Benjamin Anstas is the author of the novels An Undrachischer’s Diary and The Faithful Narrative of a Pastor's Disappearance, which was a New York Times Notable Book. His memoir, Too Good To Be True, was published by in October of 2012. His essays, journalism, short fiction and reviews have appeared in Harper’s, The New York Times Magazine, the Paris Review, Tin House, GQ, the Yale Review and Bookforum.

Jill McCorkle is the author of ten books—four story collections and six novels—five of which have been selected as New York Times Notable Books. Her latest novel, Life After Life is being published this spring. Both of the stories in Going Away Shoes, were included in the Best American Short Stories Series. She is the winner of the New England Book Award, the John Dos Passos Prize for Excellence in Literature, and the North Carolina Award for Literature.

Askold Melnychuk has received a Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Grant in Fiction and a McCallion Prize in Fiction. His first novel was a New York Times Notable, his second was an LA Times Best Books of the Year selection. He has received the Mapel Prize from PEN for his work as founding editor of Agni was honored by AWP with the George Garrett Award. His work has also appeared in Glimmer Train, The Antioch Review, The Massachusetts Review; The Denver Quarterly. The Writer’s Chronicle, The Nation, The New York Times, Ploughshares, The Boston Globe, and Grand Street. His novel, The Half-Hearted, is set in the Kansas plains and follows a young family’s struggle to make it in the early Fifties.

Brenda Shaughnessy’s most recent collection of poetry is Our Andromeda. She’s also the author of Human Dark with Sugar, winner of a James Laughlin Award, and Interior with Sudden Joy, finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Shaughnessy is the recipient of a Bunting Fellowship, an NEA/Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Fellowship, and a Howard Foundation Fellowship. Her poems have also appeared in Harper’s, McSweeney’s, The Nation, The New Yorker, The Paris Review, and Slate.com.

Major Jackson is the author of three collections of poetry: Holding Company, Hoops, and Leaving Saturn. He has published poems and essays in AGNI, American Poetry Review, Callaloo, The New Yorker, Poetry, Tin House, and elsewhere. Leaving Saturn was awarded the Cave Canem Poetry Prize for a first book of poems and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry. Jackson is a recipient of a Pushcart Prize, a Whiting Writers’ Award and has been honored by the Pew Fellowship in the Arts and the Writer’s Room Foundation in conjunction with the Library of Congress.

Patricia Hample’s most recent books are the memoir, The Florist’s Daughter, and another work of nonfiction, Blue Arabesque, both on many year-end “best” lists including the New York Times “100 Notable Books of the Year.” Her first memoir, A Romantic Education and subsequent books established her as a leading voice in contemporary memoir. Her work has also appeared in The New Yorker, Paris Review, Best American Essays, Best American Short Stories, Granta, and The New York Times Book Review. In 1990 she was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship.

David Daniel is the author of seven books of poems, including Seven Star Bird, for which he won the Levin Reading Prize; and his chapbook, The Quick and the Dead. Daniel recently completed a new collection, Ornaments and Other Assorted Love Songs. He is currently working on a new manuscript, American Recordings. He is a regular contributor to The American Poetry Review, and his poems, essays and reviews have appeared elsewhere, including the Harvard Review, Agni, Poet Road, Witness, Boston Review, and Ploughshares, where he served as the Poetry editor from 1992 to 2007.

Alice Mattison’s new novel, When We Argued All Night, was a New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice. Her story collection, In Case We’re Separated, won the Connecticut Book Award for Fiction. Mattison’s earlier novels include Nothing Is Quite Forgotten in Brooklyn, The Wedding of Two Headed Women, The Buffalo (a Times Notable Book), and Hilda and Pearl. She is the author of three earlier story collections, including Men Giving Money, Women Yelling, and a collection of poems, Animal. Her work has appeared in The New Yorker, The New York Times, Ploughshares, The Threepenny Review, Esquire, and elsewhere, and has been reprinted in The Pushcart Prize, Best American Short Stories, PEN/HO/Henry Prize Stories.

J.C. Hallman is the author of several books of nonfiction, including The Chex Artist and In Utopia, and a book of short stories, The Hospital for Bad Poets. In 2013, he will publish a short biographical work on the correspondence of William and Henry James, and in 2014 he will publish a literary relationship-memoir about author Nicholson Baker. Jim Shepard is the author of six novels, including most recently Project X, and four story collections, including most recently Like You’d Understand, Anyway, which was nominated for the National Book Award and won the Story Prize, and You Think That’s Bad. His stories have been included in the Best American, PEN/HO/Henry, and Pushcart Prize anthologies.


Mark Wunderlich is the author of The Anchoipe, which received the Lambda Literary Award, Volunteer Servitude, and The Earth Axis, forthcoming from Graywolf. He has received fellowships from the NEA, the Wallace Stegner Fellowship Program at Stanford, and the Amy Lowell Trust. His poems, interviews, reviews and translations have appeared in journals such as Slate, The Paris Review, Poetry, Yale Review, Fence and Tin House.

Rachel Pastan is the author of two novels, Lady of the Snakes and This Side of Married. Her short fiction has been published in The Georgia Review, The Threepenny Review, Mademoiselle, Prairie Schooner, and elsewhere.


David Gates is the author of the novels Jermyn and Preston Falls, and a collection of stories, The Wonders of the Visible World. Mr. Gates’s fiction, articles, and reviews have been published in The New Yorker, The New York Times Book Review; Esquire, Rolling Stone, Tin House, Bomb, Salon.com, The Oxford American, The Jacket of Contour Music, and frequently in Newsweek, where he was a longtime writer and editor. He’s received a Guggenheim fellowship, and his books have been finalists for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics’ Circle Award.