For years, Margie Domingo wrote poetry for therapy. She wrote to gain a sense of self-actualization. Even as a young child she searched for an identity with which she would feel comfortable. She was born into two worlds, two cultures. Her father is Filipino, her mother is Mexican.

Father Joe Domingo was born in 1906 in the Philippine Islands. With fourteen brothers and one sister, it was no wonder he was on his own at an early age. At 19 he went to Hawaii to work in the sugar cane plantations. He graduated to the canneries of Kuners and Libbys in Hawaii before taking a boat ride to San Francisco, California in search of a better life. Field work in Salinas, California netted him $1 a day. After a worker's strike he netted $2 a day. In San Francisco, he went from the fields to the kitchen and as a cook earned $1.75 per hour. He saved his money, bought a car and moved on with his friends to Utah, Arizona and finally ended up in Denver, Colorado.

Mother Estefanita Garcia was born in Arroyo Seco, New Mexico. When Estefanita was two years old, her father was elected Mayor of their town and as he rode through the streets to celebrate his election a bullet from the crowd ended his life. Three years later her mother remarried and moved to Delta, Colorado. Estefanita refused to leave her grandmother and stayed in New Mexico. She was a teenager when she was invited to her sister's wedding in Denver, Colo.

There happened to be a large community of Filipino men in Denver at that time and sister Dora married one. With all those eligible men in Denver, Estefanita decided to stay. She met Joe Domingo at one of the dances and married him soon thereafter at the Mexican Church of St. Cajetan's.

"All my Mexican relatives were married to Filipinos and there was always a party," Domingo recalls. "People celebrated everything. They danced to Mexican music and combined the ethnic foods from both cultures."

While everyone was celebrating, Domingo was experiencing anger. At eight she was angry at her parents and didn't know why. Then she was angry at everything. The title of one of her first published poems is, "At twelve I Was Insane So At Thirteen I Wrote a Poem," and thus, through her poetry, she began her search for identity. Like all teenagers she fell in love and again she wrote poetry to express undying love and the heartbreak of it all. She put her poems in a drawer then got them out again at twenty. An abusive marriage and then divorce stopped the poems from flowing until as a student at the Community College in Denver words began to form again as poems in her mind. Poems of anger, hurt and pain came pouring out like torrential rains. This phase of her writing was an emotional release, a necessary step in the cleansing of her soul. An instructor recognized her writing talent and encouraged her to write on.

Domingo published her first book of poetry in 1975 but was too shy to do much with it. Again she put away her poetry this time for almost twenty years. Upon retiring, she met another poet who introduced her to Su Teatro a local Chicano Theater Group in Denver. It was through these artists that Domingo finally found her identity. She found her rhythm and drum beat in the world of her mother's Mexican heritage, from the Aztecs to present day Chicanismo. After Domingo defined her existence her poetry and other works began to flow like a river.

"My poetry spans life from beginning to end," she says. "God as a higher power is important to my writings. I use nature in my poems such as the wind, rain or flowers because they too have a beginning and an end. My Filipino and Mexican heritage are both part of me but I concentrate on my Aztec and Chicano heritage both in my life and in my poetry. This is the combination that gives me the inspiration for life and death. I believe every living being has a place and meaning in life."

Margie Domingo has found her place and meaning in life. It is evident in her writing. Besides her books on poetry, "Let My Existence Be Born," and "Let Me Walk Beside You," Domingo has written plays and performance poetry. She is presently working on a major play to be performed in 1994.
"It has taken me a lifetime to define my purpose in life. I found peace and harmony in writing poetry at an early age only to discover I was a bashful poet, feeling like a naked exhibitionist bearing my soul and innermost thoughts. At first I felt safe using the pseudonym of Emma J. Sunday signed to my poetry because I couldn’t identify where I was coming from. With that name I translated myself from M. J. Domingo into the English speaking culture I lived in. Today, I share my collected thoughts of my own existence, my birth, my life and finally my death."

Margie J. Domingo