
Notes on Contributors

a.d.

a.d. is drawn to the sacred, the profane, the mysterious and the mythological, which provides inspiration for her work. She is a Pushcart- and BotN-nominated bisexual poet, writer and visual artist, and her work is published in *HAD*, *Aôthen*, *THINK*, *REDAMANCY Mag*, *ECHO Review*, *Prosetrics* and elsewhere. Meanwhile, her visual art, mainly photography and self-portraiture, is featured in *Hominum Journal*, *Welter*, *Occulum*, *Antler Velvet*, *Bleating Thing* and other outlets. She is currently working on her first poetry collection. Tumblr & Twitter: @godstained

Lavanya Arora

Lavanya Arora is an independent researcher and writer from India. Their work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Frontier Poetry*, *Soft Union*, *Muse India*, *Tamarind Literary*, and elsewhere. In a past life, they tried understanding plant and bacterial DNA.

Michaela Pia Camilleri

Michaela Pia Camilleri is a Maltese lawyer who often contemplates reading for an English degree. An avid reader as a child, having loved anything by Enid Blyton, Anthony Horowitz, and Rick Riordan, her taste has slightly shifted, now tending to prefer the likes of Sally Rooney, José Saramago, and Immanuel Mifsud.

Colin Dardis

Colin Dardis is a neurodivergent poet, editor and sound artist from Northern Ireland. His recent poetry collections include *with the lakes* (above/ground press, 2023) and *What We Look Like in the Future* (Red Wolf Editions, 2023). He currently co-hosts the long-running Poetry Poetry open mic night in Belfast, and is editor of the poetry blog, *Poem Alone*.

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John Delaney

After retiring as curator of historic maps at Princeton University Library, I moved out to Port Townsend, WA, and have traveled widely, preferring remote, natural settings. Since that transition, I've published *Waypoints* (2017), a collection of place poems, *Twenty Questions* (2019), a chapbook, *Delicate Arch* (2022), poems and photographs of national parks and monuments, *Galápagos* (2023), a collaborative chapbook of my son Andrew's photographs and my poems, *Nile* (2024), a chapbook of poems and photographs about Egypt, *Filing Order: Sonnets* (2025), and *CATechisms* (2025), poems and photographs about my senior cat.

Salvatore Difalco

Salvatore Difalco is a Sicilian Canadian poet and storyteller, living in Toronto, Canada.

Rory Doherty

Rory Doherty's fiction and poetry has appeared in *Howth Castle*, *Side Show*, *ARTWIFE Magazine*, *ANTAE*, *Bull*, *Northern New England Review*, *Firework Stories*, *Blessings in Disguise—Eyes Welled Up Anthology* (PoetsChoice Press), *The Write Launch*, *Hemingway Shorts, Vol. 10* (2025), and *Exacting Clam*. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from Boston University and completed doctoral studies in Humanities (PhD ABD) at the University of Texas at Dallas.

William Doreski

William Doreski lives in Peterborough, New Hampshire. He has taught at several colleges and universities. His most recent book of poetry is *Cloud Mountain* (2024). He has published three critical studies, including *Robert Lowell's Shifting Colors*. His essays, poetry, fiction, and reviews have appeared in various journals.

George Freek

George Freek's poetry has appeared in numerous journals and reviews. His poem 'Night Thoughts' was recently nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

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Cal Freeman

Cal Freeman (he/him) is the author of the books *Fight Songs* and *Poolside at the Dearborn Inn*. His writing can be found in many publications, including *The Glacier*, *Berkeley Poetry Review*, and *North American Review*. His hybrid collection, *The Weather of Our Names*, has just been released by *Cornerstone Press*.

Maria Grech Ganado

Maria Grech Ganado (b.1943) has won National Book Prizes for 4 of her 8 poetry collections in Maltese or English, has been published in English in the USA, UK, Australia and Cyprus, as well as in translation to 15 other languages. In 2005 she co-organised an international seminar (RE-VISIONS) with LAF (Literature Across Frontiers) and Inizjamed in Malta. She has been awarded by the State, the University of Malta and her hometown, Floriana. Maria has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Mike Guerin

Mike Guerin is a writer and drama teacher from the mountainous uplands of North Cork. He writes poetry, plays, and prose and has had work published in journals nationally and internationally. In 2022 he won the Listowel Writers Week short story competition. His plays have been performed by drama groups throughout Ireland. His first professional production was at INK Short Play festival in 2023.

Douglas Haberman

Douglas Haberman is a student in the poetry concentration of the MFA program at Western Colorado University. His home is in California, but he has lived, studied, and worked overseas for more than 17 years, including 13 years in Europe.

Francisco Izukiri

Francisco Izukiri (he/him) is an Italian poet based near the Venetian Lagoon. His poetry weaves love, grief, art, and ecology into lyrical yet civic narratives. He writes in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Minnesota Review* (Duke University Press) and *IHRAM Quarterly Magazine*.

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John Menaghan

John Menaghan has published 4 books with Salmon Poetry (*All the Money in the World*, *She Alone*, *What Vanishes*, and *Here and Gone*), received 6 Pushcart Prize nominations, and had poems appear in numerous journals, including *Ambit*, *The Hopkins Review*, *Brilliant Corners*, *Poetry Ireland*, *Atlanta Review* and *American Arts Quarterly*.

Soonest Nathaniel

Soonest Nathaniel is a poet, digital media strategist, broadcast journalist, and spoken word artist. His poetry collection, *Teaching Father How to Impregnate Women*, was selected as a winner of the RL Poetry Award. His second book – *Burying The Ghost of Dead Narratives* – was published in collaboration with the British Council. A Rhysling Award and Pushcart nominee, Soonest was selected in 2023 to be a fellow of the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa; he was also a 2021 Langston Hughes Fellow at the Palm Beach Festival and Poet Laureate for the Korea Nigeria Poetry Festival.

Damen O'Brien

Damen is a multi-award-winning Australian poet. His prizes include The Moth Poetry Prize, the Peter Porter Poetry, and the Cafe Writers Open Poetry Competition. Damen's poems can be found in *Aesthetica Literary Journal*, *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *Poetry Wales* and other journals. His latest book is *Walking the Boundary* (Pitt Street Poetry, 2024).

Jim Paterson

Jim Paterson is a Scottish writer who taught in the Highlands for years, before moving to Perpignan. Recent work in *City of Poets*, *Ink*, *Sweat and Tears* and *PoetryBus*. Two pamphlets, *Grit 1* and *2*, from the lamented Urchik Press. Bilingual book, *RSVP*, with Michel Borla, just published in France. Substack: https://substack.com/@jimpaterson1?utm_source=user-menu

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Elina Petrova

Elina Petrova lived in Ukraine until 2007, where she worked in engineering management. Her debut book was in Russian. In the U.S. she published *Aching Miracle* (2015) and *Desert Candles* (2019) poetry books, and an award-winning chapbook *A Bird from Ukraine* (2026). Elina's poems appeared in *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Passages North*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Texas Review*, *Porter House Review*, *Sequestum*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Pedestal*, *FreeFall*. A short film featuring her poem won Best Cinematic Poetry at the 2023 Miami Chroma Film Festival.

John P. Portelli

John P. Portelli is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. He has published eleven academic books and twelve collections of poetry, two collections of short stories, and two novels. His works have been translated into English, French, Italian, Turkish, Arabic, Farsi, Greek, Spanish, Slovenian and Serbian. After living in Canada for 46 years, now he lives between Canada, Malta and beyond. His latest collection of poetry is entitled *The Lost Coyote* (2026, Sulfur Editions and Horizons Malta).

Michael Salcman

Michael Salcman is a former chairman of neurosurgery, University of Maryland, and president of The Contemporary Museum, a child of the Holocaust and a survivor of polio. Poems in *Blue Unicorn*, *Hopkins Review*, *Hudson Review*, *New Letters*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Raritan* and *Smartish Pace*. Books include *Clock Made of Confetti* (nominated The Poets' Prize), *The Enemy of Good is Better*, *Poetry in Medicine: classic and contemporary medical poems*, *A Prague Spring* (Sinclair Poetry Prize), *Shades & Graces* (Daniel Hoffman Legacy Book Prize), *Necessary Speech: New & Selected Poems*, and *Crossing the Tape* (2024).

Stephanie Sant

Stephanie Sant is a Paris-based Maltese filmmaker and singer-songwriter. During her MA in Photography at Central Saint Martins, obtained in 2016, she opened up to cinema and the performing arts, being involved in projects shown at the Biennale Arte in Venice and the London Design Biennale. In 2024, she was selected alongside 50 filmmakers from around the world to participate in a workshop run by Werner Herzog in the Canary Islands. She is currently working on her 5th short film that will be shot in Brittany, France, and on her debut studio album.

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Gerard Sarnat

Gerard Sarnat's a multiple Pushcart/Best of Net Award nominee. Sarnat's widely published, including four collections, by *Rattle*, *Brooklyn Review*, *Tokyo Poetry Journal*, *Gargoyle*, *New Delta Review*, *Buddhist Review*, *New York Times*, *Oberlin*, *Northwestern*, *Yale*, *Pomona*, *Harvard*, *Stanford*, *Dartmouth*, *Penn*, *Columbia*, *Johns Hopkins*, *NYU*, *Brown*, *North Dakota*, *McMaster*, *Maine*, *British Columbia/Toronto/Chicago* and *Virginia* university presses. Gerry's a Harvard Medical School-trained physician, Stanford professor, healthcare CEO, devoted energy/resources to climate justice, serving on Climate Action Now's board. He's been married since 1969, has three kids, seven grandsons — and looks forward to future granddaughters. gerardsarnat.com

Andrew Zammit Montebello

Andrew Zammit Montebello has been a lifelong writer and reader. Since he was young, he'd voraciously consumed stories that bridged genres and took inspiration for his own writing. He has honed his craft by writing and publishing short stories online and has taken a unit on creative writing at the University of Malta.

Annie ZH Sun

Annie ZH Sun is a Chinese Writer who grew up in Malta. She graduated with a MSc in Creative Writing with distinction from the University of Edinburgh. Her work has been published in *Pseudopod*, *Hex*, *IHRAM Press*, *Behind the Revolving Door* Anthology, and others. She is the winner of the Horror Competition in Edinburgh Writer's Club.