



Fine Lines

Winter 2020

VOLUME 29 ISSUE 4

David Martin: Editor

FINE LINES: Winter 2020

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~ Winter 2020 ~

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CONTENTS

ABOUT FINE LINES.	xiv
DEDICATION.	xvii
Editor's Letter: <i>Fine Lines</i> Proves the Literary Journal Is Not Dead <i>Cathy Porter</i>	1
Takeoff <i>photograph by Cindy Goeller</i>	2
Thicket of Memories <i>Tracy Ahrens</i>	3
Role Models Inspire Us to Adopt Positive Attitudes <i>Nahla Aljeraisy</i>	5
Unofficial Newspaper Carrier <i>Duane Anderson</i>	7
Tangerine Strands <i>Alfredo Salvatore Arcilesi</i>	8
Branches Glisten with New Snow <i>photograph by Kim McNealy Sosin</i>	15
Your Blue <i>Ava M. Aycock</i>	16
Three Poems <i>Daniel Barbare</i>	17
Lost <i>David Barnes</i>	18
A New Social Reform Movement <i>Leo Adam Biga</i>	26

Man in the Mirror	
<i>John Grey</i>	122
Mr. Hughes's Dream	
<i>Mark Gudgel</i>	123
This Year	
<i>Chitisha Gunnoo</i>	124
Wasteland	
<i>photograph by Tracy Ahrens</i>	126
At The Horizon	
<i>Aruna Gurumurthy</i>	127
The Happiness Project	
<i>Kathie Haskins</i>	129
After the Adventure	
<i>Morgan Hite</i>	137
True Colors	
<i>Shannon Hollinger</i>	140
HOPE	143
INSTRUCTIONS FOR LIFE	145
Freewheeling	
<i>Kathy Jacobs</i>	146
Polar Fairy	
<i>photograph by Kristi FitzGerald</i>	147
The World around You	
<i>Jack Lucas Kohl</i>	148
LAST WORDS.	149
Yellow Knife and God	
<i>Richard Lawson</i>	150
No Blubbering	
<i>Deshae E. Lott</i>	151

Phoenix	
<i>Deshae E. Lott</i>	154
Let's Plant a Seed	
<i>Preston Love, Jr.</i>	155
THE MAIL	157
ARE YOU A WRITER?.	168
Perfect Moments	
<i>David Martin.</i>	169
Costumes	
<i>Sandra Martin</i>	170
Silent Screams	
<i>Sandra Martin</i>	171
Pingayun	
<i>Michael Martz</i>	172
Smith Falls, Nebraska	
<i>photograph by Kevin McNichols</i>	175
Vulnerability: An Invitation	
<i>Vince McAndrew.</i>	176
The Poetry of Winter: Northeast Kingdom, Vermont	
<i>Patricia O'Keefe Morin</i>	178
Path to Solitude	
<i>photograph by Kristi FitzGerald</i>	179
The Turning Points in Life	
<i>Barbara Motes</i>	180
Winter	
<i>Marina Muro.</i>	183
Flip Flops on Madison	
<i>Karol Nielsen.</i>	184

No Blubbering

DESHAE E. LOTT

"I like living. I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow; but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing."

AGATHA CHRISTIE

They never discussed why —
despite designing and building a house
with an upstairs game room and even
painting by hand the graphic art of billiards
across its wall —
no pool table, cues, or balls
ever occupied the intended space.

"No blubbering,"
my mother demanded instead
as she went about contributing
all she had to give
into the art of raising me,
who could no longer climb stairs
or play games
burnishing and chalking sticks or
breaking racks with shots.

Of her first child
— conceived before marriage
in a time and place
where my parents drew scorn and
she became the first pregnant woman

allowed to graduate from her high school —
she once expressed her gratitude that,
for her,
abortion had been illegal.

With me,
her second child,
she proved
she might have said the same
of euthanasia.

This great reverence for life,
the countless magnanimous investments
in my existence, and
the endless earnest efforts
I remember regularly.

With every difficult breath I take,
I hope to follow
my parents' path
begetting
beauty and purpose
from relinquished plans and
devastating woe.

These nearly two decades
surviving with life support
by now
so deeply challenge
my stamina and strength
that daily

I re-examine and recommit
to the premise that
embracing is
and
destroying is not

how I wish
to respond to
the unexpected,
the imperfect, and
the agonizing.

Though often grievous,
just to be alive
is
a grand thing.

////////////////////////////////////
*“If you don’t know where you’re going,
any road will take you there.”*

GEORGE HARRISON

////////////////////////////////////

Phoenix

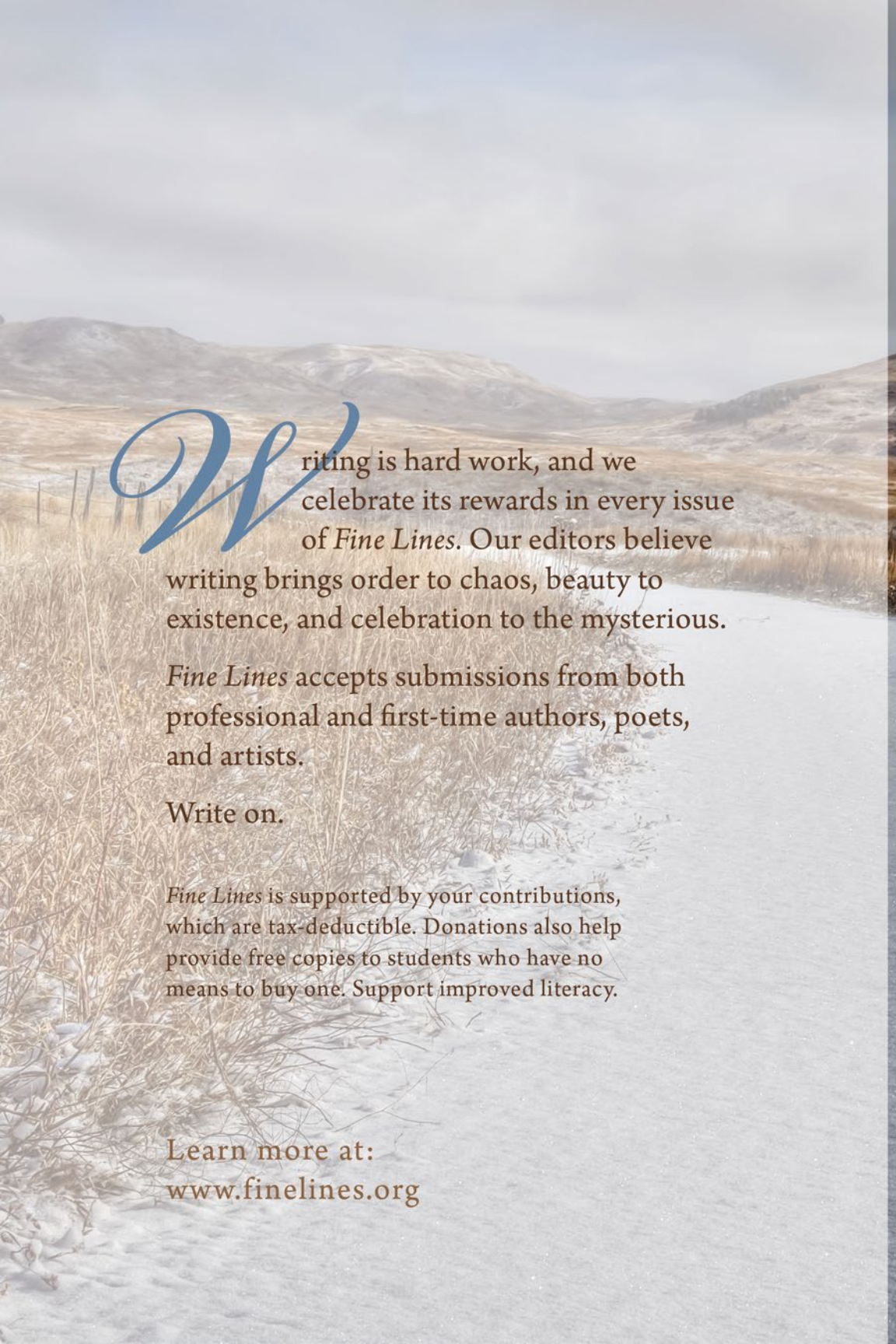
DESHAE E. LOTT

Cat-like already in having nine plus close calls
from which I leapt forth or crept back,
I now long to be Phoenix-like:
To rise anew, burning flesh
transfigured to full plume.

Sartorial, vocational, interpersonal, experiential splendor restored
and immersed in the vibrant flame that illumines and enlivens
but does not consume —
both together would suit me well
or just the latter: me ascending into the hereafter.

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*W*riting is hard work, and we celebrate its rewards in every issue of *Fine Lines*. Our editors believe writing brings order to chaos, beauty to existence, and celebration to the mysterious.

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Write on.

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