

# Cloud Rider

On a wisp of cloud he rides, in white top hat & tails

Small in stature, straight and proud, an ebony baton in hand

With arms outstretched he silently calls to the heavens

and at once the winds come from every direction

Solid and strong, he stands ready to begin

He waves his black baton in a flourish of infinity

and so conjoins and commingles the winds,

the north with the south, east, and west, strong and weak

In that moment of shift there comes a harmonious hum

as with hands and heart the Cloud Rider conducts

the winds in a sweet seductive symphony

which together they sing joyfully to the Earth

When the people of Earth hear, they abandon their greed,

their hate and fear as the mighty winds sing with the power of one

Satisfied, the Cloud Rider lowers his black baton, bows his head

and is once more a smiling, senile old man in a wheel-chair.

# Judy Barrat

Born in the Bronx, New York, Judy began writing (a closet writer, she calls it) poetry and short fiction as a young teenager, but gave it up in her 20's when she moved to Los Angeles, got married, had two children, and subsequently became a single working mom with not enough creative time. As the years passed, she began dabbling again in poetry and fiction, found a bigger, warmer closet in sunny California in which write and not too long ago, was convinced by a friend that it was time to bring her writing into the light. She has been sharing her thoughts and words at various poetry and music venues around Los Angeles and the reception has been extremely welcoming. Recently, Judy has begun to fuse her writings with a musical background of jazz or blues, and sometimes works with a vocalist adding another poetic element. Her writings are poignantly descriptive, always carry a depth of insight and mystery, and oftentimes include an unexpected (usually humorous) twist. No matter what her subject or genre, Judy's writings are poetically, brilliantly, and sometimes defiantly a lot like Judy herself... wonderfully enjoyable to say the least.

