

Contributor Notes

Jodi Andrews's first chapbook *The Shadow of Death* was published in late 2018. She was raised in Brookings and holds an MA in English. She recently had her first child, a girl, and she now teaches English classes at SDSU.

Tara Banks is an artist from Bozeman, Montana.....

S. D. Basset 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.

Grace Bauer has published five books of poems—most recently, *Mean/Time* (University of New Mexico Press). She is also the co-editor of the anthology, *Nasty Women Poets: An Unapologetic Anthology of Subversive Verse*. A native of Pennsylvania, she has lived and worked in Nebraska since 1994.

Betty L. Beer has been a resident of Brookings, SD for 21 years. She is a retired attorney who practiced in Peoria and Aledo, Illinois. Her second career is that of a portrait painter and she has recently completed a 5-year project of painting 100 oil portraits, which is now the subject of a book entitled *Faces of Brookings*. She is the membership chair of the South Dakota State Poetry Society. She is a member of the Brookings Sustainability Council and she also sits on the board of the Visual Arts Center of the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls. She has an Art History degree from Oberlin College and a J.D. from St. Louis University. She has painted and drawn all her life.

Raised on a farm in southeastern South Dakota, **Gina Benz** developed a passion for quiet time spent reading, writing, and enjoying nature. Upon adulthood, she traded that quiet farm life for the energy of teenagers when she became an English teacher at Sioux Falls Roosevelt High School – a school with more students than the population of her hometown. Since beginning her teaching career in 2000, Gina earned her M.A. in English at SDSU and several teaching awards including the Milken Educator Award in 2015. She makes her home in Sioux Falls with her husband Josh and children Emma and Deacon.

Brian Bieber is the Sioux Falls-based author of *Nickel Plated Gold*, a collection of (mostly) humorous short stories, and producer of the little-known, but (mostly) well-regarded podcast *The Ghosts & Horses Radio Hour*. His work has been featured by Mc-

Sweeney's and *Funny or Die*, and funded by the South Dakota Arts Council and the Jerome Foundation (MN). He is currently at work on his first feature-length documentary. He lives in Sioux Falls with his wife, their one-year-old daughter, and their jittery little dog. More of his work can be found at GhostsAndHorses.com.

Terry Brix's first collection, *Chiseled from the Heart* was published by Vigeland Museum, Norway, 2000. His poetry has appeared in, among others, *Dos Passos Review*, *Concho River Review*, *The Evansville Review*, *Fireweed*, *Curbside Review*, *Rattlesnake Review*, *The Antioch Review*, and *North American Review*. As a green chemical engineer, he feeds his poetry with his work and from traveling to places like Israel, South Africa, Scandinavia, Iceland, Finland, Canada, and Japan. He lives in Blue River, Oregon with his wife Susan. www.terrybrix.com

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 the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City, the Museum of Visual Materials and most recently at the Sioux City Arts Center, part of the Briar Cliff Review Art Exhibition and Presentation College, Wein Gallery in Aberdeen SD and Sioux Falls Design Center in South Dakota.

Caroline Covert is a writer and artist at South Dakota State University; she has lived in South Dakota all her life. While working toward an English Writing Specialization degree, she also wrote an original novella. She is always drawing.

Adrian Day was born and raised in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She has always been fascinated by art for as long as she can remember. Currently, she is a sophomore at SDSU, double majoring in Graphic Design and Studio art. She works as a freelance artist in my free time. Common themes in her personal work include the turbulence of nature, human expression, and identity. Her work is strongly influenced by indie genres, alternative music, and Nihilism. Her artistic philosophy is to give a voice to the internalized struggle of the individual identity within through visual metaphors.

Travis Dewes grew up in Rapid City, but spent ample time with family in various places of the state of South Dakota. In 2014 he began attending South Dakota State University and lived in Brookings until 2018. He identifies his roots with cattle ranching and European settlement while being mindful of the implications of both on the region.

Joshua Doležal is Professor of English at Central College, in Iowa. He is the author of a memoir, *Down from the Mountaintop: From Belief to Belonging* (University of Iowa Press, 2014), which was shortlisted for the William Saroyan Prize. His work has appeared

in journals such as *Hudson Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *Fourth Genre*. He also serves as an Associate Fellow for the Center of Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jeanne Emmons's collections of poetry include: *The Red Canoe* (Finishing Line Press); *The Glove of the World*, winner of the Backwaters Press Reader's Choice Award; *Baseball Nights and DDT* (Pecan Grove Press); and *Rootbound*, winner of the New Rivers Press Minnesota Voices Competition. Her work has appeared in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *American Scholar*, *Carolina Quarterly*, *Louisiana Literature*, *North American Review*, *River Styx*, *South Carolina Review*, *South Dakota Review*, and other journals. She is poetry editor of *The Briar Cliff Review*. She lives in McCook Lake, South Dakota with her husband and is a member of the Women's Poetry Collective.

Quint Ford

Rachel Funk is a multimedia artist living in Brookings, South Dakota with her cat, Berry Delight. Always on the hunt for a new skill to learn, Rachel works in a wide range of mediums including cyanotype, ceramics, oil painting, and tapestry weaving. Although a 2014 transplant from Kansas to South Dakota, she has grown to love the art, local food, and LGBT+ communities that Brookings and Sioux Falls have cultivated, and is honored to be a member of them.

Jeff Gould is an author, speaker, and broadcaster. Jeff has written four books to date, his latest: *I Like That Story*, is based on lessons learned from families after the loss of a loved one. For over twenty years, Jeff has spoken on a variety of subjects from historical lectures, to presiding at weddings and funerals, to sales training, to one-man theatrical productions. Jeff is a broadcaster, 1998 South Dakota Broadcaster of the year, and entrepreneur. His A Prairie Christmas program is now syndicated on fifty stations. Jeff continues to blog and podcast through his website ILikeThatStory.net.

Justin Gray received his Bachelor's degree in English from Brooklyn College in 2017. After successfully defending his thesis project, *The Revolution on Magnolia Avenue*, he received his Master's degree in English from the University of South Dakota. He is currently enrolled as a first year Ph.D. student focusing on 20th Century literature and creative writing at USD.

Camryn Hay was born and raised in the suburbs of Minneapolis and is currently pursuing a degree in English at Augustana University, as well as competing for the women's basketball team. She has a great love for exploring both the winding metropolis streets of the Twin Cities and the great plains of the Midwest. As a first-time published author, she is enormously pleased to have her work featured in *Oakwood*.

Jennie Haugen is an interior designer living and working in Kansas City, MO but originates from the Twin Cities. She graduated from South Dakota State University in May 2018 after enjoying a wide breadth of classes, travel studies, and participating in athletics. Acrylic is Jennie's preferred tool of expression but enjoys exploring and combining a variety of mediums. In her work, Jennie uses identifiable objects to help navigate the viewer through abstract spaces. Her inspiration comes from nature, relationships, and memories.

Jean Helmer is a member of Belle Fourche Writers and of Bear Lodge Writers. Her writing gives glimpses of life lived between the high plains and the Bear Lodge on the South Dakota/Wyoming border, and of her experiences as a high school teacher. Thrice retired, Jean is a school board member, a Hospice Volunteer, and a Benedictine novice. Her works are included in: *Before the Amen*; *Granite Island*, *Amber Sea*; *Roots Grow Deep and Strong*, and *Black Hills Literary Journal: The Family Issue*.

Some nights, **C.E. Holmes** circumnavigates his sleep routine by paddling up the Missouri from Omaha to Onawa. Then he portages across the Loess Hills to the Little Sioux River and picks up the Inkpaduta Trail north to Lake Okoboji – which is always frozen because it's always winter. A variety of creeks and streams carry him on to Mankato where the Minnesota River is patiently waiting to ferry him downstream to Pig's Eye (St. Paul). Sunrise finds him on a limestone bluff above the Mississippi at Mound's Park, innately realizing that the Great Prairie Dog Plain is neither landlocked nor leaf/looped.

Bernie Hunhoff writes for *South Dakota Magazine*, a publication he founded in 1985 after working as a news reporter for daily papers in Watertown and Madison. Along with journalism, he has been active in agriculture, economic development, conservation, history and historic preservation, and politics. He represented Yankton County in the state legislature for 14 years. He and his wife, Myrna, have two children and six grandchildren. They live along the Missouri River in Yankton.

Amanda Jamison is a self-taught photographer born and raised in Sioux Falls South Dakota. She received her Bachelor's in Architecture at South Dakota State University and is currently finishing her Master's in Architecture.

Amber Jensen's life is rooted in Eastern South Dakota, where she was raised on a dairy farm and now resides with her husband and two children. She loves to travel, but her travels have always brought her home with renewed love for the landscape, traditions, and family of South Dakota. Amber earned her B.A. in English and Spanish and her M.A. in Language and Rhetoric from South Dakota State University. She earned her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the University of New Orleans. Amber is a Lecturer at SDSU, where she volunteers her time in humanities programming to support military veterans and their families.

Donna Kathryn Kelly is a 1990 graduate of Florida State University where she majored in English (creative writing) and political science. She is a 1994 graduate of Northern Illinois University College of Law. Kelly practiced law for many years in the Illinois criminal justice system. After spending the first decade of her legal career as a criminal defense attorney, Kelly worked as a felony prosecutor in a far northwest suburb of Chicago. She prosecuted numerous high-profile felony cases and she led the Gang Crimes Unit of the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office. Kelly presently lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Adrian Koesters has lived in Nebraska since 1982. She holds an M.F.A. in poetry from Pacific Lutheran University and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she taught creative writing. She served as assistant poetry editor for *Prairie Schooner* magazine and was an assistant editor for Ted Kooser's syndicated newspaper column, "American Life in Poetry." The title poem of her second poetry collection, "Three Days with the Long Moon," was featured in ALP in September of 2018 and her first novel, *Union Square*, was published by Apprentice House Press in October. She currently lives in Omaha.

Jason G. Kurtz earned a creative writing MFA from Hamline University in 2010 and attended SDSU in the early 1990s. He has been an educator and writer in South Dakota for the past twenty years. His primary focus is poetry and short fiction while his current passion is focused on building the creative community through his new business in Sioux Falls, the Full Circle Book Co-op.

Brigid Martin was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. She now attends the University of Iowa where she studies English, Creative Writing, Theatre Arts, and Latin. She specializes in scriptwriting and has had her work performed in schools across the Midwest and has performed her own work as a standup comedian in shows throughout the Iowa City area, most recently in the Floodwater Comedy Festival. She has been previously published in *InkLit* magazine and will be a contributing writer in *Become*, an upcoming charity fanzine.

Angie Mason lives in Duluth, Minnesota. She grew up in Davenport, Iowa, and then spent ten years in Iowa City before heading north. She received her MFA in creative writing from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has poems recently published or forthcoming in *Arkana*, *Split Rock Review*, *Midwest Review*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*.

Matt Mason is the Nebraska State Poet and Executive Director of the Nebraska Writers Collective. He runs poetry programming for the State Department, working in Nepal, Romania, Botswana and Belarus. Mason is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and his work can be found in numerous magazines and anthologies, including

Ted Kooser's American Life in Poetry. The author of *Things We Don't Know We Don't Know* (The Backwaters Press, 2006) and *The Baby That Ate Cincinnati* (Stephen F. Austin University Press, 2013), Matt is based out of Omaha with his wife, the poet Sarah McKinstry-Brown, and daughters Sophia and Lucia.

Matt Miller is a poet currently living in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He was born on a farm outside of Ortle, South Dakota, graduated from Waubay Public School, and has a degree in English from the University of South Dakota. The Upper Midwest has a habit of sneaking its way into his work in a variety of ways, especially through images. Find out more at mattmiller-writer.com.

Rosemary Dunn Moeller writes to connect to others and appreciate being alive. She farms with her husband in Hand County SD. They winter on Cape Cod MA where the salty spray is much gentler than the arctic winds. Her poetry has been published in Scurfpea anthologies: *I Walked by the River*, *Scandalous Lives of Butterflies*, *Memory Echo Words*, *Thunder Storm and others*; *Pasque Petals Chapbooks: The Lift of Wind Across Wings and Midnight Picnic in the Fields*; *Patterson Literary Review*, *Oakwood, South Dakota Magazine* and others.

Rodney Nelson's work began appearing in mainstream journals long ago. See his page in the P&W directory. He has lived in various parts of the country, working as a licensed psychiatric technician and copy editor, and now resides in his native North Dakota. Recently published chapbook and book titles are *Metacowboy*, *Mogollon Picnic*, *Hill of Better Sleep*, *Felton Prairie*, *In Wait*, *Cross Point Road*, *Late & Later*, *The Western Wide*, *Billy Boy*, *Ahead of Evening*, *Winter in Fargo*, *Hjemkomst*, *Canyon*, *Time Tacit*, *Minded Places*, and *Invictus*.

Matthew Nies was raised on a farm in rural North Dakota. He received bachelor's degrees in mass communications and Spanish from the University of Jamestown, where he also studied writing under award-winning author and North Dakota Poet Laureate Larry Woiwode. Matthew's work has appeared in the university's annual literary journal *Plainsong* and he was awarded "Best in Class" from the North Dakota State Fair for his poem "Advice." His book of poetry *Sunset Dreams* (Wipf & Stock) is forthcoming.

S.E. Page is the co-editor of *Young Ravens Literary Review* and a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her poetry has been published in journals including *Connecticut River Review*, *Star*Line*, and *NonBinary Review*. Page also writes novels and blogs at iffymagic.com.

Connor Poff is a poet from Middletown, Ohio. After graduating from Ohio State University in 2017, she now studies creative writing as an MFA student at Minnesota State University. When she isn't writing poems or teaching first-year composition, she's

binge-listening to true crime podcasts and building her collection of vintage cookbooks.

Adrian S. Potter writes poetry and prose in Minnesota. His first poetry collection, *Everything Wrong Feels Right*, is forthcoming through Portage Press. Some publication credits include *North American Review*, *Roads & Bridges*, *Jet Fuel Review*, and *Kansas City Voices*. Visit him online at <http://adrianspotter.com/>.

Margaret Preigh is a fourth-year student at the University of Iowa completing her degree in Creative Writing with a minor in Biology. She is a winner of the 2018 Iowa Chapbook Prize in poetry.

Jim Reese is Associate Professor of English at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota, and he has performed readings at venues including the Library of Congress and San Quentin Prison. His books include three collections of poetry and a forthcoming collection, *Dancing Room Only*, by New York Quarterly Books in 2020. His first book of nonfiction, *Bone Chalk*, will be published in 2019. Reese's awards include First Place in the 2018 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Awards, a 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award from Mount Marty College, and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his dedication to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton.

Marcella Remund Waiting on response

Erika Saunders is the author of the chapbook *Limes and Compromise* which is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press. Her poetry has been included in *Cholla Needles*, *Watershed*, *The Red Wheelbarrow*, *Noble Gas Quarterly*, *Pasque Petals* and *Oakwood Literary Magazine*, which awarded her the 2017 Anita Bahr Award for Outstanding Contributor. She lives in South Dakota with her husband and three children.

For most of her life, **Kalynn Slabaugh** has lived in the Northern Great Plains Region. She spent her first eight years in Iowa, but—having lived along South Dakota's eastern border since adolescence—most identifies as a South Dakotan. Kalynn earned her bachelor's degree in English Education at South Dakota State University and is currently earning her graduate degree there as well. When people ask, she says she hails from Watertown, Brookings, and Sioux Falls with a smidgen of Brandon thrown in for kicks. She intends to leave for a big city eventually, but the Midwest will always be her "roots."

Linda Duede Starbuck was an Iowa resident until 2017. After facing widowhood and retiring from an education-related business, she fulfilled a dream and relocated to the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota. In addition to writing, she loves to draw, is a historic interpreter, and volunteers at various art and history venues. While

she has been writing most of her life, she has only recently begun to share her work. Linda has had poems published in various traditional and online journals and has completed her first chapbook, *Willing Pioneer*.

Engie Wong is a senior at Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Previously residing in St. Louis, Missouri, she moved to the Great Plains region in 2014. After graduating in May, Engie hopes to major in East Asian Language Studies and teach English as a foreign language abroad.

Dana Yost was a state and national award-winning daily newspaper editor and writer for twenty-nine years. Since 2008, he has authored five books and a chapbook, and has had poems published in numerous magazines and literary journals. His latest book is *Journal of a Midwestern Town, Story of an Era*, (Ellis Press) a large history and study of life in the rural Midwest in the 1940 era. A graduate of Southwest Minnesota State University, he has lived in rural Minnesota and Iowa his entire life, currently in Morris, Minnesota. More information can be found at his website: danayostwriter.wordpress.com