

## CONTRIBUTORS

ELMAZ ABINADER's most recent poetry collection, *This House, My Bones*, was The Editor's Selection for 2014 from Willow Books/Aquarius. Her books include a memoir: *Children of the Roojme, A Family's Journey from Lebanon; In the Country of My Dreams . . .*, which won the Oakland PEN, Josephine Miles Award. Her plays include *Ramadan Moon, 32 Mohammeds*, and *Country of Origin*. She has been a fellow at residencies in Macedonia, Brazil, Spain, and Egypt, where she went as a senior Fulbright fellow. Elmaz is a cofounder of VONA/Voices, a writing workshop for writers of color. She teaches at Mills College and lives in Oakland. [www.elmazabinader.com](http://www.elmazabinader.com)

GEORGE ABRAHAM is a Palestinian American poet, activist, and Bioengineering PhD candidate at Harvard University. They are the author of two chapbooks, *the specimen's apology* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2019) and *al youm* (The Atlas Review, 2017). They are the recipient of fellowships from Kundiman, the Watering Hole, and Brooklyn Poets, as well as the honor of Best Poet from the 2017 College Union Poetry Slam International. Their work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Tin House, Boston Review, Beloit Poetry Journal, The Rumpus, LitHub*, and anthologies, such as *Nepantla, Bettering American Poetry*, and *The Ghassan Kanafani Palestinian Anthology*.

NABEEL ABRAHAM taught anthropology and directed the honors program at Henry Ford College for nearly thirty years. Among his published works are *Arab Detroit: From Margin to Mainstream* and *Arab Detroit 9/11* with Andrew Shryock and Sally Howell. He is currently working on a collaborative collection of new voices in creative nonfiction from Arab Detroit.

RABIH ALAMEDDINE is the author of the novels *Koolaid's, I, the Divine, The Hakawati, An Unnecessary Woman*, the story collection, *The Perw*, and most recently, *The Angel of History*.

HAYAN CHARARA is the author of three poetry books, most recently *Something Sinister*, which won the Arab American Book Award. He edited *Inclined to Speak*, an anthology of contemporary Arab American poetry, and, with Fady Joudah, is series editor of the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. His children's book about the July War between Israel and Lebanon, *The Three Lucys*, received the New Voices Award honor. He teaches in the Honors College and the creative writing program at the University of Houston.

SAFIA ELHILLO is the author of the poetry collection *The January Children* (University of Nebraska Press, 2017), and the novel in verse *Nima on the Other Side* (forthcoming 2021 from Make Me A World/Random House). She holds an MFA from The New School, a Cave Canem Fellowship, and a 2018 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation. With Fatimah Asghar, Elhillo is coeditor of the anthology *Halal If You Hear Me* (Haymarket Books, 2019). She is a 2019–2021 Stegner Fellow at Stanford University.

JOSEPH GEHA is the author of *Through and Through: Toledo Stories* and the novel *Lebanese Blonde*. A professor emeritus of the creative writing program at Iowa State University, since retirement he has kept busy volunteering, painting in acrylics, and teaching cooking demos. Currently, he is finishing a memoir-cookbook, *Kitchen Arabic*, about his family's early years in America.

HADIL GHONEIM is a bilingual writer and author of several books for children and young adults. Her book, *Sana fi Qena*, (A Year in Qena) was on the 2016 IBBY honor list and was shortlisted for the 2014 Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature. Hadil's essays, profiles, and interviews have appeared in numerous Egyptian media outlets. She is currently based in Michigan.

LAYLA AZMI GOUSHEY is a professor of English at St. Louis Community College in St. Louis, Missouri where she also teaches an interdisciplinary course on Arab and Arab-Diasporic cultures. Her dissertation research examines the teaching philosophies of eleventh century Islamic scholar Muhammad Al-Ghazali. She is also currently working on an oral history project focusing on Arab American activism in Texas after 1967. Her creative work has been published in journals such as *Yellow Medicine Review*, *Mizna: Journal of Prose, Poetry and Art Exploring*

*Arab America*, *Natural Bridge*, and *Sukoon Magazine*. Find her on Twitter @Lgoushey or at [www.LaylaAzmiGoushey.com](http://www.LaylaAzmiGoushey.com).

TARIQ AL HAYDAR's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Threepenny Review*, *DLA*GRAM, *North American Review*, and others. He is an assistant professor of English at the College of Arts at King Saud University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

RANDA JARRAR is the author of two books, *A Map of Home* and *Him, Me, Muhammad Ali*.

FADY JOUDAH has published four collections of poems, *The Earth in the Attic*, *Alight*, *Textu*—a book-long sequence of short poems whose meter is based on cellphone character count—and, most recently, *Footnotes in the Order of Disappearance*. He has translated several collections of poetry from the Arabic and is the coeditor and cofounder of the Etel Adnan Poetry Prize. He was a winner of the Yale Series of Younger Poets competition in 2007 and has received a PEN award, a Banipal/Times Literary Supplement prize from the UK, the Griffin Poetry Prize, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He lives with his wife and kids in Houston, where he practices internal medicine.

JOE KADI is a teacher and writer living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He's the editor of *Food for Our Grandmothers: Writings by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian Feminists*, and the author of *Thinking Class: Sketches from a Cultural Worker*, both published by South End Press.

MOHJA KAHF is the author of *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf* (novel), and two books of poetry: *E-mails from Scheherazad* and *Hagar Poems*. A former slam poet (Nationals 1999) and winner of a Pushcart Prize (2010), Kahf is a professor of Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Arkansas, where she has been teaching since 1995.

PAULINE KALDAS is the author of *Looking Both Ways* (essays), *The Time Between Places* (stories), *Letters from Cairo* (travel memoir), and *Egyptian Compass* (poems). She was awarded a fellowship in fiction from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and has been a resident at the MacDowell Colony and the Virginia Center for the Arts. She

is professor of English and creative writing at Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia. [www.paulekaldas.com](http://www.paulekaldas.com).

LAILA LALAMI was born in Rabat and educated in Morocco, Great Britain, and the United States. She is the author of the novels *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*, which was a finalist for the Oregon Book Award; *Secret Son*, which was on the Orange Prize Longlist; and, most recently, *The Moor's Account*, which won the American Book Award, the Arab American Book Award, the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She is currently a columnist for *The Nation*, a critic-at-large for the *Los Angeles Times*, and a professor of creative writing at the University of California at Riverside.

LISA SUHAIR MAJAJ is a Palestinian American poet, writer, and scholar. She is the author of *Geographies of Light*, which won the 2008 Del Sol Press Poetry Prize, and coeditor of three collections of essays on international women writers: *Going Global: The Transnational Reception of Third World Women Writers*, *Etel Adnan: Critical Essays on the Arab-American Writer and Artist*, and *Intersections: Gender, Nation and Community in Arab Women's Novels*. Her poetry has been used in many venues, including the 2016 photography exhibit *Aftermath: The Fallout of War* at the Harn Museum of Art. She holds a PhD in Arab American literature from the University of Michigan, and has taught at a number of institutions.

KHALED MATTAWA currently teaches in the graduate creative writing program at the University of Michigan. He is the author of four books of poetry, and a critical study of the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish. Mattawa has coedited two anthologies of Arab American literature and translated many volumes of contemporary Arabic poetry. His awards include the Academy of American Poets Fellowship prize, the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, and a MacArthur Fellowship. He is the current Editor of *Michigan Quarterly Review*.

IMAN MERSAL is an Egyptian poet, essayist, translator, literary scholar, and professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of Alberta. She is the author of five books of Arabic poetry, selections from which have been translated into several languages. In English translation, her poems have appeared in *Paris Review*, *The Nation*, *American Poetry*

*Review*, and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. A selection of Mersal's poetry, entitled *These Are Not Oranges, My Love*, translated by the poet Khaled Mattawa, was published in 2008 (Sheep Meadow Press). Her most recent publications include an Arabic translation of Charles Simic's memoir, *A Fly in the Soup* (Al Kotob Khan), and a group of essays, *How to Mend: on Motherhood and its Ghosts* (Kayfa Ta and Mophradat).

PHILIP METRES is the author of ten books, including *Shrapnel Maps* (Copper Canyon, 2020), *The Sound of Listening* (2018), *Sand Opera* (2015), *I Burned at the Feast: Selected Poems of Arseny Tarkovsky* (2015), and others. His work has garnered a Lannan fellowship, two NEAs, six Ohio Arts Council Grants, the Hunt Prize, two Arab American Book Awards, the Watson Fellowship, the Creative Workforce Fellowship, and the Cleveland Arts Prize. He is professor of English and director of the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights program at John Carroll University.

SUSAN MUADDI DARRAJ's *A Curious Land: Stories from Home* won an American Book Award in 2016. It also won the AWP Grace Paley Prize and the Arab American Book Award. In 2018, she was named a Ford Fellow by United States Artists; her writing has also been recognized by the Maryland State Arts Council and the Greater Baltimore Cultural Alliance. She is a member of the One Maryland, One Book committee and the creator of the #TweetYourThobe movement. Susan's children's book series, Farah Rocks, starring Steven, a Palestinian American character, will debut from Capstone Books in January 2020.

NAOMI SHIHAB NYE's most recent books are *Voices in the Air—Poems for Listeners* and *The Turtle of Oman*, a novel for elementary readers, both from Greenwillow/HarperCollins and *The Tiny Journalist*, inspired by Janna Jihad Ayyad, from BOA Editions, 2019.

STEVEN SALAITA is author of nine books, most recently *We Could Be Free: Palestine in the Revolutionary Imagination*. He lives outside of Washington DC.

MATTHEW SHENODA is the author of the poetry collections *Somewhere Else* (winner of the American Book Award), *Seasons of Lotus*, *Seasons of Bone* and *Tahrir Suite* (winner of the Arab American Book Award) and along with Kwame Dawes he is editor of *Bearden's Odyssey*.

*Poets Respond to the Art of Romare Bearden*. He is currently Associate Provost for Social Equity & Inclusion and professor of literary arts and studies at Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) where he directs the Center for Social Equity and Inclusion. Shenoda is also a founding editor of the African Poetry Book Fund. For more information visit: [www.matthewshenoda.com](http://www.matthewshenoda.com).

KAMELYA OMA YMA YOUSSEF is a writer from Dearborn, Michigan. Her works have been published in *Mizna*, *Agapé*, the *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and on the theater stage. She studied poetry and criticism at Wayne State University and is an MFA candidate in poetry at New York University.