THE GREAT AMERICAN POETRY SHOW

The Great American Poetry Show

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Volume 1

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 any subject, style and number with a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope). Submissions without a SASE will be discarded. No e-mail submissions. Simultaneous submissions and previously published poems are welcome. www.thegreatamericanpoetryshow.com

Submit poems to: The Great American Poetry Show
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Notes on Poets

Susan Ahdoot is a poet and visual artist. Her publication credits include: *GW Review, FTS, LOUDmouth, Poetix,* and *SGVPQ*. She has poems slated for publication in *LOUDmouth* and a special edition by Spire Press entitled *Censored: The Poems We Couldn't Publish*. She has three chapbooks: *Heat, The End to Inertia,* and *Before Yes*. She lives in Los Angeles, California.

Ronald Douglas Bascombe is a poet/writer who has been writing and performing his poetry for more than thirty years. Born in Harlem, New York, he performed with the Cosmos Nucleus poetry performance group and served as a journalist/editor-in-chief of *Sunday Morning,* a Christian newspaper in New York City. He won first prize in poetry in the 1976 National Ossie Davis/Ruby Dee Write-On Competition and has performed his children's poetry in schools and libraries throughout the metropolitan New York City and northern New Jersey area. He is listed with Poets & Writers. His poetry recently has been included in anthologies published by the International Library of Poetry, and his letters to the editor and poetry have been published regularly in the *Montclair Times*. He has been published under his own name as well as under Jayne Lyn Smythe and Oronde Lasana. His children's poetry can be seen at http://www.geocities.com/bascomber. He lives in Montclair, New Jersey.

Grace Bauer is the author of *The Women at the Well* (Portal Press) and three chapbooks of poems, the most recent of which is *Field Guide to the Ineffable: Poems on Marcel Duchamp*. Her work has appeared in numerous anthologies and journals, including *Arts & Letters, The Georgia Review, Rattle, Natural Bridge* and many others. She is the Coordinator of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Tim Bellows is a poet, teacher and writer devoted to wilderness and contemplative travels. He has taught college research and creative writing for over thirteen years. He graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and recently saw publication of poems in *A Racing up the Sky* (Eclectic Press). Tim has been published in over 140 literary journals since 1978, earning two nominations for the annual Pushcart Prize with "Huts Under Smooth Hills" and "November Night, Sleep Talk Captured." You can write him at shabda@juno.com. He lives in Gold River, California.

Anne Myra Benjamin lives with her husband and children in Far Rockaway, New York where she writes poetry and books on the history of women in the United States and on Jewish philosophy. Her latest work, *An Afternoon Offering,* is a commentary on the Pentateuch.

Sara Berkeley grew up in Ireland and now lives just north of San Francisco. She has published three collections of poetry (*Penn, Home-Movie Nights,* and *Facts About Water*), one collection of short stories, and a novel (*Shadowing Hannah*). She's currently putting together a new collection of poetry and another novel.

Douglas M. Bill lives near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His poems have been published in *Poetry East, Beginnings,* and *Friends of Acadia Journal*.

Beau Boudreaux is currently a professor in English at Tulane University. Previous work has appeared in *The New Yorker*. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Don Brennan, a retired high-school teacher, won the *Haight Ashbury Literary Journal* 1st prize for poetry in 2000 and the Milton Dorfman 3rd prize in 2000. He was a former host of Yakety Yak poetry series from 2001 to 2002. His poetry has appeared in *HALT, Throwback, Sacred Grounds Anthology, Open Window,* and *Mission News*. His chapbook, *Amusing the Beast,* was self-published in 2002. And he's a regular reader at open-reading venues in the San Francisco Bay area. He lives in San Francisco, California.

Alan Britt currently teaches English at Towson University. For the past 30 years he has participated in the AiE (Artist-in-Education) Program teaching poetry workshops in Maryland public schools for the Maryland State Arts Council. He currently lives in Reisterstown, Maryland, where he occasionally publishes the literary journal, *Black Moon: Poetry of Imagination*, and shares a home with his wife, daughter, and two Bouvier des Flandres. He has had poems previously published in *Bitter Oleander, Codice* (Mexico), *Cold Mountain Review, Confrontation, Connecticut River Review, English Journal, Epoch, Flint Hills Journal, Folio, Kansas Quarterly*, *Magyar Naplo* (Hungary), *Midwest Quarterly, New Letters, Pacific Review, Pedrada Zurda* (Ecuador), *Puerto del Sol, Queen's Quarterly* (Canada), *Southwest American Literature, Sou'wester, Steaua* (Romania), *Yomimono* (Japan), *Fathers: Poems About Fathers* (St. Martin's Press, 2000), *La Adelfa Amarga: Seis Poetas Norteamericanos de Hoy* (Ediciones El Santo Oficio, Peru, 2003), *Infinite Days (2003), Amnesia Tango* (1998), and *Bodies of Lightning* (1995).

Harry Brody published his first collection, *Fields*, with Ion Books in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1987. His several chapbooks include *As Once to Birth I Went Now I Am Taken Back* by New Collage Press in Sarasota, Florida, in 1982 and *For We Are Constructing the Dwelling of Feeling* by Object Lesson in Amherst, Massachusetts, in 1993. He practices law for a living, defending death-row inmates in Florida. He lives in Sarasota, Florida.

G.C. Brown, originally from Iowa, is pursuing her M.A. at the City University of New York – City College. A student of Denise Duhamel and Marilyn Hacker, she believes in accessible poetry and laughter. She has recently published in *Poetry Motel* and *The Promethean*. She lives in Astoria, New York.

M.C. Bruce works as a lawyer for the Orange County Public Defender's Office. His son Adam is loudly studying to be a drummer. He has been published in many small press journals and writes reviews for Ibbetson St. Press Newsgroup and *Small Press Review*. He now hosts a show, "Poet's Cafe," on KPFK (KPFK.ORG) which airs the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at noon. He lives in Cypress, California.

Carol Carpenter lives in Livonia, Michigan, and has had poems and stories published in *Yankee, America, Pedestal Magazine, Barnwood, Indiana Review, Quarterly West, Carolina Quarterly, Byline,* and in Papier-Mache Press's anthology, *Generation to Generation*. She received awards such as the Richard Eberhart Prize for Poetry and was a finalist in the Nelson Algren awards. Formerly a college writing instructor and journalist, she now works for a consulting and training company.

Alan Catlin has been making the poetry scene since the middle 70's. His most recent books are *Drunk and Disorderly* (Selected Poems) from Pavement Saw Press and *Last Bus from Albany,* a chapbook from Pudding House Publications. Forthcoming shortly is a full length book from Staplegun Press, *The Schenectady Chainsaw Massacre,* and a chapbook, *Views of Mt. Greylock*, from Snark Publications. He lives in Schenectady, New York.

Ruth Daigon lives in Corte Madera, California. She was founder and editor of *Poets On* for twenty years until it ceased publication. Her poems have been widely published in E mags, print mags, anthologies and collections. Her poetry awards include "The Ann Stanford Poetry Prize, 1997 (University of Southern California Anthology, 1997) and the Greensboro Poetry Award (Greensboro Arts Council, 2000). One of her seven books is *Payday at the Triangle* (Small Poetry Press, Select Poets Series, 2001) which was based on the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in New York City in 1991. One of her many readings was performed in The Lower East Side Tenement Museum in Manhattan, the area where the fire occurred. *Handfuls of Time* (Small Poetry Press, Select Poets Series), her last book, was published in 2002. Her poetry was published by the U.S. State Department in their literary exchange with Thailand and their translation program has just issued the first book of modern American poets in English and Thai in which she appears. Garrison Keillor featured her poetry on his morning poetry show.

Rachel Delmage lives in Key West, Florida. She's a student who has taken some writing classes and within them has found how much she enjoys writing.

Stephanie Dickinson was raised in rural Iowa and now lives in New York City. She has had poems published in *Green Mountains Review, Chelsea, Mid-American Review, Cream City Review, Volt, Mudfish, Willow Springs* and many others. Along with Rob Cook she edits the new literary journal, *Skidrow Penthouse*.

Shari Dinkins has been publishing in literary magazines since 1989. She received her B.A. in English in 1989 from San Jose State University. After working with Molly "Iron Shoes" Giles at San Francisco State, she graduated with an M.A. in English in 1993. She lives with her dog Nelson in the California coastal town of Pacifica.

Mel Donalson writes poetry, essays, fiction and screenplays. His book, *Black Directors in Hollywood*, was published in December 2003. He teaches literature, popular culture and creative writing at California State University in Los Angeles. He lives in Azusa, California.

James Doyle's book, *Einstein Considers a Sand Dune,* won the 2003 Steel Toe Books contest which was judged by David Kirby. He has poems coming out in *Hunger Mountain, Poems & Plays, Willow Springs,* and *The Midwest Quarterly*. He is married to poet Sharon Doyle and lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Doug Draime, poet, short-story writer and playwright, has been writing for many years and has been published in over 400 magazine, newspaper and broadside publications internationally. His recent chapbooks include *Slaves of the Harvest* (Indian Heritage Publishing, 2002) and *Unoccupied Zone* (Pitchfork Press, 2004). He's the father of four children and lives with his wife Carol in the foothills of the Siskiyou mountain range in Ashland, Oregon.

Hector E. Estrada lives in South Gate, California. His family and his culture are his source of inspiration. He likes to jam on his acoustic guitar and collect movie-monster action-figures and magnets which he uses to hold up rejection slips on his file cabinet.

Michael Fedo has published 6 books of nonfiction including *The Lynchings in Duluth* and *The Man from Lake Wobegon*. His novel, *Indians in the Arborvitae*, was published in 2003. His poems have appeared in *Rag Mag* and *Aethlon*. He lives in Coon Rapids, Minnesota.

Maureen Tolman Flannery has just released her latest book, *Ancestors in the Landscape: Poems of a Rancher's Daughter*. Other books are *Secret of the Rising Up: Poems of Mexico*, *Remembered into Life*, and the anthology entitled *Knowing Stones: Poems of Exotic Places*. Maureen grew up on a Wyoming sheep ranch but she and her actor husband Dan have raised their four children in Chicago. Her poems can be read in the on-line chapbook, *Conversations for the Road,* at www.tmpoetry.com. Her work has appeared in over a hundred literary reviews and thirty-five anthologies including *Hunger Enough, Intimate Kisses, Essential Love, Woven on the Wind*, and *Proposing on the Brooklyn Bridge*. She lives in Evanston, Illinois.

Stewart Florsheim lives in Piedmont, California. His poetry has appeared in many magazines including *DoubleTake, Slipstream, Rattle, 88: A Journal of Contemporary American Poetry,* and *The Seattle Review*. His poetry has also been included in the anthologies *Unsettling America: Race and Ethnicity in Contemporary American Poetry* (Viking Penguin, 1994), *And What Rough Beast* (The Ashland Poetry Press, 1999), and *Bittersweet Legacy* (University Press of America, 2001). He is also the editor of *Ghosts of the Holocaust* (Wayne State University Press, 1989), an anthology of poetry by children of Holocaust survivors.

CB Follett is the author of 4 books of poems. Her most recent, *At the Turning of the Light,* was the winner of the 2001 National Poetry Book Award. She's the editor/publisher of *GRRRRR, A Collection of Poems about BEARS*, co-editor/publisher of *RUNES, a Review of Poetry*, an annual themed anthology, and general dogsbody of Arctos Press. She has several nominations for Pushcart Prizes, a Marin Arts Council Grant for Poetry, awards, honors and has been widely published. In between sentences, she sleeps, but not much. She lives in Sausalito, California.

Michael C Ford was born on the Illinois side of Lake Michigan where he witnessed the post MVP seasons of Nellie Fox playing keystone for the White Sox, and where he also saw the battling Cubbies. He recorded his paean to the barnstorming ballplayers of the Pacific Coast League in 1986. It was played by Bud "The Steamer" Furillo on KMPC and by Cleve Hermann on KFWB, and was included on a compilation CD entitled *Innings*. His 1987 debut vinyl was nominated for a Grammy on the first ballot and his volume of selected works from 1970 through 1995 attracted a Pulitzer Prize nomination. His latest spoken-word recording is entitled *Fire Escapes*. His most recent print document is *Nursery Rhyme Assassin*. His plays have been staged internationally including a one-act play, *Termite Palce,* which pays homage to the last wooden stadium in Pacific Coast minor-league baseball history. His new manuscript, *To Kiss the Blood off Our Hands*, has just been selected for publication later on this year by Pitchfork Press in Chicago, Illinois. He lives in Los Angeles, California.

Nancy B Gardner has had six novels published: *The Manatee, Cider from Eden, Beloved Woman, The Fig Tree, The Country Club, and Moonsussers* (*Mist Maiden* in paperback). She has had two books of poetry published: *My Talon in Your Heart* and *Walk Lightly on the Planet*. And she has had two full-length plays produced off Broadway: *The Cast-Iron Smile* and *Mrs. Hollister's Trojan Horse*. Her work has been collected by Boston University Library. A young 94, she lives in New York City.

Anne Gisleson teaches at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, Louisiana's arts conservatory for high school students. Her poetry, fiction and nonfiction have appeared in several literary magazines. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

John Grey is an Australian-born poet, playwright and musician. His latest chapbook is *The Secret Address* from Snark Publishing. His work has recently appeared in *Small Brushes, Nexus,* and *Writer's Block*. He lives in Providence, Rhode Island.

Gayle Elen Harvey has worked as an artist's model and a hospital AR clerk. She loves hiking and travel. She volunteered at a dental clinic in the West Indies and on a kibbutz near Tel Aviv. Her work has appeared in the *Atlanta Review, Poetry Northwest,* and *Visions International*. Her awards include a NYS Foundation for the Arts Fellowship and the 2002 Hannah Kahn Poetry Foundation/Phillips Award. Her most recent schapbooks are *Greatest Hits* from Pudding House Publications in 2002 and *Scheduled, Unscheduled Appointments* from Spire Press in 2003. She lives in Utica, New York.

Frank Hertle wrote "September 11 - The Missing" in November 2001 as a remembrance of the WTC attack victims. The poem is 110 lines long and contains the names of all the companies and organizations known at the time to have lost people. The poem was presented as a dramatic reading at two off-off Broadway theatres on the First Anniversary of the attack. He lives in New York City.

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.

Amy Hoffmann lives and surfs in Half Moon Bay, California.

Carolyn J. Fairweather Hughes lives in Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania, with Richard, her husband of 39 years. She has two grown daughters and a granddaughter. Now retired, she has worked as a communications specialist, writer and editor. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications including *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple*.

Christina Hutchins is a Ph.D. candidate in Interdisciplinary Studies (philosophy of religion, gender/sexual studies, and poetry) at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. A graduate of the University of California at Davis and Harvard Divinity School, she has worked as a biochemist and as a Congregational minister. Currently she teaches a poetry workshop and serves as adjunct faculty at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. In addition to her chapbook, *Collecting Light* (Acacia Books, 1999), over 80 poems have appeared in journals such as *North American Review, Nimrod, Calyx, Cream City Review, 88: A Journal of Contemporary American Poetry, Harvard Gay and Lesbian Review,* and in anthologies (Harper SF, Milkweed, Hughton-Mifflin, Ashgate). She has won the Villa Montalvo Biennial Poetry Prize and has received a Money for Women/Barbara Deming Award for Poetry. Several of her poems have been set by contemporary composers, including a major vocal work by Dan Welcher which was nominated for the 2003-4 Lincoln Center Prize. She lives in Albany, California.

Louise Jaffe, a happily incurable poetry addict, has had four chapbooks published and has had poems published in many anthologies and literary magazines. She is Professor Emerita of English at Kingsborough Community College and consultant for a senior citizens' writing workshop. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Brad Johnson has been published in numerous magazines, including recently *Into the Teeth of the Wind, Jeopardy, Red River Review,* and *Sho*. His chapbook, *Void Where Prohibited* (Pudding House Publications, 2003), is available at puddinghouse.com. He is currently teaching at Broward Community College and at Palm Beach Community College. He lives in Boca Raton, Florida.

Stefan Kiesbye lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, with his wife Sanaz and two cats. His novella, *Next Door Lived a Girl*, will be published by Low Fidelity Press in December 2004.

Kathy Kieth has lived all her 57 years in the hot Sacramento Valley where she has been a musician, music teacher, music therapist and psychologist. She has had poems accepted by over 70 journals including *Atlanta Review, Cimarron Review, Slant,* and *Sow's Ear*.

Zane Kotker lives above the Oxbow of the Connecticut River in western Massachusetts where she writes novels, entertains friends and occasionally visits the dog pounds.

Theodore K. Krieger was born in 1950 in Charles City, Iowa. He has degrees in Psychology and English/Creative Writing and is self-employed in mail-order marketing. He has had poems published in *Maelstrom, The Iconoclast, Rattle, Sou'wester, Tightrope, Midwest Poetry Review, Comstock Review, Rockford Review, Americas Review,* and many others. He has also published several chapbooks and won several regional awards. And he was the recipient of a grant from PEN/AMERICAN CENTER. He lives in Charles City, Iowa.

James Heller Levinson lives in Santa Monica, California. He is the author of *Bad Boys Poems* (Bombshelter Press), *Pulled Apart* (Third Lung Press), *Because You Wanted a Wedding Ring* (Implodal Press), and *Alameda Street* (Implodal Press). He is also the author of a novel, *Another Line* (Watermark Press). His work has also appeared in *Sulfur, Hunger,* and *Monkey Puzzle,* among others.

Dylan Lewis is a graduate of Colgate University. He currently is enrolled at the Duquesne School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Lyn Lifshin's most recent prizewinning book, *Before It's Light* (Paterson Poetry Award), was published in the Winter of 1999-2000 by Black Sparrow Press following their publication of *Cold Comfort* in 1997. *Another Woman Who Looks Like Me* was also published by Black Sparrow (David Godine) in November 2003 (order@godine). Also just published is *A New Film by a Woman in Love with the Dead* by March Street Press. She has published more than 100 books of poetry including *Marilyn Monroe* and *Blue Tattoo*. She has won awards for her nonfiction and has edited 4 anthologies of women's writing, including *Tangled Vines, Ariadne's Thread,* and *Lips Unsealed.* Her poems have appeared in most literary and poetry magazines and she is the subject of an award-wining documentary film, *Lyn Lifshin: Not Made of Glass,* available from Women Make Movies. Her poem, "No More Apologizing," has been called "among the most impressive documents of the women's poetry movement." An update to her Gale Research Projects Autobiographical Series, *On the Outside, Lips, Blues, Blue Sheets,* was published in the Spring of 2003. She is working on a collection of poems about the famous, short-lived, beautiful race horse, Ruffian, new chapbooks, including *Girls and Women* and *Mad Girls,* a chapbook from Hazmat, and a new collection called *There Were Days, So Persephone*. For interviews, photographs, more bio material, reviews, prose, samples of work and more, her web site is www.lynlifshin.com. She lives in Vienna, Virginia.

John C. May was born in Georgia. As an Air Force "brat," he grew up in Germany and in several states in the United States. He holds a B.A., an M.A., and a Ph.D. from LSU in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and is a published poet and translator. A retired college professor, he taught German, Latin, Spanish, English and world literature in the university system of Georgia for 30 years. He lives in Augusta, Georgia.

Angela Meredith lives in Orlando, Florida. She works full-time for a publishing company where she often writes poems when no one is looking.

Greggory Moore is a lifelong denizen of Southern California, a hard-core civil libertarian, and the Jerry Rice of his flag-football league. His favorite poet is Robert Smith (yes, of The Cure). He lives in Fullerton, California.

Heidi Nye (a.k.a. Heidi Ziolkowski) works as a journalism lecturer at Cal State Long Beach, as a writing and philosophy instructor at the University of Phoenix, and as a massage therapist at a Long Beach day spa. She has written for scores of publications including the *Los Angeles Times,* the *Long Beach Press-Telegram, Natural Health,* and the membership magazines of the (Jacques) Cousteau Society. Her poetry and short stories have appeared in more than 50 magazines and anthologies.

Hugh Ogden has recent work in the *North Dakota Quarterly*. He has had five books published. He teaches full time at Trinity College and teaches one course at the Hartford Academy of the Arts. He lives in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

David Palmer was born in Detroit, Michigan. While in high school, he moved to Los Angeles, California, where he met his wife Charlene. He received his B.A. and Master's degrees from UCLA. He has four children and two grandchildren. He was a reference librarian in California and Library Director of the University of Michigan at Flint where he helped plan a beautiful, multi-million-dollar library. He also taught bibliography and poetry writing. His poems have appeared in journals and anthologies including *Passage North, Peace or Perish, Songs from Unseen Worlds,* and *Science in Poetry.* He has two books of poems: *Quickly over the Wall* and *Midnight City Blues*. He lives in Flint, Michigan.

Nicolas Pastrone has had poems published in *New York Quarterly, Pinyon, Midwest Poetry Review,* and others. His short stories have appeared in *Art: Mag, Happy,* and *Snake Nation Review*. He is currently at work on a novel entitled *Reunion*. He lives in Revere, Pennsylvania, with his wife, children, dogs, cats, chickens and two, large black walnut trees that smell like ashes in the rain.

Bob Perlongo has had poems published in a variety of periodicals including *Rolling Stone,* the *New York Times,* and the *Village Voice*. His books include *The Everyday Almanac* (Capra Press, 1995), *The Write Book: An Illustrated Treasury of Tips, Tactics and Tirades* (Art Direction Book Co., 2002), and a collection of poems entitled *All Hours of the Night* (Calcutta: P. Lal, 1998). He lives in Evanston, Illinois.

Walt Peterson has three collections of poetry. *In the Waiting Room of the Speedy Muffler King* was published in the Fall of 1999. He was the winner of the 1998 Acorn-Rukeyeser Award from Unfinished Moment Press of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Peterson has worked as a construction laborer and teacher (for the Pittsburgh Public Schools), and has taught writing in places as diverse as Arcadia, California, and Cracow, Poland. He also does volunteer work and has helped raise two sons, Kevin and Eric. He lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Karen R. Porter lives in the pinelands of southern New Jersey where she writes, does conservation fieldwork, and takes care of lots of critters. Some of her work has recently appeared in *Square Lake, Ship of Fools, The Blue Mouse,* and *Decomposition*.

Charles Rammelkamp has six poetry chapbooks in print: *i don't think god's that cruel,* and *Go to Hell (March Street Press); A Convert's Tale (Pudding House Publications); FIRE DRILL!*, *All Hallow's Eve*, and *FAME* (Snark Publications). He also has a collection of short fiction in print entitled *A Better Tomorrow* (PublishAmerica). He edited a collection of essays on American cultural issues entitled *Fake-City Syndrome* (Red Hen Press). His novel, *The Secretkeepers*, will be published in September, 2004 by Red Hen Press. He lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

Bill Roberts, at 68, still works and writes often about the past. "After Work Someday," a futuristic effort, warns of retiring too early and missing the fun that can come of real work. He lives in Broomfield, Colorado.

Margaret A. Robinson, in addition to poetry, has had three novels and many short stories published. *Abbey* magazine published her chapbook, *Sleeping Outdoors in the Suburbs,* in July 2003. Her chapbook, *Sparks,* is forthcoming from Pudding House Publications. She teaches at Widener University and lives in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania.

Miriam Sagan lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her most recent books are a memoir entitled *Searching for a Mustard Seed: A Young Widow's Unconventional Story* and a collection of poems entitled *Rag Trade*.

Dennis Saleh is the author of four books of poetry, the last of which, *This Is Not Surrealism,* won the first chapbook competition from Willamette River Books. He is also an editor of an anthology of contemporary American poetry entitled *Just What the Country Needs, Another Poetry Anthology*. His poetry, prose and artwork have appeared widely in magazines and collections, including *Artlife, New Millennium Writings, Paintbrush,* and *Psychological Perspectives*. His poems are also in the recent anthologies: *Hunger Enough, The Mercy of Tides,* and *The Pagan's Muse*. He has read from his poetry and a novel-in-progress set in ancient Egypt at the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum in San Jose, California. He lives in Seaside, California.

Jacob Scanlan is a student of philosophy at the University of Houston. He has had poems published in *Our Time Is Now, Poetry Motel, Rag Shack, Lone Stars,* and on the Poetry Junction website. He was a guest poet on The Spoken Word, a Rice University radio show. An avid reader of poetry, he has been most influenced by the works of Emily Dickinson, Charles Baudelaire, Antonin Artaud, André Breton, Arthur Rimbaud, Gunnar Ekelöf, and Laura (Riding) Jackson.

Nicky Selditz, at 65, has been writing poetry for almost 40 years. He says, "My vision is metaphysical and lyrical. I mostly write in a surreal and symbolic stream-of-consciousness fashion. I rewrite and rewrite my writing until I'm satisfied the poem is finished." He has had poems published in *Urthkin, Wild Turkey,* and *Sic, Vice and Verse*. He lives in Encino, California.

Lauren Seligman has work appearing in upcoming issues of *Poetry Motel* and *Poetry Wales.* She is currently working on her first novela. She lives in New York City.

Madeline Sharples began writing poetry when her oldest son, Paul, was diagnosed as manic-depressive. She continues writing poetry as a way to heal after his death by suicide in 1999. Her poetry has appeared in The Compassionate Friends newsletter and will appear in an anthology about grief called *Feel Better in the Mourning*. She has co-authored a book about women in nontraditional professions called *Blue Collar Women* (New Horizon Press, 1994) and has published four poetry chapbooks. She lives in Manhattan Beach, California.

Lynda Skeen lives in Hollywood, California, with her husband, several cats and a parakeet. She has been published in a variety of journals including *North American Review, Tiger's Eye, Lucid Stone, Talking Leaves, Main Street Rag,* and *Poetry Motel*. When not writing, she enjoys gardening, yoga, camping and reading.

Tom Smith has had his poems published since 1959. He has to his credit several poetry collections and one novel. His eighth collection of poetry, *Spending the Light,* from Fithian Press in McKinleyville, California, just recently appeared. He lives in Castleton, Vermont.

Christopher St. John lives in Reading, Pennsylvania. He says, "Assimilation is our evolution; and so movement causes personal flux. It did with me." He has had poems published in *Curbside Review* and *Poetry Motel*.

Meg Stone is a public health practitioner working to create programs that address the long-term health and economic effects of family violence. Her poetry and creative nonfiction have been published in the anthology, *Pinned Down by Pronouns*, in the forthcoming anthology, *The Healing Art of Craft,* and on butchdykeboy.com. She is currently writing a collection of personal essays about working with battered women. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mark Thalman has been widely published in magazines, e-zines and anthologies. His work recently appeared in *Gin Bender, Muse Apprentice Guild, Pebble Lake,* and *Dicey Brown*. His poetry will also be appearing in *Hymns to the Outrageous: American Poetry Sampler*. He has taught English in the public schools for the last 22 years and lives in Forest Grove, Oregon.

Stacy Tuthill, former teacher of literature and creative writing, is the author of two collections of poems, *Pennyroyal* and *House of Change,* and of two prize-winning chapbooks, *Postcards* and *Necessary Madness* which won a chapbook contest with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and was published in *Permafrost Magaazine*. She also authored a collection of short stories entitled *The Taste of Smoke: Stories About Aftica*. She has edited three anthologies and recently edited a new anthology, *Laurels: Eight Women Poets,* about the first eight women who served as Consultants and/or Poets Laureate to the Library of Congress. She was the recipient of a Pen Syndicated Fiction Award, a poetry fellowship and a works-in-progress grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. She was founder of SCOP Publications, Inc., serving as managing editor from 1976 to 2001. Over the years she has read at many locations including the Library of Congress and other libraries. She has been published in numerous anthologies and literary magazines such as *Hawaii Pacific Review, Wisconsin Review, Appalachian Review, Poet Lore,* and *Montserrat Review*. She lives in Catonsville, Maryland.

Kathleen Tyler lives in Los Angeles, California, with her husband and two children. Her poems have appeared in journals such as *Runes, Spillway, ONTHEBUS, So Luminous the Wildflowers: An Anthology of California Poets, Moondance,* and others. A poem of hers was selected by the Common Prayers project and appeared on a postcard series distributed throughout Southern California.

Shanti Weiland is currently working on her Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern Mississippi. She received her Master's Degree in English from Northern Arizona University, and received her Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of California at Davis. Her poetry and essays are featured in various print and online journals. Her chapbook, *Daughter en Route*, is available through Diceybrown.com. She lives in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Sarah Brown Weitzman has had nearly 200 poems published in numerous magazines including *Slant, Wisconsin Review, North American Review, American Writing, Potomac Review, Nassau Review, Rattle, America, Kansas Quarterly, Ekphrasis, Bellingham Review,* and others. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in poetry and was twice a finalist in the Academy of American Poets' Walt Whitman First Book Award. In 2003 she was a finalist for The Foley Prize and the National Looking Glass Poetry Chapbook Competition. Her chapbook, *The Forbidden and Other Poems,* was published in January 2004 by Pudding House Publications. A former New Yorker, she now lives and writes in Florida.

Mary L. Westcott has had two books of poetry, *Brain Custody* and *Fishing for Light,* published by Argonne Hotel Press. Her poems have appeared in more than 30 magazines. She has a doctorate in social psychology and works at the National Institutes of Health. She has been writing poetry for 10 years and lives in suburban Maryland outside Washington, D.C..

Nellie Wong is the first U.S. born daughter of Chinese immigrant parents and was raised in Oakland, California. She is the author of three collections of poetry. Two of her poems are enshrined in public sites in San Francisco where she lives and works. Her awards include The Women's Foundation of San Francisco "Women of Words" Award, the University of California Santa Barbara's Asian Pacific American Faculty and Staff Association Award for her contribution to the Asian American community, and the Kearney Street Workshop Award for her long-term work as a poet and community activist. Her work has been published in Chinese, Spanish, French and Italian. She has contributed her poems and essays to over 200 publications. A delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council for her union, University Professional and Technical Employees/CWA 9119, she is active in Bay Area United Against War (BAUAW), Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party. She is retired as a Senior Affirmative Action Analyst from the University of California, San Francisco. She is co-featured in the film, *Mitsuye & Nellie, Asian American Poets*, by Allie Light and Irving Saraf. Her recent poems have appeared in *Meridians, Comet,* and *Stereoptican.* Her poem, "Praise Song for a Dead Girl," was chosen by San Francisco Poet Laureate, devorah major, as part of the project, "City Reflections: War and Peace on Our Streets."

Elizabeth Wylder received a B.A. in Rhetoric from the University of Illinois. She is currently pursuing an M.A. in Creative Writing at Florida State University. When she is not writing, she divides her time between fiercely combatting the Florida humidity and teaching freshmen composition students the difference between there, their and they're.

Lauren Young is a sophomore at Stanford University where she plans to major in Public Policy. She has been writing poetry for over half her life and hopes to keep writing wherever she ends up. She dedicates "Los Angeles" to her Grandma Dawn who has inspired her to write.

Natalia Zaretsky has lived two rich lives - the first in Russia, the second in the United States. She was born in Moscow, graduated from the university, and taught physics in college in Moscow. In the middle of her life she emigrated to the United States and worked as a computer programmer. Now she is retired and enjoys writing poetry. She humbly refers to herself as a poet and says, "A poem is airborne and I happen to be there. I combine in my poetry the wisdom of my age, my experience of two worlds, and my connection with Judaism and Israel." Her poems have been published by *Iliad Press, Unmade Magazine, Sunflower Petals* (twice), *Sensation Magazine, Poetry*, *The Louisville Review*, and many others. Her book of poetry, *Autumn Solstice,* was published in 2003 by Windsong Publishing Division, RBC Publishing Co., Inc. in Elk Grove, California. Her new book of poetry, *Memories Below the Bridge*, will be published by the end of 2004. You can reach her at www.inessazaretsky.com/natalia. She lives in Wharton, New Jersey. 'Levitan' in her poem, "Into the Artist's Winter World," is Isaac Levitan - the famous Russian artist at the beginning of the 20th century.

Elizabeth Zelvin is a New York City psychotherapist with two poetry books, *I Am the Daughter* and *Gifts and Secrets: Poems of the Therapeutic Relationship* (New Rivers). She sees clients online at www.LZcybershrink.com. She has a mystery novel, *Death Will Get You Sober,* with an agent and a sequel in progress.

Larry Ziman says, "Poets are unruly slaves in revolt. While the world sleeps, poets' **h(art)s** are undermining and overthrowing their own **m(eye)nds**." He lives in West Hollywood, California.

Yvonne Zipter is the author of *Ransacking the Closet, Diamonds Are a Dyke's Best Friend,* the syndicated *Inside Out,* and *The Patience of Metal* (poetry). A finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Award, semifinalist for the Pablo Neruda Poetry Award, and recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award, she recently won first place for flash fiction in *Literary Potpourri*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Fredrick Zydek has authored five collections of poetry. *T'Kopechuck: The Buckley Poems* is forthcoming from Winthrop Press. Formerly a professor at the University of Nebraska and later at the College of Saint Mary, he is now a gentleman farmer. Most recently he accepted the post as editor for Lone Willow Press. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska.

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