

CONTRIBUTORS

ANGELA AJAYI writes book reviews for *The Common Online*. Her essays and author interviews have appeared in *Wild River Review*, the *Star Tribune*, and *Afroeuropa: Journal of Afro-European Studies*. This is her first published short story.

AMANDA AVUTU's fiction appears online in *Green Mountains Review*, *Story*, and *Fiction Fix*. Her stories have also been selected as finalists in *Glimmer Train's* Short Story Award for New Writers contest. When she's not working on her first novel, or storytelling for socially responsible businesses, Amanda is braving the Atlanta heat and humidity with her husband and two children.

DAVID BELECKIS is a hospital and hospice chaplain on the west side of Chicago. He has also worked as an addiction counselor, baker, photographer, and, most formatively, cabdriver. He writes poetry based on these garnered experiences of life, death, struggle, and transformation. Father of two sons, he lives in Oak Park, Illinois, with his wife, Joan.

CHRISTOPHER BUCKLEY's *Star Journal: Selected Poems* is published by the University of Pittsburgh Press (fall 2016). His twentieth book of poetry, *Back Room at the Philosophers' Club*, won the 2015 Lascaux Prize in Poetry from the *Lascaux Review*. Among several critical collections, he has edited *On the Poetry of Philip Levine: Stranger to Nothing*, University of Michigan Press.

JOSHUA COREY is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently *The Barons* (Omnidawn Publishing, 2014), and a novel, *Beautiful Soul: An American Elegy* (Spuyten Duyvil, 2014). With Jean-Luc Garneau, he translated a new version of Francis Ponge's *Le parti pris des choses* as *Partisan of Things* (Kenning Editions, 2016). He lives in Evanston, Illinois, and teaches English at Lake Forest College.

STEPHEN DIXON's biographical note appears on page 7. He is the runner-up for the FWJ Editor's Prize in Fiction in 2016.

KELLY DOLEJSI is a climbing instructor with an MFA from Emerson College. Her work has been published in *Denver Quarterly*, *Up the Staircase*, *1001*, *Mom Egg Review*, *Mothers Always Write*, *Trickster*, and *Santa Fe Literary Review*.



SHEILA DONOHUE is a mother, a poet, and a food rights activist. She founded Center Portion, art + activism, in the year 2000 to promote innovation in writing and debate. Read more at <http://centerportion.com>. She is a performance poet with four National Poetry Slam Champion titles, founder of duets for poetry, Betty's Mouth, and author of the book *The Avalanche Expert*. She has enjoyed feature performances of her poetry and comedic writings at Steppenwolf, Ravinia, Curious Theatre Branch, The Green Mill, The Art Institute of Chicago, The Chicago Cultural Center, and on Oprah! and National Public Radio. Ache Obejas of *Chicago Tribune* once referred to her as "a poet's poet."

DESMOND EGAN is author of twenty-five collections of poetry, two of prose essays, and two translations of Greek plays. Twenty-five collections of his work in translation have been published around Europe and in the United States, China, and Russia. He has received various awards, the most recent being the Chicago Irish Books and Media Award for Poetry (2015). Two books of critical studies of his work have been published in the United States, one edited by Hugh Kenner; and a DVD documentary has appeared in the United States. He received an Honorary Doctorate for Literature from Washburn University, 1996. He was President of The Classical Association of Ireland in 2002, and he is currently Artistic Director of The G.M. Hopkins International Festival.

LANE FALCON's poems have been published by *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Rhino*, *Qu*, *The Cortland Review*, and more. She lives in Alexandria, Virginia, with her two children.

PETER FERRY's stories have appeared in *McSweeney's*, *Fiction*, *OR*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, and *StoryQuarterly*; he is the winner of an Illinois Arts Council Award for Short Fiction. He is a contributor to the travel pages of the *Chicago Tribune* and to *WorldHum*. He has written two novels, *Travel Writing*, which was published in 2008, and *Old Heart*, which was published in June 2015 and won the Chicago Writers Association Book of the Year award. He lives in Evanston, Illinois, and Van Buren County, Michigan, with his wife, Carolyn.

AMY GERSTLER's recent books of poetry include *Scattered at Sea*, *Dearest Creature*, and *Ghost Girl* (these titles published by Penguin). She teaches writing at the University of California, Irvine.



CHARLES HAVERTY is the author of *Excommunicados* (University of Iowa Press), winner of the 2015 John Simmons Short Fiction Award. His stories have appeared in *AGNI*, *One Story*, *Colorado Review*, *Salamander*, *Ecotone*, and other magazines, as well as in *The O. Henry Prize Stories 2016*. He lives in Lexington, Massachusetts.

CHRISTOPHER HOWELL has published ten collections of poems, most recently *Gaze* (Milkweed Editions, 2012) and *Dreamless and Possible: Poems New and Selected* (University of Washington Press, 2010). A new volume will appear from Milkweed in 2017. More recent work may be found in the pages of *Field*, *Terminus*, *The Gettysburg Review*, and *The Alaska Quarterly Review*. He teaches in the MFA program at Eastern Washington University's Inland NW Center for Writers, in Spokane.

HEATHER JACOBS is the editor of *Big Fiction Magazine* and managing editor of Dock Street Press. Her poetry and fiction have appeared in *The Lumberyard* and *Fugue*. She lives with her husband and son in Seattle, where she is currently at work on a novella and a novel.

RICHARD JONES is the author of seven books of poems from Copper Canyon Press, including *The Correct Spelling & Exact Meaning*. His newest collection is *King of Hearts* (Adastra Press). He is editor of the literary journal *Poetry East* and its many anthologies, including *Paris*, *Origins*, and *Bliss*. He also edits the free worldwide poetry app, "The Poet's Almanac."

JUDITH KERMAN retired as Professor Emerita of English from Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan, where she taught creative writing, literature, and electronic media. She has published nine collections of poems, most recently *Aleph, broken: Poems from My Diaspora* (Broadstone Books, 2016), and three collections of translations. She was a Fulbright scholar in the Dominican Republic in 2002. She is publisher of Mayapple Press in Woodstock, New York.

MICHELLE LITVIN is an artist, photojournalist, architectural photographer, knitter and educator. She has a degree in philosophy and has studied subjects, such as Chinese, Uyghur, the Japanese way of tea, Daoism, yoga, Pilates, and human behavior. Litvin's work has appeared in publications, such as *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Metropolis*, *Interior Design*, *Fast Company*, *People*, and *Newsweek*. Her art has been shown nationally and is held in several private collections. She has won numerous awards for her architectural



photography. She is a member of The Arts Club of Chicago and has served on several committees for The Hyde Park Art Center and on the advisory board of Experimental Station. A couple of years ago, she moved to the base of a wooded dune in Gary, Indiana.

JOHN McCARTHY's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Best New Poets 2015*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Minnesota Review*, *Redivider*, and *Salamander*. He is the 2016 winner of *The Pinch* Literary Award in Poetry. John is the author of *Ghost County* (Midwestern Gothic Press, 2016).

ED OCHESTER's most recent books are *Sugar Run Road* (Autumn House Press, 2015), *Unreconstructed: Poems Selected and New* (Autumn House Press, 2007), and *American Poetry Now* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007). He is the editor of the *Pitt Poetry Series* and a member of the core faculty of the Bennington MFA Writing Seminars. Recent poems have appeared in *American Poetry Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Agni*, *Boulevard*, *Nerve Cowboy*, *Great River Review*, and other magazines. Among other honors, he has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts.

ELISE PASCHEN is the author of *The Nighlife* (forthcoming), *Bestiary*, and *Infidelities* (Nicholas Roerich Poetry Prize winner). Her poems recently have appeared in *The New Yorker* and *Poetry*. Coeditor of *Poetry Speaks* and *Poetry in Motion*, she teaches in the MFA Writing Program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

AIMEE PENNA's poems have appeared in *Basalt*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Meridian*, and *Whiskey Island*, among other publications. She is an ESL instructor and an editorial assistant at *The American Poetry Review*. She lives outside of Philadelphia with her cinefile husband and two kooky cats.

CHRISTINA PUGH is the author of four books of poems: *Perception* (Four Way Books, forthcoming in 2017), *Grains of the Voice* (Northwestern University Press, 2013), *Restoration* (Northwestern University Press, 2008), and *Rotary* (Word Press, 2004), which received the Word Press First Book Prize. Her poems have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *The Kenyon Review*, and many other periodicals. In 2015, she was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in poetry, as well as a Bogliasco Foundation Fellowship. Her previous awards have included the Lucille Medwick Award from the Poetry Society of America, a poetry fellowship from the Illinois Arts Council, and the Grolier



Poetry Prize. Her critical articles have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Emily Dickinson Journal*, *Literary Imagination*, and *The Cambridge Companion to Poetry Since 1945*, among other publications. She is a professor in the Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and consulting editor for *Poetry*.

CIN SALACH Collaborator, mom, Ragdale fellow, Emmy nominee, and author of *Looking for a Soft Place to Land* and *When I am Yes*, cin's belief that poetry can change lives has led her to create her business, *poemgrown*, helping people mark the most important occasions in their lives with poetry.

S J SINDU's debut novel, *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, is forthcoming in 2017 from Soho Press. Her hybrid fiction and nonfiction chapbook, *I Once Met You But You Were Dead*, was the winner of the Split Lip Turnbuckle Chapbook Contest, and is forthcoming in early 2017. Sindu's creative writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Brevity*, *The Normal School*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *apt*, *Vinyl Poetry*, *PRISM International*, *VIDA*, *rkory quarterly*, and elsewhere.

EVELYN SOMERS is the associate editor of the *Missouri Review*. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Southwest Review*, *Cossack Review*, *Florida Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Georgia Review*, the *Collagist*, *Copper Nickel*, *Bloom*, and the *Millions*, among other publications. Work she has edited has frequently been reprinted in the Best American series, the *O. Henry Prize Stories*, and the *Pushcart Prize* anthology. As a freelancer she's edited prizewinning work in multiple genres. She lives and writes in a dilapidated nineteenth century mansion and is finishing a second novel.

TISA's work has appeared in *Literary Helix Magazine*. He is a staff member at a psychiatric day treatment facility for children.

TONY TRIGILIO's biographical note appears on page 6. He is the winner of the FWJ Editor's Prize in Poetry in 2016.

JON VEINBERG lives and works in Fresno, California. He is the author of five poetry collections, the last of which is *Angels At Bus Stops* (Lynx House Press). He has received two NEA awards.

JEREMY VOIGT has published poems recently in *Gulf Coast*, *Cortland Review*, and *Post Road*. His chapbook is *Neither Rising nor Falling*, and he lives in Bellingham, Washington, with his wife and three kids.



ANDREW WICKENDEN is a writer, editor, and teacher living in Michigan. His stories have appeared or are forthcoming in *Glimmer Train*, *Post Road*, *Witness*, and elsewhere.

SHARLA R. YATES is a multi-genre writer who lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her fiction and poetry have been published in *Albatross*, *Lynx Eye*, *The Boiler Journal*, *Hartskill Review*, *Pittsburgh Poetry Review*, *Shadowgraph Quarterly*, *Pretty Owl Poetry*, and *Blue Lyra Review*.

