

2023 RELEASES



etruscan press





etruscan press

bearing imagination

www.etruscanpress.org

Etruscan Press is a nonprofit organization producing and promoting books that nurture a dialogue among genres and cultures. We encourage you to join and support our mission. For more information visit our website or email us at books@etruscanpress.org.

A note from the Executive Director...

2023 has been a year of transitions at Etruscan. Our managing editor, Bill Schneider, is moving to a consulting role as financial advisor. Bill has done a superb job coordinating Etruscan's operations for the last eight years and we're forever grateful. Replacing Bill at the helm is Amanda Rabadueux, an MFA graduate of the Wilkes Creative Writing Program and author of the award-winning chapbook, *Resin in the Milky Way*. We're delighted to welcome Amanda back to Etruscan. I say "back" because formerly, as a graduate assistant, she acted as our social media maven. Congratulations, Amanda, on this well-deserved promotion. Already you are doing us proud.

Amid all these changes we've had the good fortune to release seven new exciting titles in an array of genres—international essays by Ru Freeman, poetry by Michael Waters, a debut collection by Felice Belle, noir-detective verse by Aaron Poochigian, poetry and paintings by Darrell Bourque and Bill Gingles, and a *Tribus* by Katherine Soniat, D.M. Spitzer and Anne Pedone. Our last title of the fall season is *American Mother*, an inspiring memoir of radical empathy by National Book Award winner Colum McCann with Diane Foley, which will appear in a stunning cloth edition in March '24 along with an audio recording voiced by McCann and Jamie Lee Curtis.

Never have we had a more robust and diverse selection of new works, illustrating our mission to nurture a dialogue among genres and culture.

Founders

Philip Brady, Executive Director; Robert Mooney, Executive Editor; Steve Oristaglio, Business Advisor

Special Advisers

Robert Carioscia, David Hicks

Associates

Amanda Rabadueux, Managing Editor; Bill Schneider, Consulting Editor; Pamela Turchin, Production Editor; Jillian Benedict, Molly Bilinski, Ashlee Harry, Tommy Mihalopoulos, Carlos Pereira, Graduate Assistants; Mary Poth, Grant Coordinator; John Al, Michael Bratton, Jessica Grassano, Drew Haritos, Alex Horne, Kevin Flook, Katie King, Hallie O'Neill, Jessica Van Orden, Interns; Cynthia Kolanowski, Outreach Coordinator; Ashlee Harry, Social Media Editor; Jason Miller, Associate Editor; Andrew Wilczak, Wilkes University Liaison; Kristina Darling, Publicist; Justin Bodnar, Technical Liaison; Shawn Hatten, Videographer; Douglas Martin, Website Designer

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Designers

Todd Espenshade, Jason Miller, Aaron Petrovich, Julianne Popovec, Lisa E. Reynolds, Logan Rock, Carey Schwartzburt

poetry • fiction • creative nonfiction

Cover image: Jonathan Wiggs / *The Boston Globe* via Getty Images

Catalog design: Jason Miller



Small press. Big opportunity.

Interested in publishing? Want to experience working for a small press? We have just the opportunity for you. Etruscan Press offers a variety of internships to help you acquire valuable skills and credentials while learning the publishing world from the inside. There are many aspects of running a small press, and we are on the lookout for folks interested in writing, editing, marketing, design, public relations, social media, and business.

We may have just the internship you are looking for.



etruscan press

Design and Editing

For interns interested in graphic art, cover and interior design, Etruscan provides a hands-on opportunity. Interns see their classroom experiences enhanced and their creative ideas come to fruition through design.

Social Media

Interns with an interest in social media help expand Etruscan's Internet presence via social networking sites. Tech-savvy interns may work with Etruscan authors on filming and editing a webinar program that will be used to educate authors in self-marketing techniques. Other projects include researching new networking opportunities, marketing through social media, and author publicity.

Marketing and Publicity

Marketing interns work with authors to promote individual titles, arrange readings and book signings, interact with universities and libraries, research marketing niches, and partner with bookstores and other potential venues for author appearances.

Community Outreach

Outreach interns explore opportunities to bring Etruscan books and authors to classrooms and other learning venues. Working independently or in concert with the Outreach Coordinator, interns develop educational material for particular student populations.

Grant and Promotional Writing

Interns research new funding sources and draft grants to support new projects. Interns also work on publication releases, as well as draft promotional copy for new books, website, and other venues.

Website Development

Interns with interest or experience in web design and development can undertake a variety of projects as Etruscan continues to enhance its virtual presence with content updates, author and book information, new design elements, literary reviews, and social networking.

For more information, visit <https://etruscanpress.org/internship-opportunities/>



Fates (Tribus)

The Medea Notebooks, Starfish Wash-Up, and overflow of an unknown self

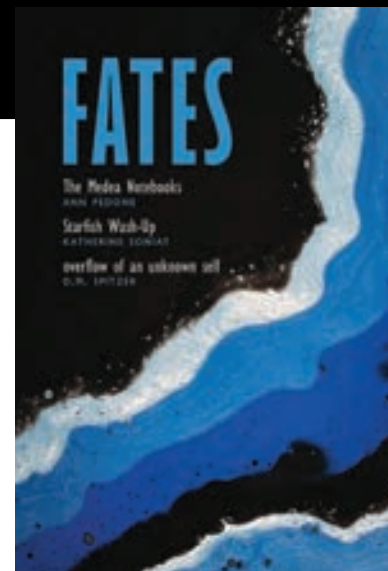
Poetry

ANN PEDONE, KATHERINE SONIAT, D. M. SPITZER

Available Spring 2023

Fates is three books in one, with the poets braiding destinies by reimagining stories from the past.

In *The Medea Notebooks*, Ann Pedone weaves together three stories of marriage and murder, sex, and infidelity; the book seeks to explore and complicate our understanding of love, female sexual desire, and betrayal. In *Starfish Wash-Up*, Katherine Soniat explores themes of missing parents through the discovery of a 19th-century watercolor portrait of Telemachus kneeling by the Aegean seashore. In *overflow of an unknown self: a song of songs*, D. M. Spitzer opens an ancient poem, the Song of Solomon, to and for the trans- moment.



7 x 10 | 232 pp | \$20.00 | 978-1-7364946-8-4

Mr. Either/Or: All the Rage

Fiction

AARON POOCHIGIAN

Available Spring 2023

Mouthy and seemingly unkillable FBI agent code name: Mr. Either/Or is back for more poetry and adventures. In this second installment, he must negotiate the moods of his girlfriend Li-ling Levine while fighting to thwart militant anarchist Stavros Canard's plan to reduce humanity to chaos and violence.

Aaron Poochigian's latest book *American Divine*, the winner of the Richard Wilbur Award, came out in 2021. His other poetry collections are *Manhattanite* (Able Muse Press, 2017), winner of the 2016 Able Muse Book Award, and *The Cosmic Purr* (Able Muse Press, 2012). His first thriller in verse, *Mr. Either/Or*, was released by Etruscan Press in the fall of 2017.



6 x 9 | 152 pp | \$18.00 | 979-8-9858824-3-8



Viscera

Poetry

FELICE BELLE

Available Spring 2023

Inspired by pop culture patron saints and crime procedurals, Felice Belle's *Viscera* investigates how to transfigure a fractured soul into a fully realized mosaic. Set in New York City, circa now, the poet protagonist interrogates the cultural belief systems that bind and ultimately finds freedom in relentless self-definition.

As a poet and playwright, Belle has performed at the Apollo Theater, Joe's Pub at the Public Theater, TEDWomen and TEDCity2.0. Her writing has

been published in several journals and anthologies including *Oral Tradition*, *Bum Rush the Page* and *UnCommon Bonds: Women Reflect on Race and Friendship*. Playwriting credits include *Other Women*, *Game On!* and *It Is Reasonable to Expect*.

6 x 9 | 96 pp | \$17.00 | 979-8-9858824-0-7



Bon Courage

Essays on Inheritance, Citizenship, and a Creative Life

Essays

RU FREEMAN

Available Spring 2023

This collection is Ru Freeman's attempt to train her eye on what is unfolding around her, as well as herself, all of it viewed through a kaleidoscope constructed of four mirrors: place, culture, politics, and a self that shares its borders with all three. She participates intimately while bringing global perspectives to subjects as diverse as Bowie and Dylan, Palestine, 9/11, hairstyles, personal and cultural identity, and #MeToo.

Freeman is a Sri Lankan and American writer, poet, and activist whose work appears internationally in English and in translation. She is the author of *Sleeping Alone*, *A Disobedient Girl*, and *On Sal Mal Lane*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice Book. She is a winner of the Mariella Gable Award for Fiction and the JH Kafka Prize for Fiction by an American Woman.

6 x 9 | 240 pp | \$19.00 | 978-1-7364946-7-7

Until We Talk

Poetry

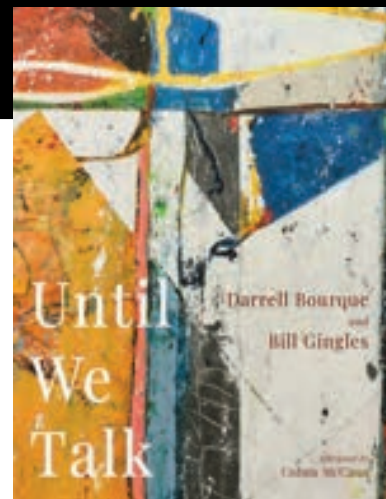
DARRELL BOURQUE, BILL GINGLES

Available Fall 2023

Inspired by the abstract expressionist paintings of Bill Gingles and the powerful narrative in the award-winning novel *Apeirogon* by Irish-American writer Colum McCann, Darrell Bourque's collection suggests that all stories are part of the larger human story, the larger story of the planet, and the larger stories of politics and history and art and human rights—along with the terror and hate and division that are also part of those stories.

Bourque has served as a Louisiana Poet Laureate and was recipient of the Louisiana Book Festival's Writer Award and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Humanist of the Year Award. His publications include *Burnt Water Suite*, *The Blue Boat*, *In Ordinary Light—New and Selected Poems*, *Megan's Guitar and Other Poems from Acadie*, and *migraré*. He is professor emeritus of English at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

6 x 9 | 144 pp | \$30.00 | 979-8-9858824-1-4



Sinnerman

Poetry

MICHAEL WATERS

Available Fall 2023

In his collection, Michael Waters employs his signature sensual phrasings to praise the “uncommon” in our domestic lives. A fire escape, a fire hydrant, a father's comb, the mosaic of a bull in an Italian shopping mall, a soul in flight—all assume resonance “that they may shine more darkly” in the light of Waters' words.

Waters is the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Fulbright Foundation, and New Jersey State Council on the Arts. His books of poetry include *Caw* (2020) and *The Dean of Discipline* (2018), and his co-edited anthologies include *Border Lines: Poems of Migration* (2020).

6 x 9 | 96 pp | \$17.00 | 979-8-9858824-4-5



American Mother



Nonfiction

COLUM MCCANN with DIANE FOLEY
Available Fall 2023

National Book Award-winning author Colum McCann channels Diane Foley's voice as she tells her story, as the mother of American journalist Jim Foley – in search of answers, beyond justice, found through dogged, empathetic, spiritual enquiry.

In late 2021, Diane Foley sat at a table across from her son's killer, Alexandra Kotev, a member of the ISIS group known as "The Beatles" who plead guilty to the kidnapping, torture, and murder of her son seven years before. Kotev

was about to go serve life imprisonment and this was Diane's chance to talk to the man who had been involved with brutally taking her son's last breath. What would she say to his killer? What would he reveal to her? Might she even be able to summon forgiveness for him?

So begins *American Mother* — which reads alternately like a thriller, a biography, a mystery, a memoir, and a literary examination of grace.

Diane looks back on the early days when Jim was a child and his journey to journalism, and the killing fields of the world where he reports with indefatigable determination and insight on the plight of those caught up in the agonies of war. She guides us through her family history and the difficulties they faced when Jim was captured. And she also charts the tenacity it takes to turn her grief into grace as she seeks to give voice to those who are still being kidnapped and wrongfully detained around the world.

Few journeys are more worthy than this and, in this astonishing book, we are all invited to celebrate the lives of those who are never, in the end, gone.

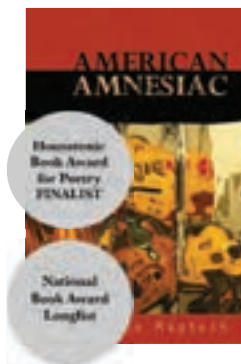
COMPLETE BACKLIST



50 Miles
Sheryl St. Germain

50 Miles is a memoir in linked essays that addresses addiction and alcoholism. The book traces the life and death of the author's son, Gray, a talented but troubled young man.

Essays, 200 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9997534-4-6)
eBook \$9.99 (978-0-9997534-9-1)



American Amnesiac
Diane Raptosh

The manic journey of a man stripped of being American in an age of corruption, corporations, and global conflict.

Poetry, 96 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9839346-6-0)



Aard-vark to Axolotl
Karen Donovan

Donovan creates a series of whimsical narratives based on illustrations from an old dictionary. The juxtaposition of image and text surprises and delights, making us wonder about the frangibility of all definitions.

Essays, 107 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9977455-6-6)



American Anger: An Evidentiary
H. L. Hix

More than an expressive book of poems, this work is an evidentiary of civility and self-correction born from the poet's own philosophical work.



All the Difference
Patricia Horvath

All the Difference is a captivating account of the author's transformation from a disabled young woman to someone who could pass for able-bodied, detailing experiences with bracing and spinal fusion and the literature of physical transformation.

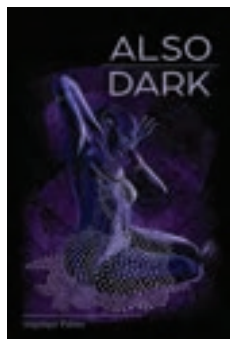
Memoir, 188 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9903221-9-1)
eBook \$15.99 (978-0-9977455-7-3)



American Fugue
Alexis Stamatis

This literary thriller follows the odyssey of a Greek writer traveling a strange and compelling landscape, where he re-discovers America—and himself.

Fiction, 353 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9797450-2-7)



Also Dark
Angelique Palmer

A Black Woman Queer Mama forges her own armor and creates her own path. Bigotry, ageism, sexism, colorism, homophobia, and ableism are given voice and a voracious opponent in her poems.

Poetry, 88 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9897532-7-2)



An Archaeology of Yearning
Bruce Mills

Mills' remarkable memoir maps the artifacts of the life of a father and his autistic son as they learn the depth of relationships.

Memoir, 232 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9839346-9-1)
eBook \$14.99 (978-0-9886922-2-0)

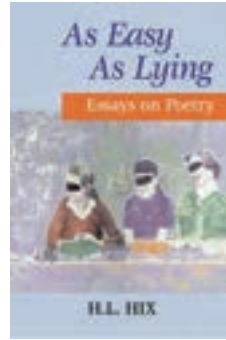
COMPLETE BACKLIST



Arcadia Road: A Trilogy
Thorpe Moeckel

Consisting of three long poems—narrative, lyrical, meditative—Moeckel's poetry is as audacious as it is down-to-earth, and as strange as it is intimate.

Poetry, 208 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-09897532-5-8)



*As Easy As Lying:
Essays on Poetry*
H. L. Hix

Accessible and ebullient, these essays delve into the workings of the poetic mind and offer keen assessments of contemporary American poets and poetics.

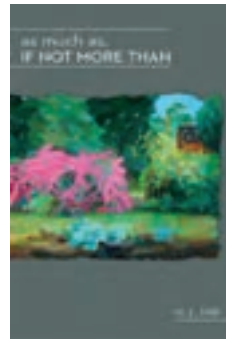
Literary Criticism, 148 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9718228-3-2)



Areas of Fog
Will Dowd

This collection of essays takes us on a journey through one year of New England weather. *Areas of Fog* combines wit and poetry with humor and erudition in a fun, breezy, and discursive read.

Essays, 160 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9977455-3-5)
eBook \$15.00 (978-0-9977455-9-7)



As Much As, If Not More Than
H. L. Hix

As Much As is an intellectual venture, testing the boundary between poetry and prose.

Poetry, 184 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9886922-1-3)



The Arsonist's Song Has Nothing to Do With Fire
Allison Titus

This highly compressed prose poem of a novel explores the loneliness of three misfits—a wallflower, an arsonist, and a doctor—as they attempt to reconnect to the modern world.

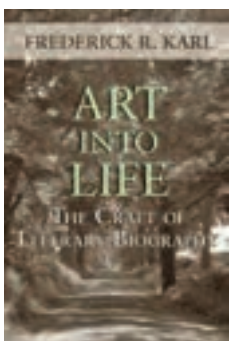
Fiction, 244 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9886922-5-1)
eBook \$9.99 (978-0-9886922-7-5)



Bestiality of the Involved
Spring Ulmer

What does it mean to want to become a mother, as children around the world die of treatable diseases, are killed by bomb or bullet, are held in cages? In *Bestiality of the Involved*, Spring Ulmer lives this question out loud, refusing any easy answer.

Essays, 208 pages, trade paper
\$19.00 (978-1-7336741-2-6)



Art Into Life
Frederick R. Karl

Art Into Life collects essays on biography by one of the twentieth century's most distinguished biographers, Frederick R. Karl.

Literary Criticism, 295 pages, hardcover
\$29.95 (978-0-9745995-3-3)

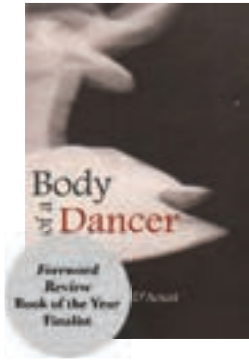


Black Metamorphoses
Shanta Lee Gander

Black Metamorphoses pierces a 2,000+ year-old veil inspired by a range of Ovidian myths while resisting a direct conversion of the work.

Poetry, 114 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-1-7364946-6-0)

COMPLETE BACKLIST



Body of a Dancer
Renée D'Aoust

Body of a Dancer provides a powerful, acidly comic record of what it is to love, and eventually leave, a life centered on dance.

Memoir, 154 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9832944-1-2)
eBook \$14.99 (978-0-9839346-1-5)



The Casanova Chronicles
Myrna Stone

In this book of voices, speakers resurrected from the deeper past and the dead chafe against the circumstances of love, sex, loss, and longing.

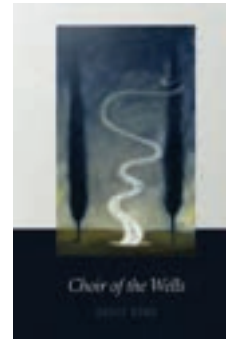
Poetry, 72 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9819687-3-5)



The Burning House
Paul Lisicky

The Burning House finds its narrator at his most vulnerable, and explores what it means to be a good man amidst chaos.

Fiction, 126 pages, trade paper
\$14.95 (978-0-9819687-8-0)
eBook \$14.99 (978-0-9832944-6-7)



Choir of the Wells
Bruce Bond

Choir of the Wells is a tetralogy that coheres as a singular exploration of the mind-body problem grounded in daily heartbreak, wonder, novelty, and compulsion.

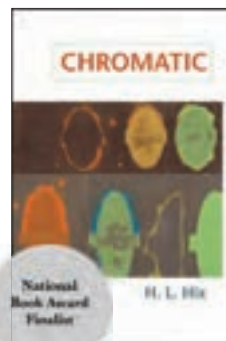
Poetry, 232 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9839346-5-3)



The Candle: Poems of Our 20th Century Holocausts
William Heyen

Heyen wrote the record, unlike any other in our literature, of a poet staring into the central atrocities of our 20th century to find ways to realize, to understand, to remember.

Poetry, 352 pages, trade paper
\$18.00 (978-0-9903221-7-7)



Chromatic
H. L. Hix

Chromatic examines the effects of human desire and explores the full range of effects caused by human emotion.

Poetry, 69 pages, trade paper
\$15.95 (978-0-9745995-6-4)



Cannot Stay: Essays on Travel
Kevin Oderman

These dozen essays explore Oderman's journeys from arid lands to tropical and spooky destinations.

Essays, 238 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-09897532-8-9)
eBook \$15.99 (978-0-9903221-0-8)



Cinder
Bruce Bond

With the luminous precision of music, Bruce Bond has crafted a generous and urgent collection of poems, a work that celebrates the human condition and terrifies us with it in equal measure.

Poetry, 66 pages, trade paper
\$14.95 (978-0-9718228-5-6)

COMPLETE BACKLIST



Clay and Star: Selected Poems
by
Liliana Ursu
Translated by Mihaela Moscaliuc

In *Clay and Star*, Romanian poet Liliana Ursu captures with breathtaking precision the convergence of the sacred with the mundane.

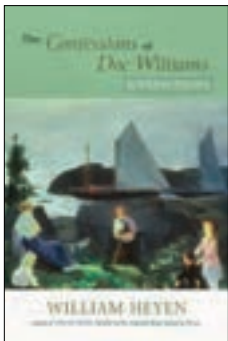
Poetry, 96 pages, trade paper



Crow Man
Tom Bailey

These eleven quintessentially American stories fully demonstrate our unstinting capacity for love and loss.

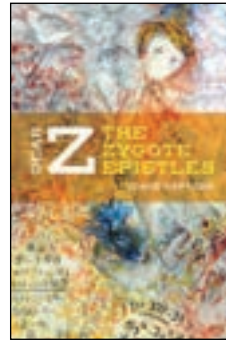
Fiction, 179 pages, hardcover
\$22.95 (978-0-9718228-8-7)



The Confessions of Doc Williams and Other Poems
William Heyen

The “urgency and authenticity” and the “plain directness” of Heyen’s voice ring true in this collection, Heyen’s eighteenth volume of poetry.

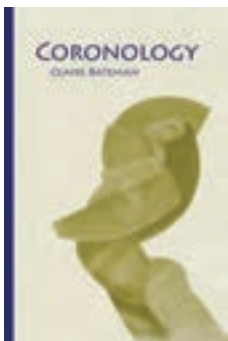
Poetry, 74 pages, trade paper
\$15.95 (978-0-9745995-5-7)



Dear Z: The Zygote Epistles
Diane Raptosh

Dear Z collects verse-letters to a newly fertilized zygote—not quite a person, nor even an embryo—but rather, the great human *maybe*. The speaker delivers the “Z” a taste of what this might mean in poems whose topical range traipses from Autofill to Idaho, New Zealand rivers to the Zombie Apocalypse.

Poetry, 112 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9997534-5-3)



Coronology
Claire Bateman

Through a variety of questions both overt and embedded, the poems in this collection explore the inexplicable too-muchness/not-enoughness of imaginative experience.

Poetry, 71 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9819687-5-9)



Demonstrategy:
Poetry, For and Against
H. L. Hix

Demonstrategy shows that in an ever more technological, globalized, and privatized world, poetry is more important, not less.

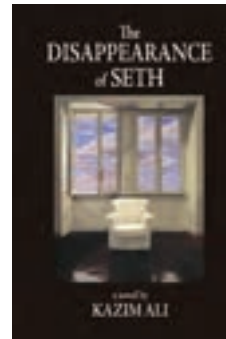
Essays, 200 pages, trade paper
\$18.00 (978-0-9997534-1-5)
eBook \$18.95 (978-1-7336741-0-2)



Crave: Sojourn of a Hungry Soul
Laurie Jean Cannady

This coming-of-age memoir chronicles a young girl’s journey through abuse and impoverishment.

Memoir, 384 pages, trade paper
\$19.00 (978-0-9897532-9-6)

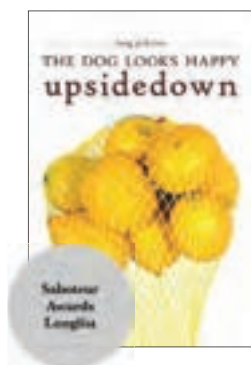


The Disappearance of Seth
Kazim Ali

A lyrical, hypnotic narrative that attempts to historicize the political events of recent years with the personal struggles of its protagonists.

Fiction, 197 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9797450-8-9)

COMPLETE BACKLIST



The Dog Looks Happy Upside Down
Meg Pokrass

This collection of flash fiction contains bite-sized glimpses into the lives of everyday people, leaving readers with long and lasting effects of further contemplation.

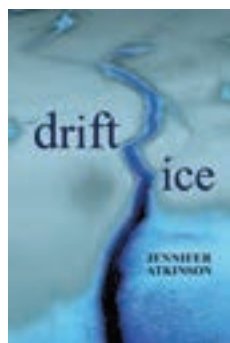
Flash Fiction, 124 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9903221-2-2)



The Football Corporations
William Heyen

This uncompromising and authoritative collection powers its way into a post-catastrophe setting of dirty bombs in stadiums, tortured athletes, corporate domination, and cynicism on a global level.

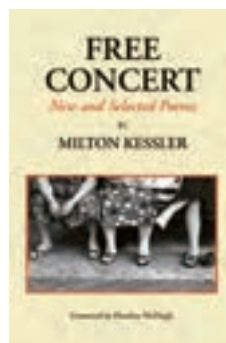
Poetry, 80 pages, trade paper
\$14.00 (978-0-9832944-5-0)



Drift Ice
Jennifer Atkinson

The poems in *Drift Ice* address the myth of a once pristine wilderness, the indifferent, ever-changing nature of Nature, and our human place in it.

Poetry, 81 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9797450-0-3)



*Free Concert:
New and Selected Poems*
Milton Kessler

Kessler left behind new work that celebrates the life and work of a gifted poet of original voice, presenting work from each of his books together with his new poems.

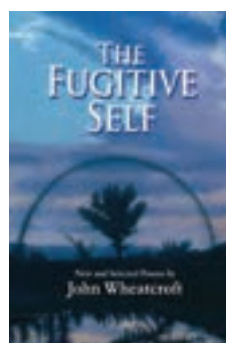
Poetry, 125 pages, hardcover
\$29.95 (978-0-9718228-2-5)
trade paper \$17.95 (978-0-9718228-4-9)



Fast Animal
Tim Seibles

Fast Animal plots the movement from innocence to awareness, and what happens to each of us as we bounce off the various obstacles life places between us and our fulfillment.

Poetry, 88 pages, trade paper



*The Fugitive Self:
New and Selected Poems*
John Wheatcroft

A tribute to a distinguished career spanning fifty years in American letters. Meditative, whimsical, and hard-hitting, it illuminates the cost of American expansion.

Poetry, 218 pages, trade paper
\$18.95 (978-0-979745-9-6)



*First Fire, Then Birds:
Obsessionals 1985-2010*
H. L. Hix

First Fire, Then Birds is H. L. Hix's version of a "selected poems," presented not simply as a chronological accumulation but as a synoptic and stereoscopic vision of a new whole.

Poetry, 240 pages, hardcover
\$27.95 (978-0-9819687-4-2)

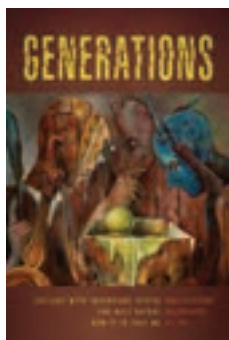


The Gambler's Nephew
Jack Matthews

The Gambler's Nephew presents a world of abolitionist passion, murder, and old-fashioned cussedness. Here is a world as richly confused as our own—and as alive as living can get.

Fiction, 270 pages, trade paper
\$15.95 (978-0-9819687-7-3)

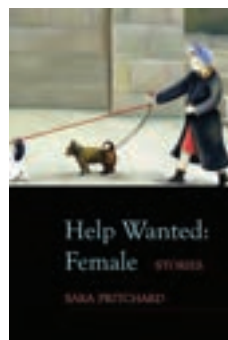
COMPLETE BACKLIST



Generations
Dante Di Stefano, William Heyen,
H. L. Hix

Includes the poetry collections *Lullabye with Incendiary Device*, *The Nazi Patrol*, and *How It Is That We*.

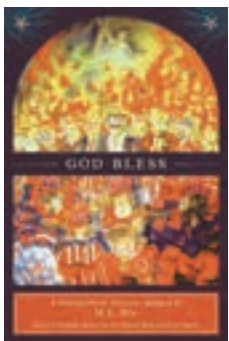
Poetry, 264 pages, trade paper
\$20.00 (978-1-7364946-4-6)



Help Wanted: Female
Sara Pritchard

This collection of short stories tells the tale of women needing and offering help in all forms, as their lives interconnect as all do.

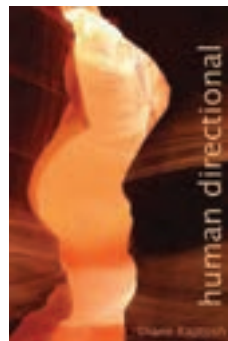
Fiction, 188 pages, hardcover
\$15.00 (978-0-9832944-8-1)
eBook \$14.99 (978-0-9839346-7-7)
Audiobook ASIN: B00GWND2TU



God Bless:
A Political/Poetic Discourse
H. L. Hix

In poems at once playful and grave, H. L. Hix pits excerpts from the speeches of George W. Bush against arguments from Osama bin Laden in a poetic dialogue.

Poetry, 169 pages, trade paper
\$19.95 (978-0-9745995-7-1)



Human Directional
Diane Raptosh

Human Directional reveals the heartbreak and absurdity of our world by exploring—and often exploding—its most sacred memes.

Poetry, 96 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9903221-6-0)



*The Greatest Jewish-American
Lover in Hungarian History*
Michael Blumenthal

Blumenthal draws a humorous and heartrending portrait of expatriate life in an increasingly connected and globalized world.

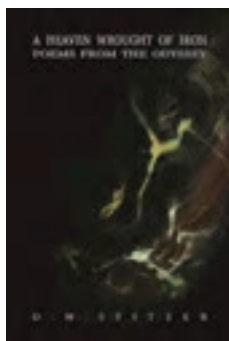
Fiction, 238 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9886922-4-4)
eBook \$9.99 (978-0-9886922-6-8)



Ill Angels
Dante Di Stefano

Ill Angels offers up the endless sacred consolations available to us through the restorative power of written and spoken words.

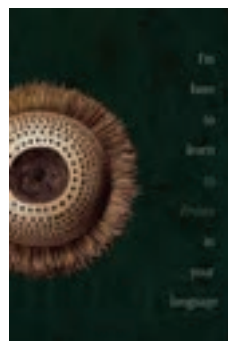
Poetry, 122 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9987508-8-0)



A Heaven Wrought of Iron:
Poems from the Odyssey
D. M. Spitzer

This collection of poetry unfolds a poetic engagement within the framework of an ancient epic.

Poetry, 176 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9903221-3-9)

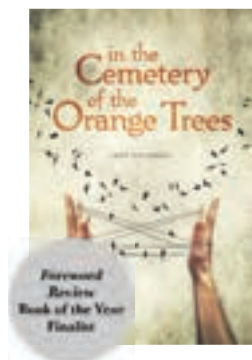


*I'm here to learn to dream in
your
language*
H. L. Hix

Hix extends his ongoing inquiry into spiritual and sexual ecstasy in lyric sequences that record a lover's dreams and a dreamer's loves.

Poetry, 103 pages, trade paper

COMPLETE BACKLIST



In The Cemetery of the Orange Trees

Jeff Talarigo

Mytho-poetic tales delve beneath the long Palestinian diaspora, told through the eyes of characters whose voices echo in the mind of an American stranger as he witnesses the beauty and horror of the ancient land.

Fiction, 196 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9977455-4-2)
eBook \$16.00 (978-0-9987507-1-1)



Lines of Inquiry

H. L. Hix

In verse essays, letters, and interviews, H. L. Hix's lines of inquiry ponder philosophic questions distilling answers with an intrinsic to a poetic heart.

Literary Criticism, 131 pages, trade paper
\$17.00 (978-0-9832944-0-5)



Incident Light

H. L. Hix

Hix's lyric poetry invites emotional connection to artist Petra Soesemann who embraces a newly discovered life, one made "instantly mythical" by a startling revelation.

Poetry, 73 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9745995-1-9)

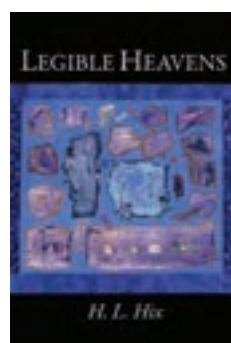


Luz Bones

Myrna Stone

These fiercely crafted poems take us on a journey through time and the psyche. The range of voices explores both mortality and what might lie just beyond it.

Poetry, 112 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9977455-1-1)

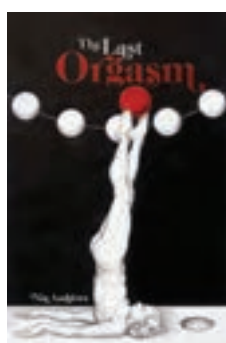


Legible Heavens

H. L. Hix

Legible Heavens continues H. L. Hix's ongoing inquiry into what the most personal and intimate forms of experience reveal about our most cosmic and universal concerns, and vice versa.

Poetry, 89 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9797450-4-1)



The Last Orgasm

Nin Andrews

The Last Orgasm continues the journey of Nin Andrews's notorious collection, *The Book of Orgasms*, which became a cult classic that has been translated into Turkish, performed in Prague, and has readers around the globe.

Poetry, 128 pages, trade paper
\$19.00 (978-1-7336741-1-9)



Lies Will Take You Somewhere

Sheila Schwartz

In this novel, a middle-class Jewish family journeys through infidelity, murder, and suicide. Weaving together nuanced meditations, this remarkable book provides insight into faith's ability to divide, to heal, and to forgive.

Fiction, 387 pages, trade paper



Mailer's Last Days

J. Michael Lennon

Lennon's remembrances in this collection are linked by his attempt to understand his relationship to his putative parent, Norman Mailer, a need intensified by his decades-long confusion about his relationship to his actual father.

Essays, 312 pages, trade paper
\$20.00 (978-1-7364946-5-3)
eBook \$9.99 (978-1-7364946-9-1)

COMPLETE BACKLIST



Mr. Either/Or
Aaron Poochigian

This verse novel melds American mythology, noir thriller, and classical epic. Imagine Byron's Don Juan on a high-stakes romp through a Raymond Chandler novel, or Hamlet in Manhattan with a license to kill.

Fiction, 192 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9977455-2-0)
Audiobook ASIN: B07DP7RP8C



One Turn Around the Sun
Tim Seibles

One Turn Around the Sun is a panorama of poems that attempt to define the twilight during which a person becomes caretaker of parents and grinds against the saying, "Life is too short."

Poetry, 120 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9903221-8-4)



Museum of Stones
Lynn Lurie

Museum of Stones reveals a possessive/obsessive world of a love that must be released. An exceptional child collects too many rocks, invents a garbage recycler that runs amok, and does not "play well."

Fiction, 112 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9987508-7-3)
eBook \$16.95 (978-0-9997534-6-0)



The Other Sky
Bruce Bond/Aron Wiesenfeld

Through a dialogue between poetry and visual art, this title probes the depths of the psyche: childhood roots, reveries, tensions.

Poetry, 104 pages, trade paper
\$30.00 (978-0-9897532-6-5)



Nahoinkara
Peter Grandbois

Nahoinkara opens on an eerie space of wonder, one that exists both within the natural world and within our own minds, a place outside preconceived notions of reality and identity, a place where we are free to re-imagine ourselves.

Fiction, 161 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9819687-6-6)
eBook \$16.99 (978-0-9839346-8-4)



Parallel Lives
Michael Lind

This collection reflects Lind's range of experience, which goes beyond the purely academic or literary and into the realm of domestic and foreign policy.

Poetry, 95 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9745995-8-8)



No Hurry
Michael Blumenthal

No Hurry is a book of poems for the aging in body but youthful in spirit, for those interested in continuing to ask most meaningful questions as they head "downhill."

Poetry, 125 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9832944-7-4)



Peal
Bruce Bond

In *Peal*, the reader is led to discover a sustained exploration of morality and its embodiment in the consolations of beauty as the poet shapes language for the powers of renewal, faith, and the imagination.

Poetry, 68 pages, trade paper

COMPLETE BACKLIST



*Poems and Their Making:
A Conversation*
Moderated by Philip Brady

Anthology of poems and essays delving into the origin and development of poetic thought, line, and structure.

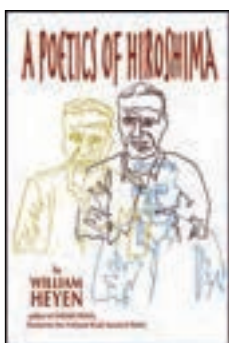
Poems and Essays, 240 pages, trade paper
\$23.95 (978-0-9903221-5-3)



*Reading the Signs:
And Other Itinerant Essays*
Stephen Benz

A wandering spirit and an inquisitive mind guide these "itinerant essays," as Stephen Benz travels near and far to explore landscapes of personal and cultural significance.

Essays, 384 pages, trade paper
\$18.00 (978-1-7364946-2-2)
eBook \$9.00 (978-1-7364946-3-9)



A Poetics of Hiroshima
William Heyen

A Poetics of Hiroshima is a collection of poems and prose pieces firmly rooted in history, exposing the conflict between obscenity and song, atrocity and beauty, and their eventual moral fusion.

Poetry, 77 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9797450-5-8)



Romer
Robert Eastwood

Illuminating the experience of modern life, *Romer* follows the journey of one man who needs to know who he is, where he is, and what he is trying to do.

Poetry, 124 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9977455-8-0)



Quick Kills
Lynn Lurie

Quick Kills chronicles the desperate longing to belong as well as the effects of neglect, familial absence, and the nature of secrets. The young female narrator's disquiet escalates after she agrees to be the subject of an older man's photographs.

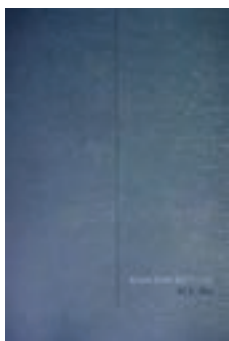
Fiction, 135 pages, trade paper
\$14.00 (978-0-9886922-8-2)
eBook \$9.99 (978-0-9886922-9-9)



Rough Ground
Alix Anne Shaw

With a lyricism that is both delicate and painful, *Rough Ground* explores the devastating consequences of trauma on our ability to speak about the world.

Poetry, 138 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9977455-5-9)



Rain Inscription
H. L. Hix

Rain Inscription gives vivid testimony to the paradox that human making is both lasting and fleeting. Each of its three sections extends an already capacious dialogue beyond its prior limits.

Poetry, 138 pages, trade paper
\$18.00 (978-0-9977455-0-4)

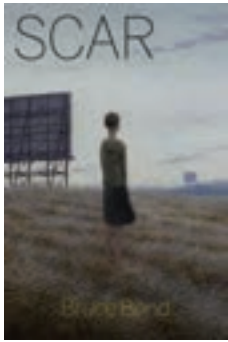


Saint Joe's Passion
J.D. Schraffenberger

The poems of *Saint Joe's Passion* recount the lonely, lecherous life of Joseph Johnstone, painting the portrait of a man who was never quite able to open himself up to genuine love and intimacy.

Poetry, 62 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9797450-3-4)

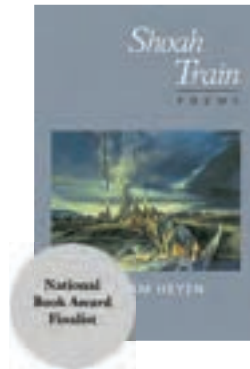
COMPLETE BACKLIST



Scar
Bruce Bond

Bruce Bond's trilogy of sonnet sequences explores trauma and self-alienation and the power of imaginative life to heal—to reawaken with the past: to better understand its influence, both conscious and unconscious; to gain some measure of clarity, empathy, and freedom as we read the world around us.

Poetry, 144 pages, trade paper
\$18.00 (978-1-7336741-4-0)



Shoah Train
William Heyen

Shoah Train collects more than seventy lyrics of “discipline and honesty and courage and restraint,” as Archibald MacLeish described *The Swastika Poems*.

Poetry, 78 pages, trade paper
\$15.95 (978-0-9718228-7-0)



Scything Grace
Sean Thomas Dougherty

Through the still-industrial Midwest, Dougherty offers us the stories he has lived and collected of men and women still going on, even if unsure.

Poetry, 88 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9886922-0-6)



Silk Road
Daneen Wardrop

Marco Polo's wife goes about everyday activities as her reveries form in the breach between her home in Venice, Italy, and Polo's stay in Suzhou, China.

Poetry, 88 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9987508-2-8)



September 11, 2001
American Writers Respond
Edited by William Heyen

In *September 11, 2001, American Writers Respond*, more than 125 fiction writers, poets, and essayists are seized in ways that often surprise themselves.

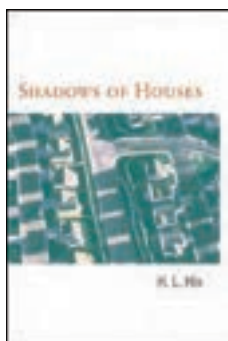
Literary Criticism, 419 pages, trade paper
\$19.00 (978-0-9718228-0-1)



Sixteen
Auguste Corteau

A Soviet composer kills himself upon the announcement of Stalin's death, leaving behind a symphony that provokes mass defections. But can music on its own bring about revolution?

Fiction, 292 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9987508-4-2)



Shadows of Houses
H. L. Hix

Patiently looking at and through the quotidian, H. L. Hix registers the tiny and immense phenomena of change and variation the seasons and hours bring.

Poetry, 80 pages, trade paper
\$15.95 (978-0-9745995-4-0)



So Late, So Soon:
New and Selected Poems
Carol Moldaw

Out of acutely observed, deeply felt particulars, Carol Moldaw constructs poetry of imaginative daring that illuminates and transforms the life within us all.

Poetry, 158 pages, trade paper
\$18.95 (978-0-9819687-2-8)

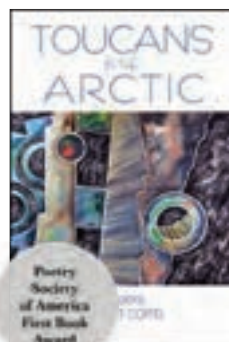
COMPLETE BACKLIST



The Subtle Bodies
James McCorkle

The Subtle Bodies moves between lush landscapes and the violence imposed by humans upon the land, making contact with the world as it ebbs into a digitized silence.

Poetry, 82 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9886922-3-7)



Toucans in the Arctic
Scott Coffel

In this lyric case study of tumult and tranquility, the dominant voice is of a man both enthralled and appalled by the vast national park of the psyche as he scrambles across its eerie landscapes of identity and marriage.

Poetry, 64 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9797450-7-2)



Surrendering Oz
Bonnie Friedman

This memoir in essays charts the emotional awakening of a bookish Bronx girl from her early job as a proofreader at *The Guinness Book of World Records* through a series of dominating and liberating friendships and secret connections.

Essays, 241 pages, trade paper
\$14.00 (978-0-9897532-2-7)
eBook \$9.99 (978-0-9897532-1-0)

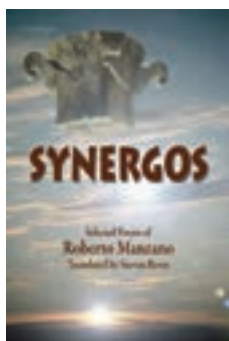


Trio: Planet Parable, Run, and Endless Body

Karen Donovan, Diane Raptosh, and Daneen Wardrop

The poems in *Planet Parable* discover unexpected meaning in the quotidian recorded against the revelatory background hum of the world. *Run* brings to life one of America's most controversial suffragists, Victoria Woodhull, giving a voice to her immediate circle. *Endless Body* realizes a mother-daughter-mother lineage through music, quest, and a growing awareness of the body of the world.

Poetry, 320 pages, trade paper
\$20.00 (978-1-7336741-7-1)



Synergos: Selected Poems
Roberto Manzano

These compendious, impassioned poems, registering the bizarre turns of the late twentieth century, represent the first English translation of Cuba's most prominent poet.

Poetry, 219 pages, trade paper
\$18.95 (978-0-9797450-1-0)



Triptych: The Three-Legged World, In Time, and Orpheus & Echo
Peter Grandbois, James McCorkle, and Robert Miltner

Between two covers are three books bound together by no prior agreement but the communal aspect of poetry.

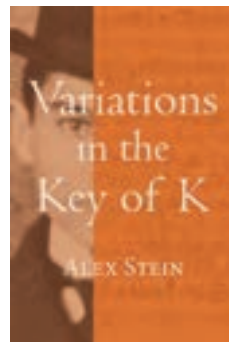
Poetry, 248 pages, trade paper



Topographies
Stephen Benz

Topographies explores landscapes of historical and cultural significance. Locations visited include the American West, Eastern Europe, Florida, Cuba, and Central America.

Essays, 340 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9987508-9-7)
eBook \$16.99 (978-0-9997534-8-4)

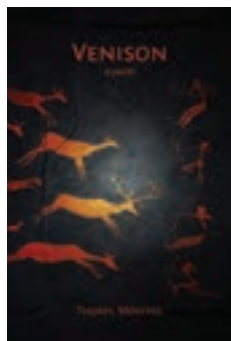


Variations in the Key of K
Alex Stein

Variations begins where history leaves off, delving into imagined lives of Kafka and other great artists. Part scholarship, part novel, *Variations* is a wry critique and a celebration of the creative life.

Fiction, 192 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9997534-7-7)

COMPLETE BACKLIST



Venison
Thorpe Moeckel

The process of a family working up a deer in their shed and then kitchen serves as both focus and departure for this book-length poem. At stake are no less than the origins and mysteries of flesh and touch—food.

Poetry, 66 pages, trade paper
\$17.95 (978-0-9819687-1-1)



What We Ask of Flesh
Remica L. Bingham

Through biblical re-tellings, narratives, and lyric poems, this young African-American poet examines and heals wounds of flesh and spirit.

Poetry, 96 pages, trade paper
\$14.00 (978-0-9839346-2-2)



Voodoo Libretto: New and Selected Poems
Tim Seibles

Voodoo Libretto is driven by a restless and wide-ranging imagination—the poems are sometimes humorous, sometimes deadly serious, sometimes erotic, sometimes mystical, and occasionally all of these things at once.

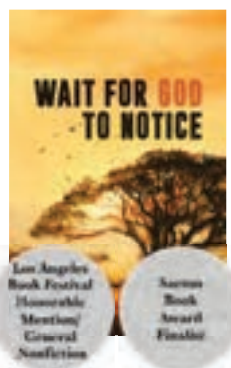
Poetry, 336 pages, trade paper
\$21.00 (978-1-7336741-8-8)



The White Horse
Diane Thiel

Diane Thiel's writing beckons us deeper into the heart of nature, reawakens our consciousness of the South American forest, and evokes the spirit of adventure.

Essays, 264 pages, trade paper
\$19.95 (978-0-9718228-9-4)



Wait for God to Notice
Sari Fordham

In the midst of Idi Amin's dictatorship, Sari and her family moved to Uganda as Seventh-day Adventist missionaries. In lush and observant prose, Sari describes the country she loves, the dangers her family faces, her parents' conflict, and the insular, peculiar faith that shaped her.

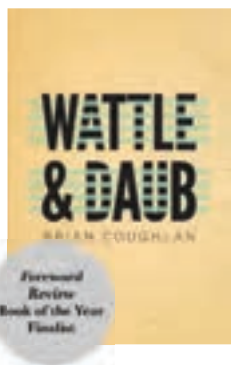
Memoir, 296 pages, trade paper
\$19.00 (978-1-7336741-5-7)
eBook \$9.99 (978-1-7364946-0-8)



White Vespa
Kevin Oderman

Does art clarify or obscure love? With a photographic eye, Kevin Oderman probes family secrets on an exotic island.

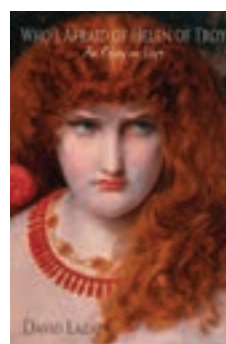
Fiction, 280 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9832944-9-8)
eBook \$15.99 (978-0-9839346-4-6)



Wattle & daub
Brian Coughlan

Dragged forward by ear-twisting narrative force, *Wattle & daub* is mined with humor, sympathy, and blistering language that mark Brian Coughlan as a unique fabricator of short tales.

Fiction, 236 pages, trade paper
\$16.95 (978-0-9987508-3-5)

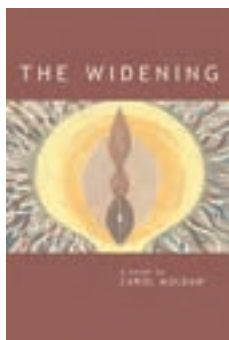


Who's Afraid of Helen of Troy: An Essay on Love
David Lazar

Lazar extends the language of prose poetry, finding nothing is as far apart as we think, except for chaos and order, innocence and experience.

Poetry, 72 pages, trade paper
\$15.00 (978-0-9903221-1-5)

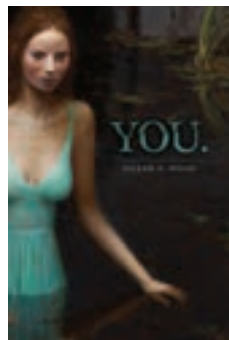
COMPLETE BACKLIST



The Widening
Carol Moldaw

By turns picaresque, dark, and edgily erotic, *The Widening* is a poetic novel, presenting a portrait of a young woman's volatile mix of passivity and wildness.

Poetry, 114 pages, trade paper
\$14.95 (978-0-9745995-9-5)



YOU.
Joseph P. Wood

YOU. is the ultimate relationship poem: husband and wife, father and daughter, addict and rehab, self and god.

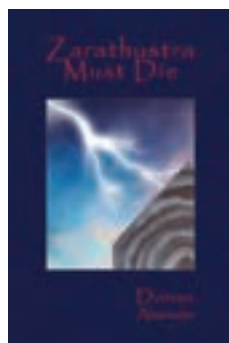
Poetry, 110 pages, trade paper
\$16.00 (978-0-9897532-3-4)



Wild and Whirling Words:
A Poetic Conversation
Moderated by H. L. Hix

Thirty-three of America's best poets each volunteered one of his or her own poems, which the moderator then circulated anonymously among the other poets, who then responded for this collection.

Literary Criticism, 201 pages, trade paper
\$22.95 (978-0-9745995-0-2)



Zarathustra Must Die
Dorian Alexander

In *Zarathustra Must Die*, sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll meet Nietzsche's concept of eternal recurrence in a wild exploration of the nature of time and its relationship to our existence.

Fiction, 106 pages, trade paper
\$11.00 (978-0-9832944-4-3)

OUTREACH PROGRAM



2022 Etruscan Press Porch Book Sale - Cox Hall

Publishing books that are timely and timeless, Etruscan contests assumptions about the isolation and irrelevance of literature and seeks to nurture a colloquy of voices: writers and readers engaged in enlivening the discourse between individuals and across communities.

Since 2007, the Etruscan Outreach Program has fostered community engagement in reading and literature by sharing the experience of writing with community members, encouraging a love of literature across multiple demographics, and increasing cultural and literary awareness. Via its Outreach Program, Etruscan has brought over 200 writers, poets, musicians, scholars, and editors to communities and has donated over 3,000 books to schools, community centers, and prisons.

Outreach is about making sure that books don't stop upon their publication. It's about finding and creating opportunities to invite people into conversations about our books. It's about helping them to see themselves in the literature we publish. It's about creating and holding spaces where readers and writers may (through workshops, readings, book signings, or social events) open themselves up to our poems, essays, and stories, and in turn, feel inspired to tell their own.

Readings and Events

June 19-23, 2022

LitFest (Phil Brady, Robert Mooney, Shanta Lee Gander, Felice Belle, Tim Seibles, Ru Freeman)

July 21, 2022

Porch Book Sale

July 21 and August 2, 2022

Bryant Park Reading Series (Mihaela Moscaliuc, Michael Waters, Phil Brady, Felice Belle)

August 5-7, 2022

Angelique Palmer at [margins.] in Denver: Panels on Elemental Poetry and Paths to Publication in Poetry

September 11, 2022

NYC Poetry Festival (Phil Brady, Tim Seibles, Wayne Benson)

October 20, 2022

Wilkes Internship Day

October 21-23, 2022

Lit Youngstown

November 26, 2022

Downtown WB Holiday Market

A Responsibility to Cultivate Community



Etruscan Press at the NYC Poetry Festival.

At far left, Rashidah Ismaili, poet and Wilkes Creative Writing Program faculty; Tim Seibles, Etruscan author; and Wayne Benson, Wilkes Creative Writing Program graduate and poet.

At left, David Hicks, Wilkes Creative Writing Program director; Tim Seibles, and a poetry festival patron at the New York City Poetry Festival.

“Below: David Hicks, Executive Director Philip Brady, Outreach Coordinator Cynthia Kolanowski, and others at the Wilkes University/Etruscan Press booth.”

“At Etruscan Press, we promote literary citizenship at a time when books and the written word are more precious than ever.”

—Pamela Turchin, Production Editor



OUTREACH PROGRAM



Bryant Park Reading Series — July 2022

Etruscan was delighted to make some splashes in the Big Apple this summer. The beautiful Bryant Park reading series hosted readings by Etruscans Felice Belle, Mihaela Moscaliuc and Michael Waters and Etruscan Executive Director Philip Brady. Brady also shared the stage with National Book Award Finalist Tim Seibles and Wilkes University alum Wayne Benson on Governors Island at the NYC Poetry Festival co-sponsored by the Maslow Family Creative Writing Program at Wilkes university. We hope to expand Etruscan's presence in New York in the future.

—Philip Brady, Executive Director

“The Wilkes Creative Writing Program and Etruscan Press share an office on River Street, and together we'd like to engage and interact with the Wilkes-Barre community in person—to provide beautiful works of literature and writing workshops at a discount, to host literary events for free, and to collaborate with various arts organizations for innovative projects. Our annual literary festival (LitFest) on the Wilkes campus, every summer on the third week of June, is the latest manifestation of this goal, featuring visiting writers, food trucks, and free readings by Etruscan Press authors as well as the authors who teach for our Creative Writing Program. We treasure our relationship with Etruscan Press and are excited about our joint ventures to come.”

—David Hicks, Director, Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing, Wilkes University



OUTREACH PROGRAM

WORKSHOPS

In fall 2022, Etruscan Press launched a new series of virtual craft intensives designed to connect Etruscan and its authors with a community of readers and writers and to provide meaningful, creative instruction that inspires and supports writers of all levels.



“Writing Your Way Home”
with Sari Fordham



“Let Us Get Better at Not Knowing What
We’re Doing” with Claire Bateman



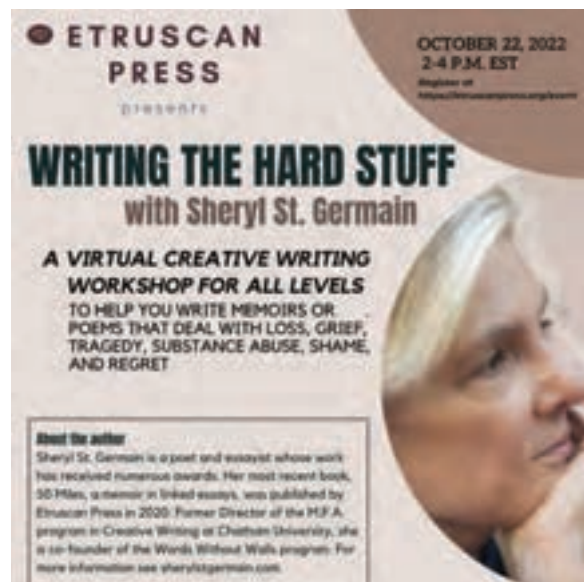
“Writing the Hard Stuff” with
Sheryl St. Germain

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—Sheryl St. Germain, author of *50 Miles*

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—Claire Bateman, author of *Coronology*



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OUTREACH PROGRAM

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In March 2018, Etruscan Press and Wilkes University joined United Airlines Books on the Fly, an outreach partnership at Boston Logan International Airport that offers United customers to select Etruscan books to read on long-haul flights. Conceived by Boston-based United Airline employees who are literary aficionados, this initiative has grown to include Denver International Airport, one of eight United hub stations. United operates approximately 500 daily flights to over 170 airports worldwide from Denver. Expanding the Books on the Fly program has introduced hundreds of passengers to Etruscan Press and our authors.

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Author Interview

An Interview with Darrell Bourque by Cynthia Kolanowski

Excerpts from a live interview which took place over Zoom on August 30th, 2022, edited for clarity.

Cynthia: In the introduction to *Until We Talk*, you describe this process of one story becoming another, how the poems and the paintings in the collection are carrying stories forward. Can you say a little bit more about what that means and how you came about the idea of carrying stories forward? I know Colum McCann has been a huge influence for you in this collection.

Darrell: We can start with my response to Colum McCann's *Apeirogon*. And I'll just talk a little bit about the experience of reading *Apeirogon* and then how after reading it, rereading it, and seeing the possibility of a response to those narratives. When I first began to read *Apeirogon*, it was for me, the story of Rami and Bassam, those two incredible men who are both live characters and fictional characters, because he used them to create the fictional characters in the book.

As I began to sort of absorb what Colum was doing, it became the story of Smadar and Abir, the victims of violence, which I think, sort of displaced me and moved me closer to how I would ultimately respond to the story. Then I fell in love with those two women, Nurit and Salwa. They're both such heroic figures and such beautiful counterpoints to the men and to the young girls, in a way. And I kept seeing how there was an extension of sorts, of Sawal, and the same thing with Smadar and Nurit and then that story then transforms itself and it's a story about family and it's a story about marriage. And then it becomes a story about politics. And that evolves into a story about imperialism and colonialism and social injustices and so forth. So that those stories, Bassam's story, becomes a story about something else.

And it's the kind of thing, of course, that happens in the Scheherazade stories that Colum is using as a springboard for structuring this particular set of stories. And then because of my reading and because of my work and my involvement with teaching literature, it becomes... stories happen in a particular time and happen in particular settings and particular cultures. But partly through my love of a writer like Eudora Welty, I feel that, for her, the whole thing was, the particular becomes the universal. And so those stories, I began to think of conflict resolution, which took me to Joy Harjo, and Sherman Alexie and George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and that's how the story was becoming another story.

This is not the story about a Palestinian man and an Israeli and their wives and their children and their tragedy. It's all our story. That's what was going on with me. The next step was, okay, if that's what's happening and that's what I'm experiencing and that's the way I'm responding to this sort of incredible story that Colum McCann is telling, then how does the response take shape and how does—because there's that internal response that you get when you experience a beautiful piece of music or, you know, you're looking at a Van Gogh painting or there's that inner experience—but then if you're a writer, if you're an artist, if you're a thinker, even if you're a journalist, if you're a social activist, you can't sit with it. You have to respond to it. And I immediately then began to think in terms of, okay, here's a book of poems I have to tell, I have to link this particular story that blew up inside of me to something I have to say about the world that I live in, and not particularly from the South. Because our problem is with race or problems that know no particular geography.

That's where the response began. And then I had to devise the way and the method and the construction to be able to hang my responses on. And I began to think of that incredible part of Colum's book where he talks about the Saladin piece, which is this piece of interlocking pieces of wood that create a construction. And so one of the early ideas was that I was going to make something, I was going to create a construction, and that not only did the pieces in the construction have to interlock, but it had to interlock with Colum's book, with Colum's story, with Rami's story and Bassam's story.

Cynthia: I love what you're saying when you talk about this idea of asking yourself what shape will this take as the stories are unfolding. And thinking both about Colum's book and your own poems, which have a shape: you're choosing to write ghazals. A traditional form.

Can you say more about the choice to write ghazals? I know you've written in form before. You've worked with sonnets. How does the ghazal form tell stories, and also how does the use of repetition weave for us other stories?

Darrell: One of the things that I wanted to do with the choice of the ghazal was a kind of nod to Bassim. I wanted to do something that honored the Arabic traditions. And it was also a nod to *Alf Laylah wa Laylah, One Thousand and One Nights*.

And then I began to think, okay, I'm in love with this form, but I can't do what the traditionalists do. English doesn't have the same rhythms and the same anything as Arabic and so you make concessions there. But first of all, it was a kind of nod to a culture that is seen as less than.

I wanted to foreground it in a kind of indirect way, perhaps, going back to that form. The other thing is that—this is just my interpretation of the ghazal—while I can't do what Hafez and Rumi do with the ghazal, I think the origins of the ghazal have a lot to do with the various kinds of meditation practices that date back to the time of Rumi. I fell in love with the idea of the whirling dervishes, and I see the ghazal as a kind of whirling form, the beginning of a kind of turn. You know, getting to your question about repetition. Your feet and your body do this repetitive movement that moves the body into this circularity, which is what the ghazal itself is all about. It's circle on circle on circle; each of the couplets sort of suggests that. And what I liked about the form was that and linking it to that whirling practice, that whirling, which was a meditation, so that you could release from the constrictions of experience and go to something other than experience.

The ghazal sort of does that. It lets the poet go into this kind of wild territory, this uncharted territory. And that's part of the charm for me of the ghazal is that it lets you go anywhere, and it releases you from time. Traditionally it's 5 to 15 couplets, which gives you a lot of latitude in the turning kind of thing.

The other thing that really drew me to the ghazal as a form is the fact that you allow yourself this elevation and this transcendence, but you come back. Stop. You come back to the world and in the traditional ghazal, the poet always names himself or herself, right in the last couplet. And I chose not to do that, but I chose to make in most of the poems the last couplet be a naming couplet, but not my name, giving that naming practice to the idea rather than drawing it back to the poet. Those are the things that I had in mind as I was playing with this new form.

Cynthia: Two things are resonating with me: This idea of how writing in the form releases you from time, which is a wonderful metaphor for the writing process. And the other is the practice of naming and how important that is.

You've had a long collaboration with Bill [Gingles], but as you've mentioned, this time the collaboration was different. You switched your process. Can you talk a little bit more about that and also the relationship between poets and painters?

Darrell: I want to say something about form and what you were saying a moment ago about how form can release you and let you go. I think for at least the first half of my writing life, I wrote free verse and then that became boring in a way. Not really boring, but as far as technique—I knew how to do that, but I wanted to try something that I wasn't sure I knew how to do. And so, I didn't want it to be even a mirror of the sonnet.

I didn't want it to be a mirror. What Browning was doing or Shakespeare or Petrarch. I began to do different kinds of things with the sonnet, playing with a really extended line and almost, almost writing a kind of prose sonnet.

And in recent years, I've been following the work of two poets that I really love and have been delighted recently in seeing Tim Seibles' "Blues Villanelle." Maybe our job as contemporary poets is to honor the traditional forms and to acknowledge them and to love them, but not to be locked in by them, but to see them as offering possibilities and new ways—using them or using them to say what our culture wants us to say.

And the other poet is Jericho Brown, who has created the duplex form, which is the blues, the

sonnet and the ghazal, all in one poem. Both of these poets have been influences in *Until We Talk*.

To get to what you were asking about collaborations and ekphrasis with Bill... this is our fourth collaboration.

Early on, I would look at a painting of Bill's, and interestingly, it was always the title that he used with the painting that was my sort of entrance or entryway into a kind of poetic response. And so, we worked in that way. The idea was that if Bill saw a title that came close to what he was trying to do visually with his painting, I would use that as a portal to extend and to sort of work against the idea, the original idea of ekphrasis. Because I know this is an oversimplification, but in so many of the early uses of ekphrasis what the poet is working with is the skin of the painting, which is beautiful, you know. And it's where the word ekphrasis comes from.

That does a certain thing. But what if we go beyond that and see that rather than working with the skin of things that the skin itself is penetrable and inside that skin are possibilities for story, for articulation, for joining another artist in saying something about art and in saying something about the human experience.

And so that was sort of the way we worked for the first two sonnet and painting collaborations. And then the third one, which was called *migraré*, was with the ghazal form. I was doing things in that set of ghazals that I don't do in *Until We Talk* because I pushed the idea of variance and the idea of modification even more in the *Until We Talk* poems.

Cynthia: You say that you pushed the idea of variance here. Could you say a little bit more about

that? Give an example or two from *Until We Talk*.

Darrell: With the *migraré* poems I was staying closer to the title that Bill had used for the painting. In the *Until We Talk* poems, I didn't know what paintings would be matched or would be paired. And so I had kicked that ladder out from under me in a sense.

And so, I was writing a poem, not knowing what the visual pairing would be. But I did need a hook. I did need something to sort of anchor me. In *Until We Talk*, it became the epigraphs, the lines from *Apeirogon*. And so I began to scour and scan the book to find lines that I thought would produce a poem. I wanted the lines to present a kind of challenge so that I wouldn't feel comfortable with the epigraph, and I wouldn't exactly know where the epigraph would lead me. For instance, this epigraph, "Did you water the petunias?" As a gardener that really resonated with me and it ends up being a poem about grief. That's what I want to begin with, with something as maybe occasional or pedestrian or quotidian, as "Did you water the petunias?" and then go off into this thing that connected with these big ideas in *Apeirogon*.

Originally, I thought there would be 48 poems and so I had picked 48 lines from the novel to be the epigraphs. And then as it happened, it ended up being 52 because there were things that happened in the process that, I mean, four poems just insisted on being told. And two of those are the poems on either side of the keystone poem in the book. Poem number 26 is the keystone poem in the book, and it's the only poem that's different as far as stanza count or couplet count. That one's nine couplets and all the rest are eight couplets, but on either side of that poem, well, that's the poem that most directly tells the story of Bassam and Rami and the family

and the children and so forth. Those two poems are shattered ghazals and they're Smadar's and Abir's poems, about their demise.

Cynthia: I'd like to stay just for a moment on your collaboration with Bill. That's a story, too. What new discoveries did you make or what new stories about your collaboration came up for you?

You've talked a little bit about the process, but if you were to reflect now, especially as you're looking at page proofs, and you're seeing *Until We Talk* go from manuscript to book, anything emerging for you as the story of this kind of collaboration?

Darrell: The first collaboration that Bill and I did was the sonnet collaboration. And that book is a group of persona poems, and they're persona poems of various Louisiana musicians and they're early 20th century Southern poems about musicians. There's all kinds of tragedy and injustice. And it's as much a book about the Jim Crow South as it is about anything else. That particular collaboration invited the persona poem, and it was a series of persona poems so that women and music, language and music, music and race, and then music and race again all became important components in the persona sonnets and that may have been in some ways the easiest of the collaboration to work with. And probably it was easier because I didn't know what I was doing. [laughter]

It was going into a new territory. And then I followed that particular book with a book about a 19th century Creole woman in New Orleans. And so it's called *From the Other Side: Henriette Delille*. Henriette Delille was a mixed-race woman in New Orleans in the middle of the century who was a social activist. Again, it's a series of persona

poems, but social activism becomes more important because she was presented with the possibility of passing as in denying her race and she chooses not to do that. And because she chooses not to do that, she becomes heroic. She attempts to found a religious order and fails and then eventually does found a religious order. She becomes a really important New Orleanian and a really important Louisianan. But the shift there is that the poems become more about social injustice. And then the third book of poems, *migraré*, which, you know, followed that pattern or the arrangement of collaboration that the first two did, becomes a book of poems more about themes. And that one is about immigration and migration and all that that entails and the ways in which that reveals something about national character....

It's not just a theory; it's a fact. It's one of the guideposts for me, this idea that movement and fluidity and change are what is essential for us if we're living beings. And the opposite of it, spaces and calcification or death. Right? And so that's what that explored. And then comes this fourth book which turns everything on its head in a sense. You know, I think that's what happens to all writers and musicians and painters. You can be technically proficient at something, and finally you become dissatisfied with that and need to move on and need to find new ways of exploring being human, of exploring experience and so forth. And that's what happened with this book. I didn't have an idea first, you know, I didn't have the story of Henriette Delille or the story of those Louisiana musicians. I opened a book and fell into a story. And that produced what followed.

Cynthia: I may be making a little bit of a leap here, but part of that, too, what you're talking about is opening a book and finding a story is a way of doing what you talk about: the need to resist telling the

stories we always tell ourselves. That's the beauty of *Until We Talk*. We enter this book and it's changed.

[Here, Darrell read and commented upon two poems from the collection, and we discussed the benefits of doing live interviews.]

Darrell: One of the things that I had hoped I would be able to bring into the interview is this idea of the story becoming another story and I think it has a connection to painting, too, and to music. As I hear Beethoven's *Grosse Fuge*, I know that I'm not hearing what Beethoven heard.

When I'm hearing it, it becomes part of who I am. Whatever is delivered to me, becomes, transforms me, you know. And what it goes back to, is I think partly the question about why the ghazal and so, you know, the same thing happens there. I can't do what Rumi does. When I read *Uncle Vanya* by Chekhov, I'm not in Russia. When I read *The Cherry Orchard*, Chekhov, who's one of my guides and my inspirations, so much of Chekhov is about who we are, that has nothing to do with geography. I mean, it has everything to do with geography and culture, but at the same time, nothing to do with it.

And I was thinking of *The Cherry Orchard* and the kind of dilemma that we're in right now where, you know, we're worried about losing the Estate and isn't that always the dilemma? The Republicans are worried about losing the Estate. The Democrats are worried about losing the Estate.

And it drives us to this dynamic that is once both terrifying and exciting and that connects, too, to this idea of the story becoming another story. Vanya is me: befuddled and confused and not knowing what steps to take. And at one point, you even want to kill himself. [laughter]

That's so exciting to me. It was replicated in the reading of *Apeirogon*. Rami crying in the shower and not being able to get over his grief. Nurit telling Netanyahu that he better not show up at her house for the observance of the death of the daughter and so forth. Those ways in which those stories are our stories is just so gratifying.

It makes me really happy that people paint paintings and make music and tell stories.

Cynthia: Yes, yes. And create beautiful poems.

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**Darrell** (via text message after the interview): The one thing that I know went into the making of the poems is the “mind of the exile” as Edward Said writes of it. My response to the generational trauma and my leaning and interest in occupation and colonization worldwide, a then and now issue, is rooted in the 18th century expulsion of the Acadians from what are now the Canadian Maritime provinces. The reach of occupation and colonization is deep and profound and is as infinitely varied as are the sides of the eponymous geometric shape, and is one of the embedded themes in *Apeirogon* that leapt out to me in the Aramin-Elhanan narrative.

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Darrell Bourque has served as Louisiana Poet Laureate and received both the Louisiana Book Festival's Writer Award and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Humanist of the Year Award. Aside from *Until We Talk*, his publications include *Burnt Water Suite*, *The Blue Boat*, *In Ordinary Light—New and Selected Poems*, *Megan's Guitar and Other Poems from Acadie*, and *migraré*. He is professor emeritus of English at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

Etruscan Outreach Coordinator Cynthia Kolanowski earned her MFA from the University of Michigan. She has taught writing and literature at the secondary and post-secondary levels for over twenty years, and was twice named Teacher of the Year. Her work as Director of Student Success at Regis University in Denver earned her the Faculty Advisor of the Year award in 2016.



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