

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

TIM BASS teaches fiction and creative nonfiction in the Department of Creative Writing at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. His work has appeared in *Small Spiral Notebook*, *Fugue*, *55 Words*, *Big Muddy*, and other publications.

BRETT BERK teaches fiction writing at The New School, and his short stories have appeared in journals including *Tin House*, *FICTION*, and *The Mississippi Review*. He also writes *Stick Shift: The Gay Car Blog* for VF.com, and he is the author of *The Gay Uncle's Guide to Parenting* published by Three Rivers Press. He and his boyfriend of eighteen years divide their time between New York City and a house in upstate New York.

ROBERT A. BURTON, MD, is a graduate of Yale University and the University of California at San Francisco medical school, where he also completed his neurology residency. At age thirty-three, he was appointed chief of the Division of Neurology at Mt. Zion-UCSF Hospital, where he subsequently became Associate Chief of the Department of Neurosciences. His non-neurology writing career includes three critically acclaimed novels and a neuroscience and culture column at Salon.com—*Mind Reader*. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

KIM CHINQUEE received a 2007 Pushcart Prize and in 2001, a Henfield/Transatlantic Review Prize, and has had over two-hundred pieces published in journals and anthologies including *Noon*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Opium Magazine*, *Hobart*, *Pindeldyboz*, and others. Her collection of flash fiction and prose poetry *OH BABY* was published by Ravenna Press, and her collection of prose poetry *BIG CAGES* is forthcoming from White Pine Press, as #13 in the Marie Alexander Poetry Series.

WYN COOPER has published three books of poems, most recently *Postcards from the Interior* (BOA Editions). His second CD with Madison Bell, *Postcards Out of the Blue*, came out earlier this year. To learn more about Cooper, visit his website, www.wyncooper.com.

BARBARA CROOKER is the author of more than six hundred poems published in over 1750 anthologies, books, and magazines such as *Yankee*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Smartish Pace*, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *Nimrod*, and others. The recipient of numerous awards, including the 2007 Pen and Brush Poetry Prize, the 2006 Ekphrastic Poetry Award from *Rosebud Magazine*, and the 2004 WB Yeats Society of New York Award, Crooker has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize twenty-six times, and her poems have been featured regularly on Garrison Keillor's *The Writer's Almanac*.

CLAYTON ESHLEMAN's most recent books are *An Alchemist with One Eye on Fire* (Black Widow Press), *Reciprocal Distillations* (with an Introduction by Roberto Tejada—Hot Whiskey Press), *Archaic Design* (Black Widow Design), and a translation of *The Complete Poetry of Caesar Vallejo* (with a Foreword by Mario Vargas Llosa—University of California Press). In the fall of 2008, Black Widow Press will bring out *The Grindstone of Rapport*, a collection of Eshelman's poetry, prose, and translation, spanning some forty years. Eshelman lives with his wife, Caryl, in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Each June they lead a small tour to the painted Ice Age caves of southwestern France. In 2009, Wade Davis will join them as guest lecturer.

CHARLES ADÉS FISHMAN is a consultant in poetry to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. His books include *Mortal Companions; The Death Mazurka*, a 1989 American Library Association Outstanding Book of the Year, which was nominated for the 1990 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry; *Country of Memory and 5,000 Bells*; and *Chopin's Piano*, which received the 2007 Paterson Award for Literary Excellence. The revised, second edition of his anthology, *Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust*, was published by Time Being Books in October.

STEFANIE FREELE grew up in Wisconsin and currently lives in Northern California. Her recent credits include pieces in *South Dakota Review*, *Westview*, *Driftwood*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Café Irreal*, *Permafrost*, *The Binnacle*, *Thema*, and *Pebble Lake Review*. Her upcoming work will appear in *American Literary Review*, *Talking River*, *Lunch Hour Stories*, and *Quality Women's Fiction*. She is an MFA student with the Whidbey Writers Workshop in Washington.

PETER FREUND was born, raised and educated in Timișoara, Romania. Because of his participation in an anti-Soviet demonstration, he was stood up against a

wall and almost shot. Not long afterwards, Freund managed to leave Romania and obtained his PhD in theoretical physics at the University of Vienna. Since 1965 he has been on the faculty of the University of Chicago where he is currently Professor Emeritus. Professor Freund has made important contributions to theoretical particle physics and string theory. He is the author of *A Passion for Discovery* (World Scientific), which illustrates how scientists and their work are influenced by world events, and his short stories have been published in *Exquisite Corpse* and other publications. His latest book, *West of West End*, a collection of stories, is scheduled to appear soon.

FAITH GOBLE is co-editor and resident graphic artist for *The Gander Press Review*, and her first book of poetry, *Elementa*, was published in 2008 by Loosey Goosey Press. Her op-ed pieces and articles have appeared in the *Courier-Journal* and other newspapers, and her commentaries and poems have aired on NPR member stations. She owns Gographix, a graphic arts and design studio, in Bowling Green, Kentucky, where she scratches out a living amongst a couple of kids, a houseful of rescued dogs—and an untold number of fleas.

PATRICK GOBLE has written over two hundred songs ranging in style from alternative to zydeco. At the age of eighteen, he wrote *Shredding 101* (Loosey Goosey Press). He plays eleven instruments and was granted the Guitar Institute of Technology's Musicianship Award. Patrick now lives in Kentucky and teaches guitar, drums, bass, ukulele, didgeridoo, fiddle, and banjo; he is also working on finishing his second symphony. He has written hundreds of lyrics, but this is his first published poem. Morley Seaver's interview of Patrick and a review of his album *Big Bad World* have appeared on AntiMusic.com. His website is www.patrickgoble.com.

JANE HAMMONS teaches writing at UC Berkeley. Her most recent publications can be found in the *San Francisco Chronicle Magazine*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Slow Trains*, and *Word Riot*. She has also published in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Kitchen Sink Magazine*, *Rhino*, and *Taint Magazine*.

CATHRYN HANKLA has written seven books of poetry and three works of fiction, including *Texas School Book Depository: prose poems* (LSU Press), *Poems for the Pardoned*, and *Last Exposures: a sequence of poems* (LSU Press). She teaches in the writing program at Hollins University and edits poetry for *The Hollins Critic*.

ABEER HOQUE is a Fulbright scholar and an American writer and photographer of Bangladeshi descent. She was born in Enugu, Nigeria, and moved to Pittsburgh when she was in high school. She has written two books; an autobiographical novel, *Olive Witch, An American Dream*, which won the 2005 Tanenbaum Award in Creative Nonfiction; and a linked collection of stories, poems, and photographs *The Lovers and the Leavers*. Excerpts from *Olive Witch*, as well as her poems and short stories, have appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*, *Switchback*, and *ZYZZYVA*. Her website is www.olivewitch.com.

SHERRIL JAFFE lives in San Francisco and is the author of six works of fiction published by Black Sparrow Press including *Scars Make Your Body More Interesting* and *The Unexamined Wife*, as well as a memoir, *Ground Rules* published by Kodansha. She also co-authored the *San Francisco Chronicle* best seller, *One God Clapping*, with her husband, Alan Lew. Her short stories have appeared in *Epoch*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Volt*. She is an Associate Professor of English at Sonoma State University, where she teaches creative writing.

RICHARD KOSTELANETZ has published over a dozen books of experimental fiction. *The Old Fictions and the New* is a collection of his critical essays. He lives in New York, and his website is www.richardkostelanetz.com

PEGGY LANDSMAN has been published in literary journals and anthologies including *Spindle*, *The Muse Strikes Back* (Story Line Press). *The Largeness the Small is Capable Of* (Score Press), and *Bridges* (Indiana University Press). Her first poetry chapbook, *To-Wit To Woo*, is available from FootHills Publishing. Her website is <http://home.att.net/~palandsman>.

KURT LUCHS has written humorous works for *The Onion*, *The New Yorker*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, as well as for the television programs *Politically Incorrect* and *The Late Late Show*. He also edits *TheBigJewel.com*.

CHRISTOPHER MEEKS writes short stories and novels. His short fiction has appeared in literary journals, including *Rosebud*, *The Clackamas Literary Review*, *The Southern California Anthology*, *The Santa Barbara Review*, *Midday Moon*, and *Writer's Forum*. His collected works *The Middle-Aged Man and the Sea* and *Months and Seasons* have been published by White Whisker Books. He teaches creative writing in USC's Masters of Professional Writing program.

JOSEPH MUELLER is a writer and educator who lives in Vermont. To survive, he works as a bartender and reads to senior citizens.

CHRISTOPHER MULROONEY has written poems which have been published in *Vanitas*, *Gurenica*, *Beeswax*, *echolocation*, *The Delinquent*, and *fourW*.

RACHAEL PECKHAM won the *Briar Cliff Review* Nonfiction Contest for 2006 and was a finalist in the 2008 *Inkwell* Poetry Contest. Her work has appeared in the journals *Brevity*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *Lake Effect*, *Passages North*, *Southeast Review*, *So to Speak*, and is forthcoming in *SENTENCE* and in the anthology, *Daughters of the Land* (Texas Tech University Press).

SIMON PERCHIK is an attorney whose poems have appeared in *Partisan Review*, *The New Yorker*, and elsewhere. *Rafts* (Parsifal Editions) is his most recent collection, and *Family of Man* (Pavement Saw Press) is scheduled for release this fall. His website is www.geocities.com/simonthepoet.

AMANDA REYNOLDS received her MFA in Poetry from the University of Florida and is currently pursuing her PhD from Florida Sate University. She lives in Pittsburgh and is currently working on a collection of poetry about the city.

CHARLES P. RIES lives in Milwaukee. His narrative poems, short stories, interviews, and poetry reviews have appeared in over two hundred print and electronic publications. He has received four Pushcart Prize nominations for his writing. He is the author of *The Fathers We Find* and five books of poetry—the most recent of which is *The Last Time* (Moon Press & Publishing). Ries is also the poetry editor for *Word Riot*, is on the board of the Woodland Pattern Bookstore, and is a member of the Wisconsin Poet Laureate Commission. But most of all, Ries is a founding member of the Lake Shore Surf Club, the oldest fresh water surfing club on the Great Lakes. More samples of his work may be found at www.literati.net/Ries.

RON SINGER, PHD, is an author, playwright, poet, and critic. His poetry has been featured in *Borderlands: The Texas Poetry Review*, *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*, and *Windsor Review*. A longtime social activist, Singer has written on Africa and energy issues for *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* and *The Wall Street Journal*. His chapbook, *A Voice For My Grandmother*, was published by Ten Penny Players, and a collection of his works, *The Second Kingdom, Three Comic*

Novellas, is forthcoming this September from Cantara books. He lives in New York City, and his website is www.ronsinger.net.

JARED SMITH spent many years in industry and research, and during his career he advised several White House Commissions on technology and policy under the Clinton Administration and also served as Special Appointee to Argonne National Laboratory. Smith's work has appeared in hundreds of publications over the past 30 years, and his poems, essays, and literary commentary have appeared in the *New York Quarterly*, *Kenyon Review*, *Bitter Oleander*, and many other literary reviews. He has written numerous volumes of poetry, including *The Graves Grow Bigger Between Generations* (Higginum Hill Books) and *Where Images Become Imbued With Time* (Puddin'head Press, Chicago). His newest book, *The Selected Longer Poems of Jared Smith: 1983-2008*, is coming soon from Tamarack Editions. He has served as a member of the Screening Committee and on the Board of Directors of *The New York Quarterly* and is a member of Colorado Poets Center, The Colorado Poets Association, and The Academy of American Poets.

LESLEY WHEELER is a writer whose poems have been published in *Poetry*, *AGNI*, *Witness*, and in the chapbook *Scholarship Girl*; her books include *Voicing American Poetry: Sound and Performance from the 1920s to the Present*. She teaches at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia.

LUKE WHISNANT is the author of *Watching TV with the Red Chinese*, which was made into an independent film in 2008. He teaches literature and creative writing at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.