

## *Editor's Note*

Home. It's a concept that stretches across all cultures and all times. We've been told we can never go home again, that there's no place like home, that home is where one starts from. But what makes a home? Why do we sometimes seek out new homes, or refuse to leave the homes we already have? How do we find—and adapt to—new homes? When is leaving home a choice, and when is it an exile? What happens when we are forced to leave homes we do not necessarily want to abandon? How do we make a place—a house, a country, a continent—into a home?

In this issue, *Leaving Home, Finding Home*, eighty-one writers explore these questions and more. Hailing from dozens of countries and backgrounds, they approach the theme of this issue from a multitude of diverse and engaging perspectives. They offer us poems, stories, and creative nonfiction about home through the eyes of immigrants, refugees, and Third Culture Kids (those raised in a culture outside their parents' culture), and from the perspective of those leaving or finding their homes because of loss or disaster, age or adventure. In "A Refugee Contemplates Foam," Asnia Asim explores the complicated feelings of a woman who survives a refugee boat crossing when her mother does not, and May Lee-Yang describes her life as a "permanent resident alien" in lyrical prose in "Envy." The narrator of Torrey Crim's "Passage" discovers that home can be people rather than a place, and the father in Mark Burke's "Learning to Listen" reconnects with his son only after they leave home together. Hali F. Sofala and Matt W. Miller dig into the ways that one can long to leave a hometown and yet be drawn back to it in "On Belonging" and "Arthur's." And Liz Ahl reminds us how homes, borders, and belonging change as we change, in "Beating the Bounds."

Also in this issue, we're proud to present writing by some of the finalists and semi-finalists of our 38th annual Literary Awards, including work by Susan Cohen, Eric Schlich, Don Judson, and Jacob M. Appel, and, as always, we are thrilled to print the work of writers accepted as general submissions throughout the year.

Whether you read this at home or far from it, settle in and join us as these talented writers transport us to new places and to myriad ways of looking at home.