

Woody Guthrie Annual

Volume 1 (2015)

Notes on Contributors

Ray Allen is Professor of Music and American Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY, and co-editor of the on-line journal *American Music Review*. He has written extensively on American folk and popular music, including his most recent book, *Gone to the Country: The New Lost City Ramblers and the Folk Music Revival* (University of Illinois Press). He is currently working on a book tentatively titled *Jump Up!: Caribbean Carnival Music in Brooklyn*.

Emily Baxter researches issues and policy surrounding women's economic security at the Center for American Progress. She holds a masters of science in gender from the London School of Economics and Political science, and her academic work has focused on discourses of power at the intersection of gender, religion, and politics, especially in the lives of American Catholic nuns.

Jodie Childers is a New York-based writer and documentary filmmaker. Her research and creative work are primarily concerned with 20th-century American dissidence as expressed through cultural production. She has published and presented papers on leftist literature of the 1920's and 30's; radical, experimental, and outsider art; independent and documentary film; and folk, punk, and heavy metal music. She wrote and produced *The Other Parade* (on the LGBT activist Brendan Fay), and she is currently co-directing a documentary film about Pete Seeger's environmental legacy. Her creative writing and photography have been published in *Feral Feminisms*, *Eleven Eleven*, *Poetry East*, and the *Portland Review* as well as other literary journals.

Thomas Conner has been an arts journalist and editor for more than twenty years, most recently as the pop music critic at the Chicago *Sun-Times*. He is currently a Ph.D. student in Communication at the University of California-San Diego, studying the effects and cultural history of presence-projection technologies such as performer simulations (i.e., the Tupac "hologram"). He spent nearly a year as a researcher in the Woody Guthrie Archives (2000-2001) and remains on the advisory board of the annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival.

Darryl Holter is an Adjunct Professor in History at the University of Southern California and a member of Professional Musicians Local 47 in Los Angeles.

Mark Allan Jackson specializes in political expression in American music. He has published essays, reviews, and commentaries in such journals as *American Music*, the *Journal of American History*, *Popular Music and Society*, and the *Journal of American Folklore*. Three of his edited compilations of

American folksong recordings have appeared through the West Virginia University Press Sound Archive Series, including *Jail House Bound: John Lomax's First Southern Prison Recordings, 1933*, which won the 2012 Brenda McCallum Prize of the American Folklore Society. The University Press of Mississippi published his book *Prophet Singer: The Voice and Vision of Woody Guthrie* in 2007. Currently, he is firmly ensconced in Middle Tennessee State's English Department, where he teaches courses in American folklore and popular culture.

Vani Kannan is a doctoral candidate in Composition and Cultural Rhetoric and writing instructor at Syracuse University. Her scholarly writing has appeared in *Reflections*, *Literacy in Composition Studies*, and *Studies on Asia*. She is also a musician, and draws inspiration from Woody Guthrie.

Will Kaufman is a Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, England. He has written a number of books on American culture — *American Culture in the 1970s* (Edinburgh, 2009), *The Civil War in American Culture* (Edinburgh, 2006), and *The Comedian as Confidence Man* (Wayne State, 1997). In 2008 Will was awarded his first BMI-Woody Guthrie Fellowship, which enabled him to write the first political biography of Guthrie, *Woody Guthrie, American Radical* (Illinois, 2011); he won his second BMI-Woody Guthrie Fellowship in 2014 and is working on his second book on Guthrie, *Woody Guthrie's Modern World Blues*. He was consultant to Douglas Brinkley and Johnny Depp for the publication of their co-edited edition of Guthrie's recently discovered novel, *House of Earth* (2013). His latest book, co-authored with Ronald D. Cohen, is *Singing for Peace: Antiwar Songs in American History* (Paradigm, 2015). Also a folksinger and multi-instrumentalist, he has performed his "live documentaries" on Guthrie for many years; please see www.willkaufman.com.

Kristin Lems is a folksinger who also became a professor, and she sings heartfelt, hard-hitting and inspiring songs that tell the "backstories" behind the headlines. In addition to performances in restaurants and coffeehouses and rites of passage, she has sung for progressive causes in many prestigious venues. Kristin's music is represented on the Grammy-nominated CD anthology, *The Best of Broadside* (Smithsonian/Folkways), and her satirical and poignant songs have been recorded and published widely, including "Talking Gender Neutral Blues," "Days of the Theocracy," "How Nice," (about marriage equality, but recorded in 1979), and her Dixieland satire, "Mammary Glands." She is a full professor in the College of Education at National Louis University in Chicago, where she works with teachers in the area of language education (ESL and bilingual). In addition to writing a number of books and articles related to reading and English as a new language, she has composed eight CDs of original songs. Her newest album, *You, Me, and All of the Above*, has many songs in the spirit of Woody Guthrie, who will always be one of her heroes. Contact: kristinlems@gmail.com, or www.kristinlems.com.

David L. Ulin is the author, most recently, of *Sidewalking: Coming to Terms with Los Angeles* (University of California Press, 2015). His other books include *The Lost Art of Reading: Why Books Matter in a Distracted Time* (Sasquatch, 2010) and the Library of America's *Writing Los Angeles: A Literary Anthology* (2002), which won a California Book Award. A 2015 Guggenheim Fellow, he is book critic for the *Los Angeles Times*.

Elijah Wald is a musician, writer, and historian whose books include *Josh White: Society Blues* (Routledge, 2013), *Escaping the Delta: Robert Johnson and the Invention of the Blues* (Amistad, 2004), *The Dozens: A History of Rap's Mama* (Oxford University Press, 2012), *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock 'n' Roll: An Alternative History of American Popular Music* (Oxford, 2011), *Narcocorrido: A Journey into the Music of Drugs, Guns, and Guerrillas* (Rayo, 2002), and Dave Van Ronk's memoir, *The Mayor of MacDougal Street* (Da Capo, 2013). His latest book is *Dylan Goes Electric! Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night that Split the Sixties* (Dey Street, 2015). For further information, visit www.elijahwald.com.