

## 3 Nations Anthology: Native, Canadian & New England Writers

### Contributors

**Michael Brown** began teaching in 1962, and he began writing then. He has had four books of poetry published, and numerous other articles, essays, and pieces of journalism. Right now, he is College Transitions Instructor at Axiom where he is helping young people earn their high school credentials. He also helps older writers get their books and articles published. He and his partner live in Downeast Maine where they have a lovely estate and take in retired sled dogs.

**Dennis Camire** currently teaches college writing and creative writing at Central Maine Community College and at White Mountains College. Additionally, he's on the board of Maine Poetry Central which curates The Portland Poet Laureate Project and the poetry series, *In Verse: Maine Places and People*, which appears in The Sun Journal Sunday Edition. His last book, *Stone By Stone: Poems about the Art of Dry Stone Walling*, was published by Finishing Line Press. He lives in an A-frame in West Paris, Maine.

**Wendy Cannella** lives in York Harbor, near Brave Boat Harbor, less than a mile to Harbor Beach and a walk through the woods to Long Sands in southern Maine. I am so grateful to call this wonderful state my home, with all of its wonderful heritages, and to continue to be so lucky as to look out over the rocks at our blue-grey horizon.

**Barbara Chatterton:** It's exciting to share one of my early experiences in Downeast Maine, to revisit those days when everything was fresh and strange and full of mysterious promise. This part of Maine is my adopted home. As with any kind of family, I had to range far & wide before I realized how completely I belong to it, and it belongs to me. To live elsewhere is unthinkable. When I'm not writing, you can find me with my family and friends, tending my farm, and tilting at windmills.

**Dan Crowfeather McIsaac** was born into mainstream society 60 years ago, but has been walking the 'Red Road' since meeting his late wife Muin'iskw in 1999. Before that, he had no firm beliefs, except there was some guiding hand behind the universe. He could not accept the teachings of Christianity, because there seemed to be too many layers between himself and Creator. Daniel respects the spiritual choices of anyone who is sincere in their beliefs, and who does not use their religion to harm others. When he learned the teachings of traditional Mi'kmaw spirituality from Muin'iskw, they spoke to the Cree blood he carries—he had found his way at last.

**Frances Drabick** lives in Eastport, Maine where she reaches out to the world through poetry and short stories on her website: [FrancesDrabickWritesIt.com](http://FrancesDrabickWritesIt.com). Drabick has been awarded two nominations for the Pushcart Prize in poetry, and has been published in various periodicals.

**J. C. Elkin** is an optimist, linguist, singer and M.F.A. candidate at Bennington Writing Seminars. I am the author of *World Class: Poems Inspired by the ESL Classroom* and other works drawing on spirituality, feminism, travel, and childhood appearing domestically and abroad in such journals as *The Delmarva Review*, *Kestrel*, and *Angle*. I was born in Maine, spent my summers there, and graduated from Bates College before leaving New England in the Eighties. My father still lives in Kittery. For more information, please visit my website, [www.jcelkin.net](http://www.jcelkin.net)

**Kathleen Ellis**: "In Lubec in the late 1970s, I was constantly aware of living on the edge of the country, but I was made especially aware of the close concerns and activities between the U.S. and Canada due to my in-laws' memories of Eleanor Roosevelt's crossings by ferry from Lubec to Campobello." A recipient of poetry fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and Maine Arts Commission, Ellis has taught English and Honors at the University of Maine in Orono since 1992. Poems from her manuscript, "Dear Darwin," were set to music and released as a Parma Recordings CD, which was nominated for a 2015 Grammy Award. Ellis coordinates the annual POETS/SPEAK! fest at the Bangor Public Library and teaches summer poetry workshops at the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland.

**Jéanpaul Ferro** is a novelist, short fiction author, and poet from Scituate, Rhode Island. A 10-time Pushcart Prize nominee, his work has appeared on National Public Radio, Contemporary American Voices, Columbia Review, Salzburg Review, and others. He is the author of *Essendo Morti – Being Dead* (Goldfish Press, 2009), nominated for the 2010 Griffin Prize in Poetry; and *Jazz* (Honest Publishing, 2011), nominated for both the 2012 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Prize and the 2012 Griffin Prize in Poetry. He is represented by the Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency. Website: [www.jeanpaulferro.com](http://www.jeanpaulferro.com)

**Stephanie S. Gough** is a creative non-fiction writer from Campobello Island, New Brunswick. She comes from a long line of pirates and smugglers, and currently holds three passports.

**Jason Grundstrom-Whitney** currently works at Riverview Psychiatric Center as a LADC/LSW. He is a writer, poet, and musician who has played in bands and read his poetry across America. Jason has mixed ancestry: Traditional Bear Clan member of the Passamaquoddy/Irish/-Scottish/Welsh. The poems are taken from a working series: "Bear, Coyote, Raven."

**Grey Held** is a recipient of an NEA Fellowship in Creative Writing. Held has two books of poetry published, *Two-Star General* (Brick Road Poetry Press in 2012) and *Spilled Milk* (Word Press in 2013). Held works closely with the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs in Newton, MA to direct projects that connect contemporary poets and their poetry with a wider audience. He is also a visual artist whose drawings have been exhibited in museums and galleries nationwide.

**Leonore Hildebrandt** is the author of *The Work at Hand* and *The Next Unknown*. A third collection, *Where You Happen to Be*, will be forthcoming in 2018 (Deerbrook Editions). She has published poems and translations in the *Cafe Review*, *Cerise Press*, *Cimarron Review*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Drunken Boat*, *The Fiddlehead*, and *Sugar House Review*, among other journals. Winner of the 2013 Gemini

Poetry Contest, she received fellowships from the Elizabeth George Foundation, the Maine Community Foundation, and the Maine Arts Commission. She was nominated twice for a Pushcart Prize. A native of Germany, Leonore lives “off the grid” in Harrington, Maine. She teaches writing at the University of Maine and serves on the editorial board of the *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

**Andrea Suarez Hill** had a career in print, television, and photojournalism before moving to Jonesboro, Maine. She’s inspired by nature and the wild life on her salt water farm which she and her husband, Arthur, share with their horses and pets. Her work has been published in *The Aurorean*, *Harvest Recess*, *Picker Shacks: A Living History of Northern and Downeast Maine*, and *The Horse’s Maine and New Hampshire*.

**Carol Hobbs** is originally from Newfoundland, Canada and moved to Massachusetts in the mid-1990’s following the collapse of the fishery, and in the mass migration of islanders to parts of mainland Canada and beyond. Her poems have appeared in *The Malahat Review*, *Fiddlehead*, *The Antigonish Review*, *Cider Press Review*, *Appalachian Heritage*, *Riddle Fence*, and other magazines, journals, and anthologies in Canada, Ireland, and the United States. Her book manuscript, *New Found Lande*, received a PEN New England Discovery Prize, and under its new title *The World’s Last Polar Bear*, was named a semifinalist for the 2017 Perugia Press Prize.

**Paul Hostovsky** is the author of nine books of poetry, most recently *Is That What That Is* (FutureCycle Press, 2017). His poems have won a Pushcart Prize, two Best of the Net awards, and have been featured on *Poetry Daily*, *Verse Daily*, and *The Writer’s Almanac*. He makes his living in the Boston area as an ASL interpreter and Braille instructor. Visit him at: [www.paulhostovsky.com](http://www.paulhostovsky.com)

**Rob Hunter** is the sole support of a large orange cat and the despair of his young wife. He does dishes, mows the lawn and keeps their coastal Maine cottage spotless by moving as little as possible. Rob’s wife, Bonnie, is the secretary at a nearby rural elementary school; they live on America’s northeastern border with the Canadian Maritime Provinces. Please note that the border is on the southwest if you are in Canada. This is important if you are not a swimmer.

**Cynthia Huntington**, a Maine native, grew up in a single parent home. Her mother cut and packed sardines for Trident Fish Factory. Her earliest memories consist of fog horns, tugboats and the cry of seagulls. Her mother’s hands. Cynthia’s stories are reflections of the people she has known and her own experiences combined with her own point of view and condensed into short stories.

**Sonja Johanson** has recent work appearing in the Best American Poetry blog, *BOAAT*, *Epiphany*, and *The Writer’s Almanac*. She is a contributing editor at the *Eastern Iowa Review*, and the author of *Impossible Dovetail* (IDES, Silver Birch Press), *all those ragged scars* (Choose the Sword Press), and *Trees in Our Dooryards* (Redbird Chapbooks). Sonja divides her time between work in

Massachusetts and her home in the mountains of western Maine. You can follow her work at [www.sonjajohanson.net](http://www.sonjajohanson.net).

**Susan Johnson** lived in Nova Scotia, where her mother was born, for seven years before returning to New England. She teaches writing at UMass Amherst where she received her MFA and PhD. She has had poems published in *Poet Lore*, *Quarterly West*, *Poetry Northwest*, *Massachusetts Review*, and others. She lives in South Hadley, MA, where she eats a lot of kale.

**J. Kates** is a minor poet, a literary translator and the president and co-director of Zephyr Press. He has been awarded three National Endowment for the Arts Fellowships, an Individual Artist Fellowship from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the Cliff Becker Book Prize in Translation for the *Selected Poems of Mikhail Yeryomin* (White Pine Press, 2014). He has published three chapbooks of his own poems: *Mappemonde* (Oyster River Press), *Metes and Bounds* (Accents Publishing), and *The Old Testament* (Cold Hub Press) and a full book, *The Briar Patch* (Hobblebush Books). He is the translator of *The Score of the Game and An Offshoot of Sense* by Tatiana Shcherbina; *Say Thank You and Level with Us* by Mikhail Aizenberg; *When a Poet Sees a Chestnut Tree and Secret Wars* by Jean-Pierre Rosnay; *Corinthian Copper* by Regina Derieva; *Live by Fire* by Aleksey Porvin; *Thirty-nine Rooms*, by Nikolai Baitov; Genrikh Sapgir's *Psalms and Muddy River*, a selection of poems by Sergey Stratanovsky. He is the translation editor of *Contemporary Russian Poetry*, and the editor of *In the Grip of Strange Thoughts: Russian Poetry in a New Era*. A former president of the American Literary Translators Association, he is also the co-translator of four books of Latin American poetry.

**Chuck Kniffen** co-owns and operates Turtle Dance Totems sea-junk studio and arts cooperative, with his wife, Rhonda Welcome, in Lubec, Maine. He is a combat wounded veteran of the Vietnam War who has been penning bits and pieces since his discharge from the Green Machine. Chuck finally finished a book length war/memoir, *Fifty Years in a Foxhole*. In his wealth of free time he is an all-season kayaker, paddling in circles over the North Atlantic singing praise to...well, he says its "singing praise" but you couldn't tell by asking the urchin divers what that unholy racket was.

**Michele Leavitt**, a poet and essayist, is also a high school dropout, hepatitis C survivor, and former trial attorney. Her essays have appeared in venues including *Guernica*, *Catapult*, and *The Journal*. Poems appear recently in *North American Review*, *concis*, *Gravel*, and *Baltimore Review*.

A native New Yorker, **Carl Little** has lived in Somesville since 1989. He holds degrees from Dartmouth, Middlebury and Columbia. Prior to joining the staff at the Maine Community Foundation in 2001 as director of communications and marketing, he directed the public affairs office and the Ethel Blum Gallery at College of the Atlantic. Little has published two collections of poetry: *10,000 Dreams Explained* (Nightshade Press) and *Ocean Drinker: New & Selected Poems* (Deerbrook Editions). His poems have appeared in a number of journals, including *Black Fly Review*, *Off the Coast*, *Hudson Review*, and *Maine Times*, as well as in several anthologies edited by Wesley McNair. His poetry was recently featured in the Maine Sunday Telegram's Deep Water

series, edited by Gibson Fay-LeBlanc, and read by Stuart Kestenbaum in “Poems from Here” on Maine Public Radio.

**Joyce Joslin Lorenson** lives in Rhode Island, U.S.A., grew up on a dairy farm and records the daily happenings in nature around her rural home. She has been published in several print and electronic journals.

**Donna M. Loring** is an elder and present council member of the Penobscot Indian Nation. She held the position of the Nation’s Representative to the Maine State Legislature for over a decade. She authored and sponsored LD 291 “An Act to Require Teaching Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine’s Schools” which Governor Angus King signed into law on June 14th 2001. **The law is changing the way Maine views it’s history.** Loring is a graduate of the University of Maine at Orono where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Donna is the President of Seven Eagles Media productions, a Vietnam Veteran (Long Binh 1967-1968), and author of *In the Shadow of the Eagle: A Tribal Representative in Maine*, a journal of her experiences in the Maine State Legislature as a Non-voting Tribal Representative. She the author of the musical *Glooskape Chronicles Creation* and the *Venetian Basket*. Donna was featured in the Maine Sunday Telegram as one of ten women “Making a Difference in Maine” and making Maine a better place to live and hosts a monthly radio show, “Wabanaki Windows” on WERU Community Radio. The University of New England houses her papers and sponsors an annual lecture series in her name. Donna is a member of the Deborah Morton Society of the University of New England and a member of the International Women’s Forum (IWF). In 2017, Donna was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Maine.

**Frederick Lowe** is a half-time resident of Maine, a full-time poet, and a semi-retired psychotherapist. Lowe has had a home in the far Downeast for nearly 45 years, and the region has inspired most of his work. Fred “came back” to Maine, his paternal family having come from Deer Isle, ME to Brooklyn, NY more than 100 years ago, recruited as New York Harbor Pilots. A great-great grandmother was a Penobscot Native American. Fred is a two-time Pushcart nominee and has published in a number of print and on-line journals in the US, Great Britain, and Ireland. See [fredlowepoet.com](http://fredlowepoet.com)

**Sharon Mack** is a retired journalist living on the bold coast of Downeast Maine. After 35 years of telling other people’s stories, she is now telling her own. She has been previously published in *Left Hook*, *The Feminine Collective*, *Working Waterfront* and *The Bangor Daily News*. She won the 2017 Prize in Prose Award from *five80split* literary and arts journal.

**Dr. Charles McGowan** is happy on either side of the northeast U.S./Canada border. He crossed it from birth in 1931 through the present and revived tales of farm, forest, friends, and family in a recently authored book. He had the good fortune to marry an artist who loved the coastline from Cape Cod to Calais as much as he appreciated the Great North Woods. They nurtured ten children while he practiced oral and maxillofacial surgery. A natural story-teller committed to

heritage, he blends first hand with research when paying homage to each account, legend, or yarn.

Poet **Mark Melnicove** lives in Dresden and is a former publisher and editor. Melnicove received his MFA in literature and writing from Bennington College and teaches creative writing, humanities, and film studies at Falmouth HS, Falmouth, Maine. He is also a member of the faculty of the USM Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing program and has been executive director of the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance. He was one of the founders of Tilbury House Publishers in Gardiner, ME.

**Rowan Miller** is a 3rd year Creative Writing and Political Science student at University of New Brunswick Fredericton. He is also the 2014 winner of the Walter Edgar Prize in Youth Short Prose from the University of South Carolina Honours College, judged by the late Pat Conroy. Rowan is fascinated by the intersection of the hidden and cultures and histories that together form the mosaic of Canadian and American life. Though born in British Columbia, he spent many years in SC, and his family traditionally hails from the Maritimes, with a history that goes back hundreds of years on the Kingston peninsula. He is trying to get in touch with the Maritime experience, its isolation, history, and divisions through writing.

**Caroline Misner** is a graduate of Sheridan College of Applied Arts & Technology with a diploma in Media Arts Writing. Misner's poetry, fiction and non-fiction have appeared in journals throughout the USA, Canada, India, and the UK, as well as anthologies and webzines. She writes erotica under the pseudonym Cynthia Lucas and her stories have appeared in several publications and anthologies. In 2009, she was nominated for the prestigious Writers' Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Anthology Prize as well as a Pushcart Prize in 2010 and 2011.

**Sarah Xerar Murphy:** Interpreter, translator, community activist, award winning author; performance, visual and spoken word artist, Sarah Xerar Murphy has published, performed, shown, and toured in Mexico, Spain, the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. Winner of Canada's Golden Beret Award as well as an Arts Council England International Artist's fellowship, Murphy has eight books and one sound art/spoken word CD to her credit. Of Choctaw, Irish, English, German, and Latino heritage, Murphy was encouraged from childhood by her Choctaw father, William D. Sherar to view our Turtle Island as one world. Brought up in Brooklyn, she has spent her adult life in Mexico and Canada, and currently in Bocabec, New Brunswick. Her work as a refugee advocate and worries about our world's turn toward xenophobia, as well as her love of her new home, are reflected in her piece.

**Susan Nisenbaum Becker's** poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *The MacGuffin*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Harvard Review*, *Salamander*, *Comstock Review*, *Slipstream*, *Calyx* and *Talking Writing* among others. She is a playwright, actor and arts organizer for which she has received numerous Local Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants, and has been a feature on local cable television arts programs. Susan has been awarded residencies at the Banff Center for the Arts, Yaddo, the

MacDowell Colony, the Ragdale Foundation and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and was nominated for a 2012 Pushcart Prize. Her first full-length book of poems, *Little Architects of Time and Space*, was published by WordTech Communications/Word Poetry in 2013.

**Ellie O'Leary** writes about growing up in the village of Freedom, Maine. She has won the Martin Dibner Memorial Fellowship in poetry, is the previous host of Writers Forum on WERU-FM, and has taught at Pyramid Life Center (NY) and Belfast (Maine) Senior College. She has an MFA in poetry from the Stonecoast MFA program. [www.EllieOLeary.com](http://www.EllieOLeary.com)

**Fredda Paul**, is a Passamaquoddy elder and healer from the Pleasant Point reservation in Maine. One of the most influential people in Fredda's life was his grandmother, Grace Lewey. She was a well-respected medicine woman, and became Fredda's teacher and mentor from the time he was a teenager, upon his return from Indian Residential School in Nova Scotia. Because of his enthusiasm for learning, it wasn't long before he was chosen by his grandmother to carry on the tradition of Passamaquoddy medicine. His mother, Annie Paul, was a well-known sweet grass braider and a spiritual leader of the tribe. She raised eight children, working for many years in the sardine factory. She spoke mostly Passamaquoddy and enough of the English language to communicate very well. Fredda's father, Michael Paul, was Mik'maq – from Escasonie, Nova Scotia. In 2007, Fredda was given an honorary citation from Unity College for his work to keep traditional medicine alive.

**John Perrault** is the author of *The Ballad of Louis Wagner* (Peter Randall Publisher, 2009), *Here Comes the Old Man Now* (Oyster River Press, 2005), and *Jefferson's Dream* (Hobblebush Books, 2009.) His poetry has appeared in *Christian Science Monitor*, *Commonweal*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Off the Coast*, and elsewhere. He was Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, NH, 2003–2005. [www.johnperrault.com](http://www.johnperrault.com)

An Oregon native, **Patrick Gentry Pierce** has found his true home in the Northeast. A life-long practicing sculptor and poet, Pierce lives and works on his ArtFarm in Saco, Maine. He studied Literary arts at Trinity College and sharpened his wits in New York, with a further degree at Adelphi. He is active in the New England poetry circuit, and his latest book of poems, *Telegraphs*, will be published in this spring.

**Bruce Pratt** is the winner of the 2007 Ellipsis Prize in poetry and a finalist for the Erskine J. Poetry award from Smartish Pace. His poems have appeared in *The Book of Villanelles* from Knopf's Everyman Series, the anthology *Only Connect* (Cinnamon Press, Wales), *Smartish Pace*, *Puckerbrush Review*, *The Hiram Poetry Review*, *The Naugatuck Review*, and many similar publications in the United States and abroad. Pratt's poetry collection, *Boreal*, is available from Antrim House Books. Pratt edits *American Fiction* and is the past Director of the Northern Writes Project at Penobscot Theatre Company. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College with a BA in Religious Studies, the University of Maine with an MA in English, and the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast MFA in Creative Writing program with a degree in creative writing. He and his wife, Janet, live in Eddington, Maine. [www.bep Pratt.com](http://www.bep Pratt.com)

**Patricia Smith Ranzoni:** Born up the Penobscot River in Lincoln, Maine in 1940 to a Canadian-American woodsman from Webster Plantation and an 8th generation Yankee farm girl of coastal Maine, both descended from mixed Native and European wilderness and border/borderless peoples as far back as can be found, so far, in what became Maritime Canada and Maine, Patricia Smith Ranzoni and family tend one of the subsistence farms of her youth in Bucksport, where her father became a rigger at the paper mill after WWII and where she has been named Poet Laureate “for as long as she shall live.” A retired education and mental health consultant, she is self- and folk-schooled in poetry to which she turned in midlife to document the disappearing ways of her people. Published across the U.S. and abroad, her work is drawn from for courses and archives of Maine’s writers and history and class, most recently in *Bedding Vows, Love Poems From Outback Maine* (North Country Press 2012), her twelfth title; and an anthology, *Still Mill, Poems, Stories & Songs of Making Paper in Bucksport, Maine* (North Country Press, 2017) of which she is editor.

**Susan Reilly** is the originator, editor, and publisher of *The Fridge: a Lubec Community Calendar*. *The Fridge* includes Ms. Reilly’s short column “From the Back of The Fridge.” Ms. Reilly is a former columnist for *Lights on Lubec*, *The Lubec Light*, the *Maine Women’s Journal*, and the *Seguin Beacon*. The author has had essay published in the former *Maine Times* and aired on *Maine Public Radio*. Her work appeared in the *Aputamkon Review*, Volumes 1,2,3, and 4. Ms. Reilly’s e-book, *Readers’ Revenge: A Book Group Novel* is available online. The author lives year-round in Lubec.

**Bunny L. Richards** lives in a log cabin in Trescott Township which she built with her husband, Lew, in 1981. Her family in Trescott includes their cat Emmy Lou and resident porcupines, Baby G. and Margie. Bunny’s passions are reading, writing, and listening to Red Sox baseball on the radio.

**JD Rule**, the Resident Novelist in the easternmost town in the United States, has ten titles currently in print, including eight novels. Most deal with that elusive boundary that separates people, even when they are unaware of the sharp edges. Rule earned his MBA before moving to Maine, and has never looked back. The son of a cold-war military officer who attended four high schools, he has lived on both coasts, abroad, in the heartland, and draws from experiences collected along the way. Much of his career involved the auto industry as a customer-relations manager charged with keeping owners happy and the company out of court, providing a rich background for fiction. Since arriving in Maine he has coached creative writing as an adjunct to a popular music education program, writes for the local newspaper, and currently has two new works in the hopper. His most treasured award is for perfect attendance at North Kingston Junior High, in Rhode Island.

**Cheryl Savageau**, of Abenaki and French-Canadian heritage, was born in central Massachusetts. She graduated from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, and studied writing at the People’s Poets and Writers Workshop in Worcester. She is the author of the poetry collections *Home Country* (1992), *Dirt Road Home: Poems* (1995) nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Mother/Land* (2006). Savageau’s poetry retells Abenaki stories, often focusing on the unrecognized



lives of women and the working class; her work is enriched by the landscape and ecology of New England. Her knowledge of lakes, ecology, and the importance of storytelling informed her children's book *Muskrat Will Be Swimming* (1996), a winner of the Notable Book for Children Award from the Smithsonian and the Skipping Stones Book Award for Exceptional Multicultural and Ecology and Nature Books. Savageau has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Arts Foundation. She has been a mentor to Native American writers through the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers.

**Catherine Schmitt** is the author of *A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine from Cape Cod to Canada*, *The President's Salmon: Restoring the King of Fish and its Home Waters*, and *Historic Acadia National Park*. Her writing has appeared in newspapers, magazines, and literary journals including *Island Journal*; *Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors*; *Friends of Acadia Journal*; *Terrain*; and *1966*. Schmitt has undergraduate and graduate degrees in environmental science, and has worked in lakes, streams, wetlands, and beaches throughout the Northeast. She earned a Stonecoast MFA in creative nonfiction in 2012. As communications director for Maine Sea Grant, Schmitt conveys research findings and information about ocean and coastal issues to various audiences. *A Coastal Companion* is part of this effort, as is her role as managing editor for *The Catch: Writings from Downeast Maine*. Catherine Schmitt is on the Maine Writers & Publishers Alliance Board of Directors, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Museum Board of Directors, and the Board of the Somes Pond Center. She is a member of the National Association of Science Writers.

**Lee Sharkey** is the author of *Walking Backwards* (Tupelo, 2016), *Calendars of Fire* (Tupelo, 2013), *A Darker, Sweeter String* (Off the Grid, 2008), and eight earlier full-length poetry collections and chapbooks. Her recognitions include the Ballymaloe International Poetry Prize, Abraham Sutzkever Centennial Translation Prize, the Maine Arts Commission's Fellowship in Literary Arts, the Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance's Distinguished Achievement Award, the RHINO Editor's Prize, the Shadowgraph Poetry Prize, and Zone 3's Rainmaker Award in Poetry. She teaches creative writing to adults recovering from mental illness and serves as senior editor of the *Beloit Poetry Journal*.

**Grace Sheridan** and her spouse Neil live in Cutler, Maine. Her life story includes Acton, MA, Gordon College, fourth grade classrooms, two sons, Civil Service, and a granddaughter. She credits Sunrise Senior College instructors and the Salt Coast Sages for encouraging her post-retirement interest in poetry.

**Karen Skolfield's** book, *Frost in the Low Areas* (Zone 3 Press), won the 2014 PEN New England Award in poetry. She is the winner of the 2016 Jeffrey E. Smith Editors' Prize in poetry from *The Missouri Review* and has received awards and fellowships from the Poetry Society of America, New England Public Radio, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Split This Rock, and elsewhere. She teaches writing to engineers at the University of Massachusetts.

**Karin Spitfire** is an artist whose chooses her medium to match her need for expression. Her major forms are poetry and artist books. Spitfire has studied writing with Barbara Maria and book arts

at USM with Rebecca Goodale, at Haystack and Pendland with Eileen Wallace. She currently runs a letterpress studio at the Steelhouse in Rockland with graphic designer Richard Smith. Spitfire is the author of *Standing with Trees* and *Wild Caught*. Her poetry has been published in numerous print and on-line literary magazines, and she was Poet Laureate of Belfast, Maine in 2007 & 2008.

**Elizabeth Sprague** earned her MFA in Creative Writing at Mills College with a collection of short stories and was twice awarded the Reinhardt Prize for Fiction. She has been Co-Director of the Bay Area Writers' Workshop and a reader at *Fish Stories*, a literary journal, in Chicago. Elizabeth is listed in *Feminists Who Changed America 1963-1975*. She lives in East Machias and teaches fiction writing in the Amherst Writers & Artists Method. Her short fiction has been published in *The Walrus* and *Bakunin*. *This That This* has been featured in The Equinox Petroglyph Exhibition, a multimedia response by Indigenous and European-descent women and children to the petroglyphs of Machias Bay.

**Emma Suárez-Báez** holds a Master's Degree in Bilingual Education and works with children and teachers at P.S. 340 in Bronx, New York. She left Puerto Rico at seventeen to pursue a career as a professional dancer in New York City. Writing has been the thread that allowed her to stitch together the loss of territorial, cultural, linguistic and relational continuity to the complex and confusing experiences that leaving your country brings. She was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico to a "feminist without a tag" and a man "who walked to school without shoes" —her mom and dad. Emma writes to uncover what is hidden. In her writing process, she works in two languages, and whether the product reveals it or not, she crafts words together to reflect the fabric of a bilingual mind and self.

**David R. Surette's** new book of poetry, *Stable*, earned an Honors Award at this year's Massachusetts Book Awards. He is the author of four other collections: *Wicked Hard*, *The Immaculate Conception Mothers' Club*, *Young Gentlemen's School* and *Easy to Keep, Hard to Keep In*, which earned Highly Recommended status at the 8th Annual Massachusetts Book Awards. He teaches English and coaches varsity hockey at East Bridgewater High School. He lives on Cape Cod.

**Jeri Theriault**, of French Canadian heritage, grew up in Waterville. Her father's father came to Maine from Quebec in the early 20th century, "No wonder my father spoke French almost exclusively until he went into the Marines at age 18!" Theriault has three chapbooks, the latest of which, *In the Museum of Surrender* won the 2013 Encircle chapbook contest. Her full-length collection *Radost, My Red* was released in July 2016 by Moon Pie Press. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Atlanta Review*, *Rhino*, *The Paterson Literary Review* and *Off the Coast*. A three-time Pushcart Prize nominee and a Fulbright recipient, she holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives in South Portland.

**Cindy Veach's** poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Poet Lore*, *Zone 3*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Journal*, *North American Review*, *Off the Coast* and elsewhere and work is forthcoming

in *Agni* and *Nimrod*. Her debut poetry collection, *Gloved Against Blood*, is forthcoming from CavanKerry Press (fall 2017). She manages fundraising programs for non-profit organizations and lives in Manchester by the Sea, Massachusetts.

**Robert J. Ward** is a retired high school English teacher who has always lived in Massachusetts. The poem, "Descent Into Harvey," expresses a wish to transcend a geographical boundary. It was inspired by his second trip to Atlantic Canada to delve into family history, but his first time at that particular border crossing.

Danielle Woerner is a writer, songwriter, singer, educator, and the co-founder of Sunrise County Arts Institute in Milbridge, ME. Her journalistic work and poetry have been featured in national publications including *Newsweek*, *Classical Singer*, and *New Music Connoisseur*; regional monthlies including *Hudson Valley Magazine* and *Chronogram*; and weekly newspapers from the Woodstock (NY) Times to the Machias Valley News Observer. Danielle began writing haiku in earnest in 2012, to cope with "prose burnout" after cranking out a 50,000-word NaNoWriMo novel draft in 30 days. She and her husband, formerly vacationers on the Downeast-Acadia coast, then part-timers in Milbridge for several years, have resided in the town full-time since 2014. Most of her recent haiku are observations of life and nature in Downeast Maine.

**Leslie Wood** is an artist and writer who grew up in Kentucky. She has a Master's degree in art education, and taught art in Kentucky for many years. Since 2002, she has been working with Fredda Paul on a project to preserve, through words, images, and interviews with other tribal members, the fast-disappearing knowledge of healing with native plants. She has been writing Fredda's stories, passed to her through Fredda's oral telling. She is a proud forager of food and medicine, and considers dandelions and goose tongue greens among her favorite foods.