

FOUR AND TWENTY



JUNE 2010 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 6

CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM [24](#).

1. Falling Asleep

Tracy Fenner

2. Boyhood

Andy Durrenberger

3. Parenting Plan

Eliza Lane

4. Gray Moments

Sasidharan Cheruvattath

5. Aspiration

Aspiration

6. Straggler

Barbara Lydecker Crane

7. Resurrection

Kushal Poddar

8. Small-Town Barber

Bill Stifler

9. Midnight

Paul Fisher

10. I am waiting

David R. Surette

11. When Good Clocks Go Bad

Kirby J Hancock

12. *

Phillip Calderwood

13. Summer Peaches

Bill Stifler

14. Stomach Cramps

Linda Cosgriff

15. Pet Scorpion

Kushal Poddar

16. Where Have All the Super Heroes Gone?

Jennifer J. Pruiett

17. *

Phillip Calderwood

18. Waking

Robert Francis Flor

19. Pants

Regina Green

20. Why Poets Need Tragedy

Marsha L. Mentzer

21. Round Midnight

Curt Eriksen

22. Second Thoughts on Intimacy

Barry Basden

23. Story of My Life

Angel Riojas

24. Farewells

Kip Knott

FALLING ASLEEP

Eyelids, like grey curtains, drop
Darkness closes in
Strange creatures loom off-stage
Waiting for the dream-show to begin

TRACY FENNER

BOYHOOD

Knights in shining armor,
slaying dragons, charging hills,
until mother calls them home
to the foe of wash and comb.

ANDY DURRENBERGER

PARENTING PLAN

Wednesdays and every other weekend,
He returns them to her
Over-tired, over-sugared, under-washed.
Their issues are underlined.

ELIZA LANE

GRAY MOMENTS

She gazed at the sky's vermilion,
a grasshopper adorning
her sea green gown
sighs getting her blues away.

SASIDHARAN CHERUVATTATH

ASPIRATION

A leaf that was not
a bird puddle — floated as
if it was a swan.

ASPIRATION

STRAGGLER

Storm-blown
far off the Keys,
a bone-white gull bobs
alone on pitching seas.

BARBARA LYDECKER CRANE

RESURRECTION

Father was a war pilot, uncle said.
Every dot in the night
is a promise
to be his return flight.

KUSHAL PODDAR

SMALL-TOWN BARBER

Ex-Marine, hands vising
small boy's heads,
bending them to the shape
of his blade.

BILL STIELER

MIDNIGHT

A single strike
splits left and right
the indivisible
night after night.

PAUL FISHER

I AM WAITING

I am waiting
at Downtown Crossing
for the Braintree train, but
every outbound train says Ashmont.

DAVID R. SURETTE

WHEN GOOD CLOCKS GO BAD

The clock struck twelve
Eleven died, one survived.
For capital crimes the clock was tried.
Murder conviction, now doing time.

KIRBY J HANCOCK



Pond, you are a gem
in autumn, a reflection
flecked with red and gold.

PHILLIP CALDERWOOD

SUMMER PEACHES

soft skins split
wasps drink
deep and slow
riding the pulp waves

BILL STIELER

STOMACH CRAMPS

Clamps round my intest-
srotcirtnoc aob ekil seni
nesting in my gut

LINDA COSGRIFF

PET SCORPION

I knew a boy
with a pet scorpion;
he never harmed
a soul till his pet died.

KUSHAL PODDAR

WHERE HAVE ALL THE SUPER HEROES GONE?

Superman retired in Boca Raton
Army's in Iraq and Afghanistan
I climbed Mount Rushmore but
Still can't find Jesus anywhere

JENNIFER J. PRUIETT



The moon is fading,
a decaying tooth in the
blue mouth of morning.

PHILLIP CALDERWOOD

WAKING

Water gurgles in the pot.
Dawn beckons me with light.
Bold coffee removes the night.
I open my newspaper.

ROBERT FRANCIS FLOR

PANTS

thinking of nothing right now
except how great my
rear end
looks in these pants

REGINA GREEN

WHY POETS NEED TRAGEDY

It's hard to inspire a love-swaddled woman.
The brush of a fingertip on black-purple tulips
cannot bring her to tears.

MARSHA L. MENTZER

ROUND MIDNIGHT

While the boy
sleeps
his mother and I
ease into love.

CURT ERIKSEN

SECOND THOUGHTS ON INTIMACY

In her tub, wine and candlelight.

“I want to know you better.”

She pats my knee.

“No, you don’t.”

BARRY BASDEN

STORY OF MY LIFE

Jokes on me once again
With that fairytale beginning
And that soap opera end.

ANGEL RIOJAS

FAREWELLS

A bottle of wine,
a pair of empty glasses,
the blush of grapes on our lips
when we kiss goodbye.

KIP KNOTT

AUTHOR BIOS

Barry Basden writes mostly short pieces, some published, some not. He edits *Camroc Press Review* at www.camrocpressreview.com.

Phillip Calderwood's poems have appeared in *The Chabot Review*, *The Berkeley Text*, *A Magazine of Paragraphs*, *The Innisfree Poetry Journal*, and *The Broadkill Review*. He lives in Maryland with his wife.

Sasidharan Cheruvattath is a writer from India. His poems have been published both online and in print magazines like *Auckland Poetry.com*; *lesserflamingo*; *Short, Fast, and Deadly*; *The Maverick*; and *United World Poets*. His writing can be found at anaestheticbard.blogspot.com.

Linda Cosgriff is an Open University graduate who has been published in several online magazines. She recently recited some of her work with Manchester Camerata. You can read her humorous take on life at thelaughinghousewife.wordpress.com.

Barbara Lydecker Crane's poetry has appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Light Quarterly*, *Measure*, *America*, *Raintown Review*, *SCR*, and *Snakeskin*. Her landscape quilts are in the collections of Mass. General Hospital and the National Quilt Museum.

AUTHOR BIOS

Andy Durrenberger resides in Hillsboro, Oregon. He spends most of his time raising three boys and scribbling poetry at 4:00 AM. He is a 2007 graduate of Portland State University. "Boyhood" is his first published writing.

Curt Eriksen has published short fiction and poetry in the U.S., U.K., India, and Spain—in *Rosebud*, *New Madrid*, *34th Parallel*, *Contrary*, *Pindeldyboz*, *42opus*, and *Alba*, among other journals. His work is accessible at www.clerik.weebly.com.

Tracy Fenner has been published by *Crow Toes Quarterly*, and has had work accepted by *MotherVerse Magazine*. Tracy lives with her husband and three daughters in Langley, British Columbia.

Paul Fisher of Bellingham, Washington, is the recipient of an Individual Artists Fellowship in Poetry from the Oregon Arts Commission. His first book of poetry, *Rumors of Shore*, won the 2009 Blue Light Book Award.

Robert Francis Flor graduated from Seattle University and the University of Oregon. His poems have appeared in *Four and Twenty* and the *Field of Mirrors Anthology*. He recently completed the Artist Trust Professional Writers Program.

AUTHOR BIOS

Regina Green's poetry can be found in many fine online poetry e-zines including *Poetry2Day*, *the fine line*, *Contemporary American Voices*, and *Full of Crow*. She is a massage therapist living in Marietta, Georgia.

Kirby J. Hancock is an aspiring fiction writer living in Santa Clara, California, and a graduate of Long Ridge Writers Group's "Breaking Into Print" course. Samples of his work can be found on writing.com.

Eliza Lane makes up stories about the people she sees on the light rail train. She takes the Yellow Line to Portland State University, where she is a master's candidate in writing/book publishing.

Kip Knott is the author of three poetry chapbooks: *The Weight of Smoke* (Bottom Dog Press), *Everyday Elegies* (Pudding House), and *Whisper Gallery* ([Mudlark](http://Mudlark.com)).

Marsha L. Mentzer has taught English for thirty years at Carlisle High in Pennsylvania. Her poetry has been published in *Ruminant*, *Relief*, *Tipton Poetry Journal*, *Caesura*, *Hospital Drive*, *Peeks & Valleys*, and *The Village Pariah*.

AUTHOR BIOS

Kushal Poddar resides in Kolkata, India. He writes poetry, fiction, and television scripts. His poetry has published online and in print. He is the author of *All Our Fictional Dream*; his forthcoming book is *Surviving Cyber Life*.

Jennifer J. Pruiett is an English graduate student at Iowa State University, whose literary studies focus on dreams. Jennifer, composition instructor and mother of three, is writing her first novel, tentatively titled *Mothers & Daughters*.

Angel M. Riojas was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas, and though choosing other career options, writing has always been a constant for her. To read some of her other poetry, go to <http://www.poetry.com/user/angel-m.-riojas/14580971>.

Bill Stifler, originally from York County, Pennsylvania, teaches English and mythology at Chattanooga State Community College. His poem "Redeeming Time" was published in the seventy-fifth anniversary edition of *Science News*.

David R. Surette's two books of poetry are *Easy to Keep, Hard to Keep In* and *Young Gentlemen's School*. Koenisha Publications will release *The Immaculate Conception Mothers' Club* in the fall of 2010.

SPECIAL THANKS to **Chris Thomas**, our project managers for this issue.



All poems and artwork in this journal have been published with permission. All rights belong to the authors and artists, who attest to the originality of their works. Please do not reproduce poems or artwork found in this journal without the express permission of the creators. Cover and interior design by Vinnie Kinsella.