

The
Great
American
Poetry
Show

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Volume 2

edited
by

Larry Ziman
Madeline Sharples
Nicky Selditz



The Muse Media
West Hollywood

The Great American Poetry Show

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The Great American Poetry Show is a serial poetry anthology open year-round to submissions of poems in English on any subject and in any style, length and number either by email or by mail with a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mailed submissions without a self-addressed stamped envelope will be discarded. Simultaneous submissions and previously published poems are welcome.

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Notes on Poets

Chuck Augello lives in Randolph, New Jersey, with his wife, his dog, his three cats, and a growing collection of dust. His fiction and poetry have appeared in *Rattle*, *The Santa Fe Literary Review*, *Pindeldboz*, *Word Riot*, *SLAB*, and other journals. He spends his days in a cubicle, slowly plotting his escape.

Fred Bahnson is the recipient of the 2006 Pilgrimage Essay Award, was shortlisted for the 2007 Lange-Taylor Prize from Duke Center for Documentary Studies, and was the William Raney scholar in non-fiction at Bread Loaf Writer's Conference in 2008. His poems and essays have appeared in *Orion*, *The Sun*, *Fugue*, *Geez*, *Pilgrimage*, *The Rock & Sling*, *Sojourners*, *The Cresset* and the anthologies, *Dance the Guns to Silence: 100 Poems for Ken Saro-Wiwa* and *Best American Spiritual Writing 2007*. He is currently a Food & Society policy fellow at the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. He lives in Brevard, North Carolina.

Gay Baines has been writing since she was eight-years-old. Her work has appeared in *REAL*, *Rattapallax*, *Poet Lore*, *Nimrod*, *California Quarterly*, *The Pinch*, *dislocate*, *Louisiana Literature*, and many other journals. In 2008, she was awarded the Mary and Gil Stott Award for writing. She is co-owner of July Literary Press. At present, she is preparing a chapbook, *The Book of Lies*, for publication. She lives in East Aurora, New York.

Kristin Berger lives with her husband and two children in Portland, Oregon, where she serves as an Associate Editor of *VoiceCatcher*. She is the author of a poetry chapbook, *For the Willing* (Finishing Line Press, 2008), and her non-fiction has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Kristin's poetry and essays have appeared in *CALYX*, *New Letters*, *Mothering*, *The Pedestal Magazine*, and other publications. For more about her, visit her website at www.kristinberger.wordpress.com.

John C Bird has worked as a civil servant, journalist, and university lecturer. His poetry has been widely published in newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. His published and broadcast work also includes plays, short fiction, television comedy material, and non-fiction books on subjects as diverse as Britain's treatment of enemy aliens in wartime and new careers for the over-40s. His first novel, *Alby and Me*, was longlisted for the UK Waverton Good Read Award for the best debut novel of 2007-8. He lives near Birmingham, England.

Regina Murray Brault lives in Burlington, Vermont, where she leads the Cherry Lane Poet's Workshop. She received her diploma in the arts from Burlington College in 1997 at the age of 60. She previously served as editor of the *Mountain Troubadour*. She has judged local, national, and international poetry contests, and has served as critic for The League of Vermont Writers as well as the Poetry Society of Vermont. She is the recipient of over 250 national and international poetry awards, including the 2008 Creekwalker and the 2008 Euphoria poetry awards. Her poem, "At Either End of the Web," received a 2009 Pushcart Prize nomination. And her poem, "Timesweep Cantata," was a finalist in the Salem College Center for Women Writers 2009 International Literary Award Competition. She was named 2009 Vermont Senior Poet Laureate by Angels Without Wings Foundation. Her poetry has appeared in more than 90 publications including *Hartford Courant*, *Comstock Review*, *Grandmother Earth*, *Karamu*, *Northwoods Journal*, *Silver Quill*, *The Mennonite*, *Anthology of New England Writers*, *Ancient Paths Literary Magazine*, *ByLine Magazine*, *Crucible*, *Lyric*, *Midwest Poetry Review*, *Poet Magazine*, *Sacred Stones*, *State Street Review*, *Bloodroot*, and June Cotner's Random House anthology, *Mothers and Daughters*. Her first illustrated book of poetry, *Beneath the Skin*, was published by Jane Wollmar in October 2007.

Susan Breeden lives in Houston, Texas, and works as a technical editor for the aerospace industry. Her fiction, essays, and poetry have appeared in commercial and literary publications, including

Woman's World, Playgirl, BorderSenses, Zone 3, 34th Parallel, and Texas Magazine published by the *Houston Chronicle*.

Don Brennan, a retired high-school teacher, won the *Haight Ashbury Literary Journal* 1st Prize for Poetry in 2000, and he won the Milton Dorfman 3rd Prize in 2001. He has hosted and co-hosted numerous poetry readings including the Yakety Yak series, the Bibliohead Bookstore readings, and the Hospitality House readings at the San Francisco Main Library. He is widely published in journals and anthologies, including the City Lights 2007 anthology, *From the Other Side of the Post Card*. His books include six poetry chapbooks and a novel, *Barbaria*, released by PublishAmerica in 2009. He lives in San Francisco, California.

Alan Britt teaches English and Creative Writing at Towson University. His recent books are *Vegetable Love* (2009), *Vermillion* (2006), *Infinite Days* (2003), *Amnesio Tango* (1998), and *Bodies of Lightning* (1995). His work appears in the anthology, *American Poets Against the War* (Metropolitan Arts Press, Ltd., 2009) and in *Vapor Translantino*, a bi-lingual anthology from Hofstra University Press. He lives in Reisterstown, Maryland, with his wife, daughter, two Bouviers des Flandres, one Bichon Friese, and two formerly feral cats.

MCBruce is a lawyer in McKinleyville, California. He hosted "The Poets Café" on KPFK in Los Angeles and was the editor of *The Blue Mouse*. His chapbooks include *Clients* and *The Book of the Dead*.

Howard Camner is the author of 16 books of poetry and an autobiography, *Turbulence at 67 Inches*. He was the headliner with New York's West End Poetry Troupe from 1978-1981. He is recognized as Florida's most widely published poet and was nominated for Florida's Poet Laureate in 1980. He has received the MiPo Literary Award and was named Best Poet of 2007 in the *New Times* "Best of Miami" readers-poll edition. He lives with his wife and children in Miami, Florida.

Carol Carpenter has had poems and stories published in numerous online and print publications, including *Margie, Snake Nation Review, Neon, Georgetown Review, Caveat Lector, Orbis*, and in various anthologies such as *Not What I Expected* (Paycock Press, 2007) and *Wild Things* (Outrider Press, 2008). Her work has been exhibited by art galleries and produced as podcasts (*Connecticut Review* and *Bound Off*). She received the Hart Crane Memorial Award, the Jean Siegel Pearson Poetry Award, Artists Among Us Award, and others. Formerly a college writing instructor, journalist, and trainer, she now devotes her time to writing in Livonia, Michigan.

Alan Catlin, since retiring from his unchosen profession as a barman, has been working on various extended writing projects. His fictional memoir in progress, *Hours of Happiness*, is a series of linked short stories and a novel. Poetry projects include several chapbooks on art. Published titles include *Down on the Beach* (Snark Publications), *Our Lady of the Shipwrecks* (Finishing Line Press), *Effects of Sunlight in the Fog* (Bright Hill Press), *Self-Portrait As the Artist Afraid of His Self-Portrait* (March Street Press), *Men in Suits* (Madman Ink), and *The Insomniac's Gift* (Shark Art). He lives in Schenectady, New York.

Joanne Riley Clarkson has published two chapbooks of poetry, *Pacing the Moon* (Chantry Press) and *Crossing Without Daughters* (March Street Press). Her poems have appeared in many journals including *Emrys, Cimarron Review, South Dakota Review, and The Seattle Review*. After working as a professional librarian for 20 years, she re-careered as an RN with a specialty in hospice care. She lives with her husband in Olympia, Washington.

Rob Cook is the author of *Songs for the Extinction of Winter* (Rain Mountain Press, 2007), *Diary of Tadpole the Dirtbag* (Rain Mountain Press, 2009), and *Blackout Country* (BlazeVox, 2009). His work has appeared in *The Bitter Oleander, Colorado Review, Tampa Review, Zoland Poetry, A Cappella Zoo,*

Fence, Greatcoat, and others. He lives in New York City.

Barbara Lydecker Crane is a longtime quilt artist and a relative newcomer to poetry. Recent poems have been published or accepted by the *Christian Science Monitor, Light Quarterly, Measure, Four and Twenty, Raintown Review, Blue Unicorn, Lucid Rhythms, Bumbershoot,* and others. She is the founding member of “X. J. Kennedy & the Light Brigade,” a small group of Boston-area performing poets. In 1995, she was awarded a New England Foundation for the Arts Regional Fellowship in Visual Arts. Her quilts (primarily landscapes) are in public and private collections, including the National Quilt Museum of the United States, the New England Quilt Museum, Cambridge Savings Bank, and Massachusetts General Hospital. She lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Steve De France, MFA, has traveled widely in the United States. On more than one occasion, he hitch-hiked across America. He rode the rails on freight trains, worked as a laborer with pick-up gangs in Arizona, dug swimming pools in Texas, did 33 days in the Pecos city jail as a vagrant, fought bulls in Mexico, and dove for salvage off a small island off the coast of Mazatlan, Mexico. His poetry has been published in most English-speaking countries. Recently, his work can be seen in *The Evergreen Review, The Wallace Stevens Journal, The Sun, Rattle, Why Vandalism,* and others. He has won writing awards in England and in the United States, and he continues to write poetry, plays, essays, and short stories. He lives in Long Beach, California.

Stephanie Dickinson lives in New York City. Her work has appeared in *Green Mountains Review, Gulf Coast, Short Story, Glimmer Train, Dirty Goat, Fourteen Hills,* and others. Spuyten Duyvil published her novel, *Half Girl. Corn Goddess,* a book of poetry, and *Road of Five Churches,* a collection of short stories, are available from Rain Mountain Press. Along with Rob Cook and the cats, Vallejo and Sally Joy, she edits *Skidrow Penthouse.*

James Doyle lives with his wife, poet Sharon Doyle, in Fort Collins, Colorado. His most recent poetry book is *Bending Under the Yellow Police Tapes* (Steel Toe Books, 2007).

Nicola Easthope lives with her partner and two-year-old daughter on the Kapiti Coast of Aotearoa, New Zealand. Before motherhood she was an English teacher and an advocate for Education for Sustainability while writing poetry to keep sane and happy. Her poems have appeared in *The Guardian* (UK), *The Red Wheelbarrow* (Scotland), New Zealand Poetry Society anthologies, *Landfall* (NZ), *Poetry New Zealand, Takahe* (NZ), and *Staples* (Australia). She won 2nd prize in the Bravado International Poetry Competition in 2005.

Maureen Tolman Flannery has had her work published in fifty anthologies and over a hundred literary reviews, recently including *Birmingham Poetry Review, Xavier Review, Calyx, Pedestal, Atlanta Review, Out of Line,* and *North American Review.* Her newly-released book of poems about Latin America is *Destiny Whispers to the Beloved.* Other volumes of her work include *Ancestors in the Landscape: Poems of a Rancher's Daughter* and *A Fine Line.* Although she grew up on a Wyoming sheep ranch, she and her actor-husband Dan raised their four children in Chicago. She now lives in Evanston, Illinois.

Christine Fotis has had her poetry published in *Page Seventeen, Litmus Journal, Seven Deadly Zines,* and others. She researched and compiled the updated edition of *Aussie Slang Dictionary.* As an editor for a small publishing company, she loves helping other authors create their best writing. She volunteers for *Harvest Magazine* and also works as a digital artist. She lives in Melbourne, Australia.

Marilyn Friedman lives in Los Angeles, California. Her poetry has been published in *Pearl, Squaw Valley Review, California Quarterly,* and *Rockhurst Review.* She teaches poetry and creative writing at Writing Pad, a school that she founded where gourmet food is served at every class.

Cheryl Gatling is a registered nurse in Syracuse, New York. A chapbook, *Stickley Wood*, is available from FootHills Publishing. Her poem “Schroedinger’s Newspaper” can be seen and heard as a multimedia piece online at www.bornmagazine.org.

Howard Good, a journalism professor at SUNY New Paltz, is the author of nine poetry chapbooks. *Visiting the Dead* (Flutter Press, 2009) is his most recent. He lives in Highland, New York.

June S. Gould, Ph.D., is the author of *The Writer in All of Us: Improving Your Writing Through Childhood Memories* (E. P. Dutton, Plume). She also co-authored with Ruth Steinberg and Barbara Haber the poetry book, *Counting the Stones* (Shadow Press), and she now has a 2nd generation Holocaust novel, *In the Shadow of Trains*, from Xlibris. Some of her poetry has appeared in *The Writer’s Round Table*, *International Women’s Writing Guild*, *Dasein*, *Pearl*, *The Storyteller*, *Ship of Fools Press*, *SheMom*, *The Sheltered Poet*, *Talisman*, and *Inkwell Magazine*. She leads writing workshops and keynotes for The International Women’s Writing Guild, The National Council of Jewish Women, The Aegean Arts Circle, and an Advanced Writer’s Workshop at Shelter Studios in New York City. And she has received an award from the American Education Association for her written contribution to *Constructivism: Theory, Perspectives and Practice* (Columbia University Press). She lives in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Nathan Graziano, a high school teacher, is the author of three books of poetry, a collection of short stories, and seven chapbooks of poetry and fiction. His work has appeared in *Rattle*, *Night Train*, *Quercus Review*, *The Owen Wister Review*, and others. His latest book of poetry, *After the Honeymoon*, was published in 2009 by sunnyoutside. He lives with his wife and children in Manchester, New Hampshire.

John Grey, an Australian-born poet, playwright, and musician, is a U.S. resident since the late 1970s. He works as a financial systems analyst. He has had work recently published in *The Pinch*, *Ekphrasis*, *Cape Rock*, *Connecticut River Review*, *Rockhurst Review*, *Art Mag*, *Poetry East*, and *Reed*. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Rasma Haidri is an American writer living on the arctic coast of Norway where she teaches English. Her poetry and essays have appeared in many journals including *Prairie Schooner*, *Runes*, and *Third Genre*. Widely anthologized, she has won the Southern Women Writers Association Emerging Writer Award in Creative Non-fiction, the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters, and Science Poetry Award, the Mandy Poetry Prize, and other distinctions. More about her work can be found at her website, www.rasma.org.

Joseph Hart for the past forty years has been a founding member of Rutgers’s School of the Arts, creating ensemble theatre productions. He has now returned to poetry, his earliest love. He lives in Highland Park, New Jersey.

Michael Hettich has had his work published in numerous journals including *Orion*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Tri Quarterly*, *The Sun*, *Poetry East*, and the *Southern Poetry Review*. His books of poetry include *A Small Boat*, *Swimmer Dreams*, and *Flock & Shadow: New and Selected Poems*. He lives with his family in Miami, Florida, and teaches at Miami Dade College. Visit his website at www.michaelhettich.com.

Kenneth Hickey was born and lives in Cork, Ireland. After leaving Secondary School in 1993, he went to sea for seven years before returning to dry land to pursue a serious writing career. He set up the Will It Workshop at the Sirius Art Centre Cork where he regularly reads work in progress. He has read at the Frank O’Connor Festival and has had performances of several plays at various Cork Theatres. He has also had two rehearsed readings of full-length plays by Moving Parts Theatre at Carr’s Café in Paris, France. His video shorts have been screened at the Cork and Foyle Film Festivals. Print publishing credits include *Southward 6* (the Munster Literature Centre anthology), *Destination Anywhere* (the Feel Free Press anthology), *Aesthetica Magazine*, *Shadow Poetry*, *Quill Magazine* (US), and others. He was shortlisted for the PJ O’Connor Awards and the South Tipperary Chapbook Awards in 2003 and 2004. And he won the Eamonn Kane Full-Length Play Award.

Robert Hoeft, a Northwest poet, lives and writes in Ashland, Oregon. Widely published in little magazines throughout the United States, he has also had poems published in Canada, England, and South Africa. His collected works include four chapbooks and one miniature book.

Tom Holmes is the editor of *Redactions: Poetry & Poetics*. He is also the author of *After Malagueña* (FootHills Publishing, 2005), *Negative Time* (Pudding House Publications, 2007), *Pre-Dew Poems* (FootHills Publishing, 2008), and *Henri, Sophie, & The Hieratic Head of Ezra Pound: Poems Blasted from the Vortex* (BlazeVox, 2009). His work has appeared online at *Verse Daily*. He lives in Brockport, New York.

Tom C. Hunley is an associate professor of English at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and he is the director of Steel Toe Books. His books include *Octopus* (Logan House, winner of the Holland Prize), *My Life as a Minor Character* (Pecan Grove, chapbook contest winner), and *Teaching Poetry Writing: A Five-Canon Approach* (Multilingual Matters, New Writing Viewpoints Series).

Lockie Hunter teaches fiction, satire, and media/essay writing at Warren Wilson College in the hills of North Carolina. She is a graduate of Emerson College's MFA program in Boston, Massachusetts, and her poetry, fiction, and essays have found their way into numerous print and online journals. She is currently working on a low-country novel in hopes of preserving the eccentricities of her family and the region. She lives in Asheville, North Carolina.

Marcia L. Hurlow has had four poetry chapbooks published. Her most recent, *Green Man in Suburbia*, won the *Backwoods City Review* Chapbook Contest and was published last year. Her first book of poetry, *Anomie*, won the Edges Prize at Word Press. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky, and teaches creative writing, journalism, and linguistics at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky.

Carrie Jerrell received her M.A. from the Writing Seminars at John Hopkins University. She received her Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. Her debut poetry collection, *After the Revival*, won the 2008 Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize and was published by Waywiser Press (UK) in November 2009. She is an assistant professor of English at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky.

Brad Johnson is an associate professor at Palm Beach State College in Boca Raton, Florida. His two chapbooks, *Void Where Prohibited* and *The Happiness Theory*, are available from Pudding House Publications at www.puddinghouse.com.

Amy Kitchell-Leighty is a graduate of the Writing Seminars at Bennington College, and she teaches English at Vincennes University. Her work has appeared in *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The White Pelican*, *The Coachella Review*, and others. She lives with her husband and two dogs in Lawrenceville, Illinois.

Jim Kober is inspired by the solo work of guitarist John Frusciante. He lives in Tucson, Arizona.

L. Leaf has been writing poems most of her life but only occasionally made the effort to consider them closely for publication. Reading others' poetry supports and inspires the stories and novels she puts hours into every day. She lives in Chicago, Illinois, participates in writing workshops, and is part of the editorial staff of the *Chicago Quarterly Review*. Old Bean Hill Road in the Berkshires in Massachusetts is a pleasant route by day.

Michelle Lerner worked as a legal aid attorney for 10 years. She has an M.F.A. in Poetry from The New School. Her poetry has been published in *Lips*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Harvard Women's Law Journal*, *Sojourner Magazine*, *Knock*, and many other print and online journals, as well as in the anthologies, *The Poetry of Place: North Jersey in Poetry* and *The American Voice in Poetry: The Legacy of Whitman, Williams, and Ginsberg*. She lives in Flanders, New Jersey.

Lyn Lifshin has had published more than 120 books and chapbooks of poetry. Texas Review Press published *Barbaro: Beyond Brokenness* in the Spring of 2009. In 2008, World Parade Books published *Desire*, and Red Hen Press published *Persephone*. In 2006, Texas Review Press also published *The Licorice Daughter: My Year with Ruffian*, a prize-winning book about the race horse Ruffian. *Another Woman Who Looks Like Me* was published by Black Sparrow Books at David Godine in 2006 and was selected for the 2007 Paterson Award for Literary Excellence for previous finalists of the Paterson Poetry Prize. Other books include *Cold Comfort* (Black Sparrow Press, 1997), *Before It's Light* (Black Sparrow Press, 1999-2000), *In Mirrors* (Presa :S: Press), *Upstate: An Unfinished Story* (FootHills Publishing), *The Daughter I Don't Have* (Plan B Press), *When a Cat Dies, Another Woman's Story*, *Barbie Poems*, *She Was Found Treading Water Deep out in the Ocean*, *Mad Girl Poems*, *Marilyn Monroe*, *Blue Tattoo*, *What Matters Most*, and *August Wind*. March Street Press brought out *A New Film About a Woman In Love* in 2003. Other titles include *92 Rapple Drive* (Coatalism), *Nutley Pond* (Goose River Press), *Light at the End*, *The Jesus Poems* (Cleviss Hook Press), *Lost in the Fog* (Finishing Line Press), and *Ballet Madonnas* (Mastodon Dentist). She has won awards for her non-fiction and has edited four anthologies of women's writing including *Tangled Views*, *Ariadne's Thread*, and *Lips Unsealed*. Her poems have appeared in most literary and poetry magazines. She is the subject of an award-winning, documentary film, *Lyn Lifshin: Not Made of Glass*, which is available from Women Make Movies. An update of her Gale Research Projects Autobiographical Series, *On the Outside*, *Lips*, *Blues*, *Blue Lace*, was published in Spring 2003. *Drifting* is online. Visit her website at www.lynlifshin.com for interviews, photographs, more bio material, reviews, prose, and other samples of her work. She lives in Vienna, Virginia.

Ellaraine Lockie has seven published poetry chapbooks. She is the recipient of eleven Pushcart Prize nominations, the Lois Beebe Hayna Award from *The Eleventh Muse*, the Elizabeth R. Curry Prize from *SLAB*, the One Page Poem Prize from the Missouri Writers' Guild, the Writecorner Press Poetry Award, the Skysaje Poetry Prize, and the Dean Wagner Poetry Prize. A non-fiction book author and essayist, she also serves as Poetry Editor for the lifestyles magazine, *Lilipoh*. She lives in Sunnyvale, California.

Florence McGinn has had over 400 pieces published, including free-verse poetry, essays, articles, haiku, and children's poetry. Her full-length collection of poetry, *Blood Trail*, was published in 2000 by Pennywhistle Press in New Mexico. Her haiku and free verse have been published in journals including *Midwest Poetry Review*, *Modern Haiku*, *Voices International*, *Paterson Literary Review*, and *Parnassus*. Her children's poetry has been published in *Cricket* and in *Clubhouse*, and it has been used in McGraw-Hill's standardized tests, in the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System, and in the North Carolina Public Instruction Assessment. She has completed a novel manuscript. She presently serves on the New Jersey State Board of Education and served as a United States Commissioner on the US Web-based Education Commission during the Clinton administration. She is the retired Vice President of GKE (Global Knowledge Exchange) and has made presentations on innovative learning and the creative process throughout the United States and internationally in China, Australia, Italy, Singapore, Japan, and Korea. She taught English literature and writing for twenty-five years. She is the recipient of awards including US 1998 National Technology & Learning Teacher of the Year and the Princeton University 1998 Distinguished Secondary School Educator Award. She lives in Flemington, New Jersey.

Michael McIrvin is the author of five poetry collections including *Optimism Blues: Poems Selected and New*, the novel, *Déjà Vu and the Phone Sex Queen*, and the essay collection, *Whither American Poetry*. His new novel, *The Blue Man Dreams the End of Time*, was published by BeWrite Books in December 2009. He lives with his wife Sharon on the high plains of Wyoming.

Terry Martin is an English Professor at Central Washington University. An avid reader, writer, and editor of journals and anthologies, she has had published over 200 poems, essays, and articles. Her most recent book of poetry, *The Secret Language of Women*, was published by Blue Begonia Press in 2006. She lives with her partner in Yakima, Washington.

Lorraine Merrin, a Southwest native, now lives in the Pacific Northwest. Her work has appeared in various journals including *The Salal Review*, *Quercus Review*, *Rattle*, *Tar Wolf*, and others. She says, "Writing and breathing are the same. They sustain life."

Les Merton is linked to writing by words such as author, poet, dialectician, reviewer, competition judge, publisher, promoter, performer, and festival organizer. His penance for the forementioned sins is to be the founder and editor of *Poetry Cornwall*. He was made a Bard of Gorseth Kernow in 2004 for services to Cornish literature. His bardic name is Map Hallow (Son of the Moors). He lives in Redruth, Cornwall, England.

Joyce Meyers taught English in high school and college before becoming a lawyer. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *The Comstock Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *The Ledge*, *Pearl*, *White Pelican Review*, *Mad Poets Review*, *Philadelphia Poets*, and others. In 2004, 2007 and 2008, she received International Merit Awards from *Atlanta Review*. Her chapbook, *Wild Mushrooms*, was published by Plan B Press in 2007. She lives in Wallingford, Pennsylvania.

Pamela Miller has had three collections of poetry published, including *Fast Little Shoes* (Erie Street Press), *Mysterious Coleslaw* (Ridgeway Press), and *Recipe for Disaster* (Mayapple Press). Her work has appeared in many print and online journals and anthologies, including *The Paris Review*, *Pudding Magazine*, *Free Lunch*, *Wicked Alice*, *flashquake*, *Inhabiting the Body*, *Her Mark*, and *Online Writing: The Best of the First Ten Years*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois, and is working on a fourth book, *Miss Unthinkable*.

Fred Moramarco is the founding editor of *Poetry International*, published annually out of San Diego State University where he taught literature and creative writing for many years. His poetry and literary criticism have appeared in many magazines and journals, and a great deal of it can be found online. He is also artistic director of Laterthanever Productions (www.laterthanever.org), a small, non-profit, theatre company he started in San Diego in 2006. He lives in San Diego, California.

Carmel L. Morse earned her Ph.d. in English from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her work has appeared in *Pudding Magazine*, *Fairfield Review*, *Darkling*, *Dana Literary Review*, *Nexus*, *Children*, *Churches and Daddies*, and several other journals. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Northwestern Ohio in Lima, Ohio.

Nora Nadjarian has had published three collections of poetry and a book of short stories, *Ledra Street*, and she has won prizes and been commended in international competitions. Her work has appeared in journals and anthologies in Cyprus, Germany, India, Israel, New Zealand, the UK, and the United States. In 2009, her story, "And the Seven Dwarves," was a finalist in the Binnacle Sixth Annual International Ultra-Short Competition at the University of Maine at Machias. Her poem, "Flying with Chagall," was published in the anthology, *All of Our Lives*, which was edited by Sarah Shapiro and published by Targum Press. You can contact her by email at noranadj@logosnet.cy.net. She lives in Nicosia, Cyprus.

Peter Nash, when he was eight years old, noticed Ormsby's *Diseases of the Skin* in his father's medical library. Reaching high above him, he dislodged the book which fell to the carpet and opened to a photograph of a naked native of the Amazon rain forest sitting on a log. Both testicles were so swollen with elephantiasis that they rested on the forest floor. The shocked little boy vowed that he would become a doctor and cure the man. Peter's relatives on his mother's side were writers, reporters, editors, and novelists. In junior high school, Peter's English teacher, Miss Violet Walker, after reading his first essay, told him that he would become a writer. But he was committed to a life of medicine. Though he has been practicing medicine for forty years, the voices of Miss Walker and the writers in his family have never stopped whispering. Ten years ago he finally listened and moved to a rural community in Northern California where most mornings he writes. A semi-retired family physician

who makes house calls in his pickup with his dog Henry, he occasionally helps his wife in the garden, boards horses, and participates in the Mattole Salmon Group whose goal is the restoration of the Mattole River. He has recently been published in *Snowy Egret*, *Passager*, *Camas*, *Off the Coast*, *The Labletter*, and *City Works*. His chapbook, *Tracks*, won the 2007 HOTMETALPRESS Chapbook Prize, and he was the National Award Winner of the 2008 *City Works Literary Anthology*. He lives in Petrolia, California.

Ann Floreen Niedringhaus is the author of two poetry chapbooks, *Life Suspended* (Poetry Harbor, 2003) and *Parallel to the Horizon* (Pudding House Publications, 2007). Her work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *The Comstock Review*, *Sojourners*, *Albatross*, and *Peregrine*. She writes in view of Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota, and receives inspiration from participants in poetry groups she co-coordinates at the St. Louis County Jail.

Leonard Orr is Academic Director of Liberal Arts and Professor of English at the Tri-Cities campus of Washington State University in Richland, Washington. He is the author or editor of thirteen books of literary criticism or critical theory. His most recent published books are *Joyce, Imperialism, & Postcolonialism* (Syracuse University Press, 2008) and *James's The Turn of The Screw* (Continuum, 2009). He was named the Lewis E. and Stella G. Buchanan Distinguished Professor of English (2005-2008). His poetry has appeared in many journals including *Black Warrior Review*, *Fugue*, *Poetry International*, *Poetry East*, *Natural Bridge*, *Isotope*, *Midwest Poetry Review*, *Pontoon*, *Rosebud*, and *Rocky Mountain Review*. His poetry chapbook, *Daytime Moon*, was published in 2005 by FootHills Publishing, and his full-length collection, *Why We Have Evening*, was published in 2010 by Cherry Grove Collections, an imprint of WordTech Communications LLC. He was a finalist for the T. S. Eliot Poetry Prize and the Blue Lynx Poetry Prize, and he was a semifinalist for the Floating Bridge Chapbook Prize and the William Stafford Poetry Prize. He has been a featured reader in many venues throughout the state of Washington, and he has led poetry workshops at the Burning Word Poetry Festival and elsewhere. He hosts the open-mic and featured-poet events at Washington State University Tri-Cities, and he served as president of the Washington Poets Association for three years. In recent years he has taken up painting abstracts and had his work featured in a solo-exhibition of fifty paintings in 2007. Both his poetry and painting utilize a similar aesthetic based in spontaneity, surprise, and passion.

David Parke is a hypnotherapist and life coach. His short story "Lessons in Hate" appeared in *Cantaraville*, Issue 9. He lives in New York, New York.

Rae Pater has had many poems published both online and in print. She lives in Christchurch, New Zealand, where she teaches adult literacy and tries to snatch spare moments for writing.

Roger Pfingston is a retired teacher of English and photography. He has been writing and publishing his poems since the early 1960s. Much of his work these days can be found online in e-zines such as *Mannequin Envy*, *Poetry Midwest*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal*, and *The Pedestal*. His poems have also appeared in two recent anthologies from Iowa Press: *Say This of Horses* and *75 Poems on Retirement*. His most recent chapbooks are *Earthbound* (Pudding House Publications) and *Singing to the Garden* (Parallel Press). He is the recipient of an NEA Creative Writing Fellowship for his poetry and two PEN Syndicated Fiction Awards. He lives in Bloomington, Indiana.

Ronald Pies is the author of a collection of poems, *Creeping Thyme* (Brandylane), and a collection of short stories, *Zimmerman's Tefillin* (PublishAmerica). A physician, he teaches at Tufts University and at SUNY Upstate Medical University. He lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Kevin Pilkington is a member of the writing faculty at Sarah Lawrence College, and he teaches a workshop in the graduate department at Manhattanville College. He is the author of six collections of poetry. *Spare Change* was the La Jolla Poets Press National Book Award winner, and *Getting By* won

The Ledge 1996 Poetry Chapbook Competition. *Ready to Eat the Sky* was published by River City Publishing as part of their new poetry series, and it was a finalist for an Independent Publishers Award. His poetry has appeared in many anthologies including *Birthday Poems: A Celebration*, *Western Wind*, and *Contemporary Poetry of New England*. Over the years he has been nominated for four Pushcarts and has appeared online at *Verse Daily*. His poems and reviews have appeared in numerous magazines including *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Iowa Review*, *Boston Review*, *Yankee*, *Hayden's Ferry*, *Columbia*, *Greensboro Review*, *North American Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Valparaiso Review*, and *Urthkin*. He lives in New York City.

Lucas Pingel is an assistant professor of English at St. Catherine's University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is the author of two chapbooks of poetry, *The Storm That Killed the Tree* (Pudding House Publications, 2008) and *All Types of Breath Included* (Further Adventures, 2009).

Patricia Polak is enrolled in the Creative Writing Master's Program at Manhattanville College. Her work has appeared in or is forthcoming in *Baby Boomer Birthright*, *The Cape Rock*, *The Griffin*, *Karamu*, *Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *Poet Lore*, *RiverSedge*, *The South Carolina Review*, and *Wisconsin Review*. She has traveled in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. For two years she lived abroad in Eastern Europe and Russia. A native New Yorker, she lives in Manhattan with her husband, a historian.

Connie Post served as the first Poet Laureate of Livermore, California, 2005-2009, during which time she created two popular reading series, "Ravenswood" and "Wine and Words." Her poetry has appeared in *Calyx*, *Kalliope*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Comstock Review*, *DMQ Review*, *Dogwood*, *Iodine Poetry Journal*, *Main Street Rag*, *RiverSedge*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Up The Staircase*, *The Toronto Quarterly*, and *Wild Goose Poetry Review*. She was the winner of the Cover Prize for the Spring 2009 issue of *The Dirty Napkin* and the winner of the 2009 Caesura Poetry Awards from Poetry Center of San Jose. She lives in Livermore, California.

Julie Preis lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her poems have appeared in several print and online publications. Her interests include children, old people, family relationships, low-effort cooking, travel, and learning Spanish.

Doug Ramspeck directs the Writing Center at The Ohio State University at Lima, Ohio. His poetry collection, *Black Tupelo Country*, received the 2007 John Ciardi Prize for Poetry and is published by BKMK Press (University of Missouri – Kansas City). March Street Press published his chapbook, *Where We Come From*.

Charles P. Ries is the author of five books of poetry and a novel based on memory, *The Fathers We Find*. His narrative poems, short stories, interviews, and poetry reviews have appeared in over two hundred print and electronic publications. He has received four Pushcart Prize nominations for his writing. Most recently he was awarded the Wisconsin Regional Writers Association "Jade Ring" Award for humorous poetry. He is the former poetry editor for *Word Riot*, Co-Chairman of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission, and a former member of the board at the Woodland Pattern Book Center. He is a founding member of the Lake Shore Surf Club, the oldest fresh-water surfing club on the Great Lakes. He lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Visit his website at www.literaiti.net/Ries/ for samples of his work.

Amy Henry Robinson is currently in Santa Monica, California, cleaning her oven instead of writing as she ought to. Her work has been published in *Origami Condom*. Her published children's book, *Too Many Monkeys*, is illustrated by her sister Janet. She loves her husband because he loves the cats.

E. M. Schorb has had his work published in *The Sewanee Review*, *The Yale Review*, *The Chicago Review*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Texas Review*, *The American Scholar*, *Stand* (UK), *Agenda* (UK), *The Notre Dame Review*, *Rattle*, *The New York Quarterly*, and others. His poetry

collection, *Time and Fevers*, won a *Writer's Digest* Award for Self-Published Books in Poetry, and it was also a 2007 recipient of an Eric Hoffer Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing. Another collection, *Murderer's Day*, was awarded the Verna Emery Poetry Prize and was published by Purdue University Press. His novel, *Paradise Square*, was awarded the Grand Prize for Fiction from the International eBook Award Foundation at the Frankfurt Book Fair in 2000. His latest novel, *Fortune Island*, was published in 2009 by Cherokee McGhee Publishers. He lives in Mooresville, North Carolina.

Troy Schoultz has been writing and publishing poetry, fiction, reviews, and articles for the past ten years. He recently earned a Master of Science degree in English from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. Currently working on his first novel, he lives in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Anthony Seidman is the author of several books and chapbooks, including *Combustions* (March Street Press) and *Where Thirst Intersects* (The Bitter Oleander Press). His poetry and translations can be found in such journals as *Beyond Baroque*, *Borderlands*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Nimrod*, and *Skidrow Penthouse*. He lives with his wife, poet Estrella del Valle, and his children in Los Angeles, California.

Madeline Sharples has worked most of her professional life as a technical writer, editor, and grant writer. She currently is a proposal manager turning engineering "writing" into readable prose. She co-authored *Blue Collar Women: Trailblazing Women Take on Men-Only Jobs* (New Horizon Press, 1994), a book about women in non-traditional professions, and she co-edited the poetry anthology, *The Great American Poetry Show*, Volumes 1 and 2. She wrote the poetry for two photography books, *The Emerging Journey* and *Intimacy*, and she recently had poems published in *Memoir (and)*, *The Muddy River Poetry Review* and *Perigee - Publication for the Arts*. "Lunch," an excerpt from her memoir in poetry and prose, *Leaving the Hall Light On*, also appeared in *Perigee*. Visit her blog, Choices, at www.madeline40.blogspot.com, where she posts poems, photos, and musings about life choices. She lives in Manhattan Beach, California.

Eileen Sheehan lives in Killarney, Ireland. Her work is featured in *The Watchful Heart: A New Generation of Irish Poets*, edited by Joan McBreen and published by Salmon in 2009. Her collections of poetry are *Song of the Midnight Fox* (Doghouse Books, 2004) and *Down the Sunlit Hall* (Doghouse Books, 2008). She is the current Poet in Residence with the Limerick County Council Arts Office.

Michael Shorb writes frequently about environmental and political issues in tones ranging from lyrical to satirical. His poem, "Water Planet," is dedicated to Jacques Cousteau, the pioneer ecologist. His work has appeared in numerous magazines and anthologies, including *Nation*, *Michigan Quarterly*, *The Sun*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Rattle*, and *Underground Voices*. He lives in San Francisco, California.

Raymond Southall has written critical works including *The Courtly Maker* (Barnes & Noble), *Literature and the Rise of Capitalism* (Lawrence & Wishart), and *Literature, the Individual and Society* (Lawrence & Wishart). His poems have appeared in various collections including *Secrets Beneath Stones*, *Sailing in the Mist of Time*, *Across the Bridge*, *Traveling*, and *The Argument from Desire*. He lives in Wollongong, New South Wales, Australia.

Dee Sunshine is a new-age gypsy, poet, and artist. After writing this blurb, he is going to Spain to walk the Camino de Santiago. After that he might return to India. You can follow his adventures at www.facebook.com/captainmelted, and you can read more of his poetry at www.thunderburst.co.uk.

Lois Swann has written two novels, *The Mists of Manitoo* and *Torn Covenants*, both published by Charles Scribner's Sons and reprinted by Avon Books. *The Mists of Manitoo* also had a Dutch edition. She won the Boehm Memorial Prize for poetry, and she founded Calliope's Chamber, an ensemble of live music and live readings of her published work and works-in-progress. She lives in Cummaquid, Massachusetts.

Julie M. Tate works as a journalist and freelance nurse. Her writing has appeared in numerous literary journals such as *Papyrus* and *Cram*. She is the owner, author, and editor of Gossip [&] the Devil, a creative/lifestyle blog that features interviews with independent artists in a variety of mediums and also features commentary on the arts, culture, music, and travel. Her first chapbook, *The Rough Chronicles of Bipolar Romance*, is available through her publishing and design label, Modern Orphan Designs. Currently she is at work on a book of flash fiction. She splits time between Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Chicago, Illinois.

Sam Taylor has had poems published in many journals including *The New Republic*, *Orion*, *Agni*, and *Michigan Quarterly*. His first book of poetry, *Body of the World*, is available from Copper Canyon Press. He is also the lyricist for the band, Some Say Fire, whose website is www.somesayfire.com. He lives in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Arlene Tribbia is an artist who has had short stories and poems published in many print and online literary journals in the United States and Canada. Her short stories have been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and she recently completed a novel, *The Ten Thousand Loves*. She lives in Palm Harbor, Florida. Her website is: www.arlenetribbia.com.

Vernon Waring, a native of Philadelphia, has a background in journalism, advertising, and graphic arts. His poetry has appeared in many literary publications including *The Writer*, *The Iconoclast*, and *Anthology*. His work has also been featured online in *Ascent Aspirations Magazine*, *Starving Arts Literary Magazine*, *poetic inhalation*, and *A Prairie Home Companion*. He lives in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

Sarah Brown Weitzman grew up in Port Washington, New York. Over 200 of her poems have been published in many magazines such as *Poet & Critic*, *Ekphrasis*, *Nassau Review*, *North American Review*, *American Writing*, and *Potomac Review*. She received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and twice was a finalist in the Academy of American Poets' First Book Award. In 2003, she was a finalist for both The Foley Prize and the National Looking Glass Poetry Chapbook Contest. Her second chapbook, *The Forbidden*, was published in 2004 by Pudding House Publications. A full-length volume of her poems, *Never Far from Flesh*, was published by Main Street Rag in 2005. Retired, she now lives and writes in Delray Beach, Florida.

Philip Wexler has had over 80 poems published in assorted literary magazines through the years and has given readings of his work in the Washington, D.C. area. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland, where he works for the Federal Government.

Les Wicks has had work published in over 200 different magazines, anthologies, and newspapers across 12 countries and 7 languages. His 9th book of poetry is *The Ambrosiacs* (Island, 2009). He lives in Mortdale, New South Wales, Australia.

Daniel Williams has been writing poetry of the Sierra Nevada in Northern California for 20 years. His work has appeared in many journals and anthologies. He has read at Cody's Books and Barnes & Noble, and he regularly records for KSER Radio in Seattle, Washington. When not writing of the natural world, he "vacations" in the 19th Century and finds many fascinating subjects for his poems there. He lives in Wawona, California.

A. D. Winans was born and raised in San Francisco, California, where he now lives. He returned from Panama in 1958 to become part of the North Beach scene. He is the author of over 45 books and chapbooks of poetry and prose, including *North Beach Poems*, *North Beach Revisited*, and *The Holy Grail: The Charles Bukowski Second Coming Revolution*. His poetry has been translated into 8 languages. He edited and published Second Coming Press for 17 years, publishing many Beat and post-Beat poets such as Charles Bukowski, William Everson, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Allen Ginsberg, Bob Kaufman, Josephine Miles, Harold Norse, David Meltzer, and Jack Micheline. In 1980, he

produced the Second Coming Poets and Music Festival, honoring poet Josephine Miles and blues-legend John Lee Hooker. In 2005, a song poem of his was performed at New York's Tully Hall. In 2006, he was awarded a PEN National Josephine Miles Award for excellence in literature. And Presa :S: Press published his *Selected Poems: The Other Side of Broadway* in 2007.

Chris Wright is a graduate student in history and philosophy in Boston, Massachusetts. His first book, *Notes of an Underground Humanist*, is available at Booklocker.com.

Martin Zehr is a clinical psychologist in private practice in Kansas City, Missouri. He is a member of the Mark Twain Circle of America and has made presentations on a number of Twain-related topics at regional and national literary conferences and at the international conferences on Mark Twain studies held in Elmira, New York, where the Clemens family spent their summers. His poetry has been published in *ZITIG*, the European online journal of culture and politics, and in the *Kansas City Star*.

Larry Ziman says, "Putting thoughts and feelings on paper without craft may be fun but never art." He lives in West Hollywood, California.

Fredrick Zydek is the author of nine collections of poetry. *T'Kopachuck: The Buckley Poems* was published by The Winthrop Press in 2009. Formerly a professor of creative writing and theology at the University of Nebraska and later at the College of Saint Mary, he is now a gentleman farmer when he isn't writing. He is the editor for Lone Willow Press. His work has appeared in *The Antioch Review*, *Cimmaron Review*, *The Hollins Critic*, *New England Review*, *Nimrod*, *Poetry*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Yankee*, and others. He is the recipient of the Hart Crane Poetry Award, the Sarah Foley O'Loughlen Literary Award, and others. Retired, he divides his time between his home in Omaha, Nebraska, and a working corn-and-soybean farm in Brunswick, Nebraska.

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Intermission

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