

CONTRIBUTORS

Cathy Allman has her MFA from Manhattanville College. Her poems have appeared in many journals including *Blue Stem*, *California Quarterly*, *Green Hills Literary Lantern*, *The Potomac Review* and *Terminus*. Her poem “Not in the Wonder Box” has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She is currently working on expanding the poem “Outline For Her Novel” into a novel.

Jacob M. Appel is the author of four literary novels including *Millard Salter's Last Day* (Simon & Schuster/Gallery, 2017), nine short story collections, an essay collection, a cozy mystery, a thriller and a volume of poems. His collection of ethical dilemmas, *Who Says You're Dead?*, is forthcoming from Algonquin Books. Jacob currently teaches at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. More at: www.jacobmappel.com.

Robert Beveridge (he/him) makes noise (xterminal.bandcamp.com) and writes poetry in Akron, OH. Recent/upcoming appearances in *The Virginia Normal*, *Credo Espoir*, and *Chiron Review*, among others.

Madelyn Camrud completed her formal education with degrees in English and Visual art at UND, and a Master's degree in English in 1990. But learning continues as she makes art and writes poems. Two full collections of poetry were published by New Rivers Press, Moorhead, MN. She is currently working on a third collection entitled *Rowing to the Moon*.

Andrew Condouris is a deaf English tutor living with his astrologer wife and two cats Lili and Vali. In the past, he has worked in New York City in film, television, and theatre as a writer and actor. He has spent the last two years working on the novel *Negative Paradise* with René Steinke, author of *Friendswood*.

Andrew writes: “‘Kind Eyes’ is a simple reaction to the school shootings and wars since Columbine and 9/11. While the root cause (fear) is embarrassingly obvious, the solution (love) is not exactly accessible to men and boys. This story is merely an attempt at asking why.”

Holly Day's poetry has recently appeared in *Asimov's Science Fiction*, *Grain*, and *The Tampa Review*. Her newest poetry collections are *In This Place*, *She Is Her Own* (Vegetarian Alcoholic Press), *A Wall to Protect Your Eyes* (Pski's Porch Publishing), *Folios of Dried Flowers and Pressed Birds* (Cyberwit.net), *Where We Went Wrong* (Clare Songbirds Publishing), *Into the Cracks* (Golden Antelope Press), and *Cross Referencing a Book of Summer* (Silver Bow Publishing).

Darren C. Demaree is the author of eleven poetry collections, most recently *Emily As Sometimes the Forest Wants the Fire* (June 2019, Harpoon Books). He is the recipient of a 2018 Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award, the Louis Bogan Award from Trio House Press, and the Nancy Dew Taylor Award from *Emrys Journal*. He is the Managing Editor of the *Best of the Net Anthology and Ovenbird Poetry*. He is currently living in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and children.

Merridawn Duckler is a writer from Portland, Oregon, author of *INTERSTATE* (dancing girl press) and *IDIOM*, winner of the Washburn Prize. Recent work is in *Ninth Letter, Pithead Chapel, Queen Mob's Tea House, Ibbetson Street Press*. Fellowships/awards include Yaddo, Southampton Poetry Conference, Poets on the Coast, Horned Dorset Writers Colony, Death Rattle. She's an editor at *Narrative* and at the philosophy journal *Evental Aesthetics*.

Merridawn writes: "In 'Further Down the Bar' there's an experience—youth—which belongs to everyone, no matter where they are in life. Energy, disillusionment, power, beauty are represented as a lit up wild band and a solitary drunken ride. We are the center of attention and also the center of loneliness; world-swallowers, who always want more. 'Holy Movies' came from an experience of watching old home movies with my family. Every time anyone appeared on screen, my sisters whispered their name. I don't know why, it was very spooky. I saw our positions and gestures were exactly the same as they are in us today, as adults. I walked apart then and I still do. I used the actual names of my brothers and sisters.

Alison Hicks is the author of poetry collections *You Who Took the Boat Out* and *Kiss*, a chapbook *Falling Dreams*, a novella *Love: A Story of Images*, and co-editor of an anthology, *Prompted*. Her work has appeared in *Eclipse, Gargoyle, Permafrost*, and *Poet Lore*, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize by *Green Hills Literary Lantern*. Awards include the Philadelphia City Paper Poetry Prize and two PA Council of the Arts Fellowships. She is founder of Greater Philadelphia Wordshop Studio, which offers community-based writing workshops.

Monty Jones, a writer in Austin, Texas, is the author of a book of poems, *Cracks in the Earth*, published in 2018 by Cat Shadow Press. The book is available from Malvern Books, an independent bookstore in Austin (malvernbooks.com).

Patrick Kelly Joyner's writing has appeared in *The Orange Willow Review* and *Wild Violet*. He teaches at American University in Washington, D.C. and lives in Northern Virginia.

Patrick writes: “These poems have some autobiographical elements, but they’re also reflective of the common experience of calm clarity that descends upon a person during physical labor.”

Daniel Kenitz is a writer with short stories in *Limestone*, *Strangelet*, and *L’Allure des Mots*, and poetry in *Adelaide*. He lives in Wisconsin.

Sharon Kennedy-Nolle is a graduate of Vassar College and holds an MFA and doctoral degree from the University of Iowa. A participant in the Bread Loaf Conferences in both Middlebury and Sicily in 2016, she was also accepted to the Sewanee Writers’ Conference in 2018. This year she was awarded a scholarship to the Sarah Lawrence Summer Writing Institute as well as a full scholarship to the Frost Place Summer Writing Program. Her poetry has appeared or is upcoming in *Zone 3*, *The Round*, *Prism Review*, *SLAB*, *Potomac Review*, *Pennsylvania English*, *OxMag*, *Bluestem Magazine*, *Juked*, *Euphony*, *apt*, *Cape Rock*, *Sanskrit*, *Vox Poetica*, *Talking River*, *Storyscape*, *Delmarva Review*, *FRiGG*, *Qwerty*, *Jelly Bucket*, *The Dickinson Review*, *Lindenwood Review*, *Rogue Agent Journal*, *Elm Leaves Journal*, *Door is a Jar*, *Radar Poetry*, *Schuylkill Valley Journal of the Arts*, *Chaffin Journal*, *Free State Review*, *Edison Literary Review*, *Streetlight Magazine*, *Drunk Monkeys*, *Chantwood Magazine*, *Menacing Hedge*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, and *The Midwest Quarterly* among others, while her dissertation was published as *Writing Reconstruction: Race, Gender, and Citizenship in the Postwar South* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015). Her chapbook *Black Wick*, a collection of elegies for her son, was a semi-finalist for the 2018 Tupelo Snowbound Chapbook Contest.

Sharon writes: “My interests in history and traveling have informed both my scholarly and creative work. Exploring the wild, unbidden parts of the earth has always served as a key source of inspiration for me. These poems focus on the trauma of family loss.”

Peter Leight lives in Amherst, Massachusetts. He has previously published poems in *Paris Review*, *AGNI*, *Antioch Review*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *FIELD*, and other magazines.

DS Maolalai has been nominated four times for Best of the Net and twice for the Pushcart Prize. His poetry has been released in two collections, *Love is Breaking Plates in the Garden* (Encircle Press, 2016) and *Sad Havoc Among the Birds* (Turas Press, 2019).

Julio Monteiro Martins (1955–2014) was born in Niterói, Brazil, but lived for many years in Italy, where he was a prominent teacher, publisher, and writer of essays, stories, theater works, and poetry. In his home country he had worked as a lawyer for human rights and environmental causes; in Italy he was director of the online journal *Sagarana*. The poem that appears in

this issue of *The Virginia Normal* is from the final poetry collection of Julio Monteiro Martins, *La grazia di casa mia*, published in 2013 by Rediviva Edizioni (Milan).

Michael Pasley grew up in Southern Indiana and briefly attended Indiana University in Bloomington. His publications include “You Just Don’t Get It,” which was published in *Germ Magazine* and *Dirty Girlz Magazine*, and his story “Double Zeros,” which was featured in *The Avalon Literary Review*. He is also the winner of Causeway Lit’s 2019 summer fiction contest. As a young African American growing up in the housing projects, Michael often felt alone in his love of poetry, Sci-Fi, and fantasy. He began at the age of eleven to write poems and short stories. Michael now lives in Jeffersonville, Indiana where he spends most of his free time attending book club meetings, hiking, playing with his kids, and writing. He is currently working on a novella, his first love story.

Rebecca Givens Rolland writes poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *Slice*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Literary Review*, and her poetry book is *The Wreck of Birds*. Her debut nonfiction is forthcoming from HarperOne.

Kelly R. Samuels is a Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominee. She is the author of two chapbooks: *Words Some of Us Rarely Use* (Unsolicited Press) and *Zeena/Zenobia Speaks* (Finishing Line Press). Her poems have recently appeared in *RHINO*, *Cold Mountain Review*, *DMQ Review*, *Quiddity*, and *Atticus Review*. She lives in the Upper Midwest.

Mika Seifert is a concert violinist and writer, whose short stories have been published in *The Antioch Review*, *Chicago Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Salt Hill*, *The Southern Review*, *World Literature Today*, and elsewhere. He is currently at work on his first novel.

Rochelle Jewel Shapiro is the author of *Miriam the Medium* (Simon & Schuster) and Indie Finalist, *Kaylee’s Ghost*. Her essays have appeared in the *NYT (Lives)*, *Newsweek*, *Empty Mirror*, and many other publications. Her short stories and poetry have been in *The MacGuffin*, *Iowa Review*, *Peregrine*, *The Broad River Review*, *Reunion: the Dallas Review*, and more. She was nominated for 2019 Best of the Net by *Spry Journal*. Currently, she teaches writing at UCLA Extension. Rochellejshapiro.com @rjshapiro

Rochelle writes: “Inspired by the photographer Walker Evans and the poet, Frank O’Hara, I love to walk the city, observing, taking notes. When I transcribe the notes onto my computer, I battle to shape them into a poem. Lines begin to fly to me, landing like City Pigeons. (My mother always said ‘If a pigeon craps on you, it’s good luck.’)”

Eva-Maria Sher was born in Germany a year before the end of WWII. At seventeen she emigrated to the United States and currently lives on a farm in Clinton, Washington with her husband Ron and their two Leonberger puppies Minnie and Tasha. Her poems have appeared in *Euphony*, *Prism Review*, *Soundings East*, *Westview*, *Willow Review* and others. She recently published her first book, *Chewing Darkness*, the love story of her parents during the Hitler regime.

Eva-Maria writes, “Since I wrote ‘Nothing to Crow About,’ which is one of my favorite poems, I have moved from Seattle to a farm on Whidbey Island and miss my inquisitive friends. They certainly knew me and my family members as well or perhaps better than I knew them and their tribe. They did think our vegetable garden was created just for their pleasure. But their courage, their quirky habits, their cleverness, their loyalty to one another, their uncanny ability to gauge who in our family respected and liked them, and who might prefer to murder them, fascinated me. While on my afternoon walks, I often saw them organize a relay, taking turns to chase a Cooper’s hawk or an eagle way beyond the borders of their communal territory. After the young ones fledged, I would see about two hundred of their tribe fly overhead every evening to their common roosting place. It did inspire a sense of awe, and of course poetry in me.”

Donald Stang is a longtime student of Italian. His translations of Italian poetry have appeared or are forthcoming in *Carrying the Branch*, by Glass Lyre Press, *Silk Road*, *Pirene’s Fountain*, *Newfound*, *Catamaran*, *Ghost Town*, *Apple Valley Review*, *Apricity Magazine*, *Two Cities Review*, *Mantis*, *Blackbird*, *The Opiate*, *America*, *We Call Your Name: Poems of Resistance and Resilience* by Sixteen Rivers Press, thecreativeprocess.com, and thedreamingmachine.com.

Catherine Stansfield’s work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Mount Hope Magazine* and *The MacGuffin*. She served as an editorial and promotional assistant for *Presence: A Journal of Catholic Poetry*. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Caldwell University and currently works as a publishing assistant.

Brendan Todt lives in Sioux City with his wife and two boys. His poems and short prose can be found...blah blah blah. He runs a Facebook page and small website dedicated to listing and sometimes reviewing local art events (arthubsioxland.com). He mows his neighbor’s lawn in exchange for piano lessons.

Brendan writes, “‘We Are All Alone’ and ‘If You Believe It,’ I guess, must have something to do with buying a house and becoming part of a neighborhood again. My wife and I were not first-time home-buyers when we moved to Sioux City, but it was the first time we gave a damn about our

house and our yard and, to some degree, what our neighbors thought of us. So while there is some inwardness on the part of the speaker in these poems, he's also got his eye on the Joneses--and knows that they have their eyes on him, too."

Helen Wickes's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *AGNI*, *Atlanta Review*, *Boulevard*, *Confrontation*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Sagarana*, *Soundings East*, *South Dakota Review*, *Spillway*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *TriQuarterly*, *Westview*, *Willow Review*, *Zone 3*, and *ZYZZYVA*, among many others. She has published four books of her poetry and contributes Italian translations to thedreamingmachine.com.

Carolyn Wilsey loves living within walking distance of the continent's edge. She has an MFA in creative writing, fiction, from Emerson College. This is her first published poem in a print journal; her poetry has also been published online by *Pretty Owl Poetry and Rogue Agent*. In "Turning 40 in Portsmouth Square," her aim was to contrast feelings about time passing with a mystical sense of being uplifted by nature.

Lee Clark Zumpe, an entertainment columnist with Tampa Bay Newspapers, earned his bachelor's in English at the University of South Florida. He began writing poetry and fiction in the early 1990s. His work has regularly appeared in a variety of literary journals and genre magazines over the last two decades. Publication credits include *Tiferet*, *Zillah*, *The Ugly Tree*, *Modern Drunkard Magazine*, *Red Owl*, *Jones Av.*, *Main Street Rag*, *Space & Time*, *Mythic Delirium* and *Weird Tales*. Lee lives on the west coast of Florida with his wife and daughter. Visit www.leeclarkzumpe.com.