

## Contributors' Notes

**Constance Alexander** writes poetry, plays, fiction and nonfiction. An award-winning columnist, she often writes about aging, Alzheimer's, and end-of-life. She is the author of two poetry chapbooks, two books of poetry, and a memoir. She has received grants and fellowships from the Ragdale Foundation, Kentucky Foundation for Women, Kentucky Arts Council, Pew Center for Civic Journalism, Newspaper Association of America, and the Pilgrim Project. "The Last Thanksgiving" is part of a collection about women's lifelong roles in caregiving.

**Sara Batkie** was born in Seattle and raised in Connecticut and Iowa. She received an MFA in Fiction from New York University in 2010. Previous work has appeared in *Gulf Coast*, *New Orleans Review*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and received mention in *Best American Short Stories 2011*. Most recently her story "Laika" was awarded a 2017 Pushcart Prize. Currently she lives in Brooklyn where she recently completed a novel.

**Michele Bombardier** is a Northwest poet whose work appears in *Floating Bridge Review*, *The Examined Life Journal*, *Sukoon*, *Fourth River*, and *Artemis*. She is pursuing an MFA in poetry at Pacific University. She works in private practice as a speech-language pathologist with persons with stroke, traumatic brain injury, and autism.

**Conor Burke** is a teaching fellow and PhD candidate in poetry at the University of North Texas. He holds an MFA from the University of Maryland, a BA from Western Michigan University, and has received scholarships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. He was previously managing editor and is currently production editor at the *American Literary Review*, and he also serves as a reader for *Best of the Net*. "The Orthotist" is his first publication.

**Shawn Campbell** was born in eastern Oregon in 1983 after a harrowing drive through a thick fog. He currently resides in Portland, Oregon where he works as an economist and lives with a lovely house plant named Morton. “The Trap” is his ninth published short story. His first novel, *The Uncanny Valley*, was recently published on Amazon.

**Robert Carr** is the author of *Amaranth*, a chapbook published in 2016 by Indolent Books. Recent publications include *New Verse News*, *Radius Literary Journal*, *Pretty Owl Poetry*, *White Stag Journal*, *The Pickled Body*, *The Good Men Project*, and *Dark Matter Journal*. [www.robertcarr.org](http://www.robertcarr.org)

**Andrés Cerpa** was raised in Staten Island, New York. He holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Delaware and an MFA from Rutgers University–Newark. He is a recipient of a fellowship from the MacDowell Colony and a scholarship from the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. His poems appear in *The Cider Press Review*, *Hayden’s Ferry Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Devil’s Lake*, and *West Branch*.

**Michael Chin** was born and raised in Utica, New York and is a recent alum of the MFA program in creative writing at Oregon State. He won the 2014 Jim Knudsen Editor’s Prize for fiction from the University of New Orleans. His work appears in *The Normal School*, the *Prairie Schooner* online, *Word Riot*, and *Gravel*. [www.miketchin.com](http://www.miketchin.com)

**Ellen Collins** taught for over twenty years in Fairfax County schools in Virginia and for four years at the Elizabeth Ayres Center for Creative Writing. She is the author of a book of poetry, *The Memory Thief*. Her stories and poems appear in *No Place Like Here: An Anthology of Southern Delaware Poetry and Prose*, *The Beach House*, *Referential*, and *Broadkill Review*. She is an active member of the Rehoboth Beach Writers Guild.

**Anne Colwell**, an English professor at the University of Delaware, has published two books of poems: *Believing Their Shadows* (Word Poetry, 2010) and *Mother’s Maiden Name* (Word Poetry, 2013). She writes poetry and fiction and won the 2013 Emerging Artist in Fiction Award for her novel, *Holy Day*.

**Rebecca Ellis** lives in southern Illinois. Her poems have been published in *Naugatuck River Review*, *Sugar Mule*, *Sweet*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Natural Bridge*, *Adanna*, *RHINO*, and *Crab Creek Review*. She was the editor of Cherry Pie Press, publishing nine poetry chapbooks by Midwestern women poets. She writes poems as a way of collecting what is important and what wants to be remembered.

**Kate Falvey's** work has been published in many journals and anthologies. Her collection, *The Language of Little Girls*, is forthcoming from David Robert Books. She edits the *2 Bridges Review*, published through City Tech/CUNY where she teaches literature and creative writing.

**Laura Foley** is the author of five poetry collections, including *Joy Street*, *Syringa*, and *Night Ringing*. Her poem "Gratitude List" won the Common Good Books poetry contest and was read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*. Her poem "Nine Ways of Looking at Light" won the Joe Gouveia Outermost Poetry Contest, judged by Marge Piercy. A palliative care volunteer in hospitals, she lives with her partner and three big dogs among the hills of Vermont.

**Landon Godfrey** is the author of *Second-Skin Rhinestone-Spangled Nude Soufflé Chiffon Gown* (Cider Press Review, 2011), selected by David St. John for the Cider Press Review Book Award. She edits, designs, and prints the letterpress postcard broadside journal *Croquet* with Gary Hawkins.

**Deborah Golub** is a cultural traumatologist and board-certified art therapist who has worked with remote tribal communities, indigenous healers, and survivors of war, torture, genocide, political repression, and refugee flight. In addition to her scholarly publications, her poems and nonfiction have appeared in *Salmagundi*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Jubilat*, *Poetry Daily*, *The American Scholar*, *Commentary*; her visual art in magazines, group and solo exhibition. She currently is working on a book-length memoir.

**David Heald** has been photographing art, architecture, and the natural landscape for over 35 years. His work is represented in many private and public collections, including the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, and the Bibliotheque Nationale de France. Heald is currently Director of Photography at the Guggenheim Museum. [www.davidhealdstudio.com](http://www.davidhealdstudio.com)

**Cambron Henderson** oversees the operations for a consulting firm that works with clinical trials. She is a founding member of the Cobble Hill Writer's Group and has participated in the Writing Salon in San Francisco and the Sackett Street Writers' Workshop in Brooklyn. "Et Tu?" is her first published story. She lives in Brooklyn.

**Mia Herman** received an MFA in Creative Writing from Hofstra University in 2013. Since then, her poems have appeared in *Minerva Rising*, *F(r)iction*, *here/there:poetry*, *Narrateur: Reflections on Caring*, and *Northwind*. Her essay "Leap of Faith" won Honorable Mention in the 2014 Tom Howard/John H. Reid Fiction & Essay Contest. Currently, Mia is the Outreach Director and Junior Editor for Tethered by Letters, a literary nonprofit and independent publisher.

**Natalie Homer** is an MFA candidate at West Virginia University and the poetry editor for *The Doctor T.J. Eckleburg Review*. Her poetry appears in *Salamander*, *The Lascaux Review*, and *Sierra Nevada Review*.

**Stephen Jarrett** is a fiction writer from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Alabama, where he was a Graduate Council Thesis Fellow. His fiction has appeared in *New Ohio Review*, *Quarterly West*, and *Moon City Review*. [www.stephenmjarrett.com](http://www.stephenmjarrett.com)

**Ariana-Sophia Kartsonis** teaches at Columbus College of Art & Design. Her most recent collection, *The Rub*, winner of the Elixir Editor's Prize, was published in 2014.

**R.L. Maizes** is a writer based in Colorado. Her stories have appeared in *Witness*, *The Barcelona Review*, *Blackbird*, *Slice*, and *The MacGuffin*. She received Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open Contest and won *Slice Magazine's* 2012 Spring Spotlight Competition. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other national publications. She is working on a collection of short stories.

**Michael Mark** is a hospice volunteer and long-distance walker. He is the author of two books of stories, *Toba* and *At the Hands of a Thief* (Atheneum). His poetry appears in *Cimarron Review*, *Cutthroat Journal*, *Gargoyle Magazine*, *Prelude Magazine*, *Poet Lore*, *Potomac Review*, *Rattle*, *Spillway*, *Taboma Literary Review*, and *Sugar House Review*. His poetry has been nominated for three Pushcart Prizes and the Best of the Net. [www.michaeljmark.com](http://www.michaeljmark.com)

**Toni Mirosevich** is the author of *Pink Harvest*, winner of the First Series in CNF Award, and five other books of poetry and prose. Nonfiction stories from her new manuscript, *Spell Heaven*, have appeared in *Pleiades*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *North American Review*, and *Bellevue Literary Review*. She is a professor of creative writing at San Francisco State University.

**Jennifer Molnar** is the author of the chapbook *Occam's Razor*. Her work appears in *Duende*, *New South*, *So to Speak*, *Hawai'i Review*, and *Best New Poets*. She received an MFA from George Mason University and currently resides in New York.

**Thomas R. Moore** has published two poetry books, *The Bolt-Cutters* (2010) and *Chet Sawing* (2012). Two poems from *The Bolt-Cutters* were featured on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac* in January 2011, and one was a 2012 Pushcart nominee. His poem "Chet Sawing" won first prize the 2011 Maine Postmark Poetry Contest. His third book, *Saving Nails*, is forthcoming from Moon Pie Press. He lives with his wife Leslie, an artist and writer, in Belfast, Maine.

**Ricardo Pau-Llosa** is the author of seven books of poetry, the last five with Carnegie Mellon University Press. His latest is *Man* (2014). A previous contributor to the *Bellevue Literary Review*, he has new work

in *American Poetry Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Hudson Review*, *JAMA*, *New England Review*, and *Stand*. [www.pau-llosa.com](http://www.pau-llosa.com)

**Heather Wells Peterson** has an MFA in Fiction Writing from the University of Florida. Her work appears in *Lit Hub*, *Subtropics*, *Lucky Peach*, and *The Collagist*. She lives in Vermont, where she is working with her agent to place her first novel. [www.heatherwells.peterson.com](http://www.heatherwells.peterson.com)

**Francine Prose** is a novelist and critic whose most recent book is *Peggy Guggenheim: The Shock of the Modern*. Her previous books include the novels *Lovers at the Chameleon Club: Paris 1932*, *My New American Life*, *Goldengrove*, *A Changed Man*, and *Blue Angel*, which was a finalist for the 2001 National Book Award, and the nonfiction *New York Times* bestseller *Reading Like a Writer: A Guide For People Who Love Books and For Those Who Want to Write Them*. She writes frequently for the *New York Times Book Review* and the *New York Review of Books*. She is a past president of PEN American Center and a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She is a Distinguished Visiting Writer at Bard College.

**Lukas Ramcharran** is a student at NYU School of Medicine. Originally from Miami, Florida, he recently completed an MBA at NYU and intends to specialize in Emergency Medicine. Lukas worked as a graphic designer prior to medical school. He considers himself “an artist in a white coat,” as his love of design centers him outside of the walls of medicine.

**Billy Reynolds** was born and raised in Huntsville, Alabama (“The Rocket City”). He has been awarded scholarships in poetry from the Sewanee Writers’ Conference and Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. His poems have been published in *32 Poems*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, *Sewanee Theological Review*, and *Zone 3*. Currently, he lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Stephanie Rogers** received her MFA from UNC-Greensboro and now lives in New York City. Her first collection of poems, *Plucking the Stinger*, is forthcoming from Saturnalia Books in October.

**Nicholas Samaras** won The Yale Series of Younger Poets Award for his first book, *Hands of the Saddlemaker*. His latest book, *American Psalm, World Psalm*, is published by Ashland Poetry Press.

**Pamela Schmid** is the creative nonfiction editor at *Sleet*, an online magazine, and spent more than a decade as a staff writer for the *Star Tribune* of Minneapolis. She was the 2013-14 Loft Mentor Series winner in nonfiction, and a runner-up for the *Sycamore Review's* 2014 Wabash Prize for Nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *River Teeth*, *Taboma Literary Review*, and *Blue Mesa Review*. She holds an MFA degree from Hamline University. [www.pamelaschmid.com](http://www.pamelaschmid.com)

**Peter Selgin** has written a novel, two books on the craft of writing, and several children's books. His book *Drowning Lessons* won the 2007 Flannery O'Connor Award for fiction. His memoir-in-essays, *Confessions of a Left-Handed Man*, was shortlisted for the William Saroyan Prize. His latest memoir, *The Inventors*, was named a Best Memoir of 2016 by *Library Journal*. He teaches at Georgia College.

**Leissa Shahrak** lives in Asheville, North Carolina with a retired neurologist, a spoiled Shih-Tzu, and the occasional visiting black bear. Her short story, "Baseball Cards," told from the point of view of a man with Alzheimer's, was published in England by the Coalition on Dying Matters. Her fiction has appeared in *Del Sol Review*, including the review's "Best of" issue, and in *eScene*. She is currently working on a novel exploring cross-cultural tensions during political instability in 1970s Iran.

**Evelyn Sharenov's** stories and essays have appeared in *Glimmer Train*, *Oregon Humanities Magazine*, *Fugue*, the *New York Times*, and *Front Porch Journal*, as well as numerous anthologies. Her work has been chosen as notable in *Best American Short Stories* and she has received fellowships and grants from the Oregon Arts Commission and Oregon Literary Arts. After receiving a degree in literature and philosophy from Hunter College, she went on to study psychiatric nursing and became a practitioner in Portland, Oregon.

**Noah Stetzer** is a graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and also a scholarship recipient from the Lambda Literary Retreat for Emerging LGBT Writers and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. His chapbook *Because I Can See Needing a Knife* (Red Bird) will be published in late 2016. [www.noahstetzer.com](http://www.noahstetzer.com)

**Kailey Tedesco** believes poetry is the closest thing we have to magic. She received her MFA from Arcadia University, and she has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She is the editor-in-chief of *Rag Queen Periodical* and a new member of the Poetry Brothel. Her work appears in *FLAPPERHOUSE*, *Menacing Hedge*, and *Prick of the Spindle*. [www.kaileytedesco.com](http://www.kaileytedesco.com)

**Carolyn Thorman** has published a novel and a short story collection. Her work appears in *Cincinnati Review*, *Piedmont*, the *Saint Andrews Review*, the Houston Poetry Fest's annual anthology, and *Ihya's Honey* in which her story was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. She has received three works-in-progress grants from the Maryland State Arts Council as well as Maryland's one-time Literary Fellowship. She holds degrees in Law and Anthropology. Currently she teaches English at the College of the Mainland and divides her time between Houston and Malaga, Spain.

**Ken Victor** has been published in literary journals in the United States and Canada, including *Fiddlehead*, *The Malabat Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and *The Painted Bride Quarterly*. In Canada, he received a National Magazine Award for poetry. Originally from Boston, Ken now makes his home in the hills of West Quebec.

**Wendy Wisner** is the author of two books of poems, and her essays and poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Spoon River Review*, *Nashville Review*, *Minnesota Review*, *The Washington Post*, *Full Grown People*, *Brain*, and *Child Magazine*. She lives in New York with her husband and two sons. [www.wendywisner.com](http://www.wendywisner.com)