

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Editor: Alexander Levering Kern** is an educator and poet, active in Quaker, ecumenical, interfaith, and peace and justice ministries. His work appears in publications such as *Georgetown Review*, *Hazmat Review*, *Caribbean Writer*, *Rive Gauche*, *Chaffin Journal*, *The Rambler*, *Ruah*, *Quaker Life*, *Friends Journal*, *Sacred Journey*, and *Mad Poets Review*; in anthologies from Pudding House, Ibbetson Street, *Meridian Anthology*, and St. Anthony Messenger Press; and in the Boston street newspaper, *Spare Change News*. He serves on staff and adjunct faculty at Andover Newton Theological School (ANTS), the oldest independent graduate seminary in the US. At ANTS he directs the Faith Youth Institute (FYI), a pioneering program of theological education, service learning, leadership training, and vocational exploration for high school youth and seminary students (see [www.ants.edu/learning/fyi](http://www.ants.edu/learning/fyi)). A native of Washington, DC, he has traveled and worked in Southern Africa, Latin America, and with the US homeless community, and currently lives near Boston with his wife Rebecca and son Elias.

**Kathleen Brian** is a United Church of Christ member and recently graduated from Indiana University with a BA in honors English and history. She was invited to Russia to participate in the annual Summer Literary Seminars, and then served for 10 months in Sacramento, California, as a member of AmeriCorps. She has been published in *Labyrinth* and *Fusion* literary magazines.

**Matilda Cantwell** is an MDiv student and a social worker/psychotherapist. Her work has been published in *Palimpsest*, the graduate arts and literature journal of Yale University. She is interested in issues of religious pluralism, interfaith dialogue, and Christian social witness. She has led creative writing groups for homeless individuals and sees writing as a tool of empowerment for oppressed populations. She lives in Holyoke, Massachusetts, and enjoys gardening and bicycling.

**John William Coleman** is an analyst and freelance writer in Atlanta, Georgia. A 2004 graduate of Berry College, John's work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Touchstone*, *Religion & Liberty*, the *Birmingham News*, the *Humane Studies Review*, and *National Review Online*. He is a former recipient of both the Hammond Poetry Award and the Gordon Barber Memorial Poetry Award. In 2004 he was

awarded “Best Column” by the Georgia College Press Association, and he has held academic fellowships with both the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Institute for Humane Studies.

**Desne Crossley** is a poet and visual artist and serves as Andover Newton Theological School’s Vice President for Development. The institutions for which she has worked include the Museum of Fine Arts-Boston, Wheaton College in Massachusetts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University. Desne is married to Kenneth Hollman, lives in Attleboro, Massachusetts, and is active at New Hope Christian Ministries in Framingham.

**Claire Davis** is a mama, Mennonite, marathoner and Master’s graduate who enjoys abundant life in Cedar Falls, Iowa. She is an adjunct professor of English at University of Northern Iowa during the school year but plans to play outside and organic garden with her daughter, Gloria, in their new home during the summers. Her loves include reading too many books at once, running, cooking, playing Chopin preludes and being a closet ballerina. Claire is invested in creative peacemaking and devotion to Jesus.

**Erika Dreifus** is a Massachusetts-based writer whose stories, essays, and reviews have appeared in many print and online publications, including the *Boston Globe*, the *Forward*, *JBooks.com*, *Lilith*, and *Mississippi-Review.com*. In 2003 her short story, “Homecomings,” won the David Dornstein Memorial Creative Writing Contest for Young Adult Writers, sponsored by the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. Please visit Erika’s website at [www.practicing-writer.com](http://www.practicing-writer.com).

**Peg Duthie** graduated from the University of Chicago and received her MA from the University of Michigan. A Taiwanese-American native of Texas, she now resides in Tennessee. At the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, she is a lay leader, member of the board, and a singer with the choir and the church rock band. Her writing has appeared in *Fables*, *KidVisions*, and elsewhere, including poems in June Cotner’s 2006 *Everyday Blessings* calendar. She is also a contributor to the *Dictionary of Unitarian and Universalist Biography* and the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Children’s Literature*.

**Laurel Dykstra** is an activist, artist, nontraditional biblical scholar, and mother of twins. For ten years she has been part of the Catholic Worker and radical discipleship movements, combining activism with hospitality and direct service to urban poor people. With allies, Laurel uses direct action, education, civil disobedience, and

street theater to resist unjust systems. She has been active in the campaign to close the US Army School of the Americas (now WHISC) and in the anti-globalization movement. Laurel teaches and preaches on scripture and justice. A graduate of Episcopal Divinity School, she is the author of *Set Them Free: The Other Side of Exodus* (Orbis, 2002). Her writing appears in publications such as *Sojourners* and *Hospitality* and alternative parenting magazines like *Hip Mama*. She is also author of the just-released children's book, *Uncle Aiden*, described as "the charming story of why every little girl needs a gay uncle." Laurel co-produces a zine, *Babybloc*, celebrating the involvement of youth, children, and families in social change. Please visit [www.babybloc.org](http://www.babybloc.org). She currently lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Beth Ford** is a perpetual student currently pursuing graduate study at Washington Theological Union, DC. Her theological studies focus on issues of mission, crossing cultures, and social justice. She credits becoming alive in a faith that does justice to her Jesuit education at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia. After graduation, she served two years with Jesuit Volunteers International, teaching at Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This is her first published work.

**Leslie Ann Fraser** writes with many-faced muses and serves a multifaith ministry in western Massachusetts. She is a divinity student, religious advisor to the Unitarian Universalist and multifaith communities at Mount Holyoke College, and part-time preacher. She has taught creative writing classes to frontline workers at UMass Amherst for many years, where she compiled anthologies with titles like *From a Whisper to a Roar* and *Righting Our Lives*. As editor of *Nuclear Times* magazine and *Science for the People*, her work was recognized by *Utne Reader's* best of the alternative press awards.

**Anne Giedinghagen** was born and raised a Methodist in Kansas City, Missouri. At eighteen she heeded the call of the East Coast and set off to attend Cornell University, where she discovered the Episcopal Church. She is still learning the difference between "potluck" and "dish to pass." Her greatest passions are nature, literature, and spirituality. She combines these disparate loves through a double major in Neurobiology and German Studies. When she's not doing schoolwork or writing, she can be found roughhousing with her dog, hiking, painting, or cooking vegetarian meals to share with good friends. Her work has appeared in *Open Minds Quarterly*, *Abundance Press*, and *plug:poetry*.

**Amy Good** is an Anabaptist and a recent graduate of Grove City College with a BA in English. She spent six months in India teaching English in 2001, and now works in communications and administration at Global Disciples, a mission organization based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

**Matt Guynn** combines spirituality, creativity, and social change in several arenas. He is part of the staff at Diana's Grove in Missouri, a center which uses myth and ritual for personal empowerment. He nurtures emerging leaders and social action projects with On Earth Peace, a Church of the Brethren agency, and also offers training of trainers workshops at Training for Change in Philadelphia. Matt has published poems in the *Amherst Review*, *Into the Teeth of the Wind*, *Reclaiming Quarterly*, and the *U.S. Latino Review*. A resident of Richmond, Indiana, he has lived in Ecuador and Mexico. He holds master's degrees from Bethany Theological Seminary, in theology, and the University of Notre Dame, in international peace studies.

**MEH** is Matthew E. Henry, a once and future high school English and philosophy teacher from Boston and Denver. This Matthew Henry is young, ADHD, and of African decent; not to be confused with the dead white guy who wrote the biblical commentary, though he was named after him. (Thanks, Dad.) A graduate of Eastern Nazarene College, MEH has works appearing in *Coloring Book* (RattleCat), the *Communiqué Journal*, *Credenda Agenda*, the *Penwood Review*, *Poetry East*, *Word is Bond*, and various anthologies. Though insanely active at work and in his church, he assures his father that the Matthew E. Henry commentary is forthcoming, in the next 50 years or so.

**Steven Luke Hankins** is a senior at Lee University, in Cleveland, Tennessee. He is majoring in English Education and French, and hopes to attend graduate school for creative writing. He has served as managing editor and poetry editor of *Lee Review*, Lee University's annual fine arts magazine. His poetry is forthcoming, or has recently appeared, in *Southern Poetry Review*, *Verse Libre Quarterly* (online), *The Muse*, and *The Rectangle*. He can be contacted at [lukehank@yahoo.com](mailto:lukehank@yahoo.com).

**Christina Hutchins** is a poet and philosopher of religion and culture. A graduate of the University of California, Davis, and Harvard Divinity School, she holds a PhD in the Interdisciplinary Study of Religion from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Having worked as a biochemist and a United Church of Christ minister, she currently teaches process theology at the Pacific School of Religion. Recent

poems appear in the *Southern Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Cream City Review*, *Nimrod*, *North American Review*, *Tampa Review*, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, and in anthologies by HarperSF, Milkweed, Ashgate, and Houghton-Mifflin.

**Marci Rae Johnson** recently graduated from Spalding University in Louisville, KY, with an MFA in poetry writing. Her poem "Red Shirt" was nominated for a 2005 Rhysling Award and will appear in the 2005 *Rhysling Anthology (The Best Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Poetry of 2004)*. She also has a poem upcoming in *Christianity and Literature* magazine, and has most recently been published in *Strange Horizons* and *The Poetry Kit* magazine (UK). Marci has a master's degree in theological studies from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. She lives in Three Oaks, Michigan, with her husband and four-year-old daughter.

**Deane Lindsey Kern**'s work has appeared in *Creative Nonfiction*, *Gulf Coast*, *Potomac Review*, *Poetry Motel*, and many other literary magazines and anthologies. He earned an MFA in creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh. He is working on a memoir of his three years teaching in rural Japan. He lives in Charles Town, West Virginia, with his wife, the novelist Priscilla Rodd, and his two sons, Loki and Zion. He teaches language arts in Loudoun County, Virginia.

**Sarah Kinsel** studies spirituality at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, Indiana. Her ministries include leading writing retreats and offering spiritual direction. She finds vitality of the spirit through writing, backpacking, baking, and developing interpersonal relationships that speak the truth in love.

**Jason Larson** holds two masters degrees and is a doctoral student in the Department of Religion at Syracuse University. He is a certified lay preacher in the American Baptist Church convention. Formerly the archivist at Children's Hospital Boston, he was a contributing author of *Children's Hospital Boston*, published by Arcadia Press. Jason and his wife, Leanne, reside in a multi-generational household in New Hampshire with their two children. In addition to writing poems, he enjoys sailing, reading, and playing very poor golf.

**J. Tien-Hwei Law** has been writing poetry since childhood. Her poetry has garnered such awards as the Wellesley College Florence Annette Wing Prize, the Cambridge University Quiller-Couch Prize and the Rima Alamuddin Prize. In addition to graduate work in literature and music, Ms. Law now works in the field of international education in

Milan, Italy, where she resides with her husband. She participated in the Beacon Hill Friends Meeting for several years and continues to explore faith in the Quaker tradition.

**Nancy Tupper Ling** is a Poet/Librarian/Domestic Engineer... not necessarily in that order. Stone's Throw Press published her first book, *Laughter in My Tent*, in 2003. Other publication credits include *Potomac Review*, *Radix*, *Mid-American Review*, *Flyway*, and *Thema*. She lives in Walpole, Massachusetts.

**Liz Logan** is a Unitarian Universalist and a recent graduate of Oberlin College, where she studied English and French literature. Her poetry has been published in *Potomac Review* and the anthology *Tree Magic* from Sunshine Press. She has read her work in the "Poetry at Noon" reading series at the Library of Congress, and her poems have received awards from the Poetry Society of Virginia and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

**Kimberly C. Lundstrom** lives and writes in the Seattle, Washington, area. She is a member of North Creek Presbyterian Church and participates in the Hope Partners program with Seattle's Union Gospel Mission.

**Megan Lynes** is both Jewish and a lifelong Unitarian Universalist. Her passions are art and poetry, young people, friendship, and deep listening. She has worked as a social worker, art teacher, counselor, and chaplain in a hospital. She grew up and still lives in Boston. For three years, Megan lived in the Beacon Hill Friends House, a twenty-person interfaith community based in Quaker principles and practices. Megan is studying for the UU ministry at Andover Newton Theological School.

**Pam McAllister** is an author and activist. Her published books include *Death Defying: Dismantling the Execution Machinery in 21st Century U.S.A.* (Continuum); *Standing in the Need of Prayer: Devotions for Christians in Prison* (Presbyterian Criminal Justice Program); and two books documenting women's creative use of nonviolent action for social justice causes, *You Can't Kill the Spirit* and *This River of Courage* (New Society Publishers). She also edited the groundbreaking anthology *Reweaving the Web of Life: Feminism and Nonviolence* (New Society Publishers). A professional church musician, Pam is the organist and choir director for two churches in Brooklyn, New York, the Church of Gethsemane (Presbyterian) and the Park Slope United Methodist Church.

**Jessica Mesman** was born and raised in Slidell, Louisiana, where you can buy a rosary at the gas station. Her writing has appeared in *Elle*, *Crisis*, *Godspy*, *Notre Dame Magazine*, *Creative Nonfiction*, and many other publications. She received her MFA in creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh. She lives in South Bend, Indiana, with her husband, writer Dave Griffith.

**Jimmy Nagle** is a youth worker from Olympia, Washington, and a recent graduate of Andover Newton Theological School's Master of Arts in Psychology and Religion program and recipient of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Studies Certificate from the Boston Theological Institute. He has deferred further studies in social work to discern a vocation in the Roman Catholic Church. He is currently a postulant in the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor.

**Julian O'Reilley** graduated from Haverford College in 1999, and shortly thereafter began working at Pendle Hill Quaker Center. She led Pendle Hill's youth and activist programs for four years, and now travels the United States doing outreach and fundraising. She lives in South Philadelphia, where she practices hospitality, the guitar, and new DIY arts.

**Trey Palmisano** was called back to God in 2004 after a 10-year separation, and recommitted his life to Jesus. Known in previous publications by his birth name, Frank S. Palmisano III, he now claims his nickname in his writing. His poetry was a 2003 Pushcart Prize nominee, and he received a 2004 Liberty Bell Award in journalism. Published work appears in *Ruah*, *Student Leadership Journal*, and elsewhere. By trade a technical writer, he has taught at Towson University. He pursued theological/philosophical studies at St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute in Baltimore, Maryland, and is currently searching for ministry opportunities. He lives with his wife, Krista, and English bulldog, Tucker, in Rosedale, Maryland.

**Alicia Parks** was raised Episcopalian, and has been Quaker for more than twelve years. She has been inspired by reading Walter Wink's series of books on nonviolence and Jesus. Alicia has supported herself as a part-time nanny of two small children, one a preschooler, the other a toddler. She has lived in Maryland, but has experienced a call to lay ministry, and entered Boston University School of Theology in the fall of 2005.

**Jamie Parsley** is a poet and an Episcopal priest. He is the author of six books of poetry, most recently *no stars, no moon*, published in 2004. He

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received his MFA from Vermont College. He currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Communications in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, assistant priest at Gethsemane Cathedral in Fargo, and teaches at the University of Mary, in Fargo. In 2004, he was designated Associate Poet Laureate of North Dakota. The poems “Ophanim” and “Horizon” were written about his diagnosis, treatment, and ultimate recovery from cancer at age 31.

**Eboo Patel** founded the Chicago Interfaith Youth Core ([www.ifyc.org](http://www.ifyc.org)) to cultivate a generation of compassionate global leaders, bringing young people of all faiths together to do service work, reflect on their faith, and better understand the connection between religion and social justice. He earned his doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University, where he studied on a Rhodes Scholarship. In 2004 he was selected to become an Ashoka Fellow, joining an international network of social entrepreneurs implementing ideas with the potential to change the pattern of our society. Named one of “thirty social visionaries under thirty changing the world” by *Utne Reader*, Patel has had essays published in the *Sunday Chicago Tribune*, *Harvard Divinity School Bulletin*, and *Utne Magazine*. He is the co-editor of *Building the Interfaith Youth Movement* (AltaMira Press), and is writing a book called *Bridges or Bombs: The Role of Religious Youth in the 21st Century*, published by Beacon Press in 2006. A widely sought after speaker, he is currently an adjunct faculty member at Chicago Theological Seminary.

**Diane Payne** teaches creative writing at University of Arkansas-Monticello, smack dab in the center of the Bible Belt. Somehow, no matter what the topic, religion gets involved in most discussions on campus. Diane has been published in hundreds of magazines, including *Christian Science Monitor*, *Sojourners*, *Hip Mama*, *Troika*, *Failbetter*, and *Word Riot*. This story is an excerpt from her memoir *Burning Tulips*.

**Nita Penfold** is a Unitarian Universalist and adjunct faculty at Andover Newton Theological School in Worship and Theology Arts, having received her Doctor of Ministry from Wisdom University in California. She also leads spirituality and arts workshops for youth and adults ([www.nitapenfold.com](http://www.nitapenfold.com)). She edited *Hunger Enough: Living Spiritually in a Consumer Society* in 2004 for Pudding House Publications. They also published two chapbooks of her poetry, *The Woman with the Wild-Grown Hair* in 1998, and *Mile-High Blue-Sky Pie* in 2002. Her poetry has also appeared in such anthologies as *Woman Prayers* (Broadway Books) and *Sacred Voices* (HarperSanFrancisco).

**Dawn Karima Pettigrew** is the author of two novels: *The Marriage of Saints* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2006) and *The Way We Make Sense* (Aunt Lute, 2002). She is a finalist in the North American Native First Book Award Competition, and an award-winning writer. With her mother, she is the co-author of *Children Learn What They Read*, on multiculturalism and spirituality in children's literature. Her work has appeared in journals such as *Glimmer Train* and *Flyway*, and anthologies from Norton, St. Martin's, and others. Currently, she teaches Native American studies at the University of New Mexico. She is a Baptist, and holds a BA from Harvard University and an MFA in creative writing from Ohio State. A multiracial Creek Indian, Dawn is a member of the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas, Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers, the Native American Journalists' Association, and a contributing writer to *News from Indian Country* and *Whispering Wind*.

**Priscilla A. Rodd's** novel, *Surviving Mae West*, is forthcoming from the West Virginia University Press. She has taught creative writing and composition at the University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, and Shepherd University. She was raised as a Quaker along the Sandy Creek that divides Preston and Barbour Counties, West Virginia. Most of her time is spent chasing her two sons.

**Or N. Rose** teaches at the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College in Newton, Massachusetts. He is the author of two recent books on Jewish spirituality, *God in All Moments: Mystical & Practical Wisdom from the Hasidic Masters* (Jewish Lights), and *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Man of Spirit, Man of Action* (Jewish Publication Society). Rose also writes a regular column on contemporary Jewish thought for *Tikkun: A Critique of Politics, Culture & Society*.

**Kimberly Salico-Diehl** is a student at Andover Newton Theological School. With a Master of Music degree in piano performance, she performs, conducts, and teaches piano throughout Westchester County, New York, where she resides with her husband James. The daughter of an American Baptist minister, Kimberly hopes to follow in her father's footsteps and be ordained.

**Randi Sider-Rose** is a mama, writer, and iconographer living in Chicago. An Episcopalian, she paints in community with other iconographers at a monastery in Mt. Angel, Oregon. Most recently, her writing on iconography appears in *Vital Christianity: Spirituality, Justice, and*

*Christian Practice*, edited by David L. Weaver-Zercher and William H. Willimon.

**Craig Frederick Simenson** comes from a lifetime in Wisconsin—among family, rolling green hills, and Allis Chalmers tractors. He graduated in December 2003 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a BA in social work and political science. He most recently served as an AmeriCorps VISTA member at the Boston nonprofit, Generations Incorporated. Craig currently resides at the Beacon Hill Friends House, a 20-person intentional community based in Quaker principles. He also regularly sits with the Boston Old Path Sangha.

**David Sirois** has been writing songs and poems from the age of four. He was born in New Brunswick, Canada, and grew up in Madawaska, Maine, the northernmost town on the east coast. David is a dual citizen, and French was his first language. At age four, he began having recurring dreams of a beautiful ashram and a woman he called his “other mother.” After twenty years of these refreshing dreams, he met this woman—his Guru, Swami Chidvilasananda. He has since practiced Siddha Yoga for the last ten years, and sees writing as a spiritual practice. David’s poems have appeared in *Poesy*, *The Better Drink*, *Silo*, *Ibbetson Street Press*, *Echoes*, and elsewhere. His upcoming collection is called *The Pursuit of Stillness*.

**Ian Thal** went to elementary school with the editor of this volume, but was only reunited when Alex Kern came upon his writings in the anthology, *Out of the Blue Writers Unite*. Thal’s poetry has also appeared in *Tokens: Contemporary Poetry of the Subway*, *BOOM!*, *For Real*, *Flash!Point*, *Public Spaces*, *Poesy*, *Ibbetson Street Press*, *Crooked River*, and the 2003 Boston Cyberarts Festival. Thal is also a mime, mime instructor, and puppeteer, performing with Bread & Puppet Theatre, the Dresden Dolls, and Cosmic Spelunker Theater, of which he is co-founder and co-artistic director. Thal has degrees in philosophy from SUNY Purchase and Boston College and lives in Allston, Massachusetts, with his cat and a great deal of clutter.

**Sophie Wadsworth** lives and teaches writing in the Boston area. She volunteers for Keeping Track, a wildlife monitoring program, and as a teacher for prisoners in Massachusetts. Her poems have appeared in *Sycamore Review*, *Meridian*, *Crab Orchard Review*, and *Sanctuary* magazine. Her first collection of poems, *Letters from Siberia*, won the Jessie Bryce Niles Chapbook Award from the *Comstock Review*.

**The Reverend Michael W. Waters, 25**, is the pastor of Greater Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. A fifth-generation ordained minister in the African Methodist tradition, Waters began preaching at the age of 16. Waters holds a BA in political science and religious studies, with a minor in history, from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Waters is presently in his final year of studies as a Prothro Promise for Ministry Scholar in the Master of Divinity program at the Perkins School of Theology. After graduation, Waters would like to pursue a PhD in religious studies. His sermon "Look Again" appeared in the Fall 2003 edition of *The African American Pulpit*.

**Myles Wernitz** is a doctoral student in theology at Baylor University, having lived and written in Waco, Texas, for the last five years, the last two spent in the retail world. Originally from Shreveport, Louisiana, he sojourned in Arkansas before moving to Texas. His writing has appeared most recently in *Relevant* online, *Faithworks*, and *Vital Theology*. His love for reading is eclipsed by his love for his home church, bare feet, and his home-brewed coffee.

**Michelle Whitfield** lives in Boston, Massachusetts. She has a BA in psychology from St. Louis University and a Master of Divinity degree from Boston University School of Theology. She currently teaches at a school for children with autism and has edited the newsletter for Honduras HOPE, a community development organization.