

Contributor Notes

Storm Ainsely was born in South Dakota. Family folklore states she kicked the moving truck out of gear from the baby seat on the way to the next state—her first attempt to drive. Storm expects some of her interest in origin stories and memory comes from having moved from her birth-place so young—as well as the feeling that she is more from fiction-land than any of the nine states she’s now lived in, no matter how long she stays put. Storm’s work has appeared in *Sleet Magazine*, *Cardinal Sins*, and *Wild Roof Journal*.

Suzanne Allison-Albers is a native of Spearfish, South Dakota, and graduated from BHSU with a bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education and English. After teaching high school English for over twenty years, she began teaching college composition and public speaking at Sitting Bull College at its North and South Dakota campuses. Suzanne recently completed her Master of Mass Communication at SDSU where she rediscovered her interest in writing poetry. Although determined to disregard poetic meter and feet, a very determined professor challenged her to test the beauty of ideas woven into specific syllabic confines. She is now a true believer.

Saige Anderson is a young, creative mind from Forest Lake, Minnesota. In 2020, she returned to the Great Plains—where her parents grew up—to study at South Dakota State University. Saige draws inspiration from the feelings of love and life lost, as well as from the beauties of nature and the night; the strong winds of the plains have greatly influenced much of her recent work. Saige’s love of literature and creative writing have driven her to pursue a career in English Education where she hopes to inspire and foster the growth of young readers and writers.

S. D. Bassett was born, raised, 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 acre-

age with her husband where they raised three sons. A registered nurse and nursing instructor, S. D. writes poetry as a way to meditate, process, and explore the meaning about this amazing life we live and the world in which we live it.

Born and raised in the high-plains city of Cheyenne, Wyoming, Montana poet **B. J. Buckley** spent her young adulthood in northern Wyoming ranch country before moving first to southwest and then to north central Montana. As an Artist-in-Schools & Communities for nearly five decades, her residencies in schools; on the reservations of the Crow, Lakota, Navajo, Blackfeet, and Assiniboine; and in healthcare settings, senior centers, libraries, and museums have taken her to hundreds of mostly rural small towns throughout the Dakotas, Nebraska, Utah, Wyoming, and Montana. Her chapbook, "In January, the Geese," won the 35th Anniversary 2021 Comstock Review Poetry Prize.

Benjamin D. Carson was born in Creighton, NE, and raised in Yankton, SD. He received his BA from the University of South Dakota and his MA and PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is now a professor of English at Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA. His creative work has appeared or is forthcoming in many literary publications, including *Cactus Heart*, *October Hill Magazine*, *Rumble Fish Quarterly*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Crab Creek Review*, *Waterwheel Review*, and *South Dakota in Poems*. His chapbook *We Give Birth to Light: Poems* was published by Finishing Line Press in June 2021.

Sharon Chmielarz was born and raised in Mobridge. She is the 2021 South Dakota Poet of Merit. *Kirkus Reviews* has described her poetry as "Thoughtful, bold, humorous, earthy, and humane." *Kirkus Reviews* named her *The Widow's House* (2016) and *The J Horoscope* (2019) on the lists of the 100 Best Indie Books of those years. Her latest book (Spring 2023) is her fourteenth, *Duet in the Little Blue Church, New and Selected*. Visit her at www.sharonchmielarz.com.

Aaron Cloyd is an associate professor at University of Jamestown, teaching American literature, film, and writing.

His scholarship considers images of wilderness rewilding in contemporary literature, and his most recent work can be found in *Geoforum*. He lives with his wife and son in North Dakota, where he pretends to be more than a hobby farmer.

Peter Colson grew up in Brookings, SD, and received his writing education at Interlochen Arts Academy, South Dakota State University, and the University of Montana. Peter recently relocated back to Brookings after living in Alaska but splits his summers between fly fishing the alpine lakes of the Bighorns and writing poetry in his favorite brewery in Ten Sleep, WY, where nobody seems to mind his ponytail. His poems have been published in *Pasque Petals*, *Midwest Review*, and the anthology *South Dakota in Poems*.

David Allan Evans was an English professor at SDSU for 39 years and was South Dakota's poet laureate for 12 years. The author of nine collections of poetry, he has a poem going to the moon next year in a NASA project—The Lunar Codex—to create a museum of contemporary art, music, and poetry from all of the world's continents.

Erin Flanagan is the author of two collections of stories and three novels including *Deer Season* (University of Nebraska Press), winner of the 2022 Edgar for Best First Novel. She is an English professor at Wright State University and a regular book reviewer for *Publishers Weekly*. For more information about her and her writing, please visit www.erinflanagan.net or say hello on Twitter at @erinlflanagan.

Kristin Gifford was raised on the plains of Iowa, near the South Dakota border and now lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota (a place with more trees than she knows what to do with). Her writing often reflects the cycles of nature experienced on the plains and the effects that climate change, death, and regrowth have on our physical and personal landscapes. Formerly an English teacher, her days are now spent writing and parenting. Her work has been published in *The Rectangle*, *The Lake Country Journal*, and is forthcoming in *The Briar Cliff Review*.

Ruth Harper is Professor Emerita of Counseling & Human Development at SDSU, where she coordinated the master's degree program with students going into college counseling and student affairs. Ruth's Midwestern roots are deep: she grew up in Minnesota, earned degrees in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Kansas, lived for some time in Nebraska, and now has resided in South Dakota for almost 30 years. In retirement, Ruth reads and writes poetry. Her first chapbook, *Uncertain Seasons*, was just published by Finishing Line Press.

Roger Hart earned his MFA in creative writing from Minnesota State, Mankato, then lived for ten years in Storm Lake, Iowa, before moving to Havre, Montana, where he is working on a novel under the supervision of his wife and two large dogs. He loves the wind and winters of the Plains States. His stories and essays have been published in *Natural Bridge*, *Tampa Review*, *Passages North*, *Runner's World*, and other magazines and journals. His story collection, *Mysteries of the Universe*, will be published by Kallisto Gaia Press in the spring of '23.

Jordan Heisler spent most of his formative years living in Sioux Falls. Upon graduating high school, he attended the University of South Dakota where he studied English and Spanish. After receiving his B.A. in 2013, he eventually went on to pursue his M.Ed. from Colorado State University. He then taught secondary English for a few years in Colorado and overseas in Kuwait before returning home to South Dakota in 2019. Jordan has since graduated with an M.A. in English from South Dakota State University. He currently lives and teaches in Sioux Falls.

D.A. Hickman grew up in Pierre and lived in Brookings for 12 years. South Dakota – the place, the people, and the culture – inspires her poetry and nonfiction. She writes in a 15th anniversary edition of her first book, *Always Returning: The Wisdom of Place*: “Insights we call wisdom must be learned repeatedly – each time, at a deeper, more profound, level.” Hickman holds a master’s degree in sociology from Iowa State University. Her poetry has been published by *Red Coyote Journal*, *Pasque Petals*, *South Dakota Magazine*, and *North Dakota Quarterly*. Currently at work on new poetry, you can find Hickman’s blog @ SunnyRoomStudio.com.

Arystan Jurgens is a Kazakhstan-born, South Dakota raised writer. His love for literature and creating his own work stemmed from elementary school. Arystan is working toward his bachelor’s degree in English in hopes of continuing his education in law. He hopes he can use his career in law to help reform the foster care system in the United States.

Jody Keisner is the author of *Under My Bed and Other Essays* (Sept. 2022). She is a writer, teacher, mother, first-generation college graduate, and ex-waitress. Her essays have appeared in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Fourth Genre*, *Cimarron Review*, *Post Road*, *Brevity*, *VIDA Review*, *So to Speak*, *Brain, Child, Assay*, *Threepenny Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *The Rumpus*, *The Normal School*, *Adroit Journal*, *Literary Mama*, *Hippocampus*, *Essay Daily*, *Women's Studies*, and many other literary journals and magazines. Her essay "Runaway Mother" is a notable Best American Essay 2022. She writes for AARP's *The Girlfriend* and is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Linden Review*, a journal of creative nonfiction focused on health. She is an Associate Professor at UNO, where she teaches creative nonfiction. She lives in Omaha with her family.

Donna Kathryn Kelly lived in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for three years, when she served as the Chief Civil Deputy State's Attorney of the Minnehaha County State's Attorney's Office. Kelly is a member of the South Dakota State Poetry Society, and she was awarded First Place in the 2018 South Dakota State Poetry Society Annual Contest (Portrait Category). A virtual first-reading of her script, *Not Quite Love in Sioux Falls in a Time of Coronavirus*, was performed by the Monstrous Little Theatre Company in 2021. Kelly is the author of the suspense novels *Cop Eyes* and *In Heels, She Goes*.

Dallas Kelso is originally from the small town of Chadron, Nebraska, approximately 100 miles south of Rapid City. She's a member of the Oglala Lakota tribe studying English with an Education Specialization, American Indian and Indigenous Studies, and her Native tongue: Lakota. Dallas's future plans include a high school teaching career and reforming educational standards to feature more accurate Indigenous knowledge and history at all grade levels. As for now, Dallas is focusing on continuing her exploration of her Lakota identity through poetry and personal narratives as her work continues to be featured.

Matthew Knippling, like many who have grown up in South Dakota, finds beauty in the colors of our sunsets and

the greens of our pastures, and even in our harsh winters. He feels blessed to be able to share his passion and creativity with his children and with his wife, who encourages him to set aside time to make art.

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 the winter and summer every year of his youth and continues to visit whenever he can.

David Larsen's grandfather immigrated from Denmark in 1911 and settled in the northwestern Iowa town of Mallard to work on a dairy farm until he was able to open his own creamery. Larsen's father was born in Mallard before the family moved to Spirit Lake, Iowa. He was the first in his family to be born in a hospital, in Des Moines. They moved to Texas when he was six years old but returned to his uncle's farm outside Spirit Lake every summer.

Hannah LeMair was born and raised on an acreage just outside of Madison, South Dakota, where she gained an early appreciation for tree-climbing, frog-catching, and camping. She credits this upbringing for an unrelenting curiosity that she attempts to carry into every facet of her life. Accordingly, Hannah now attends SDSU, where her studies range across the fields of English, History, Music, and Museum Studies.

Grace Lundeen is a Minnesota-born writer who uses her writing to normalize mental illness. As someone who struggles with many mental illnesses, Grace sees the important need to inform and validate how others may feel. She started writing in 8th grade and shares her work with everyone she can. Aside from writing, she is graduating in May of 2023 with a degree in Spanish and hopes to teach ESL in South America where she can use her bilingual abilities to help as many people as she can.

Freya Manfred's tenth book of poetry, *When I Was Young And Old*, will be published by Nodin Press in May of 2023. A longtime Midwesterner who has lived on both coasts, her poems have won a Harvard/Radcliffe Fellowship, an NEA Grant, and the 2009 Midwest Booksellers' Choice Award. Her memoir about her father, *Frederick Manfred: A Daughter Remembers*, was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award and an Iowa Historical Society Award. She taught Creative Writing at the University of South Dakota in the '70s, and poems reflect her deep connection to lakes and to the prairie. www.freyamanfredwriter.com

Cheyenne Marco lives in the great state of South Dakota and enjoys writing about the challenges facing the Northern Plains. Marco currently serves as a Lecturer of English at the University of South Dakota's Sioux Falls campus. Her works have appeared in *Quarterly West*, *Rathalla Review*, and others.

Rosemary Dunn Moeller has written about life on the farm, prairie perspectives, and environmental issues for years. She and her husband have traveled to all seven continents following bird migrations and making connections with cultures and history.

Sarah Fawn Montgomery is the author of *Halfway from Home* (Split/Lip Press), *Quite Mad: An American Pharma Memoir* (The Ohio State University Press), and three poetry chapbooks. Her work has been listed as notable many times in *Best American Essays*, and her poetry and prose have appeared in various magazines including *Brevity*, *Catapult*, *Cincinnati Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Fourth Genre*, *Literary Hub*, *New England Review*, *The Poetry Foundation*, *The Rumpus*, *Southeast Review*, *Terrain*, and others. She is an Assistant Professor at Bridgewater State University.

Abigail Muller is an undergraduate student in her third year at South Dakota State University majoring in English with a Writing Specialization, Spanish, and History with minors in Religion and Professional Writing. She considers writing and the personal discovery therein to be one of her greatest passions, and she draws much inspiration for her

work from her family history and personal experiences as a child growing up in Austin, Minnesota. After graduation, she intends to attain a master's degree in creative writing with which she will pursue a career in the publishing industry.

John S. Nelson began publishing poetry beginning in 1983. Recent publications include poems in *Montana Mouthful*, *Pasque Petals*, *Briar Cliff Review*, *South Dakota Magazine*, *Poetry Motel*, and *Delmar*. He is a retired professor of English for New Media at Dakota State University in Madison, SD. A native of Fort Pierre, South Dakota, his chapbook, *West River*, won the 2019 SD State Poetry Society competition.

Born and raised in Chicago, **Noreen Oesterlein** believes her move to Minnesota as a young bride inspired her to begin to write poetry in her olding years. Now in her late seventies she knows her exposure to expanses of flat lands, grassy prairies, and the people who provide food and energy to so many fuel her writing. She collects memories of her life in the Great Plains and puts them in poetic form. She is published in *Crosswinds Poetry Journal*, *Grand Little Things*, *Last Stanza Poetry Journal*, and *The Raven's Perch*.

Adrian S. Potter is the winner of the 2022 Lumiere Review Prose Contest and author of the poetry collections *Field Guide to the Human Condition* (CW Books, 2021) and *Everything Wrong Feels Right* (Portage Press, 2019). Some past or forthcoming publication credits include *North American Review*, *Collateral*, *Obsidian*, *The Comstock Review*, and *The Maine Review*. An Iowan-born-turned-Minnesota resident, he blogs about creativity and motivation at <http://adrianspotter.com/>.

Bruce Roseland is a fourth-generation cattleman who grew up on a ranch in northcentral South Dakota. Roseland is the author of seven books of poetry, including *The Last Buffalo*, 2006 (2007 Wrangler Award), *A Prairie Prayer*, 2008 (2009 Will Rogers Medallion Award), *Cowman*, 2018 (2019 Will Rogers Medallion Award), and *Heart of the Prairie*, 2021 (2022 Will Rogers Medallion Award). Roseland attended SDSU, Brookings, SD, '70-'72 and received an M.A. in Sociology

from U. North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND, 1980. He is President Emeritus of SD State Poetry Society and a SD Humanities Scholar. Roseland still works his family ranch outside of Seneca, SD.

Wynn Sandman is a sophomore Psychology and Criminology student at South Dakota State University. Born near La

Crosse, Wisconsin, Wynn was heavily drawn to the Great Plains area as she considered colleges. She has a deep appreciation for undisturbed nature and kind-hearted people, making the decision to move to South Dakota fairly easy. Wynn's favorite pieces of writing are those that value honest expression above all else, valuing the unsightly as much as the beautiful. In her piece "One, Just One," Wynn attempts not to shock or convict her readers but rather to show them a truth that many women share.

Alayna Steckelberg has lived in the Great Plains region her entire life and holds fond memories of growing up along the Missouri River. She is an instructor in the English department at South Dakota State University.

Laurence Snyder is a poet, musician, and retired teacher. Mr. Snyder was born in Minot, ND, and grew up in Williston, near the Montana state line. He has published more than a hundred poems in magazines such as *Caperock*, *Spillway*, *Columbia*, and *Steam Ticket*. His work has also appeared in many anthologies including *Visiting Frost*, *The Poets Grimm*, and *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror*. Some of his poems have been performed in Baltimore and NYC. He lives in San Jose, CA, with his wife Susan.

Terese Svoboda, a Nebraska native, has just published her 19th book, *Dog on Fire*, with U. of Nebraska Press. A Guggenheim recipient, she's also won the Bobst Prize in fiction, the Iowa Poetry Prize, an NEH translation grant, the Graywolf Nonfiction Prize, a Jerome Foundation video prize, the O. Henry Award for the short story, and a Pushcart Prize for the essay. Three-time winner of the New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship, she has been awarded Headlands, James Merrill, Yaddo, MacDowell, and Bellagio residencies. Two new books of fiction, *Roxy and Coco* and *The Long Swim*, winner of the Juniper Prize, will be published next year.

Edward Voeller has a background in journalism and college English teaching, with 15 years in Oman, Japan, and Thailand. His writing includes fiction and nonfiction for children and young adults, including two YA novels, and

he has contributed to *NUNUM* (Pushcart nomination for “The Periodicals Room”), *Scribes*MICRO*Fiction*, and others. He currently seeks a publisher for his historical novel set in Manhattan during the yellow-fever epidemic there in 1822. Although a resident of Minnesota, his German kin immigrated to South Dakota from the Black Sea area, and the state has provided him many personal connections in his genealogical research there.

Steven R. Vogel graduated from Bemidji High School and Bemidji State University. He has lived, worked, and written poetry on farms and in villages, midsized cities, suburbs, and metropolitan areas. He is a Mayo Medical School alumnus and has served in medicine (Family Medicine & Geriatrics) and the academy (Anatomy & Physiology) for more than four decades. He spent his early childhood in Kansas, and he has traveled extensively in each of the Great Plains states and provinces. Many of his family live in Kansas, Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota. His home is Rochester, Minnesota.

Zac Walsh was brought up by his grandmother who was born and raised in Leola, South Dakota, during the Great Depression. She instilled in him two main ethics: to avoid sloth at all costs and to fear God because existence depended on that fear. “If I Live, I Work” and “the words of the gods” speak to each. The poems were accepted by *Oakwood* on her 99th birthday. He gratefully dedicates these poems to Betty Lou Walsh, a true daughter of the Great Plains.

Cole W. Williams is a poet, nonfiction, and hybrid writer. She recently was recognized by *The Florida Review’s* Humboldt Prize. She was born in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, in a rural farming community where her grandmother, 91, still runs the family farm and her extended family in southwestern Minnesota dedicates their lives to the care of horses, crops, and family. Williams grew up around Saint Paul.

Haley Winiarski 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 de-

gree in English with a specialization in writing and a minor in French. Haley resides in Brookings with her husband 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.