

Poetry
\$13.95

www.alternativenydc.org

"Travel light, live
light, spread the
light, be the light."
- Yogi Bhajan

One of New York City's biggest literary events, featuring more than 170 scheduled performers, returns to the historic **Nuyorican Poets Café** on New Year's Day. The 24th annual **Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza** took place on January 1, 2018. The

year's theme was "**Pa'lante a la Luz (Charge Into The Light)**". The Alternative draws an overflow crowd every year.

The Alternative, which continues to be free to the public, features poets, prose writers, monologists, musicians, dancers and other performers in a 10-hour showcase that ranges from some of New York's most seasoned talents to emerging stars. The lineup evolves each year to keep the event fresh and democratic. The audience is encouraged to donate paperback books to **Books Through Bars** (<http://booksthroughbarsnyc.org>) for people incarcerated in prison, and canned or boxed food or drink for **City Harvest** (<https://cityharvest.org>), which provides for the hungry in New York.

The Alternative began on New Year's Day in 1995, and quickly became one of the most popular events on the city's poetry and literary scene. Founder, **Bruce Weber**, is ably assisted by a staff of writers, designers and curators. Each year a fresh group of performers are plucked from all corners of the Tri-State area to enliven and transform The Alternative in unexpected ways. Adding to the mix, for the fifth consecutive year we've produced this anthology composed of featured writers, published by **Rogue Scholars Press** under the guidance of **C. D. Johnson**.

"We're excited about our continuing effort to bring in new voices every year and touch all corners of the city. This year promises to be spectacular," said Mr. Weber of this year's event.

Austin Alexis. Joel Allegretti. Merissa Anderson. Madeline Artenberg.
Carmen Bardequez-Brown. Yael Baron. Steve Bloom. Peter Bushyeager. Natalie N. Caro.
Patricia Carragon. Maria Fernanda Lara Chamorro. Tina Chan. Michael Collins. Lydia Cortes.
Steve Dalachinsky. Pete Dolack. Gabriel Don. Bill Evans. Bonny Finberg. Jen Fitzgerald.
Daniela Gioseffi. Barbara D. Hall. Patrick Hammer, Jr. Bob Heman. Aimee Herman.
Ngoma Hill. Roxanne Hoffman. David Huberman. Kate Irving. IsathelIntrovert. Evie Ivy.
C. D. Johnson. Icegayle Johnson. Larry Jones. Meg Kaizu. Lee Klein. Linda Kleinbub.
Ron Kolm. Ptr Kozlowski. Annie Rachele Lanzillotto. Jane LeCroy. Linda Lerner.
Toni Mergentime Levi. Mindy Levokove. Eleonore Ley. Tsaurah Litzky. Ellen Aug Lytle.
Stan Marcus. Jesús Papoleto Meléndez. Nancy Mercado. Alejandra Moreno. Dennis Moritz.
KB Nemcosky. Yuko Otomo. Eve Packer. D.Bird el Palabrero. Puma Perl. Howard Pflanzler.
Su Polo. Ron Price. Zero Prophet. Leslie Prosterman. Jill Rapaport. Carlos Manuel Rivera.
Renato Rosaldo. Robert Roth. Thaddeus Rutkowski. K. Saito. Sarah Serrano. Ravi Shankar.
Yuyutsu Sharma. Susan Sherman. John L. Silver. Joanna Sit. Angela Sloan. Miriam Stanley.
Laurie Stone. Zelene Pineda Suchilt. Terese Svoboda. Alice B. Talkless.
J M Theisen de Gonzalez. Tim Tomlinson. Edwin Torres. Ewan Turner. Claire Van Winkle.
George Wallace. Phyllis Wat. Bruce Weber. Francine Witte. Jeffrey Cyphers Wright.

Rogue Scholars
Press

ANYDSWPE Imprint



2018 Anthology

PA'LANTE A LA LUZ

Rogue Scholars Press

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

2018 Anthology

PA'LANTE A LA LUZ (Charge Into The Light):
The Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza
- 2018 Anthology

- First Edition.
- Volume V in a series.
- 168 pages.
- Trade Paperback.
- American contemporary poetry anthology.

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Por delante A LA LUZ

Charge Into The Light

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

2018 Anthology

<http://alternativenyd.org>



V ***Foreword & Acknowledgments***

- 1 **I Austin Alexis** – The Streets
2 **I Joel Allegretti** – Memphis Minnie's Unmarked Grave
3 **I Merissa Anderson** – Photo: Bogotá Street Scene
5 **I Madeline Artenberg** – Afternoon Whispers
7 **I Carmen Bardequez-Brown** – The Wall. La Pared
9 **I Yael Baron** – The House Of Viper
11 **I Steve Bloom** – The Prison Artist
12 **I Peter Bushyeager** – Laughing Gas
13 **I Natalie N. Caro** – An Unexamined Institution
14 **I Patricia Carragon** – Meltdown
15 **I María Fernanda Lara Chamorro** – From H-Town
16 **I Tina Chan** – Color The World
17 **I Michael Collins** – Self-Portrait
18 **I Lydia Cortes** – Wahaca Dark
19 **I Steve Dalachinsky** – Gnostic Trio
20 **I Pete Dolack** – The Birds Of The Southern Plains Are Nationalists
21 **I Gabriel Don** – Swimming Lesson / Lección De Natación
23 **I Bill Evans** – Tiny Orgy
25 **I Bonny Finberg** – Daily News
27 **I Jen Fitzgerald** – Wildflower
29 **I Daniela Gioseffi** – Ode To Shikenah, Veiled Mother Of The Torah
30 **I Barbara D. Hall** – My Mother's Dream
31 **I Patrick Hammer, Jr.** – For A Girl Not Dead Anymore
32 **I Bob Heman** – The Beach
33 **I Aimee Herman** \Dear Universe (A Manifesto)
35 **I Ngoma Hill** – Karma Is A B-word (Last Poem For 2016)
37 **I Roxanne Hoffman** – Rumpstiltskin
38 **I David Huberman** – The Little Mouse
39 **I Kate Irving** – The Homeless And The Value Of Amber
40 **I IsathelIntrovert** – Forever
41 **I Evie Ivy** – Free Words In The Air
43 **I C. D. Johnson** – How NOT To Break Up With A Goddess
45 **I Icegayle Johnson** – Martin
46 **I Larry Jones** – Javier In Vegas

- 47 **I Meg Kaizu** – Weeds
48 **I Lee Klein** – Espresso Bongo Florida # 7 For Dr. Phillip Solomon
49 **I Linda Kleinbub** – Stumbling
50 **I Ron Kolm** – The Emperor's Vacation
51 **I Ptr Kozlowski** – Force Of Gravity
53 **I Annie Rachele Lanzillotto** – Pazzi Per Pignoli
55 **I Jane LeCroy** – Gold Watch
56 **I Linda Lerner** – So
57 **I Toni Mergentime Levi** – Milk
58 **I Mindy Levokove** – Because
59 **I Eleonore Ley** – Sonnet #1
60 **I Tsaurah Litzky** – Birthday Poem - August 31 2017
61 **I Ellen Aug Lytle** – Still Dressed For Heat
63 **I Stan Marcus** – The Short Guy
65 **I Jesús Papoleto Meléndez** – The Flood Came To Puerto Rico
67 **I Nancy Mercado** – Epilogue For The 21st Century
68 **I Alejandra Moreno** – May Flower Of The Cloud Forrest
69 **I Dennis Moritz** – Walking The Williamsburgh Bridge
70 **I KB Nemcosky** – Early Exits (Excerpt Pages 107-108)
71 **I Yuko Otomo** – More Description Of Our Kitchen Wall (For Myself)
73 **I Eve Packer** – We'll Get Used To It
75 **I D.Bird el Palabrero** – Toes
77 **I Puma Perl** – Bodega Alley
78 **I Howard Pflanzner** – Harmony Hotel
79 **I Su Polo** – Spell
80 **I Ron Price** – Above Nothing Below No One
81 **I Zero Prophet** – AmeRican
83 **I Leslie Prosterman** – Intervals
85 **I Jill Rapaport** – Julie Christie Rides Again
87 **I Carlos Manuel Rivera** – Goleta En Nueva York
89 **I Renato Rosaldo** – Looking For Lorca
91 **I Robert Roth** – Untitled
92 **I Thaddeus Rutkowski** – From Nowhere To Nowhere
93 **I K. Saito** – Twin Nose Dirt
94 **I Sarah Serrano** – My Communion Is Not Your Oppression
95 **I Ravi Shankar** – The Acorn And The Hungry King

97	I Yuyutsu Sharma – There's A Treasure
99	I Susan Sherman – The Tears Of Things
101	I John L. Silver – On This Dark Afternoon
103	I Joanna Sit – Timescape: Wonderland
105	I Angela Sloan – Butcher's Peppermint
106	I Miriam Stanley – John Robert Lewis
107	I Laurie Stone – Smoke
109	I Zelene Pineda Suchilt – Waiting For Sun
111	I Terese Svoboda – The Dukes Are Up
112	I Alice B. Talkless – Trumpet
113	I J M Theisen de Gonzalez – Untitled
114	I Tim Tomlinson – Careful
115	I Edwin Torres – No Yoyo
116	I Ewan Turner – Pomegranate #7
117	I Claire Van Winkle – Double Process
118	I George Wallace – I Open My Eyes
119	I Phyllis Wat – Dog Picture
121	I Bruce Weber – Between The Wars
123	I Francine Witte – Charley Explains Baseball To Me
125	I Jeffrey Cyphers Wright – Artwork: Let's Play

APPENDIX

a-I	Contributor Biographies
a-XVII	Alphabetical Index Of Poems
a-XXI	Colophon Rogue Scholars Press
a-XXIII	Addendum ANYDSWPE Graphics

Foreword & Acknowledgments

This anthology celebrates the multitude of writers that make up the **24th annual Alternative New Year's Day Spoken Word / Performance Extravaganza**, which has been held for the past four years at the legendary **Nuyorican Poets Cafe** in the East Village.

I want to thank the staff of the Alternative for helping to make this event possible; **Madeline Artenberg, Lydia Cortes, Pete Dolack, C. D. Johnson, Ptr Kozlowski, Ellen Aug Lytle, Su Polo, Robert Roth, Thad Rutkowski, Lydia Cortes**, and Joanne Pagano Weber — and our assistant editors this year, **Merissa Anderson** and **Alejandra Moreno**, both of whom also contributed to the anthology.

Each person has played a valuable part in putting the pieces of this ten hour long event together. I want to single out C. D. Johnson for creating our annual anthology, a “new” piece added to the mix of the event in 2014. When this event began on January 1st, 1995 I dreamed of their being an annual book containing samplings of the work of the writers who performed at the Alternative. What a wonderful takeaway!

I Austin Alexis

The Streets

A neighborhood so gentrified
the fireflies have moved back.
No more gunshots on Saturday nights.
No more POW competing with a dog's bark.
Even the skywriters cruising the blue
two miles above this urban geography
notice the difference, toast the change.

Dragonflies sniff between a fire hydrant
and a newly painted wrought iron gate, flutter
amongbn SUVs, Hondas and vaseline-shiny Fords.
Residents high five each other.
"No, man, it's not my fault," they say
when a homeless person shuffles by,
his eyes more glaring than the sun.

I Joel Allegretti

Memphis Minnie's Unmarked Grave

*I might tell everybody what that Chickasaw has done, done for me,
I might tell everybody what that Chickasaw has done, done for me,
She done stole my man away and blowed that doggone smoke on me,
She's a low-down dirty dog.*

Memphis Minnie,
"Chickasaw Train Blues (Low Down Dirty Thing)"

Lizzie Douglas sang. Yes, she did. She didn't train out of here on the Chickasaw caboose. No, a stroke robbed her nursing-home pillow in 1973. A synonym for stroke is brain attack. "When brain cells die during a stroke, abilities controlled by that area of the brain are lost. How a stroke patient is affected depends on where the stroke occurs in the brain and how much the brain is damaged." [1] Lizzie was born in Louisiana and performed for loose change on Memphis streets before the microphone transferred her singing to 78 RPM records. They say she played guitar like a man. Her remains lie in a Baptist cemetery in Mississippi, birthplace of Tennessee Williams. A headstone honored Tennessee's grave right after his burial. Lizzie got hers twenty-three years after her death (she was a Negro, you know), courtesy of Bonnie Raitt. Thank you, Bonnie.

[1] National Stroke Association



I Merissa Anderson

Photo: "Bogotá Street Scene", 2009.

I Madeline Artenberg

Afternoon Whispers

Sun's glare
readies for silence
after a long afternoon.
Bells swell, young girls
scatter with time.

I dream colors
as shadows twist
on palettes.
Twilight drifts
toward completion.

I Carmen Bardeguéz-Brown

The Wall. La Pared

#1

Monarch butterflies flies south during the winter.

They flapp their wide orange and black abanicos acariciando las rafagas del viento.

What makes them dance all the way to Mexico?

I wonder how building the wall will affect them

Will they dig tiny holes till it crumbles

or stay in Mexico and feel sorry for the people up North?

#2

Most of the aguacate or avocado

that is consumed in the United States comes from Mexico

I guess if they built the wall we will not have any more guacamole or avocado paste

or any aguacate

maldita pared.

#3

So let me get this straight

the United States Declares an illegal war against Mexico

because they just want to expand to the West courtesy of the Monroe Doctrine

They win and take what we call now

Arizona, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico etc etc etc.

one hundred years later some people in the United States

get all huffing and puffin because Mexicans are coming to their old neighborhood.

Well, like my Mexicans friends will say, la chingada.

#4

Suggestions and a few questions about building the wall:

1. Make sure that it is a revolving door just in case Mexicans don't like what they see.
2. Have a scanner that identify the ethnicity and nationality of everyone passing through the door because not everyone is Mexican.
3. Just out of curiosity, who do you think is going to build the wall? Because the last time I check most of the construction workers in the US are Latino immigrants and the majority are illegal, by the way not all of them are Mexicans.
4. And are all of the materials use to build the wall made in the USA.
5. Will the construction company be an American, Chinese or European co?

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

6. Are the workers be paid minimum wage, will they be in unions, any women?
 7. Will the US build a wall somewhere in the Atlantic to stopped Irish, English, Spaniards and any other European people from coming to the United States?
 8. Hmm if we could go back in time I wonder if the Africans would have build a gigantic wall to stopped the Euro Americans from stealing their people and sold them into slavery?
 9. And what about all of the Native American nations, will they build a wall around Washington DC or Wall Street to stop “ white people from intruding in their imposed reservation camps?
 10. I wonder how the pilgrims would have felt if they encountered a giant wall instead of the welcoming natives that saved their ass during those harsh winters in the new land.
- We don't need to build walls. Like the Beatles said all we need is Love. Y al carajo con la maldita pared.

I Yael Baron

The House Of Viper

Light a candle,
Say a prayer,
Love meets danger,
My heart don't care.
Dance to the beat...
Breathe in that toxic air.
They never got the message
to handle with care.
And in the House of the Viper,
we learn we survive.
By the power of our chosen addiction,
just burn the house down.
There's nothing left to say,
only arguments and Emotion's pain.
Relationship's a stain,
and there's no removing Toxic...No
[One week later at the Hospital]
Yes, I may be Borderline,
but some of you have crossed the line.
Unethical, you generalize,
and then you diagnose,
forgetting that we're people first.
Why do you look at me like I'm some strange case study in your book?
Why do you look at me like I'm some strange case study in your book?
Why do you look at me like I'm some strange case study in your book?
[The Doctor will see you now]
Hi, I'm Doctor Generalization,
and you have Borderline Personality Disorder.
You have no hope.
You have no cure.
Now! Get out of my office!
In the presence of lies, love suffocates and dies.
So much shame attached to my name.
I started to hate me.
Do it... No!...Do it...No!
You heard what she said.

You have no hope.
You have no cure.
In the House of The Viper... (No!)
we learn we survive.
By the power. of "Our" chosen addiction
Just burn the house down.
There's nothing left to say,
only arguments and Emotion's pain.
Relationship's a stain,
and there's no removing Toxic. No!

I Steve Bloom

The Prison Artist

1.

The prison artist works away
in her cell on her latest creation,
intensity identical to any artist
wherever she may be working:
home, studio, even out
 in the open air.

For to the artist it matters not, we know,
where she may find herself in space
so long as the mind is free to wander
among the shapes and the colors.

(Her brush shifts a line here
a bit to the left, the tint
of the area that it borders
just a hair more
toward the violet end
of the spectrum.)

Wherever she finds herself in space:
out in the open air, in a studio, or at home—
but especially when home is
the inside of a prison cell—
every artist, working on her latest
is, you see, painting the gateway
 to freedom.

2.

The prison artist
coats a square of glazed bricks
in the wall of her cell with black paint,
hangs a sign:
“I have painted the gateway to Hell,”
it reads
 “Do not open.”

I Peter Bushyeager

Laughing Gas

Dentist's overheads hum
argon tubes throw
throbbing light on
my thrown open mouth the
gas comfort grid
fuzzy on inside
outside implant procedure
strikes me as
wry so happy I
misunderstand and
the misunderstanding grows
an easy stroll
belly thrust out
arms at 90 degrees
as if they ended in
heavy insulated work gloves
rather than hands as
nature wants planets
rocky or gaseous
gaseous here is
my body a small planet with
nature's light
wafting lightly over
inserted titanium and
biblical comfort
folded over everything



I Jeffrey Cyphers Wright

Artwork: "Let's Play", drawing and collage, 2017

APPENDIX

A:

Austin Alexis: poems, fiction and nonfiction in **Clockwise Cat**, **Brownstone Poets Anthology**, **Brevitas Festival**, **Nassau County Poet Laureate Society Review**, **The Ledge**, **Home Planet News**, **Poets 4 Paris**, **Lips**, **Chiron Review**, **The Lyric**, **Rabbit Ears: TV Poems**, **The New Verse News**, **The Unbearables**. One-act plays at **Theater for the New City** and **Boog Festival**. Book: **Privacy Issues**. austinalexis3@twitter.

Joel Allegretti is the author of, most recently, **Platypus** (**NYQ Books**, 2017), a collection of poems, prose, and performance texts, and **Our Dolphin** (**Thrice Publishing**, 2016), a novella. In addition, he is the editor of **Rabbit Ears: TV Poems** (**NYQ Books**, 2015), the first anthology of poetry about the mass medium.

Merissa Anderson a native New Yorker of Italian and Puerto Rican decent. She is a sociologist and currently working as an assistant project manager for the **Bogotá Audiovisual Market (BAM)** in Bogotá, Columbia which holds its film screenings event every July. She also worked on this year's **ANYDSWPE** anthology as an assistant editor. <http://www.bogotamarket.com/>

Madeline Artenberg's poetry has appeared in many print and online publications, such as **Vernacular** and **Rattle**. She won **Lyric Recovery** and **Poetry Forum** prizes and was semi-finalist in the 2005 contest of **Margie**, **The American Journal of Poetry**. Her work often touches on Jewish and New York City themes. **The Old In-and-Out**, a play based on her poetry and that of Karen Hildebrand, directed by Kat Georges, garnered raves in June, 2013.

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

B:

Yael Baron is a Performance Artist and a Mental Health Advocate and Activist. She has appeared on stage and in other venues including: **Brooklyn Wildlife Summer Festival** at the **Living Gallery**, **Verses Against The Drug War** at **Gamba**, **Show Me How to Smile/Rise Up To Stigma** (at the **Opera Center of America**).

Steve Bloom is a life-long social activist who lives in Brooklyn NY and works as a decorative painter and faux finisher. His work has been published on numerous websites and in various journals and anthologies. Steve has no academic degrees and has won no prizes or awards. You can find out more at www.stevebloompoetry.net.

Peter Bushyeager's poetry collections include **Citadel Luncheonette** and **In the Green Oval**. Recent poems in **Live Mag!**; the **Unbearables' From Somewhere to Nowhere**, and the forthcoming issue of **Local Knowledge**. Reviews and articles in **Rain Taxi**, **Encyclopedia of American Poetry/Twentieth Century**, and **What is Poetry (Just Kidding, I Know You Know)**, **Wave Book's** anthology of **Poetry Project** interviews.

C:

Patricia Carragon's latest books are "**The Cupcake Chronicles**" (**Poets Wear Prada**, 2017) and "**Innocence**" (**Finishing Line** Press, 2017). She hosts the Brooklyn-based **Brownstone Poets** and is the editor-in-chief of its annual anthology. She is one of the executive editors for **Home Planet News Online**.

María Fernanda Lara Chamorro is a black Ecuadorian poet having performed her work at **New York City's 2017 Poetry Festival**, **MoMa PS1's New York Art Book Fair**, **John Jay College**, and more. She is a recipient of **CantoMundo**, **Callaloo**, and **VONA** fellowships. Her poems and translations have appeared in **Kweli Journal**, **The Wide Shore**, and elsewhere. She lives in Washington Heights.

Tina Chan is a lively poet whose writing style is a poetic enigma. She believes words ejected from the heart can make a difference with consequences.

Michael Collins poems have received **Pushcart Prize** nominations and appeared in more than 70 journals and magazines. He is also the author of the chapbooks **How to Sing when People Cut off your Head** and **Leave it Floating in the Water** and **Harbor Mandala** and the full-length collections **Psalmadala** and **Appearances**.

D:

Poet/collagist Steve Dalachinsky was born in Brooklyn after the last big war. His poem "**Particle Fever**" was nominated for a 2015 **Pushcart Prize**. His most recent books include **Fool's Gold** (2014 feral press), **a superintendent's eyes** (revised and expanded 2013/14 - **unbearable/autonomeia**) and **flying home**, a collaboration with German visual artist Sig Bang Schmidt (**Paris Lit Up Press** 2015) and **The Invisible Ray** (**Overpass Press** 2016) with artwork by Shalom Neuman.

Pete Dolack is an activist, photographer, poet and writer who wishes he could keep all those balls in the air but, alas, keeps dropping some of them. He writes the **Systemic Disorder** blog and is the author of **It's Not Over: Learning From the Socialist Experiment**, an analysis of the 20th century's socialist experiments written with an eye toward doing it better in the 21st century.

Gabriel Don raised in Australia, Singapore and Dubai, a wanderer currently living in Loisaída, published in numerous online and print venues, expresses herself in a variety of ways: Art. Collage. Paint. Drawing. Performance Art. Music. Writing. Poetry. Film. Editor. Interviews. Events. Photography and teaches writing at **Pace** and **BMCC**. – <https://www.facebook.com/gabrieldoninparticularorder/>

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

E:

Bill Evans lives in New York City. His book of poems, **Modern Adventures**, is published by **Spuyten Duyvil** and is available on Amazon.

F:

Bonny Finberg's fiction, poetry and photographs, published internationally in literary journals, anthologies, and gallery exhibitions, include a story collection, **How the Discovery of Sugar Produced the Romantic Era** (Sisyphus Press, 2006); a novel, "**Kali's Day**" (Autonomea 2014) **Déjà Vu**, poetry and digital collages (**Corrupt Press** 2011); **Sitting Book** (Xanadu Press 2017). She received a 2014 **Acker Award** for fiction.

Jen Fitzgerald is a poet, essayist, photographer, and a native New Yorker who received her MFA in Poetry at **Lesley University**. She teaches creative writing online and around New York City. Her collection, **The Art of Work** was published by **Noemi Press** in September of 2016. Her work has appeared in such outlets as **PBS Newshour**, **Boston Review**, **Tin House**, **Salon**, **PEN Anthology**, and **Colorado Review** among others.

G:

Daniela Gioseffi is an **American Book Award** winning author of 17 books of poetry and prose. She has won 2 grant awards from **NYSCA**, **The John Ciardi Lifetime Achievement Award** in Poetry, and reads widely. Her latest book is **Waging Beauty as the Polar Bear Dreams of Ice** 2017. She edits www.Eco-Poetry.org that receives 6 thousand global visitors monthly.

H:

Barbara D. Hall, author of "**Waiting for the Bus: a poetry chapbook**", **Adam's Eve**, **Sadies Secret** and the **Stuffy the Cat Series**. www.ournaturematters.net.

Patrick Hammer, Jr.'s recent book of childhood memory poems, **BRONX LOCAL**, is available on Amazon. His next collection, **PARAMUS LOCAL**, will also be available shortly.

Bob Heman's words have appeared recently in **New American Writing**, **Caliban online**, **Otoliths**, and **The Other Side of Violet** [great weather for MEDIA]. "THE BEACH" was first published in **No Roses Review**.

Aimee Herman is a queer performance artist, writer and teacher with two full-length books of poetry, most recently "meant to wake up feeling" (great weather for MEDIA). Aimee is also a singer and ukelele player in the poetryband **Hydrogen Junkbox**. Aimee's poem "Dear Universe (A Manifesto)" was first published by great weather for MEDIA.

Ngoma Hill is a performance poet, multi-instrumentalist, singer/songwriter, Artist and paradigm shifter, who uses culture as a tool to raise socio-political and spiritual consciousness through work that encourages critical thought.

Ngoma weaves poetry and song that raises contradictions and searches for a solution to a just and peaceful world.

Ngoma is the **Beat Poet Laureate** of New York for 2017-18.

Roxanne Hoffman worked on Wall Street, now answers a patient hotline. Her words can be found in cyberspace, set to music, immortalized on the silver screen, and bound in print. She runs the small literary press **Poets Wear Prada** with Jack Cooper. Her elegiac poem **In Loving Memory**, illustrated by Edward Odwitt, was released as a chapbook in 2011.

David Huberman is the Ranter and the Raver of the Lower East Side for the past 30 years.

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

I:

Kate Irving's chapbook, "**Raising the Arsonist's Daughter from the Dead**" was published by **Finishing Line Press**. Her poems have appeared in **BigCityLit.com**, **qaartsiluni**, **Press 1**, **Over the Walls**, **What Comes Next**, and **Tamarind Magazine**. She's a native New Yorker.

Bryan Cornel Fox (IsatheIntrovert) is a New York poet who loves to box and has performed poetry around the city at places such as **Nuyorican Poets' Café**, **GLBT Center**, **Word at 4F**, and the **Bowery Poetry Club**.

Evie Ivy, poet/dancer has 3 books out, **The First Woman Who Danced**, poems based on her experiences as a dancer, **Living in 12-Tone . . . and other poetic forms**, **No, No Nonets . . . the Book of Nonets**, (which has become her personal favorite). She has work in webzines, **Levure littéraire**, **Versewrights**, etc. Evie hosts the long running **Green Pavilion Poetry Event** in Brooklyn.

J:

C. D. (Seedy) Johnson: The editor-in-chief and publisher of the **ANYDSWPE** annual anthology series through **Rogue Scholars Press**, New York. Former web developer, webmaster, and I.T. Director for **CEO Clubs International, Inc.** Currently, a freelance web, software, graphic design, and digital publishing consultant. Tutors disabled persons in the use of computers and hands-free technology. Holds an M.A. in analytic philosophy and logic theory and a B.S. in computer science from Old Dominion University. Has taught adult literacy classes, introduction to philosophy and logic, Advaita Vedanta philosophy, and religious instruction in Sanatana Dharma and Shaktism at the **Shiv-Shakti Peeth** in Hollis, Queens. Current projects include books on philosophy, research into Indian Nyaya logic, and "constructed language" theory. Seedy is also the founder of the **Philosophy Φ** discussion group on Facebook.

Icegayle Johnson, multi media artist. "**the key**", 2012. Anthology, "**TV poems**", 2015. Forth coming, "**Room # 1408**", 2017"

Larry Jones was the co-producer along with Bruce Weber of the first five **ANYDSWPE** events at **Café Nico**, his loft apartment / performance venue one flight above the **Pyramid Club** on Avenue A. An Associate of the **Academy of American Poets**, his work has appeared in many literary magazines and anthologies. He teaches literature and creative writing to gifted and talented youth at **Hofstra University**.

K:

Lee Klein (born November 30, 1965) is a poet, curator, essayist and writer on the arts.

Linda Kleinbub is a poet, journalist, and painter. She is a native New Yorker, a lifelong resident of Queens. She is a co-founder of **Pen Pal Poets**. She is a mentor and committee member of **Girls Write Now**, an organization that works with at-risk high school girls who are interested in writing. Her work has appeared in **The New York Observer**, **The Brooklyn Rail**, **Yahoo! Beauty**, **Front Porch Commons**, **Grabbing the Apple: An Anthology of New York Woman Poets**, **First Literary Review-East**, and **The Best American Poetry Blog**.

Ron Kolm is a co-editor of **From Somewhere to Nowhere: The End of the American Dream** and a contributing editor of **Sensitive Skin**. He is the author of **Duke & Jill**, **Night Shift** and **A Change in the Weather**. He's had work in **Maintenant**, **Local Knowledge** and the **Outlaw Bible of American Poetry**. Ron's papers are archived at NYU.

Ptr Kozlowski has been a taxi driver, deliveryman, poet and printer, singer-songwriter and guitarist. Published in **Hobo Jungle**, **Stained Sheets**, and **South Florida Poetry Journal**, anthologies from **Great Weather for Media** and **Performance Poets Association**. Performed at **CBGB**, **Bowery Poetry Club**, **ABCNoRio**, **Cornelia Street Café**, **Brownstone Poets**, **Saturn Series**, **Silver-Tongued Devils** and the **Conklin Barn** in Huntington.

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L:

Annie Rachele Lanzillotto's "**Hard Candy: Caregiving, Mourning and Stagelight**" and "**Pitch Roll Yaw**" are a two in one flip book, from **Guernica Press** 2018. Lanzillotto's "**L is for Lion: an italian bronx butch freedom memoir**" (**SUNY Press**), was a **LAMBDA Lit** Finalist. Her first collection of poetry "**Schistsong**" came out from **Bordighera Press**. Lanzillotto's is a singer/songwriter. Listen to her albums and audio books. Links at: www.annielanzillotto.com.

Jane LeCroy is the front woman in 2 very different bands on **Imaginator Records**: **The Icebergs** (vox, cello, drums) with the album "**Eldorado**" and, **ΩΩ(OHMSLICE)** (vox, modular-synth, drums, horns) with the album "**Conduit**". Get them from **Bandcamp** / listen on **iTunes, Spotify, Apple, Amazon**, etc. Follow her on **FB/ IG**-, join her list at www.janelecroy.com.

Linda Lerner – **A Dance Around the Cauldron**, a prose work consists of nine characters during the Salem witch trials brought into our own times (**Lummox Press**, September, 2017) nominated for a **Pushcart Prize**. Previously **Yes, the Ducks Were Real**, (**NYQ Books** (Feb. 2015)). Her next poetry collection, **Taking the F Train**, will be published by **NYQ books** in late 2018 or early 2019.

Toni Mergentime Levi is a poet and prize-winning librettist. Her poetry collections include **White Food** and **Watching Mother Disappear** (both **Mayapple Press**) and **For A Dancing Bear (Three Mile Harbor)**. Her poems have appeared in anthologies and dozens of journals; she has been a resident fellow at the **MacDowell Colony** and numerous other artist colonies in the US and abroad.

Mindy Levokove is a multi-media performance poet: a member of **Brevitas**; she sings for peace and dances for water. Also, she teaches qigong and Tai Chi at **Northern Sky Kung Fu School** and Adult Literacy and Math at the **Lehman College ALC**.

Tsaurah Litzky is a **Pushcart Prize** nominated poet who also writes fiction, erotica, memoir, plays and commentary. Her poetry collections are "**Baby On The Water**" (**Long Shot Press**) and "**Cleaning the Duck**" (**Bowery Books**). She is completing a new poetry collection "**We Shake it.**" Her memoir, "**Flasher**" will be published this winter by **Unbearable Books/Autonomeia**.

Ellen Lytle has 2 chapbooks, 1 book of poetry, 1 book of short fiction— still teaches writing on Staten Island, still loves and weeps over every injured animal, still has hope for humanity, and maybe a book of her newest poetry from **NYQ Press** will come out soon; Maybe!

M:

Stan Marcus lives in Montclair, New Jersey.

Jesús Papoleto Meléndez, one of the founding members of the Nuyorican poetry movement, is the author of four volumes of poetry, most recently "**Hey Yo/Yo Soy - 40 Years of Nuyorican Street Poetry**, (2012). He is also a playwright, whose play, "**The Junkies Stole The Clock**" (1974) was the first Latino play produced by **Joseph Papp's New York Shakespeare Festival – the Public Theatre**. He has been awarded a **NYFA** grant (2001) and a **NEA-Combo** grant (1988) in poetry.

Nancy Mercado is the recipient of the **American Book Award for Lifetime Achievement** from the **Before Columbus Foundation**. Editor of the **Nuyorican Women Writers Anthology** published in **City University of New York's Voices e/ Magazine**, she is also a guest curator for the **Museum of American Poetics**, and assistant editor of **Eco-poetry.org**. For more information, go to: **nancy-mercado.com**.

Alejandra Moreno is a history major and performing artist from Bogotá, Columbia. Along with Merissa Anderson, she worked on this year's **ANYDSWPE** anthology as an assistant editor. She's expecting her first child in the spring.

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

Dennis Moritz has written 30 plays. Venues include the **Public, Nuyorican, Bowery Poetry Club, Poetry Project, LaMama, Freedom Theatre, Painted Bride, Theatre Double, Theatre Ariel**. His second collection of plays will be published by **United Artist Press** in Spring 2018. His play, **Just the Boys** was anthologized in **Action: the Nuyorican Poets Café Theatre Festival**. Thank you Miguel and Lois.

N:

KB Nemcosky has authored three books of poetry: **Drift (Ten Pell Books, 2000)** and **dear friend, (Straw Gate Books, 2012)** and **Early Exits (United Artists Books, 2018)**. His poems have appeared in **Tamarind, The Unbearables Collection, Pagan Place, Gathering of the Tribes, Press 1, Push New York**, among others.

O:

Yuko Otomo. Japanese origin. A bilingual (Japanese & English) poet & a visual artist. She also writes haiku, art criticism & essays. She has read in **St. Mark's Poetry Project, Tribes, Bowery Poetry Club, ABC No Rio, La Mama, The Living Theatre, PS1, MoMA, The Queens Museum**, etc & in Japan, France & Germany. Her publication includes **"Garden: Selected Haiku" (Beehive Press), "A Sunday Afternoon on the Isle of Museum" (Propaganda Press), "PINK" (Sisyphus Press), "Small Poems" (Ugly Duckling Presse), "The Hand of The Poet" (UDP), "STUDY & Other Poems on Art" (UDP) & "Elements" (the Feral Press)**. She exhibited her artwork at **Court House Gallery @ Anthology Film Archives, Tribes Gallery & Vision Festival**, etc. She is a contributing writer for a collective art critical forum **www.Arteidolia.com** currently. Yuko is a 2017 **Pushcart Prize** nominee.

P:

Eve Packer: bronx-born poet/performer/actress. 3 books from **Fly By Night Press**, 5 poetry/jazz cd's, teaches at **WCC**, mom, grandmom, lives downtwon, swims daily. (evepacker@aol.com).

D.Bird el Palabrero is part poet, part comic, and all anti-hero. A graduate of the **School Of Poetic Arts** and the **Full Circle Ensemble**, his work has been described as a kind of Puerto Rican Experimental Theatric Poetry. D.Bird has been featured at poetry events throughout New York City, including **Inspired Word**, **Capicu Culture**, **Oye! Avant-Garde Night**, and the **Nuyorican Poets Café**.

Puma Perl is a performer, producer, and a widely published poet/writer. She's the author of two chapbooks, **Belinda and Her Friends** and **Ruby True**, and two full-length collections, **knuckle tattoos** and **Retrograde**. She is the creator and curator of **Puma Perl's Pandemonium**, which merges poetry with rock and roll; as **Puma Perl and Friends**, performs with some of NYC's best musicians. Puma is a recipient of a 2016 **Acker Award** in the category of writing, and of two **New York Press Association Awards** (2015 and 2016) in recognition of her journalism.

Howard Pflanzler is a poet and playwright. **Dead Birds or Avian Blues (Fly By Night Press, 2011)**. Publications: **And Then**, **Downtown Brooklyn**, **Tribes**, **LES Festival of the Arts**, **An Unnatural Election**, **Word: An Anthology by A Gathering of the Tribes**. Hybrid performance piece, **Walt Whitman Opera**, adapted from Whitman's poetry, music by Constance Cooper, presented at **undergroundzero festival**, New York.

Native New Yorker Su Polo is an artist, poet, singer, songwriter, player of guitar and dulcimer and computer graphic artist. She is curator and host of the **Saturn Series Poetry Reading** and **Open Mike** for 24 years every Monday night in NYC. **Turning Stones** and **Beauty** are her Chapbooks. Her website is **Supolo.com**

Ron Price is a Teaching Artist at the **Juilliard School**. He is the author of **Surviving Brothers**, **A Crucible for the Left Hand**, **A Small Song Called Ash from the Fire**, and **A True Account of the Failure of Bodies to Adequately Burn**.

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Zero Prophet aka Not4Prophet is a Po' Rican poet, seditious singer, militant MC, anti-corporate agitator, and an indignant Independentista. He has released several indie music albums with his bands, **RICANSTRUCTION** and **X-Vandals**, and is currently the singer/emcee and songwriter for the all mighty **ABRAZOS Orchestra**.

Leslie Prosterman, author of **Snapshots** and **Dances** (**Garden District Press**) from which *Intervals* comes, and poems in various journals and collections, collaborated with composer Charley Gerard to set her poem **FluteBone Song** to music, now out on CD (**Songs of Love and Passion**). A former academic, now a community teacher of poetry, she is also a sometime student of trapeze.

R:

Jill Rapaport's collection of fiction, **Duchamp et Moi and Other Stories**, was published by **Fly by Night Press / A Gathering of the Tribes** in 2014.

Carlos Manuel Rivera — Poet-performer, actor, Professor at **BCC, CUNY**. He won the First Prize in the **International Contest** of the **Puerto Rican Institute of Culture**, 2013 in the Essay category with the book **Para que no se nos olvide. Ensayos de interpretaci n sobre un teatro puertorrique o marginal** (**So we don t forget: Essays of interpretation of Puerto Rican marginal theater**).

Renato Rosaldo has published three books of poetry, **Rezo a la mujer aranya/ Prayer to Spider Woman** (winner of the **American Book Award**), **Diego Luna's Insider Tips**, and **The Day of Shelly's Death**.

Thaddeus Rutkowski is the author of **Guess and Check**, **Violent Outbursts**, **Haywire**, **Tetched**, and **Roughhouse**. **Haywire** won the **Members Choice Award**, given by the **Asian American Writers Workshop**. He teaches at **Sarah Lawrence College**, **Medgar Evers College** and the **Writer's Voice** of the **West Side YMCA**. He received a fiction writing fellowship from the **New York Foundation for the Arts**.

S:

K. Saito
1948 Born in Okayama-City, Japan
1990 Moved to New York

Sarah Serrano is a Puerto Rican Artist, Educator, and Hakuist from Bushwick, Brooklyn. She currently writes with **The Haiku Guys**. She's written for Drew Barrymore, performed for **Latina Magazine**, **Prudential**, **Madewell**, and featured at the **Nuyorican**, **The National Black Theater**, and more. Catch Sarah traveling the world with her red typewriter while writing personalized poems. Keep in touch with her @CantFightTheFro.

Pushcart Prize winning poet Ravi Shankar is the author/editor of over a dozen books, including most recently "**The Autobiography of a Goddess**," translations of the 8th century Tamil poet/saint Andal and winner of the **Muse India Translation Prize** and **The Golden Shovel: New Poems Honoring Gwendolyn Brooks**. He currently holds a research fellowship from the University of Sydney.

Yuyutsu RD Sharma, recipient of fellowships and grants from **The Rockefeller Foundation**, **Ireland Literature Exchange**, **Trubar Foundation**, **Slovenia**, **The Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature** and **The Foundation for the Production and Translation of Dutch Literature**, Yuyutsu RD Sharma is an internationally acclaimed South Asian poet and translator.

More: www.yuyutsu.de, www.niralapublications.com

Susan Sherman: Most recent books are **Nirvana on Ninth Street**, short Fiction with photos by Colleen McKay and **An Afterward by Rona L. Holub** (Wings Press, Fall, 2014); **The Light that Puts an End to Dreams: New and Selected Poems** (Wings Press, 2012); **America's Child: A Woman's Journey through the Radical Sixties**, a memoir (Curbstone / Northwestern University Press, 2007). She has survived living and writing in the East Village / Lower East Side for over fifty years.

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John L. Silver – Grew up Cold Spring Hbr. Long Island. Read Rexroth and other beats early. First published in High school literary magazine **New Dimensions**, Wrote in college (Penn State). Hung out with poet Steve Horel & became interested in the poems of John Haag. Also became interested in Blake and W.S. Merwin. Eventually ended up in the Village. Painted in Tompkins Square Park. . Also did many covers for **Tamarind**. Started writing more. Became Host of **Tamarind Collation** for about 10 years. Moved to Westbeth. Published in **AND THEN, The National Poetry Magazine of the Lower East Side, Handsy** on line, **Long Island Sounds**, and in other anthological formations. Published 2 books of Poems, **Empty Pieces**, (**Underfield Press**) (2016) and **Poems From a Trembling Road** (2006) (**Underfield Press**) also Contributed and did covers for **White Rabbit**.

Joanna Sit is the author of three books of poetry: **My Last Century** (2012), **In Thailand with the Apostles** (2014), and **Track Works** (2017). She is currently working on an ethnographic narrative about Chinese immigrants and Cantonese opera.

Angela Sloan received her MA in English and Creative Writing in 2012 from **Longwood University**. She now lives and writes in New York City. Her previous works have been published by **Three Rooms Press**, most notably in their 2016 anthology celebrating Millennial fiction: **Songs of My Selfie**. Angela is also a regular contributor to **A Gathering of the Tribes**.

Miriam Stanley has a new collection of poems published by **Rogue Scholars Press**. Its title is **Driving The Celexa**. She has three previous collections of poems published. Ms. Stanley also has work published in numerous anthologies.

Rebelené (Zelene Pineda Suchilt) is a CHÍ-CHÍ (CHilanga/CHicana) award-winning storyteller and political organizer living in New York City.

Terese Svoboda has published 17 books of poetry, fiction, translation, memoir, and biography. Last year **Professor Harriman's Steam Air-Ship** appeared, the year before **When The Next Big War Blows Down The Valley: Selected and New Poems**. "Terese Svoboda is one of few contemporary American writers who possesses a global consciousness." - **Brooklyn Rail**.

T:

Alice B. Talkless is Ronna Lebo, a poet, musician and painter who has performed in the NY scene for over twenty years. She is co-founder of **Black Square Editions**, a non-profit press for poetry and art. She is also co-founder of **Reservoir Art Space** in Ridgewood, Queens, which includes private studios and an experimental gallery for visual arts.

Edwin Torres is the author of 7 books including "**Ameriscopia**", "**Yes Thing No Thing**" and "**In The Function Of External Circumstances**." Edwin was the first recipient of **The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Fresh Prize For Poetry** in 1991. His next collection, "**Xoeteox: The Infinite Word Object**" will be released by **Wave Books** in 2018.

My name is Ewan Turner and I am a BFA student at the **New School for Drama** with a focus on creative writing. Recently, I published a chapbook of poems called **Sotapanna** and have read my work, both fiction and poetry at venues including **KGB Bar**, and **Berl's Poetry Shop**.

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W:

Claire Van Winkle is a poet, essayist, and literary translator. She currently teaches creative writing, composition, literature, and grammar at **Queens College, Borough of Manhattan Community College**, and the **Fashion Institute of Technology**. In addition to her creative and academic pursuits, Claire works as a Recreational Therapist (RT) at the **New York State Psychiatric Institute**. Her clinical work and research focus on the development and implementation of Pedagogical Therapy, which applies linguistic theory and creative writing workshop methods to one-on-one and group therapy sessions for inpatient psychiatric patients.

George Wallace is editor of **Poetrybay**, co-editor of **Great Weather for Media**, and author of 31 chapbooks of poetry. He is writer in residence at the **Walt Whitman Birthplace**.

Poet Phyllis Wat is author of **Shadow Blue**, **The Fish Soup Bowl Expedition**, **The Influence of Paintings Hung in Bedrooms** and **Wu Going There**. Wat is publisher of **Straw Gate Books** and an editor, **The World**, **6ix magazine** (receiving 2 PCA grants) and **Press 1**, online. She is recipient of a poetry grant from **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA)**.

Bruce Weber is the long time organizer of the **Alternative New Year's Day** event, His new book, **There Are Too Many Words In My House**, will appear in 2018 from **Poets Wear Prada**.

Francine Witte is the author of five chapbooks. Her full-length poetry collection, **Caf Crazy**, is forthcoming from Kelsay Books. She lives in NYC.

Jeffrey Cyphers Wright is the author of 15 books of verse, including most recently **Blue Lyre** from **Dos Madres Press**, **Radio Poems** from **The Operating System** and **Party Everywhere** from **Xanadu**. New work is included in **New American Writing**, 2017. Wright edits **Live Mag!** www.livemag.org / www.jeffreycypherswright.com

Alphabetical Index Of Poems

I Ron Price – Above Nothing Below No One	80
I Ravi Shankar – The Acorn And The Hungry King	95
I Madeline Artenberg – Afternoon Whispers.....	5
I Zero Prophet – AmeRican.....	81
I Bob Heman – The Beach	32
I Mindy Levokove – Because.....	58
I Bruce Weber – Between The Wars	121
I Pete Dolack – The Birds Of The Southern Plains Are Nationalists ..	20
I Tsaurah Litzky – Birthday Poem - August 31 2017	60
I Puma Perl – Bodega Alley	77
I Merissa Anderson – Bogota Street Scene	3
I Angela Sloan – Butcher's Peppermint	105
I Tim Tomlinson – Careful.....	114
I Francine Witte – Charley Explains Baseball To Me	123
I Tina Chan – Color The World	16
I Bonny Finberg – Daily News	25
I Aimee Herman – Dear Universe (A Manifesto)	33
I Phyllis Wat – Dog Picture.....	119
I Claire Van Winkle – Double Process	117
I Terese Svoboda – The Dukes Are Up.....	111
I KB Nemcosky – Early Exits (Excerpt Pages 107-108)	70
I Ron Kolm – The Emperor's Vacation	50
I Nancy Mercado – Epilogue For The 21st Century	67
I Lee Klein – Espresso Bongo Florida # 7 For Dr. Phillip Solomon	48
I Jesús Papoleto Meléndez – The Flood Came To Puerto Rico.....	65
I Patrick Hammer, Jr. – For A Girl Not Dead Anymore.....	31
I Ptr Kozlowski – Force Of Gravity.....	51
I Isathelntrovert – Forever	40
I Evie Ivy – Free Words In The Air	41
I María Fernanda Lara Chamorro – From H-Town.....	15
I Thaddeus Rutkowski – From Nowhere To Nowhere.....	92
I Steve Dalachinsky – Gnostic Trio.....	19
I Jane LeCroy – Gold Watch	55
I Carlos Manuel Rivera – Goleta En Nueva York.....	87
I Howard Pflanzner – Harmony Hotel	78
I Kate Irving – The Homeless And The Value Of Amber	39

ANYDSWPE 2018 Anthology

I Yael Baron – The House Of Viper	9
I C. D. Johnson – How NOT To Break Up With A Goddess	43
I George Wallace – I Open My Eyes	118
I Leslie Prosterman – Intervals.....	83
I Larry Jones – Javier In Vegas.....	46
I Miriam Stanley – John Robert Lewis	106
I Jill Rapaport – Julie Christie Rides Again	85
I Ngoma Hill – Karma Is A B-word (Last Poem For 2016).....	35
I Peter Bushyeager – Laughing Gas.....	12
I Jeffrey Cyphers Wright – Let’s Play.....	125
I David Huberman – The Little Mouse	38
I Renato Rosaldo – Looking For Lorca	89
I Icegayle Johnson – Martin	45
I Alejandra Moreno – May Flower Of The Cloud Forrest.....	68
I Patricia Carragon – Meltdown	14
I Joel Allegretti – Memphis Minnie’s Unmarked Grave.....	2
I Toni Mergentime Levi – Milk	57
I Yuko Otomo – More Description Of Our Kitchen Wall (For Myself) .	71
I Sarah Serrano – My Communion Is Not Your Oppression.....	94
I Barbara D. Hall – My Mother’s Dream	30
I Edwin Torres – No Yoyo.....	115
I Daniela Gioseffi – Ode To Shikenah, Veiled Mother Of The Torah ..	29
I John L. Silver – On This Dark Afternoon	101
I Annie Rachele Lanzillotto – Pazzi Per Pignoli.....	53
I Ewan Turner – Pomegranate #7	116
I Steve Bloom – The Prison Artist	11
I Roxanne Hoffman – Rumplestiltskin.....	37
I Michael Collins – Self-Portrait	17
I Stan Marcus – The Short Guy.....	63
I Laurie Stone – Smoke.....	107
I Linda Lerner – So	56
I Eleonore Ley – Sonnet #1.....	59
I Su Polo – Spell	79
I Ellen Aug Lytle – Still Dressed For Heat.....	61
I Austin Alexis – The Streets	1
I Linda Kleinbub – Stumbling.....	49
I Gabriel Don – Swimming Lesson / Lección De Natación.....	21
I Susan Sherman – The Tears Of Things.....	99

Pa'lante A La Luz

I Yuyutsu Sharma – There's A Treasure	97
I Joanna Sit – Timescape: Wonderland.....	103
I Bill Evans – Tiny Orgy.....	23
I D.Bird el Palabrero – Toes.....	75
I Alice B. Talkless – Trumpet	112
I K. Saito – Twin Nose Dirt.....	93
I Natalie N. Caro – An Unexamined Institution	13
I Robert Roth – Untitled.....	91
I J M Theisen de Gonzalez – Untitled.....	113
I Lydia Cortes – Wahaca Dark	18
I Zelene Pineda Suchilt – Waiting For Sun.....	109
I Dennis Moritz – Walking The Williamsburgh Bridge	69
I Carmen Bardequez-Brown – The Wall. La Pared.....	7
I Eve Packer – We'll Get Used To It.....	73
I Meg Kaizu – Weeds.....	47
I Jen Fitzgerald – Wildflower.....	27

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Palabras Luminosas (Luminous Words) - 2016
Rogue Scholars Press
ISBN-13: 978-0-9840982-3-1

Shadow Of The Geode (Sombra Del Geode) - 2015
Bonsai Publishers
ISBN-13: 978-1-9424630-0-9 (1st Edition)

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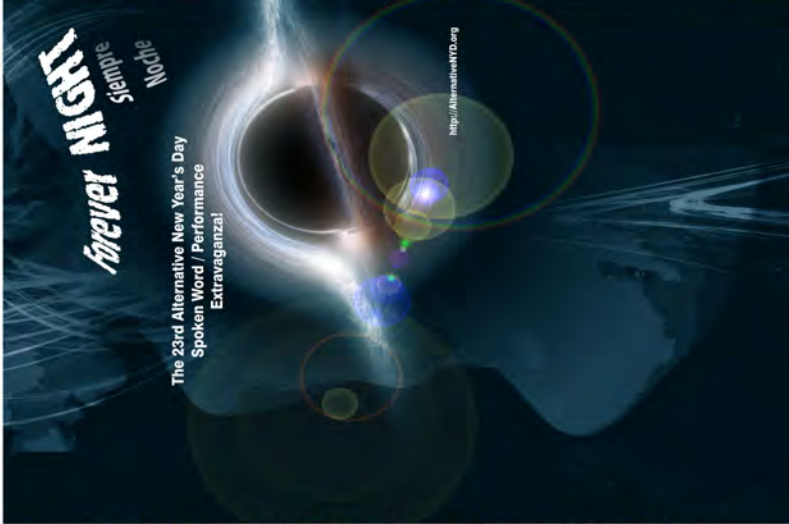
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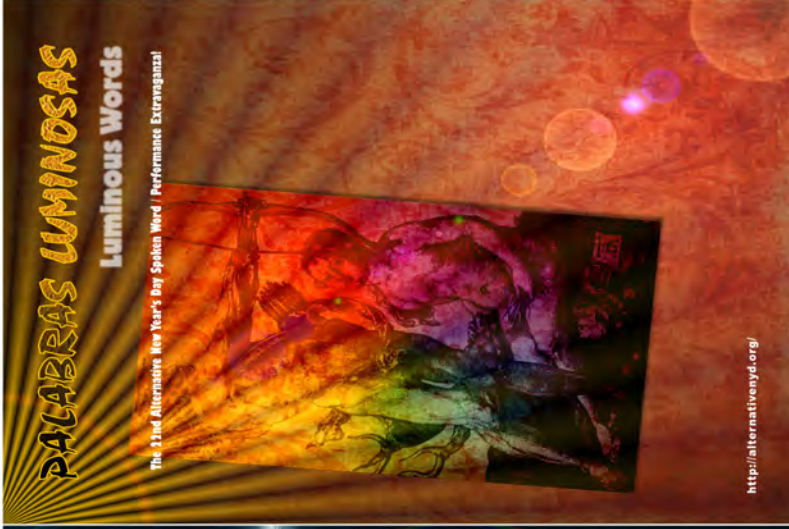
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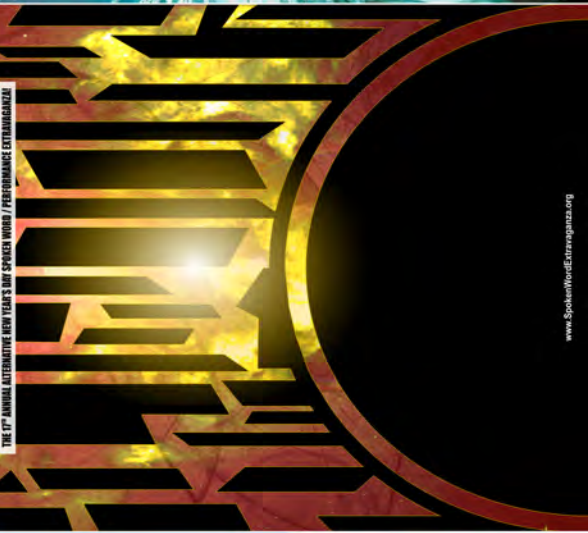
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