

Contributors

Anneke Deutsch has been a waiter, builder, barworker, sculptor, prosthetist and lecturer. She was a founding editor of the *Prothetics and Orthotics Magazine*. She was a member of the organising collective of the National Lesbian Cultural Celebration and Conference (1998).

Rob Baum: Since completing a post-doctorate on gender in the Middle East, Rob has taught in Israel, New Zealand and Australia. Research publications include *Female Absence: Women, Theatre and Other Metaphors* (Peter Lang, 2003) and journal articles on Palestinian ritual, race/gender issues and identity politics. Rob's current book project concerns the influence of the Shoah. Rob performs in improvisational movement, circus and theatre, and directs disabled practitioners. Her feminist plays feature strong, desirable roles for women; *Every Woman's War* premiered in Singapore, 2006.

Hinde Ena Burstin is a founding member of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria. She is a professional editor and a Yiddish and English writer. Over 50 of her poems, short stories and feature articles have been published in Australia, USA, Canada and Israel. She is the commissioned editor of a treasury of Yiddish children's poetry (in progress) and an invited contributor to *Jewish Women: a Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, (Shalvi Publishing, Jerusalem, in press).

Joan Nestle: Born in 1940 in the Bronx, New York to a working mother, Regina, is co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives of New York (1973 to the present), author of *A Restricted Country* (1987,2003) and *A Fragile Union* (1999), editor of *The Persistent Desire: A Femme-Butch Reader* (now out of print) and co-editor of six other collections of lesbian and gay literary anthologies. Her latest book is "*GenderQueer*" – *Voices from Beyond the Sexual Binary* (2002). For 29 years she taught in the SEEK Program at Queens College, CUNY, retiring in 1995. A survivor of both colon and breast cancer, she now lives in Melbourne, Australia with Dianne Otto, one of the women who pioneered the second wave of feminism in Australia. When she first started her association with Melbourne, one of the groups that welcomed her with warmth and taste of home was the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria – for this, she is ever grateful.

Karen Bloomberg identifies as a lesbian, a woman with a disability and a Jew. Her experience includes involvement in the *Women with Disabilities* anthology as a contributor and a collective member. More recently she has been involved in writing academic papers and training manuals as a renowned speech therapist.

Melina Magdalena: Born 22nd February 1970 in San Antonio Texas, migrated to Australia when she was four years old. The oldest of five children, she has spent most of her life in Adelaide, but has also lived in Hobart, Mackay (Qld) and Hamburg, Germany. As well as raising two children, she has worked as a community activist, cleaner, sign writer, artist, linguistic researcher, tutor and receptionist. She is currently a novice high school teacher. Previous

publishing credits include several poems, letters and articles. From 2003-2005 she coordinated a community writing project which culminated in the publication of *The Reclaiming Anthology: Healing Our Wounds* (Seaview Press) to which she is editor and contributor.

Rachael: Writer, journalist, children's book author. Had fun acting on stage and on radio and claims to be Melbourne's first female stand-up comic. Reads a lot, listens to classical music and loves opera. Runs writing groups for seniors.

Sara Elkas is a 57 years old Israeli-born lesbian-feminist who works as an occupational Therapist. She is a founding member of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria. She edited the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria Newsletter for five years. A number of her poems and short stories have been published in feminist and lesbian publications. She holds an MA in History and a Graduate Diploma in Library Studies. She is an active member of the Matrix Guild of Victoria for lesbians over forty, the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archives and the Performing Older Women (POW) circus.