

Increasing Echoes

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

After three decades of feature sections and writers, it is no surprise that our Flashbacks section gets longer and longer. Welcome back to several writers, whether for yet another poem or essay that was a finalist, for having a new book reviewed, or for receiving a new award covered here (looking at you, 2022 Raleigh Award winner, Valerie Nieman). Given our 2006 issue's focus on children's and YA literature, we always publish the news of the latest recipient of the NC AAUW Young People's Literature Award in this section. Congratulations to Micki Bare.

Too often, this section includes notice of the passing of one of *NCLR's* writers. This time it is my mentor and friend Philip Gerard, who has been a source of support and kindness since I met him in my early years as Editor. During Alex Albright's editorship in *NCLR's* first years, Philip shared a chapter from his provocative novel *Cape Fear Rising*, a novel that would bring much needed attention to one of the darkest chapters of North Carolina history, the 1898 coup d'état in Wilmington. I learned about the only successful coup d'état in American history via this issue of *NCLR*, sent to me prior to my interview for the job as *NCLR* Editor. And I remember that I could not wait to read the full novel. Since doing so, I have taught *Cape Fear Rising* several times, including in an honors seminar on the coup in literature and history, during which my colleague History Professor Karin Zipf and I brought our class to Wilmington. Observing his engagement with our students, as well as at readings and other literary events, I got to see Philip in action, and I know his students are mourning the loss of such a generous, enthusiastic professor. I share their grief, and repeat my condolences to his wife, Jill, and his colleagues at UNC Wilmington. Read more about Philip in our remembrance here.

In 2001, our science fiction feature included an interview with John Kessel, and we published a short story by him in 2006. More recently, Dale Bailey got a little carried away – in a good way – in his effort to review Kessel's new collection of short fiction. "Keep going," I said, when he warned me that the review was exceeding our usual thousand-word range. I know you'll enjoy Dale's essay as much as I did. Now I'm looking forward to reading more of Kessel's fiction, though I'm still deciding about whether to read the one that "took the top of [Dale's] head off (not gently) and gave the contents inside a thorough stirring." But how can I resist after Dale's description of the effect of that story every time he reads it?.

If you are a writer we have not previously published and are therefore wondering how your essay or poem ended up in this section, it's something about your work's focus, which echoes a past issue's feature section. Our 2011 issue featured environmental writing, and the environment plays an important role in Mark Powell's novel reviewed in this section. In 2014, we featured war in North Carolina Literature, and here you'll read a review of a new World War II-era novel by Leah Weiss, who is new to our pages. Our 2017 topic, North Carolina Literature and the Other Arts, brings Morrow Dowdle's poem "Brow," inspired by artist Frida Kahlo, and Blaise Kielar's music-inspired essay into this section.

Enjoy, too, reading about the newest members of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame in the pages to follow. And as North Carolina Writers' Director Ed Southern directed the audience at the induction ceremony, "keep reading." ■

