

## Contributors

**Derrick Weston Brown** holds an MFA in Creative Writing from American University. He is the founding Poet-In-Residence of Busboys and Poets. He also teaches creative writing to high school and middle school students in D.C. He is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina and resides in Mount Rainier, Maryland. His work has been published in such journals as *Warpland*, *Mythium*, *The Drunken Boat*, *Tidal Basin Review* and *Little Patuxent Review*. His first full length collection of poetry, *Wisdom Teeth*, was released this year by Busboys and Poets Press/PM Press.

**Pamela O. Brown** is a New York-based photographer, educator, and board member of The Black Girl Project. She is currently researching black women activists and existentialism for her doctoral studies. After her graduation, Pamela is planning to travel to France to work on photographic essays of African American expatriates.

**Nabin Kumar Chhetri** is a Nepalese poet. He graduated with a degree of M. Litt in Novel from the University of Aberdeen. He has been awarded by Italy, Israel and Nepal for his poems. His works have appeared in *Wayfarers* (UK), *Ricepaper Magazine* (Canada), *Penny Dreadful* (USA), *The Sun* (India), *Nosside Poetry Anthology* (Italy), *Quest* (India), *Spinny Babbler* (Nepal), *Marwabe* (Canada), *Poetry Quarterly* (China), *Fade Poetry Journal* (UK), *Cynic magazine* (USA) and *Tower Journal* (USA).

**DéLana R.A. Dameron** won the 2008 South Carolina Poetry Book Prize, selected by Elizabeth Alexander, for her book *How God Ends Us*. She has received fellowships from New York University, the Cave Canem Foundation, Soul Mountain and the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts.

**Mimi Ferebee** oversees *RED OCHRE PRESS*. Her English-Spanish poetry collection, *Seraglio*, debuts in the fall (Patasola Press). Look for recent publications in the award-winning *phatit'ude Literary Magazine* & the revered *Obsidian*, *James Dickey Review*, *Taj Mahal Review*, *Black Magnolias*, *Contemporary World Literature*, *Bewildering Stories*, *Decanto Magazine* and *Houston Literary Review*.

**Brian Gilmore** is a poet, writer, public interest attorney, currently teaching at Michigan State University College of Law. author of two collections of poetry: *Columnist*, the *Progressive Media Project* and is a contributing writer for the e-zines [thebigideas.tv](http://thebigideas.tv) & [jddiversity.com](http://jddiversity.com). He is the literature editor for [thedetroiter.com](http://thedetroiter.com)

**Rashad L. Givhan's** poems have appeared in *Bare Root Review*, *Black Magnolias Literary Journal*, *Callaloo*, *Kansas City Voices*, *Present Magazine*, and *Rougarou*. He holds a M.A. in English/Creative Writing from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and currently serves as the Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs at the University of Texas at Arlington.

**Rachel Eliza Griffiths** is a poet and a photographer. She is the author of *Miracle Arrhythmia*, *The Requested Distance*, and *Mule & Pear*. Her literary and visual work

has been widely published. Currently, Griffiths teaches creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College.

**DaMaris B. Hill** is a doctoral candidate in the English-Creative Writing Program at the University of Kansas. Her work appears in: *Shadowbox*, *Tongues of the Ocean*, *Kweli Journal*, *Telling Our Stories*, *Sleet Magazine*, *Reverie*, *Bermuda Anthology of Poetry*, *Warpland*, *Mourning Katrina: A Poetic Response to Tragedy* and *Women in Judaism*.

**Jacqueline Hill** Born in Southern Ohio. "I am a Southern Californian and retired educator pursuing my dream of publishing my writing. I have been seeing, dreaming, living and writing poetry, stories and essays for at least fifty years. I continue to be inspired by the persons, places, and events of my worldwide family. I am a member of Writers Anonymous, a workshop sponsored through the UCLA Writing Project. My poem, "Here to Stay," and essay, "Called Home," were published in the *Oasis Journal 2010*. I have also published poetry in *phati'tude Literary Magazine* and *Chaparral*."

**Mitzi Kay Jackson** is a Detroitier and former student at Wayne State University. She is currently attending Wayne County Community College District, majoring in English/Language Arts and Secondary Education and minoring in African American Studies. "Writing and my culture has been my passion ever since my days at Finney High School in Detroit."

**Safia Jama** is a Cave Canem fellow and currently lives and works in NYC.

**F. Geoffrey Johnson**, poet/fine artist, has published two poetry collections, *smells i see* and *Restoration*. Johnson has been published in several literary journals and anthologies. He was awarded a fellowship to Caversham Centre for Artists and Writers, Balgowan, South Africa, 2009. Please visit his website for more information: <http://www.smellsisee.com>

**Jacqueline Johnson** is a multi-disciplinary artist creating in both writing and fiber arts. She is the author of *A Gathering of Mother Tongues*, published by White Pine Press and is the winner of the Third Annual White Pine Press Poetry Award. She is also the author of *Stokely Carmichael: The Story of Black Power* by Simon & Shuster Books. Ms. Johnson has received awards from the New York Foundation of the Arts, the MidAtlantic Writers Association's Creative Writing Award in poetry, McDowell Colony for the Arts and she is a Cave Canem fellow.

**Alan King** is a poet and journalist living in the D.C. metropolitan area. He writes about art and domestic issues on his blog at <http://alanwking.wordpress.com>. In addition to teaching creative writing throughout the D.C./Baltimore region, he is a part-time poetry instructor at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts and the senior program director at the D.C. Creative Writing Workshop at Charles Hart Middle School in D.C.'s Congress Heights neighborhood. He is also a Cave Canem fellow and VONA Alum. Alan is currently a Stonecoast MFA candidate

and has been nominated for both a "Best of the Net" selection and Pushcart Prize. His book, *Drift*, will be published through Willow Books in January.

**Ashley Mack** studied English with a concentration in creative writing in her hometown of Indianapolis at Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis. She earned a B.A. there and was awarded the Marianne Hedges Excellence in Poetry Award and the Creative Non-Fiction Award. Her poems have appeared in *Drumvoices Review*.

**Tony Medina**, two-time winner of the Paterson Prize, is the author and editor of fifteen books for adults and young readers, including *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature & Art* (Third World Press, 2002). Medina's poetry, fiction, and essays appear in over ninety publications and two CD compilations. An advisory editor for *Hip Hop Speaks to Children*, edited by Nikki Giovanni, Tony's most recent work is featured in anthologies such as *Let Loose on the World: Celebrating Amiri Baraka at 75* and *Spaces Between Us: Poetry, Prose and Art on HIV/AIDS* (Third World Press, 2010). Medina has taught English at Long Island University's Brooklyn campus and Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, and has earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in English from Binghamton University, SUNY. As Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Howard University in Washington, DC, Medina's latest book is *Broke on Ice* (Willow Books, 2011).

**David Mills** has a Master's in Creative Writing from New York University and is a cum laude grad of Yale University. He is a 2010 Queens Poet Laureate finalist. He has won NYFA, Breadloaf, Henry James, Brio, PALF (to travel to a writer's conference in Ghana, West Africa) and Soros fellowships. His poetry has appeared in *Ploughshares*, *Fence*, *Jubilat*, *Callaloo*, *Rattapallax*, *Aloud*, *Dark Symphony*, *Reverie*, *Tidal Basin Review*, *Margie*, *Black Renaissance Noir*, *Obsidian III*, *Brooklyn Rail* and *Hanging Loose Press*, to name a few. David Mills' book, *Dream Detective*, was a small press bestseller. He has recorded his poetry on RCA recording artist Steve Coleman's album *Black Science*.

**Neli Moody** is a poet, writer and teacher. Her book, *After Altamira*, was published by the Ishmael Reed Publishing Company in 2006. Her poems have appeared in *Reed Magazine*, *Adirondack Review*, *Konch Magazine* and *Brick and Mortar Review*. She is currently working on a children's novel, poems and essays.

**Metta Sáma** is the author of *South of Here* (New Issues Press, 2005). Her poems and book reviews have been published or forthcoming in *Blackbird*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *Diner*, *Esque*, *hercircle*, *Paterson Literary Review*, *Verse*, *Vinyl* and *Zone 3*, among others. In addition to her creative work, she has published scholarship on poetic form and African Diasporic Women's Literature. Metta is an amateur photographer ("becoming quite an expert at iPhone photographs!") and an amateur painter. She is the fiction editor of *Ragazine* and she teaches African American Literature, African American Narratives & Black Women Writers at Lehman College and Hunter College.

Affrilachian Poet and Cave Canem fellow **Bianca Spriggs** is a multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in Lexington, Kentucky. Currently a doctoral student at the University of Kentucky, she holds degrees from Transylvania University and the University of Wisconsin. Named as one of the Top 30 Performance Poets by TheRoot.com, Bianca is a recipient of both an Artist Enrichment Grant and an Arts Meets Activism Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women. In partnership with the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association, she is the creator of The Swallowtail Project, a creative writing workshop dedicated to the women inmates at the Federal Prison Camp and the creator and Artistic Director of the Gypsy Poetry Slam featured annually at the Kentucky Women Writers Conference.

**Kennebrew Surant**, a former supervisor in the automotive industry, is the author of the murder mystery novel, *Life on the Line*, as well as the short story, *Union Blues*, which appeared in *On The Clock* (Bottom Dog Press, 2010). She is a graduate of the University of Detroit-Mercy.

**Truth Thomas** is a singer and poet, born in Knoxville, Tennessee and was raised in Washington, D.C. He is the author of three collections of poetry: *Bottle of Life*, *A Day of Presence* and *Party of Black*. His new book, *Speak Water*, is forthcoming from Flipped Eye Publications in 2012.

Trinidadian born **Samantha Thornhill** has traveled as far as South Africa and Hungary to present her work to a variety of audiences. Aside from teaching poetry to actors in training at the Juilliard School, she also serves as writer in residence at a high school in the South Bronx, grooming the next generation of poets. Her poems have appeared in numerous literary journals and her ode to the folk singer Odetta was published by Scholastic last year in the form of a picture book for children and adults. She lives in Brooklyn.

A native of Baltimore, Maryland, **Afaa Michael Weaver** (born Michael S. Weaver) has been a Pew Fellow, a Fulbright scholar in Taiwan and an NEA Fellow in poetry. His prizes include a Pushcart, the PDI Award in playwriting from ETA Theatre in Chicago and the May Sarton Award. His eleventh collection of poems is *Kama i'reeh (Like the Wind)* (2010) a translation of his work into Arabic by Wissal Al-Allaq. Weaver works as an editor and a translator, principally in Chinese. At Simmons College, he holds an endowed chair as Alumnae Professor of English. In early 2013 his twelfth collection of poetry, *The Government of Nature*, will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. His website is: [www.afaamweaver.com](http://www.afaamweaver.com)

Pushcart Prize nominee and Cave Canem fellow **Karen S. Williams'** poetry and creative prose have been published widely. A 2009 Poet's & Writer's Magazine Debut Poet, her collections include *Elegy for a Scarred Shoulder* and *Marine Life: A World in Poems*. Her fable, *The Blessing Chair*, is forthcoming from Aquarius Press.