

CONTRIBUTORS

The late **Ali Elmi Afyareh** was, during the decade before decolonization and up to the early 1980s, a significant figure among the poets known to uphold the national interest.

Amina Said Ali is a Researcher Technician at the Medical Epidemiology/Bio-Bank in the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, in addition to being an accomplished poet.

Charles Geshekter is Professor Emeritus of History at California State University, Chico. He is a founder of the Somali Studies International Association, helped to coordinate its first Congress in 1980 and co-edited its *Proceedings*, and in 1985 produced a PBS documentary film, “The Parching Winds of Somalia.” Professor Geshekter is also a founding member of *Bildhaan*.

Abwaan Mahamad Gaal Haayoow is a Somali poet who lives in the Twin Cities.

Ahmed Ismail Hussein, Hodeide, is generally regarded as the most acclaimed among Somali oud players. His profile covers nearly sixty years—years of original and fabulous performances. He currently lives in Fulham, London. Hodeide performed at Macalester College in 2004.

Lidwien Kapteijns, a founding member of *Bildhaan*, is the Kendall/Hodder Professor of History, Wellesley College.

Amin Mohamed is a Program Supervisor with the Storefront Group, a non-profit organization based in Minnesota. He holds a Master’s degree in Public Health Policy and Administration and Global Health from the University of Minnesota. He is co-author of “Modeling Psychological Function in Refugees.”

Yusuf Sheikh Omar received his Bachelor of Education (teaching Arabic) from International University of Africa, Sudan, in 1994; and a Masters of Human Science: Arabic as a Second Language from International Islamic University in Malaysia in 1999. He completed a second Masters of Educational Leadership and Management at La Trobe University in Australia in 2004. He is currently undertaking work toward

a Ph.D. at the Refugee Health Research Centre of La Trobe University, exploring young Somali Muslim Diaspora perceptions of cultural negotiations, integration experiences, and coping with diversity. He has worked as an Arabic teacher in a number of Islamic schools and as a multicultural aide in Melbourne government schools. He is the founder and first president of the Australian Somali Youth Association. Publishing in Australian newspapers and international journals, he espouses the philosophy of multiculturalism and actively contributes to the dialogue among civilizations, particularly Islam and the West.

Ahmed I. Samatar is James Wallace Professor of International Studies and Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship at Macalester College.

Samatar Sooyaan is a psychology student at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has contributed to the websites Qurbajaceyl.com and somalwriters.net. He is about to publish his first novel in Somali, *Singal Maadar (Single Mother)*. He may be reached at www.somalwriters.net.

Nasir Warfa, a member of the International Advisory Board, is Lecturer and Researcher in Transcultural Psychiatry at the Centre for Psychiatry, Barts and the London NHS Trust, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London.