

FOUR AND TWENTY



SEPTEMBER 2010 • VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 9

CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM 24.

1. Yardwork

[Carolyn A. Martin](#)

2. On Slam

[Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory](#)

3. Love Poem, Too

[Ryan Vine](#)

4. Volcano Man

[Jona Colson](#)

5. His Soccer Team

[Robert Demaree](#)

6. Whale

[Angie Werren](#)

7. The Fair in Almolongo

[Laura Truitt](#)

8. Relations

[Matt Kolbet](#)

9. Louisiana

[Joseph Carlough](#)

10. *

[Gerlinde McDougald](#)

11. Stars Over State Park

[Ronald Steiner](#)

12. Leftovers

[Matthew A. Hamilton](#)

13. Dear Diary

[Shaheen Savarnejad](#)

14. Scent of Hose Water

[Christie Isler](#)

15. *

[John Colvin](#)

16. *

[Scott F. Parker](#)

17. Fallout

[Barbara Feehrer](#)

18. Window of Opportunity

[Nora Weston](#)

19. *

[Nancy Sollosi](#)

20. North Carolina

[Joseph Carlough](#)

21. The Last Paper Bag

[David McCool](#)

22. No Thanks, I'll Take The Obits

[Tom Booth](#)

23. Contingencies *En Campo*

[Barbara Bowen](#)

24. Edge Light

[Irene Fridsma](#)

YARDWORK

I can't take credit for good soil,
wind-borne seeds, multiplying bulbs.
But mine's the strong back
and cracked finger nails.

CAROLYN A. MARTIN

ON SLAM

There is irony in the idea
that we grow in stages,
though I prefer to believe
we grow on them.

JENNIFER-LEIGH OPRIHORY

LOVE POEM, TOO

I was young. I pitied
the gazelle, raucous dust
around her. Now, I'm glad
the lion got her kill.

RYAN VINE

VOLCANO MAN

In this fantastic temperature
I shake honey-colored sweat
from my hands onto the carpet
as he ashes a hot cigarette.

JONA COLSON

HIS SOCCER TEAM

Championship game:
From the way the car door closed,
She knew they had lost.

ROBERT DEMAREE

WHALE

I didn't understand enormity until
I landed on the splintering boat
its humans flipping through air
like krill

ANGIE WERREN

THE FAIR IN ALMOLONGO

Dilapidated broken-down rides
Make glad the young in age.
They don't yet know —
That they are the have-nots.

LAURA TRUITT

RELATIONS

My cousin is like a
happier version of my brother.
Like Hamlet, we can't escape
being our father's sons.

MATT KOLBET

LOUISIANA

A horsefly drew blood from my thigh
I'd spent all night awake
researching the best creeks
to cage crawfish

JOSEPH CARLOUGH



Roadrunner finds his mark
Enjoyable feast
What is left will feed a buzzard

GERLINDE McDOUGALD

STARS OVER STATE PARK

We named the fire Smokey Popper
I drank tea at night
Coffee in the morning
Tent—valley—bathrooms

RONALD STEINER

LEFTOVERS

green orbs on my plate
bitter mush, my tongue draws back
leaving my eyes sad

MATTHEW A. HAMILTON

DEAR DIARY

Today—Cut my arm
Hair. Pruned my friends off too,
Tattoo's removed.

SHAHEEN SAVARNEJAD

SCENT OF HOSE WATER

Thirsty summers shattering the sprinkler's wall,
sipping from the green snake,
grass clippings clinging to our feet like
suburban sand.

CHRISTIE ISLER



Eating cheap mushroom pizza,
reading Sartre's *Nausea*,
I chew on, digest, contradictions,
my stomach growling bravely.

JOHN COLVIN



Coffee drips like blood from my teeth
As I eat the world alive
At the desk in my study

SCOTT F. PARKER

FALLOUT

Under the bird feeder
squirrels feast on fall-out,
perched on broken sunflower seeds.

BARBARA FEEHRER

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

chilled glass, glazed
with child's breath, welcomes
warm enthusiasm of sticky fingers
smearing circles into smiling snowmen

NORA WESTON



Cricket's chorus
a calming concert
conducted amidst chaos;
yet the soloist we seek to squelch.

NANCY SOLLOSI

NORTH CAROLINA

Applied to two of your colleges, I guess they're pretty prestigious.

I didn't get in.

I mean, hey, whatever.

JOSEPH CARLOUGH

THE LAST PAPER BAG

Bottle balanced on lap,
on a damp metal stair,
he set off back home,
and left his body lying there.

DAVID McCool

NO THANKS, I'LL TAKE THE OBITS

crow, you steal my sleep
up with you most days at dawn
main section or sports?

TOM BOOTH

CONTINGENCIES *EN CAMPO*

Party planning checklist includes
Plan B, *por que* gravity feed
toilet takes at least an hour to refill.

BARBARA BOWEN

EDGE LIGHT

nearly invisible peripheral margin
where purple sinks into black
borderline drifters cling to personal twilights
before sliding into oblivion

IRENE FRIDSMA

© 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. Publishing and design by Vinnie Kinsella (vinniekinsella.com)

BIOS

This issue's cover art is by **David McCool**, who is also a featured poet in this issue. David is an English teacher and writer of short fiction. His most recent work is the English translation of *Bogusław Kaczyński's Frédéric Chopin: Musical Genius*, a biography which was published in June 2010.

Tom Booth lives in Portland, Oregon, where he works in publishing and studies the breakfast cereal preferences of corvids. He thanks S. Ray Becker for suggesting the title of his poem and Jenny Booth for fomenting crow revolution.

Barbara Bowen lives in rural Costa Rica. She has published poems in online and print journals including *The Drunken Boat*, *Poets Against War*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Washington Poets Association Anthology*. She is translating poems of Guatemalan poet Rosa Chavez.

Joseph Carlough is a writer, teacher, and zinester living in New Jersey. He is preparing to release a book of poetry based on the states, and loves to publish.

JOSEPH'S WEBSITE: WWW.JOSEPHCARLOUGH.COM

Jona Colson's poems have appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Subtropics*, and others. He currently teaches at Goucher College.

John Colvin lives and works in Boise, Idaho. His work has appeared in *Boise Weekly's* "Fiction 101," *Astropoetica*, and in *Four and Twenty*. He keeps his poetic muscles strong by lifting heavy phrases daily.

Robert Demaree is the author of four collections of poems, including *Fathers and Teachers* (2007) and *Mileposts* (2009), published by Beech River Books. A retired school administrator, he has had approximately 450 poems published by 100 periodicals.

Barbara Feehrer, a retired educator, has lived in New England for many years. A graduate of Tufts University, her work has been published in *The Aureorean*, *Women Outdoors*, and in several other journals and anthologies.

Irene Fridsma is the author of several chapbooks. Her poem, "Trompe l'oeil" was selected for publication in *The Banner*. Her poem "Urban Renewal" won second place in 2009's Hertel Poetry contest.

IRENE'S WEBSITE: IRENEFRIDSM.A.WORDPRESS.COM

Matthew A. Hamilton is a US Peace Corps Volunteer serving in the Philippines. He has work in *The Battered Suitcase* and other places. He will attend Fairfield University's MFA program in December.

Christie Isler writes poetry and fiction in the Pacific Northwest. She has published work online at *The New Flesh*, *Identity Theory*, *Infinite Windows*, *Every Day Poets* and *Bolts of Silk*.

Matt Kolbet teaches writing near Portland, Oregon. His work has appeared in numerous places, including *The American Drivel Review*, *Defenestration*, *One Real Story*, *Sideshow Mirrors*, and *Short, Fast & Deadly*.

Carolyn A. Martin is a happily retired educator and author whose poems have appeared in the *Wind Literary Journal*, *Christian Century*, *The Wild*, and *VoiceCatcher*. She writes, dreams, and gardens in Clackamas, Oregon.

Gerlinde McDougald emigrated from Germany in 1951 and now resides near Portland, Oregon. She belongs to three creative-writing groups and enjoys gardening, fishing, and her grandchildren. Writing poetry and short-stories gives her much pleasure.

Jennifer-Leigh Oprihory, a.k.a. Phoenix, is a Jersey City-based performance poet whose work has been previously featured in *The Legendary* and *Troubadour 21*.

JENNIFER-LEIGH'S WEBSITE: WWW.PHOENIXPOET.INFO

Scott F. Parker is a frequent contributor to *Rain Taxi Review of Books*. His book *Coffee: Grounds for Debate* is forthcoming from Wiley-Blackwell's Philosophy for Everyone series.

Shaheen Savarnejad is a Marketing graduate who prefers to advertise his own work by allowing readers to experience it for themselves. His burgeoning collection is on the increase at recessiondodgetovictory.wordpress.com.

Nancy Sollosi of Jamestown, North Carolina, is a contributing author in *They That Go down to the Sea* and *Just Between Us*, poetry and prose anthologies published by Old Mountain Press.

Ronald Steiner is a poet and songwriter. His poetry has appeared in *De'Pressed Int'l* and *Facets* literature magazines. He recently recorded a song for the 2011 Pittsburgh Songwriter's Circle compilation CD.

Laura Truitt grew up in southeast Alaska, began her teaching career in New York City, and now makes her home in Washington state. She enjoys experiencing new places, preferably with a cup of coffee in her hand.

Angie Werren writes in one of four rooms in Ohio. Her poetry appears most recently in the *black flood, right hand pointing 33* and *tinywords*. She blogs poems on smoke.

Nora Weston is the author of *Guardian 2632*, slated for a November 2010 release by Midnight Showcase, and *The Twelfth Paladin*, forthcoming in 2011 by Midnight Showcase. Numerous publications, like *The Dream People* and *Mind Mutations*, have showcased her work.

NORA'S WEBSITE: WWW.2NORAWESTON.COM

Ryan Vine's *Distant Engines* received a 2005 Weldon Kees Award and was published by Backwaters Press. His new manuscript, *Shiv*, was a finalist for the May Swenson Poetry Prize. He's assistant professor of English at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota.