

NORTH CAROLINA

Miscellany

A Very Good Year for Writing

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

Our writing contests sure are thriving. You'll read here three stories from the 2023 Doris Betts Fiction Prize contest, including Kaylie Saidin's story, selected for third place by final judge David Joy. All three of the authors are new to our pages. Submissions to the Jaki Shelton Green Performance Poetry Prize contest tripled from last year's premiere. And for that I give credit to Digital Editor Devra Thomas, whose regular social media postings have also increased our sales and subscription numbers. Which means we also thank the North Carolina Arts Council. Our grant from them helps to fund Devra's position, as well as the increased graphic design cost of having so much fantastic material in these pages. I realized that this fall issue was already over-full in the middle of the summer (our goal is a hundred pages for each online issue)! Keep that material coming, writers.

We also publish here Tommy Tomlinson's keynote address at the North Carolina Writers' Network Fall 2023 conference, with thanks to him for allowing us to publish his wisdom about revising (and re-visioning) and other writing advice. Tommy also reminds us that not many people get rich on writing, but at *NCLR*, we are committed to paying our writers *something*, so we thank our collaborators, the North Carolina Writers' Network and North Carolina Poetry Society, for example, who provided the funds to pay the honorees in this section. ■

90 *Words Take the Stage: Submissions Triple for the Jaki Shelton Green Performance Poetry Prize*

Tondu: The Tragicomedy of the Black Boy
Jaki Shelton Green Performance Poetry Prize
poem by Edward Mabrey

Foundations
by Jess Kennedy

Hey, America
by Marcial "CL Tha Artist" Harper

Just Like Black
by Brenda Bailey

My mother was a tree
by Regina YC Garcia

Marvelous Marble Jesus
by Alessandra Nysether-Santos

92 *Re-vision*
by Tommy Tomlinson

96 *The Other Donners*
a short story by Kaylie Saidin
art by Sherry O'Neill

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a short story by Jeremy Griffin
art by Jimmy Fountain

116 *Where I'm Supposed to Be*
a short story by Gabi Stephens
photography by Michael Galinsky



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essays, a poem, and a book review

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