

Paul Scot August is originally from Chicago but has spent the second half of his life in Wisconsin. He has an MA in Creative Writing from UW-Milwaukee. His poetry has appeared or is upcoming in *South Dakota Review*, *Tygerburning*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Connotation Press An Online-Artifact*, *The Los Angeles Review*, *Sugar House Review*, *Dunes Review*, *Naugatuck River Review*, and elsewhere. He currently lives in the Milwaukee area.

Jessica Barksdale is the author of twelve novels, including *Her Daughter's Eyes* and *When You Go Away*. Her stories and poems have appeared in *Salt Hill Journal*, *Mason's Road*, *Gargoyle*, and many others. Her short story "The Possibility of Fire" won Carve Magazine's 2013 Esoteric Award. She is a professor of English at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California, and teaches online novel writing for UCLA Extension.

J. David Bell is a recovering academic whose fiction and creative nonfiction appear in such periodicals as *Queen City Review*, *Terrain.org*, *Snowy Egret*, *Blood and Thunder*, and *Permafrost*. His novel for young adults, written under his given name of Joshua David Bellin, has just been accepted for publication. To read more of his work, see his blog at <http://bellsyells.blogspot.com>.

Carley Best earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University. She currently lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Jens Birk is originally from Denmark. After living in Paris for 17 years, he moved to New York in 2004 where he has attended short story fiction writing courses at NYU and an ongoing private writing workshop with Susie Mee, an NYU writing instructor. His work has appeared in *The Alembic*, *Crate Literary Magazine*, and *Sanskrit Literary-Arts Magazine*. Jens is currently working on a short story collection.

Doris Ferleger holds an MFA in poetry from Vermont College and a PhD in psychology. Her awards include the New Letters Poetry Prize, the Robert Fraser Poetry Prize, the *A Room of Her Own* creative non-fiction prize with publication in *The Los Angeles Review*, and the 2009 Poet Laureate of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Her book *Big Silences in a Year of Rain* (Main Street Rag, 2010) was a finalist for the Alice James Books Beatrice Hawley Poetry Prize, and her chapbook *When You Become Snow* (Finishing Line Press, 2011) was a semifinalist (under a different title) for the Black

Lawrence Review Poetry Prize 2008. Her work has been published in numerous literary journals including *WomenArts Quarterly Journal*, *South Carolina Review*, *Quiddity*, *New Letters*, *Cimarron Review*, and *Poet Lore*.

Nimi Finnigan graduated from Texas Tech University with a PhD in Literature with an emphasis in Creative Nonfiction and Poetry. Currently, her writing is very much focused on her village in the south of Haiti: Camp-Perrin, where magic and myth are part of everyone's daily routine. Her writing has appeared in *The Meadowland Review*, *Journal of Caribbean Literature*, and *Rosebud*, among others.

Wendy Fontaine is a Gannett Scholar, a blogger for The Huffington Post, and an MFA candidate at Antioch University in Los Angeles. Her work has previously appeared in *Brain*, *Child Magazine*, *Apropos Literary Journal*, and *Utne Reader*.

Claudia Geagan has work appearing in the online journal *Sharp Tongued Woman* and forthcoming in *The Louisville Review*. Having retired from a career heavy on big cities and spreadsheets, she now lives and writes on a leafy mountainside in South Carolina.

Chris Haven teaches creative writing at Grand Valley State University in Michigan and edits the journal *Wake: Great Lakes Thought & Culture*. Chris has poetry appearing or forthcoming in a number of journals, including *Blackbird*, *Smartish Pace*, *Nimrod*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Slice Magazine*, and *Seneca Review*.

Kyle Hemmings is the author of several chapbooks of poetry and prose: *Avenue C*, *Cat People*, and *Anime Junkie* (Scars Publications). His latest e-books are *You Never Die in Wholes from Good Story Press* and *The Truth about Onions from Good Samaritan*. He lives and writes in New Jersey.

Alesia Thone Hill studies creative writing at Lincoln University of Missouri. She is originally from Montana but now lives in Jefferson City, Missouri, with her fiancé and cat "Duck." She is Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Selkie*. Her poetry is forthcoming in *The Columbia College Review*.

Erin Coughlin Hollowell received her MFA from the Rainier Writing Workshop at Pacific Lutheran University. Her first collection, *Pause, Traveler*, is forthcoming in June 2013 from Boreal Books, an imprint of

Red Hen Press. Her work has recently appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Weber Studies*, *Terrain: A Journal of the Built and Natural Environment*, and *Sugar House Review*.

Ray Holmes is a graduate of the MFA program at University of MO-St. Louis. He teaches writing and works as an associate editor for *WomenArts Quarterly*. His work has appeared in *Architrave Press*, *Chariton Review*, *Fjords*, and other journals.

Louisa Flowerow's poems have recently appeared in the *Cider Press Review*, *Rhino*, and *The Indian River Review*.

Maria Plummer was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, and has earned a BFA in Creative Writing and an MA in Screenwriting. She is currently employed as American Proofreader for Cover Media in London, a job which mainly involves deleting a lot of U's (i.e. colour/color). Maria writes screenplays and short stories, and her fiction has appeared in journals such as *The Meadowland Review* and *Existere*. More information can be found at her website: <http://mariahummer.com>.

Lisa Haag Kang has an MFA in Creative Writing from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. Her poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Hayden's Ferry*, *The Examined Life*, *Spillway*, and others. Her poetry chapbook, *Recombinant Loves*, will be published by Main Street Rag publishing in 2013.

Sherilyn Lee's essays and poems have appeared in *Prism Review*, *Kauai Back Story*, and *Quiet Mountain Essays*. Her first poetry manuscript, *Under the Ginkgo Tree*, was a finalist in the 2010 National Poetry Series Open Competition. Her second poetry manuscript, *Defying Gravity*, was short-listed in the 2012 Phillip Levine Prize in Poetry. Sherilyn holds a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction from Antioch University Los Angeles.

Naomi Ruth Lowinsky is a Jungian analyst in private practice in Berkeley, California, and the poetry and fiction editor of *Psychological Perspectives*, which is published by the Los Angeles Jung Institute. Her poem "Madelyn Dunham, Passing On" won first prize in the Obama Millennium Contest. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in numerous journals including *Barely South Review*, *Blue Lake Review*, *Darkling*, *Earth's Daughters*, *Euphony*,

Fourth River, Monkeybicycle, Nassau Review, Quiddity, Rattle, Sierra Nevada Review, The Spoon River Poetry Review, Westview, and Willow Review. Her poetry collection, *Adagio & Lamentation*, was published in July 2010.

Nylah Lyman holds an MFA in poetry from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast Creative Writing program. She serves as poetry editor at *Chocorua Review*. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Cider Press Review, Arcadia Magazine, Bellevue Literary Review, The Sow's Ear Poetry Review, and Cartographer*.

John McCarthy is the Assistant Editor at *Quiddity International Literary Journal and Public-Radio Program*. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Conium Review, Popshot Magazine, Buddhist Poetry Review, and Ghost Ocean Magazine (Wave Series)*, among others. He can be contacted at jjmccarthy90@gmail.com.

Lindsey Raven Miller graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the spring of 2012 and currently lives abroad in South Korea teaching English. She blogs about the experience at lindseyteaches.blogspot.com. Her work has been accepted for publication by *Cicada Magazine* and *The Citron Review*. Her favorite Spanish word is garza.

Robert Moulthrop has work appearing or forthcoming in publications including *Berkeley Fiction Review, Confrontation, Eclipse, The Griffin, Harpur Palate, The MacGuffin, Old Hickory Review, Portland Review, Sou'Wester, Rio Grande Review*, and others. His awards include an e-Chapbook publication of a collection of seven short stories by Wordrunner, first prize in the *Literal Latte* fiction contest, a grant for prose fiction from the New Jersey Council on the Arts, the New York International Fringe Festival's Outstanding Playwriting Award, and the Fringe Outstanding Performance award.

Marvin Shackelford holds an MFA in fiction writing from the University of Montana. His stories and poems appear in such journals as *Cimarron Review, Confrontation, Southern Poetry Review, Harpur Palate, Natural Bridge, and Kestrel*. He lives in rural Texas and earns a living in agriculture.

Steven Ray Smith's poems have appeared or are forthcoming in publications such as *The Kenyon Review, The Raintown Review, Garbanzo, Prick of the Spindle, Bayou, The Broken Plate, Poetry South, Stepaway Magazine, GRAIN,*

Common Ground Review, *The Cape Rock*, *Big Muddy*, *Writer's Bloc*, *Slant*, and *riverrun*. He is the president of a culinary school and lives in Austin with his wife and children.

Alex Stolis lives in Minneapolis and has had poems published in numerous journals. His chapbook based on the last words of Texas Death Row inmates, *Justice for all*, is forthcoming from Conversation Paperpress (UK). Another chapbook, *Schoolhouse Rock*, is forthcoming from Green Fuse Press. A collaborative effort with the artist Susan Solomon, *A Cabal of Angels*, is forthcoming from Red Bird Chapbooks. An e-chapbook, *From an iPod found in Canal Park; Duluth, MN*, is also forthcoming from Right Hand Pointing. He has been the recipient of five Pushcart Nominations.

Jennifer Tappenden is currently the Poet Laureate of the University of Missouri-St. Louis, where she is an MFA candidate in poetry. She is also founding editor of *Architrave Press* and a full time Research Data Manager at Washington University School of Medicine. Her poem "The Tooth Collector," published by *Slipstream*, was nominated in 2011 for a Pushcart Prize. Other poems have appeared online at *Stirring*, in print in *The MacGuffin*, *Cape Rock*, *Limestone*, *Bad Shoe*, and elsewhere. Her interview (with Karen Lewis) of Thom Ward was featured on Poetry Daily.

W. Scott Thomason is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and is a graduate of UNC-Greensboro. He holds an MFA from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and teaches at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He loves his wife, his dogs, and professional wrestling.

Ronja Vieth is a German born in South Africa, and she just finished her PhD in American Gothic Literature in Texas. She has read her work at conferences in Wales and the U.S., and her work has been published in national and international journals, such as the *Linden Avenue Literary Journal*, *The Brooklyn Review*, *The Sugar Mule*, *The Taj Mahal Review* (India), *The Southwestern Review*, and *Life is but a Verse—well-rhymed and bold* (Germany). Her activities as part of Lubbock's poetry group Jak's Line can be found on her Facebook page www.facebook.com/englobe.me.