When this koa tree stood, honeycreepers nested among its burls, hopped and waddled where they wanted to go, tightroped along roots stretched over forest floor.

When this koa tree fell, mongoose darted nest to nest. At twilight, stowaway rats nosed windfall guava, papaya, passionfruit.

Feral pigs yanked out by the roots tender fiddleheads, new shoots of ti, o’hia, maile. When this koa was milled, the honeycreeper’s song echoed – laughter of cousins splashing barefoot in ocean, children long gone now, dressed in the long sleeves of their lives, their eyes now and then closing to let in the song of winged ones unnested, gone.

**Peggy Shumaker’s** newest book of poetry is *Blaze*, a collaboration with the painter Kesler Woodward (Red Hen Press). Her nonfiction book *Just Breathe Normally* will come out in 2007 from the University of Nebraska Press. She teaches in the MFA Rainier Writing Workshop at the Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.