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FOUR AND TWENTY



PRESENTED BY DECLARATION EDITING & DESIGN

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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

ABIDE

time changes everything
yet being present is still
the hardest thing I do

PAMELA DEVEREAUX WILSON

DESPITE THE COLD

Deep in December
incessant rains water
invisible bulbs whose light
blues bloom in spring.

MARGARET GISH MILLER

NEED FOR A SECURE AIRWAY

february diagnosis
push wind through the trach
hoarse naked sounds

JOANNE MERRIAM



shifting gears
at full speed—
life's delicate grip
shatters to pieces.

EARL MOORE



a change in the wind—
standing in line for gyros,
I smell vindaloo

DAVID ASH

FROZEN LAKE

we walked out to sleep in the center,
letting ice bloom on our bones,
watching our breath turn into frost.

LARISSA PHAM

TRYING TO RESET

standing on a chair in my underpants
beneath a wailing smoke detector
at 3:23 AM
I still ache for you

ERIC WAYNE DICKEY

STABILITY

I fell in love with ellipses ...
but needed something more
permanent, settling,
for the comma , , ,

DANIEL ROMO



A frozen waterfall
on the moonlit river
reminder of life's
long journey.

EARL MOORE

LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

They choose the shortest day
to marry. Winter Solstice, long
long night, these nuptial's nubile nest
warming winter's bed.

MARGARET GISH MILLER



in writing my autobiography
i have realized
there will be at least one chapter
about you.

LARISSA PHAM

INDELIBLE

Between heart and mind,
a signature marks the space.
I love the author.

MARY FOULK

BELIEVE

Within my heart and soul
I know you are near
I require no burning bush
Faith is mine to hold

DAVE SHEPP

POSSESSION

What matters is
who I am, not
what I have
I do little shopping

MARY JANE NORDGREN

WHITE NIGHT

gusting winds lift up
a corner of the night
chilled, I surrender
to the inky sky

CHEN-OU LIU

BACK COUNTRY

The woman grinned: pink gums
where teeth should've been,
grander than teeth could've been.
Saying clear: nothing else needed here.

CHRISTIE ISLER

URBAN MEMORY

Brief glimpse of you stirs
Monarch butterflies, rising
through a New York dawn.

MARY FOULK

THE FAMILY CULICIDAE

passed-out drunk
manna from heaven
to the mosquitoes

JOANNE MERRIAM

FISH NEWS

Dock ladder angled in reflection,
voices across the water,
a fisherman adrift by the reeds.

KRISTIN ROEDEL

EMERGENCE

brittle cumulus strokes: jaded pigment
aligned and woven into the compass
pointing us toward rain
and unbuttoned virtue.

KARISSA MORTON

UNWANTED

I dream about you;
I hope it's not too intrusive.

GEORGE J. McCARTHY

YOU KNOW WHO

Someone please stop them. Garlic,
silver bullet, holy water, whatever.
They are holding pop culture
hostage. And their ransom grows.

DANIEL ROMO

SUGAR BOWL

when I see an ant
I think of you
I crush it
and hold my thumb under the faucet

ERIC WAYNE DICKEY



chevrons of geese
honking their way south—
a suitcase shuts

DAVID ASH

AUTHOR BIOS

David Ash, publisher of Basho Press, produces humorous 5-7-5 gift books such as *Haiku for Coffee Lovers* and *Haiku for Cat Lovers*. Ash's frog sometimes hops from Mukilteo, Washington, into the literary pond. (www.BashoPress.com)

Eric Wayne Dickey lives in Corvallis, Oregon. He co-edits the journal *To Topos: Poetry International*, and he translates contemporary German poetry to English. He is shopping for publishers for his manuscript, "Freeway."

Mary Warren Foulk lives in Portland, Oregon, with her amazing wife and beautiful children. Her work has appeared in *Curve Magazine*, *Hip Mama*, *VoiceCatcher3*, and *Who's Your Mama? The Voices of Unsung Women and Mothers*.

Christie Isler is a writer, musician, and teacher in the Pacific Northwest. She has published work online at *Shoots & Vines*, *The New Flesh*, *Identity Theory*, *Infinite Windows*, *tinfoildresses* and *Bolts of Silk*.

Chen-ou Liu is a freelance writer. His poems have appeared in *Four and Twenty*, *Ribbons*, *Modern English Tanka*, *Gusts*, *Magnapoets*, *Simply Haiku*, and *Concise Delight*. Read more of his poetry at <http://ericcoliu.blogspot.com/>.

AUTHOR BIOS

George J. McCarthy live in Vancouver, Washington. This is his second time to be featured in *Four and Twenty*. George has two blogs: <http://dreamsiforgot.blogspot.com> and <http://myunfiledthoughts.blogspot.com>.

Joanne Merriam is a Nova Scotian living in Nashville, Tennessee. Her short poems have appeared in *Alba, Amaze, Roadrunner Haiku Journal* and *Scifaikuest*. You can find her online at joannemerriam.com.

Margaret Gish Miller of Independence, Oregon, is an Oregon State Poetry Association member working on her first chapbook. It will include poems published in *Verseweavers, Poets & Writers, Paterson Literary Review*, and elsewhere.

Earl Moore owns a degree in Biology and a minor in English. He is published in *Manila Envelope*, and has two books: *Whispers* and *The Wishing Well*. This is his second appearance in *Four and Twenty*.

Karissa Morton is a student at Drake University, where she is a writing tutor, literary journal editor, and president of Sigma Tau Delta. Her poetry is forthcoming in *PANK, Writers Bloc, & Fogged Clarity*, among others.

AUTHOR BIOS

Mary Jane Nordgren, DO, a founder of Writers in the Grove, looks forward to the open mic at Forest Grove, Oregon, Senior Center at 7:00 PM on February 19. MJ is surprised to be finally writing poetry.

Larissa Pham is a clear-eyed dreamer from Portland, Oregon. One of her favorite words is ineffability, which she attempts to overcome via poetry and illustration. Her work, words, and ephemera can be found at shutlow.tumblr.com.

Kristin Roedell is a retired attorney. Her work appears in *Switched on Gutenberg*, *Flutter*, *Damselflypress*, *Chantarelle's Notebook*, *Eclectica*, *Ginosko*, and *Quill and Parchment*. Her latest book is *Seeing in the Dark* (<http://tomatocanpress.com>).

Daniel Romo teaches high school Creative Writing, and lives in Long Beach, California. He is an MFA candidate in poetry at Antioch University. More of his writing can be found at [Peyote Soliloquies](http://PeyoteSoliloquies).

Dave Shepp's love of inspirational poetry has been a part of his life for many years. Recently he decided to see where his gift takes him. This is his first published poem.

AUTHOR BIOS

Pamela Devereaux Wilson lives in the coast range mountains north of Corvallis, Oregon. Her poetry has appeared in *The Eloquent Umbrella*, *Rogue River Echoes*, and *Muse*.

ARTIST BIO

This month's cover art, "Bird on a Wire," is by **Susan Sarver**. Susan is an artist and writer whose work has appeared in a variety of publications, including *The Christians Science Monitor* and *Reader's Digest*.

ˌde-klə-ˈrā-shən

Say it like you mean it.

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