

FOUR AND TWENTY



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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

SEPTEMBER MORN

early breeze
wafting in the scent
of ashes-of-roses
from the crematorium

TRACY DAVIDSON

APPLE PICKING

She told the jury the Golden
Delicious were perfect and
the kids old blue car seats
didn't fit in the new pickup.

JULES JACOB

OVERRIPE

old maid nods off
overripe apples
fall to their fate

WYNNE HUDDLESTON

BIRTHSTONE

sapphire sky, diamond sweat
hay bales shaped like presents
red balloon lines from twine
my ring finger is bare

HARMONY HODGES

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION

arrive like boys of twelve
racing on ten-speeds

into the vast, monotonous sunlight
bordered by green

HOWIE GOOD

PACIFIC ANGELS

Here surf boards like prayer rugs
Angels of the water
Kneeling on the hypnotic vastness
Golden halos on converted heads

LAKE BOGGAN

CAMPING ON THE MISSISSIPPI

Before tonight, fireflies were fables
From some far off era.
But here they all are —
Stars to our campfire's moon.

SCOTT F. PARKER

THAT RATTLING

That rattling in the attic
at the moment I proposed
was on account of fussing angels:
guardians, mine and yours

RASTER JONES

ON BUYING A WEDDING DRESS: FIRST FRAGMENT

How other brides looked when
the second dress fit, fat clamps
of fabric braced on their backs
like stunned pigeons.

ELIZABETH LANGEMAK

ON BUYING A WEDDING DRESS: FOURTH FRAGMENT

An entire wall of mirrors
facing front and just
a small one in my hand
for looking behind.

ELIZABETH LANGEMAK

REBEL KITCHEN

Cheeky Monday morning:
Spoon found in fork slot,
Puffed Kamut leaps from my mouth,
Coffee maker goes on holiday.

JOHN ODZIEMEK

MANIA

**Intellect and Talent Abound
His hot brain burns
The sense out of him**

LINDA McDADE

ARM PIT

Arm pit farts
for fragile
philosophy majors.

HAROLD HORTON

NOTECARD POEM 36

wrinkles
on a statue
time's
fingerprints

RAYMOND GIBSON

PANHANDLE SONG

Across Nebraska fields at night, they lie in bed staring
opposite directions. Frozen corn, freezer empty. Twins
on the way.

JONATHAN STEINKE

ALMS

two crushed beer cans
left on my doorstep like
when cats offer chewed sparrows
to unskilled hunters

MORGAN SHNIER

WAITRESS AT THE RAMEN HOUSE

at last, steaming *udon* arrived—
her shirt
in my hamper

SCOTT DUKE KOMINERS

CHEF

**Kilimanjaro yellows above the pot.
He sweats to make Tanzania come alive
for tourists
who never will.**

ALAN JAMES BLAIR

CHRONICLE

Flashes of lightning: insight stitched
to narrative with tongues' tensile strength
becomes fable, legend, history
and, under time's drift: Truth

JEAN McLEOD

THE FISSURE

the fissure is our premise.
with diligence
thumbs drag the lip
and articulate its margins.

MARZIO MILANESE

HAMMERING

Woodpecker hammers wall,
the house being eaten from within.
No admitting desire —
Thought of her would never leave me be.

JAMES TOUPIN

INDIAN SUMMER

Those same parched fields
Seducing me with their colors
Suggesting warmth
Actually scratchy and dry

JOAN GRAVES



broken headstone
perhaps her life
was harder

ALEXANDER B. JOY



leaves cartwheel across
an empty parking lot
“Everything Must Go!”

ROGER JONES

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Associate Editors: Geoff Pope & Kay Tracy | Publisher & Designer: Vinnie Kinsella

This month's cover art, "Missing Pieces," is by **Elise Beattie**. Elise's unique style involves painting with water-media. Beattie is listed in *Who's Who in American Art*. Her paintings are exhibited nationally and published in *Best of America Watermedia Artists* and *Splash 13: Alternative Approaches*. | www.embart.com

Alan James Blair studies creative writing at Oklahoma State University, where he pursues his Ph.D. His recent three-day novel, *The Mermaid's Brother*, received an honorable mention.

Lake Boggan is an Oregon writer whose poetry has been published in the collections *Between the Leaves* and *The Spirit of Pregnancy*, and in her many chapbooks, such as *Passionate Fem* and *The Bone Pile*.

Tracy Davidson lives in Warwickshire, England. Her poems have appeared in various publications including *Three Line Poetry*, *Lyrical Passions*, *Ribbons*, *Moonbathing*, and *Modern Haiku*.

Raymond Gibson is a graduate of the creative writing MFA at Florida Atlantic University. His poems have appeared in *Oak Bend Review*, *Three Line Poetry*, and *THIS Literary Magazine*. He lives in Hollywood, FL.

Howie Good, a journalism professor at SUNY New Paltz, is the author of the full-length poetry collections *Lovesick* (Press Americana, 2009), *Heart With a Dirty Windshield* (BeWrite Books, 2010), and *Everything Reminds Me of Me* (Desperanto, 2011), as well as numerous print and digital poetry chapbooks.

Joan Graves resides in Hillsboro, Oregon. She has been published previously in *Four and Twenty* and at Tawkpess.com. She can be reached at foracanthus@gmail.com.

Harmony Hodges is an artist living in Portland, Oregon. She also writes poetry and fiction. Her work has been published online at *With Painted Words*.

Harold Horton lives in Seattle. However, he does not throw fish.

Wynne Huddleston is a member of the Mississippi Writers Guild and the Mississippi Poetry Society. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications, including *Birmingham Review*, *Orange Room Review*, and *Danse Macabre*. | wynnehuddleston.wordpress.com

Julie “Jules” Jacob is a child advocate living in the Mark Twain National Forest. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Huffpost Women*, *The Binnacle*, *Frogpond*, and *Grey Sparrow Journal*. | www.redroom.com/member/julesjacob

Raster Jones lives in South Carolina. His work has recently appeared in *storySouth* and *Town Creek Poetry*.

Roger Jones teaches in the Texas State University MFA Poetry Program. He is the poetry editor of *Texas Review*. His haiku, tanka, and haibun have appeared in *Modern Haiku*, *Eucalypt*, *Haibun Today*, and other journals.

Alexander B. Joy is a Ph.D. candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Massachusetts. His haiku have appeared in journals across four continents.

Scott Duke Kominers is an economist by moonlight. He's a repeat offender at *Four and Twenty*, and his work has also appeared in *Frogpond*, *Modern Haiku*, and *tinywords*.

Elizabeth Langemak lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Linda Marable McDade lives in Pensacola Beach, Florida. Her poem "Naughty" was published in *The Emerald Coast Review* (Volume 3), and she is an award-winning speaker in Toastmasters in Pensacola.

Jean McLeod, a retired social worker and professional clown, lives at the beach. Her work has been published in approximately thirty-five literary journals. The title of her book is *Tiny Poems for Women Who Think They Hate Poetry*.

Marzio Milanese is a retired musician from Chicago, now splitting his time between poetry and architecture.

John Odziemek is a designer and writer who lives in Washington State with his lovely wife, Alison, and dog, Brinkley. Mr. Odziemek authored *Oscar the Elephant* and *Catching Wayward Sheep*. | www.johnodz.com

Scott F. Parker is co-editor of *Coffee: Grounds for Debate* and author of the forthcoming memoir *Running After Prefontaine*.

Morgan Shnier is an English and Poetry major at the University of Arizona. His work has been in *Ink Sweat & Tears*, and is set to appear in *Milk Sugar* and *Heavy Hands Ink*.

Jonathan Steinke lives with his wife in Mesa, Arizona. This is his first publication of poetry in an ongoing literary journal, online or otherwise.

James Toupin, a retired government lawyer, has been publishing poems since 2008. They have appeared in numerous journals, most recently including *Turtle Quarterly*, *Raven Chronicles*, *Halfway Down the Stairs*, *Verse Wisconsin*, and *Umbrella*.