

CLACKAMAS LITERARY REVIEW

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CLACKAMAS LITERARY REVIEW

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Editors' Note

Publishing. It is how ideas are shared—writer with reader, editors with audience. It's the process for creating, from story, artifact. Books allow us to explore. We read to listen. To learn. To react. To connect. And that's intimate. This artifact is our connection to the past, alive always in the present.

Writers spark this connection by capturing ideas with a key stroke, or a sliding pen. They make black ink waltz across white dancefloors, curving, crossing, dotting, slashing—until letters become words and words become voice. And that is the *CLR*. Voices from around the world have danced their way into this book—some floating across the page to an orchestra, others gyrating to the bass of hip-hop. Nothing is out of place.

And that's the beauty of the *CLR*—unity. Caffeinated students drag themselves out of bed twice a week with one thing on their minds: *publishing*. It's uncommon to publish a book in ten weeks the way we have. We are college students. We are friends. And we are editors: arguing over word count, font, slush-piles, styles, back matter, word choice, order, art. Our contrast is how we collaborate. Our collaboration *is* publishing.

Now it's your turn to participate. Listen to these writers. Read. Learn. *React*.

How to End an Affair

Cindy King

As soon as you catch his eye, let it go,
and when he has your ear, quit listening.
If that doesn't work, fall back into your body
whenever gravity returns. If nothing beats
the bars of his ribs, your pulse will no longer sing blue.
The air will cool, and make room for you, resume
its routine in your lungs. Permit cigarettes to burn
into ash, and there will be no words for *smoldering*.
Ice will let down the empty wine bottles; they'll sink to new lows
in the tub. And when sweat forgives your forehead,
your conscience will harden like wax over honey. Only then
will it finally be morning, the sun giving up the horizon,
searching windows in succession as it rises. Expect your
faces to gray in its searchlight. Stars will stagger
up to night's penthouse and the moon will unzip
the sky's blue. Once the freight of your talk is unloaded,
switch rails, whistle with the empty boxcar of your mouth.
You can be sure that the washcloth will forget your face,
the bath towel will free his waist, and your shapes will be shaken
from pillows. Once you latch the door behind him,
watch the TV drama shrink to a single point of light.

University

Mary Miller

I sit in my office in my nice dress: cotton, black, more like a party dress than a teaching dress, but quite comfortable. Nearby, someone is moving desks. This person could move desks forever. This person can never get the desks in the right spot. They must be very large.

I consider poking around, peering into windows. I would like to scream at this person. How am I supposed to get anything done when you can't even get your fucking desks in order? But it is nearly time for me to teach and I haven't finished making notes on Ian's story and I'm hungry even though I ate an hour ago and I still don't know what to say about the story. I should have eaten more but I was with my boss and I have a hard time eating and talking at the same time. When I looked at his plate, his sandwich was gone and I couldn't believe it. I had hardly noticed him eating; it had not seemed difficult at all for him to talk and eat at the same time. But he was asking all the questions. I talked and talked. I wasn't sure he liked what I was saying. I asked him one question that came out unclear. I was sure he knew what I was asking but I hadn't asked it in the right format and he waited for me to phrase it properly but I didn't want to.

It is now eight minutes until I teach and I don't feel prepared and the woman is still moving furniture. Why do I imagine a woman? I have just imagined her. She is also in a slightly inappropriate dress. She's sweating a little. Her desks are all wrong. I will take a little bite

off this Klonopin. I don't have to drink water with it, which is nice. It is just fine. I must not get any crumbs on my lips or dress, though. I'm sleepy and it's hard to know what I need. There are so many things to put in one's body. I go to the window and look out, which I have yet to do, the blinds always closed. I have a window facing a parking lot, bushes in front of it. I have my own air conditioner. I can turn it on high wear a heavy sweater. I have no idea how to use the computer and don't know if it's because I have forgotten how to use a PC or if I'm stupid or perhaps it isn't hooked up, but I have sat here before pushing buttons on a number of occasions. There is a printer, as well, but it is also useless. I have three chairs: one for me and two for other people. There have never been more than two people in my office at any time, including me. I have a bookshelf that is empty save for a wire basket that holds a single Atomic Fireball.

louisiana

Toni Hanner

Small preparations / plugging in / sweeping the eyes / suffocating culture's
velvet / rodeo buckles / wet car windows / we wear glass / i can see / you
all i want to / i was afraid i would be called upon to be / embarrassed i /
stripped down to a lie

there is a room full of hysterics another
with women who cut themselves
starlings cuss and mutter in the trees

Contributors

Blaise Allen, PhD. She is a licensed clinical social worker, photojournalist, and Director of Community Outreach for the Palm Beach Poetry Festival. Her award winning poems have been widely published in literary anthologies and journals. Blaise bridges her passion of social welfare, imagery, and poetry, through community engagement in the arts: promoting voice, culture, and language arts education.

Kristy Athens is the author of *Get Your Pitchfork On!: The Real Dirt on Country Living* (Process Media, 2012). She has an MS in Food Systems and Society from Marylhurst University. Her nonfiction and short fiction have been published in a number of magazines, newspapers, and literary journals, and she has been a regular contributor to HandPicked Nation. Her text-infused, repurposed collage artwork is available at <http://ithaka.etsy.com>.

Morris Collins' first novel, *Horse Latitudes* (MP Publishing USA), was released in 2013 and will be reprinted in a second edition by Dzanc Books later this year. Other fiction and poetry has recently appeared in *Pleiades*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and *Nimrod* among others. Morris lives in Boston and is a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at the College of the Holy Cross.

Asha Dore's work has recently appeared in *The Rumpus*, *Volume 1 Brooklyn*, *Hobart*, *LUMINA*, and elsewhere. Asha lives in Portland,

Oregon with her partner and three children where she is working on a book length critical lyric.

Nausheen Eusuf is a doctoral candidate in English at Boston University. She holds an MA from the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins, and her poetry has appeared in *Rattle*, *Southwest Review*, *Spillway*, *Poetry East*, *World Literature Today*, and other journals. Her chapbook *What Remains* was published by Longleaf Press at Methodist University.

Alexis Fedorjaczenko holds an MFA in Poetry & Nonfiction and an MPH in Health Policy. She has been published in *Naugatuck River Review* and in *Sentence: a Journal of Prose Poetics*; and she has attended residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, Elsewhere Studios, and Prairie Center for the Arts. She is currently on a yearlong U.S. travel adventure. When not on the road, Alexis makes her home on the east coast. She can also be found at: www.alexisgf.com

Ruth Foley lives in Massachusetts, where she teaches English for Wheaton College. Her work appears in numerous web and print journals, including *Antiphon*, *The Bellingham Review*, and *Sou'wester*. She is the author of two chapbooks, *Dear Turquoise* (dancing girl press) and *Creature Feature* (ELJ Publications), and serves as Managing Editor for Cider Press Review.

M.K. Foster's poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Gulf Coast*; *The Account*; *Sixth Finch*; *The Adroit Journal*; *Nashville Review*; *H.O.W. Journal*; *The Southeast Review*; *B O D Y*; and elsewhere and has been recognized with the 2013 Gulf Coast Poetry Prize, an Academy of

American Poets Prize, and two 2015 Pushcart Prize nominations. She holds an MFA from the University of Maryland and presently pursues a PhD at the University of Alabama.

A 4-time nominee for the Pushcart Prize, **Jonathan Greenhouse** was longlisted for last year's National Poetry Competition by The Poetry Society, was a finalist for the 2015 *Aesthetica* Creative Writing Award, and was highly commended for *Southword Journal's* 2016 Gregory O'Donoghue Poetry Prize. His poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *FOLIO*, *Green Mountains Review*, *RHINO*, and *Stand*, among others. This is his 3rd time appearing in *Clackamas Literary Review*.

Luke B. Goebel is the Prose Editor of *Autre Magazine*. He is a fiction writer who hails from Portland, Oregon. His first novel: *Fourteen stories, None of Them Are Yours*, was released in September of 2014 by FC2 as the winner of the Ronald Sukenick Prize for Innovative Fiction. He has work published in/at: *Tin House*, *Electric Literature*, *The American Reader*, *Pank*, *The New York Tyrant*, and elsewhere.

Meredith Hamilton lives and works in the Washington, DC, area but claims Durango, Colorado, as home. Her poetry has previously appeared in *Poet Lore*.

Toni Hanner's books are *The Ravelling Braid* (Tebot Bach, 2012), *Gertrude* (Traprock Books, 2012), and *The Book of Orange Dave* (chandeliergalaxy, 2015). Her poems may also be found in *Crab Creek Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, and many other discerning publications.

Contributors

Maya Hickman is a poet living in the Northwest. She finds inspiration in work with which she uses her hands, like making bread, and cooking. She believes in poetry and friendship.

Alex Andrew Hughes lives and works in Los Angeles. He splits his time, depending on his mood and the weather, between his training in clinical psychology, his research in existential crises, and his fiction, poetry, and sketching. Sometimes, however, he does absolutely nothing, and he enjoys that time the most. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Thin Air*, *Chiron Review*, and *Firewords Quarterly*.

Jamie Iredell is the author of four books, the most recent of which is *Last Mass*, a lyric essay about Catholicism, popular culture, and bears.

Michael Johnson is from Bella Coola, British Columbia. His poetry and essays have appeared in *The Southern Review*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Weber*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Malahat Review*, among others, and been selected for the Best American and Best Canadian poetry anthologies. His first collection *How to Be Eaten by a Lion* is forthcoming from Nightwood Editions. He works at a vineyard in Okanagan Falls.

J.M. Jones is a writer and editor from Philadelphia whose fiction and nonfiction have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *The Southeast Review*, *Barrelhouse*, *Phoebe*, and *The Normal School*. For more, please visit jasonmjones.net.

Cindy King's publications include work in *Callaloo*, *North American Review*, *American Literary Review*, *jubilat*, *Ruminant*, *Cortland Review*, *River Styx*, *Cimarron*, *Black Warrior*, *Barrow Street*, *The Pinch*

and elsewhere. Her poetry can also be found online at weekendamerica.publicradio.org, rhinopoetry.org, and at the *Nashville Review's* website. In 2014, she was awarded a Tennessee Williams Scholarship to attend the Sewanee Writers' Workshop. She has also received the Agha Shahid Ali Scholarship in Poetry from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. She currently lives in Lancaster, where she teaches at the University of North Texas at Dallas as an Assistant Professor of English.

Jen Knox's story collection, *After the Gazebo* (Rain Mountain Press), was nominated for the 2015 Pen/Faulkner Award. Some of her recent stories can be found in *The Adirondack Review*, *Crannóg Magazine*, *Gargoyle Magazine*, *Istanbul Review*, *PANK*, *Per Contra*, *Room Magazine*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. Find Knox at: <http://www.jenknox.com>

Donald Levering's latest book, *Coltrane's God*, was published by Red Mountain Press in 2015. His previous book, *The Water Leveling with Us*, placed 2nd in the 2015 National Federation of Press Women Creative Verse Book Competition. Levering won the 2014 Literal Latté Award and was 1st Runner-Up for the Mark Fischer Prize in 2015. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Jacob Lindberg lives in Minneapolis, MN. He works at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, and is completing his Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. He often reflects on and writes about his hometown Superior, WI, Lake Superior, and the people in this area. He sees flecks of God in the gut-wrenching, weeping, and oily things.

Jennifer Zeynab Maccani is a Syrian-American writer living in the greater Hershey, Pennsylvania area. Her short stories have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *Gulf Stream Literary Magazine*, *The Normal School*, *Mizna*, *Sukoon*, and elsewhere. She won an Honorable Mention Award in the Maine Review's 2015 Short Fiction Contest. She is currently at work on a novel and a collection of short stories.

Margaret Malone is the author of the story collection *People Like You*, selected as one of the best books of 2015 by *The Oregonian*, Powell's, The Quivering Pen, and the *Portland Mercury*. Her stories and essays can be found in *The Missouri Review*, *Oregon Humanities*, *Swink*, *Propeller Quarterly*, and elsewhere. She lives with her husband and two children in Portland, Oregon, where she is a co-host of the artist and literary gathering SHARE.

Todd McKie is an artist and writer whose stories have appeared in *PANK*, *Chicago Literati*, *Story Magazine Online*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and elsewhere. Todd lives in Boston.

Mary Miller is the author of two books: *Big World*, a story collection, and *The Last Days of California*, a novel. A forthcoming collection of stories, *Always Happy Hour*, will be published in 2017 by Liveright/Norton.

Stacey Allen Mills grew up with a pet rooster named Doughnut, finds sanctuary among the forests of the Pacific Northwest, and contemplates our journey across the plane of existence we all call life. His work often deals with themes of loss, loneliness, gender identity, and family violence. His art blurs the lines between nonfiction and fiction,

between prose and poetry. Stacey is a degree candidate for an MFA in Creative Writing from Oregon State University—Cascades, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Writing from Marylhurst University.

Sonnet Mondal is the founder and editor in chief of *The Enchanting Verses Literary Review*. He has authored eight books of poetry and has performed on invitation at the Struga Poetry Evenings, Macedonia in 2014, Uskudar International Poetry Festival, Istanbul in 2015, and International Poetry Festival of Granada in 2016. He has been one of the featured writers at the International Writing Program at The University of Iowa and was featured as one of the Famous Five of Bengali Youths in *India Today* magazine in 2010. In March 2015, The CultureTrip website, London listed him among the Top Five Literary Entrepreneurs of Indian English Poetry. His works have appeared in the *Sheepshead Review*, *the McNeese Review*, *Two Thirds North*, *Penguin Review*, *Burning Word literary Journal*, *Oracle Fine Arts Review*, *Common Ground Review*, *The Adroit Journal*, and *Connotation Press* among others.

Jed Myers lives in Seattle. His poetry collections include *Watching the Perseids* (Sacramento Poetry Center Book Award) and the chapbook *The Nameless* (Finishing Line Press). His work has received Southern Indiana Review's Editors' Award, the Literal Latte Poetry Award, and Blue Lyra Review's Longish Poem Award. His poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Nimrod*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Harpur Palate*, *Crab Creek Review*, *The Briar Cliff Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *Quiddity*, and elsewhere.

Robert Nazarene founded MARGIE / The American Journal of Poetry and IntuiT House Poetry Series, where he received a publishers' National Book Critics Circle award in poetry (2006). His first volume of poems is *CHURCH* (2006). A new collection, *Bird In The Street*, is new in 2016. His poems have Appeared in *AGNI*, *Callaloo*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Ploughshares*, *Plume*, *Salmagundi*, *STAND (UK)*, and elsewhere. He was educated at The McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University.

Randolph Parker makes his living as a marketing and advertising writer in Memphis. His work has appeared in *The Southern Poetry Anthology* (Texas Review Press, 2013), *Tidal Basin Review*, *Grey Sparrow*, *Barely South*, *Avatar Review*, and other publications.

Ricardo Pau-Llosa's seventh book of poems, *Man* (2014), is from Carnegie Mellon U Press as were his previous four titles. He is also an art critic and curator.

Paulann Petersen, Oregon Poet Laureate Emerita, has six full-length books of poetry, most recently *Understory*, from Lost Horse Press in 2013. Her poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *Poetry*, *The New Republic*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Willow Springs*, *Calyx*, and the *Internet's Poetry Daily*. She was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, and the recipient of the 2006 Holbrook Award from Oregon Literary Arts. In 2013 she received Willamette Writers' Distinguished Northwest Writer Award.

Having retired to write poetry in Naples, Florida, Dr. **Oliver Rice** has won the Theodore Roethke Prize and twice been nominated for

a Pushcart Prize. His poems have appeared widely in literary journals and anthologies in the United States, as well as in Canada, England, Austria, Turkey, and India.

Matthew Robinson's words have appeared at *Word Riot*, *Nailed Magazine*, *O-Dark-Thirty*, and elsewhere; and in the short story anthology *The Night, and the Rain, and the River* published by Forest Avenue press. He received his MFA in creative writing from Portland State University and lives and writes in Portland, Oregon.

Ruben Rodriguez writes, paints, and wastes his time at the foot of the San Bernardino Mountains. He is the fiction editor of *The Great American Lit Mag* and author of the chapbook *We Do What We Want* (Orange Monkey Publishing, 2015). His poems have been deemed fit for consumption by the likes of *Driftwood Press*, *Hawai'i Review*, *Oxford Magazine*, *Welter*, *94 Creations*, *Perceptions*, and others. You can find him at www.rubenstuff.com.

Frank Rossini grew up in New York City & moved to Eugene, Oregon, in 1972. A graduate of the MFA program in Creative Writing at the University of Oregon, he taught for forty-three years. He has published poems in various journals including *The Seattle Review*, *Windfall*, *Raven Chronicles*, and *Mas Tequila Review*. His book of poems, *midnight the blues*, was published by sightfor/sight books in 2013.

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Contributors

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Ed Taylor is the author of the novel *Theo*, the poetry collection *Idiogest*, and the poetry chapbook *The Rubaiyat of Hazmat*. His work has most recently appeared in *New World Writing* and *Southern Poetry Review* and is forthcoming in *St Petersburg Review*, *The Literary Review*, and *Gargoyle*.

Katie Todd is an artist, mother, healer, and co-founder of Galactivations.com, an online global boutique of energetic and astrological insight. She creates space, possibility, and magic from her home base in Portland, Oregon. You can find her online at KatieToddArt.com.

James Valvis has placed poems or stories in *Arts & Letters*, *Barrow Street*, *Clackamas Literary Review*, *Ploughshares*, *River Styx*, *The Sun*, and many others. His poetry was featured in *Verse Daily*. His

fiction was chosen for Sundress Best of the Net. A former US Army soldier, he lives near Seattle.

Dennis Vanvick is a retired, self-employed technical consultant. He winters among the eight million inhabitants of Bogota, Colombia, and summers amongst the flora and fauna of northwest Wisconsin. Many of his short stories and essays have appeared in print journals and on the web. He can be reached at vanvikd@hotmail.com.

Dov Weinman has previously published poetry in the *Whitefish Review* and *Poetica Magazine* and recently finished an MS in environmental studies at the University of Montana. He currently lives in the Philippines as a Coastal Resource Management Peace Corps Volunteer.

John Sibley Williams is the editor of two Northwest poetry anthologies and the author of nine collections, including *Controlled Hallucinations* (2013) and *Disinheritance* (forthcoming 2016). A five-time Pushcart nominee and winner of the American Literary Review Poetry Contest and Vallum Award for Poetry, John serves as editor of *The Inflectionist Review* and works as a literary agent. Previous publishing credits include: *The Midwest Quarterly*, *december*, *Third Coast*, *Baltimore Review*, *Nimrod International Journal*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Rio Grande Review*, *Inkwell*, *Cider Press Review*, *Bryant Literary Review*, *RHINO*, and various anthologies. He lives in Milwaukie, Oregon.

Joan Wilking's fiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Barcelona Review*, *Other Voices*, *The Pacifica Review*, *Ascent*, *New World Writing*, *Hobart*, *Night Train*, *Punchnells* and many other publications

Contributors

online and in print. Her creative nonfiction and essays have appeared in *Brevity*, *New World Writing*, and *The Manifest Station*. Her short story, “Deer Season,” was a prize-winning finalist for the *The Chicago Tribune’s* 2010 Nelson Algren Award. Her story, “Clutter,” published in the *Elm Leaves Journal*, received a special mention in the 2016 Pushcart Prize Anthology.

Andrea Wyatt is the author of three poetry collections. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Copperfield Review*, *Gargoyle*, and *Gravel*. Wyatt’s poem *Sunday Morning Gingerbread* was nominated for a 2015 Pushcart. She works for the National Park Service in Washington, DC, and is associate editor of poetry journal *By&By*.

A.R. Zarif is originally from Chicago and is an undergraduate at New York University. His work has appeared in *Hartskill Review*, *London Journal of Fiction*, and *Bear Review*.