

FOUR AND TWENTY



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COMING INTO SPRING

Great blue heron
on the bank of the creek
lifts his wings, flies
like the days of the new year.

CAROL BERGER

WAIT AND SEE

Three short words
that suspend time
leaving it to grind endlessly
in a limbo land of helplessness.

JIM HAYNES

CANA IN REVERSE

...and, when they said good-bye,
the salad tossed itself in disbelief,
fine wine paled, watery.

RON. LAVALETTE

SUN VOW

the boy flings a sun-bound arrow—
in the chieftain's spotted view,
lush hills of youth

JADE ZIRINO



Wind and rain crush grass,
flood shallow pothole prairie.
Toes taste cold water.

DENNIS MAULSBY

THE BANSHEE

red, blue, screaming through the traffic lights, red, blue,
red, blue, keening its way into someone's worst day.

VIOLETTE ROSE-JONES

EARTHQUAKE

Her leg will be amputated but,
Non-collapsible items like,
Bookshelves and fathers
Can make a space to survive.

KENNETH OLEMBO

SINGULARITY

You're the limit you said
Smacking an eight ball across
A lime green field into
A leather mesh pocket

RICHARD HARGIS

LARCH?

March led me to *larch* ...

Larches are tough trees with waterproof wood.

O where would we be without our dictionaries?

GEOFF M. POPE



Nobody likes a group photo;
nobody is ready when the
bulb flashes, and looking back
everybody realizes their blatant differences.

JARED QUAGLIERI

HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

It's not for my eyes
Friends write to my child
with an unfamiliar intimacy
addressing him by my last name

BILL BOSLEGO

FIRE POKER

The fire devours the last of the resinous pine
he quartered from last winter's wind-throw: sweet
ache of arthritis

SCOT SIEGEL



pine needles
on a moss-eaten roof—
clean picnic table

DAVID ASH

HART HOUSE

Slug-covered paths, dog-walkers,
children pick blackberries.

Our anniversary lunch: Chitarra pasta,
New Zealand wine, grapefruit sorbet.

BONNIE QUAN SYMONS

HOUSE OF MIRRORS

In all ways I've always been superficial

ED MARKOWSKI



Bellied close in mid-air, fluting, glissando,
again the skylarks, again their exaltation,
hovering in hosannah.

JANICE D. SODERLING



Small snapshots
From a humble position
Modest
But lovely

JOAN GRAVES

WHEN LIFE MEETS POETRY

Enjambment; life running
over and flowing into itself serendipitously.
Too busy, I run to Winco
at midnight. And see him.

LAURA TRUITT

SHORT CONVERSATION

“Why is life cast with enemies that dress up like friends?”

“Well, I’m still here.”

MICHAEL ATREIDES LAIR

MARCH OF THE RAINS AND BRAVE

Dead snow.

I mourn it with

My yellow boots,

Beware the eyes.

ANN KARR

RELEASE

you never liked

close spaces so

we buried you

in air

KIMBERLY POITEVIN

GENEOLOGY

Lightning unfurls its ratted flag:
a sudden noon over southeast
Oklahoma, where the Scots-Irish
cover the hills like fern.

BENJAMIN MYERS

SUMMER IN TENNESSEE

Rolled cuffs—
two laughing boys fish the stream.
I remember being like that
curious trout.

JOANNE MERRIAM

OUTLAW

We were killers, shotgun
villains with our ghost
hands, bootheels of tobacco.
In the end, it's the same life.

CHRISTINA RUMPF

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BIOS

This month's cover art, "Chess," is by **Jennifer L. Tomaloff**: Jennifer L. Tomaloff (b. 1972) | author, *bending light into verse*, (put it down) | takes: pictures | likes: animals | hates: people | superstitious: yes.

Jennifer's website: bendinglightintoverse.com

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.

Carol Berger's poetry has been published in *Rogue River Echoes* and *Four and Twenty*. A former staff writer for the *Port Orford News*, she now lives in Corvallis, Oregon.

Carol's website: www.wannabeeswords.com

Bill Boslego began writing in 2010 following his retirement from federal service. His most recent work appeared in *The Literary Burlesque*, *Berg Gasse 19*, and *Jerry Jazz Musician*. He lives in the Washington D.C. area.

Joan Graves is a mnmlst living in Hillsboro Oregon. She is previously unpublished and is encouraged by writing groups Parallel Play and Writers in the Grove. She can be contacted at foracanthus@gmail.com.

Richard Hargis ventured into eastern poetry with his *Sidhe*, a “haiku-in-sequence” in San Diego State’s *Phoenix*. A second novel, *The Red Nightingale*, is now in print.

Jim Haynes is a UK writer of poetry and fiction. He studied creative writing with The Open University and has had work published in *Delivered* and *Inclement* magazines and online at *Forces Poetry*.

Jim’s Website: theoddode.wordpress.com

Ann Karr is a student at Union University, where she hopes to major in English Literature. “March of the Rains and Brave” is her first published work.

Michael Atreides Lair lives and writes in Springfield, Missouri.

Ron. Lavalette lives in Barton, in the heart of Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom. He has been widely published both in print and online. A reasonable sample of his work is at Eggs Over Tokyo (eggsovertokyo.blogspot.com).

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*.

Ed Markowski's short stories and poems have been published nationally and internationally. He has presented his words in bars, basements, parking lots, on street corners, at bus stops, and most recently at the National Arts Club in Manhattan and at The Chautauqua Institution.

Dennis Maulsby's book of Vietnam poetry, *Remembering Willie*, won silver medal awards from the Military Writers Society of America and the Branson Stars & Stripes competition. One of his poems is currently being considered for a Pushcart Prize.

Joanne Merriam is a Nova Scotian living in Nashville. Her poems have recently appeared in *escarp*, *Every Day Poets*, *Prick of the Spindle*, and *Third Wednesday*.

Joanne's website: joannemerriam.com

Benjamin Myers is the author of *Elegy for Trains*, currently a finalist in the Oklahoma Book Awards. His poems appear in *Measure*, *The New Plains Review*, *Ruminate*, and other journals.

Benjamin's website: myerspoetry.blogspot.com

Kenneth Olembo is a previously unpublished poet from Nairobi, Kenya. He is a Film Director and a graduate of both King's College and Ohio University. He is part of Kenya's exciting new writers at Kwani.org.

Kenneth's website: kolembo.wordpress.com

Kimberly Poitevin is a professor of interdisciplinary studies at Salem State University in Massachusetts. Her poetry has previously appeared in *The Midwest Literary Magazine* and is forthcoming in *Poetry Quarterly*.

Geoff M. Pope teaches English and communication courses for City University of Seattle. In the January 2011 issue of *Quill and Parchment*, he was the featured poet.

Geoff's website: www.geoffpope.com

Jared Quaglieri is new to the world of published poetry, claiming one publication in *Cicada Magazine's* March issue.

Bonnie Quan Symons has written poetry for over thirty years. She has had a haiku published in the *Vancouver Courier* for their Quatchi haiku contest. She is an administrative assistant at British Columbia Teachers' Federation.

Violette Rose-Jones is thirty-eight years old and a Writing Major at Southern Cross University in Australia. Her credits include haiku published in *Gean Tree*, haiga in *Daily Haiga*, as well as *Amphibi.Us* poetry journal.

Christina Rumpf received her MFA in nonfiction from Columbia University in 2009. She has written for *The Faster Times* and blogs at The Whoring Twenties. She is currently at work on a memoir.

Christina's website: www.whoringtwenties.com

Scot Siegel has authored three books of poems, most recently *Skeleton Says*, Finishing Line Press 2010. His second full-length collection is due out from Salmon Poetry in early 2012.

Scot's website: www.redroom.com/author/scot-siegel

Janice D. Soderling has recent work at *Lighten-up Online*, *Soundzine*, *Studio*, *Literary Bohemian*, *Montreal Review*. She was recipient of the Blue Unicorn 2010 Best of Volume and is a previous contributor to *Four and Twenty*.

Laura Truitt is a lover of God and a lover of people who is thrilled when she has the time to write.

Jade Zirino is a creative writer from Brooklyn, New York. Her work has appeared in *The Meridian Anthology*, *Sage Trail*, and a handful of stones, and is forthcoming in *pay attention: a river of stones*.

Jade's website: blushofdawn.blogspot.com