



Fine lines

Spring 2021

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1

David Martin: Editor

FINE LINES: Spring 2021

Volume 30 Issue 1

David Martin: Editor

Copyright © 20210, *Fine Lines*, Inc.

9905 Rockbrook Road

Omaha, NE 68124

www.finelines.org

ISBN: 979-8-70022011-8

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from *Fine Lines*, Inc.

Fine Lines, Inc. is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation.

EID: 47-0832351

All donations are tax-deductible.

Cover photograph: *The Platte River*, by Karen Kader. See more at <https://karen-kader.pixels.com>

Fine Lines logo designed by Kristy Stark Knapp, Knapp Studios

Book and cover design by Michael Campbell, MC Writing Services

Fine lines

~ Spring 2021 ~

VOLUME 30 ISSUE 1



David Martin: Editor

MANAGING EDITOR

David Martin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Gehring

Chairman of the Board, attorney

David Martin

President

English teacher

ADVISER

Yolanda Martin

WEBMASTERS

Kristi Bolling

Mike McCombs

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Michael Campbell,

MC Writing Services

EDITORS

Zoe Baumel

Joseph Benson

Sheila Boerner

Janet Bonet

Jayne Bussing

Wendy Fetters

Kristi FitzGerald

Marcia Forecki

Nancy Genevieve

Ally Benson

Kathie Haskins

Jerome McAllister

Vince McAndrew

Anne Obradovich

Barbara Thomas Oliver

Cathy Porter

Lisa Tomey

CONTENTS

ABOUT FINE LINES.	xiii
DEDICATION.	xvi
Editor's Letter	
<i>Vince McAndrew</i>	xvii
FINE LINES WANTS YOU	1
FICTION/NARRATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP	2
WHAT DO YOU CALL A GROUP OF NOUNS?	3
Orchid Love	
<i>photograph by Cindy Goeller</i>	4
Four Siblings in the Heartland	
<i>Duane Anderson</i>	5
I Forgive You	
<i>Ava M. Aycock</i>	7
The Woods	
<i>David Barnes</i>	9
On the Trail	
<i>photograph by David Barnes</i>	17
Mom 2.0	
<i>Ally Benson</i>	18
A Lifetime of Service to His Country: Colonel Lee Sumner	
<i>Joseph S. Benson, PhD</i>	19
Sandhill Cranes in the Platte River: "Let's go! Breakfast buffet is open!"	
<i>photograph by Kim McNealy Sosin</i>	25

Everything that Was Never Mine	
<i>Addyson Larson</i>	147
Dear Rain	
<i>Richard Lawson</i>	148
Aloe Farmer	
<i>Deshae E. Lott</i>	149
What Is Next, Omaha?	
<i>Preston Love, Jr.</i>	151
MAIL	153
Letter from Godot	
<i>David Martin</i>	158
What Happens to Our Dreams?	
<i>Sandra Martin</i>	160
The Headwaters Moved	
<i>Jerome W. McAllister</i>	161
Pandemic	
<i>Vince McAndrew</i>	171
How Trouble Grows	
<i>Joan McNerney</i>	172
Apple Blossoms in Summer	
<i>photograph by Kristi FitzGerald</i>	173
The Mirror	
<i>Joanna Michaels</i>	174
All Points South	
<i>Fred Miller</i>	178
Elegy for Hines	
<i>Pete Mladinic</i>	188
Reaper in the Corner	
<i>Marie Moldovan</i>	189

Aloe Farmer

DESHAE E. LOTT

From the first small aloe
we purchased at the local nursery,
you have cultivated scores
and gifted half as many.

Now an aloe grove,
33 degrees of winter on our porch
cuddling close
apart from the snug path
through which
your svelte frame and watering can
pass.

For months the aloes
huddle beneath cloth
except when sunshine
sufficiently warms the air.
Then, weather-watching you
rush out to help them
soak up light.

Every summer
the mother aloe and her firstborns
salute you
with stalks like colossal asparagus
whose tips open and flower
before being wafted away.

You might have made a superb
lighthouse keeper:

signaling to seafarers
and ever concerned
for their safety.

Instead, you tend aloes
and me,
even better.



www.finelines.org

