MONICA BERLIN’s work has appeared in Crazyhorse, Cimarron Review, Hayden’s Ferry Review, Cincinnati Review, TriQuarterly, Ninth Letter, Diagram, Third Coast, New Orleans Review, and Passages North, among many others. Her collaboration with Beth Marzoni, No Shape Bends the River So Long (2015), was awarded the 2013 New Measure Poetry Prize, judged by Carolyn Forché. An associate professor of English at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, Berlin also serves as associate director for the Program in Creative Writing.


JENNIFER COGNARD-BLACK is professor of English at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, a public honors college in Southern Maryland. A Fulbright scholar and the recipient of a Norton T. Dodge Award, her critical work includes articles in Ms. Magazine, College English, and Popular Culture.
Review, as well as four book projects: a study of cultures of letters among Victorian women writers, Narrative in the Professional Age (2004); a writing textbook, Advancing Rhetoric (2006); an anthology of letters by female authors coedited with Elizabeth MacLeod Walls, Kindred Hands (2006); and a coedited collection of the literatures of food, Books that Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal (2014). Cognard-Black also publishes short stories under her pen name J. Annie MacLeod. Her creative work has appeared in journals from Another Chicago Magazine to the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, and she has received a Maryland State Arts Council Award for Fiction.


**NIKKY FINNEY** was born in South Carolina, within listening distance of the sea. A child of activists, she came of age during the civil rights and Black Arts movements. At Talladega College, nurtured by Hale Woodruff’s Amistad murals, Finney came to understand the powerful synergy between art and history. Finney has authored four books of poetry: Head Off & Split (2011), The World Is Round (2003), Rice (1995), and On Wings Made of Gauze (1985). She has also authored Heartwood (1997), edited The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South (2007), and cofounded the Affrilachian Poets. Finney’s fourth book of poetry, Head Off & Split, was awarded the 2011 National Book Award for poetry. For over twenty years, she taught at the University
of Kentucky, where she was Guy Davenport Endowed Professor in the English department. She teaches in the English Language and Literature Department and the African American Studies Program at the University of South Carolina, where she holds the John H. Bennett Jr. Chair in Southern Letters and Creative Writing.

**Monica Frantz** is a certified nurse-midwife who lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with her partner and daughter. Her essay in *From Curlers to Chainsaws* is her first publication.

**Melissa A. Goldthwaite**, professor of English, teaches rhetorical theory and creative writing (both poetry and creative nonfiction) at Saint Joseph’s University. Her books include *The St. Martin’s Guide to Teaching Writing*, editions five, six, and seven (2003, 2007, 2013); *Surveying the Literary Landscapes of Terry Tempest Williams* (2003); *The Norton Pocket Book of Writing by Students* (2010); *The Norton Reader*, thirteenth edition (2012); and a coedited collection, *Books That Cook: The Making of a Literary Meal* (2014). Goldthwaite’s work has also been published in journals such as *College English*, *Reader*, and *Writing on the Edge*.

**Jen Hirt**’s memoir, *Under Glass: The Girl with a Thousand Christmas Trees*, won the Drake University Emerging Writer Award for 2011, and her essay “Lores of Last Unicorns,” published in the *Gettysburg Review*, won a 2010 Pushcart Prize. Hirt’s essays have also received the 2012 Gabehart Prize for Nonfiction from the Kentucky Women Writers Conference, an Ohioana Library grant, a Pennsylvania Council on the Arts grant, additional Pushcart Prize nominations, and two notable essay mentions in *Best American Essays*. Hirt is an assistant professor of creative writing at Penn State Harrisburg.

**E. J. Levy**’s essays and fiction have been featured in *Best American Essays*, the *Paris Review*, *Salon*, and the *New York Times*, among other places, and have received a Pushcart Prize, among other honors. Her debut story collection, *Love, in Theory*, won the 2012 Flannery O’Connor Award, a
2012 ForeWord Book of the Year Award, and the 2014 Great Lakes Colleges Association’s New Writers Award; it was also named a Best Indie Book of 2013 by Kirkus Reviews and a French edition, L’amour, en théorie, is available. Levy’s anthology, Tasting Life Twice: Literary Lesbian Fiction by New American Writers, won a Lambda Literary Award. She holds a degree in history from Yale and is an associate professor at Colorado State University.

**Elizabeth MacLeod Walls** is the author of critical articles on English literary modernism, and she is the coeditor, with Mary Lago and Linda K. Hughes, of The BBC Talks of E. M. Forster (2007), as well as, with Jennifer Cognard-Black, Kindred Hands: Letters on Writing by British and American Women Authors, 1865–1935 (2006). MacLeod Walls is the dean of University College and holds the rank of associate professor of English at Nebraska Wesleyan University. A graduate of Hiram College and a former student of Joyce Dyer’s, she has explored creative nonfiction as a way of translating the historical soul and story of a place, particularly as that place inspirits women’s journeys of self-discovery. MacLeod Walls lives in Lincoln, Nebraska—her hometown—with her husband and two sons.

**Debra Marquart**’s books include three poetry collections—Everything’s a Verb (1996), From Sweetness (2002), and Small Buried Things (2015)—as well as a short-story collection, The Hunger Bone: Rock & Roll Stories (2001), which draws on her experiences as a female road musician. Marquart’s work has received a Pushcart Prize, the Shelby Foote Nonfiction Prize from the Faulkner Society, the Headwaters Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts Prose Fellowship. Marquart’s memoir, The Horizontal World: Growing Up Wild in the Middle of Nowhere (2006), was awarded the Elle Lettres Award from Elle magazine and the 2007 PEN USA Creative Nonfiction Award. Marquart teaches in the Stonecoast low-residency MFA program at the University of Southern Maine, and she is a professor of English and the director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing and the Environment at Iowa State University.
REBECCA MCCLANAHAN has published ten books of nonfiction, essays, and poetry, including *The Tribal Knot: A Memoir of Family, Community, and a Century of Change* (2013). Her work has appeared in *Best American Essays*, *Best American Poetry*, *Kenyon Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, *The Sun*, and numerous anthologies. She has received the Wood Prize for poetry, a Pushcart Prize, the Glasgow Award for nonfiction, and literary fellowships from New York Foundation for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council. McClanahan teaches in the MFA programs of Queens University (Charlotte) and the Rainier Writing Workshop.

KAREN SALYER MCELMURRAY’s *Surrendered Child: A Birth Mother’s Journey* was an AWP Award Winner for Creative Nonfiction. Her novels are *The Motel of the Stars*, Editor’s Pick by Oxford American, and *Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven*, winner of the Chaffin Award for Appalachian Writing. Other stories and essays have appeared in *Iron Horse*, *Kenyon Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *River Teeth*, and in anthologies such as *An Angle of Vision; To Tell the Truth; Fearless Confessions; Listen Here; Dirt; Family Trouble;* and *Red Holler*. Her writing has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the North Carolina Arts Council, and the Kentucky Foundation for Women. Her essay “Strange Tongues” was the recipient of the Annie Dillard Award from *The Bellingham Review*. With poet Adrian Blevins, she has coedited a collection of essays, *Walk Till the Dogs Get Mean: Meditations on the Forbidden from Contemporary Appalachia*. During 2015–16, she was the Visiting Professor at Gettysburg College.

KAREN OUTEN’s fiction has appeared in *Glimmer Train Stories* and the *North American Review*, among other publications. She has taught fiction and writing at the University of Michigan and St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

MARY QUADE is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop. Her poetry collection, *Guide to Native Beasts*,
won the 2003 Cleveland State University Poetry Center First Book Prize. In 2001, her work was recognized with an Oregon Literary Fellowship, and in 2006, 2010, and 2014, she was awarded Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Awards. Her poems have appeared in several anthologies, including *On the Wing: American Poems of Air and Space Flight* (2005) and *New Voices: Contemporary Poetry from the United States* (2008), which was published as part of the NEA’s International Literary Exchange Program. Her essays have appeared in *Isotope, West Branch, Flyway: Journal of Writing and Environment, Grist, Fifth Wednesday Journal, The Florida Review, Creative Nonfiction, Fourth Genre*, and *Confrontation*. Her essay “Hatch” was a Notable Essay in *Best American Essays 2013*. She is an associate professor of English at Hiram College in Ohio.

**Emily Rapp** is the author of *Poster Child: A Memoir* (2006) and *The Still Point of the Turning World* (2013), which was a *New York Times* bestseller. A former Fulbright scholar, she was educated at Harvard University, Trinity College Dublin, Saint Olaf College, and the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a James A. Michener fellow. Rapp is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Writers’ Award and the Philip Roth writer-in-residence at Bucknell University. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Huffington Post, The Sun, the Los Angeles Times, Vogue, Salon, Slate, time, Body+Soul, Bodega, Fitness, Good Housekeeping, Redbook, O the Oprah Magazine*, and other publications. Rapp holds the Joseph Russo Endowed Chair of Creative Writing at the University of New Mexico and teaches in the University of California, Riverside Palm Desert MFA Program.

**Diana Salman** was born in 1988 in Al Mansouri, Lebanon. She spent her childhood in Lebanon (where she roamed olive and lemon groves), Libya (where she ate spaghetti out of large pots), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (where she went to high school). Salman earned a bachelor of arts in political science (with a minor in creative writing) from Hiram College, and then a master’s degree in international peace and conflict resolution from American University. When she’s not writing, Salman is working on
development issues in Africa and the Middle East. She currently lives in Washington, DC.

SUE WILLIAM SILVERMAN’s memoir *The Pat Boone Fan Club: My Life as a White Anglo-Saxon Jew* (2014) was a finalist in *Foreword Reviews*’ IndieFab Book of the Year Award (essay category). Her two previous memoirs are *Love Sick: One Woman’s Journey through Sexual Addiction* (2001), which is also a Lifetime television movie, and *Because I Remember Terror, Father; I Remember You* (1996), which won the Association of Writers and Writing Programs award in creative nonfiction. One of her essays appears in *The Touchstone Anthology of Contemporary Nonfiction*, while others won contests with *Hotel Amerika, Mid-American Review*, and *Water-Stone Review*. Silverman’s poetry collection is *Hieroglyphics in Neon* (2006), and her craft book, *Fearless Confessions: A Writer’s Guide to Memoir* (2009), won Honorable Mention in *Foreword Reviews*’ Book of the Year Award. As a professional speaker, Silverman has appeared on *The View, Anderson Cooper 360*, and *CNN–Headline News*. She teaches in the MFA in Writing Program at Vermont College of Fine Arts.

ANA MARIA SPAGNA lives and writes in Stehekin, Washington, a remote community in the North Cascades accessible only by boat, foot, or float plane. After working many years on backcountry trail crews, she now teaches nonfiction and serves as assistant MFA program director for the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. Her books include *Potluck: Community on the Edge of Wilderness; Test Ride on the Sunnyland Bus: A Daughter’s Civil Rights Journey*, winner of the 2009 *River Teeth* literary nonfiction prize; *Now Go Home: Wilderness, Belonging, and the Crosscut Saw*, named a Seattle Times Best Book of 2004; and *100 Skills You’ll Need for the End of the World (As We Know It)* and *Reclaimers*, both published in 2015. Spagna’s work has appeared in many journals, including *Orion, Brevity, North American Review, Oregon Quarterly*, and *High Country News*, as well as in anthologies such as *Wild Moments, A Mile in Her Boots*, and *Best Essays NW*. 
MAUREEN STANTON is the author of Killer Stuff and Tons of Money: An Insider’s Look at the World of Flea Markets, Antiques, and Collecting, the 2012 winner of the Massachusetts Book Award in nonfiction. She has published numerous essays in literary journals and anthologies, including Florida Review, Creative Nonfiction, Fourth Genre, Crab Orchard Review. Her nonfiction has been recognized with an Iowa Review Award, a Pushcart Prize, an American Literary Review Prize, a Mary Roberts Rinehart Award, the Penelope Niven Award in Nonfiction from Salem College Center for Women Writers, and the Thomas J. Hruska Prize in Nonfiction from Passages North. Her essays have been listed as “Notable” in Best American Essays in 1998, 2004, 2005, 2008, and 2009. Stanton has received a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship and has twice received a Maine Arts Commission Individual Artist Fellowship. She teaches creative nonfiction and literary journalism at the University of Massachusetts–Lowell.

MARY SWANDER is the poet laureate of Iowa and a Distinguished Professor at Iowa State University, where she teaches in the MFA Program in Creative Writing and Environment. Her book Farmscape: The Changing Rural Environment (2012) includes a play by the same name that has toured the country. Swander is a past fellow and now board member of the Black Earth Institute.

NORMA TILDEN is a teaching professor of English at Georgetown University, where she has taught for many years. Her nonfiction writing has received recognition and awards from numerous publications, including the Yale Review, New Letters, and Biography.

PSYCHE WILLIAMS-FORSON is associate professor of American studies at the University of Maryland–College Park and an affiliate faculty member of the women’s studies and African American studies departments as well as the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity. She is an associate editor of Food and Foodways journal, coeditor (with Carole Counihan)
of *Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World* (2011), and author of the award-winning book *Building Houses out of Chicken Legs: Black Women, Food, and Power* (2006). Williams-Forson’s research focuses on food shaming and policing in communities of color. She is also the recipient of numerous fellowships, including a Smithsonian Museum Senior Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship, and a Winterthur Museum and Library Fellowship.