

From the Publisher

Wang Ping writes of the treatment that people of color receive when working in White academic institutions.

Herb Boyd remembers Sugar Ray Robinson's short career as a showman. I caught his act in Buffalo, New York. He was a good dancer.

Some of our essential writers, C.J. Singh, Jerry Ward, Julia Wright and Rishi Nath respond to the question of whether the White establishment is using some writers of Indian ancestry to patrol Black writing.

In 1966, Amiri Baraka was charged with inciting the Newark Rebellion. We are publishing a photo of Amiri and Amina on the way to court carrying their son Olaji, then an infant. Part Two of our interview with Amina Baraka also appears in this issue. She tells us how her Newark family, whose members were beaten and harassed by the police, rose to become Newark's first family.

A Palestinian artist, Fairouze Fawzy Nastas, reflects on a recent clash between Israel and Palestine in a letter to Carla Blank. They met collaborating on a performance project in Ramallah at the Al-Kasaba Theatre in 2013.

If a White woman had written "Fuck Trump" on a wall, it would have been dismissed as a prank. If she had the stature of Jill Nelson, one of our best writers, the police would have politely requested a selfie. Jill Nelson wrote the same thing on a wall, and the NYPD, which Baldwin calls the worst, made a federal case. Now that members of the NYPD have been exposed as among those who traveled to Washington on January 9th to stage a coup, they might have sought to punish Jill Nelson because they were Trump supporters. Their method of punishing Ms. Nelson has been attrition. The police are giving her the runaround to cost her time, money and producing anxiety.

Shawn Wong has an amusing anecdote about our encounter with George Clinton of the Funkadelics.

We have poetry from Joseph Hurtado, Zarrin Ferdowsi, Sandals Nigidi, and Yuri Kageyama.

Dr. Sami Ludwig sends us an original and outstanding short story by Francesco Micieli.

Susannah Israel reviews the virtual reading of my new play, "The Slave Who Loved Caviar," and legendary critic Richard Kostelanetz writes about the literary politics surrounding Phillip Roth.

Dr. Michael LeNoir gives an update at Virus Watch.

We highly recommend Aquitaine, a restaurant wine bar located at 215 Church Street in San Francisco. Great food and also great decor. Co-owner Andrew Fidelman stands next to waiter Alex Pacheco Acosta in the front-page photo.

The Fall issue will be dedicated to the late Al Young, with guest editor Jack Foley.