

Contributors' Notes

Mary Akers has an MFA from Queens University of Charlotte and is co-founder of The Institute for Tropical Marine Ecology located in Roseau, Dominica. Her work has appeared in *The Fiddlehead*, *Brevity*, *Primavera*, *Xavier Review*, and *Ars Medica*. In 2008, she co-authored a book of nonfiction, *Radical Gratitude and Other Life Lessons Learned in Siberia*.

Jessica Apple's work has appeared in the *The Southern Review*, the *New York Times Magazine*, and the *Financial Times Magazine*. She lives in Tel Aviv and is at work on a story collection, *Artificial Selection*, and a memoir, *Still Life*.

Amanda Auchter is the editor of *Pebble Lake Review* and the author of the chapbook *Light Under Skin*. Her awards include the 2007 Theodore Morrison Scholarship in Poetry from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the 2006 BOMB Magazine Poetry Prize, and the 2005 James Wright Poetry Award from *Mid-American Review*. Her poems appear in *Barrow Street*, *Court Green*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, and *The Iowa Review*.

E. Dianne Bechtel teaches Freshman Composition, Argument and Analysis, and Creative Writing at the University of New Mexico. She has also taught at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque. "The Road from Cubabi" is her first published story, and is part of a collection entitled *The Trouble with Eve*.

Barbara Bowen is managing director of Sound Knowledge Strategies, where she is a knowledge cartographer. She has received a grant from The Artist Trust for poetry about destroyed artifacts in the Iraqi History Museum. Her poems have appeared in *thedrunkenboat.com*, *Poets Against War*, *Literary Salt*, and *Minotaur*, and have been anthologized by the Washington Poets Association and in *Night Bringing Feathers: An Anthology of Northwest Crow Poems*. She has an MFA from Warren Wilson College.

Maureen Brady is the author of three novels, including *Ginger's Fire* and *Folly*, the short story collection, *The Question She Put to Herself*, and three books of nonfiction. She is currently at work on a novel and a memoir. She teaches creative writing at New York University, The New York Writers Workshop at JCC, and Il Chioistro in Italy. She divides her time between New York City and Woodstock, New York.

Maud Casey is the author of two novels: *Genealogy* and *The Shape of Things to Come*, which was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. She has also published a collection of short stories, *Drastic*. She teaches at the University of Maryland and lives in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Elmore holds an MS Ed. in Reading, Writing and Literacy from the University of Pennsylvania and a MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College. She won the Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Competition in 2005 and received the Gulf Coast Prize for Poetry in 2007. Her work has appeared in the *Bennington Review*, *Hacks*, and on the walls of Boston City Hall.

Steve Gehrke's third book of poetry, *Michelangelo's Seizure*, was selected for the National Poetry Series and published by the University of Illinois Press in 2007. His poetry collection, *The Pyramids of Malpighi* (Anhinga 2004), won the Philip Levine Prize. Other awards include a Pushcart Prize and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. He teaches at Seton Hall University in New Jersey.

Linda Gorelova teaches special education in an urban high school in Ohio, where she lives with her son. Previously, she worked for the State Department as a Russian/English interpreter, and has translated numerous articles, two monographs, and a screenplay. Her family is from Floyd County, Kentucky.

Jessica Greenbaum was born in Brooklyn in 1957 but didn't get to actually live there for thirty years. Her book, *Inventing Difficulty*, was awarded the Gerald Cable Prize (*Silverfish Review Press*, 2000). Poems, essays, and criticism have appeared *The New Yorker*, *Partisan Review*, *Poetry London* and *Salamander*. She is the poetry editor for *upstreet*.

Nellie Hill lives in Berkeley, California, where she has a private acupressure practice. Her writing has appeared in *Poetry East*, *The Harvard Magazine*, *American Poetry Review*, and *The Alaska Quarterly*.

Robin Leslie Jacobson has taught writing through Poets & Writers, California Poets in the Schools, and the Prison University Project at San Quentin. Weaving threads from her training in music, theater, sensory awareness, movement, and subtle touch modalities, she leads private writing workshops

and coaches performing artists. Robin's poems and stories have appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Poetry Flash*, *Natural Bridge*, *Runes*, *Global City Review*, *Poetry East*, and *Crab Orchard Review*.

Leslie Jamison is a graduate of Harvard College and the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her work has appeared in *Best New American Voices*, *A Public Space*, *Tin House*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Studies in American Fiction*, and *Cut Bank*. Her story, "The Wintering Barn," was published as a chapbook by *The Burnside Review*. She is doctoral student in English at Yale University and is currently editing a novel.

Merilee D. Karr is a health/science journalist, family physician, and playwright. She has published in *The Journal of Irreproducible Results*, *JAMA*, *Metroscape*, *The Oregonian*, and *Seattle Weekly*, and has pitched to *Star Trek*. She is an adjunct assistant professor in Family Medicine at Oregon Health and Sciences University, and a Nonfiction Writing student at Portland State University. She is currently writing a book about cultural obstacles to patient safety, entitled *Make an Error, Go to Hell*.

John Kay has lived abroad most of his adult life and currently resides in Heidelberg, Germany. He has an MFA from the University of Arizona. His poems have appeared in *Kayak*, *The New York Quarterly*, *The Wormwood Review*, *Texas Poetry Journal*, and *Clackamas Literary Review*. His chapbook, *Further Evidence of Someone*, is published by Eyclight Press.

Matthew Ladd has been published in *The Paris Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Threepenny Review*, and *West Branch*. He holds an MPhil. in Divinity from the University of Cambridge and an MFA from the University of Florida. He currently lives in Columbus, Ohio, where he teaches at the Columbus College of Art and Design.

Robert Keaton Mac Donald is a painter and writer. He grew up in New York City and has graduate degrees from New York University and the American Film Institute. "The Kid Who Always Won At Checkers" is from an in-progress story cycle, *Frankie X*. He lives in southern California.

Andrea Meade is the pen name of a nonfiction writer. She has written two books focusing on women and is at work on a novel.

Michele Morris was raised on a family cattle ranch in Montana. A graduate of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, she is a magazine writer, editor, and author of *The Cowboy Life*. She began writing “Lady of the Lake” after her mother died of ovarian cancer, but it took ten years to complete. Morris teaches at the University of Utah and is currently writing a novel set in post-war Montana.

Brittany Perham has an MFA from the University of Virginia, where she was a Henry Hoyns Fellow. She won two Academy of American Poets Prizes from Tufts University, and was a finalist for the 2005 Ruth Lilly Prize from *Poetry*. She teaches literature and poetry at James Madison University.

Emily Rapp was a James Michener Fellow in Fiction and Poetry at the University of Texas-Austin. She has received awards from *The Atlantic Monthly*, Yaddo, the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Rona Jaffe Foundation for Emerging Women Writers, and Bucknell University, where she was the Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence. She is the author of *Poster Child: A Memoir*, and teaches in the MFA program at Antioch University-Los Angeles. www.emilyrapp.com

Laurie Rosenblatt practices psychiatry at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Her poems have appeared in *Cranky*, *Salamander*, the *Harvard Review*, *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review* and an anthology from the British National Health Service, *Poems in the Waiting Room*. As the winner of a comic poetry contest, her work appeared in *Little Big Form*, published by Virginia Festival of the Book.

Margaret Ryan has published two books of poetry, *Filling out a Life* and *Black Raspberries*. Her nonfiction books include *Figure Skating*, *How to Write a Poem*, *Extraordinary Oral Presentations*, and *Extraordinary Poetry Writing*. Her poetry has appeared in *The Nation*, *Poetry*, *The American Scholar*, *The Paris Review*, *The Kansas Quarterly*, *Rattapallax*, *Big City Lit.com*, and *The Pushcart Prize: Best of the Small Presses*. She teaches poetry at the 92nd St. Y.

Elaine Sexton is the author of two collections of poems: *Sleuth* and *Causeway*. Her recent poems, reviews, and essays have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *ARTnews*, *New Letters*, *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner* and *River Styx*.

Joan I. Siegel has published poetry in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The American Scholar*, *Commonweal*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Witness*, and *The Gettysburg Review*. A recipient of the New Letters Poetry Prize and the Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award, she co-authored *Peach Girl: Poems for a Chinese Daughter*. She lives in the Hudson Valley of New York with her husband, daughter, and assorted cats.

Maija Stromberg is an MFA candidate at Spalding University. Her stories have been published in *Cicada* and other literary magazines. She lives with her husband and two children in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Cheryl Pearl Sucher is an essayist, journalist, reviewer, and fiction writer who divides her time between New York City and Dunedin, New Zealand. Her first novel, *The Rescue of Memory*, was awarded a NEA Creative Fellowship in Fiction. She is presently completing her second novel, *Lost Cities*, as well as a history of New Zealand’s Southland Jewish Community. “The Next Miracle” is the start of her family memoir.

Dan Toulouse recently completed his first novel, *Zero Man’s Confession*. His work has been published in several literary magazines and online journals. He received his MFA from Lesley University, and lives and teaches in the Boston area.