, *Adoption Today*, *The Christian Science Journal*, and the *Chicken Soup* series. She is a contributing editor for e-zines *Mommies Magazine* and *Expose Kenosha*. Colleen lives in Wisconsin with her husband and two children. She is currently pursuing an MA in Writing and Literature.

**Amber E. Kinser** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at East Tennessee State University. She earned her PhD from Purdue University. She is author of *Motherhood and Feminism* (Seal, 2010) and editor of *Mothering in the Third Wave* (Demeter, 2008). Her work appears in *Encyclopedia of Mothering* and collections such as *Feminist Mothering* (SUNY, 2008), and *Mother Knows Best* (Demeter, 2009). To read her blog "Dr. Mama" and more about her work, visit [amberkinser.com](http://amberkinser.com).

**Madeleine Kuderick** is passionate about writing stories that touch the heart. Her work appears in *Chicken Soup*, *Cup of Comfort*, *Hallmark Gift Books*, and other anthologies. She has a special interest in engaging reluctant readers and the teachers who touch their lives. Madeleine holds a Master's degree from Saint Leo University. She is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) and a graduate of the Institute of Children's Literature. More information is available on her website at: [www.madeleinekuderick.com](http://www.madeleinekuderick.com).

**Diane LeBlanc** is the author of two poetry chapbooks: *Dancer with Good Sow* (Finishing Line Press, 2008) and *Hope in Zone Four* (Talent House Press, 1998). Diane received the Bechtel Prize from Teachers & Writers Collaborative for her essay



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“Weaving Voices: Writing as a Working Class Daughter, Professor, and Poet.” Her work appears in *Bellingham Review*, *Natural Bridge*, *Rhino*, *So to Speak*, *Water~Stone*, and other journals. Diane directs the writing program and teaches at St. Olaf College.

**Jen Lee** is a Brooklyn-based writer and a collector of stories, many of which unfold in her vibrant neighborhood or in the lives of her closest friends. A performer in New York City’s storytelling scene, she has been featured on The Moth Mainstage. Jen is the creator of *Solstice: Stories of Light in the Dark* (audio), *Fortunes*, and *Take Me With You: A Journal for the Journey*. She leads workshops and retreats on storytelling, writing and the creative life. You can find her online at [jenlee.net](http://jenlee.net).

**Corbin Lewars** ([corbinlewars.com](http://corbinlewars.com)) is the author of the memoir *Creating a Life: The Memoir of a Writer and Mom in the Making* (Catalyst, 2010), which has been nominated for the PNBA book award. Her essays have been featured in over twentyfive publications including *Hip Mama*, *Mothering*, *Stories with Grace* and *Midwifery Today*. She was the editor of *Verve*, a Seattle women’s magazine and has been a writing mentor and instructor for over fifteen years.

**Geri Lipschultz** has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Kalliope*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Cezanne’s Carrot*, *Kartika Review*, *Umbrella Journal*, and the journal of the National Council of Teachers of English, *College English*. Her one-woman show was produced in New York City by Woodie King, Jr. She received the Creative Artists in Public Service Fellowship, New York State Council on the Arts. She has an MFA from University of Iowa and is a doctoral candidate in English Literature at Ohio University.

After teaching English for many years, **Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa** obtained her MLS from Queens College of the City University of New York and served as a young adult librarian for the New York City Department of Education until her retirement in 2004. Dahlma was selected as one of two runnerups for the 2009 PEN America Bingham Fellowship for Writers for her first novel, *Daughters of the Stone* (St. Martin’s Press, 2009). You can contact Dahlma through her web site at [www.llanosfigueroa.com](http://www.llanosfigueroa.com).

**Arlene L. Mandell**, a retired English professor from New Jersey, now lives in Santa Rosa, California. A former writer for *Good Housekeeping Magazine*, her poems, essays and short stories have appeared in more than 300 publications, including “The



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Metropolitan Diary" section of *The New York Times*, *Women's Voices*, *Tiny Lights*, and 16 anthologies. Her most recent publication is *Scenes from My Life on Hemlock Street: A Brooklyn Memoir*, which can be read on line at [echapbook.com/memoir/mandell](http://echapbook.com/memoir/mandell).

**Ann McCauley** worked as a freelancer for local newspapers and periodicals while working as an RN. She has authored two novels, *Mother Love* (PublishAmerica, 2003) and *Runaway Grandma* (Madison Avenue Publishers, 2007). *Mother Love* received the Reviewer's Choice Award in 2005. *Runaway Grandma* was nominated for Book of the Year in Women's Issues in 2008. Her third novel, *It Happened on Willow Lane*, is forthcoming. Ann enjoys gardening and traveling with her husband.

**Judy M. Miller** is an adoption educator and also teaches online through [JudyMMiller.com](http://JudyMMiller.com). She presented at Story Circle Network's *Stories from the Heart V* conference in Austin, Texas (2010). She is a columnist for the online adoption site, *Grown in My Heart*. Her writing has been published in parenting and adoption magazines as well as *A Cup of Comfort for Adoptive Families* (Adams Media, 2009), *Pieces of Me* (EMK Press, 2009) and *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks Mom* (Chicken Soup for the Soul, 2010).

**Rosemary Dunn Moeller** has been published in *Vermillion Literary Project*, *Mobius: The Poetry Magazine*, *Darkling*, *English Journal*, *The Upstart Crow*, *Encore*, *Quilt Stories*, *Life on the Farm and Ranch*, *Contemporary American Women* and has writing coming out in *Avocet*, *the Reach of Song*, *the Art of Music* and *Feile-Festa*. She and her husband farm in South Dakota. She's taught ESL in Bamako, Mali in the Peace Corps and in Miyasaki, Japan as a Fulbright Scholar.

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**Rebecca Tolley-Stokes** is writer, blogger, and librarian who writes about family and parenting both personally and professionally. Her encyclopedia entry "Blogs and the Blogosphere" is forthcoming from *The Multimedia Encyclopedia of Women in Today's World*. Her book reviews appeared in *Library Journal*, *Choice*, *Gastronomica*, and *Feminist Collections*. She's contributed encyclopedia articles to *The Encyclopedia of Motherhood*, *Women in the American Civil War: An Encyclopedia*, *The Business of Food: Encyclopedia of the Food and Drink Industry* among others.

**Anne Valente's** fiction has appeared in *Unsaid*, *Annalemma*, *Keyhole* and Dzanc Books' *Best of the Web 2010* anthology, among others. Her non-fiction has appeared in *The Washington Post*. She earned her MFA in creative writing from Bowling Green



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State University and her MS in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is the assistant editor of the literary journal *Storyglossia* and lives in Ohio.

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**Gayle Zinda**, a former nurse and business owner, travels the country speaking and writing on the issues of cancer awareness. Her first book, *Pink Lemonade*, in 2007, received a gold USA Book News Best Books Award and two silver Independent Publishers Awards. She received the Madison Business Woman of the Year in 2007. Gayle is a member of the National Speakers Association and the Women's National Book Association.



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### Editors' Q & A

**Q. What inspired you to write *Women Writing on Family*?**

A. My own struggle dealing with writing about family and finding publishers; fellow writers also reflected they were looking for help.

**Q. What surprised you most while researching information for this book?**

A. The similarities in the problems facing women writing about family.

**Q. What were the challenges (research, literary, and logistical) in bringing this book to life?**

A. Finding and selecting the most helpful contributors for readers.

**Q. What are the most important points that you would like readers to have gained and appreciate after reading your book?**

A. That writing about family is important.

**Q. Why is this anthology unique?**

A. Women's lives are centered in family. Women's perspectives are unique.

**Q. What is your response to those who are surprised by your findings?**

A. I hope they will read more women writing about family.

**Q. What is the most controversial issue in relation to women's writing on Family?**

A. How to not offend family members when writing.

**Q. How did you organize the book?**

A. Into eight parts:

Part I Personal and Legal Issues about Family Topics;

Part II Finding Time to Write with Career and Family;

Part III Making the Most of Your Family Experience;

Part IV Writing Exercises and Strategies;

Part V Exploring Family in a Variety of Genres;

Part VI Finding Your Writing Style;

Part VII Publishing, Marketing & Promotion; and

Part VIII Building Your Confidence.





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**Q. What advice would you offer your readers so they can make the best of the information provided to them in the book?**

**A.** Read what interests you the most—if you are a poet, select the parts that apply to poetry; if you prefer fiction, select the chapters relating to fiction. If you need help finding time to write, read the chapters dealing with that topic. There is something for everyone in this anthology as noted in the several endorsements in the beginning.