

# ESTRELLAS EN EL FUEGO

*(Stars In The Fire)*

The Alternative  
New Year's Day  
Spoken Word / Performance  
Extravaganza

2014 Anthology



ESTRELLAS EN EL FUEGO (Stars In The Fire):  
The Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance  
Extravaganza - 2014 Anthology

- First Edition.
- Volume I in a series.
- 160 pages.
- Trade Paperback.
- American contemporary poetry anthology.

\*Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of The Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza which takes place every January 1st in New York City.

Contact Information / Order Online:  
<http://www.spokenwordextravaganza.org/>

Design and Layout by C. D. Johnson  
Publishers: C. D. Johnson, Miriam Stanley, and Bruce Weber  
Front Cover / Frontispiece entitled: "Star In The Fire"

ISBN: 0-9840982-9-1  
ISBN13: 978-0-9840982-9-3

Copyright © 2014 by Rogue Scholars Press / ANYDSWPE Imprint

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations for reviewing purposes, this book or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form or by any means, whether print or electronic, without permission in writing from the publisher and / or author(s).

Published by Rogue Scholars Press  
New York, NY - USA









# ESTRELLAS EN EL FUEGO

*(Stars In The Fire)*

The Alternative  
New Year's Day  
Spoken Word / Performance  
Extravaganza

2014 Anthology

A.N.Y.D.S.W.P.E. Imprint





CONTENTS

I / *\*Introduction by Bruce Weber*

II / *\*Acknowledgments*

III / *\*Foreword (Press Release) by Miriam Stanley and Puma Perl*

---

Page

1 /	Amber <i>"Peach"</i>
3 /	Maria Aponte <i>"A Question"</i>
5 /	Maria Arrillaga <i>"Ozymandias"</i>
8 /	Madeline Artenberg <i>"Clam Lady"</i>
9 /	Carmen Bardequez-Brown <i>"Bang Bang"</i>
11 /	Jennifer Blowdryer <i>"Smooth Nothin'"</i>
13 /	Steve Cannon <i>"Drones"</i>
15 /	Patricia Carragon <i>"Model Call"</i>
17 /	Mary Elizabeth Clark <i>"La Tienda - Impressions From South California"</i>
19 /	John Clinton <i>"Palm Sunday"</i>
21 /	Abby Coleman <i>"Innate"</i>
22 /	Jess Cording <i>"Sleeping Strange"</i>
23 /	Steve Dalachinsky <i>"Faces On The Wall"</i>
25 /	JM Theisen de Gonzalez <i>"Matchless"</i>
27 /	Vivian Demuth <i>"Ode To The Veggie-oil Car"</i>
30 /	Gabriel Don <i>"candy in my fingertips"</i>
31 /	Tessa Lou Fix <i>"Organic Heroin"</i>
33 /	Robert Gibbons <i>"The Mayan Apocalypse"</i>
35 /	Daniela Gioseffi <i>"Earth's Body In True Genesis"</i>
37 /	Jane B. Grenier <i>"Anthrax And Bombs"</i>
40 /	Bob Hart <i>"So He Saw Me!"</i>
41 /	Stephanie Hart <i>"In The Dark"</i>
43 /	Bob Heman <i>"Salad Days"</i>
45 /	Aimee Herman <i>"An Examination Of Collapsible Tent Or Nomadic Bone Structure"</i>
46 /	Diana Gitesha Hernandez <i>"Fly Breed"</i>
47 /	Kate Irving <i>"Dust Jacket Blurb"</i>
48 /	Evie Ivy <i>"The Girls And Their Savings"</i>
49 /	C. D. Johnson <i>"Missed Connection"</i>



## CONTENTS Continued

- 53 / Ice Gayle Johnson ***"Rage Defines Behavior-the Purse Dream"***
- 55 / Boni Joi ***"Insomnia Mad Libs"***
- 57 / Larry Jones ***"darling devil derring-do"***
- 59 / Eliot Katz ***"Death And War"***
- 61 / Amy King ***"Back To The Future Is My Endgame"***
- 63 / Marilyn Kiss ***"Chilean Obituary: The Other September 11"***
- 66 / Ron Kolm ***"The Summer They Killed The Spanish Poet"***
- 67 / Richard Kostelanetz ***"Within 'Richard Kostelanetz'"***
- 68 / Ptr Kozlowski ***"Coma Berenices / Pelo De Berenice / Berenice's Hair"***
- 69 / Linda Lerner ***"Because It's A Dolphin"***
- 71 / Tsaurah Litzky ***"Too Many"***
- 73 / Veronica Liu ***"We Take A Few Minutes Before Clocking Out"***
- 75 / Annmarie Lockhart ***"You Say Encyclopedia Britannica"***
- 77 / Ellen Lytle ***"Summer And None"***
- 78 / Sheila Maldonado ***"Great Blood"***
- 79 / Stan Marcus ***"The Janitor Who Paints Oils"***
- 81 / Nancy Mercado ***"For The Charlatan Poet"***
- 83 / Myrna Nieves ***"The Scream"***
- 85 / Obsidian ***"Alfred"***
- 87 / Yuko Otomo ***"Water"***
- 89 / Eve Packer ***"What You Think"***
- 91 / Mireya Perez ***"When Abuelo Came To Visit"***
- 92 / Puma Perl ***"Grace And Madness"***
- 93 / Su Polo ***"Apartment"***
- 94 / Jim Porter ***"Untitled"***
- 95 / John Marcus Powell ***"The Bottom Of Christopher Street"***
- 96 / Ron Price ***"Circling San Michelle"***
- 97 / JD Rage ***"The Darkness"***
- 98 / Vittoria repetto ***"At Columbus Park"***
- 99 / Yolanda Rodriguez ***"Foolish Heart"***
- 101 / Robert Roth ***"Charisma"***
- 102 / Thaddeus Rutkowski ***"The Truth About The Tooth Fairy"***
- 103 / Annie Sauter ***"Liar"***

**CONTENTS Continued**

- 104 / Ilka Scobie *“Invocation”*  
105 / Susan Scutti *“Subtraction”* & *“And So The Train To Brooklyn.”*  
106 / Susan Sherman *“The Death Of A Thousand Cuts”*  
107 / Larissa Shmailo *“Over”*  
109 / Danny Shot *“Mo’s Bar April, Fort Greene”*  
111 / Robert Siek *“Bang Bang Behind An Aquarium”*  
113 / Fred Simpson *“No Poem Here”*  
115 / Joanna Sit *“Butter For Use”*  
117 / George Spencer *“Guys With Guns And Profiles”*  
118 / Diane Spodarek *“Lose The Day (The Rose Bordello Song)”*  
119 / Miriam Stanley *“Always”*  
121 / Elizabeth Akin Stelling *“Can’t Shake These Old Cowgirl Blues”*  
123 / Alice B. Talkless *“The Emperor Of Health”*  
125 / Mary Jane Tenerelli *“Day 7: The Woods”*  
126 / Zev Torres *“Slow Fade Into Shock”*  
127 / Charlie Vazquez *“Huracán Express”*  
129 / Alfredo Villanueva-Collado *“From Beast Meditates On Beauty”*  
131 / George Wallace *“Warhol Soup”*  
132 / Bruce Weber *“What Is That Strange Humming?”*  
133 / Estha Weiner *“New Year’s Eve”*  
134 / Colleen Whitaker *“Miss Pontiac”*  
135 / Francine Witte *“Derby”*  
136 / Liza Wolsky *“Package”*  
137 / Jeffrey Cyphers Wright *“Mind Your Business”*  
139 / Susan Yung *“Work”*

---

§

a-I / *\*Colophon - Rogue Scholars Press*

a-II / *\*Addendum - ANYDSWPE*





### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this anthology celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza.

It's unbelievable that an event that started out with a whisper and a prayer has been up and running for going on two decades.

This is the first anthology that we have undertaken, although during the very early years we asked participants to bring multiple copies of a piece of writing for a collating effort, and a special issue of Stained Sheets (a broadside I used to edit under the auspices of ABC NO RIO) featured very short poems by writers responding to the theme of our third year which was El Niño.

We wish we could have given all the writers / performers featured in the 2014 event a chance to appear in print but our early submission deadline precluded that from happening; in the natural and normal course of events some people were invited to perform after the deadline.

The Alternative (as we call it for short) started on January 1st, 1995 at Café Nico on Avenue A between East 6th and 7th Streets in the East Village (above the legendary Pyramid Club).

Larry Jones was the proprietor of the club and opened its doors to us for five fabulous years of high energy and raucous celebrations of the spoken word, performance, music, and dance.

One prize memory – lining the steps up to Nico with absconded copies of The Village Voice (which failed to even list our event) so that attendees could deservedly trample them.

From there we moved for two years to the now late lamented CBGB'S and then for two years to the Knitting Factory on Leonard Street in Tribeca (the first year in the wake of 911), and then for nine years to our longtime home at the Bowery Poetry Club (a big thank you to Bob Holman), last year to Dixon Place (thank you Ellie Covan), and now a new era dawning as we celebrate our anniversary at the great Nuyorican Poets Café (thank you Daniel Gallant and Jason Quinones).

There have been many wrinkles thrown in as the years have gone by – this year the anthology and last as well as this the incorporation of images drawn from the work of artists who participate in the ambitious holiday show at Richie Timperio's Sideshow Gallery on Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg.

- Bruce Weber

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There are so many people to thank for helping make the Alternative such a rewarding and successful experience each year. For our early years I am most indebted to Larry Jones for his support and collaboration. My wife Joanne Pagano Weber was instrumental for many years in terms of the set design and visual imagery surrounding the show. For the tenth year, she collaborated with Yuko Otomo on a radiant design that still sparkles in memory. Su Polo has created memorable sets for many, many years, bringing whimsy and creativity and unexpected materials into play. Miriam Stanley has served as associate producer for several years, and has also stepped up when other responsibilities or duties have pulled my attention away (including much of the early stages of this year's event).

Bob Heman designed our visuals for a number of years, and C. D. Johnson has been our graphic designer, web-maven, and now co-publisher (with Miriam and myself) of this anthology. C. D. has worked with our multifarious themes to seamlessly create an image, look and identity for past number of seasons. Our current staff, some of whom have helped for a number of events, includes Madeline Artenberg, Robert Roth, Ellen Aug Lytle, Boni Joi, Peter Kozlowski, Su Polo and Puma Perl, who help with the ins and outs and asides that make up putting this complex event together with its reach towards enlisting charitable donations such as food and books and the one year we collected coats.

The list of people who have helped make this event possible over the years is a long one and I am afraid I will miss mentioning key people, but let me give it a try: Grace Period, Jan McLaughlin, Brian Boyles, Tsaurah Litzky, Nigia Stephens, John Holt, Bob Hart, Nelson Alxndre, Cenen, Steve Dalachinsky, George Spencer, Peter Kernz, J. M. Thiesen de Gonzalez, Ice, Big Mike, Pete Dolack, Fran Luck, Jeanne Dickey, Tom O., Ngoma, David Huberman, Mindy Levokove, Susan Sherman, Alam and all our friends at the New York Copy Center, Books Through Bars, Regie Cabico, Steve Cannon, Rosette Capotorto, Pablo Felix, William Hohaus, Eleanor Levine, Material for the Arts, Amy Ooizinian, Pogo, Yarrow Reagen, Jackie Sheeler, Danny Shot and Lydia Tomkie, and our dear and muchly missed friends and staff, Jushi and Brant Lyon, and all the hosts and curators of New Year's days pasts, all of whom have helped so much to make each January 1st a remarkable day.

We'd also like to thank the audience, and specifically the East and West Village community that continues to show up every year, making the Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza one of the most successful yearly poetry events to ever take place in New York City.

Finally, I want to again thank my wife Joanne Pagano Weber, who has attended every event and run the book and sales table and been there as a remarkable partner in every aspect of what we do.

- Bruce Weber

The background of the entire page is a black and white artistic composition. It features swirling, smoke-like patterns that fill the upper and middle portions of the frame. In the lower right corner, there is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a person's face, tilted back with their eyes closed and mouth slightly open, as if in a state of intense emotion or performance. The overall aesthetic is raw and expressive.

## ESTRELLAS EN EL FUEGO

Twenty years and we are still  
burning,  
burning words,  
sounds,  
noise,  
bringing our spirits to the stage...

We are all stars,  
we will not be incinerated nor  
eclipsed,  
our voices in transit as we burn...  
we burn...  
we burn...

**Come Celebrate 20 Years in the Light! Through the storms, through the fires, through the recession, despite the developers raising the rents and ousting people – the Alternative New Year's Day Extravaganza continues! This annual event has become a tradition that gives voice to a culturally diverse group of performers of all ages. It is a multi-media event and includes musicians and artists of all kinds, in addition to the ram-bunctious, irreverent poets who have gathered together for the last two decades. Join us at the legendary Nuyorican Poets Café! Add your poetic language to the mix!**

- Miriam Stanley
- Puma Perl





•

ROGUE SCHOLARS  
Press

For more information or a price quote  
for our book design services, go to:

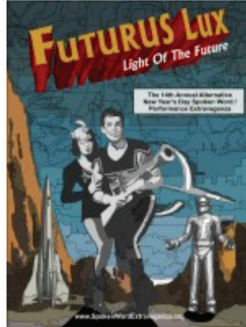
<http://www.roguescholars.com>

For General Information, e-mail:  
[info@roguescholars.com](mailto:info@roguescholars.com)

Editor-In-Chief, C. D. Johnson:  
[editor-in-chief@roguescholars.com](mailto:editor-in-chief@roguescholars.com)

•

Visit Us At:



<http://spokenwordextravaganza.org/>







This anthology is a project celebrating The Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza - the 2014 event marking the 20th Anniversary of this uniquely New York tradition.

The collection features the diverse work of many of the participants in what is recognizably a very verbose affair; from the seasoned wordsmith, to the literarily licentious, to the cerebrally provocative.

A.N.Y.D.S.W.P.E. takes place every year in New York City's historic East Village. Hundreds of people funnel into the venue during an eight hour marathon reading on January 1st. To make the 20th anniversary extra-special, this year it was held at the world-famous Nuyorican Poets Café.

Why does such an event exist? Well, if you are going to write poetry, you might as well read it aloud. And if you are going to read it aloud, people might as well come and listen. And if people are going to come and listen, you might as well make a party of it. And if you are going to make a party of it, it might as well be one of the biggest parties of the year, and if it's going to be one of the biggest parties of the year, you might as well invite some of the best artists, writers, and performers to come and entertain the masses. You can also get drunk and fall in love while you're at it.

In the event that you cannot make the party, we've put together this convenient little volume so you can sample the wonder, wisdom, brilliance, and madness without having to go outside. And if you did come to the party, well this book was a sure-fire way to take a poet home with you at the end of the night. No need to thank us. Your happiness is the only reward we require.

...That and the price for the copy.

Enjoy.

- C. D. Johnson

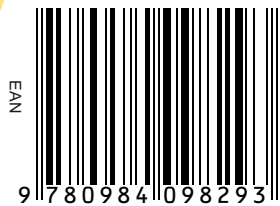


Rogue Scholars  
Press

ANYDSWPE Imprint



ISBN 978-0-9840982-9-3



EAN

9 780984 098293