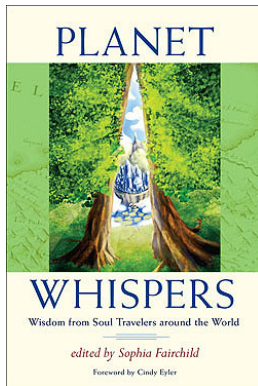




Getting to know the Authors of

Planet Whispers

Wisdom from Soul Travelers around the World



Roberta Ashkawa Binder ~ Western North Carolina, USA

www.RobertaEdits.com

SWP: Where are you from?

I was born and raised in Berks County, Eastern Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. As an adult I moved to Bucks County, which is on the opposite side of Philadelphia. In my 50s I moved to Colorado for a decade but found I missed the rolling mountains of the Appalachian chain, the world's oldest mountains. Since January 2010, my home is in Black Mountain, Western North Carolina, surrounded by the southern end beautiful mountains of the Appalachians. Here I know I have truly found *Home*.

SWP: Tell us a bit about your background.

I'm an only child, so really grew up in an adult world. For a little over a year, I lived on a farm outside of Lancaster Pennsylvania. This was the happiest time of my youth. After high school, I went off to college in Philadelphia, seeking a degree in Fine Art. I spent my professional career, as a writer and/or editor, in various genres. When I purchased an Environmental Emporium in the early 1990s, I began to seriously study the holistic arts and now focus my work life equally between Feng Shui, Editing, Writing and Photography.

SWP: What brings you the greatest joy in life?

Working with a client, be that in editing or feng shui, and seeing that client grow brings me great waves of joy. Spending time outdoors with my camera, be that in the perfect gardens of the Biltmore Estate or the wood watching light play on the landscape, I feel and see magic. Finding a waterfall or a stream and feeling the cooling waters of Earth Mother and all the wisdom and journey that those waters hold pour over my feet and fill my soul.

SWP: What is your favorite quote, by whom, and why?

"Plus Ultra" I attribute it to Henry Mercer as it was his motto and mantra. It translates to More Beyond... and I believe we all need to keep growing and learning as there is always *more beyond*.

SWP: What are you most proud of accomplishing so far in your life?

I am proudest when I am watching my three amazing children and my collection of heart-adopted children grow into their wisdom in adult-hood. A Ho.

SWP: What inspires you to write and why?

I'm inspired to write about anything that really sparks my interest or allows me to look more deeply into something I enjoy. And thus enables me to share that wisdom with others and inspire them to think, learn and grow. I'm most comfortable writing about: people, history, art, environment, holistic and Sacred ideas, wisdom and ideals.

SWP: What do you consider the most challenging about writing in general?

I find, both in my personal writing, and editing the work of others, that the beginning is always the most difficult challenge. Once those first hundred or so words are battled through, flow begins and once that first piece is edited (and edited and edited) – it all falls into place. Likewise, the very first sentence of a chapter, book, letter, article, whatever you are writing, is the most important sentence you will write!

SWP: Have you developed a specific writing style?

People say I'm a storyteller and I would agree with that. I believe that it is important to capture the essence of the topic and unfold it in an easily digestible manner to the reader, keeping their attention.

SWP: What inspired you to write your chapter for *Planet Whispers*?

My inspiration came from a deep Love of the Sacred Wisdom that Earth Mother holds and the honor gifted to all who live on her to walk gently with reverence, and the opportunity to share that respect with others. I focused on the story of Wounded Knee to bring attention to the fact that still today history continues to repeat itself and it is important to understand history so that perhaps one day that repetition will end and we will live in Peace. Likewise, I don't believe we need to dwell on history and live in the past, rather, learn from its lessons as to resist repeating them.

SWP: Is there a message in your chapter that you want your readers to grasp?

The message I repeat is holding the wisdom to honor Earth Mother, knowing that each and every step we take on her is a Sacred Step.

SWP: Where do you see yourself in five years?

My five year plan at the moment is seeing my self as a respected photographer with my work hanging in many galleries and prized in countless private collections. Along with my continuing Love of the word through writing, editing and coaching!

SWP: What dreams have been realized as a result of your writing?

The greatest dream that I realized through my writing was seeing my first book in print and watching it become an international best seller (even if it was in a very narrow field), *Videodiscs in Museums*. That book opened doors of respect and enabled me to become an international museum consultant and presenter at numerous international museum conferences.

SWP: Do you have any advice for writers?

The best advice I could give to any potential writer is: Practice, Practice, and Practice. Attend writing workshops – you can always learn. Find a great editor for *YOU* – the two of you need to resonate! Read consciously and listen consciously, always look for opportunities to exercise your craft. Know what the reading public is looking for. Whenever you see a booklist, read it and absorb its wisdom of ideas to consider venturing into. Learn the reading trends of what people are looking for in their reading today, and know it is a fickle market.

SWP: If you could leave your readers with one bit of wisdom, what would you that be?

Don't hide your light under a rock, find your genre and let that light shine.

SWP: Where can we purchase the book?

www.RobertaEdits.com or email cheersrhb@gmail.com