One difference between literary expression and activism is that activism employs propaganda, in the broadest, non-perjorative sense of the word. Successful works of literature, on the other hand, are the opposite of propaganda by definition. Where propaganda divides the world cleanly into right and wrong, drawing an absolute line between the position you are being asked to hold and the one you are being asked to oppose, literary expression explores what it feels like to inhabit a position, with all its inherent conflicts and contradictions. These two writers—one a poet; the other, a fiction writer—take on in their work, in very different ways, what it's like to inhabit the position we call "man." Their reading will be followed by a Q&A.

As a poet and essayist, Richard Jeffrey Newman’s work explores the impact of feminism on his life as a man. As a co-translator of classical Persian poetry, he writes about the impact of that canon on our contemporary lives. His books include *For My Son, A Kind of Prayer* (Ghostbird Press 2016), *The Silence of Men* (Cavankerry Press 2006), and the translation *The Teller of Tales: Stories from Ferdowsi’s Shahameh* (Junction Press 2011). He curates the *First Tuesdays* reading series in Elmhurst, NY. His poems have appeared in a wide range of journals and his essays have been published in, among other places, *Salon.com, The Scavenger,* and *The Good Men Project.* Newman is Professor of English at Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY.

Tim Fredrick is a short story writer and the author of the collection *We Regret to Inform You.* His writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *Burningword, Pif Magazine, Wilde Magazine, Hamilton Stone Review, Circa,* and *Em Dash Literary Magazine.* He is also the founding editor of *Newtown Literary,* a journal dedicated to publishing the work of writers from and living in Queens, NY.