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Editors’ Choice: *Grace, Roseborough*, and *Out the Summerhill Road*
A Look at the Fiction of Jane Roberts Wood

Reviews by Frances M. Ramsey

**World War II Changes Cold Springs, Texas**

Set in East Texas in 1944, this novel explores the influence of World War II on four families in one southern neighborhood and the relationships within and among them. The Moore family has seen better days, but still maintains club membership and social expectations. Mrs. Moore is a Yankee and does not fit southern customs well. The house next door is occupied by a teenage girl who cares for a mentally fragile mother. Grace Gillian, an enthusiastic high school English teacher, has altered her house radically to forget the husband who left her inexplicably. She loves John Appleby, her recently widowed next door neighbor. Could he become more than a good friend?

The narrative explores the injury and death of young men scarcely out of school, the shortages and dislocations of the war effort, differing cultural expectations of family, and the usual growing pains for the young.

In spite of loneliness and the whispers about her, Grace lives up to her name in all her relationships whether challenging her students, caring for her neighbors, understanding her missing husband, or encouraging the soldiers she meets on the train to New York. Her neighbors also grow as they face changes in values and behaviors which had seemed fixed.

Jane Roberts Wood has written another satisfying story in which the characters face challenges of relationship and find grace.

**Big Hearted People Deal with Hard Problems of Life**

Jane Roberts Wood, award winning author of *The Train to Estelline*, has created a compelling cast of characters, each dealing with serious loss. The group of strangers is brought together in Anne Hamilton’s single parenting class in a Texas Community College. Anne is trying to make changes in her life and hopes to enjoy living alone after an unsatisfactory love affair.

Mary Lou Durgandy has signed up for the class as something to do on her nights off from work at the Dairy Queen since her rodeo riding, truck driving husband Gundrun has been killed in an accident, and her teenage daughter Echo has disappeared. Swaggering Ed fears his daughter will forget him now that his ex-wife has taken her out of state. Betty fears her cancer will recur. How can Rosie explain that her son has no father since he is the product of artificial insemination? Tony has not been married or had a child, but took the class out of interest in the subject. As the class explores their fears and aspirations, they become involved in helping one another and become stronger individuals.

The exotic qualities of Gundrun’s gypsy family help to explain Echo’s unique independence. When she first leaves home, she lives in a tree house. Later she sends post cards to her mother as she travels the country with a young truck driver. As others in the small community of Lone Oak help Mary Lou, it is Echo’s baby Roseborough who brings the satisfying conclusion to this book recommended for young and old.
Who Is Responsible for the Unsolved Summerhill Murders?

Award-winning author Jane Roberts Wood has written another compelling and insightful novel—this one about a 1946 unsolved murder of a high school senior girl and its lasting affect on the lives of her three best friends. Although the survivors have been support for each other through happiness and the trials of divorce, widowhood, or other misfortune, none of them has been completely open about their relationship to Jackson or what they might know of the murder. Jackson is the classmate and "person of interest" who disappeared from town right after the murder.

As the three friends and a new Irish widow meet regularly in one another's homes for bridge, their unique characters are revealed in their interactions and in their private activities. In 1980 Jackson's return to Cold Spring is rumored, and their uneasiness grows. When Mary Martha, the nun-like spinster, sets out to change her fearful life and is strangled in the woods, bridge is neglected as they grieve the loss of their friend and try to solve both mysteries and assure Jackson's innocence.

The setting is so well presented through the eyes of the characters that one feels the beauty of the East Texas country and the uniqueness of each of the homes. Each of the characters seems worth knowing better. Suspense builds to the very end. Although life has its ugliness and grief, here also is hope in friendship and caring.

Journey to La Salle's Settlement
Melodie A. Cuaté

History via Time Travel for Middle Schoolers
Review by Stephen Curley

Middle school's woes have our three heroes depressed. Jackie's math teacher confiscated her cell phone, someone stole Hannah's English essay and juggling two girlfriends is giving fits to Hannah's brother Nick. Life today is just too hard, they agree. If only they could escape to the days of yore when things were a lot less complicated.

Enter the school's popular social studies teacher Mr. Barrington and his mysterious time-traveling trunk. It whisked them away to 1684 off the coast of Matagorda, Texas. Conveniently a magic ring makes them able to fit in with French pioneers. Turns out, the past is a heck of a lot harder than their present. A storm at sea, smallpox, a sinking ship, and an enraged captain make life on board La Belle miserable. Still Nick enjoys learning the ropes and climbing the rigging.

Sickness, dwindling provisions, an absentee leader (La Salle) and a menacing tribe of Karankawas make life in the settlement not much better. But here too the trio throw themselves into the spirit of the times by working hard at historical skills like candle making and buffalo hunting. The appearance in the settlement of the Talon children, whose real life history is summarized in prefatory notes, makes for a lively meeting of inter-century minds.

Continued on page four
Readers of the other four books in the series know what to expect: black-haired Jackie Montalvo is scatterbrained, scared, and prone to getting into trouble; blue-eyed Nick Taylor takes unnecessary but exciting physical risks; brown-eyed Hannah is quietly competent. As in their previous temporal adventures, the children must find instructive artifacts (like truie beads, an astrolabe, hawk bells, arrows, and a hatchet) before the trunk will allow them to return to the present. This time, their chances for a safe return look mighty slim.

Melodie Cuate knows her audience. She is a fourth-grade teacher and recipient of the Linden Heck Howell Outstanding Teaching of Texas History Award. Two of her previous books in the Mr. Barrington series have won the Western Heritage Award for Best Juvenile Book.

Cuate makes history come alive for the time-travelling trio and their readers. We meet famous people, master survival techniques, and get to practice some French. As Hannah says, “The past is a gift for those who learn from it.” Cuate’s sharply drawn characters, sparkling prose (including middle-school lingo), and suspenseful plotting give the book style and substance. Recommended highly as the spoonful of sugar that helps the medicine of history go down easily for readers aged 9 through 12.

Letters from England: A Memoir
Conita Jernigan Lyle

Letters Worth More Than Royal Daulton’s Fine China
Review by Ashlynn Ivy

In her memoir, Letters from England, Conita Jernigan Lyle not only shares her adventures of living abroad as a teacher for the Department of Defense in the early 1960’s, but also gives readers an intimate view of her struggle to remain both independent and free-spirited in an emotional climate that makes it difficult for her not to bend to the tug of young love that awaits her on the other side of the Pacific. Though the conversations recounted at the beginning of the memoir seem a bit stiff in places, Lyle makes up for it in her letters, where she describes picturesque and lush landscapes that she encounters throughout her European travels. The book is broken down into three parts: the romance, the letters, and the choice, and for any woman who has battled a fickle heart, Jernigan’s position and her prose are easy to relate to. Though young readers may be a bit baffled by the propriety and pace of such a memoir, it definitely wouldn’t hurt to offer them a glimpse of an affair based in elegant letters rather than cryptic cell phone texts. If you can’t afford England, I recommend this book.
Lightnin' Hopkins: His Life and Blues
Alan Govenar

Remembering a Texas Music Legend
Yves Laberge, Ph.D.

Bluesman Lightnin' Hopkins (1912—1982) was born Sam John Hopkins in Centerville, Texas. In this first book ever dedicated to this legendary blues artist, Alan Govenar tells the whole story: his musical influences, hundreds of recordings, life and loves. Lightnin' Hopkins composed songs in a variety of styles, from Rural Blues to Country Blues and later folk blues, often with the electric guitar or sometimes with the acoustic guitar.

The young Sam Hopkins played with Texan blues pioneers like Blind Lemon Jefferson and Texas Alexander, but his fame began around Houston with his duet with pianist Wilson Smith under the name of Thunder and Lightnin'. His recordings (mostly as a solo artist) are countless since 1946 and deliver the essence of the blues, even though nowadays he is not the kind of artist to be remembered outside the blues audience for one famous hit attached to his name. His pure style made him unique, especially when he played unaccompanied because his metrics were often irregular and unpredictable: he could expand the standard twelve-bar blues into a very personal fashion.

A prolific country blues guitarist, singer and songwriter, Lightnin' Hopkins was at his peak in the 1940s and also in the early 1960s during the blues revival; this comprehensive book documents these very creative periods. Sometimes, Alan Govenar is not afraid to break his legend when mentioning the problems Hopkins had to face then (alcohol, gambling, time in jail). But whenever the music talks, Lightnin' Hopkins remains unbeatenn as the most moving blues singer in music history.

I believe this monograph Lightnin' Hopkins: His Life and Blues is essential for public libraries and for students in popular music, African-American studies, and U.S. history.

Celebrating El Paso
Mark A. Paula

The Many Landscapes of El Paso
Review by Yves Laberge, Ph.D.

This colorful book with more than one hundred large colour photographs depict El Paso and its region in various ways: we see large photographs of buildings, neighborhoods, nature, art, roads, stadiums, urban parks, mountains ("Guadalupe Peak" p. 114), and of course the Rio Grande (p. 54). The artist succeeds in showing crisp colors in magnificent ways: some photographs present recent views of the city's oldest buildings like the El Paso High School, the Loretto Academy, and the Anson Mills Building (built in 1910) (p. 49). Newer places like the appealing Judson F. Williams Convention Center can be seen too (p. 45). A few images even depict some cases of the Bhutanese architecture inspired by the Tibetan architecture (p. 60). Many of the aerial photographs (for example the University of Texas campus surrounded by mountains) are breathtaking (p. 61). All photographs were taken in 21st century by Mark Paula; no vintage images are included. Not many individuals are to be seen here. Comments and texts are minimal; images are often full-page.

The album Celebrating El Paso is essential for libraries in the Texas state because it captures the uniqueness of this region at a particular moment. Texans and El Pasans should own and give this book to their guests as a tangible proof of their pride towards their city.

CELEBRATING EL PASO


**Crosswire**
Dotti Enderle

**Coming of Age during a Texas Summer Drought**
Review by JoAn W. Martin

In a Texas summer that has everything as dry as buzzard food, 13-year-old Jesse tries to become a man like his adored big brother, Ethan. Papa treats both his sons like hired help. Gambling, boozing, and stealing eventually force Ethan to take off on his own and lose out as Papa’s favorite. Jesse has no hopes of taking his place. Ethan leaves Jesse to deal with the family plight during a tragic drought. Even Mama insists Jesse “act like a man.” He struggles to get past an earlier trauma involving a gun. His dog, Leather, seems to be his only comfort. With Ethan gone, he has no model.

All the water holes the free-ranging cattlemen use have dried up, and the hated barbed wire fences cut off access to private property. Their recourse is to cut the wire fence, over and over again, every night. Jesse and Papa put the fence back, only to have it cut again.

Papa invites Jack Slater to stay at their house in exchange for helping out with multiple chores. Jesse is suspicious that Slater is hiding a dark secret. Finding wire cutters under Slater’s bed is proof. Jesse determines to find out, but Slater asks all the questions while answering any of Jesse’s. Whose side is Jack Slater on?

Papa considers Jesse a mama’s boy without the gumption to shoot a gun, and tensions build as Papa insists Jesse prove his manhood by shooting an injured calf to put it out of its misery.

Dotti Enderle uses a coming of age plot of a boy enduring the difficult Texas summer of 1883 and weaves her emotions into this account of adversity. Her liberal use of Texas sayings are a delight to encounter through the pages: still as a possum, as torn as wheat in a thrasher, more anxious than a dried coon, hangovers are worse than hornet stings, drunker than a skunk.

The story ends with a twist as each chapter is introduced with barbed-wire images. The author adds the historical context of The Texas Rangers, the fence cutters, characters written true to the times, and a bibliography for further reading. Boyd Mills and Calkin creek hit the jackpot with this great read for middle schoolers.

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**The Mother-in-Law’s Manual**
Susan Abel Lieberman

**Guide for Healthy Mother-In Law Familial Relationships**
Review by JoAn W. Martin

Lieberman expresses her appreciation to Dr. Spock and other parenting experts who helped her through her child-raising experience, but now that she is attempting to maintain connections with her adult extended family, where is the help? She would like to “Meet the Mother-in-Law challenge: move from Belittled to Beloved.”

Strangely enough, fathers-in-law do not participate in belittlement and jokes like mothers-in-law. She analyzes the reasons behind this phenomenon. She recognizes her family began with just the two of them. When children come along parents know it is their responsibility to train and teach. As each child finds a mate and children and grandchildren are added, “foreign” elements “invade” any close-knit family with ideas, traditions, strengths and weaknesses different from the original family. Susan Lieberman explores how the mother-in-law can create and preserve healthy relationships with married children. She offers proven strategies for us mothers-in-law to generate and maintain happy connectiveness with our adult children.

How do we approach ‘babies having babies’? One advice paraphrases the saying concerning a mother-in-law should proceed at the wedding; she should wear beige and keep her mouth shut. Excellent advice at any time, but difficult to practice. In keeping with the ten most recommended rules:

*Continued on page seven*
Texas Riverman: The Life and Times of Captain Andrew Smyth
William Seale

Life of the People of East Texas in the 19th Century
Review by Frances M. Ramsey

This well titled book is based on the letters and documents preserved in a long neglected steamer trunk. The narrative began as a Master of Arts thesis at Duke University and was revised for publication by the University of Texas Press in 1966. This second edition is now available to replace the hard-to-find original publication.

The author, a descendant of Captain Smyth, describes East Texas in 1835 when the young Andrew came to join his older brother George, a leader in Texas. At first the young man worked as a surveyor and managed his brother’s farm when he was away on civic duties in the new republic. Not wanting to farm, he developed boating to transport cotton to market in Sabine Pass and bring needed goods back to the Jasper area. He also built a saw mill to utilize abundant timber.

Improvements in living conditions and changes in the community are made personal by excerpts from correspondence and descriptions of the country and the buildings erected. The author now lives in the main house built by Captain Smyth in the 1850s. Descriptions of church and social events show a contrast with the work of living in a frontier. Accounts of commercial activity in Sabine Pass, Beaumont, and Galveston include conditions rising from the Civil War.

Although heavily foot noted and well indexed for the serious student of history, this book will also be a pleasure to those interested in the history of the area and river navigation.

Historian William Seale has authored numerous books and is editor of the journal White House History. He resides in Jasper County and in Washington, D.C.


**Lone Star Noir**
Eds. Bobby Byrd, Johnny Byrd

*Lone Star Noir: No Trench Coat Required*
Review by Jennifer Ravey

*Lone Star Noir,* with its iconic cover image of an old roadside motel, is reminiscent of *The Postman Always Rings Twice,* but in these fourteen stories, authors like Tim Tingle, Jessica Powers, and even James Crumley (whose story “Luck” was included by his widow) embody a different noir. Editor Bobby Byrd says, “Texas, in all its many places, bleeds noir fiction.” But this collection veers to slick oil black, nearer the nihilistic McCarthy than the tales of Chandler. *Lone Star Noir* visits big cities and back roads, picking up more dirt and smut on its way than an 18-wheeler on the IH-10 corridor. The hardboiled detectives (that is, if indeed the characters are on the right side of the law) are rougher, and the secretaries are broken-bottle-wielding ex-convicts. From “Six-Finger Jack,” whose narrator Joe R. Lansdale gifts with pitch-perfect euphemisms to “Bottomed Out,” Dean James’ odd telling of an attorney with expensive taste and sadistic sexual tendencies, the stories alternate from noir to the plain bizarre. David Corbett and Luis Alberto Urrea take noir on the road in one of the most successful inclusions, “Who Stole My Monkey?”, a story of a Creole man’s search to find his one true love, Lorina, an accordion, leaving a bloodbath in his wake. As nostalgic as some of these stories are, there is a jarring undercurrent of truth, of Mexican drug cartels, backwoods boys wielding knives, and hookers getting themselves killed. *Lone Star Noir* is a graphic, gripping collection very fittingly Texan - and just as diverse.

**Mi Sueño de América / My American Dream**
Yuliana Gallegos

**A Young Immigrant Writer Tells Her Story**
Review by Cristina Rios

A young girl relates her own experience of moving with her family from the city of Monterrey in Northern Mexico, to Houston, Texas. The book, written by a twelve year old girl, has a fresh colloquial narrative style that would be enjoyable for young bilingual readers ages 9 to 12. Although Yuliana is coming from the large metropolitan area of Monterrey, one of the largest cities in Mexico, she is amazed at the differences as the family arrives to Houston.

The socio-economic status of Yuliana makes her story different from other stories of immigrant children. Many immigrant children come to America without economic resources. Yuliana’s family seems to have economic stability; she has a nice place to live and to study; she had prior study of the English language; and she has outstanding parental support. Regardless of all these advantages, she experienced discrimination and struggled to adjust to her new life in Houston.

The adaptation process to a new culture and different education system is candidly explained by the child. Despite having studied in a bilingual school in Monterrey, she soon realizes that her knowledge of the English language is not good enough to follow the teacher explanations in school. Her apprehensions about succeeding academically and being accepted by her peers are discussed by the child in straightforward and simple terms. Yuliana had not expected that people would reject her just because the color of her skin and accent.

Finding friends is so important for a girl her age! Eventually, Yuliana finds a friend who is also learning English. Studying hard Yuliana improves her English skills, and she becomes academically successful. Bilingual, Spanish and English.
Charreada: Mexican Rodeo in Texas
Al Rendon, Ed. Francis E. Abernethy
A Mexican Cultural Tradition that is Part of Texas History
Review by Cristina Rios

There are many wonderful Mexican traditions that are frequently overlooked when referring to Mexican culture. Among these traditions is the exciting “Charreada”, which is considered an art, a performance, a competition, a sport, and an iconic symbol of the Mexican cultural identity. The images of the “charros” and “aditas” riding beautiful horses at the rhythm of mariachi music bring fond memories from my childhood growing up in Mexico: remembrances of days of festivities, parades, and celebrations; where the team work and skills of the riders dressed in stunning costumes made the crowd proud of its shared cultural roots.

The photographs and collection of essays included in this brief book depict the elegance, rituals, and distinctiveness of a tradition that was the precursor of the rodeo. The “Charreada” has had a long existence in Texas and continues to thrive, but still, many Texans are not familiar with this important folkloric tradition and its history. Every library in Texas should have this book in its collection.

More Spooky Texas Tales
Tim Tingle and Doc Moore

Frightening Stories to Engage Young Readers:
A Collection of Legends and Myths
Review by Cristina Rios

Jacob smiled as he listened to his dad telling the story of cattle that eat human flesh. They were crossing the bridge east of Beaumont, and entering the swampy region where, according to his dad, these killer cows dwell. Young readers that enjoy scary tales will be delighted with this compilation of assorted frightening stories. Some of the tales occur in towns and places around Texas, bringing the spooky horror close to home.

The origin of the ghostly stories included in this volume is eclectic. The author acknowledges that elementary and middle school students brought to his attention some of the spooky tales. For example, the legend of “La Llorona” has existed in Mexico since colonial times; and it has been argued that it originated in Pre-Hispanic deities. I became familiar with the myth of “La Llorona” as a child in Mexico City; and I am aware that there are many versions among Hispanics in America. The author sets the story along the riverbanks in San Antonio, making the tale more exciting for the Texan young reader. An old neighborhood in Tyler is the setting for another frightening story, with Native American roots; in the west Texas hills, “Skinwalker” might ask a driver for a ride; and the “Chupacabra” visiting the mesquite groves of the Rio Grande Valley, will get the attention of the Texans in that region. Ancient legends and myths are adapted and presented in a well written, brief, and engaging format.

Appropriate for ages 9 to 12.

Tim Tingle and Doc Moore travel throughout the United States and Mexico collecting and telling stories for all ages and perform for children and young adults at countless schools and libraries.

Al Rendon is the owner of Rendon Photography & Fine Art in San Antonio. His images have appeared in Newsweek, USA Today, Texas Monthly, and numerous books and magazines.


**The Educator's Guide to Texas School Law**

Jim Walsh, Frank Kemerer, Laurie Maniotis

**Preparing Teachers to Recognize Legal Educational Issues**

Review by Cristina Rios

This legal guide is specially designed for Texas educators and is an excellent resource for providing future teachers with a foundation to understand essential legal issues that affect their professional activities. It is written in an accessible manner for readers who do not intend to become lawyers, but need to be prepared to recognize situations with legal implications; and to know how to proceed. The seventh edition has been updated and covers state and federal laws that determine the rights and responsibilities of teachers, students, parents, and school administrators. The chapters on special education law and on discipline should be of great assistance for most teachers. The numerous legal cases about Texas schools stimulate interest in the reading, as these are situations that have happened in school districts close to home.

An important source for classroom teachers and school administrators, as their jobs require some familiarity with laws, regulations and rules. Highly recommended for university, school, and community libraries.

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**Faded Love**

Jim Sanderson

**Down but Not Out**

Review by Amy C. Smith

Sanderson's great talent seems to be his ability to combine opposites in the most graceful and heartrending ways, creating the perfect balance between laughter and pain. Most striking are his characters, whom he manages to make quirky yet always sympathetic. In the related short stories collected in *Faded Love*, characters are nested in groups of interrelated and overlapping grasping, aspiration and resignation. In the hands of another writer, the emotional weight of the very real fates of these characters might be overwhelming but Sanderson's deft hand never allows the reader to be pulled under, buoying her up with a dark, satiric humor and a suggestion of fantasy. This melding of effects, intentions and styles requires a technical prowess that perhaps flows from Sanderson's long experience in different genres and styles, but also suggests a subtle, self-effacing genius. It reveals, in the most effective way that fiction can, the Janus face of our experience as humans, by conveying the hopes, fears and inevitable disappointments of those who are both perpetually young and weathered by the years. In *Faded Love*, Sanderson casts this eternal human drama in the most concrete and specific locales and personalities, setting his characters in the barrooms and small towns of the South, which seems a perfect landscape for the fusing of pathos and humor.

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**THE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO TEXAS SCHOOL LAW**

Jim Walsh, Frank Kemerer, and Laurie Maniotis


**FADED LOVE**

By Jim Sanderson

How Did Davy Die?
And Why Do We Care So Much?
Dan Kilgore,
James E. Crisp

Another Look at Dan Kilgore's
Controversial Essay on How Davy Crockett
Died at The Alamo
Review by Jon P. Tritsch

The late Dan Kilgore, a certified public accountant and amateur historian, raised a few eyebrows in the select audience when he suggested in his address to the Texas State Historical Association in 1977 that Davy Crockett did not go down fighting at the Alamo, but was taken captive and executed by order of Santa Anna. The subsequent publishing of his address the following year stirred up a hornets' nest of widespread outrage. Davy Crockett was an American and Texas hero! His exploits were legendary! Why the actor, Fess Parker, surely portrayed Davy accurately in the motion picture as he swung the remnants of his rifle "Old Betsy" with Mexican soldiers closing in on him!

Now, thirty-three years after the publication of the Kilgore essay, historian James Crisp reconsiders Kilgore's work and offers his assessment of the original premise.

The first part of this book is the exact republication of Kilgore's 1978 essay with the original title How Did Davy Die? and includes his footnotes. In the second part... And Why Do We Care So Much? the author offers his essay entitled "Dan Kilgore and His Big Little Book."

For his part, Crisp examines the historical methods and original sources used by Kilgore, particularly the controversial translation of the De la Peña diary which claims to be an eye-witness account of Crockett's apprehension and execution. The author gives a fair review to both sides and even questions Kilgore's research and the use or non-use of research materials. Crisp also brings out other aspects, like the roles of myth culture and racial overtones that would shed new light on the Crockett debate. The book will probably not change the minds of those who firmly believe that Davy "died a-fightin," but the author does leave just enough doubt about the use or misuse of the primary sources to give folks on either side support for their contentions.

This fine work, no. 36 of the Elma Dill Russell Spencer series in the West and Southwest, should be a needed addition for the Texas history collections of public and academic libraries. High school and college students alike will be using this book for their papers on Davy Crockett and the Alamo.

Dan Kilgore (1921-1995) was a Certified Public Accountant and acclaimed amateur historian residing in Corpus Christi. He served as president of the Texas State Historical Association from 1976 to 1977 and was elected a Fellow of the TSHA in 1991.


Reviewers

Stephen Curley holds a Ph.D. in English from Rice University. He is professor of English at Texas A&M University—Galveston and a frequent contributor to Review of Texas Books.

Ashlynn Ivy recently completed her MA in English from Lamar University, where she now works as a full-time Academic Advisor in the Center for College Readiness. She lives in a small, red brick house in Beaumont, TX, and reads and blogs and takes her dog, Annie, for long walks in between cups of tea.

Yves Laberge is a Canadian scholar and sociologist, specializing in American studies; cultural studies; and museums; and the author of numerous articles and publications.

Joan W. Martin is a retired teacher from Baytown schools and author of Yankee Girl and Good Night, Mrs. Dinglewall. Sleep Tight! She has published numerous articles and book reviews.

Frances M. Ramsey is a retired librarian from the Beaumont ISD. She received her B.S. in zoology from Kansas State University and received her library certification from Oklahoma State University.

Jennifer Rawley is instructor of English at Lamar University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts. She is also a Liability Claims Adjuster for Farmers Insurance.

Cristina Rios is Associate Professor of Education at Lamar University. She is the author of several books and numerous articles.

Amy C. Smith is Assistant Professor of English at Lamar University. She has published on Virginia Woolf, Iris Murdoch, and the relationship between art and ethics. She holds a PhD from Binghamton University (SUNY).

Jon P. Tritsch works as a cataloger and helps develop collections for history and political science for the Mary and John Gray Library at Lamar University. He holds an M.L.S. from Emporia State University and an M.A. from Sam Houston State University.

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