

## Contributor Notes

**Jodi Andrews'** debut full-length collection *Skin Reverberations* (Pasque Press, 2022) is forthcoming. She has also authored the chapbook *The Shadow of Death* (Finishing Line Press, 2018). Her poetry has been published in *Anomaly*, *Atlas and Atlas*, *Calamus*, *Oakwood*, *Pasque Petals*, and others. Her work has been anthologized in *This Thing Called Poetry* and *South Dakota in Poems*. She holds a master of arts in English, teaches English courses at South Dakota State University, and serves on the board of directors for the South Dakota State Poetry Society as the poetry contest manager and blog manager. She lives in South Dakota with her husband and two children.

**S. D. Bassett** was born in, raised in, and currently resides in South Dakota. She considers the prairie her true home, the place that nourishes mind, body, and soul. S. D. lives on an acreage with her husband, where they raised three sons. A registered nurse and nursing instructor, S. D. writes poetry as a way to meditate on, process about, and explore meaning of this amazing life we live and the world in which we live it.

**Joe Benevento's** poems, stories, essays and reviews have appeared in close to 300 places, including: *Prairie Schooner*, *Poets & Writers*, *Bilingual Review*, *Cold Mountain Review* and *I-70 Review*. Among his fourteen books of poetry and fiction are *The Odd Squad*, an urban YA novel, which was a finalist for the 2006 John Gardner Fiction Book Award, and *Expecting Songbirds: Selected Poems, 1983-2015*, with the Purple Flag imprint of the Visual Artists Collective out of Chicago. Benevento teaches creative writing and American literature, including Latinx, at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO—within shouting distance of the Iowa border—where he also serves as poetry editor for the *Green Hills Literary Lantern*.

**Lysbeth Em Benkert** is a long-term transplant to South Dakota where she teaches literature and rhetoric, wears cleats to walk her dog in the winter, and reads poetry under a large pile of blankets. Her poems can be found in *Briar Cliff Review*, *Rogue Agent*, and *One-Sentence Poems*, among other places. Her chapbook, *#girl stuff*, is available from Dancing Girl Press.

**Nick Bertelson** is a farmer from Southwestern Iowa. His work has appeared in multiple journals. He is a James Hearst Poetry Prize finalist and author of *Harvest Widows* (North Dakota State University Press, 2019).

**Lin Marshall Brummels** grew up near the Nebraska Sandhills. She earned a Psychology BA from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a MS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Syracuse University. She was Director of Counseling at Wayne State College in Wayne, NE until retirement, then started a private counseling practice. Brummels is a Nebraska licensed mental health counselor. She has published poems in journals, magazines, and anthologies, and she judges Poetry Out Loud contestants during Nebraska's Regional Semi-Finals. Her poetry chapbooks are *Cottonwood Strong* and *Hard Times*, a 2016 Nebraska Book Award winner. Her full-length collection, *A Quilted Landscape*, was published in 2021.

**Roger Camp** has lived in both Minnesota and Iowa. He is the author of three photography books including the award-winning *Butterflies in Flight* (Thames & Hudson, 2002) and *Heat* (Charta, Milano, 2008). His documentary photography has been awarded the prestigious Leica Medal of Photography. His photographs are represented by the Robin Rice Gallery, NYC. His work has appeared in *The New England Review*, *Southwest Review*, *Chicago Review* and the *New York Quarterly*. He taught photography at the University of Iowa and holds an MFA degree from the university. More of his work may be seen at [Luminous-Lint.com](http://Luminous-Lint.com).

**William Cass** has had over 250 short stories accepted for publication in a variety of literary magazines such as *December*, *Briar Cliff Review*, and *Zone 3*. He was a finalist in short fiction and novella competitions at Glimmer Train and Black Hill Press, and won writing contests at *Terrain.org* and *The Examined Life Journal*. He has received one Best Small Fictions nomination and three Pushcart nominations, and his short story collection, *Something Like Hope & Other Stories*, was recently released by Wising Up Press. A former resident of Iowa and Minnesota, he currently lives in San Diego, California.

**Joseph Eisenhart** has called the Great Plains Region home his entire life. The rich history of the West, in particular Wyoming, has sparked his imagination and desire to capture the landscape. Impressionism and Realism are his focus styles in “pioneering” through visual difficulties to capture various places in the region. During the summer of 2020, Joe began plein air painting allowing him to explore this magnificent region with a newfound focus. While participating in the Harvey Dunn event at the Laura Ingalls Homestead and the Wyoming Territorial Prison plein air events, Joe’s love of the Great Plains has become even more profound.

**Jeanne Emmons** is a poet and artist living in North Sioux City, SD. She has published four books of poetry as well as numerous individual poems. She is a member of Siouland Artists, Inc., The Great Plains Watercolor Society, and Seven Women with a Brush. Her work has been displayed at the Coyote Twin Gallery in Vermillion, SD, as well as in many group exhibitions of Siouland Artists and Seven Women with a Brush. Her work can be found at Three Rivers Gallery in Sioux City and at [jeanneemmons.weebly.com](http://jeanneemmons.weebly.com).

**Lawrence F. Farrar** is a former Foreign Service officer with multiple postings in Japan. He also served in Germany, Norway, and Washington, DC. Short term assignments took him to 35 countries. Farrar’s stories

have appeared in literary magazines ninety times. His work often involves a protagonist encountering the morals and customs of a foreign society. Farrar grew up in Minnesota where, if you’re heading west, the Great Plains begin. He and his wife, Keiko, currently live outside Minneapolis, where Farrar is a long-time member of The Loft Literary Center.

**Linda Hallstrom** was born in Sioux Falls, SD and has spent most of her life there. In addition to Sioux Falls, she has lived in Menno and Freeman. Linda enjoyed writing for the *Freeman Courier*, *Sioux Falls This Week*, and the *Tri-State Neighbor*, where she used the pen name Lynn Albright.

**Nathaniel Lee Hansen**, a Minnesota native and an alumnus of the University of South Dakota, is a poet, fiction writer, and essayist. He is the author of the short-story collection *Measuring Time & Other Stories* (Wiseblood Books, 2019), the poetry collection *Your Twenty-First Century Prayer Life* (Cascade Books, 2018), and the poetry chapbook *Four Seasons West of the 95th Meridian* (Spoon River Poetry Press, 2014). His website is [plainswriter.com](http://plainswriter.com), and he is on Twitter @plainswriter.

**Twyla M. Hansen’s** newest poetry book is *Feeding the Fire* (2022 WSC Press). She was Nebraska’s State Poet in 2013-2018, and honored with the 2021 Nebraska Literary Heritage Award. Three of her books have won Nebraska Book Awards and have won two WILLA Literary Awards. Her writing is published recently in *Prairie Schooner*, *Briar Cliff Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *More in Time: A Tribute to Ted Kooser*, *Nebraska Poetry: A Sesquicentennial Anthology*, and on Academy of American Poets, Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud websites, and many more. Twyla grew up on land in northeast Nebraska her grandparents farmed as immigrants from Denmark.

**Mary Woster Haug** grew up in the grasslands just west of the Missouri River at Chamberlain, SD. That place has informed much of her work, whether she's writing about the DMZ at Panmunjom, Korea or a murder trial in her small hometown. Her most recent work is *Out of Loneliness: Murder and Memoir*. She also authored *Daughters of the Grasslands: A Memoir* and has been a contributor to *South Dakota Magazine*, as well as several literary journals and anthologies. She taught English at SDSU and currently lives in Minneapolis, a mere ten minutes from two amazing grandchildren.

**Lane Henson** was born and raised in Huron, SD. Although he has spent the past twenty years in Minnesota, his writing still draws heavily on the landscapes of Eastern South Dakota and the Great Plains. His words have recently been published or are forthcoming in *Montana Mouthful*, *Great Lakes Review*, and *Midwest Quarterly*. He lives in Duluth, MN with his wife and their two daughters.

**Courtney Huse Wika** was born in Pierre, raised in Spearfish, and educated east of the river. She is the author of *Perch*, a chapbook of South Dakota nature poetry, and was a finalist for the 2021 James Hearst Poetry Prize. Her creative work has appeared widely, including *CALYX*, *North American Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *South Dakota in Poems*, and *Midwestern Gothic*. She received her BA in Philosophy and English from Augustana University and her MA and PhD in English from the University of South Dakota. She is currently an Associate Professor of English and Distinguished Faculty at Black Hills State University.

**Caitlin Irish** is an SDSU nursing student originally from Minnesota. She is planning on pursuing a career in psychiatric nursing after graduating in May. When she's not studying for exams, she can often be found writing, quilting, or playing with her pet hedgehog, Bobbin.

**Amber Jensen** grew up on a dairy farm east of Bryant, South Dakota, and now lives on an acreage just two miles away from that childhood home with her husband, children, and assorted animals. She earned her BA in English and Spanish and her MA in English from South Dakota State University, where she currently teaches composition and creative writing, and completed her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing through the University of New Orleans low-residency program.

**Ted Kooser's** most recent collection of poems is *A Man with a Rake*, a chapbook from Pulley Press. *Marshmallow Clouds*, a children's book he wrote in collaboration with Connie Wanek, has recently been published by Candlewick Press. Kooser lives in rural Nebraska and was U.S. Poet Laureate 2004-2006.

**Brandon Krieg** is the author of *Magnifier*, winner of the 2019 Colorado Prize for Poetry, as well as two other collections of poems. He teaches at Kutztown University and lives in Kutztown, PA. Though he has never officially lived on the Great Plains, his family on both sides has lived in Dickinson, ND for five generations. He spent time there in winter and summer every year of his youth and continues to visit whenever he can.

**Adam Luebke** is a native of North Dakota. His short fiction has appeared in *Antioch Review*, *Southampton Review*, *Flyway*, and *Apple Valley Review* among others, as well as being listed as a finalist in *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open and Family Matters contests. He holds an MFA from Otis College of Art & Design and teaches English literature courses at Maryville University. He currently lives in South Dakota.

**Mariah Macklem** is a South Dakota State alumna who graduated with a BA in English in 2020. She has moved around the Midwest most of her life, having been born in Iowa, growing up in Nebraska, and attending college in South Dakota. Her poetry was published in *Oakwood*

in 2018, and in 2019 she worked as part of its editing team. In recent years she has picked up the hobby of film photography and carries her film camera everywhere to capture moments of life in the Midwest.

**Mark McMillan** grew up in Rochester, MN. He attended NDSU in Fargo, ND for several years before transferring to UW–Stout, where he earned a BFA in 2006. After spending several years living abroad, he returned to the United States and attended Minnesota State University Mankato, where he earned a master’s degree in Spanish in 2019. He has lived in North and South Dakota and is currently a resident of Mankato, MN, where he can often be found traipsing across the countryside in search of another photography subject.

**Susan McMillan** has lived in Minnesota for more than 40 years. She has often traveled the scenic distance between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers as family members moved west, and as children headed to college then later settled in and beyond the Great Plains. She is a lifelong poet whose work has previously appeared in *Oakwood* as well as many other journals and anthologies, poet/artist collaborations, and events. She was appointed the city of Rochester’s poet laureate in 2019, and has been working hard to make opportunities for residents to create and share poetry ever since.

**Norma Najacht**, as a nearly life-long resident of South Dakota, enjoys painting the scenery, people and animals of the Black Hills region and the state. She lives in Custer and is a member of the International Guild of Realism. In her art, she tries to capture a fleeting moment in time that has captivated her and catapulted her into that place or relationship with the person or animal she is painting. She strives to capture the essence of the person or place she is painting to transport the viewer also into that moment in time that is otherwise lost forever. She is a biologist by training, a journalist by profession, and an artist at heart.

**Meghan Peterson** loved college at SDSU so much 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 and assistant director at SDSU, and by night (and weekends), she paints. Her artwork has been featured in *South Dakota Magazine* and at the Brookings Arts Council. Born and raised in the Great Plains, Meghan currently lives in Brookings with her husband and two rambunctious studio cats.

**Marcella Prokop** is a Colombian-American writer who lives and teaches in the Northern Great Plains region. Her work has appeared in print or online in *The Brooklyn Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *PANK*, among others.

**Jim Reese** is Associate Professor of English and Director of the Great Plains Writers’ Tour at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota. Reese’s awards include a First Place Allen Ginsberg Poetry Award, a Distinguished Achievement Award from Mount Marty University, and a Distinguished Public Service Award in recognition of his exemplary dedication and contributions to the Education Department at Federal Prison Camp Yankton. His book of nonfiction, *Bone Chalk*, was published by Stephen F. Austin State University Press in December of 2019. For more info: [www.jimreese.org](http://www.jimreese.org)

**Erika Saunders** is the author of *Limes and Compromise* (Finishing Line Press, 2019). Her poetry has been included in *Cholla Needles*, *Watershed*, *The Red Wheelbarrow*, *Noble Gas Quarterly*, *Pasque Petals*, *Prairie Winds*, and *Oakwood*. She lives in South Dakota with her husband and three children.

**J. D. Schraffenberger** is editor of the *North American Review* and professor of English at the University of Northern Iowa. He is the author of two books of poems, *Saint Joe's Passion* and *The Waxen Poor*, and his other work has appeared in *Best of Brevity*, *Best Creative Nonfiction*, *Mid-American Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and elsewhere. He lives in Cedar Falls, Iowa, with his wife, the novelist Adrienne Finlay, and their two young daughters.

**Brina Sturm** has lived in the Great Plains her whole life. She was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska and at twelve moved to Sioux Falls, SD, where she delved into her passion for writing and teaching. Now she studies English Education at SDSU and edits for *The Collegian*.

**Cliff Taylor** is an enrolled member of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. He is the author of *The Memory of Souls*, a memoir about the Sundance and his life/walk with the little people. He currently resides in Astoria, Oregon with his sweetheart of many years.

**Hunter Tebben** was born and raised in Sioux Falls, SD. He attended school at SDSU, earning a bachelor's degree in English with a writing specialization and minors in mathematics and technical writing. He grew up hunting with his family, learning to appreciate the natural beauty that makes South Dakota so loved. He still resides and works in Sioux Falls as a technical writer for a leading company in agricultural technologies, and he enjoys writing screenplays and short stories in his free time.

**Robert Tremmel** grew up in Northwest Iowa and now lives in Ankeny, Iowa. He has published poems and academic articles in a wide range of journals and has published five collections of poetry, including *The Records of Kosho the Toad* (Bottom Dog Press, 2018). His most recent collection is *The Return of the Naked Man* (Brick Road Poetry Press, 2021), which won the Brick Road Poetry Prize.

**Jeffrey Wald** had the great pleasure of growing up in Maddock, ND. His fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in journals such as *The Windhover*, *Aethlon*, *Collidescope*, *Plainsong*, and *Shotgun Honey*. He now resides in the Twin Cities, where, between rearing five boys and writing down a story here and there, you might catch a glimpse of him butchering rabbits in the backyard.

**Theodore Wheeler** is the author of three books, including the novels *Kings of Broken Things* and *In Our Other Lives*. His short fiction has been featured in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Southern Review*, *Boulevard*, and *Narrative*, and he won a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. As a sixth-generation Nebraskan descended from Austrian and Prussian immigrants who homesteaded near Niobrara, Wheeler's roots on the Great Plains run deep. He teaches at Creighton University in Omaha.

**Todd Williams** is a former South Dakota journalist now working in the Middle East. His poems have been featured in various anthologies (including 2020's *South Dakota in Poems*), magazines, and online publications. Williams was the 2021 winner of the South Dakota State Poetry Society's Chapbook Contest for *Objects in the Mirror Are Closer than They Appear*.

**Haley Wilson** is a Communications Coordinator with the SDSU Foundation, where she enjoys writing about all things SDSU. A 2015 alum of State, she received her bachelor's degree in English with a specialization in writing and a minor in French. Haley resides in Brookings with her fiancé, Patrick, and their dog, Luna, who runs their household with an iron (and furry) paw. In her free time, she writes both fiction and nonfiction, wanders the library, and frequents any and all coffee shops.