

Contributors' Notes

Yvette Benavides teaches English at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Her work appears in *Latina*, *Mothering*, *Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas*, *The Texas Observer*, *The Rivard Report*, *Conexión*, *Plaza de Armas*, and in the anthologies *Is This Forever or What?* and *The Pedagogy of Pop*. Her short fiction has been published in the *Linden Avenue Literary Journal* and *SOL: English Writing in Mexico*, and is forthcoming in *Huizache*.

Erica Cavanagh is a graduate of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. She is writing a memoir about being a woman in Benin. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *North American Review*, and *Gastronomica*. She lives in the Shenandoah Valley with her husband and teaches nonfiction writing and food studies at James Madison University.

Pat Daneman has published fiction and poetry in *The Moon City Review*, *I-70 Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Stone Canoe*, and *The Comstock Review*. Her chapbook, *Where the World Begins*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press. She is senior poetry editor of *Kansas City Voices* magazine and lives in Lenexa, Kansas.

Ginger Eager teaches remedial reading and writing at Georgia Military College. Her work has appeared in *Terrain.org*, *Blue Collar Review*, *The Georgia Review*, and *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. She currently lives in Decatur, Georgia with her husband and son, but previously lived in Pattaya, Thailand, the setting for her story in this journal.

Jacob L. Freedman is a psychiatrist practicing outside of Boston. He has written and lectured on a wide variety of topics, worked as a healthcare consultant, and is clearly Grandma's favorite for lots of good reasons beyond the fact that he made it through Harvard. He is happy to talk with people if they pay his shockingly affordable fees for psychotherapy and/or promise to laugh at his jokes.

Ben Goldfarb is a freelance environmental writer and correspondent at *High Country News*, for which he reports on wildlife, ecology, and, whenever possible, issues involving fish. His journalism has appeared in *The Guardian*, *OnEarth Magazine*, and *Earth Island Journal*, and his fiction has appeared in the *Allegheny Review*. Raised in Hastings-on-Hudson, he has since lived in Thailand, Alaska, and Colorado. He is very slowly working on his first novel.

Jessica Greenbaum is the author of *The Two Yvonnees*, which was chosen by Paul Muldoon for Princeton University's Series of Contemporary Poets in 2012 and was voted by *Library Journal* one of the Best Books in Poetry that year. A social worker, she runs poetry groups for older adults, and is interested in working with other non-traditional groups. She is the poetry editor of *upstreet* and teaches at Barnard College.

Marylen Grigas works at an architectural stained glass studio in Burlington, Vermont and occasionally teaches poetry at a local college. Her poems appear in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, and *The New Yorker*.

Meg Kearney is author of *Home By Now*, winner of the 2010 PEN New England LL Winship Award for Poetry, and *An Unkindness of Ravens*. Her picture book, *Trouper*, was published by Scholastic in 2013, and her other books include two novels-in-verse for teens—*The Secret of Me*, and its sequel *The Girl in the Mirror*. She is Director of the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing Program of Pine Manor College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts.

Kathryn A. Kopple is a specialist in Latin American literature. Her poetry and prose can be found in *The Threepenny Review*, *Construction Lit Mag*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *Sleet*, *The Hummingbird Review*, *Danse Macabre*, *Metropolis*, *Contemporary Haibun Online*, *Haydens Ferry Review blog*, *Lakeview International Journal of Literature and Art*, and *100 Word Story*.

Greg McBride is the author of *Porthole*, Liam Rector First Book Prize for Poetry, and *Back of the Envelope*. His awards include the *Boulevard* Emerging Poet prize and a grant in poetry from the Maryland State Arts Council. His work appears in *Belleme Literary Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *River Styx*, *Salmagundi*, and *Southern Poetry Review*. A Vietnam veteran and lawyer, he edits *The Innisfree Poetry Journal*.

Matt W. Miller is the author of the poetry collections *Cameo Diner* and *Club Icarus*, which won the 2012 Vassar Miller Poetry Prize. He is a former Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University and has published work in *Slate*, *Harvard Review*, *Memorious*, *Poetry Daily*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Southern Review*, and *The Rumpus*. He teaches and coaches at Phillips Exeter Academy where he also directs the Writers' Workshop at PEA.

Keya Mitra is an assistant professor of creative writing and literature at Pacific University and completed her MFA and PhD at the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program. In 2008 Keya spent a year in India on a Fulbright grant in creative writing. Her fiction is forthcoming in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Southwest Review*, *Arts and Letters*, and *Slush Pile*, and has appeared in *Best New American Voices*, *Ontario Review*, *Orchid*, *Event*, *Fourteen Hills*, *Torpedo*, and *Confrontation*.

Matt Morton was a finalist for the 2013 Ruth Lilly Fellowship as well as *Narrative's* 30 Below Contest. His poems appear in *West Branch*, *Colorado Review*, *Cincinnati Review*, and *32 Poems*. Originally from Rockwall, Texas, he teaches creative writing and literature at Johns Hopkins University.

Joel W. Nelson spent most of his childhood in the Sub-Saharan countries of Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire. He has an MFA in Poetry from Spalding University and lives with his wife and son in Louisville, Kentucky.

Muriel Nelson is the author of two poetry collections: *Part Song*, winner of the Dorothy Brunsman Poetry Book Prize, and *Most Wanted*, winner of the ByLine Chapbook Award. Nominated twice for the Pushcart Prize, her work has appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Hunger Mountain*, *The New Republic*, *Ploughshares*, and on *Verse Daily* and *Poetry Daily*. She lives near Seattle.

JoLee G. Passerini holds an MFA from the University of Alabama. She teaches at Eastern Florida State College, where she also sponsors the student creative writing club, The Writers' Haven. JoLee's poems have appeared in *Rattle*, *Nimrod*, *Diagram*, and *Spoon River*. Teaching full-time, JoLee let her poetry languish for several years. She thanks her students for encouraging her to "get busy, start writing again, and send some stuff out."

Linda Pastan's most recent book, *Traveling Light*, was published in 2011. She was Poet Laureate of Maryland from 1991-1995, and in 2003 she won the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize. Her fourteenth book of poems will be called *Insomnia*.

Candace Pearson is a freelance writer/editor in Los Angeles. Her poems focus on memory and loss, place, and the search for family. Her book, *Hour of Unfolding*, won the 2010 Liam Rector First Book Prize for Poetry from Briery Creek Press, Longwood University. A multiple Pushcart Prize nominee, she has published in *Ploughshares*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *MARGIE*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Cider Press Review*, and *PoemMemoirStory*.

Jeanine Pfeiffer is an ethno-ecologist who focuses on bio-cultural diversity. After working in over thirty countries, she settled in Northern California, where she serves as a scientific advisor for local government, tribes, and community-based agencies. She teaches environmental science at San José State University and is the author of *Once Sacred Fruits: Human and Cultural Ecology of the Manggarai, Flores Island* and *Indonesia: Community-Based Biocultural Diversity*. Her poetry appears frequently on the Mendocino County public radio station.

Catherine Prescott is the author of the chapbook *The Living Ruin*. Her poems appear in *The Adirondack Review*, *American Poetry Journal*, *Cumberland River Review*, *Linebreak*, *Poetry East*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *Rattle*. A graduate of NYU's MFA program, Catherine lives with her husband and three school-age children in Miami Beach.

Doug Ramspeck is the author of four poetry books. His most recent collection, *Original Bodies*, was selected for the Michael Waters Poetry Prize at Southern Indiana Review Press. Two earlier books also received awards: *Mechanical Fireflies* (Barrow Street Press Poetry Prize), and *Black Tupelo Country* (John Ciardi Prize). His poems appear in *The Kenyon Review*, *Slate*, *The Southern Review*, and *The Georgia Review*.

Mark Rigney is the author of numerous plays, including *Acts of God*, *Bears*, and *Ten Red Kings*, with productions in twenty states plus Canada, including off-Broadway. His first novel, *Check-Out Time*, is forthcoming. His short fiction appears in *Unlikely Story*, *Beloit Fiction Journal*, *Black Gate*, *Belleme Literary Review*, and *Witness*.

Nicholas Samaras won The Yale Series of Younger Poets Award for his first book, *Hands of the Saddlemaker*. His new book, *American Psalm, World Psalm* (2014) is published by Ashland Poetry Press.

Martha Serpas has published two collections of poetry, *Côte Blanche* and *The Dirty Side of the Storm*. Her third, *The Diener*, will be published by LSU Press in early 2015. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Image*, and *Southwest Review*. Active in efforts to restore Louisiana's wetlands, she co-produced *Veins in the Gulf*, a documentary about coastal erosion. She teaches at the University of Houston and serves as a hospital trauma chaplain.

Hal Sirowitz has had Parkinson's disease for twenty years. His first poem about Parkinson's was published in *BLR*. His latest book of poetry, *Stray Cat Blues*, was awarded The Nebraska Book Prize 2013 Poetry Book Competition.

Andrea Witzke Slot writes poetry, fiction, essays, and academic work, and is particularly interested in how and where these genres intersect. She is the author of the poetry collection *To find a new beauty*, and her work appears in *Southeast Review*, *Poetry East*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *Nimrod*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Stephen Truman Sugg is a recovering lobbyist, rural sociologist, educator, and doctoral candidate at the College of William and Mary. His experiences as a Congressional staffer and as an agricultural laborer contributed equally to "Vertical Integration," his debut fiction publication. He also writes children's fiction, has published several op-ed pieces, and has a story forthcoming in *Midwestern Gothic*. He lives in Rockville, Maryland, with his wife, toddler, and infant twins.

Dennis James Sweeney has published in *DIAGRAM*, *Indiana Review*, *Mid-American Review*, and *Unstuck*. He has two chapbooks: *What They Took Away* and *THREATS*. He lives in Corvallis, Oregon.

Steven Swiryn is a cardiologist and Adjunct Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Northwestern University. Retired from clinical medicine, he continues research and teaching, and occasionally performs in coffeehouses and bars as a singer-songwriter. He is working on a memoir of his time in medicine called *Rhythms and Blues*. "The Unicycle" is his first fiction publication.

Glenn Vanstrum, a physician, surfer, and pianist, has published short fiction in *Belleme Literary Review*, *LITnIMAGE*, and *THEMA*. His book of nature writing, *The Saltwater Wilderness*, won a San Diego Book Award. Essays have appeared in *Sierra* and the *Los Angeles Times*. He has written six novels and is gestating a seventh.

Rhonda Browning White resides in Port Orange, Florida with her husband, Randy, and son, Jacob. She has an MFA from Converse College in South Carolina. Her short stories, essays, and poetry have appeared in *Ploughshares* "Writing Lessons", *Steel Toe Review*, *Gambit*, *Bluestone Review*, *Thrive*, *WV Executive*, in the literary anthologies *Appalachia's Last Stand*, *Seeking the Swan*, and *Mountain Voices: Illuminating the Character of West Virginia*. She works as an editor, speaker and ghostwriter for Inspiration For Writers, Inc.

Kenny Williams' poems appear in *Gulf Coast*, *Lake Effect*, *FIELD*, *Storyscape*, *Fence*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Rattle*, the *American Literary Review*, and *Kenyon Review Online*. He lives in Richmond, Virginia, and holds an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Lindsay Wilson, an English professor in Reno, Nevada, edits the literary journal *The Meadow*. His fifth chapbook, *Black-Footed Country*, will be published this year. Other poetry has appeared in *The Portland Review*, *Verses Daily*, *The Minnesota Review*, *Salamander*, and the *South Dakota Review*.

William Kelley Woolfitt teaches creative writing and American literature at Lee University in Tennessee. He is the author of a book of poetry, *Beauty Strip* and a fiction chapbook, *The Boy with Fire in His Mouth*. His writing appears in *Shenandoah*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *River Styx*.

Felicia Zamora is the author of the chapbook *Moby-Dick Made Me Do It*. Her writing appears in *ellipsis...literature and art*, *Harpur Palate*, *Puerto del Sol*, *The Laurel Review*, *The Journal*, *The Normal School*, *The Pinch Journal*, and *Witness Magazine*. She is an associate poetry editor for the *Colorado Review*, a 2012 Martha's Vineyard Writers Residency poet, and holds an MFA in Creative Writing from Colorado State University.