

Western migration didn't end with covered wagons; the Oregon Trail is alive and well, even today. Modern adventurers in cramped plane seats stare through windows at the peak of Mount Hood—so close they could almost touch her; far below, pioneers in mud-spattered Toyotas and rusty Chevy trucks follow the setting sun along I-84, while the Columbia River begins to etch its grand image onto a new generation of minds.

Some days, I find it extraordinary that I ended up in this place I'd never even heard of until I was over thirty. I think back then to my mother's gesture at the top of the lighthouse in *Westward Ho!* She was holding out her arm in an almost prophetic pose. "That's the way to America," she'd said casually, pointing straight into my future.

Judith Barrington's *Lifesaving: A Memoir* was the winner of the 2001 Lambda Literary Award and was a finalist for the PEN/Martha Albrand Award for the Art of the Memoir. She is also the author of the best-selling *Writing the Memoir: From Truth to Art* and four collections of poetry. Her fifth poetry book, *New and Selected*, will be published by Salmon Poetry in the spring of 2018. She has been a faculty member of the University of Alaska Anchorage's low-residency MFA program and teaches workshops around the U.S. as well as in Britain and Spain.

BURT LEVITSKY

Skipping Clouds, 1995
Oil on linen, 24 x 46 in



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