

There's Always Room for New Voices

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

Another recent *NCLR* initiative (see my introduction to Flashbacks for the first) is a new contest, inspired by my ECU colleague Celestine Davis, who some years ago asked me how *NCLR* might include spoken word poetry. Working with Celestine and the poet Glenis Redmond, we decided upon defining the contest broadly for performance poetry. Read in the pages to follow more about this new contest and find links to the performances by the premier winner and other honorees. I thank these women, as well as the North Carolina Poetry Society, who agreed to sponsor the contest, providing honoraria to the judge and honorees. And thanks to *NCLR* Digital Editor Devra Thomas, who took over from that planning stage to manage the contest and put the videos up on *NCLR*'s YouTube channel.

Congratulations to all of the Jaki Shelton Green Performance Poetry Contest honorees, and welcome to *NCLR*'s newest writers, two of these four poets, as well as finalists and semifinalists from the Applewhite and Betts Prize contests published here. With funding from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and the North Carolina Writers' Network, we are able to pay honoraria to all of the authors of the creative writing we publish, as well as to the artists who allow us to complement the creative writing with their work.

Here too, read reviews of new books by writers we've not previously published. If you follow us on social media (and we hope you do – or will do so), you'll note that we've been releasing a book review each week. As our Saturday Review is a still somewhat new initiative, we have on occasion (and

through most of the summer) released a review re-run. But our goal is to review over fifty books a year and thus release a *new* book review every week. To do that, we need your help! Would you like to review for us? [Find out how on our website.](#) And note that, in addition to our gratitude and the gratitude of the writers reviewed, reviewers receive a complimentary subscription to the print issue. Also, don't let us miss *your* new book or a recent book you've read by a North Carolina writer. You can contact us through [our website form](#) to let us know the author, title, publication date, publisher, and the contact information to request a review copy from the publisher. We welcome books published by large commercial presses and small independent publishers, but no self-published books, please: we have a small staff, and given how prolific North Carolina writers are, we don't have time to screen. We want to know the book has undergone a publisher's review process before we spend time matching it to a reader for review consideration.

Allow me, too, this space to remind you that author interviews and literary analyses can be submitted to the North Carolina Miscellany section year-round. Help us expand our mission to promote the state's rich literary culture with your essay on or interview with a new North Carolina writer or one whose work has not received the critical attention it deserves. Such articles and interviews could be awarded the Randall Kenan or John Ehle Prize. [Read more in our submission guidelines.](#) We look forward to reading your work and welcoming you to the *NCLR* family. ■

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