

In This Issue

- Introductions
- Kudos!
- Spotlight
- Resources

School and Local Events for October (all events will be virtual via zoom)

VoiceOver

10/30/20 @ 7pm
Zoom link coming 10/29/2020

Polly Buckingham Book Launch of *The River People*

10/28/2020 @ 12pm
Facebook live event on Lost Horse Press [page](#)
More info on *The River People* [here](#)

Andrea Jurjevic Reading

10/23/2020 @ 7pm
Webinar link [here](#)
Check Willow Springs Facebook page for more
More on Jurjevic [here](#)

Christopher Howell & Melissa Kwasny Reading

10/20/2020 @ 5:30pm
Use the link [here](#)

Editors

Miriam Arteaga
Jessica Parry
William Harris

Note: Hello all! This is Mirium Arteaga here to tell you that Jessica and William will officially be taking over the newsletter for me. It was super fun creating these newsletters for y'all, to share all of your amazing accomplishments with the world and interesting and inspiring events that have happened throughout Spokane (and online). I wish everyone good luck with any submissions and contests, and I'll see everyone around. Thanks!

Please direct any notices to Jessica (23jessica.parry@gmail.com) and William (wwhpoet@gmail.com).



Welcome New MFA Poets and Writers!



EASTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Sarah Kersey is an incoming MFA student concentrating in poetry. She has lived in Washington all her life and has resided in the Spokane area for the past 4 years. She loves her family and friends, her cat (Violet), reading, and watching movies.

Jill Herrera lives on an urban farm with her teenage son and one-eyed cat near downtown Spokane. She began writing as a kid on Whidbey Island, then after adventures in off-grid living, organic farming, and city dwelling, she found her way to EWU. She loves flowers, fire (NOT wildfire), bike rides, and yoga.



Breslin Sand: Born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, I graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a B.A. in Journalism and Creative Writing. I have been published in Cincinnati Magazine as well as Cleaning Up Glitter E-Journal and Lancelot Schaubert's The Showbear Family Circus. When not writing, you can find me in the rock climbing gym or exploring different breweries (if you'd like to join for either). I am currently a first-year in Fiction. You can also find me on Twitter (@sand_breslin) and on Instagram (@breslin_grace).

Carling Ramsdell is a fiction student at EWU, a founding editor of THE LIT MUG, and a freelance writer of children's books. In the past, she's worked with Flock literary magazine and the Santa Fe Writers Project. Her short story, "The Mermaid Kingdom" is published in issue 53.1 of the Laurel Review, and you can find her review of John Englehardt's Bloomland online in the SFWP Quarterly.



Kathryn Chiariello: I'm an essayist from DC, the Douglass Commonwealth. In my dream world, I live with a dog, a fox, and a red panda. In the real world, my only pet is a scrawny, potted lime tree. I left it Back East with my spouse. I sure do miss that damn tree.



Tori Thurmond: I'm from Nashville, TN! I graduated from Lipscomb University this past Spring with a BA in English. I enjoy rock climbing and spending time in nature, and I'm excited to be joining the poetry program at EWU!



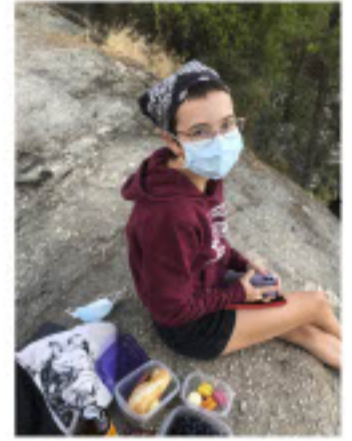
Kevin Yeoman recently took a step back from a career as a journalist, editor, and television critic, and is looking forward to the change of pace that studying fiction writing and teaching will bring. He had a fiction short story published in the 2020 edition of *Clamor Literary Journal*.

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Aaron Zimdars is a nonfiction writer from Ripon, Wisconsin. He holds the odd distinction of having earned two unrelated degrees while attending four colleges in six years: a bachelor's in English from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and a technical diploma in Residential Building Construction from Fox Valley Technical College. Aaron left the typical rural Midwestern life of dairy farms and cheese factories (places of prior employment) for the opportunity to explore and write in the mountain-strewn Inland Northwest. In his free time, Aaron enjoys woodworking, running, and biking on his red '84 Schwinn.

Sam Swain is a visual artist and fiction writer with a love of fantasy and sci-fi. Her educational background is in biochemistry and immunology, but she is glad to have left the world of science for that of art and writing. She is currently at work on a fantasy novel and a nonfiction children's book. Her favorite part of the writing process is brainstorming and character creation.



Emma Williams is a first year fiction student. She graduated from Western Washington University in 2019 with a degree in Creative Writing, and is looking forward to continuing her writing education at Eastern. Her hobbies include running, sitting outside, and obsessing over dog accounts on Instagram.



Alex Nepean: I was born and raised in Spokane Washington. As an incoming fiction student, I'm excited to explore fabulism and absurdism in my writing, along with themes about family, trauma, and isolation



Luke Leinberger: I was born and raised in Boulder, Colorado. Like your typical Coloradan, I enjoy most outdoor activities, particularly hiking and skiing. I am very passionate about baseball and have been coaching youth for the past nine seasons.



Nicole Miller: I'm from California. I lived in Seattle for several years. I moved to Bellingham to attend Western. After graduating I continued to work at Western. I'm now a first year nonfiction student at Eastern.

Welcome New MFA Poets and Writers!

Amanda Poteete: I am one of your newest poets. I am a native to the Emerald City and love drizzly days and playing with my two adorable puppies.



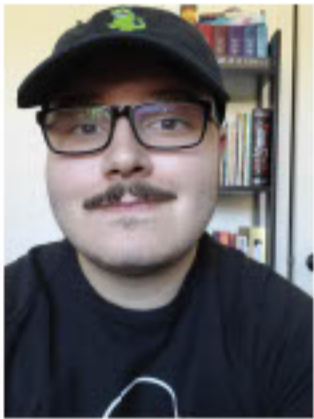
Gabriel Meek is a 2020 graduate of Whitworth University, where he was heavily involved in athletics and many facets of the English program. Now a first-year poetry student, he loves living in Spokane where he can run all his favorite trails. He loves making homemade applesauce, learning film history, and debating fan theories.



Kyle Beam is a poet from Phillipsburg, NJ whose goal is to outsell the Bible. He likes going on hikes and reading. His favorite poets are Lucielle Clifton, Langston Hughes, and Yusef Komunyakaa.



Andrew Acuna is a poet from Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Some of his favorite poets include: Danez Smith, Sylvia Plath, and Jose Olivarez. He also enjoys listening to vinyl and binge watching New Girl and Scrubs.



Jessica Parry is a first year fiction student. She just graduated from the University of Idaho with a B.A. in Creative Writing. Other than reading and writing her hobbies include hiking and chaotic crafting. And she can't wait to see where this year will take her.



Erica Bower is an incoming nonfiction student. She attended Western Washington University to attain her B.A. in English, and spent the previous year teaching English as a Second Language in Basque Country, Spain. Following her time in the MFA program at EWU she hopes to continue writing and teach at a community college in Washington State.



My name is **Meghan Laakso** and I am from Gig Harbor, Wa! I am a first year poetry student. I love the Seahawks, good wine, and Fleetwood Mac!



Connor Enos is a first-year fiction student. A lifelong resident of Spokane, he earned his bachelor's degree in Creative Writing from Eastern in June 2019, and is stoked to be back in familiar territory.



Holly Thorpe is an incoming poetry MFA student at EWU. She spent the summer gardening, raising chickens, reading, painting and even doing a little writing. She lives in Wenatchee, Washington where she works in the public information office at Wenatchee Valley College and serves as a board member for the non-profit writing organization Write on the River.



Kudos!



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Many congratulations to the following alumni and current students for your amazing accomplishments! Keep up the great work and keep writing!

Caitlin Feldman ('20)

“To Know Nothing of Rifles”

Hobart

Nonfiction

Read it [here](#)

First sentence of the piece: “Many of my grandpa’s fingernails and toenails are deformed from jungle rot.”

“Bloom”

Runner-Up for *Blood Orange Review’s* Annual Contest

Genre: Nonfiction

Link [here](#)

Kimberly Sheridan ('20)

“Restoration”

Entropy

Nonfiction/Essay

Read it [here](#)

First sentence: “I was working multiple jobs in NYC and scrambling for money, as per usual, when my old client, Brendan, called me out of the blue for a special gig.”

Matthew Andrews (current)

“Fraction Rite”

Cosmonauts Avenue

Short Story

Can be found soon [here](#)

First sentence: “Benjie hurried across the lobby to the church’s front doors, the keys readied between his fingers.”

Kerry Rutherford (current)

“Exhuming the Unsaid”

Finalist for *Yemassee* Poetry Prize

Poem

“Speedo Bob”

The Swamp

Essay

Can be found soon [here](#)

First sentence: “Speedo Bob lived on the edge.”

More Kudos!



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Breslin Sand (current)

“Thoughts and Prayers”

The Showbear Family Circus

Fiction

Read it [here](#)

First sentence: “Tell us what happened two days ago on Monday, April 14th, Mr. Shaw.”

Kate Peterson

“Equestrian”

Aethlon

Poetry

Amaris Feland Ketcham

Glitches in the FBI

Casa Urraca Press

Poetry

Buy it [here](#)

Jennifer Jussel (current)

“The New York Phase”

Allegory Ridge

Essay

Read it [here](#)

First sentence: “When I was twenty and in my second week of living in Manhattan for the summer, a cab driver told me that lots of young people have a “New York Phase,” but very few people have the privilege of being true New Yorkers.”

Tom Hunley

Adjusting to the Lights

Rattle Magazine, 2020 Rattle Chapbook Prize

Coming soon in December

Update on WITC

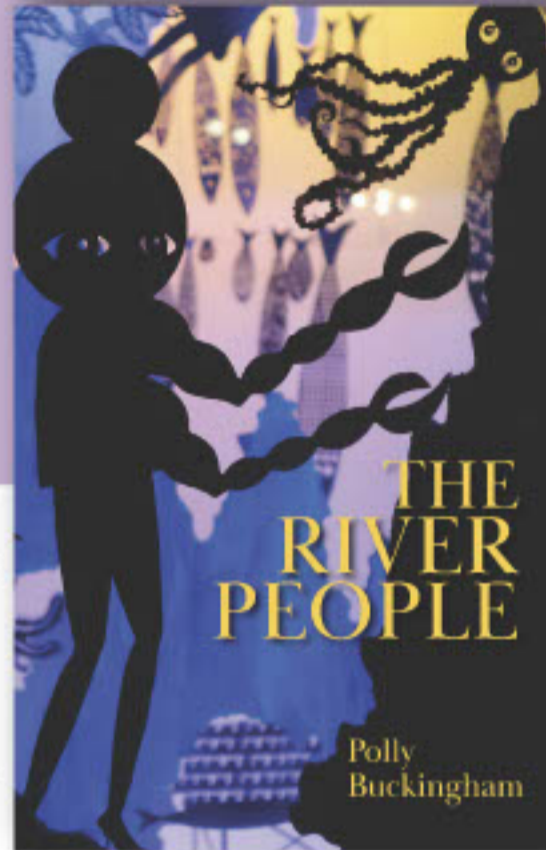


WITC is off to a great start for AY20/21. Because of COVID, all of our interns are teaching remotely. A total of eleven interns have volunteered to teach in Fall Quarter. We have interns teaching Creative Writing Workshops in the Spokane Montessori, North Central High School, Ferris High School, Shadle Park High School, Mead High School, and Rogers High School. In addition, one intern is piloting an effort to deliver help with creative writing to adults through a tutorial model. We look forward to delivering Creative Writing Workshops to our other community sites once it is safe to teach face-to-face again.





LOST HORSE PRESS
is pleased to announce the publication of
THE RIVER PEOPLE
poems | Polly Buckingham



POETRY • ISBN 978-1-7333400-7-6 • 5.5 x 8.5 • 92 pp
Pub Date: September 2020 • \$18

Polly Buckingham's terse lyrics, semi-biographical journeys and glittering elegies, rich with the surreal fabric of nightmare and dream, open in the mind strange doors through which affection, fear, grief, playfulness, and wonder enter the world. In "Potting Roses," she tells us: "I suppose this is the peace/after a summer rain/when mist rises above the roses/and the white faces/of angels dissipate." *The River People* offers dozens of such moments, all of them crafted by a mature emotional and technical range rarely found in first collections of poems, and I am grateful that this book now lives and breathes among us.

—Christopher Howell

It's about time a book of Polly Buckingham's striking poems has come out, to join with her award-winning fiction. The poems have been around for years and are gathered here in a delightful first collection. Although her work falls in with surrealists like Pablo Neruda and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the poems are nailed down by crystal clear imagery. "After You're Gone" is typical, starting with "I'm standing in the refrigerator light/pouring water into a blue glass/when a white van pulls up." In poem after poem, the mystery builds. A fine introduction to an original and serious poet.

—Peter Meinke

Polly Buckingham teaches at Eastern Washington University. She is the editor of *Willow Springs* magazine and founding editor of StringTown Press. Author of *The Expense of a View* (Katherine Anne Porter Award, 2016) and *A Year of Silence* (Jeanne Leiby Memorial Chapbook Award, 2014) and recipient of a fellowship from Artist Trust Washington, her poetry and short stories appear in *The Gettysburg Review*, *Threepenny Review*, *The Poetry Review*, and elsewhere.



Florida Morning

We wake to the smell of gardenia.
We float white flowers in a blue bowl.

At night when we follow the shore
handfuls of cold fade into stars.

Steam rises from the groves
coating each orange in a woolen haze.

We press each other between the sheets
and rise like ocean swells, then fade

as a ghost might float into morning.

—Polly Buckingham

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Web: www.washington.edu/uwpress

Call for Submission Links

Poets & Writers: <https://www.pw.org/classifieds>

Newpages: <http://newpages.com/>

The Writer: <https://www.writermag.com/contests/>

Jerry Jenkins (note: these are all free contests!) : <https://jerryjenkins.com/writing-contests/>

Almond Press: <https://dystopianstories.com/writing-competitions-contests/>

Calls for Submission- Awards & Contests

Sixfold Poetry and Short Story Awards

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/20/2020

Website: <http://www.sixfold.org>

Finishing Line Press Open Chapbook Competition

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.finishinglinepress.com>

Comstock Review Chapbook Contest

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.comstockreview.org>

Tucson Festival of Books Literary Awards

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.tucsonfestivalofbooks.org>

American Poetry Review Honickman First Book Prize

Cash Prize: \$3,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.aprweb.org>

Conduit Books & Ephemera Minds on Fire Open Book Prize

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.conduit.org>

University of North Texas Press Vassar Miller Prize

Cash Prize: \$1,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <https://untpress.unt.edu/submitting-vassar-miller-prize-poetry>

Red Hen Press Benjamin Saltman Poetry Award

Cash Prize: \$3,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.redhen.org>

Indiana Review Blue Light Books Prize

Cash Prize: \$2,000

Deadline: 10/31/2020

Website: <http://www.indianareview.org/blue-light-books>