

CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

Kennedy Amenity Gisege is an accomplished visual artist, poet, and the author of *The Liturgy of Smell* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2016). His work can be found in *Agni* and *Territory: A Journal of Place*, among other journals. He's co-editor of *AMERICAN PRECARIAT: Essays on The Growing Vulnerable Classes* (Coffee House Press). Kennedy has written several books under the pen name Ken Amen.

Cameron Morse is Senior Reviews editor at *Harbor Review* and the author of eight collections of poetry. His first collection, *Fall Risk*, won Glass Lyre Press's 2018 Best Book Award. His latest is *The Thing Is* (Briar Creek Press, 2021). He holds an MFA from the University of Kansas City—Missouri and lives in Independence, Missouri, with his wife Lili and (soon, three) children. For more information, check out his website: <https://cameronmorsepoems.wordpress.com/>.

Paul Brucker, a marketing communications writer, lives in Mt. Prospect, IL, “Where Friendliness is a Way of Life”. Active in the early 1980s Washington, D.C. poetry scene, he put a lid on poetry writing when he went to the Northwestern University grad ad school in a questionable attempt to learn how to think like a businessman and secure a decent income. Nevertheless, he has succumbed to writing poetry again.

Vernon Daim is a biracial, multilingual Malaysian. His poems and short stories have appeared and anthologised in *Eksentrika*, *Eastlit*, *Asiatic*, *Readings for Readings 2*, *Asian Centre Anthology of Malaysian Poetry in English*, *Everything about Us*, *Bitter Root Sweet Fruit*, *Malchin Testament: Malaysian Poems*, *Voice & Verse Poetry Magazine*, and *QLRS*. In 2016 and 2017, he read his works at the Georgetown Literary Festival. Currently he teaches English in Pahang. In the field of education and ELT, he has presented papers at conferences such as MELTA, MICELT and ICELT.

John Grey is an Australian poet, US resident, recently published in *Sheepshead Review*, *Stand*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, and *Hollins Critic*. His latest books, *Leaves on Pages*, *Memory Outside the Head*, and *Guest of Myself* are available through Amazon. Work upcoming in *Ellipsis*, *Blueline*, and *International Poetry Review*.

Julian Matthews is a former journalist and a minority of Sri Lankan, Chinese and Indian descent, based in Malaysia. He is published in *The American Journal of Poetry*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *Second Chance Lit*, *New Verse News*, *Nine Cloud Journal*, *Sparked Literary Magazine*, *Autumn Sky Poetry Daily*, *CC&D Magazine*, *Borderless Journal* and *WordsFest Magazine*. Link to published poems: www.linktr.ee/julianmatthews

Lawrence Pettener is a father, husband, son, Liverpool-Irish writer and copy-editor. His poetry has reached journals, live audiences and the BBC since 1979, with nods from Ted Hughes, Philip Gross and others. An M.A. in Creative Writing followed (Bath Spa, UK), then two poetry publications (audio, print). Three collections presently await publication. He edits solo authors' works from his Subang Jaya office and provides individual poetry mentoring, group workshops and Poet in Resonance schemes. www.facebook.com/lawrencepettenerwriter

Sanket Mhatre has been curating Crossover Poems – a multilingual poetry recitation session featuring some of the most prominent Indian poets from multiple languages. Apart from this, he has also been featured at Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Poets Translating Poets, Goa Arts & Literature Festival, Jaipur Literature Festival, Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, Vagdevi Litfest and Glass House Poetry Festival. His first book of cross-translated poems, *Sarva Anshantun Apan / The Coordinates of Us* (co-written with Rochelle Potkar) has been released by Varnamudra Publications.

Unni Menon was born in Ipoh during the last days of WWII. He started writing very young. His teachers thought he would live or die with those skills as they saw no other skills. His first published short story won a BBC competition in 1966. Nothing much after that as he became a lawyer, then a teacher. He still writes, mostly for his own pleasure, lapping at the edges of that great ocean of possibilities that evolved this country. He sees the great story waiting to be written.

John Martino is a writer, photographer, and educator currently residing in Hong Kong, where he conducts academic writing and revising workshops for university students. His creative work has appeared in a number of publications, including *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Connotation Press*, *The Bitchin' Kitsch*, *BOMBFIRED*, and the anthology *Envy: 7 Deadly Sins (Vol. 6)* from Pure Slush Books.

Scott Henderson (he/him/his) was born and raised in the Southern U.S., though he has also lived for brief periods in Europe and Asia. He is a teacher who loves books and the ability of words to enlighten, entrance, and engage. He has published poetry and non-fiction, with a special focus on gender and sexuality. He is an advocate for those who have been marginalized and/or ostracized. He tries to imagine worlds that don't exist—and to understand the one that does. He usually prefers listening to talking. He values kindness and a sense of humor.

Stephen S. Howie is an award-winning journalist, nonfiction writer, college professor and videographer. His first book, *The Bluffton Charge: One Preacher's Struggle for Civil Rights* won the Mammoth Books Nonfiction Prize. From 2016 to 2018, Howie collaborated with Dr. Lorenzo Cohen, director of integrative medicine at MD Anderson Cancer Center, to research and write *AntiCancer Living: Transform Your Life and Health with the Mix of Six* (Viking/Penguin). In addition to books, Howie has written articles, essays, profiles and investigative journalism for prominent newspapers, literary journals and magazines. To see and read examples of his work, visit his website at: www.stephenhowie.com.

Joseph Pearl is a recent graduate from the University of Connecticut. A long-distance runner, he enjoys parting wooded trails before retiring to his bookshelves by evening.

Shanthini Pillai (PhD) is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, National University of Malaysia (UKM). Her research interests are anchored primarily in cultural studies with particular reference to diaspora and transnationalism, ethnic diversity, and religious mobilities, especially in the context of global South Asian communities. She has published widely in her area of expertise, has headed a number of research projects on transnationalism and cultural identity, and held Research Fellowships at the University of Queensland, Australia and the Asia

Research Institute, Singapore. Her most recent research project focuses on diaspora, religious mobilities and the French Missionaries in colonial Malaya.

Wong Phui Nam is a poet and playwright. His lifelong passion for poetry was nurtured by his time at Raffles College, Singapore (which later became the University of Malaya) in the 1950s. Most of his early poems appeared in the anthology *Bunga Emas* (1964). His first poetry collection, *How the Hills are Distant*, was published by Tenggara in 1968. After a long hiatus, he published *Remembering Grandma and Other Poems* (1989), *Ways of Exile* (1993), *Against the Wilderness* (2000), *An Acre of Day's Glass: Collected Poems* (2006), and *The Hidden Papyrus of Hen-tai* (2013). His first play, *Anike*, was published and performed in 2006. A second play, *Aduni*, was published in *Asiatic* the same year.

Edwin Thumboo's oeuvre of poetry and literary criticism has earned him widespread recognition as a pioneering figure in anglophone Singaporean literature and the nation's unofficial poet laureate. He has published three poetry collections – *Rib of Earth* (1956), *Ulysses by the Merlion* (1979) and *A Third Map* (1993) – and two anthologies: *The Best of Edwin Thumboo* (2012) and *A Gathering of Themes* (2018). He has won numerous awards and accolades, including the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award for Poetry, the S.E.A. Write Award, the Cultural Medallion for Literature, the ASEAN Cultural and Communication Award (Literature), and the Raja Rao Award. Since retiring from NUS (his alma mater and long-time employer) in 1997, Thumboo has held the position of emeritus professor.

Nilanjana Sengupta is an author from Singapore who has built a reputation in writing books that travel to uncharted territories. In her latest publication, *The Votive Pen* (Penguin Random House), nominated for the Singapore Book Awards, 2021, she ventures into the fiercely intellectual mind of Edwin Thumboo, the poet-laureate of Singapore. In *A Gentleman's Word* (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, 2012), she chronicled the legacy of a forgotten war hero, Subhas Chandra Bose across Southeast Asia. In *The Female Voice of Myanmar* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), she wrote of the latent masculine bias of Burmese culture and women voices which have managed to cut through the clutter. *A Biography of M Bala Subramanion* (World Scientific Press, 2016) was a nuanced look at the Tamils of Singapore who struggle with vulnerabilities of their own despite making up

the majority of the Singaporean Indian community. She has been a research scholar at NUS and ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, and her critically acclaimed books have been translated and included in university courses.

Before his retirement, **Oliver Seet Beng Hean** was an Associate Professor of English at the National Institute of Education in Singapore. He has been a teacher educator for the greater part of his life. His poems have been published in many anthologies, magazines, newspapers and periodicals. These include *Litmus One, Selected University Verse 1949–1957; Anthology of ASEAN Literature: The Poetry of Singapore; & Words: Poems Singapore and Beyond; The Second Tongue: An Anthology of Poetry from Malaysia and Singapore; The Flowering Tree: Selected Writings from Singapore/Malaysia; Journeys: Words, Home and Nation: Anthology of Singapore Poetry* (1984–1995); and *Bunga Emas: An Anthology of Contemporary Malaysian Literature (1930–1963)*. His book, *Once* (Word Image, 2019), collects his poems written over the span of six decades.

Heng Siok Tian's most recent collection is *Grandma's Attic, Mom's HDB, My Wallpaper* (2021). Her past collections include *Crossing the Chopsticks and Other Poems* (1993), *My City, My Canvas* (1999), *Contouring*, (2004), *Is My Body a Myth* (2011) and *Mixing Tongues* (2011). She co-authored *The Adopted: Stories from Angkor* (2015) and *Lost Bodies: Poems between Portugal and Home* (2016). Her short play, *The Lift*, staged in 1991, was read at the Third International Women Playwrights' Conference in Adelaide in 1994. In 2000, she was a Fellow with the Iowa International Writing Program at the University of Iowa, USA on a National Arts Council Fellowship. She participated in literary events in China (1999), USA (2000), Philippines (2001), Stockholm and Sweden (2007) and France (2012).

Robert Yeo is a well-known poet and playwright who has written essays, memoirs and even opera librettos. He has edited several anthologies of short stories and plays, and co-authored texts on teaching literature. His poems are collected in *The Best of Robert Yeo* and his plays in *The Singapore Trilogy*. In 2011, he was a recipient of the S.E. Asian Write Prize.

Cyril Wong is a Singapore Literature Prize-winning poet and fictionist. His last work was *Infinity Diary*, a collection of poems published by Seagull Books in 2020.

Eric Tinsay Valles draws inspiration from all the places that he has called home. He has published the poetry collections *A World in Transit* and *After the Fall: dirges among ruins* as well as co-edited *Get Lucky: An Anthology of Singapore and Philippine Writings*, *Sg Poems 2015-2016*, *Anima Methodi*, *The Nature of Poetry*, *The Atelier of Healing*, *A Given Grace* and *Finding God in All Things*. His poetry has been featured in *Southeast Asian Review of English*, *Routledge's New Writing* and other journals. He has won the Goh Sin Tub Creative Writing prize as well as the Illumination and the ELit Book Awards. He has been invited to read poetry or commentaries at Baylor, Melbourne and Oxford Universities as well as the Kistrech Poetry Festival. He is a director of the Poetry Festival (Singapore).