

# Appalachian Journal



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A REGIONAL STUDIES REVIEW

Volume 45 Numbers 3-4 • Spring/Summer 2018

# Appalachian Journal



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# Appalachians

CORTNEY CAMERON

When o'er the earth I see them rise,  
By meters, bluegreen, through the skies,  
With their flanks, my spirits climb  
By ten million years at a time—  
Back to the churning of great continents,  
Which joining, birthed—the earth was bent—  
These gentle gods, which wrinkled, stand,  
As watchful guardians of this land,  
Who from their bodies, bleeding, built,  
The East Coast, from the sea, by silt,  
Across three thousand thousand centuries  
Which link a trilobite and me—  
My chest grows tight, my vision blurs,  
And in my soul, an eon stirs.



## THE POETS

**Cortney Cameron** holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a master's degree from North Carolina Central University, where she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in Geoscience. She grew up in the North Carolina foothills. "Appalachians" is her first poem in *Appalachian Journal*.

**Marc Harshman's** latest collection of poems, *Woman in Red Anorak*, has won the 2017 Blue Lynx Prize and will be published in 2018 by Lynx House Press. His 14th children's book, *Fallingwater* (Roaring Brook/Macmillan), co-written with Anna Smucker, is a Junior Library Guild selection. His poetry collection *Believe What You Can* (West Virginia Univ. Press, 2016) won the Weatherford Award from the Appalachian Studies Association (see review, this issue, p. 802). His work is anthologized and in publications including *Cleaver*, *Chariton Review*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Still*, and *Poetry Salzburg Review*. He participated in the 2016 Greenwich Book Festival in London and recently read with Doug Van Gundy at the Red House Arts Centre in Wales. He is the seventh poet laureate of West Virginia.

**Judy Branscom Jenks** created this poem in response to George Ella Lyon's poem "Where I'm From." More biographical information appears on p. 684.

**Patsy Kisner's** poems have appeared in *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Forge*, *Modern Haiku*, and *Shelia-Na-Gig*, among other publications. She is the author of two poetry collections, *Inside the Horse's Eye* and *Last Days of an Old Dog* (both from Finishing Line Press). She lives on a farm along Sycamore Creek in rural West Virginia.

**Helen Matthews Lewis** is a teacher, activist, sociologist, and public intellectual. She has taught and lectured widely at colleges and universities, made films with Appalshop, organized health clinics through Highlander

Center, and coordinated international exchanges of ideas. The Appalachian Studies Association annually presents the Helen M. Lewis Community Service Award. She has published hundreds of articles and important books in regional scholarship, including *Helen Matthews Lewis: Living Social Justice in Appalachia* (University Press of Kentucky, 2012, edited by Patricia Beaver and Judith Jennings). Her most recent publication is a poetry chapbook, *The Nature of Things: Poems of Flora and Protest* (Iris Press, 2017, with watercolor paintings by Patricia Beaver).

**Shelby Stephenson** wrote a poem for his close friend Tom Douglass (1951–2017), who was an English Department faculty member at East Carolina University, where Douglass conducted scholarship on Breece Pancake (*A Room Forever: The Life, Work, and Letters of Breece D'J Pancake*), edited reprints of Hubert Skidmore's *Hawk's Nest* and Davis Grubb's *Fools' Parade*, and wrote *The Voice of Glory: The Life and Work of Davis Grubb* (University of Tennessee Press, 2017). Stephenson served as Poet Laureate of North Carolina (2014–2018). He received the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Department of English, and is Professor Emeritus of English at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke, where he edited *Pembroke Magazine* (1979–2010). His books include *Paul's Hill: Homage to Whitman* (Sir Walter Press); *Elegies for Small Game* (Press 53), winner of Roanoke-Chowan Award; *Fiddledeedee* (reissue, Press 53); *Family Matters: Homage to July, the Slave Girl* (Bellday Books), the Bellday Prize; *Maytle's World* (play).

**The Poets**, continued on p. 682...