

CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

Anitha Devi Pillai (PhD) is an applied linguist, author, and poet. She has published both academic and creative work. Many of her poems such as 'Mother Tongue', 'The Kiss on the Forehead' and 'Home is a Three-Syllable Word' as well as short stories have made their way into the classrooms in Singapore, India, Australia, and the Philippines. Her work generally explores themes such as identity, heritage, and culture. Anitha is the Co-Director of the '16th International Conference on the Short Story in English', Guest Editor of the December 2022 *SARE* Journal focusing on the theme: 'Food: Culture, Consumption, and Representation' and a fiction editor at *PR&TA* journal. Author's website: <https://www.anithadevipillai.com/>.

Isaac Tan is a fictionist, poet and spoken-word poet. In 2022, he graduated from the University of Nottingham Malaysia in English with Creative Writing. His work has been published in *PARTICLE* and *IGNITE*, UNM's literary and student magazines. He has performed spoken-word poetry at the Kuala Lumpur Youth Literary Arts Festival, A Wasteland of Malaysian Poetry in English, and *After Hours* at Mereka. He writes slice-of-life and coming-of-age poetry and fiction, and intends to pursue his postgraduate studies in creative writing in the future.

Matthew Jerome van Huizen is a Malaysian Kristang poet. Matthew enjoys writing poetry on the idyllic nature of the Malaysian countryside and the upheavals of life in Malaysia. When not musing about kampong life, he works as a maritime lawyer in that concrete behemoth, Kuala Lumpur.

LKN's been published with nine publications in five countries. His poetry is included in the national creative writing textbook in the Philippines. He is featured by Tupelo Press' 30/30 project, as well as the Poetry Society of New York. He has been featured in The History Channel's *HistoryCon*, The World Speech Day, Friday Night Live Ireland, and literature & poetry festivals in Singapore, Toronto, Paris and Nottingham, as well as at Cheltenham, Dodge, Ledbury, New York City poetry festivals. His poetry is also notable in the poetry slams of Singapore and Toronto. LKN is also a street performer in Southeast Asia.

In 2022, **Alexander Perez** (he/him) published in *The Quarter(hy)*, *South Florida Poetry Review*, *Cerasus Magazine*, *Ouch! Collective*, *Queer Toronto Literary Magazine*, *New Note Poetry Magazine*, *Variety Pack Literary Magazine*, *Literary Yard*, *The Voices Project*, and *Whiskey Blot*. The Poetry Barn and Arts Society of Kingston selected his poetry to appear in a gallery exhibit entitled "Poetic License 2022." Website: <https://perezpoet.wordpress.com/> Instagram/Twitter: @perezpoet Facebook: @aperezpoetry

Khayma Balakrishnan enjoys writing poetry about being an Indian woman. When she isn't writing, she is either teaching, reading or chasing butterflies. She often writes poetry in the spoken slang as that's her niche, because she likes to imagine her poems as performance pieces. Khayma often experiments with Venn Poetry as well, as she believes creativity in poetry has no limits. As she is from Malaysia, her work, albeit in English, contains language from her native tongue, Tamil as well as her national language, Bahasa Melayu. Her poems have been published both in print and online from 2017 till 2022.

Loshni Nair is a doctoral researcher whose work with Malaysian rape narratives lies at the intersection of power, language, and identity. She was long-listed for the Malaysian Short Story Competition 2022 and the Malaysian Poetry Writing Competition 2021. Her poems are published in *saya.magazine*, *Malaysian Millennial Voices*, and *Year of the Rat and Other Poems*. When she isn't nose-deep in data or stuck in creative ruts, she can be found binge-watching Nordic noir and crime documentaries. She hopes to find a balance between academia and creative writing, although she is learning that the balance simply... does not exist.

Scott T. Hutchison's work has appeared in *Poet Lore*, *The Georgia Review*, and *The Southern Review*.

Tim Tomlinson is the author of *Yolanda: An Oral History in Verse*, *Requiem for the Tree Fort I Set on Fire* (poetry), and *This Is Not Happening to You* (short fiction). Recent work appears in *The Antonym*, *Big City Lit*, *Flash Boulevard*, *Live Encounters*, and elsewhere. He is a founder and the director of New York Writers Workshop, and co-author of its popular text, *The Portable MFA in Creative Writing*. He lives in Brooklyn, NY, and teaches writing in NYU's Global Liberal Studies.

Rob Davidson's most recent book is *What Some Would Call Lies: Novellas* (Five Oaks, 2018), a finalist for the 2018-2019 *Reader Views* short story/novella prize. He is the author of three previous short fiction collections: *Spectators: Flash Fictions* (Five Oaks, 2017); *The Farther Shore* (Bear Star, 2012); and *Field Observations* (U of Missouri, 2001). Davidson's fiction, essays and interviews have appeared in *ZYZZYVA*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Indiana Review*, *New Delta Review*, *South Dakota Review*, and elsewhere. His honors include a Fulbright award, multiple Pushcart Prize nominations, and an AWP Intro Journals Project Award in fiction. He teaches creative writing and American literature at California State University, Chico.

Demetri Kissel currently lives in New Paltz, even though he swore he wouldn't be there long when he first moved in 5 years ago. He has previously published a literary essay in the *Shawangunk Review*, and a collection of folktale-inspired vignettes in *Awosting Review*. When he isn't writing, he plays nerdy board games and talks over horror movies.

Lori D'Angelo's work has appeared in various literary journals including *Drunken Boat*, *Gargoyle*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Heavy Feather Review*, *Juked*, *Literary Mama*, *The Potomac Review*, *Reed Magazine* and *Word Riot*. She is a fellow at Hambidge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences, a grant recipient from the Elizabeth George Foundation, and an alumna of the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley. She lives in Virginia with her dogs, cats, kids, and husband. You can find her on Twitter @scly21.

Omer Berkman lives in Israel, together with a wife, two sons, three cats and four hens. He is a Hebrew writer who has published a non-fiction book and a theater play. His work — prose and poetry — has appeared in many Hebrew periodicals and anthologies. Recently his short stories in English were published in *The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts* and *Jerusalism*. Omer holds an M.Sc. in Computer Science from the University of Tel Aviv and works as a software developer.

Farouk Gulsara is an occasional writer who blogs at <https://www.riflerangeboy.com/>. Before the sparks of neural transmissions fizzle out altogether, he tries to pen down his occasional twisted tales.

William Tham fiction and non-fiction have been published by Ethos Books, *Penang Monthly* and *Looseleaf* magazine. He previously served as the senior editor of the Vancouver-based *Ricepaper* magazine. He is the author of *The Last Days* and *Kings of Chinatown*.

Andy Kossowsky lives in Irvington, NY with his wife of 22 years, Cori, and their 18 year old son, Noah. Andy was an English major at Hofstra University and from time to time, he will sit down to write when he feels inspired to do so. His passions outside of writing are teaching tennis, inventing new and useful products, taking photos on his phone and blowing them up to have them framed in his house, and spending quality time with his friends and family.

Brian Huba teaches 12th-grade English in Upstate New York. His fiction has been published in *101 Words*, *Reed Magazine*, *The Griffin*, *Down in the Dirt*, *Literary Juice*, and *the Storyteller*. Brian's op-eds and essays have appeared on Yahoo.com, in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, the *Democrat & Chronicle*, the *NY Journal News*, the *Syracuse-Post Standard*, the *NY Daily News*, and the *Utica Observer-Dispatch*.

Will Halm is a graduate of Wesleyan University, where he studied Government and Writing. Mainly a non-fiction writer, his work explores topics of sexuality, gender, trauma, and mental illness. His influences include Virginia Woolf, Michael Ondaatje, and the Adirondacks in which he grew up. Currently, he coordinates research at the University of Pennsylvania but writes relentlessly on the side.

Enakshi Samarawickrama is an Assistant Professor in the School of English at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. She is interested in researching portrayals of gender in crime fiction, the power dynamics at play between femininities and masculinities and the concepts of female victimhood, violence, and agency.

Augustine Chay is a PhD student at the National University of Singapore (NUS). His research interests lie at the intersections of (post)colonial trauma studies, memory studies, and Cold War Decolonisation. His work has been published in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*.

Omar Mohd. Noor was a Malaysian poet and educator. His poems began appearing in literary journals and newspapers in the late 1960s, including *Focus*, *Tenggara*, *Poetry Singapore*, and the *Sunday Times*. His work has been anthologised in numerous compilations of anglophone Malaysian literature, including *The Second Tongue* (1976), *An Anthology of Malaysian Poetry* (1988), *In-Sights* (2003), *Spirit of the Keris* (2003), and *Malchin Testament* (2017), and in the syllabi for national examinations (SPM and STPM).