

## CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

**Jason Arment** served in Operation Iraqi Freedom as a machine gunner in the U.S. Marine Corps. His work has appeared in *Narrative Magazine*, *Gulf Coast*, *Lunch Ticket*, *Chautauqua*, *Hippocampus*, *The Burrow Press Review*, *Phoebe*, *Pithead Chapel*, *0-Dark-Thirty*, *Brevity*, *The Florida Review*, *Atticus Review*, *Zone 3*, and *War, Literature & the Arts*. A Pushcart nominee, Arment has work forthcoming in *Duende*, *Midwestern Gothic*, and *The Iowa Review*. The University of Hell Press will publish his memoir, *Musalaheen*, in 2017.

**Laura Bernstein-Machlay** teaches literature and creative writing at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, where she also lives. Her poems and creative nonfiction have appeared in many journals including *Concho River Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Oyez*, *Redivider*, *Soundings East*, *upstreet*, and others. Her first full-length collection of creative-nonfiction essays, *Travelers*, is forthcoming in early 2018.

**Mary Kovalski Byrnes** teaches writing and literature at Emerson College, and is a co-founder and curriculum coordinator for EmersonWRITES, a free creative writing program for Boston public high school students. Her poems have appeared in or are forthcoming in *Guernica*, *Salamander*, *Four Way Review*, *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*, the *Best of Kore Press*, *Best of the Net*, and elsewhere.

**Maryah Converse** was a Peace Corps educator in Jordan from 2004 to 2006, and was studying in Cairo when the 2011 Egyptian revolution broke out. She has written about these experiences and their aftereffects for *NewMatilda.com*, *StopStreetHarassment.org*, *Forage Poetry* and *From Sac*. She pays the bills by writing grants in Manhattan. She also teaches Arabic and blogs intermittently about the Arab world at *desertmirror.blogspot.com*.

**Scott Garson** is the author of the short-story collection *Is That You, John Wayne?* He lives in central Missouri.

**Jeff Hardin** is the author of four collections, most recently *Small Revolution* and *Restoring the Narrative*, recipient of the Donald Justice Poetry Prize. His fifth collection, *No Other Kind of World*, recently received the X. J. Kennedy Prize and will appear in 2017. His poems have been published in recent issues of *The Hudson Review*, *Southern Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Poem*, *New American Writing*, *The Laurel Review*, and elsewhere.

**Brad Johnson** is the author of the full-length poetry collection, *The Happiness Theory*, and five chapbooks of poetry. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *J Journal*, *Meridian*, *Poet Lore*, *Salamander*, *Southern Indiana Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, and others.

**Rick Kempa** is the author of the poetry collections *Ten Thousand Voices* and *Keeping the Quiet*. He also edited the anthology *On Foot: Grand Canyon Backpacking Stories* and most recently co-edited the poetry collection *Going Down Grand: Poems from the Canyon*. He lives in Rock Springs, Wyoming, teaches at Western Wyoming College, and does a lot of walking, which is the surest path to peace he knows.

**Jenna Le** is the author of *Six Rivers* and *A History of the Cetacean American Diaspora*. Her poetry, fiction, essays, criticism, and translations appear in *AGNI Online*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *The Best of the Raintown Review*, *The Los Angeles Review*, and *Massachusetts Review*. A daughter of Vietnam War refugees, she works as a physician in New Hampshire.

**Karen An-hwei Lee**, born and raised in Massachusetts, earned an MFA in creative writing from Brown University and a PhD in Literature from U.C. Berkeley. Her poetry collections include *Phyla of Joy*, *Ardor*, and *In Medias Res*. She lives and teaches in San Diego.

**Marc Levy** was an infantry medic in Vietnam and Cambodia in 1970. His war-related prose and poetry have appeared in *New Millennium Writings*, *Cutthroat*, *Slant*, *War, Literature & the Arts*, *CounterPunch*, *Best American Erotica 2000*, *Mudfish*, and *Stone Canoe*. He has work forthcoming in *So It Goes*, and is the winner of the 2016 Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families Writing Prize.

**Annie Lighthart** started writing poetry after her first visit to an Oregon old-growth forest. *Iron String*, her first poetry collection, was published in 2013. Her poems have been read by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac* and chosen by Naomi Shihab Nye to be placed in Ireland's Galway University Hospitals. She has taught at Boston College, as a poet in schools, and with many organizations. Lighthart currently lives in a green corner of Oregon.

**Tara Munjee** is a dance artist, educator, and researcher. "Christmas Gift from Brother" is an excerpt from a memoir she is writing about growing up with a brother on the autism spectrum. She is a lecturer in arts online for Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

**Eric Andrew Newman** lives in Los Angeles, but is originally from Chicago. He works as a librarian for a nonprofit foundation by day, and as a writer of fiction and nonfiction by night. He has been named as a finalist for the Robert J. DeMott Short Prose Contest and Howard Frank Mosher Short Fiction Prize. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Gargoyle*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Necessary Fiction*, and *Quarter After Eight*.

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**Nicholas Samaras** is the author of the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award-winning book, *Hands of the Saddlemaker*, as well as *American Psalm*, *World Psalm*. His individual poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, the *New York Times*, and others. He is currently completing a new poetry manuscript and a memoir about his experience living underground as a child.

**K.C. Vance** is a “very happy” nonsmoker who received her MFA at Murray State University. She currently works as a librarian, is completing a collection of short stories, and lives in Kentucky with her husband and their two children.

**Martin Willitts Jr.** is the winner of the 2014 Dylan Thomas International Poetry Award, and also won the June 2015 editor's choice award in the *Rattle Magazine* Ekphrastic Challenge. He has published more than twenty chapbooks and eleven full-length collections. His forthcoming books include *Dylan Thomas and the Writing Shed* and the *Turtle Island Quarterly* Editor's Choice Award-winner, *The Wire Fence Holding Back the World*.

## BOOK REVIEWERS

**Norma Calway-Fagen** lives in Nashville, where she works as a clinical psychologist and writer. Her work has appeared in the *Mockingbird*, *The Sun*, and the online journal, *Doorknobs & BodyPaint*.

**Jacque E. Day** joined the *New Madrid* staff in 2008 and knew right away that it would be a labor of love. She lives with her husband in the Green Mountains of central Vermont, where she also works as the features editor for the *Norwich Record*, hosts the radio show “Norwich Odyssey,” and basks in the long, cold winters.

**Jacob Donaldson** is a template engineer. He smokes cigarettes and plays guitar on a porch in Mississippi.

**Taylor Emery** is Murray State University's 2016–17 Jesse Stuart Fellow. She has been teaching composition and literature at Austin Peay University since 2000, and has published articles in the *Tennessee Philological Association Bulletin*, *Kentucky Philological Review*, *Encyclopedia of World War I*, and *Encyclopedia of World War II*. She has also written two book chapters, and numerous book reviews for *Choice*.

**Lucas French** builds above-ground pools all over western Kentucky and southern Illinois. He hopes one day his writing can be as well-rounded as those pools.