

# FOUR AND TWENTY

SEPTEMBER 2012 / VOLUME 5 / ISSUE 9



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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

## TREMOLO

When night falls on my town,  
dogs bark insanely,  
& the lights of a plane  
get taken for stars.

HOWIE GOOD

\*

There are times in life  
we find  
the tumor is benign  
and we laugh, we laugh, we laugh.

DOMIANA DEFELICE

## BRONZE AGE

morning sun on  
standing stones  
the dark symbol in  
the horse's eye

ROBERT DAVEY

## SIMILE

The good memory  
sits heavily

on my mind  
like a bad memory.

J. R. SOLONCHE

## CHAKRAS

Saturday afternoon  
drowns in a beer drowse  
below the heart, and above the heart  
chakras open and then they close

SHAMAN DAGAJI

## TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

Prometheus had his liver;  
Sisyphus his boulder.  
Me, I stay an amateur,  
though I keep on getting older.

JONATHAN BATTEAS

## AT THE GYM

Working out  
is not

working  
out.

J. R. SOLONCHE

## SEPTEMBER EVENING

Easy to mistake  
yellow leaves  
for butterflies

MARTHA CHRISTINA

# EUPHORIA

Into the vortex  
of a sun-dazed red fuchsia  
dives the hummingbird.

SALLIE TIERNEY

## TONGUE

Snap quickly, styrene pull toy;  
the key to banter is far-fetched  
effervescence.

JOHN PURSCH

## PINES

Looking up from the lush lands of  
the longleaf and loblolly,  
the Oklahoma heart pines for sky.

ANNA WEAVER

\*

beetles crawling in the dirt bear our furtive prayers,  
a burden across their iridescent backs taken up into the night

LIZZIE KRIEG

## PHEASANT

enamelled face  
metallic cough  
lead shot

ROBERT DAVEY

## RATIONALIZING

I erase the guilt  
from my heavy footsteps

by swiftly dancing around  
shape-shifting excuses

DEBBI ANTEBI

## SWEET MARY POPPINS

If Poppins were diabetic,  
instead of slowing her down,  
she'd sing,  
a spoonful of medicine helps the sugar go down.

JONATHAN BATTEAS

## QUIET LITTLE ROOM

In a quiet little room  
on a distant mountain top  
we sang a tune of love  
for all eternity nonstop.

MICHAEL GROVE

## BIRTHDAY POEM

What is it that we want?  
To be anchored down  
in this dangerous, windy place  
and to fly.

BARRY SPACKS

# THE WISDOM OF THE NIGHT

darkness illuminates  
barren, empty truth

PETER ROBERTS

## SHORE PATROL

Beached seashell  
bumped by tide water  
and a lone  
pine cone.

DIANE WEBSTER

## SONG IN THE KEY OF MEMORY

Walking through campus puddles,  
students with big umbrellas;  
others, with smiles and groans,  
at play, also wetly, at home.

BARRY SPACKS

## THE SILENT LIFE

There are some birds that never sing.  
The cyclical sun in their silence.

Seedlings pirouette earthward—  
tiny wisps of life abound.

BOBBY MEHR

\*

white fences  
peeling paint  
broken pickets  
life

GRADY MANUS

## SEPTEMBER SMILES

I sleep with your sweat on my lips and your name on my tongue  
You taste of mango and honey

C. W. MIMMS

## HINTER

what you don't admit  
slithers behind you—  
growing

MARY JANE NORDGREN

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This month's cover art, "Shower, Delmarva," is by **Garrin Riggin**. Garrin is a resident of Maryland. His poetry has appeared in *Four and Twenty*, *Alba*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, and others. | [GarrinRiggin.com](http://GarrinRiggin.com)

**Debbi Antebi's** poems have appeared in *Three Line Poetry*, *Haiku Journal*, *Prune Juice*, *Modern Haiku*, *unFold*, *The Yale Journal of Humanities in Medicine*, and other publications. She lives in Istanbul, Turkey, and blogs at [debbiantebi.com](http://debbiantebi.com).

**Jonathan Batteas** is a poet living in the heartland of America. His poetry has been previously published in *Four and Twenty*. | [pasceverbo.com](http://pasceverbo.com)

**Martha Christina's** short poems appear frequently in *Brevities* and have also been published in previous issues of *Four and Twenty*. Longer poems appear recently in *Apple Valley Review*, *Avocet*, and *The Orange Room Review*.

**Shaman Dagaji's** most recent project is gathering the souls of Jesus, Buddha, and other Gods to merge / fuse with one another in a union with Quetzalcoatl, to be projected as his Nagual, Anaconda XOXOLOTL.

**Robert Davey** lives in Norfolk, England. He is keen on short form poetry and has had haiku published in *Blithe Spirit*, *Prune Juice*, *Sketchbook*, and *Shamrock*. | [spinglespong.wordpress.com](http://spinglespong.wordpress.com)

**Domiana DeFelice** lives in New Paltz, New York. She has a BA in Spanish and a 1935 typewriter. Currently a preschool teacher, always a poet, Domiana continuously edits her work and self.

**Howie Good**, a journalism professor at SUNY New Paltz, is the author of five poetry collections, most recently *Dreaming in Red* from Right Hand Pointing and *Cryptic Endearments* from Knives Forks & Spoons Press.

**Michael Grove** authored *Observations—The 1st Four Dozen* and has contributed to the anthologies *Prompted—An International Collection of Poems* and *Beyond the Dark Room*. He is currently completing his next collection, *Reflected Light*.

**Lizzie Krieg** is a poet living in southern California. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *elimae*, *Petricor Machine*, *Scintilla*, and *The Dead Mule School of Southern Literature*.

**Grady Manus** holds an MFA in writing from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri. He works with Lindenwood University's School of American Studies. Grady's work has appeared in *Haiku Journal* and *Short Story Nation*.

**Bobby Mehr** resides in Canton, Connecticut, and is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University. He's a waiter and has been published thrice.

**C. W. Mimms** is a medium-sized human. He writes short stories, comics, and essays. Prior to moving to Oregon, he spent five years working and traveling through Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

**Mary Jane Nordgren** is currently gathering nature poems for her chapbook, *kin of earth*. | [TAWKPress.com](http://TAWKPress.com)

**John Pursch** lives in Tucson, Arizona. His work was recently nominated for the Sundress *Best of the Net 2012* Anthology. His first collection, *Intunesia*, is available at [www.lulu.com/spotlight/whiteskybooks](http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/whiteskybooks). He's [@johnpursch](https://twitter.com/johnpursch) on Twitter.

**Peter Roberts** has published poems and stories in *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, *Café Irreal*, *Poem*, the *William and Mary Review*, *Small Pond*, *New York Quarterly*, *Confrontation*, and other publications.

**J. R. Solonche** is a four-time Pushcart Prize nominee whose work has been appearing in magazines, journals, and anthologies since the early '70s. He is coauthor of *Peach Girl: Poems for a Chinese Daughter* (Grayson Books).

**Barry Spacks** teaches writing and literature at UC Santa Barbara. He's published poems widely in journals paper and pixel, plus stories, two novels, eleven poetry collections, and three CDs of selected work.

**Sallie Tierney** of Burien, Washington, is a poet and novelist. Her novels may be found on [Smashwords.com](http://Smashwords.com). She blogs at [dandelionlunch.wordpress.com](http://dandelionlunch.wordpress.com).

**Anna Weaver**, raised in Oklahoma, now lives near Raleigh, North Carolina, with her two daughters. Her poems have appeared in two open mic anthologies as well as in *Star\*Line*, *Wild Goose Poetry Review*, and *Utter Magazine*.

**Diane Webster's** challenge is to remain open to poetry ideas in everyday opportunities as well as moments of epiphany. Her work has appeared in *Philadelphia Poets*, *The Hurricane Review*, *Illya's Honey*, and other literary magazines.

***Four and Twenty*** is an online poetry journal focused on short form poetry. We specifically seek out fresh and emerging voices to include in the journal. Our guidelines are simple. All poems must be four lines or fewer in length and contain no more than twenty words (hence, Four and Twenty). A new issue of the journal is released the third Tuesday of each month.

Publisher & Designer: Vinnie Kinsella

Assistant Publisher & Classroom Publishing Coordinator: Kay Tracy

Twitter Master: Scott Abeles

Issue Editors: Kylie Byrd & Scott Parker

#### FIND US ONLINE:

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