

CONTRIBUTORS

ELMAZ ABINADER is the author of two poetry collections; a memoir, *Children of the Roojme*; and several plays. *This House, My Bones* was the Editors Selection 2014 for Willow Books. *In the Country of My Dreams* won the Oakland PEN award for poetry. She is a cofounder of VONA — the workshop for writers-of-color. She lives in Oakland, California.

SARA AHMED is a Muslim-American freelance writer and aspiring novelist from Houston, Texas, who likes to explore the capricious nature of identity. She has an MA in mass communication from the University of Houston. Sara writes about the joys and perils of parenting, women’s rights issues, and the immigrant experience in America. You can follow her work on www.facebook.com/thewritersara.

ALIREZA TAHERI ARAGHI is the editor and translator of *I Am a Face Sympathizing with Your Grief* (co.im.press, 2015). His fiction has appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, and elsewhere. He is the winner of the Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing. He lives in St. Louis.

IBTISAM BARAKAT is a Palestinian-American poet, artist, and the author of the critically acclaimed memoirs about growing up in Palestine: *Tasting the Sky, a Palestinian Childhood* (FSG, 2007) and *Balcony on the Moon, Coming of Age in Palestine* (FSG, 2016). Her writings have been translated to numerous languages. For more about Ibtisam Barakat and her bilingual works, please visit her website: www.ibtisambarakat.com/.

MIRA BAZ is a Lebanese researcher, writer, thinker, traveler, and dreamer. Her articles on Yemeni topics appeared in *GlobalPost.com* and Lebanon’s *Daily Star*. She more recently earned a doctorate in Islamic Studies and has published on British Muslims in *The Conversation*. She likes to live in different countries and share her experiences. She lives in the UK for now, with her cat.

LAUREN CAMP is the author of three books, including *One Hundred Hungers*, which won the Dorset Prize and honorable mention for the Arab American Book Award. Her poems have appeared in *Asymptote*, *Boston Review*, *Diode*, *World Literature Today*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and *Poem-a-Day*. A Black Earth Institute Fellow, she lives and teaches in New Mexico. Learn more at www.laurencamp.com.



HAYAN CHARARA's poetry books are *Something Sinister* (2016), an Arab American Book Award winner; *The Sadness of Others* (2006); and *The Alchemist's Diary* (2001). His children's book, *The Three Lucys*, received the New Voices Award Honor. He edited *Inclined to Speak* (2008), an anthology of contemporary Arab American poetry, and with Fady Joudah he judges the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize.

LEILA CHATTI is a Tunisian-American poet and the 2017–2018 Ron Wallace Poetry Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has received fellowships and awards from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Tin House Writers' Workshop, The Frost Place, Dickinson House, the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the Academy of American Poets. She is the author of the chapbooks *Ebb* (New-Generation African Poets, forthcoming 2018) and *Tunsiya/Amrikiya*, the 2017 Editor's Selection from Bull City Press (forthcoming 2018). Her work appears in *Best New Poets*, *Ploughshares*, *Tin House*, *New England Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Fifth Wednesday Journal*, *Narrative*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere.

SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ's bio appears on page 108.

HAZEM FAHMY is a poet and critic from Cairo. He is an Honors graduate of Wesleyan University's College of Letters where he studied literature, philosophy, history, and film. His poetry has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Apogee*, *HEArt*, *Mizna*, and *The Offing*. He is a poetry editor for *Voicemail Poems* and a contributing writer to *Film Inquiry*.

HEDY HABRA has authored two poetry collections, *Under Brushstrokes* and *Tea in Heliopolis*. Her story collection, *Flying Carpets*, won the Arab American Book Award's Honorable Mention. A six-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, her work appears in *Cimarron Review*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Drunken Boat*, *Gargoyle*, *Nimrod*, *Poet Lore*, and *Verse Daily*. Her website is hedyhabra.com.

RAY HANANIA is an award-winning writer, standup comedian, and former Chicago City Hall reporter. His columns on Middle East and mainstream American political issues are published each week in the *Arab News* in Saudi Arabia, *TheArabDailyNews.com*, and in the *Southwest News* newspaper group in Chicagoland. Reach Ray at his personal website at TheDailyHookah.com or email him at rghanania@gmail.com.



SAMUEL HAZO is the author of many books of poetry, fiction, essays, plays, and translation. He is McAnulty Distinguished Professor of English Emeritus at Duquesne University. He is the founder and director of the International Poetry Forum in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He earned his PhD from the University of Pittsburgh. In 2003, a selective collection of his poems, *Just Once*, received the Maurice English Poetry Award. He has been awarded twelve honorary doctorates. He was honored with the Griffin Award for Creative Writing from the University of Notre Dame, his alma mater, and was chosen to receive his tenth honorary doctorate from the university in 2008. A National Book Award finalist, he was named Pennsylvania's first State Poet by Governor Robert Casey in 1993, serving until 2003.

NADIA IBRASHI's work has received prizes with the *NFSPS, Writer's Digest, Springfed Arts, Detroit Working Writers*, and others. Her work appears in *Narrative, Quiddity, The MacGuffin, Nimrod, Alimentum, Peacock Journal*, and elsewhere. Two of her poems have been nominated for a Pushcart prize. She is assistant editor at *Narrative* magazine and has practiced medicine in Egypt and the United States.

ABDUL SATTAR JAWAD, professor of comparative literature at Duke University, is an Iraqi writer, translator, and poet. He earned his PhD in City, University of London in 1984. Jawad has published fifteen books and edited several literary periodicals. He has taught at Harvard University, University of Mississippi, and University of North Carolina. He was Secretary General of the Iraqi Writers Union and has edited several newspapers and literary periodicals.

PAULINE KALDAS's bio appears on page 170.

DAVID KHERDIAN's biography of his mother, *The Road From Home*, his best-known work, has been continuously in print in various editions and seventeen translations since its publication in 1979. He is the author of poetry, biographies, novels, memoirs, and translations. He is married to two-time Caldecott Award winner Nonny Hogrogian, with whom he has collaborated on a number of children's books and three journals.

YAHIA LABABIDI is an immigrant, Muslim, and author of six books of poetry/prose. Lababidi's forthcoming book, *Where Epics Fail: Aphorisms on Art, Morality and Spirit*, was featured on PBS NewsHour and generously endorsed by Richard Blanco, President Barack Obama's inaugural poet. 'Epics' is being published by Unbound (UK) in partnership with Penguin Random House, and is available for pre-order here: unbound.com/books/where-epics-fail.



ROBERT MANASTER's poetry and cotranslations have appeared in numerous journals, including *Rosebud*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Image*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, and *Spillway*. His cotranslation of Ronny Someck's *The Milk Underground* (White Pine Press, 2015) was awarded the Cliff Becker Book Prize in Translation. He's published reviews in *Rattle*, *Jacket2*, and *Rain Taxi*.

KHALED MATTAWA is the author of four books of poetry, the latest of which is *Tocqueville*. A professor of English and creative writing at the University of Michigan, Mattawa has received a MacArthur fellowship among other awards for his writings and translations.

SILVA ZANOYAN MERJANIAN is a widely published poet of Armenian descent, who grew up in Beirut, Lebanon. Her work is featured in anthologies and international poetry journals, such as *XXI Century World Literature*, *San Diego Poetry Annual*, *Levure littéraire*, and *Peacock Anthology LA Downtown International*. Merjanian has two volumes of poetry, *Uncoil a Night* (2013) and *Rumor* (Cold River Press, 2015). *Rumor* won the Pinnacle Book Achievement Award Fall 2015 for best poetry book by the National Association of Book Entrepreneurs. Three poems from *Rumor* were nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Merjanian donates proceeds from both books and speech compensations to charitable organizations.

PHILIP METRES is the author of *Pictures at an Exhibition* (2016), *Sand Opera* (2015), *A Concordance of Leaves* (2013), and *To See the Earth* (2008). A recipient of the Lannan, two NEAs, and two Arab American Book Awards, he is a professor of English at John Carroll University. Learn more www.philipmetres.com.

DUNYA MIKHAIL was born in Iraq and came to the US in the mid-1990s. She is the author of *The Iraqi Nights*, *Diary of A Wave Outside the Sea*, and *The War Works Hard*. Her honors include Kresge fellowship (2013), Arab American Book Award (2010), shortlisted for Griffin (2006), and United Nations Human Rights award (2001).

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE's next book is *Voices in the Air – Poems for Listeners* (Greenwillow), forthcoming in February 2018.

SUSAN AZAR PORTERFIELD has three books of poetry: *Dirt, Root, Silk* (winner of the Cider Press Review Editor's Prize); *In the Garden of Our Spines*; and *Kibbe*; as well as a chapbook, *Beirut Redux*. She is the editor of *Zen, Poetry, the Art of Lucien Stryk* (Ohio University Press) and has written on poetical matters for *Poets & Writers* and *The Writer's Chronicle*.



DEEMA K. SHEHABI is the author of *Thirteen Departures from the Moon*, coauthored by Marilyn Hacker of *Diaspo/Renga* and coedited by Beau Beausoleil of *Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here*.

MAYA WAHRMAN graduated from Princeton University. She works at Princeton's Office of Religious Life on issues of faith and forced migration. She grew up in Bloomington, Indiana, with parents from Israel. Stories both of migration and of Jerusalem have shaped her family history for many generations, as she has had grandparents and ancestors born in Poland, Russia, Hungary, Palestine, Argentina, and Germany. Wahrman's work has been published in the English and Hebrew editions of *Haaretz*. Her poetry has appeared in the *Nassau Literary Review*, the *Jewish Currents*, *Poetry Anthology Urge*, and *Sweet Tree Review*.

LENA ZAGHMOURI's writing has been published in *Sinister Guru*, *KNOT Magazine*, *The San Joaquin Review*, and *Sukoon*. She has also been nominated for the Pushcart Prize for her story "Al Walad" and was shortlisted for the OWT Fiction Prize. She has work forthcoming in *Pulp Literature*, and her short story "Coming Through" was accepted for publication in the anthology *Dampen To Bend*.

MONIQUE ZAMIR completed her MFA in poetry at Oklahoma State University. Her poetry has been published or is forthcoming in *Salamander*, *The Virginia Normal*, *Blue Lyra Review*, *Mikrokosmos*, *Lunch Ticket*, and others. Her parents immigrated to the US from Israel, and before that her family came from Iraq and Egypt.

A graduate of Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran, Iran, in 1997, Dr. **MANDANA ZANDIAN**, born in Iran, works at the Cedars Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles, where she is currently engaged in research on aggressive types of advanced cancers. Dr. Zandian — also a published poet, author, and journalist — serves on the editorial board of *Rahavard* quarterly journal and collaborates with Homa Sarshar in her weekly Radio Broadcasting Programs. She has published seven collections of poetry in Tehran, Iran, and the United States.

