

FOUR AND TWENTY

SEPTEMBER 2012 / VOLUME 5 / ISSUE 9



CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM 24.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. TREMOLO
Howie Good | 9. EUPHORIA
Sallie Tierney | 17. BIRTHDAY POEM
Barry Spacks |
| <u>2. *</u>
Domiana DeFelice | 10. TONGUE
John Pursch | 18. THE WISDOM OF THE NIGHT
Peter Roberts |
| 3. BRONZE AGE
Robert Davey | 11. PINES
Anna Weaver | 19. SHORE PATROL
Diane Webster |
| 4. SIMILE
J. R. Solonche | 12. *
Lizzie Krieg | 20. SONG IN THE KEY OF MEMORY
Barry Spacks |
| 5. CHAKRAS
Shaman Dagaji | 13. PHEASANT
Robert Davey | 21. THE SILENT LIFE
Bobby Mehr |
| 6. TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES
Jonathan Batteas | 14. RATIONALIZING
Debbi Antebi | <u>22. *</u>
Grady Manus |
| 7. AT THE GYM
J. R. Solonche | 15. SWEET MARY POPPINS
Jonathan Batteas | 23. SEPTEMBER SMILES
C. W. Mimms |
| 8. SEPTEMBER EVENING
Martha Christina | 16. QUIET LITTLE ROOM
Michael Grove | 24. HINTER
Mary Jane Nordgren |

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

© All poems and artwork in this journal were published with permission. All rights belong to the authors and artists, who attest to the originality of their works. Please do not reproduce poems or artwork found in this journal without permission.

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

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.

Jonathan Batteas is a poet living in the heartland of America. His poetry has been previously published in *Four and Twenty*. | 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

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

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. 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 Irréal*, *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. She blogs at 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:

Website | 4and20poetry.com

Twitter & Instagram | [@4and20poetry](https://www.instagram.com/4and20poetry)

Facebook | [facebook.com/4and20poetry](https://www.facebook.com/4and20poetry)