

FOUR AND TWENTY



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AUTUMN SONG

The sunken old-man face
of the sunflower by my door

its seeds like sealed envelopes
that contain purple gray weather

HOWIE GOOD

THELONIOUS MONK PLAYS "EPISTROPHY"

He attacked that piano until
it bled under his hands.

All with a quiet mouth,
a toothpick between his lips.

AUDREY WALLS



the super takes each step by two
my grandmother fixes her hair
the door opens
—old habits die hard

CODY BUTLER

AT SIX A.M.

I walk you to the corner.
You muss my hair and say my nickname.
I don't do well with goodbyes.

CAROLINE MAHONY

MORNING

a trail of dashes
translucent on our red brick—
night's telltale caller

DANIEL WILCOX

RHIANNON RYDER

she reached for the pistol
steady hand fired
the bulb was hit, light extinguished
she could finally rest her eyes

LAUREN ROEDER

WHEN WE WERE SEVEN

jangling cow bell
standing in the pasture
you shout moo

JULIE BLOSS KELSEY



Birch:
great ivory towers
of nature's paper

ELIOT D. KUREMAN

NO ARMS TO REACH WITH

Pink petals droop
As the watering can sits
only inches away.

M. J. LANCASTER

WEDNESDAY

waxenflowered eloquentoutlouder
weedwrongspotted keybox longfacer
woodenchanted spinning campground
wistericalled laughterrain draindeeper

NEAL WHITMAN

FIFTEEN THIRTY

Forty minutes
explaining tennis scoring
to my wife:
Deuce of a challenge to love

Ivo DRURY



laundry day
the violinist replaces
a G string

DAVID ASH

ON CONFERENCE

We did not realize
how hungry we were
until the spread was voiced
before-our-eyes. Delicious.

SHANNON R. EDDY

SNEAKER WAVE

the seventh wave floods
my red sneakers; baptized
in earth's tears, soaked blood red

KAY TRACY

IT ROAMS MY BODY LIKE A LOVER

At night a spider descends from the ceiling
in the barbed moonlight,
spinning out fishing line,
itself as a sinker.

KRISTIN ROEDER

NEW NEIGHBORS

Our newest attraction —
a funeral parlor.

Watching —
how the realtors shade it.

Ivo DRURY

EROSION

What you can weather when you're young
stores itself in the marrow of the bones
and cripples your age.

JUDITH STEELE

NAP

Old man nodding
assenting to
something I fear

DAVID FRANCIS

WOUND

the angry word flew
into the heart's tender wall
disrupting the beat for a moment
as a tiny tear began

TERRI DeVRIES

LAYING HENS

pink eggshells
in bits, under the peat moss
hanging basket, tilted by
the weight of laying hens

OSHINN DUFFEY

SEMIOTICS

A chimpanzee
contemplates the lilies.
He can't help but feel
they are holding something up.

ELLA GERSHWIN

SOMEWHERE ELSE

She holds a dog-eared book.
Spine cracked and pages mildewed,
More inviting than the faces around her.

M. J. LANCASTER

UNTETHERED

My island
goes where it likes,
a kite in a child's uncertain hands.

ALICE FOLKART

Love stitched hearts together.
Tenderness aged to hardened years.
Warmth, worn and threadbare,
unraveled loyalty at the end.

CHERYL MENZIES

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BIOS

David Ash, publisher of Basho Press (www.BashoPress.com), 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.

Cody Butler is currently an undergraduate student of Philosophy and Classics at Queens College of the City University of New York.

Terri DeVries, novelist, poet, and author of several poetry chapbooks, won first place for "Dylan" in 2010's Leona Hertel Poetry Contest. In April, Grand Rapids Art Museum featured her children's poem, "God's Paint."

Terri's blog: termeldev.wordpress.com

Ivo Drury lives, loves, reads, and writes in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Oshinn Duffey lives in phoenix with her beautiful husband and cats. She has little poems in *breadcrumb scabs: a poetry magazine, contemporary american voices* and *physiognomy in letters*, under the pen name buckley.

Shannon R. Eddy, received his BA in English from the University of Rhode Island in 2009. He is the RI coordinator for the *isReads* poetry journal. His poem “The Capitulates” can be found in *Chaparral* Spring 2010.

Alice Folkart lives and writes in Hawaii. Her short stories and poems have been seen in a number of online and print literary journals. She is working on a novel.

David Francis has produced two albums of songs and one of poetry. In 2008, NYCBigCityLit published his article “Utterance and Hum: The Difference Between Poem and Song.”

David’s website: davidfrancismusic.com

Ella Gershwin lives in St. Louis with her husband Larry and two cats. Her books include *Songs for the Troops* (1976) and *The More You Know* (1992).

Howie Good is the author of a full-length poetry collection, *Lovesick*, and 22 print and digital poetry chapbooks. With Dale Wisely, he is the cofounder of White Knuckle Press (www.whiteknucklepress.com).

Julie Bloss Kelsey enjoys writing short form poetry. Her poems have appeared in *Scifaikuest*, *The Fib Review*, *High Coup Journal*, and others.

Julie’s blog: starsinmysugarbowl.blogspot.com

Eliot D. Kurfman is a senior at Oregon City High School. He has had poems published on [his school's website](#) and once before on *Four and Twenty*.

M. J. Lancaster is a university student who loves words, serendipities, and the flow of ink when her pen is put to paper. For her keyboard ramblings read her blog, Thoughts from a Brown Paper Bag Girl.

M.J.'s blog: brownpaperbaggirl.wordpress.com

Caroline Grace Mahony is a young poet and optimist with enough publications to count on one hand. She has no published books. "One day," she says. All in due time.

Cheryl Menzies of Greensboro, North Carolina, is a contributing author in *Poetry for Suzanne*, a poetry anthology dedicated to the Macmillan Cancer relief fund.

Lauren Roeder is a high school student and aspiring writer/photographer living lively in Astoria, New York. She admires art and music, and draws much inspiration from her hero, Joss Whedon.

Kristin Roedell is a retired attorney. Recent poetry appears in *Switched on Gutenberg*, *Eclectica*, *City Arts*, *Damselflypress*, *Ekphrasis*, *Flutter*, *Pilgrimage*, and *Soundings Review*. Other poems will appear in *Chest*, *Voice Catcher Anthology*, *Ginosko*, and *Frost Writing*.

Judith Steele of South Australia is co-author of poetry in *Fighting Monsters*, twice winner of the Northern Territory's Red Earth Poetry Prize, has been published in *Gobshite Quarterly USA*, and in Australian journals and websites.

Kay Tracy is a graduate student in Portland State University's Publishing Program. She wants to immerse herself in words. Her poetry is featured in previous issues of *Four and Twenty* and on her blog.

Kay's blog: immersedinword.blogspot.com

Neal Whitman has published over 300 Western form poems and haiku over the past five years. He has won the James McIntyre poetry contest and 3rd prize in the Common Ground Review contest.

Daniel Wilcox authored *Dark Energy*, a book of poetry published by Diminuendo Press. His writing has appeared in many publications including *Tipton Journal*, *Danforth Review*, *Recusant*, *Wild Violet*, *Copperfield Review*, and *Centrifugal Eye*.

Daniel's website: www.psalmsyawpshowls.com

Audrey Walls lives in Richmond, Virginia, where she is an MFA student in poetry at Virginia Commonwealth University. Her writing has previously appeared in *The Legendary* and *The Best Young Writers and Artists in America* anthology.