

# Writefest

## Detailed Schedule

### Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

#### TRACK 1: SILVER STREET FOYER

**9:00-10:00: Panel: \$\$\$ Versus Exposure: A Comparison of Paying and Non-Paying Markets**

**Moderator: TBA. Panelists: Sunil Patel, David LaBounty, Julia Rios.**

Are you doing it for the exposure? Would you also like to get paid? A discussion of paying and non-paying markets and how to research the quagmire in-between. When is it worth it to publish in a non-paying journal? How much exposure does a writer need before they start asking to be paid?

**10:15-11:15: Panel: Crossing Boundaries: The Fluidity of Genre(s)**

**Moderator: Tayyba Kanwal. Panelists: Caseyrenée Lopez, Kirby Johnson.**

Genre lines are blurring. “Literary” and “genre” are losing their reputation of being mutually exclusive. Editors discuss the value of cross-genre work, and the choices writers and editors make to do away with firm categories--or uphold them.

**11:30-12:30: Panel: So Close! Tales of the Almost Published**

**Moderator: Robert Stapleton. Panelists: Georgia Pearle, TBA.**

What should you do when you receive a “favorable” rejection? Or when an editor asks for edits twice, then rejects your work? Editors discuss the “almost-not-quite” rejection, what made the work stand out, what ultimately turned out to be the deal-breaker, what it means for writers, and how to move on from “almost” to “published”.

**1:45-2:45: Panel: The Challenges of Running a Literary Journal**

**Moderator: David LaBounty. Panelists: Jordan Bass, Neil Clarke, Kirby Johnson, Caseyrenée Lopez.**

Submission fees, volunteer staff, and the rise and fall of the literary journal world. Panelists explore struggles, commiserations, and woes—triumphs, jublations, and awards!

**3:00-4:00: Panel: Science Fiction & Fantasy: Rookie Writing Mistakes to Avoid**

**Moderator: DL Young. Panelists: Neil Clarke, Julia Rios, KJ Russell, Cassandra Rose Clarke.**

Join a group of seasoned SFF pros as they discuss tired tropes, cheesy clichés, the trap-falls of world-building, and more!

**4:15-5:15: Panel: The Importance of Building, Maintaining, and Seeking out Writing Communities**

**Moderator: Karleen Koen. Panelists: Elizabeth White-Olsen, Becka Oliver, Amir Safi, Anis Shivani.**

Writers are constantly told that their profession is a solitary one. In truth, writers who discover a writing community are more likely to make important connections, find critique groups, learn to write more successful work, and ultimately get published. Houston’s literary community leaders discuss how to build, maintain, and find a writing community near you.

#### TRACK 2: STUDIO

**9:00-10:00: Panel: Translation Nation: What Translators do for the Literary Landscape, and what Translation Can Do for You**

**Moderator: Adrienne Perry. Panelists: John Pluecker, Luisa Muradyan.**

A discussion of the importance of publishing literature in translation, translation opportunities for writers and translators of varying levels of experience, and translation as a way to be in conversation with other writers at home and abroad.

**10:15-11:15: Presentation: Navigating Literary Contracts**

**Presenter: David LaBounty, editor of *The First Line* and *Workers Write!***

You've sold your first story or novel, and then the contract arrives. Now what? Let's talk about what to look for and what to avoid when negotiating payment for your story rights. Do you get lost in the legaleze? We'll explain the difference between first rights, world rights, and more in order to help you protect your work.

**11:30-12:30: Presentation: Administrivia & Submission Tools for the Emerging Writer**

**Presenters: Cassandra Rose Clarke and Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam, fiction writers**

Stumped by Submittable? Confused by the Grinder? Slogging through your emails for editor correspondence? Get organized with help from experienced writers. A discussion about the best ways to keep track of submissions, rejections, acceptances, and payments.

**1:45-2:45: Panel: The Art of the Script: What Playwriting Can Teach Us about Writing**

**Presenters: Dianne K Webb, artistic director of Next Iteration Theater Co. and Sunil Patel, writer and playwright**

Plays are a dialogue-driven medium, but studying and writing plays can do more than just improve your dialogue. These writer-playwrights will discuss how thinking of fiction in theatrical terms can make scenes stronger, characters more active, and setting more real.

**3:00-4:00: Presentation: Building a Literary Career by Utilizing the Vast Opportunities Offered by Literary Journals**

**Presenter: Anis Shivani, poet, fiction writer, and critic**

Writers often lack the awareness of how to negotiate the world of literary journals, and shoot too low by targeting local or regional publishing venues they're comfortable with. Houston poet Anis Shivani explores how consistent publication in literary journals should be treated as more than just a resume-builder: it can be an indispensable way to become a better writer and join the broader literary discussion.

Learn how to rethink submission to journals, conceiving of them as full partners in one's intellectual growth, and explore how to build long-lasting relationships with editors at specific journals suited to your writing. Most journals are still democracies of talent, and this democracy is there for the taking—an indispensable part of how one becomes a better writer over a long period of time.

**4:15-5:15: Panel: The Long and the Short of It: Making the Switch from Book-Length to Short Form and Vice-Versa**

**Presenters: Cassandra Rose Clarke, Sunil Patel**

How can a writer carry a novel-length plot? Or tell an impactful story in under 5,000 words? Join a novelist who's made the resolution to write more short fiction in 2016 and a writer who's made a name for himself in short fiction and who is revising his first novel in a conversation about the process of switching from short to long forms and vice versa, all the while debunking the idea that short stories are merely a stepping stone to writing novels.

**TRACK 3: SKYPE STUDIO**

**9:00-10:00: Skype: Dialogue as Craft: Improve Your Story and Your Technique Simultaneously**

**Presenter: Kerri Majors, founder and editor of *YARN: The Young Adult Review Network*, hosted by Jessica Capelle**

Dialogue is an essential component of successful writing in any genre, from essays and short stories to novels and memoirs. No matter how intriguing your story or characters, dialogue that falls flat will send your writing to editors' recycle bin. But compelling, authentic dialogue will dramatically improve your story and your characters, and put you on the path to publication.

**10:15-11:15: Skype: A Skype interview with Mike Allen, editor and publisher of *Mythic Delirium*, hosted by Julia Rios**

Join Mike and Julia for a conversation and Q&A about Mike's speculative fiction and poetry journal, *Mythic Delirium*, and the science fiction & fantasy publishing world.

**11:30-12:30: Skype: Getting the Most from a Rewrite Request**

**Presenter: Leah Bobet, publisher and editor of *Ideomancer*, hosted by Sunil Patel**

An editor's intrigued by the story you've sent in—but they want to talk about a few rewrites! In this session, we'll cover the how-to of handling rewrite requests, evaluating feedback, judging timelines, and thinking not just about the potential publication, but how to get the absolute most out of collaborating with a journal editor on your story.

**1:45-2:45: Skype: A Skype Talk with Carrie Cuinn, editor-in-chief of *Lakeside Circus*, hosted by Cassandra Rose Clarke**

Join this in-depth conversation with the editor-in-chief of *Lakeside Circus*, a speculative fiction magazine published by Dagan Books, Ltd.

**3:00-4:00: Panel: Too Big, To Small, Just Right: Finding the Perfect Home for Your Work**

**Moderator: Robert Stapleton. Panelists: David LaBounty, TBA.**

A discussion of the importance of writers doing their due diligence when it comes to submitting to different markets. What does it mean to "fit" into a market? How does one research the intended market and tackle rejection?

**4:15-5:15: Skype: A Skype Talk with Lynne M. Thomas and Michael Damian Thomas, publishers and editors-in-chief of *Uncanny Magazine*, hosted by Julia Rios, Poetry and Reprints editor at *Uncanny*.**

Join founding editors team Lynne M. and Michael Damian Thomas as they discuss all things *Uncanny* with Julia Rios, the newest addition to the editorial team, from the submissions process to personal preferences, to speculative fiction in general to unicorns.

## ALL TRACKS: EVENING PROGRAMMING

**7:00-8:00: Literary Social Hour:**

Join us for a pre-keynote social hour, with drinks provided by Writespace. Get to know the editors in attendance and discuss the day's presentations and panels.

**8:00-9:00: Writefest Organizers Address and Keynote Editors Panel with Jordan Bass, executive editor of *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern* and Neil Clarke, publisher and editor of *Clarkesworld Magazine* (details TBA)**

Join the Writefest organizers for a keynote address by Jordan Bass and Neil Clarke, who will each discuss the state of the literary journal and magazine market from their separate experiences. Afterwards the discussion will be opened to audience members to ask questions.

**About our Keynote Speakers:**

**Jordan Bass** has worked with hundreds of other authors—George Saunders, Stephen King, Lydia Davis, Zadie Smith—to prepare their work for publication during his time with *McSweeney's*. He oversaw the editing, design, and production of each issue of *McSweeney's Quarterly*, nos. 18 – 48, which featured several stories that were nominees and winners of the National Magazine Award for Fiction.

**Neil Clarke** is a Hugo and World Fantasy Award-winning editor and publisher. He is the owner of Wyrms Publishing and editor of *Clarkesworld Magazine*, *Forever Magazine*, and *Upgraded*. Under his leadership, *Clarkesworld* has been nominated for four Hugo Awards for Best Semiprozine, winning three times. He has been nominated for the Hugo Award for Best Editor (Short Form) three times.

## Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>

### TRACK 1: SILVER STREET FOYER

#### 10:00-11:00: Panel: The Nuts and Bolts of Journal Submission: How, Where, What?

**Moderator:** Sunil Patel. **Panelists:** Neil Clarke, Matthew Limpede, Elizabeth Powell, Sarah Frances Moran.

Join editors as they discuss the basics of journal submission: How to start submitting, Where to submit, and What work to submit.

#### 11:15-12:15: Panel: Writer as Editor / Editor as Writer

**Moderator:** Eric Blankenburg. **Journal Panelists:** Heather Lefebvre, Sunil Patel, Caseyrenée Lopez.

A discussion of the challenges of wearing two very different hats. How does editing other writers' work help or hinder an editor's writing? How do writers turn off their editorial brain to let their creativity flow without letting in unhelpful self-criticism? What do editors learn from being edited themselves? Panelists will share wisdom gleaned from being on both sides of the creative process.

#### 1:30-2:30: Panel: Writing & Publishing Responsibly: Working Towards Equality & Inclusivity in the Literary Landscape

**Moderator:** Julia Rios. **Panelists:** Neil Clarke, Kayla E., Caseyrenée Lopez, Catherine Chambers, Adrienne Perry.

The questions of inclusivity and diversity are of increasing interest to the literary journal community. A discussion of the importance of including writers of all backgrounds in publishing, and editors of all experiences on the masthead.

#### 2:45-3:45: Panel: The Importance of Being Honest: Creative Nonfiction and What It Can Do for Your Fiction Career

**Moderator:** Georgia Pearle. **Panelists:** Lindsey Joyce, Tayyba Kanwal, Matthew Salesses.

Join a panel of nonfiction writers as they explore the value of writing nonfiction, personal essay, and other forms that inhabit truth in storytelling. Writers explore how nonfiction can influence fiction and vice versa.

#### 4:00-5:00: Panel: Take Me Back to the Start: What I Wish I'd Known As A New Writer

**Moderator:** DL Young. **Panelists:** Eric Blankenburg, Cassandra Rose Clarke.

You live and learn. Panelists reflect on their lives as new writers, the mistakes they made, the information they could have used to avoid them. From submission bombing to adverbs and all the formatting disasters in-between.

### TRACK 2: STUDIO

#### 10:00-11:00: Presentation: How to Create and Cultivate Your Personal Brand Using Social Media

**Presenter:** Lindsey Joyce, managing editor of *Five out of Ten Magazine*

Reviewing the tricky processes of self-marketing and social networking. We'll cover such things as curating and joining relevant discussions across social media platforms. We'll discuss peak posting times, analytics, and tools you can use to monitor your impact. If this sounds too business-y, rest assured the key focus here is how to join in a community of writers and editors meaningfully.

#### 11:15-12:15: Panel: Paper vs. Pixels: The Ever-Changing Landscape of Journal Publishing

**Panelists:** Carlos Hernandez, Lindsey Joyce

As literary journals transform into online venues and online journals expand to the print world, the boundaries between pixel and the page diverge, creating new opportunities for writers to reach even more readers. Explore the difference between online and print-only journals, those that publish both, and how that can change your submissions process.

#### 1:30-2:30: Presentation: Personal Criticism: Bringing Personal Experience & Narrative into Critical Essays

**Presenter:** Lindsey Joyce, *Five out of Ten Magazine*

This presentation will discuss the ways and methods for blending personal experience and narrative with criticism. Criticism is subjective, even when a writer aims for objectivity. Our prior experiences will always come to bear on our work, inform it, expand it, challenge it. Rather than viewing this as an ill to be avoided in the name of audience,

learn to cultivate your personal experience with a medium into a critique that resonates with a wide audience. Bring your biases into focus and use them as the starting point for meaningful critique. Though the presentation will use Five out of Ten Magazine and video games as its central focus, the presentation will suggest other publications seeking similar work.

**2:45-3:45: Presentation: Anatomy of a Sale: The Short Fiction Submissions Process from Inspiration to Celebration**

**Presenter: Sunil Patel, assistant editor of *Mothership Zeta***

Since he vowed to become a published writer in 2013, Sunil Patel has sold a dozen stories to top markets. Writing good stories isn't enough, of course: you have to know how to play the submissions game. In a two-part essay on Hugo-winning blog A Dribble of Ink, he detailed how he's managed to be so successful. In this interactive presentation, he will explain the varied and complicated paths a sale can take, from idea to first draft to final draft to acceptance—and all the rejections in between.

**4:00-5:00: Presentation: Sharing the Duende: A Discussion of *Duende's* Recent Issue by Incarcerated Writers**

**Presenter: Catherine Chambers, spring 2016 managing editor of *Duende***

*Duende* is a literary journal committed to publishing a majority of the writers and artists from groups underrepresented in today's U.S. literary ecosystem. Managing Editor Catherine Chambers discusses the ever-diversifying literary landscape, the work that still needs to be done, and *Duende's* recent feature of writing by incarcerated authors.

**TRACK 3: SKYPE STUDIO**

**Skype: Unlikely Stories: The Benefits and Pitfalls of Writing (and Editing) for a Theme**

**Bernie Mojzes & A.C. Wise, editors of *Unlikely Story***

Bernie Mojzes and A.C. Wise discuss the positive aspects, and potential pitfalls, of writing and editing for a themed publication. How do you make put a fresh spin on the theme so your story stands-out in the slush pile? How do you find authors and readers for a narrowly-focused publication? How do you keep things fresh as an author (or an editor) to keep readers turning the page, and coming back for more?

**Panel: Flash Fiction in Our Time**

**Moderator: Julia Rios. Panelists: Sophie Rosenblum, KJ Russell.**

Is flash fiction's rise in popularity a result of our technological lifestyles? Or is there more to this tiny form that can pack a mighty punch? Panelists will discuss the art of writing under a word count limit, explain the varying forms of flash fiction from microfiction to Twitter fiction, and explore how popular flash fiction writers make literary journals their home.

**Skype: A Skype Talk with Sarah Einstein, author, managing editor of *Stirring: A literary Collection*, and special projects editor of *Brevity Magazine*, hosted by Tayyba Kanwal.**

Sarah Einstein talks about her work at *Brevity* (a journal of personal creative essays of 750 words or less) and *Stirring* (, as well as her work as a memoirist and the road that led her there.

**Panel: Aesthetics of Print: Design and the Literary Journal Market**

**Moderator: TBA. Panelists: Kayla E., Robert Stapleton, Jordan Bass.**

Literary journals are also often venues for new artists, pairing beautiful design with beautiful words. Panelists discuss the challenges of interdisciplinary design, from layout to cover art to kerning.

**Skype: Unacceptable! Bad Editor Behavior**

**Presenter: Ranylt Richildis, founding editor of *Lackington's Magazine*, hosted by Cassandra Rose Clarke**

As a writer new to the submissions process, it can be hard to gauge when an editor has crossed the line into behavior you just shouldn't accept. Join Ranylt Richildis for a useful primer on editor red flags and what you can do to avoid them.

## ALL TRACKS: EVENING PROGRAMMING

### 7:30-9:30: OUR LITERARY STATE: AN EVENING WITH TEXAS WRITERS AND ST. JULIAN PRESS

Join us Saturday, February 27th at 7:30pm for an interdisciplinary reading co-hosted by St. Julian Press! After a day of reading literary journals and listening to editors, relax by listening to some local Texas writers. Writefest pass members are welcome to attend and the event will be free and open to the public.

#### Featured Readers:

**BONNIE JO STUFFLEBEAM'S** fiction has appeared in magazines both speculative and literary such as *Clarkesworld*, *The Toast*, *Lightspeed*, and *Hobart*. She lives in north Texas with her partner and two literarily-named cats: Gimli and Don Quixote. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine's Stonecoast program and curates the annual Art & Words Show in Fort Worth. You can visit her on Twitter @BonnieJoStuffle or through her website: [www.bonniejostufflebeam.com](http://www.bonniejostufflebeam.com). Bonnie is represented by Ann Collette of Rees Literary.

**ANIS SHIVANI** is the author of several critically acclaimed books of poetry, fiction, and criticism, including *Anatolia and Other Stories* (2009), *Against the Workshop: Provocations, Polemics, Controversies* (2011), *The Fifth Lash and Other Stories* (2012), *My Tranquil War and Other Poems* (2012), and *Karachi Raj: A Novel* (2015). Both *Anatolia and Other Stories* and *The Fifth Lash and Other Stories* were longlisted for the Frank O'Connor international short story award. Forthcoming books include *Soraya: Sonnets and Literature in an Age of Globalization*. Anis won a 2012 Pushcart Prize, graduated from Harvard College, and lives in Houston, Texas.

**DONNA MCKENZIE** is a Houston based voice talent, speaker, radio personality and creative alchemist with a passion for food, music and poetry. As the Creative Director for RFC Media in Houston, she helps design, produce, and program new cutting edge digital radio stations. Her most recent creative work is *The Boundary*, a new play in collaboration with Doug Williams.

**DOUG WILLIAMS** is an award-winning screenwriter, a playwright with four New York credits, and a co-founder of Ransom Note Films, an independent production company based in Houston. He is a former journalist and U.S. Senate press secretary, and is currently a partner in a public relations, public affairs, corporate training, and marketing firm.

**THE BOUNDARY: Dirt Dogs Theatre Co.**, in association with Don't Bet Against Us LLC, presents "The Boundary", a new play by Doug Williams and Donna McKenzie. A successful romance novelist sees her comfortable but stagnant marriage thrown into confusion when her first (and only) great love unexpectedly returns after more than 20 years. He's now a domestic terrorist, wanted by the FBI for targeting corporate America, and he needs her help for what will be his boldest – and likely final – act of violence. She'll have to decide whether to draw a line between the two of them in order to preserve her marriage...or take a chance and cross a line to rediscover her long-lost passion. But with her husband's life potentially in the balance, she may have no choice. Performances March 25-27 and March 31 – April 2 at MATCH.

Primarily a Poet and a Father of a young boy, **DAVID GLEN-SMITH** currently resides in Texas with his partner of over ten years. In 2010 they adopted a baby boy, Brendan—a source of new material. He teaches English Literature at Wharton County Junior College and Lone Star College - CyFair. Over the past fifteen years he has served as an instructor, graphic designer, editor, and illustrator. His drawings and writings have been published in a variety of journals across the United States.

**LESLIE CONTRERAS SCHWARTZ** holds an MFA in poetry from Warren Wilson College and a BA in English from Rice University. Her poetry has appeared in *Pebble Lake Review*, *Southern Women's Review*, *The Adirondack Review*, "Improbable Worlds: An Anthology of Texas and Louisiana Poets" by *Mutabilis Press*, and other publications, and her essays have appeared in the *Houston Chronicle*, *Ozy*, and *Dame Magazine*. Her first collection of poems, *FUEGO*, will be published by Saint Julian Press in March 2016.

Date: Saturday, February 27th

Time: 7:30pm – 9:00pm

This event is free and open to the public.

#### LOCATION

St. Julian Press  
The Morrow Chapel at Trinity Episcopal Church  
1015 Holman St, Houston, TX 77004  
(Directly across from M.A.T.C.H.)

Parking is available on Holman Street and other locations.

## Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

### 11:00-12:00: Any Last Questions? Final Q & A Panel

Join the organizers of Writefest for a final Q & A Panel. Bring your suggestions, feedback, and last questions. Don't forget to fill out your survey so we can help make next year's programming just as great!

### 1:00-2:00: Introducing "In Medias Res": Open Submissions Call for Writespace's Second Anthology

Writespace welcomes your submissions to our second anthology, *In Medias Res: Stories from the In-Between*. We are looking for stories about characters who are thrown into or stuck between different cultures, communities, families, races, genders, self-images, dimensions, continents, etc. We want the gray area—the uncomfortable, the undefined. Give us characters in the middle of it all: middle children, mediators, people in the middle of their lives, in the middle of a mess—"in-between." Play with structure. Send us stories that start in the middle, that have no middle, that have only a middle. Send us work that is non-linear, non-traditional, or work that uses traditional structures in subversive ways. Break the boundaries. Break genre.

At Writespace, we support writers of all backgrounds, identities, and genres. For *In Medias Res*, we will consider submissions of all genres; this includes, but is not limited to: science fiction, mystery, fantasy, literary, romance, speculative, magical realism, western, prose poetry, new forms, experimental forms, dystopia, fairy tales, etc. We encourage submissions that cross or blur genre lines, go against conventions, and tell stories of diverse, traditionally underrepresented groups. The anthology will partner with Writefest 2016. Writers who attend Writefest, either via workshop or the weekend Submit-A-Thon, will skip the slush and receive first reading from the editors.

#### Guidelines for Submission:

1. Submissions should be Fiction, Flash Fiction, or Prose Poetry less than 2,000 words and address the theme. Submit as many pieces as you desire. Simultaneous submissions are okay, let us know if you need to withdraw by sending us an email. Reprints are okay, as long as the author holds rights and you let us know where it was first published.
  2. E-mail your submission, 12pt font, standard font, in a .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf format to outreach@writespacehouston.org. Subject line should be "Submission: [Story Title]".
  3. Include a cover letter in the body of your email with your contact information, a current bio, whether the piece is original or a reprint, and the genre of the piece (SciFi, Mystery, Fantasy, etc. If the piece is cross-genre, you may label it as such.)
  4. Payment is \$15 and a copy of the anthology at publication.
  5. Final decisions will go out in May/June.
- Submission Period Opens: February 28th, 2016.  
Submission Period Closes: April 28th, 2016.  
Anthology Publication: Early Fall, 2016.

### 2:00-5:00: Writefest Submit-A-Thon

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of submitting! Put what you've learned to practice by submitting to journals, either from the festival or beyond. We'll track submissions, offer advice, encourage each other, and get published!

## LIST OF FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS

**Mike Allen**, founder and editor of *Mythic Delirium*  
**Jordan Bass**, executive editor of *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*  
**Eric Blankenburg**, managing editor at *Front Porch*  
**Leah Bobet**, publisher and editor of *Ideomancer*  
**Catherine Chambers**, managing editor at *Duende*  
**Cassandra Rose Clarke**, speculative author of novels for adults and young adults  
**Neil Clarke**, publisher and editor of *Clarkesworld Magazine*  
**Carrie Cuinn**, founder, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Lakeside Circus*  
**Kayla E.**, editor-in-chief and art director at *Nat. Brut*  
**Sarah Einstein**, writer, managing editor at *Stirring*, special projects editor at *Brevity*  
**Carlos Hernandez**, digital editor at *Gulf Coast*  
**Kirby Johnson**, founding editor of *NANO Fiction*  
**Lindsey Joyce**, managing editor of *Five out of Ten Magazine*  
**Tayyba Kanwal**, fiction writer and managing director of Next Iteration Theater Company  
**Karleen Koen**, bestselling novelist of historical fiction, co-founder of Women in the Visual and Literary Arts (WiVLA)  
**David LaBounty**, editor of *The First Line* and *Workers Write!*  
**Heather Lefebvre**, managing editor at *Front Porch*  
**Matthew Limpede**, executive editor at *Carve*  
**Caseyrenée Lopez**, founder and editor of *Crab Fat Magazine*  
**Kerri Majors**, founder and editor of *YARN: The Young Adult Review Network*  
**Sarah Frances Moran**, founder, editor-in-chief, and poetry editor at *Yellow Chair Review*  
**Bernie Mojzes**, editor of *Unlikely Story*  
**Luisa Muradyan**, poetry editor at *Gulf Coast*  
**Becka Oliver**, executive director of the Writers' League of Texas  
**Sunil Patel**, writer, playwright, and assistant editor at *Mothership Zeta*  
**Georgia Pearle**, nonfiction editor at *Gulf Coast*  
**Adrienne Perry**, editor-in-chief at *Gulf Coast*  
**John Pluecker**, writer, interpreter, and translator  
**Elizabeth Powell**, editor at *Green Mountain Review*  
**Ranylt Richildis**, editor-in-chief of *Lackington's*  
**Julia Rios**, former senior fiction editor of *Strange Horizons* and current poetry and reprints editor at *Uncanny Magazine*  
**Sophie Rosenblum**, associate editor at *NANO Fiction*  
**KJ Russell**, speculative author and anthologist  
**Amir Safi**, poet, founder of the Write About Now poetry Slam and the Texas Grand Slam Poetry Festival  
**Matthew Salesses**, fiction and nonfiction author, online exclusives editor at *Gulf Coast*  
**Anis Shivani**, poet, fiction writer, and critic  
**Robert Stapleton**, founder and editor of *Booth*  
**Bonnie Jo Stufflebeam**, speculative fiction writer  
**Lynne M. Thomas**, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Uncanny Magazine*  
**Michael Damian Thomas**, publisher and editor-in-chief of *Uncanny Magazine*  
**Dianne K. Webb**, artistic director of Next Iteration Theater Co.  
**A.C. Wise**, editor of *Unlikely Story*  
**Elizabeth White-Olsen**, writer, poet, founder and director of Writespace  
**DL Young**, author of dystopian science fiction