

# FOUR AND TWENTY DOUBLE ISSUE



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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

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first light—  
the sonogram worm  
squirms

MAUREEN KINGSTON

## LOS ANGELES, 344 MILES

I'm speeding, praying  
I'll arrive just in time  
to tell her I've never believed  
in the bitter end

CAMERON LANGE

## ARCHEOLOGY

Abyssinian cities of the dead,  
I can sense you at night,

the moon tilting just slightly,  
a round prison hat.

HOWIE GOOD

# PROMISE

One soft  
touch

lift the veil gently

CAROLYN AGEE

# AZALEAS

ripe azaleas pink  
petals' infinite edges,  
shorelines on death's brink

SIHAM KARAMI

## POEM

The beech trees toss in waves  
Of wind like a belief in God  
Like drunken refusals of fear

ERIC RAWSON

# WOMAN EATING A SANDWICH

# WHILE WAITING FOR THE BUS

She takes tiny bites like a bird  
picking seeds from a feeder;  
her heavy winter coat  
is filled with feathers.

GREG BATEMAN

# WHERE'S HE BEEN?

Where's he been, that bird?  
Over what miles of ocean  
has he flown on intuition  
every spring landing right here?

ALICE FOLKART

## PHATIC FAULT

She'd accept the odd lie or two  
if he'd only cease saying  
'to be perfectly honest'

Ivo DRURY



**I'm sick.**

**The kind in which death is inevitable,  
and all I want  
is beer, to say I tried it.**

**DANIEL VIVES**

# ONIONS

I could weep at the sound you make  
humming in the kitchen as  
you slice the onions

KIMBERLY POITEVIN



Rapids pulsating roar,  
collision of eddies ~  
empty blue canoe.

PAULA LIETZ

## TWO DECADES II

My torch burns black and blue  
providing artificial heat.  
Torn paper edges float to the ground.

CELESTE THOMPSON

# MENDACIUM

If I had ever wanted honesty  
I would have measured the  
distance between our thumbs  
and asked for it.

CAMERON LANGE

## AWAKENING

Folded like a stalk of bamboo  
yielding to the wind, you gather  
my chin in the chalice of your hands.

PEDRO POITEVIN

# INHERITANCE

He peered—  
wobbled—  
shrieked.

Bingo!

KENTON K. YEE



traffic lite changes  
slowly yellow to red  
without any cars

BRIAN WARFIELD

# COIN

a mer o kin

a mor o can

a mor o cuz

a mor o coin

LARRY ZIMAN

# THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME

Great-Granny rocks  
with her snuff at sundown.

Beside her Great-Granddaddy  
with his chew, perfectly still.

THOMAS COCHRAN

## REASONING BY METER

If it were simple  
I could say it,  
not attempt to crack the code  
with words upon a page.

ANDY DURRENBERGER

## ON A PRECIPICE

Overgrown locks, striped ivy drops.  
Mom works on dirt hills  
says like a preacher—  
“Writers write to forget.”

NICOLE TAYLOR

# THAWSCAPE

Her neat narrow footsteps  
turn a clown's handiwork

Ivo DRURY

# HERALD

The daffodil turns  
Its trumpeted face, sunward  
Herald of the spring

NICOLE VACHEROT

## SUMMER

The skyscape that begot it  
is quibblingly a sunflower  
ending up in my eyes, dazzling.

CHRISTOPHER BARNES

# THE MIGRANTS

Fall in Costa Rica ...

Hundreds of raptors soar overhead.

Like soot, they drift across the slate gray sky.

Welcome home!

S. C. MORGAN

## WHITE-BLIND

rising above Detroit in a snowstorm  
de-iced plane thunders into clouds  
indistinguishable white sea  
flying toward the mystery

MICHELLE FROST

## SPRING 2.0

A YouTube video on how to hull seeds  
the police disguised

as children and watching  
from behind the trees

HOWIE GOOD

# ARMS THAT NEVER TOUCH

Digital zero  
polygon chairs mirroring  
arms that never touch

GEOFF M. POPE

# CELESTIAL DUO

Pearlescent crescent  
embraces diamantine planet  
in wake of sunset:  
growth, paired with inspiration.

LARK BELTRAN

# HITCHHIKING

At night, the highway exhales  
invisible toxins. Wheels, headlights  
gun for some distant turf.  
We stand disembodied in the crossfire.

SIHAM KARAMI

# FUNERAL TRAIN

Racing through walls of rock  
Cruelly cut passages  
Souls trapped between two places  
Their faces pressed against the glass.

MINDY ATOR



fantasia  
conducting the orchestra  
in the elevator

DAVID ASH

## THE ATTIC

Old antiques on dusty shelves;  
Beautiful furniture hidden away in a corner;  
The smell of must.  
Memories tucked away forever.

REBEKAH KIMBLE



i can feel  
the thousand roads  
that i will walk down  
already beneath my feet

BRIAN WARFIELD

## LADY'S SLIPPERS

The smell of her feet  
Slipping out of her shoes;  
Naked steps across the forest floor:  
Pause, inhale deeply.

LEE EVANS

## ONWARD AND FORWARD

The Aspen march down the hill  
A platoon of skeletal soldiers  
From a long forgotten war  
The battle is met.

MINDY ATOR

## TURN ON THE LIGHT

I open up the eyes  
of the fading past  
trapped between the four walls  
of my rented room

CHEN-OU LIU

# HIDDEN

Invisible embellishments  
hiding on a masterpiece.  
Monet's fingerprints embedded  
in hundred year-old oils.

M. ELAINE MOORE

# ZUNGA

Craving laughter I  
climb high and swing over  
falling into bliss

SALLY D. SIMPSON

# THE BLUES ON 11TH STREET

When the sax floats out  
into the hot city nights,  
the girls in gold taffeta  
come down the stairs.

KRISTIN ROEDEL

## TWO DECADES III

*A syzygy. A union  
set against the Applegate River.  
I shouted on my arms in the humid night.*

CELESTE THOMPSON

# GRUNGE HOTEL

A peephole, a fish-eyes view  
A distortion of perception  
Curved at the rims.

MELISSA CAUCHI



pink slip—  
his plaid robe  
worn in the seat

MAUREEN KINGSTON

## Ms. DOOLITTLE

Cheery-eyed with blossom lips,  
Full of life and innocence,  
Smiles and laughs one more time,  
In unequivocal and utter bliss.

STEPHANIE DEL PAGGIO

# PINE POEM

Years of green beards  
Branches with a lawn  
The Great Pine rises  
Gives a mossy yawn

TOM THUMB

# THE GIRL WHO MOVED AWAY HALFWAY THROUGH THE SIXTH GRADE

Here is the punched-in face of the  
foreclosed home:

One black shutter askew  
marks her upstairs bedroom window

SCOT SIEGEL

## SUNLIT DARKNESS

The moon is virtuously fettered,  
With the veil of the sun's luminosity,  
Shadows of hope glitteringly litter,  
*Sunlit darkness* sways.

VISHWAS ANAND

## MORNING STAR

There's a new morning star  
outside my window, or maybe  
an obscure planet with a dream.  
Both evoke some faith.

J. D. MACKENZIE

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## BIOS

This month's cover art is by **Stephanie Del Paggio**. Stephanie is a junior at Klein High School who writes for *Sweet Designs Magazine* and is a High School Journalism Ambassador for [HerCampus.com](http://HerCampus.com). She doesn't write to live; she lives to write. In addition to her artwork, Stephanie's poem, "Ms. Doolittle," is featured on page 44.

**Carolyn Agee** is an author and actress living in the Pacific Northwest. Her recent and forthcoming credits include *7x20*, *Cuento Magazine*, *The Healing Muse*, and *Petrichor Machine*.

Carolyn's website: [facebook.com/CarolynAgee](https://facebook.com/CarolynAgee)

**Vishwas Anand** of Bangalore is a poet and a writer. His poems have featured in online websites like One Shot Poetry and Jingle Poetry. He is also an Ezine Articles expert author.

Vishwas' website: [vishwasanand28.wordpress.com](http://vishwasanand28.wordpress.com)

**David Ash**, publisher of Basho Press ([www.BashoPress.com](http://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.

**Mindy Ator** of Hillsboro, Oregon, writes poetry, builds clay sculptures, and works in mixed media collage. She has been published in Writers Journal.

Mindy's website: [butterfly2b.wordpress.com](http://butterfly2b.wordpress.com)

**Christopher Barnes'** first collection *LOVEBITES* is available from Chanticleer, 6/1 Jamaica Mews, Edinburgh.

**Greg Bateman** was born in Stratford, New Jersey, in 1975. He studied at The Pennsylvania State University where he earned a BA in English in 2009. He currently lives in San Antonio, Texas.

**Lark Beltran**, originally from California, has lived in Peru for many years as an ESL teacher. Her work has appeared in *Sage of Consciousness*, *Concise Delight*, *Able Muse*, *Strange Horizons*, *Penwood Review*, and other places.

**Melissa Cauchi** is an artist, poet, writer, and high school student who derives her inspiration from dreaming, animals, and all things nature. She loves indie music and adventuring with her cat.

**Thomas Cochran** was raised in Haynesville, Louisiana. A schoolteacher by trade, he currently lives in rural northwest Arkansas. Non-fiction and poetry have appeared under his name in *Oxford American* and *Rattle*, among other publications.

**Ivo Drury** workshops words in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Andy Durrenberger** resides in Hillsboro, Oregon. A 2007 graduate of Portland State University, he is a member of the Oregon State Poetry Association and joins Parallel Play Writer's Group meetings whenever possible.

Andy's website: [adpoetrycollections.com](http://adpoetrycollections.com)

**Lee Evans** lives in Bath, Maine, and works for the YMCA. His poems have appeared in such journals as *Contemporary Rhyme*, *The Deronda Review*, and *The Golden Lantern*. His poetry collections are available on Lulu.com.

**Michelle Frost** lives in Portland, Oregon, where she writes about anything except rain. Her writing has appeared in *Yoga Journal*, *Portland Parent Magazine*, and *Arizona Woman Today*. Currently, she is editing a poetry collection to be published by Minor Characters Press.

**Alice Folkart** writes poetry and short fiction on the island of Oahu. She has published in many online literary journals, and is active on the Internet Writing Workshop and Perfect Day 4 Poetry.

**Howie Good**, a journalism professor at SUNY New Paltz, is the author of three full-length poetry collections, including *Everything Reminds Me of Me* (Desperanto, 2011).

**Siham Karami** is a married mother of five and owns a technology company. "Nerd by day, Bard by night." Her poems have been or will be published in *14by14*, *Sonnetto Poesia*, and *The Whirlwind Review*.

**Rebekah Kimble** attends Schenectady Christian School and is in tenth grade. She has enjoyed writing for many years and has had several articles published in the student edition of *The Daily Gazette*.

**Maureen Kingston** lives and works in eastern Nebraska. Her poems are forthcoming in *the Hobo Camp Review*, *Pirene's Fountain*, and *Red River Review*.

**Cameron Lange** is a previously unpublished poet from Los Angeles currently studying English Literature at the University of Sydney. After graduating, he hopes to return to L. A. to write about his chaotic hometown.

**Paula Lietz** of Manitoba, Canada, has various styles of poetry, art, and photography in print and features in many online sites (as listed on her blog). Each site allows her to unfold as an artist.

Paula's website: [themoonatthewindow.blogspot.com](http://themoonatthewindow.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*.

**J. D. Mackenzie** is a 2011 Pushcart nominee for poetry whose recent work has appeared in *The New Verse News, The Ekphrasis Project, Four and Twenty*, and *Poets for Living Waters*. He lives with his family in the foothills of Oregon's Coast Range.

**M. Elaine Moore** is a fiction writer and poet. She has written one novel and is at work on another. She is published in *The Island Breeze, Foliate Oak, The Camel Saloon*, and *50-Word Stories*.

**S.C. Morgan** is a U.S. Expatriate living on the Caribbean coast of Costa Rica. Her writing has appeared in *Notre Dame Magazine, Real Travel Adventures*, and *Camroc Press Review*, among others.

S.C.'s website: [www.scmorgan.com](http://www.scmorgan.com)

**Kimberly Poitevin** teaches humanities at Salem State University in Massachusetts. "Onions" is her second poem to appear in *Four and Twenty*. Other poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in *elimae* and *14 by 14*.

**Pedro Poitevin** teaches mathematics at Salem State University in Massachusetts. His book of Spanish palindromes *Eco Da Eco de Doce a Doce* was published earlier this year by Ediciones La Galera, in México City.

**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](http://www.geoffpope.com)

**Eric Rawson** is the author of *The Hummingbird Hour*. His work has appeared in a number of periodicals, including *Agni*, *Ploughshares*, *American Poetry Review*, *Commonweal*, and *Denver Quarterly*.

**Kristin Roedell** is a Northwest poet and retired attorney. Her work has appeared widely in print and online. She was nominated for Best of the Web, 2010, and the Pushcart Prize, 2010, and serves on the *VoiceCatcher* editorial board.

**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. Siegel is a [Red Room](#) author.

**Sally D. Simpson** of Roberts Creek, British Columbia, draws on the beauty of her surroundings to create poetry described as having "Psychic Weight." Her work is published in anthologies, newsletters, and online journals.

Sally's website: [coastalnotes.ca](http://coastalnotes.ca)

**Nicole Taylor** has been accepted at many print and online publications. She has been publishing and winning locally, Oregon. She is a dancer, an artist and a volunteer.

Nicole's website: [apoetessanthology.blogspot.com](http://apoetessanthology.blogspot.com)

**Celeste Thompson's** poems have appeared in the *Oregonian* and *Portland Review*. Her chapbook *Rabbit Fur Purse* was published in 2006.

**Tom Thumb** currently works on a farm in Northern California. More of his poetry can be found on website.

Tom's website: [tomthumbsruse.blogspot.com](http://tomthumbsruse.blogspot.com)

**Nicole Vacherot**, of Vermont, is currently in the process of self-publishing her first book of poetry, *Grace in Stillness*, which will be available through Amazon in late April. This haiku is her first published work.

**Daniel James Vives** of New York, New York, is a young aspiring writer with dreams of obtaining success in the world of literature and music. This is his first accomplishment as a writer.

**Brian Warfield** has published three short stories. This is his poetic debut. He lives in Philadelphia.

**Kenton K. Yee** writes from California. His recent or forthcoming poems and flash fiction are appearing in *Bartleby Snopes*, *Word Riot*, *Apollo's Lyre*, and *Short, Fast, and Deadly*.

Kenton's Website: [facebook.com/scrambled.k.eggs](https://facebook.com/scrambled.k.eggs)

**Larry Ziman** lives in West Hollywood, California, and publishes and co-edits *The Great American Poetry Show* ([www.tgaps.net](http://www.tgaps.net)), a serial poetry anthology open year-round to submissions of poems in English on any subject and in any style, length, and number.