Contributors

chitrita banerji is the author of three books: Life and Food in Bengal, Bengali Cooking: Seasons & Festivals, and The Hour of the Goddess: Memories of Women, Food, and Ritual in Bengal. Her articles, columns, and short fiction have appeared in many publications, including Granta, Gourmet, Calyx, the Boston Globe, and The American Prospect. The recipient of a master’s degree from Harvard University, Banerji is currently working on a book about Indian food.

margaret b. blackman is a professor of anthropology at SUNY Brockport where she teaches food and culture. Her special interests include ethnohistory, oral history, art, and aesthetics, and her research has taken her to the northwest coast of North America and the Alaskan arctic. Her most recent book is Upside Down: Seasons among the Nunamiut, a collection of nonfiction essays about the interior arctic village of Anaktuvuk Pass, Alaska.

april bullock is an assistant professor in the Department of Liberal Studies at California State University–Fullerton where she teaches food and culture. Her articles, columns, and short fiction have appeared in many publications, including Granta, Gourmet, Calyx, the Boston Globe, and The American Prospect. The recipient of a master’s degree from Harvard University, Bullock is currently working on a book about Indian food.


maria finn dominguez is the editor of the anthologies Cuba in Mind and the forthcoming Mexico in Mind. She frequently writes about nature in urban spaces, most likely because she moved from Alaska to New York City. Her work has appeared in Audubon Magazine, the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times, among other places. Dominguez is currently working on a memoir about her romantic adventures in Cuba, forthcoming in 2007 from Algonquin Books.

will goldfarb just retired, turned thirty, celebrated his first father’s day, and celebrated his first wedding anniversary. He would like to thank his wonderful wife, Maria, and daughter, Loulou, as well as his entire family: Mom, Dad, Ben, and Abe. In creativity we trust. Akwa.

sidney harris has been drawing cartoons for nearly forty years and has published twenty or so collections of them, including his most recent book, 49 Dogs, 36 Cats and a Platypus, from Rutgers University Press. Although not a gourmet, as far back as he can remember he has been eating food.

jenny kimball is an artist, writer, and special education teacher in northern California. She received her MFA from the University of California–Davis in 2003 and has since been exhibiting throughout the United States. As a Cancer of pioneer stock, Kimball has to watch her domesticity so that it does not spiral out of control, resulting in twenty-seven years’ worth of peach-stone jelly.


peter o’leary is the author of Watchfulness (Spuyten Duyvil) and Gnostic Contagion: Robert Duncan & the Poetry of Illness (Wesleyan). The University of Georgia Press will bring out Depth Theology in 2006. He teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and lives in Berwyn, Illinois, on the city’s west side, where, owing to the lingering presence of Moravian and Italian immigrants, terrific sausage can be easily gotten and gorged on.

vivian patterson is curator of collections at the Williams College Museum of Art (WCMA), where she helps manage the college’s holdings of approximately 12,500 objects. Recently she has been working with photographer Carrie Mae Weems to coordinate an exhibition and write the accompanying book; she is also collaborating on an exhibition and catalogue featuring the work of contemporary artist Kara Walker. Patterson’s current projects include editing a 2006 handbook of the WCMA permanent collection.
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karen pepper holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from the Université de Paris and an MFA in creative writing from Bennington College. She is presently teaching in the Writing across the Curriculum program at MIT and working on several writing projects.

charles perry studied Middle Eastern languages at Princeton University and at the University of California. From 1968 to 1976, he was an editor and staff writer at Rolling Stone. In 1990 he joined the Los Angeles Times as a staff writer in the food section. His translation of the thirteenth-century cookbook Kitab Wasf al-At’ima al-Mu’tada appeared in Medieval Arab Cookery (Prospect Books, 2001).

deeanna putnam is a belly dancer and writer who lives and performs in the Boston area. She first discovered belly dance while on a working vacation as a journalist in Lebanon. Putnam holds a BA in theology and philosophy from Boston College and a master of divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. For more information, visit her belly dance website at www.ontheraqs.com.

gordon sacks lives in upstate New York.

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jeanne schinto has been an independent writer since 1973. The author of a memoir, Huddle Fever: Living in the Immigrant City (1995), she has also published a novel, a short story collection, and articles and essays on art, history, and material culture in a variety of publications, including the Atlantic Monthly and Boston Magazine. A regular contributor to Maine Antique Digest, she lives in Andover, Massachusetts.

jason sholl is a freelance writer based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, who has worked as an editor at Lingua Franca magazine and as an English instructor at the University of Arizona. He writes regularly about food and culture and is currently completing his first book, a narrative study of the science and psychology of romantic love.

leni sorensen works as a museum consultant developing African American programming and as a culinary historian and foodways presenter at historic house museums. She also teaches historic cooking in her home studio. Sorenson holds a Ph.D. in American studies from the College of William and Mary. Her dissertation was a study of fugitive slaves in Richmond, Virginia, 1834-1844.

john varriano is Idella Plimpton Kendall Professor of Art History at Mount Holyoke College. He is the author of Italian Baroque and Rococo Architecture, Rome: A Literary Companion, and the forthcoming Caravaggio: The Art of Realism. He is currently at work on Palettes and Palates: Connoisseurship and Cuisine in the Italian Renaissance.

ted weesner, jr., is a writer based in Somerville, Massachusetts, whose story “Tuscaloosa” was recently included in Ploughshares’ emerging writer issue and 2004’s Best American Notable 100. Other work has appeared in the Cincinnati Review, Memorious, the Boston Globe, and Scribner’s American Writer and on National Public Radio. The recipient of a PEN/New England Discovery Award and grants from the St. Botolph Club and Somerville Arts Council, Weesner teaches writing at Tufts University. He is completing a novel about expatriates living in Prague.