

Contributors

John Abbott is a writer, musician, and English instructor who lives with his wife and daughter in Kalamazoo, Michigan. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Potomac Review*, *Georgetown Review*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Arcadia*, *Two Thirds North*, *upstreet*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Fast Forward: A Collection of Flash Fiction*, *Bitter Oleander*, and many others. His first novel, *The Last Refrain*, was just released by Sweatshoppe Publications, and his poetry chapbook, *Near Harmony*, was just released by Flutter Press. For more information about his writing, please visit www.johnabbottauthor.com.

Jeffrey Alfier was a 2013 finalist in the Press 53 Poetry Contest, and he was short-listed for the Fermoy International Poetry Festival, Ireland. He is the author of *The Wolf Yearling* (Silver Birch Press, 2013) and *Idyll for a Vanishing River* (Glass Lyre Press, forthcoming). He is the founder and co-editor of *San Pedro River Review*.

Mary Ann Avallone-O'Gorman writes poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Her chapbook, *Life in This House*, was published by Finishing Line Press, and her poems and essays have also appeared in *The Double Dealer*, *The Bellingham Review*, and *The Raintown Review*. She is a 2012 graduate of the Sewanee School of Letters MFA program where she studied with Andrew Hudgins, Charles Martin, and Holly Goddard Jones. Her blog, True Confessions, is available through WordPress.com.

Julie Brooks Barbour is the author of *Small Chimes* (forthcoming from Aldrich Press in 2014) and a chapbook, *Come To Me and Drink* (Finishing Line Press, 2012). Her poems have appeared in *Waccamaw*, *diode*, *storySouth*, *Prime Number Magazine*, *The Rumpus*, *Rose Red Review*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Blue Lyra Review*, *Sundog Lit*, and on *Verse Daily*. She is co-editor of the journal *Border Crossing* and an Associate Poetry Editor at *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*. She teaches composition and creative writing at Lake Superior State University.

Cécile Barlier was born in France and received her master's degree from the Sorbonne University in Paris. For over a decade, she has lived in the United

States, where she is raising her family and working as an entrepreneur. In addition to her time in France and the United States, she has traveled extensively and lived in Mexico, Spain, and England. She has been a regular student and occasional teacher at the Writer's Studio in San Francisco for a number of years. Her work is featured or is forthcoming in *Amarillo Bay*, *Bacopa Literary Review* (first place for fiction, 2012), *Cerise Press*, *Knee-Jerk*, *New Delta Review*, and *The Tower Journal*.

Joe Baumann is currently a PhD candidate in English at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette, where he serves as the Editor-in-Chief of *Rougarou: An Online Literary Journal*. His work has appeared in *SNReview*, *flashquake*, *Prick of the Spindle*, *Hawai'i Review*, and several others, and is forthcoming from *Oblong*, *matchbook*, and others, and his first book, *Ivory Children*, was recently produced by Red Bird Chapbooks.

Mohineet Kaur Boparai has published three books of poetry, *Poems That Never Were* (2007), *Windows to the Ocean* (2012), and *Lives of My Love* (2012). Her poetry is featured in the anthology *The Dance of the Peacock*, which includes some of the best Indian poets. She teaches English at the Panjab University Constituent College, Nihalsinghwal, and lives at Moga. Her blog is at <http://sipping-sunshine.blogspot.in/>.

Kevin Brown is a Professor at Lee University. He has published two books of poetry—*A Lexicon of Lost Words* (winner of the 2013 Violet Reed Haas Prize for Poetry, Snake Nation Press) and *Exit Lines* (Plain View Press, 2009)—and two chapbooks: *Abecedarium* (Finishing Line Press, 2011) and *Holy Days: Poems* (winner of Split Oak Press Chapbook Contest, 2011). He also has a memoir, *Another Way: Finding Faith, Then Finding It Again* (Wipf and Stock, 2012), and a book of scholarship, *They Love to Tell the Stories: Five Contemporary Novelists Take on the Gospels* (Kennesaw State University Press, 2012). He received his MFA from Murray State University.

Jennifer Leah Buchi lives and writes in Heber City, Utah, and she received her BS in Anthropology with a minor in creative writing from the University of Utah. She worked briefly as an archeologist through San Juan College in Farmington, New Mexico, and is currently a student of the American Academy of Bookbinding in Telluride and the Warren Wilson College MFA Program for Writers in North Carolina.

Valentina Cano is a student of classical singing who spends any free time writing or reading. Her works have appeared in *Exercise Bowler*, *Blinking Cursor*, *Theory Train*, *Cartier Street Press*, *Berg Gasse 19*, *Precious Metals*, *A Handful of Dust*, *The Scarlet Sound*, *The Adroit Journal*, *Perceptions Literary Magazine*, *Welcome to Wherever*, *The Corner Club Press*, *Death Rattle*, *Danse Macabre*, *Subliminal Interiors*, *Generations Literary Journal*, *A Narrow Fellow*, *Super Poetry Highway*, *Stream Press*, *Stone Telling*, *Popshot*, *Golden Sparrow Literary Review*, *Rem Magazine*, *Structo*, *The 22 Magazine*, *The Black Fox Literary Magazine*, *Niteblade*, *Tuck Magazine*, *Ontologica*, *Congruent Spaces Magazine*, *Pipe Dream*, *Decades Review*, *Anatomy*, *Lowestof Chronicle*, *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Lady Ink Magazine*, *Spark Anthology*, *Awaken Consciousness Magazine*, *Vine Leaves Literary Magazine*, *Avalon Literary Review*, *Caduceus*, *White Masquerade Anthology*, and *Perhaps I'm Wrong About the World*. Her poetry has been nominated for Best of the Web and a Pushcart Prize. You can find her here: <http://carabosseslibrary.blogspot.com>.

Brenna J. Conley was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated from Berry College with an Honors degree in Creative Writing. She was recently short-listed for the 2013 Paris Literary Prize and has been published in Berry College's art and literary magazine, *Ramifications*, for her lyric essays and poetry. She received the Academy of American Poets Award in 2011 and the Hammond Poetry Award in 2012. Brenna travels to gain inspiration from strangers and from landscapes; she recently returned from a hitchhiking trip that took her from Portugal to the southern coast of Italy.

Richard Donnelly has had poems appear in *Ottawa Arts Review*, *Blue Earth Review*, and *Rattle*. His contribution to the art of poetry is not so wide, nor so deep, but 'tis enough. His first book, *The Melancholy MBA* (www.themelancholymba.com), is published by Brick Road Poetry Press of Columbus, Georgia.

Megan Duffy has been reading and writing poetry since she was a child. Her poems have appeared in *The Furnace Review*, *Blood Lotus*, and *The Wilderness House Literary Review*. She holds a BA in Literature, Writing, and the Arts from Eugene Lang College: The New School for Liberal

Arts, and an MA in English Literature from Rutgers University, where she studied poetry with Rachel Hadas.

Patricia Feeney is a graduate of Lindenwood University's MFA program and lives with her husband in St. Louis, where she teaches English at St. Louis Community College. She is a member of the St. Louis Writers Guild and the Crooked Tree Writers Group.

Zach Fishel is a poet, editor, and outdoor educator and editor residing in the Berkshires. His first collection, *Wind Sock Etiquette*, is available from Red Paint Hill Press.

Claudia A. Geagan now lives and writes on a mountainside in South Carolina, after a career in finance and a life in big cities. Her work has appeared in *The Sharp Tongued Woman Review*, *The Louisville Review*, *Persimmon Tree*, and *The Lindenwood Review*. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Aileen Hunt is an Irish writer with a particular interest in creative non-fiction. She is working on her first book, a collection of short essays based on the lives of pioneering women throughout history. She lives in Dublin with her family but has many happy memories of the years she spent in Ohio and California. You can read more of her work at <http://aileen-hunt.com>.

Kate LaDew is a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro with a BA in Studio Art.

Bleuzette La Feir was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is a graduate of the University of New Mexico with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater. Bleuzette's work has appeared in *Blood Lotus*, *Blue Lake Review*, *decomp/descant*, *Diverse Voices Quarterly*, *Forge*, and *Velvetparkmedia.com*. "Bangs," a flash fiction piece, was nominated for the Best of the Net 2012 anthology.

Kathleen Lindstrom sold her soul to corporate America as a writer in communications and PR departments. Seven years ago, however, she delved into the world of creative fiction. Since then she has won the Arthur Edelstein Prize for Short Fiction, and she was named a semi-finalist and won honorable mentions in five other competitions. Her stories have appeared

in 24 e-zines, magazines and literary anthologies. Her poem “Shrapnel” won first place in a 2007 competition.

S. Frederic Liss has published or has forthcoming 28 short stories and has received numerous awards and other forms of recognition for his short fiction including *The Florida Review* Editor’s Award for Fiction; James Still Prize for Short Fiction sponsored by *Wind*; Midnight Sun Award for Fiction sponsored by *Permafrost*; Third prize in the Arthur Edelstein Prize for Short Fiction; Finalist for the Raymond Carver Award for Short Fiction sponsored by *Carve Magazine*; and Honorable Mention in the *New Letters* Literary Award for Fiction. Liss has also been published in *The South Dakota Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Dogwood*, *The Worcester Review*, and *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. In addition, Liss has written two collections of short stories, one a finalist for the Flannery O’Connor Short Fiction Prize sponsored by University of Georgia Press, and the other a finalist in the Bakeless Prize Competition sponsored by Middlebury College and Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference. Liss earned a MFA from Emerson College and was the recipient of a Grant-in-Aid in Literature from the St. Botolph Club Foundation in Boston, where he leads a workshop in writing fiction.

Angie Macri was born and raised in southern Illinois. Her recent work appears in *Alaska Quarterly Review* and *Connotation Press*. An Arkansas Arts Council fellow, she teaches in Little Rock. “Good Times, Bad Times” takes its title from a song on Led Zeppelin’s debut album *Led Zeppelin*, and echoes of that song’s lyrics are also found in that poem.

Ann Minoff graduated from New York University with a degree in philosophy and continued her education at the National College of Chiropractic in Illinois. She received her Doctorate of Chiropractic in 1982. She currently teaches classes on Qigong and Kabbalah. Her work is forthcoming or has been published in *The Alembic*, *Amarillo Bay*, *Blood Lotus*, *California Quarterly*, *The Chaffin Journal*, *The Distillery*, *Diverse Voices Quarterly*, *Emprise Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *Jewish Women’s Literary Annual*, *Licking River Review*, *The Literary Review*, *Lullwater Review*, *Nimrod*, *Pearl*, *Porcupine*, *Quiddity Literary Journal*, *Sacred Journey: Journal of Fellowship in Prayer*, and *Spoon River Poetry Review*.

Peter E. Murphy has had essays published in *The American Book Review*, *The Shakespeare Quarterly*, *The Teachers & Writers Guide to Frederick Douglass*, *World Order*, and elsewhere. His full-length book of poems, *Stubborn Child*, was a finalist for the 2006 Paterson Poetry Prize, and he has a chapbook, *Thorough & Efficient*. Jane Street Press published *Challenges for the Delusional: Peter Murphy's Prompts and the Poems They Inspired*, edited by Christine Malvasi. In 2009, he received a sixth poetry fellowship from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. When not teaching at Richard Stockton College, he directs the annual Winter Poetry & Prose Getaway and other programs for poets, writers, and teachers in the U.S. and in the U.K.

Jed Myers is a Philadelphian living in Seattle. Two of his poetry collections, *The Nameless* (Finishing Line Press) and *Watching the Perseids* (winner of the 2013 Sacramento Poetry Center Book Award), are soon to be released. He won the 2012 Mary C. Mohr Editors' Award offered by *Southern Indiana Review* and received the 2013 *Literal Latte* Poetry Award. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Prairie Schooner*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Barely South Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Grey Sparrow Journal*, *Crab Creek Review*, and elsewhere.

Virginia Newell was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado, but currently travels all over the globe with her husband, a Captain in the Army. She earned a BA in English with a concentration in Elementary and Special Education, and she recently completed her MFA in Creative Writing at Lindenwood University. She also writes essays for *Coffee Dates with God* (www.devotions4women.com), a spiritual blog.

Tom O'Keefe's writing career thus far has consisted of online film criticism for ReviewSTL.com and snappy Facebook status updates. While he did briefly work in radio, he is currently the Marketing Manager for The Family Arena in St. Charles. He can be heard reviewing films on KTRS with John Carney or online at TalkSTL.com with Thom West & Joe Dinero. He is also the host of a weekly film podcast called *Reel Spoilers*.

Dawn Paul is the author of two novels, *The Country of Loneliness* (Marick Press) and *Still River* (Corvid Press). She has worked with painter Ben Johnson for the YouTube literary journal *Shape of a Box* and with choreographer

Kelley Donovan on dance/poetry pieces. Her work has appeared in the anthologies *Going Alone—Women’s Solo Wilderness Adventures* and *Steady as She Goes—Women’s Stories of the Sea*, both from Seal Press. She teaches writing at Montserrat College of Art and kayaks, backpacks, skis, and bikes in New England and elsewhere.

Beth Paulson has recently had her poems appear in *Pinyon Review*, *Red Rock Review*, *The Kerf*, and *Passager*. She received Pushcart Prize nominations for 2007 and 2009, as well as 2011, and a Best of the Net nomination for 2012. A new collection of her poems, *Canyon Notes*, was published in Fall 2012 by Mt. Sneffels Press.

Kate Peper is a freelance designer and award-winning watercolor painter living in Marin County, California. Her poems have twice been nominated for a Pushcart and have appeared or are forthcoming in *Poet Lore*, *Spillway*, *The Sow’s Ear Poetry Review*, *Quiddity*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *RATTLE*, and others.

Laura Pendell began writing poetry in college and participated in the Poetry Project at St. Mark’s Place in New York City from 1967-1970. After some time pursuing other interests and careers, she was in a serious skiing accident in 1990 that inspired her to change her life. She became a Zen student and returned to writing, attending poetry workshops for the next six years in New York City. In 1998, she moved to California and was accepted into the MFA Program at Mills College, studying poetry and book arts, and earning her MFA in 2001. She currently lives in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains with her husband, where they raise Ponderosa Pine, oak, and manzanita trees, and she continues to write and make her own journals and artist’s books. Her artist’s book *Hibernation*—based on her poem of the same name—has been featured in three juried book art shows. Her poetry is forthcoming or has appeared in the 2004 and 2006 editions of the *Nevada County Poetry Series Anthology*, the 2013 edition of the *Minotaur Press Anthology*, *Assisi*, *Blue Lake Review*, *Cocktails & Confessions* (Six Ft Swells Press, 2007), *Crack the Spine*, *Edison Literary Review*, *Foliage Oak*, *Jelly Bucket*, *Limestone*, *Mary: A Journal Of New Writing*, *OVS Magazine*, *Soundings East*, *Talking River*, *The Tulane Review*, *Wild Violet*, and *The Write Room*.

Susan Rava lives and writes in St. Louis, Missouri. A former French teacher at Washington University in St. Louis, she has published numerous op-ed pieces and short stories. Her most recent work is a family caregiving memoir, *Swimming Solo: A Daughter's Memoir of Her Parents, His Parents, and Alzheimer's Disease* (Sewanee, TN: Plateau Books, 2011).

Noel Sloboda has had poetry appear recently in *Rattle*, *Harpur Palate*, *Gertrude*, *Redactions*, and *Modern Language Studies*. He is the author of the poetry collections *Shell Games* (2008) and *Our Rarer Monsters* (2013), as well as several chapbooks. Sloboda has also published a book about Edith Wharton and Gertrude Stein. He teaches at Penn State York.

Christine Stewart-Núñez is the author of *Snow, Salt, Honey* (2012); *Keeping Them Alive* (2011); *Postcard on Parchment* (2008); *Unbound & Branded* (2006); and *The Love of Unreal Things* (2005). Her piece "An Archeology of Secrets" was a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2012*. Her work has appeared in such magazines as *Arts & Letters*, *North American Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Shenandoah*. She teaches at South Dakota State University.

Jonathan Glenn Travelstead served in the Air Force National Guard for six years as a firefighter and currently works as a full-time firefighter for the city of Murphysboro. Having finished his MFA at Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, he now works on an old dirt-bike he hopes will one day get him to Peru.

Milla van der Have wrote her first poem at 16, during a physics class. She has been writing ever since. Her poetry has been published in *Poetry Quarterly*, *Midwest Literary Magazine*, and *Bare Hands Poetry*, amongst others. Milla lives and works in Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Justin Watkins was raised in the top-right corner of Minnesota but since 1994 has lived and worked in the bottom-right corner—a landscape that provides unending exploration, wonder, and thus inspiration. He has walked a lot of southeast Minnesota trout streams and spends a good number of summer days looking in on common carp. His Rochester home is shared with his wife and two boys and their small flock of laying hens.

Suellen Wedmore retired after 24 years of working as a speech and language therapist in public schools and entered the MFA program in poetry at New

England College. She is now the Poet Laureate *emerita* for the small town of Rockport, Massachusetts. Her work has appeared in *Apalachee Review*, *The Chaffin Journal*, *Cimarron Review*, *College English*, *Eclipse*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Harvard Review*, *The Ledge*, *The Louisville Review*, *The MacGuffin*, *Manorborn*, *Oyez Review*, *Phoebe*, *Poem*, and many others. She has been awarded first place in the *Writer's Digest* rhyming poetry contest and was an international winner in the 2006 Atlanta Review Poetry Contest. Her chapbook *Deployed* was selected as winner of the Grayson Press chapbook contest, and she was selected for a writing residency at Devil's Tower, Wyoming. In 2009 she was a winner in the Obama competition sponsored by *New Millennium Writings*, and her chapbook *On Marriage and Other Parallel Universes* was published by Finishing Line Press.