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About the Contributors

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About the Contributors

Aziza Braithwaite Bey

An author, cultural historian, professor and fashion designer, Aziza Braithwaite Bey has written two textbooks, *Culture and Nurture: the Aesthetic Life of School Children* and *Pre-Columbian Contacts: Dragon Cultures of Africa and the Americas*. These textbooks, designed for teaching PreK - 12th grade audiences, are based on her comprehensive research of the Kemetians of Ancient Egypt, the Maya of Mexico, the Dogon of Mali, and the Tsalagi (Cherokee) of the Southeast United States.

Joanne Kilgour Dowdy

An associate professor of adolescent/adult literacy at Kent State University. She is a trained actor, with a Juilliard degree, who has performed on stage and television in Trinidad and the United States. Dowdy has pursued scholarship that integrates the performing arts with literacy studies in various educational settings, including schools, museum and communities. Her most recent publications include *Readers of the Quilt: Essays on Being Black, Female and Literate*, which was nominated for an Ed Fry book award by the National Reading Conference, and *PH.D. Stories: Conversations with My Sisters*, to be released in Spring, 2007, by Hampton Press.

Sunny-Marie Birney

A doctoral student at Kent State University. She is studying Curriculum & Instruction as it relates to Multicultural & International Education, particularly the historical and contemporary dimensions of African-centered Education. Ms. Birney's major areas of research are examining the pedagogy of African-American women educators and the grassroots, community-based & spiritual organizations that have supported their educational traditions. Birney's participation in the field of education includes home-schooling her children, starting an educational consulting firm, teaching in the public school system, and instructing in a liberal arts college environment.

Pablo Navarro-Rivera

author of *Universidad de Puerto Rico: De control politico a crisis permanente, 1903-1952*.

Jesús Nieto

Teaches Introduction to Multicultural Education classes for future teachers at San Diego State University. He is an advisor to a number of SDSU student organizations including MEChA, Cambodian Student Association, Amnesty International and

Heartprints. Nieto is an activist regarding issues related to homelessness, war and peace, CIA abuses of power, and poor children in Mexico.

Suzanne Valery

Director of institutional grants at Allan Hancock College and a consultant for community colleges in program planning and grant writing. She brings her knowledge of educational leadership and strategic management to the development of grant-funded initiatives that further institutional goals and provide innovative programs for students. She has more than fifteen years experience teaching adults in a variety of settings, and currently teaches the course Cultural Democracy online at National University.

Atina Andrea White

Biography needed

Constance Del Nero

A Masters of Education student in the Creative Arts in Learning Program at Lesley University. She wrote and illustrated a cookbook together with her husband, Rosario, called *Risotto: a Taste of Milan* (Harper & Row, 1987), which was hailed as a “star” by the New York Times. Constance Del Nero illustrated and provided the cover art for Frieda Arkin’s *The Essential Kitchen Gardener* (Henry Holt, 1990), chosen as a Best Bet by New York Magazine. She currently teaches drawing to students ages four to adult at ActonArt, a private art school in Acton, Massachusetts.

Jenny DeBell

Biography needed