

## Quite a Miscellany: A Memorium, New *NCLR* Writers, A Note of Appreciation, and a Call for Support

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

I open this section with an homage to another mentor, Justice Willis Whichard, publishing his eulogy by Martin Brinkley. This is the “Miscellany” section, so this piece seems appropriate here. I thought as I listened to Martin’s eulogy live, not being able to attend in person, *this is the stuff of literature*. This is what fine writers do, have done, for centuries, memorializing their heroes in words. And I thank Martin for allowing *NCLR* to publish his essay.

I was privileged to have known Justice Whichard. How kind he was to write a letter to me when I received the North Carolina Award for Literature. And he has offered me much appreciated advice over the years, particularly whenever we met during a meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. I was thrilled to return the favor before meetings of the board of the North Caroliniana Society when he would sit next to me and ask what he should read next. He had dubbed me his librarian, and I was happy to recommend to him writers he’d not discovered yet: David Joy in particular, as I recall. Start with his new one, *Those We Thought We Knew*, I told him, and then try *When These Mountains Move* and *The Line that Held Us*. He read all three, he reported at the next meeting, thanked me for the recommendation, and asked, “What next?”

As always in this section, we publish writers new to our pages. In this case, several poets who were finalists in the 2025 James Applewhite Poetry Prize contest. Congratulations to them, and thank you to the artists who allowed us to feature their work with these poems. Congratulations, too, to one of these artists, Beverly McIver, who was just inducted by Governor Josh Stein into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine this year.

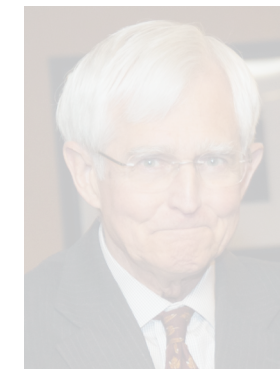
The reviews in this section cover writers whose work has not yet been published in our pages, though the late Claudia Emerson and Gary Carden are certainly familiar names. The review of Sharon Kurtzman’s new novel by Sheryl Cornett anticipates Sheryl’s interview with the debut novelist forthcoming in the North Carolina Miscellany section of the print issue.

I want to take a moment here, where we have a couple of poetry reviews, to recognize retiring Assistant Editor Anne Mallory. I (often) confess, I am not a poetry person, and I have relied for years now on Anne reading the poetry reviews for me. She is such an excellent editor, and she is definitely a poetry person. So I’ve always known that after a poetry review went through Anne, it was ready for publication, and I thank her for all of her years of service to *NCLR*. She has also been a regular screener for the Applewhite Poetry Prize contest and helped to select poems from our pages to nominate for various prizes. We will miss her. Thank you, Anne.

People like Anne, volunteering their service, have been vital to *NCLR* for thirty-five years now. I could not be more grateful, and I know that the writers whose work we publish are as well. If you can help *NCLR*’s sustainability with a donation, please know that we will put these funds to good use: paying honoraria to the writers and artists in our pages, for example. We are also seeking endowment funding to cover the work of the Book Review Editor, who makes sure we have at least fifty-two book reviews a year, so we can release one per week, and the Art Editor, who matches the literary content to North Carolina fine art. Please contact me if you would like to support either of these positions. And thank you from all of us at *NCLR*. ■

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