

CONTRIBUTORS

Sara Afshar is a Massachusetts native and works as an immigration attorney for unaccompanied minors in deportation proceedings. She is a graduate of the UMass Lowell creative writing program where she was the recipient of the Jack Kerouac Creative Writing Award and an invitee to the annual Salem Poetry Seminar. Her work has appeared in *Slice Magazine*, *Sidelines*, and *Cladius Speaks*. She lives in JP where she is working on her first collection of poems.

Carol Alexander's work appears in anthologies including *Broken Circles* (Cave Moon Press), *Through a Distant Lens* (Write Wing Publishing) and *Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors, Vol. 1*. Her work can be found in various print and online journals and is forthcoming in *Southern Humanities Review* and several poetry anthologies. She is the author of the chapbook *Bridal Veil Falls* (Flutter Press). Alexander's full-length collection of poems, *Habitat Lost*, is due out in 2017 from Cave Moon Press.

Rebekah Aran is from Burlington, Massachusetts, and is a freshman at Salem State University. She is currently studying English and focusing on Creative Writing, and hopes to be an editor and publisher along with a writer in the future.

Robert Auld is a senior at Salem State University. Poems appear most recently in *Assaracus*, *halfmystic*, and *Boston Accent*.

Stephen Eric Berry is a recipient of a Jule and Avery Hopwood Award at the University of Michigan, a creative artist grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and he has been a finalist in the Yale Series of Younger Poets. His work has appeared in *Salamander Magazine*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *No Exit*, *Visions International*, *California State Poetry Quarterly*, *Third Wednesday*, *Bluestem Magazine*, and *Puerto Del Sol*. He lives in Chelsea, Michigan.

Taylor Rae Botticelli graduated from Salem State in 2015 with a BFA in Theatre Performance. She currently lives and works in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Brian Brodeur is the author of the poetry collections *Natural Causes* (2012) and *Other Latitudes* (2008), as well as the poetry chapbooks *Local Fauna* (2015) and *So the Night Cannot Go on Without Us* (2007). New poems and essays appear in *American Poetry Review*, *Best American Poetry* (online), *The Hopkins Review*, *Measure*, *The Missouri Review*, *River Styx*, *Southwest Review*, and *The Writer's Chronicle*. Founder and Coordinator of the Veterans Writing Workshop of Richmond, Indiana he lives with his wife and daughter in the Whitewater River Valley.

Ryan Burruss is a writer and editor living in the sweet spot between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. His fiction has been accepted for publication in a variety of literary magazines and journals, including *Prairie Schooner*, *New Orleans Review*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Soundings East*, and *Gravel*.

Shari Caplan (SPS 2010) is the author of *Advice from a Siren* (Dancing Girl Press, 2016). Caplan's work has been published in *Zoetic Press*, *Paper Nautilus*, *Bone Orchard Press*, *Drunk Monkeys* (where she is the featured poet for March 2017), and is forthcoming from *Deluge* and *Blue Lyra Review's* "The Play's the Thing." Caplan has performed with "The Poetry Brothel" as Betty Boom, America's Sweet-tart in Boston and Washington D.C. She organizes events for the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, including "The Poetry Circus," "The Fairy Tale Poetry Tour," and 2017's "Anne Sexton's Poetry Bordello." Caplan is a Salem State alumnus and received her MFA from Lesley University. Her work as a poet and actress can be viewed at sharicaplan.com.

Paige Cerulli was a participant in the 2008 Salem State Poetry Seminar. She graduated from Westfield State University in 2010, where she majored in English and music performance. Paige's work has appeared in publications including *Nebo*, *Red Barn Review*, *The Virginia Normal*, and more. Paige lives in Western Massachusetts and works as a copywriter and grant writer.

Grant Clauser is the author of the books *Necessary Myths* (2013) and *The Trouble with Rivers* (2012). Poems have appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Cortland Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Southern Poetry Review* and others. By day he writes about electronics, and sometimes he fishes. He blogs occasionally at www.unlambic.com. Twitter: @uniambic

CONTRIBUTORS

Andrea Cohen's poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Atlantic Monthly* and elsewhere. Her poetry collections include *Unfathoming*, just out from Four Way Books, as well as *Furs Not Mine*, *Kentucky Derby*, *Long Division*, and *The Cartographer's Vacation*. She directs the Writers House at Merrimack College and the Blacksmith House Poetry Series in Cambridge, MA.

James Connatser, Jr. was graduated from Salem State University in 2009, and he is a former Editor-in-Chief of *Soundings East*. His work primarily focuses on the LGBT community as well as mental health issues.

John DeBon's short stories and essays have appeared in *The MacGuffin*, *Hawaii Review*, *Concho River Review*, *Amoskeag Journal*, *Westview*, and elsewhere. His essay, "It's Like When Your Mom Dies," earned a listing as notable in *Best American Essays 2013*.

JD Debris, poet, songwriter, and recording artist, released his debut solo album, *Black Market Organs* on Simple Truth Records in late 2016, and is currently working on a book of poems for his undergraduate thesis at Salem State University.

Darren C. Demaree is the author of six poetry collections, most recently *Many Full Hands Applauding Inelegantly* (2016, 8th House Publishing). He is the Managing Editor of the *Best of the Net Anthology* and *Ovenbird Poetry*. He lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and children.

Steph DeOrio loves words, dogs, glitter, donuts, and laughing. She lives in Marblehead and thinks everything is interesting.

Grace Street, **Edward A. Dougherty's** fourth collection of poems, is available from Cayuga Lake Books while his sixth chapbook *House of Green Water* is available from FootHills Publishing. He is Professor of English at Corning Community College, but has been on sabbatical researching the creative process. Visit his website to sign up for his oh-so-occasional Tiny Letter update.

John Elkerr has widely exhibited his work in galleries across the United States and in France. Reviews of his work have appeared in *Décharge Art and Literature Magazine*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Detroit Monthly*, *Metro Times*, *Ann Arbor Observer*, *Third Wednesday*, *Bluestem Magazine*, and *Puerto Del Sol*. His work is curated in the Musée de la Création Franche, Bégles, France. The Summer 2016 cover of *Third Wednesday* featured his work in collaboration with Jacques Karamanoukian. He lives in Dexter, Michigan.

Alan Elyshevitz is a poet and short story writer from East Norriton, PA. His collection of stories, *The Widows and Orphans Fund*, was published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press. In addition, he has published three poetry chapbooks, most recently *Imaginary Planet* (Cervena Barva). He is a two-time recipient of a fellowship in fiction writing from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He teaches writing at the Community College of Philadelphia. For further information, go to <https://aelyshevitz.ink>.

Amy Gaeta is a Massachusetts native now living in the Midwest while completing her PhD in Literary Studies & Visual Culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In roles as practicing poet, scholar, artist, and activist, Amy attempts to expose the thresholds of queerness and bioethics through contemporary literature and art of the Americas.

Gregory Glenn is from Massachusetts. He has written and continues to write poetry. His favorite writers include Frank O'Hara, Martha Collins, Stephen Crane, Amy Lowell, J.D. Scrimgeour, and more. Gregory was selected as editor for the collected works of Rex Manmoonian, due out in early 2019. He is pursuing a graduate degree in writing lol. You can reach him by e-mail at iwastoldicouldreachgregthisway@gmail.com.

Joey Gould (@toshines on twitter) is a longstanding volunteer, organizer, & performer for Mass Poetry, helping plan & execute the Massachusetts Poetry Festival, writing content for Masspoetry.org, and running generative workshops for Student Day of Poetry events across Massachusetts. He has created poems-to-order at Uforge Gallery, juggled in a Poetry Circus, and drummed for a poetry & belly-dancing event at the historic Hawthorne Hotel. His poetry appears online at goldwalkmag.com (where he now edits), Masspoetry.org, and drunkmonkeys.us, where he was writer of the month for February 2017. He also has an avian tattoo on both shoulders.

Vincent Hao is an aspiring writer who attends high school in Austin, Texas. He enjoys reading poetry and writes in his spare time. He also enjoys the artistic merit of basketball and cinema. His work has been published in *Anomaly Literary Journal* and *Albatross* and is forthcoming within the *Adroit Journal*, *Blood Orange*, and *River Styx*.

Joseph Holt is pursuing a PhD in the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi. His fiction has appeared in *Gulf Coast* and *New Ohio Review*, and book reviews have appeared in *Colorado Review* and *Harvard Review Online*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Hostovsky is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *The Bad Guys* (FutureCycle Press, 2015). His poems have won a Pushcart Prize, two Best of the Net awards, and have been featured on *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, and *The Writer's Almanac*. He makes his living in Boston as a sign language interpreter and Braille instructor. More at www.paulhostovsky.com.

Liz Hutchinson is a writer and horticulturist from Salem, Massachusetts. Her first full length poetry collection, *Animalalia*, is forthcoming from YesNo Press in 2017.

Scott Jacobs' work has been published in *jubilat*, *Incessant Pipe*, *Word Riot*, *Souvenir Lit* & elsewhere.

Mary Christine Kane lives in St. Paul, Minnesota where she earned an MFA from Hamline University. Her work has appeared in numerous publications including *Burner Magazine*, *OVS Magazine*, *Sleet*, the *Vermillion Literary Project* magazine, *Portage Magazine* and most recently in *Right, Here, Right Now*, *The Buffalo Anthology*, about Buffalo, New York, where she grew up. She works as a freelance writer.

Mark Katz is a graduating senior at SSU majoring in Art+Design with a concentration in Graphic Design. He previously studied architecture and worked in a variety of fields and trades before deciding to pursue a degree at Salem State. He plans to continue working in the Boston area after graduation.

Cindy King's work has appeared in *Callaloo*, *North American Review*, *African American Review*, *American Literary Review*, *jubilat*, *Ruminate*, *Cortland Review*, *River Styx*, *TriQuarterly*, *Cimarron*, *Black Warrior*, *Barrow Street*, *The Pinch* and elsewhere. She has received a Tennessee Williams Scholarship from the Sewanee Writers' Conference and the Agha Shahid Ali scholarship from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. Currently she lives in Utah, where she is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Dixie State University and editor of *Route 7 Review*.

Rustin Larson's poetry has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Iowa Review*, *North American Review*, *Poetry East*, and *The American Entomologist Poet's Guide to the Orders of Insects*. He is the author of *The Wine-Dark House* (Blue Light Press, 2009), *Crazy Star* (selected for the Loess Hills Book's Poetry Series in 2005), *Bum Cantos*, *Winter Jazz*, & *The Collected Discography of Morning*, winner of the 2013 Blue Light Book Award (Blue Light Press, San Francisco), and *The Philosopher Savant* (Glass Lyre Press, 2015).

Felicia LeBlanc, originally from Lowell, MA, is attending Salem State as a junior in the English major with a creative writing concentration.

Vincent M Livoti is an Assistant Professor in the Palmer School of Library and Information Studies in New York. His chapbook of poetry was printed in 2004, and his writing has since appeared in publications from Routledge, *School Library Journal* and *ACRL Choice*.

Lisa Mangini attended the Salem Poetry Seminar in 2007, and was forever changed. She holds an MFA from Southern Connecticut State University, and is the author of the poetry collection *Bird Watching at the End of the World*, as well as four chapbooks of short fiction and poetry. She lives in Central Pennsylvania, where she teaches English at The Pennsylvania State University and serves as the Founding Editor of *Paper Nautilus*.

Adam Matson's fiction has appeared internationally in over a dozen magazines including *Straylight Literary Magazine*, *Soundings East*, *The Bryant Literary Review*, *The Berkeley Fiction Review*, *Morpheus Tales*, *Infernal Ink Magazine*, *Crack the Spine*, and *The Indiana Voice Journal*, with several forthcoming publications. He has also published a collection of short stories, *Sometimes Things Go Horribly Wrong* (Outskirts Press).

Victoria Nicolau lives in Fall River, MA with her fiancé and two cats. She is a first-year student in Lesley University's low-residency MFA program and a graduate of Salem State University. Her work has previously been published in *Soundings East*.

Toti O'Brien's work has appeared in *Peacock Journal*, *Sein und Werden*, *Avis*, and *Ink on Thirds*, among other journals and anthologies.

Gabriel Oladipo grew up in Chicago, IL and currently lives in Tucson, AZ. He is studying English and Creative Writing at the University of Arizona, where he is a member of the Honors College, and is working on a chapbook titled *Emma*. He is excited for graduation and looks forward to the next phase in his artistic journey. He can be found on Twitter @gabe_ola.

Julie Oliver has an MFA in creative writing from Southern Connecticut State University and attended the Salem State Poetry Seminar in 2007. She has spent the last ten plus years working on literary magazines and journals in varying roles.

CONTRIBUTORS

Megan Ouellet received her BA in English/creative writing from Salem State University in 2012 and is now enjoying her role as a vegetable grower on a certified organic farm in Hamilton, MA.

McKenzie Paddock is studying Art and Psychology at Salem State University. Art has always been her therapy, ranging from crafts to complex drawings. Due to its meditative qualities, pointillism has become McKenzie's obsession. She hopes to assist others through the self-help technique she has grown to love—artistic expression.

Robin Parsons is a 2015 alum of the Salem Poetry Seminar who has studied poetry with Leah Nielsen and David Watts. While living in the San Francisco Bay Area for over 20 years, he was published in *The Haight-Ashbury Literary Journal* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and returned to his native Massachusetts in 2009.

Michael Pontacoloni's poems have appeared in *Smartish Pace*, *Pleiades*, *Colorado Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Harpur Palate*, and elsewhere. He holds an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and lives in Connecticut.

Ron Riecki's non-fiction, fiction, and poetry have been published in *The Threepenny Review*, *River Teeth*, *Spillway*, *Rattle*, *New Ohio Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Canary*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *New Orleans Review*, *Little Patuxent Review*, *Wigleaf*, *Juked*, *Dunes Review*, *New Verse News*, *Verse Daily*, and many other literary journals.

Melissa Beth Rodenhiser lives in quirky, beautiful Providence, RI, where she teaches yoga by day and studies improv comedy and writing by night.

Kayla Russell is a writer and ROI specialist. Based out Salem, MA, she balances a life full of gratitude and resistance with her partner and their cat.

Matt Salyer is an Assistant Professor at West Point. His work has appeared (or is forthcoming) in *Narrative*, *Florida Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, *The Common*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and numerous other places. His first book, *eRavage and Snare*, is forthcoming in late 2017.

Lyndon Seitz is a poet from Western Massachusetts who enjoys music, deep philosophical conversations, and lauding himself in the third person. He is an alumnus of the Salem Poetry Seminar, winner of a handful of awards, and occasional slayer of dragons made out of semi-colons and dangling modifiers.

Charu Sharma is a software developer at IBM in Austin, Texas. Prior to that, she studied Computer Science and Creative Writing at UT Austin and Carnegie Mellon. She spends most of her spare time reading and writing poetry and short fiction. She has most recently been published in *Analecta* and *The Pittsburgh Poetry Review* and is working on her poetry series, *when I was made of water*.

Faith Shearin is the author of five books of poetry: *The Owl Question* (May Swenson Award), *The Empty House* (Word Press), *Moving the Piano* (SFA University Press), *Telling the Bees* (SFA University Press), and *Orpheus, Turning* (Dogfish Poetry Prize). Recent work has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review* and *Poetry East* and has been read aloud by Garrison Keillor on *The Writer's Almanac*. She is the recipient of awards from The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, The Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Her work also appears in *The Autumn House Anthology of Contemporary American Poets* and has been included in *American Life in Poetry*. She lives with her husband, her daughter, and two dogs in a cabin on top of a mountain in West Virginia.

Enzo Silon Surin is a Haitian-born poet, educator, publisher and social advocate. He is author of the chapbook, *Higher Ground* (Finishing Line Press), which was nominated for the Massachusetts Book Award and co-author of *The Next Verse Poets Mixtape - Volume One: the 4 X 4*. His poems have appeared in a number of journals and his manuscript, *When My Body Was a Clinched Fist*, was selected as a semi-finalist for the 2015 Philip Levine Poetry Book Prize. He is Associate Professor of English at Bunker Hill Community College and is founding editor and publisher at Central Square Press.

Kendra Tanacea, an attorney in San Francisco, holds a BA in English from Wellesley College and an MFA in writing and literature from Bennington College. *A Filament Burns in Blue Degrees* was a semifinalist for the Washington Prize and a finalist for the Idaho Prize for Poetry. Her second collection, *Garbage Heart*, was a semifinalist for the Elixir Press Poetry Awards and the 2016 Wilder Series Poetry Book Prize. Kendra's poems have appeared in *5AM*, *Rattle*, *Moon City Review*, and *Stickman Review*, among others. Visit her at kendratanacea.com.

Jessica Tower is an MA in English Writing candidate at Salem State University going on for her MFA in poetry next semester, and is also a Salem Poetry Seminar alum. She has been published in *Spark Magazine*, *Golden Walkman Magazine*, *the Eunoia Review*, *Three Line Poetry*, *The Legendary*, and *Juked*.

CONTRIBUTORS

Teisha Dawn Twomey received her MFA in Poetry at Lesley University. She is the poetry editor for *Wilderness House Literary Review*. Her work has appeared in numerous print, as well as online poetry publications. By day, she works as an Academic Resource Specialist at Springfield College's Boston Campus. Her debut collection *How to Treat Pretty Things* was released by Stream-Lines Press this year.

Cady Vishniac is a Distinguished University Fellow at The Ohio State University and a Big Ten Academic Alliance Traveling Scholar at the University of Michigan's Frankel Center. Her stories have won the contests at *Mid-American Review* and *New Letters*, and her poetry has been featured on *Verse Daily*.

David Walker writes intermittently, at best. He has published two poetry chapbooks and has one forthcoming. His work appears in *Parody*, *ELJ*, *Sediments*, and others. He is an editor at *Golden Walkman Magazine* and attended the 2010 Salem Poetry Seminar.

Woody Woodger is a New England poet forthcoming in *Barely South* and *Postcards Poems and Prose*. He has previously appeared in *Soundings East*, *Golden Walkman Magazine*, and *Dear Hope*. His chapbook *postcards from glasshouse drive* was a finalist in the 2016 Paper Nautilus Debut Chapbook Contest.

Matt Zambito is the author of *The Fantastic Congress of Oddities* (Cherry Grove Collections), and two chapbooks, *Guy Talk* and *Checks & Balances* (Finishing Line Press). New poems appear in *Slice*, *Pembroke Magazine*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Broken Plate*, and elsewhere. He writes from Spokane, Washington.

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Brian Brodeur, "Cousins" was originally published in *Local Fauna* (Kent State University Press 2015).

Soundings East

Volume 39

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Soundings East

CLAIRE KEYES POETRY AWARD

Faith Shearin

CLAIRE KEYES STUDENT POETRY AWARD

Rebekah Aran, winner

Felicia LeBlanc, runner-up

FICTION

Ryan Burruss

John DeBon

Adam Matson

NONFICTION

Joseph Holt

Paul Hostovsky

Toti O'Brien

POETRY

Carol Alexander

Stephen Eric Berry
& John Elkerr

Grant Clauser

Andrea Cohen

Darren C. Demaree

Edward Dougherty

Alan Elyshevitz

Vincent Hao

Liz Hutchinson

Scott Jacobs

Mary Christine Kane

Cindy King

Rustin Larson

Gabriel Oladipo

Michael Pontacoloni

Ron Riecki

Matt Salyer

Charu Sharma

Kendra Tanacea

Matt Zambito

SALEM POETRY SEMINAR

Enzo Silon Surin

Paige Cerulli

Lisa Mangini

Amy Gaeta

Vincent M. Livoti

James Connatser, Jr.

Gregory Glenn

Taylor Rae Botticelli

Teisha Dawn Twomey

Woody Woodger

Jessica Tower

JD Debris

Kayla Russell

Robert Auld

Megan Ouellet

Julie Oliver

Lyndon Seitz

Cady Vishniac

Melissa Beth Rodenhiser

Steph DeOrio

Robin Parsons

Sara Afshar

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