New York and Europe reads like a modernist index: H.D., Mina Loy, Marianne Moore, James Joyce, E.E. Cummings, Gertrude Stein, Wallace Stevens, and, his life-long friend and sparring partner, Ezra Pound, to name a few.

Yet he was also an uneasy outsider, ensconced in his hard-won day-job in Rutherford, New Jersey, a champion of the American idiom who grew up with the sounds of Spanish in his home. In his autobiography, Williams describes, almost comically, how he managed his shifts from working doctor to working poet, conceding that “[n]o matter what I was writing, the practice always came first.”

Williams’ medical practice among the immigrant poor of Northern New Jersey grounded him and fueled his art. He brought, like Chekhov, an “empathic curiosity and indignation” to his patients and their plights. With a scientist’s unflinching gaze, he recognizes that “[t]here’s nothing like a difficult patient to show us ourselves.”

Leibowitz writes: “A writer who attempts to live by uncompromising aesthetic principles can end up a pariah like Poe or confined like Pound in a solipsistic and real jail. Williams avoided these fates” through his love of the natural world, faith in the imagination’s transforming power, and devotion to the medical, as well as literary arts.

Leibowitz’s biography gives us new ways to think about much of Williams’ work, notably his 1925 *In the American Grain*, “a highly unorthodox, hybrid approach to historical narrative” with “poetic prose” that is “remarkably poised, idiomatic, piercing, and protean.” Leibowitz’s great appreciation of Williams in all his phases invigorates his analyses of the life in the work. Even at his most piercing, Leibowitz is a rousing guide who impels us to read and re-read Williams in all his urgent lyric variety.

Kate Falvey’s poetry and fiction have been published in numerous print and online journals. She is the editor-in-chief of the 2 Bridges Review and teaches at New York City College of Technology of the City University of New York.

**Contributors’ Notes**

Laura Adamczyk’s fiction has won awards from the Union League Civic & Arts Foundation of Chicago and has appeared in *Washington Square*, *Passages North*, P-ANK, *Son’wester*, and *Necessary Fiction*.

Deb Baker is a reference librarian in New Hampshire and the author of *The Nocturnal Librarian* and bookconscious blogs. Her poems have appeared in journals and anthologies in Europe, North America, and Japan. She reviews New England books for the “Mindful Reader” column of the Concord Monitor, and writes the “Publishing Trends” column for New Hampshire Writers’ Project.

Nina Bannett is an associate professor of English and department chairperson at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Her chapbook, *Lithium Witness*, was published in 2011 by Finishing Line Press. She has previously been published in *Open Minds Quarterly*.

A.M. Brant’s poems have appeared in *Rhino*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Harpur Palate*, and have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Pittsburgh.

Michael Byers is the author of the story collection *The Coast of Good Intentions*, the novella *The Broken Man*, and two novels, *Long for This World* and *Percival’s Planet*. His nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. A former Stegner Fellow, he directs the MFA program at the University of Michigan.

Sarah Cedeño’s nonfiction has appeared in *Literary Mama*, and her short fiction in *Redactions Journal*. She has a poem in the anthology *Love Rise Up* by Benu Press. Sarah lives in Brockport with her husband and two sons. She teaches creative writing at SUNY-Brockport and is an MFA candidate at Goddard College in Vermont.
Laura Ender earned her MFA at Eastern Washington University, where she served as an assistant managing editor for Willow Springs. She is a contributing writer for Bark (theking.com) and writes her own blog, The Sensitive Bookish Type. Her fiction has appeared in Ascent, Phoebe, Monkeybicycle, and PANK.

Edward Hamlin recently completed a novel, Sleeping with Her, about dream life and the unconscious in the wake of 9/11, while continuing to write much (much) shorter stories. His story “Phone Phone Gun” will be staged in the 2012 season of Selected Shorts. Another story, “The Release,” was chosen as a finalist for the Colorado Review’s 2012 Nelligan Prize. Hamlin lives and writes in the foothills outside Boulder, Colorado.

Gary Hanna has received two poetry fellowships from the Delaware Division of the Arts and another from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. His poetry has appeared in over sixty journals and he has won four small national contests. He is on the editorial board of the Broadkill Review and is manager of the Writer’s Library in Delaware.

Henry Hart is the Mildred and J.B. Hickman Professor of Humanities at the College of William and Mary. He has published three books of poetry and scholarly studies of Seamus Heaney, Robert Lowell, and Geoffrey Hill. His biography of James Dickey was a finalist for the Southern Book Critics’ Circle Award in 2000. His poems and essays have appeared in The New Yorker, Poetry, The Sewanee Review, The Georgia Review, and Denver Quarterly.

Lynne Knight has published four collections of poetry and four chapbooks. Her awards include the Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, an NEA grant, and the 2009 RATTLE Poetry Prize. She lives in Berkeley, California.

Alex Lemon is the author of Happy: A Memoir and three collections of poetry: Mosquito, Hallelujah Blackout, and Fancy Beasts. He lives in Fort Worth, and teaches at Texas Christian University.

Catherine Lewis is the author of numerous short stories and two novels, Dry Fire and Postcards to Father Abraham, as well as the forthcoming book Thrice-Told Tales. She is an associate professor of creative writing at Purchase College, SUNY.

Nylah Lyman holds an MFA in poetry from the University of Southern Maine’s Stonecoast Creative Writing program. Her poems are forthcoming in Arcadia Magazine, Cider Press Review, The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review and Cartographer. She resides in York County, Maine and is poetry editor at Chocorua Review.

Toni Mirosevich is the author of five books of poetry and prose, most recently The Takeaway Bin. Her book of nonfiction stories, Pink Harvest, received the First Series in Creative Nonfiction Award. My Oblique Strategies won the Frank O’Hara Chapbook Award. Her work has appeared in Best of the Bellevue Literary Review, Best American Travel Writing, Kenyon Review and is forthcoming in Gastronomica, Hayden’s Ferry Review and, Phoebe. She is a creative writing professor at San Francisco State University.


Ricardo Pau-Llosa has published six books of poetry, the last four with Carnegie Mellon University Press. He has new work in Epoch, Passages North, Poetry, Southern Review, and Stand.
Andrea Rochat received an MFA from Penn State in 2011 with a joint thesis in fiction and nonfiction. She remains in State College, Pennsylvania where she works as a composition instructor for the university, an editor and writer for the local nonprofit newspaper, Voices of Central Pennsylvania, and a freelance illustrator and ceramicist for anyone else. “Yellow Fog” is her first literary publication.

Elizabeth Scarboro has written two children’s novels, The Secret Language of the S.B. and Phoenix, Upside Down. Her upcoming memoir, My Foreign Cities, describes her life with her first husband who had cystic fibrosis, and will be published in April 2013. She wrote “No Man’s Land” over ten years ago, but only recently had the heart to unearth it from the bottom of her desk drawer. Scarboro lives with her family in Northern California.

Carolyn Welch Scarbrough’s poetry and fiction have appeared in Gulf Coast, Poet Lore, Sundog, Tar River Poetry, Conduit, Connecticut River Review, High Desert Journal, The Southeast Review, Zone 3, The Minnesota Review, and American Journal of Nursing. Her poem “Rain Run” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize and her manuscript In the Garden of Fragile Beings was a finalist for the May Swenson Book Award. She has an MFA from Bennington College. She works as a pediatric I.C.U. nurse and teaches the occasional writing class.

Staci R. Schoenfeld is an MFA candidate in poetry at Southern Illinois University and a poetry editor at Revolution House. She was a finalist in Yemassee’s 2012 Pocataligo Poetry Contest and was awarded an Artist Enrichment Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women in 2010. Her poems appear in Bigger Than They Appear: Anthology of Very Short Poems, Appalachian Heritage, Still, and The Chaffey Review.

Nikki Schulak received her BA from Sarah Lawrence College. She used to handle alligators at the Bronx Zoo and is now completing work on a collection of personal essays called My Mid-life Thong Crisis and Other True Stories About Bodies. She lives in Portland, Oregon.

Caleb Scott is a poet, playwright and actor. A graduate of Dartmouth College, Caleb was awarded a Senior Fellowship for his translation of the “Carmina Burana” poems. In 2010, he received a Full Writer’s Stipend from the Can Serrat International Arts Center in Spain to complete work on Songs About Loving a Tree. His first book, U.F.O., written in collaboration with photographer Alex Wright and visual artist Jack Warren, was published in 2006 by PowerHouse Books. He lives in Brooklyn and West Hollywood.

Kevin Simmonds is a San Francisco-based writer, musician and filmmaker originally from New Orleans. His writing has appeared in jubilat, Kyoto Journal, Massachusetts Review and Poetry. He is the author of the poetry collection Mad for Meat. He wrote the music for the documentaries Hope: Living and Loving with HIV in Jamaica and Voices of Haiti: A Post-Quake Odyssey in Verse, both commissioned by the Pulitzer Center. His genre-defying films, including feti(sh)ame and Singing Whitman, have screened internationally.

Tom Sleigh’s many books include Army Cats and Space Walk, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award. He has received the PSA’s Shelley Prize, an American Academy in Berlin Fellowship, the Updike Award and an Academy Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, a Lila Wallace Individual Writer’s Award, a Guggenheim and two NEA grants, among others. He teaches at Hunter College and lives in Brooklyn.

Julie Stielstra has managed hospital libraries for over twenty years, enduring all requisite management trends. She served as the Central DuPage Hospital liaison for the Illinois Humanities Council’s Literature and Medicine program. Her work has appeared in Zahir Tales, Potomac Review, New Plains Review, Copperfield Review, the Chicago Tribune and the Great Bend Tribune. She and her husband divide their time between the Chicago area and rural Kansas.

Zhanna Vaynberg was born in Chernovtsy, Ukraine and moved to the Midwest in 1991 at the age of five. She is a freelance editor and recent graduate of the masters in Writing & Publishing program at DePaul University. Recently, she was published in After Hours, Burning Word, Euphony Journal, and Threshold. “Things You Should Never Tell Your Mother” also won an honorable mention in Glimmer Train’s August 2011 Short Story Award for New Writers.

Sharon Venezio received an MA in creative writing from San Francisco State University. Her forthcoming collection, The Silence of Doorways, will be released by Moon Tide Press in 2013. She is a co-director of the Valley Contemporary Poets. Her poems have appeared in Two Hawks Quarterly, Reed, Transfer, and Folly. She works as a behavior analyst in Los Angeles. (sharonvenezio.com)

Monica Wendel is the author of No Apocalypse (forthcoming from Georgetown Review Press) and the chapbook Call it a Window. A graduate of New York University’s MFA program, she has taught creative writing at Goldwater Hospital, St. Mary’s Children’s Hospital, and NYU.

Wendy Wisner is the author of a book of poems, Epicenter, and a chapbook, Another Place of Rocking. Her book reviews appear regularly in Lilith Magazine, and her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including Prairie Schooner, The Spoon River Review, Rhino, Natural Bridge, 5AM, and Verse Daily. She lives in Bayside, New York with her husband and son.

Jake Wolff holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His stories and essays have appeared in One Story, CutBank, Third Coast, Son’wester, Redivider, Sonora Review, and Tin House. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida, where he is pursuing a PhD in creative writing at Florida State University.

Katherine Zlabek received her MFA from Western Michigan University, where she won awards for both fiction and poetry. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in The Madison Review, Artful Dodge, TINGE, and The Dos Passos Review. In 2012, she won the AWP Intro Journals Award. She is currently pursuing her PhD at the University of Cincinnati.