

# Molecule

~ a tiny lit mag ~



Issue 14  
Spring 2026

# *Molecule*

Spring 2026

Issue 14

**MiCrO-Founders & Editors**  
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**“FIND ME AFTER IT ALL TURNS TUNDRAL” BY**  
**SIOBHAN POTTER**

## CONTENTS

### *Art*

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<b>NATALIA DANJON</b>	<b>KAREN LOZINSKI</b>
Dew // 6	Cleared for Takeoff // 48
Fluff // 11	Hey Gorgeous // 55
<b>CATHERINE FAHEY</b>	<b>NANDIYA NYX</b>
Mushroom // 17	Tiny Mushroom // 60
Seahorses // 23	<b>SIOBHAN POTTER</b>
<b>CLARA GARZA</b>	Find Me After It All
Katy Does // 32	Turns Tundral // 66
Up There // 38	
<b>ELMEDIN KADRIC</b>	
Me_You // 43	

### *Prose*

---

<b>CHRIS COCHRAN</b>	<b>MARCELO MEDONE</b>
Neighborhood	Disturbing Notice // 12
Folklore // 7	<b>RYON PLOCK</b>
<b>CHAD GREENE</b>	Ungrateful // 13
Like Godzilla // 8	<b>TAYLOR WARD</b>
<b>MARK HENDRICKSON</b>	Clutch Your Pearls // 14
I've Seen Worse // 9	<b>FRANCINE WITTE</b>
<b>MARK MCCLURE</b>	Waiting for Jesse // 15
Velvet // 10	

### *Drama*

---

<b>TOM MISURACA</b>
Novel Tea // 16

## *Interview*

---

CINDY VEACH

Interview with Susan Rich // 18

## *Reviews*

---

SALLY JANE BROWN

*Dizzy: A Memoir* /  
Rachel Weaver // 19

MARY BETH HINES

*Motherland* / Heather  
Nelson // 20

## *Molecule Coaster Contest*

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WINNER: R.G. EVANS

Young Poet // **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

## *Poetry*

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JASPER BECK

Please, Grandpa  
Green // 24

ROBERT BEVERIDGE

Allison Road // 25

MARY BUCHINGER

Literacy // 26

KEITH A. DODSON

A Short Tour of My  
Office // 27

ERIN EVANS

If you're lucky // 28

JAMES FINNEGAN

Breaking Character // 29

ROBBIE GAMBLE

Grief // 30

MICHELLE GEOGA

The Impossible  
Dream // 31

KATHLEEN HELLEN

on the heat-related death  
of a city sanitation  
worker // 33

MARK HENDRICKSON

No Place Like  
Home // 34

MARY ANN HONAKER

Chronic Fatigue  
Syndrome // 35

ERIC HUFF

A.I. // 36

MURAD ISLAM

The Dive // 37

TIM KAHL

Technoffense // 39

LIZ KINGSLEY

In my porno // 40

**LUKE KUZMISH**  
Zen // 41  
**TOM LAUGHLIN**  
Lowered Eyes // 42  
**ERICA MICHELLE LEE**  
the hottest bitch in the  
Oglethorpe IHOP // 44  
**JANE C. MILLER**  
Trumpeter Swan in  
Gaza // 45  
**SAVANNAH S. MILLER**  
Glass Menagerie // 46  
**ERIN MURPHY**  
Literary Criticism // 47  
**AMY NASH**  
Some Old Crow // 49  
**ELLIE O'LEARY**  
Eggs // 50  
**OLEG OLIZEV**  
Owner // 51  
**CHARLES RAFFERTY**  
Relativity // 52  
**M. C. RUSH**  
There is a poetry // 53

**CINDY SCHIMANSKI**  
Far Out Bar  
Coasters // 54  
**STEPHEN SCHWEI**  
New Year's  
Resolution // 56  
**JAMES SCRUTON**  
Suggested Pairing // 57  
**RAVI SHANKAR**  
Moby Dick  
Abridged // 58  
**BEE SMITH**  
theresa // 59  
**TAMMY SMITH**  
Dear Chocolate // 61  
**ELISABETH WEISS**  
Arrhythmia // 62  
**STAN WERSE**  
My Car // 63  
**ANGELA YANG**  
Hamster poem // 64  
**BESTE YILMAZ**  
Magpie // 65

**CONTRIBUTORS // 67**

NATALIA DANJON

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**Dew**



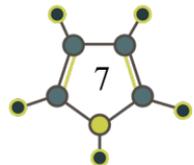
CHRIS COCHRAN

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## Neighborhood Folklore

We knew she wasn't really a witch. It was easier to play along. Jimmy knocked on her door and broke the spell. Left her stoop with a bucket of baseballs. Returned them to all the kids on the block. Sent us home to confront our own bubbling cauldrons.

Prose

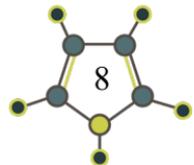


## Like Godzilla

Like Godzilla, I stumbled down a street lined with skyscrapers. They tumbled down as if they were made of blocks. Which they were.

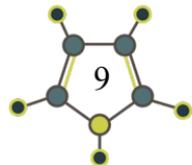
My son looked up from the floor, horrified.

Only then did I realize how much damage I could do in his world.



## I've Seen Worse

What she did at the viewing—opening her purse right in front of our grieving dad and trying to physically wrestle the diamond necklace and wedding ring off my mother's body—is still not the worst thing my sister has ever done.



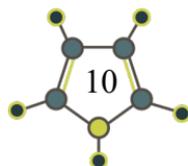
## Velvet

“How’s he doing?”

“Holding on.” A pause. “You too?”

The dog lay heavy across his legs, breaths shallow and hitching. He rested his hand on its head, thumb brushing the velvet of an ear miraculously untouched.

Outside, the trees blurred past—poplar and pine, indifferent.



NATALIA DANJON

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**Fluff**



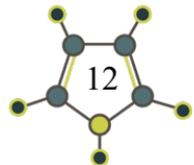
MARCELO MEDONE

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## **Disturbing Notice**

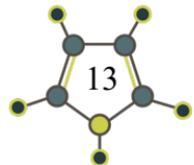
Beware of overly brief warnings

Prose



## Ungrateful

“Pack your shit!” was my roommate’s rude reaction to me explaining how I saved his life the night before. Unaware of my presence in his bedroom, I compassionately changed my mind at the last second about murdering him in his sleep. Try “Thank you,” dickhead!



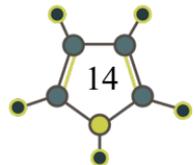
TAYLOR WARD

---

## Clutch Your Pearls

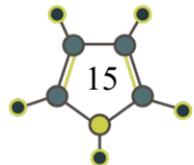
And in the club, I imagine my mother dancing and free.  
I imagine her in leopard print and Buckle jeans,  
eyebrows tweezed thin and her tan straight from the  
bottle. I imagine her laughing hard and spinning until  
she becomes sick, and I hold her hair back.

Prose



**Waiting for Jesse**

Who friend-zoned me, who said I was too much of a woman, like, what, I have an extra vagina? He said we could be friends and do stuff but don't ask about Kate, his new one, and I can't help but wonder how many vaginas she has.



**Novel Tea**

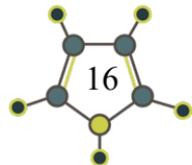
“This has been lovely, we should get together for tea more often.”

“Hmmm...”

“Oh, this is one of those novelty teacups. Has something written at the bottom. ‘You’ve been poisoned.’ Now that’s a funny prank.”

“Hmmm...”

“It has to be a prank? Right?”



CATHERINE FAHEY

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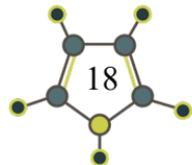
**Mushroom**



**Interview with Susan Rich**

Q: What is your writing ritual?

- A: Step 1: Procrastination  
2: Read poets I admire (or new-to-me poets)  
3: Create word list  
4: Listen to *Amélie* soundtrack  
5: Open favorite notebook  
6: Focus on play (no candles or incense for me)  
7: Let go of expectations  
8: Write first draft



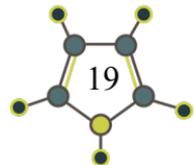
SALLY JANE BROWN

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**Book Review: *Dizzy: A Memoir* / Rachel Weaver / WVU Press / \$21.99 / 324 pgs.**

Haunting illness memoir as destabilization, not confession. *Dizzy* refuses clean arcs and brave recovery narratives. Linger instead on imbalance, authority questioned, the body misread. This is writing that wobbles on purpose, insisting that disorientation is knowledge. Pay attention to what won't steady itself. Hope.

Review



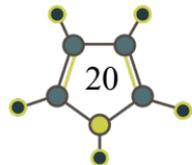
MARY BETH HINES

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**Book Review: *Motherland* / Heather  
Nelson / Kelsay / \$20 / 84 pgs.**

Looking for insight into your mom? A guide to Cambridge? Caretaking commiseration? Laughs? *Motherland* delivers with poems like “Demeter at the Plough & Stars,” “Half Naked Woman on a Coin,” “My Last Fuckable Day,” “Post Apocalypse Under the Charles.” Happily, Nelson’s intelligent, artful poems live up to their titles’ promises.

Review

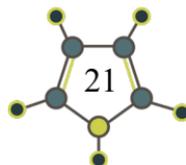


# THE MOLECULE COASTER CONTEST

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## *Special Section*

Thank you to poet Susan Rich for judging our first ever Molecule Coaster Contest. Congratulations to the winner, R.G. Evans, who will have his poem “Young Poet” designed and printed on a run of drink coasters.



R.G. EVANS

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**YOUNG POET**  
by R.G. Evans

Poems

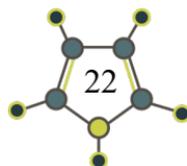
a whetstone  
sharpening her voice

its edge  
daring the universe  
to meet her face to face.

The universe blinked.

[moleculetinylitmag.art.blog](http://moleculetinylitmag.art.blog)

Molecule Coaster Contest



CATHERINE FAHEY

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## Seahorses

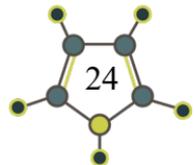


JASPER BECK

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## Please, Grandpa Green

w/ chronic joints  
inflamed,  
help me not  
live fast,  
die young,  
& go out  
w/ a bang, but  
live long,  
die well,  
& go out  
w/ a bong.

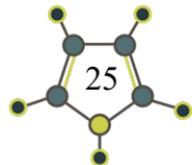


## ROBERT BEVERIDGE

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### Allison Road

Someone thought this shortcut  
through the deep woods  
was a good idea. No one  
will own up to it now  
that the car's back the trail  
a quarter mile with a branch  
through the radiator like an herbal sword.  
Any direction we walk, we hear footsteps.  
Any direction we walk, it gets darker.



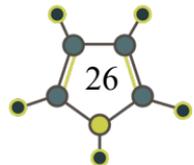
MARY BUCHINGER

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## Literacy

You take it for granite  
but really, it's puddingstone  
or slate, something friable  
cobbled together, easily  
under-mined.

Poetry



KEITH A. DODSON

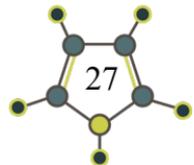
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## A Short Tour of My Office

“Oh, that’s an interesting  
certificate on your wall.  
What is it, exactly?”

That’s my mom’s  
death certificate.

“Framed and matted?”

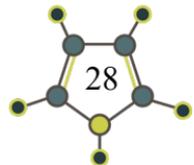


ERIN EVANS

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**If you're lucky**

you'll lay sweating  
in a bed  
alone  
at the very end  
while your family  
eats snacks  
from a vending machine  
and laughs quietly  
in the hallway.

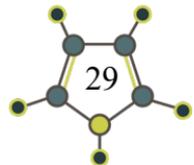


JAMES FINNEGAN

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**Breaking Character**

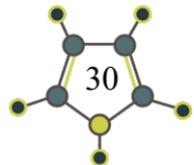
Rushing down to  
the subway train,  
I tripped over a mime's  
donation basket—  
I could hear him cursing me  
as I leapt through  
the closing doors.



**Grief**

and words disperse  
burrowing downward  
in cold mud

this long winter



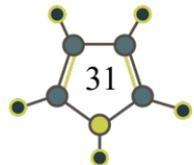
MICHELLE GEOGA

---

## The Impossible Dream

An octopus hug must be the best kind  
eight flexible arms squeezing the love  
all the way into you.

Poetry



CLARA GARZA

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**Katy Does**

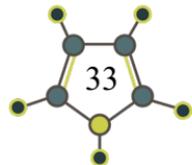


KATHLEEN HELLEN

---

**on the heat-related death of a city  
sanitation worker**

maw grunts. growls. crushes ... no one  
else afflicted but the one  
in lime-green hanging on  
between the trash truck and a wall.  
cramped. dizzy. in and out of consciousness.  
pronounced  
easy to discount.



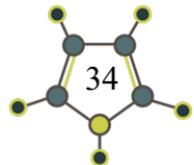
MARK HENDRICKSON

---

**No Place Like Home**

Dorothy Gale's  
optimism died  
when she learned  
coming back  
her parents still intended  
to murder her dog

Poetry



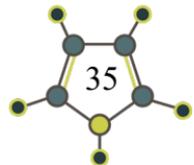
MARY ANN HONAKER

---

## Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

I've been looking at the world through a keyhole.  
The bright sun marries the lawn  
and they have children: daisies, dandelions, clover.

I don't have the key to the door.



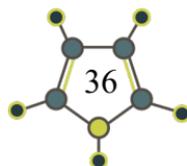
A.I.

A.I.  
is perfect for menial tasks.  
here's an idea:

you are a poet.

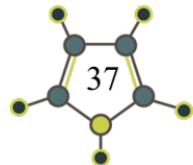
write a contemporary poem  
that catches the reader  
in a(n) moment / eternity.  
allow the reader

to lean in / to doubt?  
and when it's you and me,  
the poem should fold over and  
be holy.



**The Dive**

One morning the sun rose  
looking for alternative solutions  
through all the cigarette smoke  
trial and error method, unresolved  
story of smoking chimneys  
then failing, the sun leapt like a frog  
and sank into well after well



CLARA GARZA

---

**Up There**

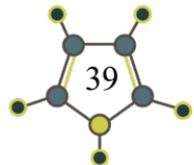


TIM KAHL

---

## Technoffense

Even the Beatles sound like trash  
when you play them on phone speakers.  
You can't exist on midrange slop.  
That narrow band can't support life.  
Damn this crap. I was promised a jetpack.  
Where's my prize for living this long?

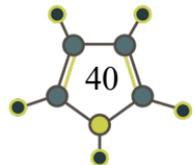


LIZ KINGSLEY

---

**In my porno**

hot girls  
with fake  
boobs  
slather icing  
on cupcakes  
while flirting—  
when the  
buff guy  
shows up,  
he wipes  
the counters.



## LUKE KUZMISH

---

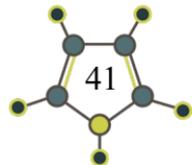
### Zen

on the corner of  
8th and Cherry it  
stinks of grease  
and Indian reservation cigarettes but

it smells like  
nothing  
at all

a black compass  
pinned between slabs  
of sidewalk  
points west  
towards downy sheets  
of lilac clouds

where a kitten sits  
atop a trash can  
like a king

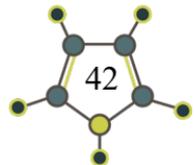


TOM LAUGHLIN

---

## Lowered Eyes

Attempting routine  
attempting reentry  
you have not yet found a way  
to level your eyes  
at a world  
where the death of a child  
seems so quickly  
forgotten



ELMEDIN KADRIC

---

**Me\_You**



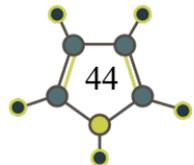
ERICA MICHELLE LEE

---

**the hottest bitch in the Oglethorpe IHOP**

You almost died after we met.  
I'd be eleven dollars richer and missing you.  
How do you bear it? The world is hard as a siren  
and no one has ever brought you flowers.

Poetry

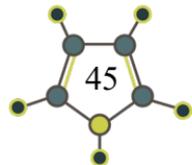


JANE C. MILLER

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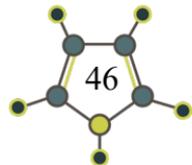
## Trumpeter Swan in Gaza

I return. No pampas grass  
for a nest. No rushes hushing.  
No barn, no alcove blessed.  
Where I sit, no food, no water.  
There is no harder patience  
than this knowing.  
From spent shells,  
the frail will come,  
and for them, predators.



## Glass Menagerie

One day, they will fire me for  
writing poetry on company time,  
like Tom Wingfield before  
he left Laura and the  
world behind,  
and I think that would be  
my last straw before  
walking out on  
Tennessee and Williams,  
his fiddle in the wings and  
the universe outside.



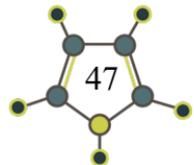
ERIN MURPHY

---

## Literary Criticism

A wicker furniture set spills on the freeway—  
loveseats, tables, chairs. Most land upright,  
a proper teatime scene in the middle  
of I-70 west. An SUV stops to snag  
an ottoman. Big rigs reduce the rest  
to deconstructed twigs. Scavengers pick  
through the wreckage to build their nests.

Poetry



KAREN LOZINSKI

---

**Cleared for Takeoff**



**Some Old Crow**

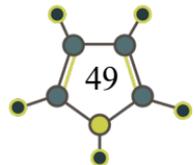
One by one, birds begin  
to mimic the sounds of the city:

car alarms, fire truck sirens, a phone  
ringing in the distance.

You swear you can hear  
a busy signal

startling dragonflies  
and purple flame grass.

Some old crow reminds you  
to be patient, to try again later.



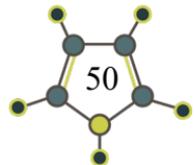
ELLIE O'LEARY

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## Eggs

When making an omelet,  
I often remind myself there is nothing  
wrong with scrambled eggs.

Poetry



**Owner**

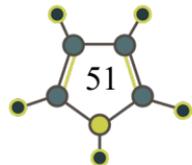
The cell  
has an owner.

The spider—  
he's been here  
longer  
than any of us.

Web in the corner,  
web in the air,  
web in the breath.

You leave.  
He stays.

That's how  
you know  
who runs  
this place.

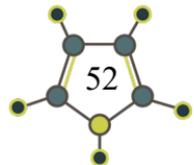


**Relativity**

Five seconds of orgasm  
doesn't sound long  
until you try holding

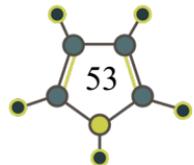
your hand to a hot stove.  
Likewise, I appreciate  
the quickness

of a two-page story,  
but dread  
the slog of a two-page poem.



**There is a poetry**

where the poets don't quite say  
what they are trying to say,  
so the readers don't hear  
what they are trying to hear,  
and everyone is a bit confused  
and unsatisfied.  
This is a really good poetry.  
.



CINDY SCHIMANSKI

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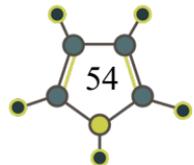
**Far Out Bar Coasters**

I dream of being a rock n roller coaster.

The coastess with the mostess.

Buy me a drink and I'll get wet for you.

Poetry



KAREN LOZINSKI

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**Hey Gorgeous**

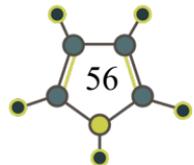


STEPHEN SCHWEI

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## **New Year's Resolution**

I vow to retain my virtues  
and abstain from all vices  
if only I could  
tell them apart.

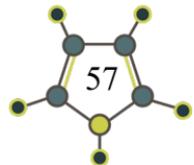


JAMES SCRUTON

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### Suggested Pairing

As metaphor,  
the wine-dark sea is fine.  
Be sure, though, to avoid  
the sea-dark wine.



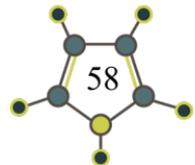
RAVI SHANKAR

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**Moby Dick Abridged**

In the vast whiteness  
a white speck bobs in far foam.  
Perhaps it's nothing.

Poetry

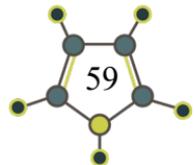


## BEE SMITH

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### theresa

the house is mine no longer  
outnumbered by ghosts  
an echo of something sweet in the air  
scorched earth  
smoke-stained white walls  
blood in my teeth  
red in a porcelain sink  
call for a priest  
watch him run for the hills



NANDIYA NYX

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**Tiny Mushroom**

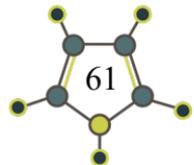


TAMMY SMITH

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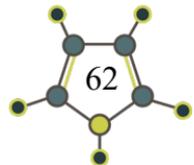
### Dear Chocolate

Wrapped in a silver kiss or stuck on a stick,  
the mother I never had. Raw, semi-sweet,  
bitter. I suck, chew, guzzle you like milk.  
I pour you into a greased pan, pray your batter  
bakes into a moist pound cake  
I can frost with flowers.



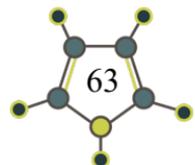
## Arrhythmia

Today they are scraping your heart  
using heat to create tiny scars  
to stop its irregular beat.  
Weren't we just teens driving together—  
listening to Mick Jagger and you  
behind the wheel of your Mustang convertible  
singing to *Wild Horses* over the wind?



## My Car

I cleaned out my car today.  
I didn't feel like doing it.  
But I really wanted french fries.



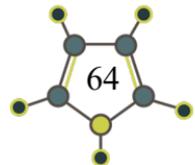
ANGELA YANG

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## Hamster poem

On the phone screen  
I touch your name

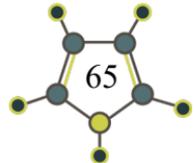
Poetry



**Magpie**

there are many ways to see a bird:  
    through the wing mirror  
    reflection in tinted window  
    bare

magpie sits easy in dead tree



SIOBHAN POTTER

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**Find Me After It All Turns Tundra**



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Jasper Beck** is an Oregonian, WOU English grad, author of *Creator & Destroyer*, an MFA at University of Idaho, and assistant editor for *Traverse*.

**Robert Beveridge** (he/him) makes noise ([xterminal.bandcamp.com](http://xterminal.bandcamp.com)) and writes poetry on unceded Mingo land (Akron, OH).

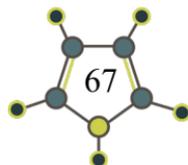
**Sally Jane Brown** is a feminist artist and writer whose work explores embodiment, care, and women's cultural labor across art, criticism, and lived experience.

**Mary Buchinger** is the author of seven collections of poetry, including *Navigating the Reach* (Honors, Massachusetts Book Award) and *The Book of Shores*. [www.MaryBuchinger.com](http://www.MaryBuchinger.com)

**Chris Cochran** is a high school English teacher whose work has been well received by friends and family who are completely unbiased and objective.

**Natalia Danjon** is a French/Russian publisher, English teacher turned children's writer based in the UAE.

**Keith A. Dodson** remembers when typewriters ruled the world and “cut and paste” involved blue-lined graph paper, Xacto knives, and rubber cement.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Erin Evans** has had poems published in *Defunct*, *Revel*, *A Mouthful of Salt*, and *Nimrod-International Journal*. She lives in Vermont with her beautiful kids.

**R.G. Evans's** molecules have retired. Some days they're not sure if they're a liquid, a solid, or a gas. Maybe something non-Newtonian.

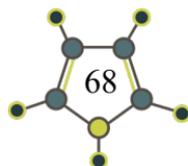
**James Finnegan** has published in *Ploughshares*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Connecticut River Review* as well as in various anthologies. See blog ursprache: <https://ursprache.blogspot.com/>.

**Robbie Gamble** does his darndest not to engage with AI.

**Clara Garza** is a writer and creative artist with a BA in English. She will be pursuing an MFA in Screenwriting.

**Michelle Geoga** is a writer and artist living in Southwest Michigan. She makes things with words and paint.

A graduate of the Master of Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California, **Chad Greene** is an English professor at Cerritos College.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Kathleen Hellen** is the author of three poetry collections and two chapbooks.

**Mark Hendrickson** is a poet and writer in the Des Moines area navigating the Sturm und Drang of daily life through wordcraft.

**Mary Beth Hines's** poetry collection, *Winter at a Summer House*, was published by Kelsay Books in 2021. To learn more about her, visit [www.marybethhines.com](http://www.marybethhines.com).

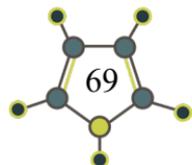
**Mary Ann Honaker** is the author of *Becoming Persephone* (Third Lung Press, 2019), *Whichever Way the Moon* (Main Street Rag, 2023).

**Eric Huff** is a poet and public-school teacher living in the west metro area of the Twin Cities.

**Murad Islam** is a writer and poet based in Michigan.

**Elmedin Kadric** is a poet writing out of Helsingborg, Sweden.

**Tim Kahl** is a recovering academic who seeks therapy among strings and winds. Look for him on the sidelines at Sacramento Republic games.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Liz Kingsley** writes and publishes poems whenever possible. She's been a prize finalist, which feels great. She has an MFA, and loves being concise.

**Luke Kuzmish** lives in Erie, Pennsylvania. Sometimes he writes software, and sometimes he writes poetry.

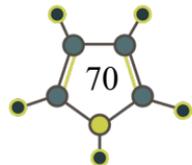
**Tom Laughlin** is Creative Writing Program Coordinator at Middlesex Community College. *The Rest of the Way* was published by Finishing Line Press (2022). [www.TomLaughlinPoet.com](http://www.TomLaughlinPoet.com).

**Erica Michelle Lee** is a poet living in Athens, Georgia. Send photos and stories her way of any birds you see.

**Karen Lozinski** is a writer, poet, photographer, artist, and musician who earned her MFA at the California Institute of the Arts. Instagram [@karenlozinskiphotography](https://www.instagram.com/karenlozinskiphotography)

**Mark McClure** is an American author, living and working in British Columbia. He writes stories of his childhood Appalachian home.

**Marcelo Medone** (1961, Buenos Aires, Argentina) is a Pushcart Prize and Best Small Fictions nominee writer. He currently lives in Montevideo, Uruguay.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Jane C. Miller** is the author of *Canticle for Remnant Days* (2024) and coauthor of *Walking the Sunken Boards* (2019). [www.janecmiller.com](http://www.janecmiller.com)

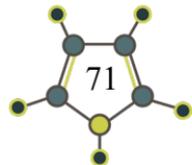
**Savannah S. Miller** (she/her) is a queer and disabled writer based in Memphis. She is a Pisces, so please be nice to her. [savannahsmiller.com](http://savannahsmiller.com)

Pushcart-prize nominated **Tom Misuraca** has had numerous short stories and novels published. He's also a globally produced playwright. He lives in Los Angeles.

**Erin Murphy**'s most recent poetry books are *Human Resources* and *Fluent in Blue*, winner of the 2025 American Book Fest Best Book Award. [www.erin-murphy.com](http://www.erin-murphy.com)

**Amy Nash** has lived in every northern state between Massachusetts and Minnesota except Wisconsin and Michigan, resulting in brackish poetry.

**Nandiya Nyx** is a photographer, poet, and interpreter. Her work has appeared in *Sinister Wisdom*, *JustThisZen*, *Echoes in the Fog*, and elsewhere.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Ellie O’Leary**, Poet Laureate Emerita for Amesbury, Massachusetts, has published *Breathe Here* (poetry, 2020) and *Up Home Again* (memoir, 2023) with North Country Press.

**Oleg Olizev** is a Siberian-born American poet and writer. His recent work has appeared in *Panorama*, *BULL*, *OFIC*, *Cathexis*, and *Night Picnic*, among others.

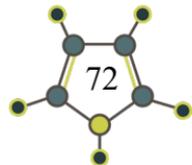
Sharing a tent in the Mojave Desert, **Ryon Plock** and his dog Rock are homeless but have all they need in life. Each other.

**Siobhan Potter** works as an artist, writer, and psychotherapist in Ireland.

**Charles Rafferty**’s most recent collection is *The Appendectomy Grin* (BOA Editions).

**Susan Rich** is the author of *Blue Atlas. Birdbrains: A Lyrical Guide to Washington State Birds* is forthcoming. She lives in Seattle, WA.

**M. C. Rush** currently resides in Mississippi and has most recently published poems in *The Sucarnochee Review*, *The Stillwater Review*, and *First Literary Review-East*.



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Cindy Schimanski** is a poet; memoirist; flash, short story, children's series writer; and a dog loving hippie sporting tie-dye, peace signs, and paw prints.

**Stephen Schwei** of Houston has published one collection, *Bluebonnet Whispers*, and a collaboration with another poet, *Catch Me at the Carnival*.  
[www.stephenschwei.com](http://www.stephenschwei.com)

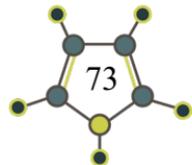
Recently retired after more than forty years of teaching, **James Scruton** continues to write poems and essays, some longer than fifty words.

Pushcart Prize-winning poet **Ravi Shankar** has published 18 books and teaches creative writing at Tufts University.

**Bee Smith** is a poet, a romantic, and a doting mother of two wonderful cats.

**Tammy Smith** admits she is a social worker by day and a per diem poet by night.

**Cindy Veach** is the author of three poetry collections including her most recent *Monster Galaxy*. She lives in the Seattle area. More at: [cindyveach.com](http://cindyveach.com).



## CONTRIBUTORS

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**Taylor Ward** has been published in *Flash Phantoms*, *Audience Askew*, *dogyard*, *FRUIT Magazine*, *Lunch Ticket*, and has forthcoming work in *Meow Meow Pow Pow*.

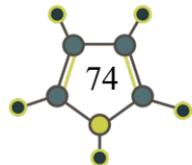
**Elisabeth Weiss** teaches writing. She loves pugs and local history. More can be found at: [elisabethaweiss.com](http://elisabethaweiss.com).

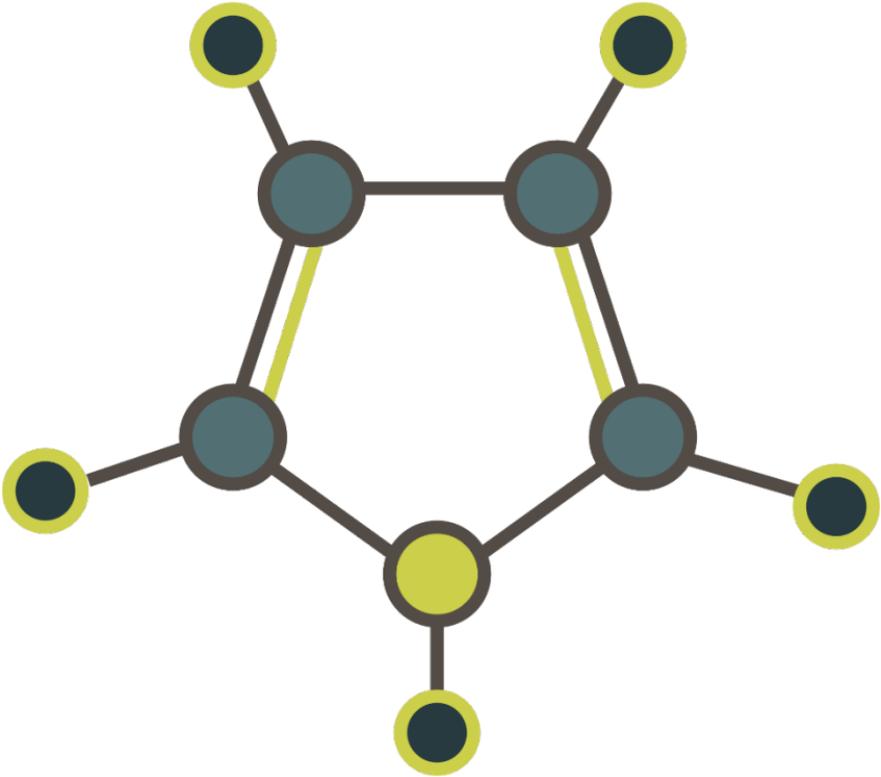
**Stan Werse** is a lawyer and playwright.

**Francine Witte** writes flash and poetry. She lives in NYC. Please visit her website [francinewitte.com](http://francinewitte.com).

**Angela Yang** is a Year 12 student in Sydney, Australia. She prefers oat milk and still can't whistle.

**Beste Yılmaz** is a 21-year-old writer from Istanbul. She is the moderator of the creative-writing branch of the literature club at Boğaziçi University.





# *Molecule*

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