Marty Achatz lives in Ishpeming, Michigan, with his wife and two children. He has taught writing, literature, and composition at Northern Michigan University since 1998. He holds a Master’s Degree in Fiction and an MFA in Poetry. His poems have appeared in magazines such as Paterson Literary Review and Kennesaw Review. Mayapple Press published his book of poems, *The Mysteries of the Rosary*, in 2004. His most recent work can be read on his blog *Saint Marty* at saintmarty-marty.blogspot.com. Writer Jack Driscoll said of Achatz, “I found the quiet ferocity of this new voice to be graceful and powerful, and absolutely convincing in its ambition and in its honesty.”

Ellen Airgood runs a small diner with her husband in Grand Marais, Michigan, on the edge of Lake Superior. She learned most of what she knows about story, as well as about charity and compassion, from waiting tables there for the past twenty-one years, and from listening and watching the lives of her customers. Her first novel, *South of Superior*, was published by Riverhead Books in June 2011. Her second, *Prairie Evers*, will be released by Nancy Paulsen Books in August 2012. She is currently at work on a third in a small cabin near Grand Marais that she shares with her husband, dog, two cats, and eight cactuses.

Robert Alexander grew up in Massachusetts and attended the University of Wisconsin. One summer, while driving around the top of Lake Michigan, Alexander discovered the Upper Peninsula, and he has returned there ever since whenever he gets a chance. Alexander has published two books of poetry (*White Pine Sucker River* and *What the Raven Said*) and a book of creative nonfiction about the American Civil War (*Five Forks: Waterloo of the Confederacy*). He has edited several anthologies of prose poetry and is currently co-editor, with Nicole Brown, of the Marie Alexander Poetry Series at White Pine Press. For more information, see his website: www.robertalexander.info.
Julie Brooks Barbour’s chapbook, *Come to Me and Drink*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2012. Her poems have appeared in *Kestrel, Waccamaw, UCity Review, Migrations: Poetry and Prose for Life’s Transitions*, and *Bigger Than They Appear: Anthology of Very Short Poems*. She teaches at Lake Superior State University where she is co-editor of the journal *Border Crossing*.

Sally R. Brunk (Lac du Flambeau/Ojibwa) is Bear Clan and the youngest of eight children. She was born and raised on the Keweenaw Bay Indian Reservation. She credits Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technological University in her educational journey. She enjoys writing short stories and poetry, centering on the bond of family and the Anishinabe way of life. Her work has appeared in *SAIL, C-Literary Magazine, Sinister Wisdom, Moccasin Telegraph*, and *Quiet Mountain Essays*. She was recently published in the anthologies *Sharing Our Stories of Survival: Native Women Surviving Violence*, and *Voice on the Water: Great Lakes Native America Now*. She has her own book of poetry titled *The Cliffs—Summer Soundings* with paintings by Jim Denomie.

Lisa Fay Coutley is the author of *In the Carnival of Breathing*, winner of the Black River Chapbook Competition (Black Lawrence Press, 2011), and *Back-Talk*, winner of the ROOMS Chapbook Contest (Articles Press, 2010). She earned her MFA at Northern Michigan University, where she was poetry editor for *Passages North*, and is currently a doctoral fellow and poetry editor for *Quarterly West* at the University of Utah. Her work has appeared most recently or is forthcoming in *Seneca Review, Third Coast, The Journal, American Literary Review, Best New Poets 2010*, and on *Verse Daily*.

Sharon Dilworth is the author of two collections of short stories—*The Long White* and *Women Drinking Benedictine*—and a novel, *Year of the Gingko*. The winner of the Iowa Award in Short Fiction and a Pushcart Prize, she lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she is a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and the fiction editor at Autumn House Press. Much of her fiction was inspired by the years she spent living in Marquette while an undergraduate at Northern Michigan University. She is also a proud graduate of the Masters Program in English at Wayne State University.

Amber Edmondson is a poet and book artist living in Marquette, Michigan. She studied English at Northwestern Michigan College and Northern Michigan University and continues to draw inspiration from the natural setting of the Upper Peninsula and its rich history.

Chad Faries is the author of two poetry collections, *The Border Will Be Soon* (Emergency Press, 2006) and *The Book of Knowledge* (Vulgar Marsala Press, 2010). His memoir, *Drive Me Out of My Mind: 24 Houses in 10 Years* (Emergency Press, 2011), chronicles five unhinged women in 1970s Upper Peninsula. He can also be seen raconteuring with the Unchained Tour. He has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and was a Fulbright Fellow in Budapest. He has lived extensively and taught in Central Europe. Currently he is an Associate Professor at Savannah State University where he also hosts a theme-based storytelling and music program on WHCJ 90.3. He now owns a house in Thunderbolt, Georgia, but lives
abroad and gets lost on his motorcycle whenever he can, especially in Iron County, Michigan.

Matthew Gavin Frank is the author of Pot Farm (University of Nebraska Press/Bison Books), Barolo (University of Nebraska Press), Warranty in Zulu (Barrow Street Press), The Morrow Plots (forthcoming from Black Lawrence Press/Dzanc Books), Sagittarius Agitprop (Black Lawrence Press/Dzanc Books), and the chapbooks Four Hours to Mpumalanga (Pudding House Publications) and Aardvark (West Town Press). Recent work appears in The New Republic, The Huffington Post, Field, Epoch, AGNI, The Iowa Review, Seneca Review, Crazyhorse, Indiana Review, North American Review, Pleiades, Crab Orchard Review, The Best Food Writing, The Best Travel Writing, Creative Nonfiction, Prairie Schooner, Hotel Amerika, Gastronomica, and others. He was born and raised in Illinois, and currently teaches Creative Writing in the MFA Program at Northern Michigan University, where he is the Nonfiction Editor of Passages North. This winter, he prepared his first batch of whitefish-thimbleberry ice cream.

Manda Frederick holds an MFA in Nonfiction and an MA in Literary Studies. Though she is now an Asst. Professor of Writing in New Jersey, she spent five years in Marquette, Michigan. There, she came to know poetry with the help of Jonathan Johnson and Russ Thorburn, who generously invited her to join their summer writing circle when she was barely twenty. She spent her summers jogging along Lower Harbor, suffering in the swarms of black biting flies. At night, though afraid of the enormous spiders’ nests that draped from everything, she’d make her way, on foot, to Vango’s to sing along with Jim and Ray. But, mostly, she did what everyone in the U.P. does: she spent summer waiting for winter, for snowstorms to build layers in varying shades of white, slowing the city, giving a poet the space she needed to focus on every word of every poem.

Randall R. Freisinger has lived in Houghton, Michigan, since 1977. From then until he retired in 2009 as Emeritus Professor, he taught undergraduate and graduate classes in writing and literature at Michi-
gan Technological University. He has been a frequent participant in poet-in-the-schools programs, writing workshops, and poetry readings across the Upper Peninsula. His poems have been included in nationally recognized U.P.-based magazines such as *Passages North*, *PANK*, and *The MacGuffin*, as well as in many other literary journals and anthologies. His four published collections include *Running Patterns* (1985 Flume Press National Chapbook Prize), *Hand Shadows* (Green Tower Press, 1988), *Plato’s Breath* (1996 May Swenson Poetry Prize, Utah State University Press), and *Nostalgia’s Thread: Ten Poems on Norman Rockwell Paintings* (Hol Art Books, 2009).

**Eric Gadzinski** has lived in the U.P. for nearly twenty years, having blown there in a balloon from Philadelphia, where he got his Doctorate from Temple U. He teaches all manner of English at Lake Superior State University, and otherwise likes to explore the woods in all seasons, with a compass for survival and a shotgun for a prop. Originally from Vermont, Gadzinski finds the U.P. congenial and refreshingly free of a certain kind of affectation. Of course, the U.P. has its own charms, including Mossy Oak ball caps and large pickup trucks, which Gadzinski finds preferable to L.L. Bean. Gadzinski’s poems have appeared in a wide variety of small journals.

**Steve Hamilton** is the two-time Edgar Award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of the Alex McKnight series, featuring an ex-Detroit police officer relocated to the Upper Peninsula town of Paradise. (*Let It Burn*, the newest book in the series, will be out in the summer of 2013.) He’s either won or been nominated for every other major crime fiction award in America and the UK, and his books are now translated into fifteen languages. In 2006, he received the Michigan Author Award from the Michigan Library Association and the Michigan Center for the Book, in recognition of his overall body of work. He attended the University of Michigan, where he won the prestigious Hopwood Award for writing. He currently lives in upstate New York with his wife and their two children.
Sue Harrison was raised in Michigan’s Eastern Upper Peninsula and graduated summa cum laude from Lake Superior State University. Harrison’s first novel, *Mother Earth Father Sky*, was a national and international bestseller and was named by the American Library Association as one of 1991’s Best Books for Young Adults as a crossover from the adult market. Her other novels include *My Sister the Moon*, *Brother Wind*, *Song of the River*, *Cry of the Wind*, *Call Down the Stars*, and *SISU*. Harrison’s novels have been published in thirteen languages in more than twenty-five countries around the world.

Joseph Daniel Haske was born in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, and grew up in the nearby Les Cheneaux area, where he graduated from Cedarville High School. Haske’s fiction, poetry, and essays have appeared in publications such as *Boulevard*, *Fiction International*, *The Texas Review*, *Southwestern American Literature*, *Alecart*, *Dark Sky*, and *American Book Review*. His work has also been featured in several anthologies and he was recently named a finalist for the *Boulevard* Emerging Writers competition. In December 2011, he was interviewed, along with several other American writers, for a feature in the French magazine *Transfuge* and he has been published in various international venues in countries such as France, Romania, Canada, and Mexico. Most of Haske’s work is inspired and informed by his experiences growing up in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and he is nearing completion of his first novel, set primarily in the Eastern U. P., as well as a collection of poetry.

Barbara Henning is a poet and fiction writer. She teaches for the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics at Naropa University and Long Island University in Brooklyn, where she is Professor Emerita. She is the author of three novels and seven books of poetry. Her most recent books are a collection of poetry and prose, *Cities & Memory* (Chax Press); a novel, *Thirty Miles from Rosebud* (BlazeVox); a collection of object-sonnets, *My Autobiography* (United Artists); and a book of interviews, *Looking Up Harryette Mullen* (Belladonna). Henning grew up in Detroit and has lived in New York City since 1983. As a child she spent many of her summers camping in the Upper Penin-
sula. After her sister moved to Marquette in 1969, she started spending months at a time in the Marquette area.

Jennifer A. Howard grew up a first-generation Yooper in Escanaba, in the U.P.’s Banana Belt, and after some time below the bridge found her way back up north to Marquette, where it takes much more snow to justify a snow day. She teaches English at Northern Michigan University and serves as the editor of Passages North.

Austin Hummell has lived in the Upper Peninsula since 2000. His books are Poppy (Del Sol Press) and The Fugitive Kind (University of Georgia Press). He teaches at Northern Michigan University.

Jonathan Johnson is a 1986 graduate of Marquette Senior High School. He is the author of two books of poems, Mastodon, 80% Complete (2001) and In the Land We Imagined Ourselves (2010), both from Carnegie Mellon University Press, and the nonfiction book Hannah and the Mountain: Notes toward a Wilderness Fatherhood, from the University of Nebraska Press (2005). His work has appeared in Best American Poetry and numerous other anthologies, as well as Southern Review, Missouri Review, Ploughshares, North American Review, and Prairie Schooner. He migrates between Marquette, where he spends every summer and Christmas; northern Idaho, where he and his wife built a secluded log cabin; Scotland, where his maternal relatives still farm the ancestral croft on the Highland coast; and eastern Washington, where he has won a number of awards for his teaching as a professor in the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at Eastern Washington University. Johnson is married to the social worker and photographer Amy Howko, a 1987 graduate of Marquette High whose solo exhibition Year of Shadow and Light showed at the Oasis Gallery in Marquette in 2010, and the couple has one daughter, Anya.

Born in Vienna, Linda Johnson has deep ties to the U.P., where she has made her home-base for over forty years: she has lived in Marquette with her husband for five years, and before that, she lived in the Brimley area where her three children and eight grandchildren are
members of the Bay Mills Indian Community. A nonfiction piece, *Sitting in the Rain: A Memoir*, was published in *Briar Cliff Review*, her poetry in *Voices of Michigan* and *Toronto Native Times*, and other essays in *Woods-Runner*. She is a winner of the LSSU Short Story Contest. Linda holds an MA in English from Northern Michigan University and a BA in English Language and Literature and also in Sociology from Lake Superior State University. She has worked in the U.P. as camp counselor, social worker/protective services, fin-clipper, and in the late 1960s in Whistle Stop, her family’s restaurant in Eckerman.

**Ron Johnson**, author of *Silver Thaw and Selected Stories* (2005) and the novel *The Last Rodeo* (2012), is Professor of English at Northern Michigan University, where he teaches writing and literature. He has published short fiction in the United States and New Zealand, and his creative nonfiction has won prizes from *Grain* (Saskatchewan Writers Guild, Canada) and the *Missouri Review* First Place Editors Award. Chapters from his book *Anton Chekhov: A Study of the Short Fiction* (Twayne Press) have been reprinted in volumes of *Short Story Criticism* in sections on Chekhov (2011, 2008, 2006) and Russian Realist Short Fiction (2004). He holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of California, Irvine, and a PhD in English from the University of Utah. He has lived in Marquette since 1984 and as often as possible walks at Presque Isle City Park, where he talks with the squirrels and the deer and an occasional moose.

**L. E. Kimball**’s stories have appeared in top literary journals including the *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Lynx Eye*, *Orchid*, and *Washington Square*. Her first novel, *A Good High Place*, was published June 2010 by Northern Illinois University. Her essays have been published in dozens of venues such as *ByLine*, *Heartland Boating*, *Country Almanac*, *Exceptional Parent*, and *The Detroit News* op ed section. Her latest fiction piece, set in the Upper Peninsula, appeared in the March/April issue of *Gray’s Sporting Journal*. She is working on her MFA in Creative Writing at Northern Michigan University and working on her second novel, which is a novel of linked stories all set in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. She lives with her son and dog part of the
year in Marquette, Michigan, and the rest of the year near Tahquamenon Falls, where she lives off the grid on a trout stream.

**April Lindala** (Grand River Six Nations) obtained a Master of Fine Arts degree from Northern Michigan University (NMU), where she is currently the director of the Center for Native American Studies. Lindala has had several poems published in various anthologies and publications. Most recently, she was the project director and assistant editor for the anthology *Voice on the Water: Great Lakes Native America Now*, published by NMU Press. The book also features two of her poems. Lindala enjoys doing beadwork, watching films, listening to blues music and relaxing with her husband, Walt, and their cat, Merlin.


**Matt Maki** lives in Marquette, Michigan, where he teaches workshops in writing, collage, yoga/dance, and creativity and coordinates the Marquette Poetry Circle and local National Poetry Month activities. He has studied and taught creative writing and literature at Northern Michigan University and the University of Alabama. He has served on the editorial staff of *Passages North*, as Poetry Editor of *Greatest Lakes Review*, and as Fiction Editor of *Black Warrior Review* and *Flywheel Magazine*. Although he was raised in Michigan’s lower peninsula, his move to the U.P. while in high school sparked an interest in his Finnish heritage, which led to his study of Finnish and Finnish-American literary connections, myth and archetypal criticism, and borderlands,
including between-genre work, such as the Kalevala and Juhani Aho’s Shavings, and writing prose poetry, flash fiction, and creative criticism.

Seth Marlin is the current Web Editor of Willow Springs. Growing up in Michigan, Marlin made his home for six years in the Upper Peninsula, where he resided on three of the five Great Lakes, hunted bear in the Keweenaw, and eventually married a girl from Newberry. His fiction and poetry have appeared in M-Brane, Short Story America, and Greatest Lakes Review, and his nonfiction appears in the newly revised Fourth Edition of Curious Writer, now available from Longman Press. He resides in Spokane, Washington, and still dreams of the shores of Lake Superior.

Beverly Matherne arrived in the U.P. twenty years ago and so fell in love with it that she plans to finish out her career as poet and professor of English at the NMU campus. Former director of its Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing, she is now poetry editor of Passages North literary magazine and director of the Visiting Writers Program. She is the author of six books of bilingual poetry: the latest, Lamothe-Cadillac: Sa jeunesse en France (Lamothe-Cadillac: His Early Life in France), from Les Éditions Tintamarre. The winner of seven first-place poetry awards, including the Hackney Literary Award for Poetry, her work appears in anthologies from houses such as Beacon Press and Louisiana State University Press as well as in publications such as Interdisciplinary Humanities and Metamorphoses. Her bilingual writing process is documented in a doctoral dissertation from the University of Paris III.

Mary McMyne teaches writing at Lake Superior State University, where she co-edits Border Crossing, a journal of literature and art featuring international writers and Upper Peninsula visual artists. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in Phantom Drift: A Journal of New Fabulism, New Delta Review, Exquisite Corpse, Double Dealer, Prime Number Magazine, and other journals. She won the Faulkner Prize for a Novel-in-Progress for her project reimagining the Odys-
seus myth from the perspective of an American soldier’s wife during the Vietnam War. She is currently at work on a novel reimagining the Red Riding Hood fairy tale from the perspective of an institutionalized woman. The poem published here is one of hundreds recovered from the character’s room after her death in 1961. McMyne lives in Sault Sainte Marie with her husband and daughter. Her fiction is represented by Kathleen Anderson of Anderson Literary Management. Visit her online at www.marymcmynecom.

Jane Piirto is a Finnish-American native of Ishpeming, Michigan, and spends summers there in her childhood home in Cleveland Location. Northern Michigan University awarded her a BA and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. She is Trustees’ Distinguished Professor at Ashland University. Her literary books are *A Location in the Upper Peninsula* (collected works), *The Three-Week Trance Diet* (award-winning novel), *Saunas* (poetry), *The Arrest* (novel), *Labyrinth* (novella), as well as eight chapbooks. Her scholarship is in the area of the psychology of creativity and in the study of gifted children. Many of these works are available as e-books on Kindle and Nook. She received Individual Artist Fellowships in poetry and fiction from the Ohio Arts Council. Garrison Keillor read her work on *The Writer’s Almanac*. She is one of fourteen hundred American writers listed in the *Directory of American Poets and Writers* as both a poet and a writer.

Saara Myrene Raappana was born in Marquette General Hospital and was raised all around the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, including in Palmer, Sault Ste. Marie, Suomi Location, Rudyard, and Menominee. She’s currently a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in Guizhou, China, where she teaches English to future English teachers. She’s an editor for *Cellpoems*, a text-message-based poetry journal. Her poetry appears or is forthcoming in such publications as *Blackbird*, *Harvard Review Online*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Subtropics*, and *Verse Daily*; her criticism can be found in *American Book Review* and *The Rumpus*. She misses sauna, juusto, and pasties.
Janeen Rastall lives by Lake Superior in Gordon, Michigan. She is a member of the Marquette Poetry Circle. Her poems have recently appeared in *Raleigh Review*, *Blue Lake Review*, and *apparatus magazine*.

Janice Repka’s short stories and poetry have appeared in journals such as *Potomac Review*, *The Louisiana Review*, *Writers’ Journal*, and *Antietam Review*. She is also the author of two novels, *The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco*, a Junior Library Selection and 2008 Nebraska Golden Sower Award Honor Book, and *The Clueless Girl’s Guide to Being a Genius*, both published by Dutton Children’s Books. She has a MFA in Creative Writing from McNeese State University and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Born in Pennsylvania, she taught college English in Louisiana before moving to and settling in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, where she is an Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing at Lake Superior State University. While at Lake State she has helped create the LSSU Visiting Writer Reading Series to bring literary authors and poets to the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

Vincent Reusch attended Western Michigan University’s PhD program in Creative Writing, where he studied with fiction writers Jaimy Gordon and Stuart Dybek. His recent work has been published in *Madison Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Big Fiction*, and elsewhere. He was the winner of *Roanoke Review’s* 2006 fiction prize, runner-up in the DANA Awards Portfolio Contest, and runner-up and finalist in a number of other national fiction contests. He has just finished a collection of stories and is at work on a novel set in northern Michigan. Research for this novel has been aided by a grant from the Lakes Region Arts Council. He teaches English at Concordia College, in Moorhead, Minnesota.

Ron Riekki has published *U.P: A Novel* (Ghost Road Press), *Leave Me Alone, I’m Bleeding, I Want to Date a Girl Who’s a Rage Against the Machine Fan: Poems about Love, Death and Heavy Metal*, and *She Took God: A Memoir in 34 Poems* (Gypsy Daughter Poetry Chapbooks and Literary Publishing), *Dandelion Cottage, A Play* (produced by Lake Superior Theatre) and *Your Map is Wrong: A Collection of Plays Set in...*
Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (the Center for U.P. Studies), Carol (Smith & Kraus, The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2012, produced by Stageworks/Hudson), and How to Kill Yourself with a Gun and a Bottle of Pills (upcoming, Original Works Publishing, produced by Ann Arbor Civic Theater). Ruckus Theater also produced All Saints’ Day: 44 Poems about Jeffrey Jones

Catie Rosemurgy is the author of two collections of poetry, My Favorite Apocalypse and The Stranger Manual, both published by Graywolf Press. Her work has appeared in such places as American Poetry Review, The Gettysburg Review, and Ploughshares. She is the recipient of a Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers’ Award and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. She grew up in Escanaba, Michigan, and spends time there every year. She currently lives in Philadelphia and teaches at The College of New Jersey.

Andrea Scarpino is the author of the chapbook The Grove Behind (Finishing Line Press) and a forthcoming full-length poetry collection from Red Hen Press. She received an MFA in Creative Writing from The Ohio State University, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and teaches with Union Institute and University’s Cohort PhD program in Interdisciplinary Studies. She moved from Los Angeles—where her poems often contained fire—to the Upper Peninsula in 2010. Now, most of her writing involves snow or Lake Superior. She is a weekly contributor for the blog Planet of the Blind, and can be found online at www.andreascarpino.com

Author Bio

Author of the Year Award for 2010 from the Michigan Library Association. He is a professor of English at Northern Michigan University.

Keith Taylor has published collections of poetry, short fiction, edited volumes, and translations. Two of his most recent books were published by Wayne State.

Emily Van Kley was raised in Ishpeming and Wakefield, Michigan, but currently lives in Olympia, Washington, where she writes, works at a cooperative grocery, and dreams of snow. Her poems have won the Florida Review and Iowa Review prizes, and have also been published in Cutthroat and Oberon Magazines. Her fiction was a finalist for Narrative Magazine’s Below 30 Award, and has also appeared in Faultline and Salamander.

Cameron Witbeck is twenty-four years old and has spent over a quarter of that time living in Marquette, Michigan. He is currently an MFA candidate in poetry at Northern Michigan University, where he also works as an associate poetry editor for Passages North literary magazine. When he’s not teaching, reading, or writing, Witbeck enjoys hunting and woodworking. His work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in Rosebud, Cream City Review, Controlled Burn, and other publications.

Jim Zukowski has lived in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan, for twelve years, where he’s an Associate Professor of English at Lake Superior State University. He holds an MA and PhD from the University of Pittsburgh and an MFA in Creative Writing from Warren Wilson College. His work has appeared in Nimrod, Northwest Review, Provincetown Arts, and other journals. He has recently completed work on his first manuscript, The Vanisher.