

Contributor Notes

Leah Alsaker is a recent graduate of SDSU. She grew up on a farm, where she fell in love with the prairies and people of South Dakota. Nowadays, Leah is busy writing poetry for her thesis and pursuing a Master in Fine Arts in creative writing at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She hopes to stay in the Midwest and teach English to middle school students after she graduates in 2019.

Jodi Andrews lives in Brookings, SD with her husband, Joel, and teaches English at SDSU. She recently had her debut chapbook of poetry *The Shadow of Death* accepted for publication by Finishing Line Press. She has had poetry published in *Pasque Petals*, *Oakwood*, *Anomaly Literary Journal*, *The Remembered Arts Journal*, *Calmus Journal*, and others.

S. D. Bassett has long been established in South Dakota, where she is currently a licensed registered nurse and lecturer at SDSU. Her home is an acreage near Volga, where she lives with her husband and raised their now-grown sons. Writing has been an important pastime and job requirement, with poetry outweighing professional writing on the enjoyment scale.

Megan Baule has an M.F.A in creative writing. She teaches through the Center for Statewide E-Learning at Northern State University. With three small children in her family, her greatest desire is an uninterrupted nap in a warm corner with a book of poetry and a fireplace.

Teodora Buba is a visual artist currently living in Rapid City, SD. She graduated from the National University of Fine Arts in Bucharest, Romania with a Masters in Visual Arts and a Fine Art Teaching Degree. She has exhibited in London, Denmark, Japan, Texas, and, in South Dakota, the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City, the Museum of Visual Materials in Sioux Falls, and most recently at the Sioux Falls Design Center.

James Cihlar's new book, *The Shadowgraph*, is forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press in 2019. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and he earned his PhD from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He is the author of the poetry books *Rancho Nostalgia* (Dream Horse Press, 2013), *Undoing* (Little Pear Press, 2008), and the chapbooks *A Conversation with My Imaginary Daughter* (Bloom, 2013) and *Metaphysical Bailout* (Pudding House, 2010). His writing has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *The Threepenny Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and *Nimrod*. His website is jimcihlar.com.

Heidi Czerwiec, poet and essayist, is the author of the recently-released poetry collection *Conjoining* and the forthcoming lyric essay collection *Fluid States*, the winner of Pleiades Press' 2018 Robert C. Jones Prize for Short Prose, and also the editor of *North Dakota Is Everywhere: An Anthology of Contemporary North Dakota Poets*. After more than a decade teaching at UND, she now lives in Minneapolis, where she is Senior Poetry Editor with *Poetry City, USA* and mentors with the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop. Visit her at heidiczerwiec.com.

Cass Dalglish is a Minnesota fiction writer, prose poet, and former broadcast journalist. Her books include the novels *Nin* (Spinsters Ink) and *Sweetgrass* (a Minnesota Book Award finalist), and a book-length prose poem *Humming the Blues* (Calyx Books). *Humming the Blues* is a jazz interpretation of Sumerian cuneiform signs in Enheduanna's *Song to Inanna* (Ancient Iraq, 2350 BCE). She is currently working on two novels – the work-in-progress *Castles in Spain*, and a fiction project from which the piece in this issue is. She is a fiction mentor in the Augsburg University MFA program.

Carol L. Deering has twice received the Wyoming Arts Council Poetry Fellowship (2016, judge Rebecca Foust; 1999, judge Agha Shahid Ali). Her poetry appears in online and traditional journals, and in the recent anthology *Blood, Water, Wind & Stone: An Anthology of Wyoming Writers*. Carol has lived in Wyoming for thirty-five years. <https://www.caroldeering.com>

Katherine Edgren has spent summers for nearly forty years at her cabin ("Grenjham" – freely translated from Swedish as "little green house in the great green woods") on Cass Lake in Minnesota. Katherine's first book, *The Grain Beneath the Gloss*, published by Finishing Line Press, is available along with her two chapbooks, *Long Division* and *Transports*. Katherine served as a City Council member in Ann Arbor, raised funds for the ACLU, and was a project manager on research and intervention projects in Detroit. She's a retired social worker and lives in Dexter, Michigan.

Robert Klein Engler lives in Omaha, Nebraska. Robert holds degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana and the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has received Illinois Arts Council awards for his poetry. His recent article, "Karl Bodmer's Hat," appeared in *Great Plains Quarterly*.

Tyler Gates lives in Watertown, SD. His writing has been published in venues such as *Whistling Shade*, *Skullmore*, and *Reader's Digest*. Tyler is also the author of the chapbook *More Than Letters, Less Than Words*.

Corinna German writes creative non-fiction and poetry with the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness of Wyoming and Montana over her shoulder. Her work has appeared in *Blood, Water, Wind, and Stone: An Anthology of Wyoming Writers* (Sastrugi Press), *Manifest West: Women of the West* (Western Press Books), *High Plains Register*, *Nature Writing* magazine, *Haiku Journal*, and *A Quiet Courage: Journal of Micro-fiction and Poetry*. When she's not adventuring the backcountry, you can find her in Laurel, Montana with her husband and four boys.

Shaina Harris is an artist originally from Las Vegas, NV. She earned her B.A. in Art Education at SDSU. Her artistic processes draw from a variety of influences focusing on expressing serenity and vulnerability found in nature and the human form. Drawn to materials that allow for exploration and experimentation, she uses a variety of media including Intaglio printmaking, graphite, charcoal, India ink, and watercolor.

Mary Alice Haug's memoir *Daughters of the Grasslands* was published in 2014. Her work has been widely published and anthologized in *River Teeth*, *South Dakota Review*, *Notre Dame Magazine*, *Passager Magazine*, *Platte Valley Review*, *Passager Celebrates 21 Years, Because I Love Her: 34 Women Writers Reflect on the Mother-Daughter Bond*, *Peril and Promise: Essays on Community in South Dakota and Beyond*, *Crazy Woman Creek: Women Rewrite the American West*, and on the National Parks website. She was twice nominated for a Pushcart Prize. Haug taught for thirty years in the English Department at SDSU.

Originally from Minnesota, **Bridget Henderson** graduated from Edgeley High School in North Dakota in 2015. She is currently a junior at SDSU pursuing a bachelor's degree in English and minors in History and French Studies. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in publishing for both writing and designing aspects.

D.A. (Daisy) Hickman grew up in Pierre, SD, and has lived in Brookings for ten years now. Much of her literary work explores her prairie roots and the powerful sense of place inspired by the Dakota landscape. Her first book, *William Morrow*, was about lifestyle, culture, and landscape: the timeless wisdom she'd managed to glean from her humble, yet, beautiful, surroundings. She published her first book of poetry in 2017. Her blog is SunnyRoomStudio.

Patrick Hicks is the author of several books, including *The Collector of Names*, *Adoptable*, *This London*, and the critically acclaimed novel *The Commandant of Lubizec*. He has received grants and fellowships from the Bush Artist Foundation, the Loft Literary Center, the South Dakota Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was recently a finalist for an Emmy in the category of Writer – Short Form. A dual-citizen of Ireland and America, he is the Writer-in-Residence at Augustana University as well as a faculty member at the MFA program at Sierra Nevada College. He grew up in the Twin Cities.

Natalie Hilden is nineteen years old and currently a freshman journalism and studio arts student at SDSU. She is originally from a small town in northern Minnesota and loves being a part of the Great Plains region because there is always something to gain inspiration from. She believes she lives in a beautiful part of the country and can look right outside her window and find natural beauty to spark her interest.

Dani Johannesen grew up in Huron, South Dakota, and earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of South Dakota in 2012, where she studied creative writing and Great Plains literature. She is the co-editor of *Iconic Sports Venues: Persuasion in Public Spaces* (Peter Lang, 2017), which includes chapters on the Huron Arena in Huron, SD, and the World's Only Corn Palace in Mitchell, SD. Her creative and scholarly work has appeared in *Brevity*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *South Dakota Women: Influence, Action, and Voice*, *The Journal of Ecocriticism*, *The Nautilus*, and elsewhere.

Originally from Brookings, South Dakota, **Allison Kantack** has always lived in the Midwest. This May, she will graduate from SDSU with a degree in English Writing. Allison also studied Theatre and served State University Theatre both on stage and off. Her favorite things to write are poetry, prose, and monologues. Besides writing, Allison enjoys reading, playing the piano, and figure skating. She hopes to one day become an editor or otherwise surround herself with books.

Adrian Koesters has lived in Nebraska for over three decades. Her volumes of poetry, *Many Parishes* and *Three Days with the Long Moon*, were published by Baltimore's BrickHouse Books, and her short nonfiction work on trauma and prayer, *Healing Mysteries*, was published by Paulist Press. Her first novel, *Union Square*, is forthcoming by Apprentice House Press in 2018. She currently is the research editor for the Vice Chancellor of Research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

Brittany Kopman is an SDSU student. She grew up in northern Minnesota and has lived in South Dakota for six years. She is a published writer and illustrator, as well as a horse trainer. She plans to continue pursuing success in all three arenas after graduation this May.

Jordan Larson is a photographer based in Ames, Iowa. She currently finishing up her undergraduate degree in Political Science at Iowa State University. In her work, Jordan hopes to document both the unusual and mundane in an attempt to discover insights about what it means to live in a constantly changing environment. She will be attending the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University next fall for her graduate degree in Photography and Cinematography. Her works can be seen on www.jordansjourneysphoto.com

Adam Luebke is an ESL instructor at SDSU Brookings and Ashford University, and holds an MFA in Writing from Otis College of Art & Design in Los Angeles. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Flyway*, *Valley Voices*, *The Bangalore Review*, and *The Write Place at the Write Time*.

Mariah Macklem is an undergraduate student who will graduate with a B.A. in English in 2020. She has moved around the Midwest most of her life, having been born in Iowa, growing up in Nebraska, and now attending college in South Dakota. Mariah has been writing as a hobby her whole life, starting with ghost stories when she was little, and wants to continue onto a career of writing.

Cheyenne Marco grew up on a Minnesota poultry farm and finds inspiration for writing in her rural upbringing. She teaches at USD, works on the *South Dakota Review*, does outreach for Friends of the Big Sioux River, and fantasizes about sleep. Her works have appeared in *Lake Region Review*, *Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, *Turk's Head Review*, and *Prairie Winds*.

Suzanne Rogier Marshall was born and raised in Minnesota. She taught English to middle school students for nearly forty years, publishing a book on teaching poetry. Her poems have appeared recently or are forthcoming in *Cider Press Review*, *Heartwood Literary Journal*, *Up North Literary Journal*, *Portage Magazine*, *Watershed Review* and other journals and anthologies. She is the author of *Blood Knot*, a chapbook published by Porkbelly Press in 2015. After retiring, Suzanne moved to the New Hampshire mountains, where she enjoys hiking and canoeing with her husband.

Kent Meyers is the author of a memoir about growing up on a Minnesota farm as well as four books of fiction, most recently *Twisted Tree*, which won a Society of Midland Authors award and a High Plains Book Award and was translated into French. Meyers has twice been included on *The New York Times* list of notable books and has published an essay in *Harper's* about the search for dark matter. Having migrated west of the Missouri in 1980, he lives with his wife in Spearfish, South Dakota, and teaches in Pacific Lutheran University's MFA program.

Scott F. Parker is a writer in Montana.

Meghan Peterson loved college at SDSU so much that she never left. After completing a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2002, she earned a Master of Science in counseling in 2005. By day, she serves as a professional academic advisor at SDSU, and by night (and weekends), she paints. Born and raised in the Midwest, she currently lives in Brookings with her husband, Shawn, and the world's worst studio cat, Clarence.

Adrian S. Potter writes poetry and short fiction. He is the author of the fiction chapbook *Survival Notes* (Červená Barva Press, 2008) and winner of the 2010 Southern Illinois Writers Guild Poetry Contest. Some publication credits include *North American Review*, *Jet Fuel Review*, and *Kansas City Voices*. A Minnesota resident, he blogs about creativity and motivation at <http://adrianspotter.com/>.

In 2012, **Jessie Rasche** moved to South Dakota with her husband and son, and her mom moved here soon after. Jessie has been painting the subtle and extreme Great Plains landscapes ever since. One of her other focus areas is painting moms and babies bonding, especially during those simple moments that are easily forgotten. Her artwork has been collected privately from Maine to California, as well as Canada and the UK, and is in two South Dakota public collections.

Erika Saunders lives in South Dakota with her husband and three children. Her poetry has appeared in *Cholla Needles*, *Watershed*, *Pasque Petals* and *Oakwood*, which awarded her the 2017 Anita Bahr Award for Outstanding Contributor.

Terry Savoie has been a resident of Iowa for the past five decades. During that time, he has had more than three hundred and fifty poems published in literary journals including *The American Poetry Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *The Iowa Review*, *North American Review*, *Cutthroat* and *American Journal of Poetry* among many others. A selection, *Reading Sunday*, recently won the Bright Hill Competition and will be published this spring.

Lillian Schwartzrock was born and raised in South Dakota. She now attends SDSU, exploring the humanities through a major in English and minors in Film Studies, History, and Religion. Her love of art and storytelling will continue to inspire her endeavors after graduation.

Jennie Scislow is an Interior Design student at SDSU, graduating in May 2018. Studio Arts and Spanish are added minors to fulfill her passion for the arts and travel. Acrylic is her preferred media by which she uses identifiable objects to help navigate the viewer through abstract spaces. She is a member of the Women's Soccer and Track teams, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Interior Design Club at SDSU. Jennie originates from the Twin Cities.

Richard Skorupski returned to his native New Jersey with his wife, Cheryl, after a twenty-one year career in the US Navy. Ten years later, the dense population of New Jersey encouraged them to find a more peaceful, friendly environment for his second retirement. Since 2004, Richard and Cheryl have happily resided in Spink County, South Dakota. Richard's love for South Dakota and appreciation for its people are portrayed through his third career as the author of his four novels centering around the fictional small town of Helen in rural NE South Dakota.

Alex Stolis was orphaned in Duluth and lives in Minneapolis. Recent chapbooks include *Justice for all* (Conversation Paperpress, UK) based on the last words of Texas Death Row inmates, *Without Dorothy, There is No Going Home* (ELJ Publications), an e-chapbook, *From an iPod found in Canal Park; Duluth, MN* (Right Hand Pointing), and *John Berryman is Dead* (White Sky e-books). His chapbook *Perspectives on a Crime Scene* and a full-length photo/poetry collection, *Pop. 1280*, are forthcoming from Grey Borders books.

Evan Sutherland is from the Twin Cities of Minnesota and is currently pursuing a degree in English and writing at SDSU. Music is a tremendous influence on his work; in his writing process, he likes to listen to Bob Dylan, Pink Floyd, Eddie Vedder, and many other great artists. The piece in this issue was inspired by the Beat counter-culture of the 1960s.

Cliff Taylor is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. He has written a book on Native spirituality, *The Memory of Souls*, a book of short stories about the stand for water in Standing Rock, *Standing Rock Stories*, and a memoir about coming-of-age in Nebraska, *Special Dogs*, all of which are currently unpublished. His dream is to see those books published and to use his words to help his people. He currently resides in New Orleans, where he is hard at work on his next book.

Codi Vallery-Mills is an award-winning agricultural journalist who was born and raised on the shortgrass prairies of western South Dakota. Mills graduated from SDSU in 2003 with a degree in agricultural journalism, which she has used since graduating as an editor and reporter for several agricultural publications in the U.S. She is also the author of a children's series called *Husker the Mule*. Mills operates her family's sixth-generation ranch along with her husband, daughter, and parents.

Julie Wakeman-Linn was born and raised in Brookings, South Dakota and is a proud graduate of the Brookings High School class of 1976. She writes about prairies, the Serengeti and the Great Plains. Julie edited the *Potomac Review* for twelve years. Her most recent publication is "A Quarter for the Taj Mahal" in *Flash Fiction Magazine*. Her novel, *Chasing the Leopard, Finding the Lion*, a finalist for Barbara Kingsolver's Bellwether Prize, was published by Mkuki Na Nyota in 2012. Her short story collection was a finalist for the WWPB 2014 Fiction prize.

Miles Way is a senior English Major at Minot State University. As the son of an Air Force pilot, Miles has developed a fascination for military aviation, and is a licensed private pilot himself. He currently resides in his hometown of Minot, North Dakota, where he balances school life with his hobbies of cooking, reading, writing, and cycling.

O. Alan Weltzien, an English professor in Montana, has published two chapbooks and nine books, including three collections of poetry, most recently *Rembrandt in the Stairwell* (2016). Weltzien has spent time hiking in Paha Sapa (Black Hills) and paddling a reach of the Missouri River below Gavin's Point Dam. Weltzien has published articles in *Great Plains Quarterly* as well as two books with University of Nebraska Press. He still skis in winter and scrambles peaks in summer.

Miriam Weinstein completed a two-year apprenticeship program in poetry at the Loft Literary Center (Minneapolis) in 2013. Her chapbook, *Twenty Ways of Looking*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2016; her poetry appears in several anthologies and journals. She holds two Masters of Education degrees (Adult and Family Life Education) from the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor of Arts (Dramatic Arts) from the University of Winnipeg. Weinstein has lived in Minnesota for close to forty years. She enjoys hiking and birdwatching, especially in the North Shore near Lake Superior.

Jeff West's dad snatched him away from two huge brown bears after he disappeared while setting up camp in Yellowstone at age eight. He was just taking pictures with his Brownie Box camera. Since surviving that encounter, he has been fearlessly taking photos his entire life while traveling the world. Both sets of Jeff's great-grandparents and grandparents lived in the Great Plains states before eventually migrating west. He has lived in this region for twenty-three years and tries to learn what he can about where they lived and capture images that might reflect those times and his heritage.