

# Password

journal of very short poetry issue 3.1, February 2026



I don't like  
any winter kigo  
yet the snow

je n'aime pas  
les kigos d'hiver  
pourtant la neige

Marie Derley

poem  
someone clicked  
a bat's ear

Ella Aboutboul

Lascaux  
the leap

that stays  
the poetry

Dan Schwerin

haiku swims around the silent treatment

Laurinda Lind



H  
A I  
K U I S  
I N T H E  
E Y E O F T  
H E B E H O L  
D E R I T S S E  
E D T H E H U M  
A N H E A R T D  
W E L L I N G I N  
D E T A I L S S E  
E N W I T H T H E  
M O S T S E N S I  
\* \* \* \* \*

Michael Dylan Welch

house i drive by  
on the interstate  
i am your backyard river

Laurinda Lind

river of dandelions  
run through  
Ontology, Ohio

Sheila E. Murphy



memory care we drag the data lake

John Pappas

small regrets –  
a boy is throwing pebbles  
in the lake

petits regrets  
un garçon lance des cailloux  
dans le lac

Marie Derley

language the moon tightens  
overneath  
the tide

Jonathan Humphrey

words  
trying to make  
a moon out of them

David McKee

roofs, because the moon needs her privacy

Kegan Swyers

she dreams of a coffee pot on the roof

of the house

*tipped over*

*spilling out*

Valerie Coulton



Debbie Strange

the give a penny take a penny moon

Sarah Metzler

the spoons too  
not wanting to speak,  
curved as they are

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

a strange silence  
on the answering machine . . .  
evening snow

Jacob D. Salzer

Christmas rain begins to sound plausible

Victor Ortiz

ginger ale  
remembered  
as a little drawer lake  
complicating refrigerator efforts

Valerie Coulton

I don't remember if we ever called each other  
baby,  
and other things I store in my jawbone

Meg Loughman

## **At Home Alone**

car headlights  
on the dark ceiling  
light fairy tales

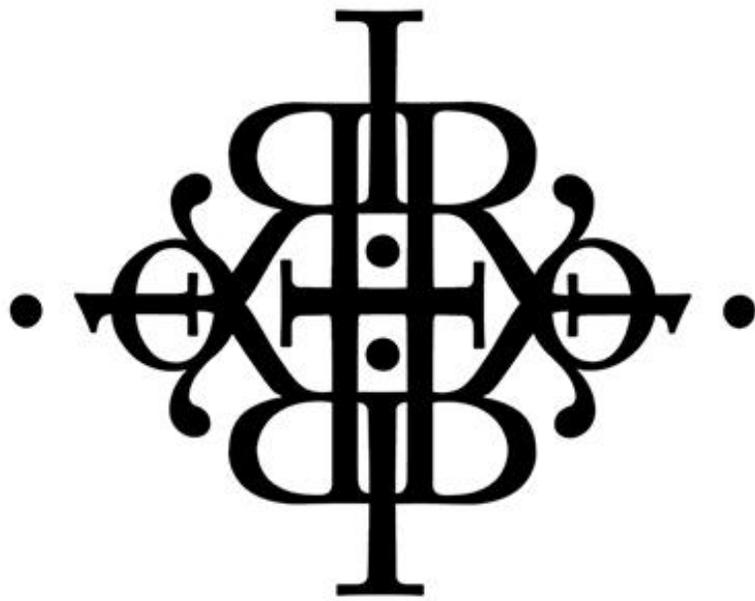
autoscheinweafa  
moinan schottngschichtn  
aont zimmadekng

Ulrike Titelbach

third year this is not our town

Laurinda Lind

Republic of Want



Cherie Hunter Day

not who we are who are we

Sondra J. Byrnes

**4:28 p.m.**

open  
the open book  
and make your  
self  
a home

Scott F. Parker

dead of winter  
I try on  
another day

Francine Banwarth

super moon  
without lifting  
a finger

Sarah Metzler

Little white lies  
all the etchings and the sketches  
tree-lined tracks  
erased by the snow

Daniel Cartwright-Chaouki

### **Blossom**

and all the other unforgivable ideas  
we gleaned from naked trees  
branches tapping  
in the wind

Daniel Cartwright-Chaouki

deep winter  
a human voice from  
a horse's mouth

John Pappas

I am imagining a horse  
with all my faults.  
still a perfectly fine horse.

Amy Oldfield

the whiteness of a disrobed apple

Ravi Kiran

cold plums : in the shade of thunder

Ash Evans Lippert

passing low  
through a leafless tree  
a half-moon lemon

Thomas Powell

the moon  
the cloud  
the if

our thomas

shloka

*a faulty view of geography :: the delineation of hyacinth curls*



Shloka Shankar

daffodils we're all here now

Ella Aboutboul

both subject  
and object  
Parma violet

Joshua St. Claire

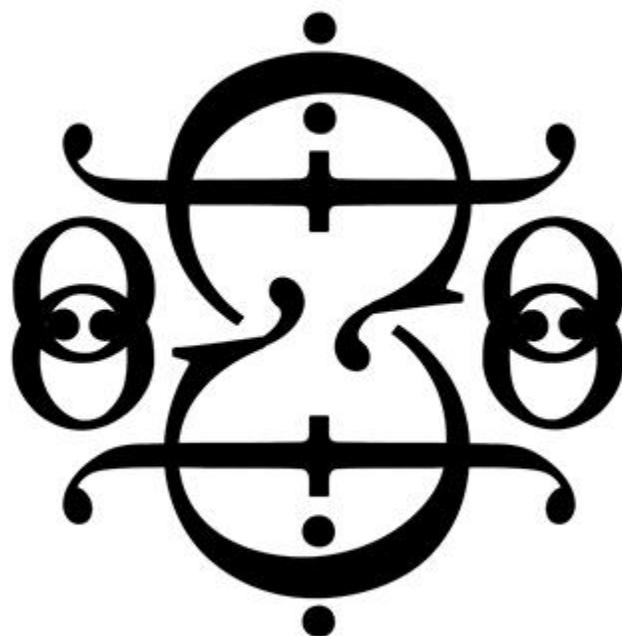
born with a vowel missing

Vijay Prasad

jar of vocables one a day for better mental functioning

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

Word Serpent



Cherie Hunter Day

the swan  
turns  
invisible:  
blue  
snowfall

Ash Evans Lippert

the violet before the sky turns blackbirds

Joshua St. Claire

twilight a blackbird becomes a diplomat

Stephen Toft

summer weeding

looking at me slantwise

female blackbird

Sandra Simpson

the ruckus  
from a disturbed  
— crow

Linda I Ludwig

she smiles the sound of a crow dying

our thomas

early birds reliably

Carolyn Hall

### **They Return**

My father scares  
a flock away.  
They return. To this  
end, he scares them  
again, and again,  
he scares them.

Matt Zambito

what will be will be a bird falling

Thomas Powell

nightjars the endless indigo surround sound

Beverly Acuff Momoi

a dead kingfisher is still a painting

Stephen Toft

your take on God until the pileus

Dylan Stover

like a painter  
know when to

Stephen Toft

without evidence

she was an artist  
and probably still is

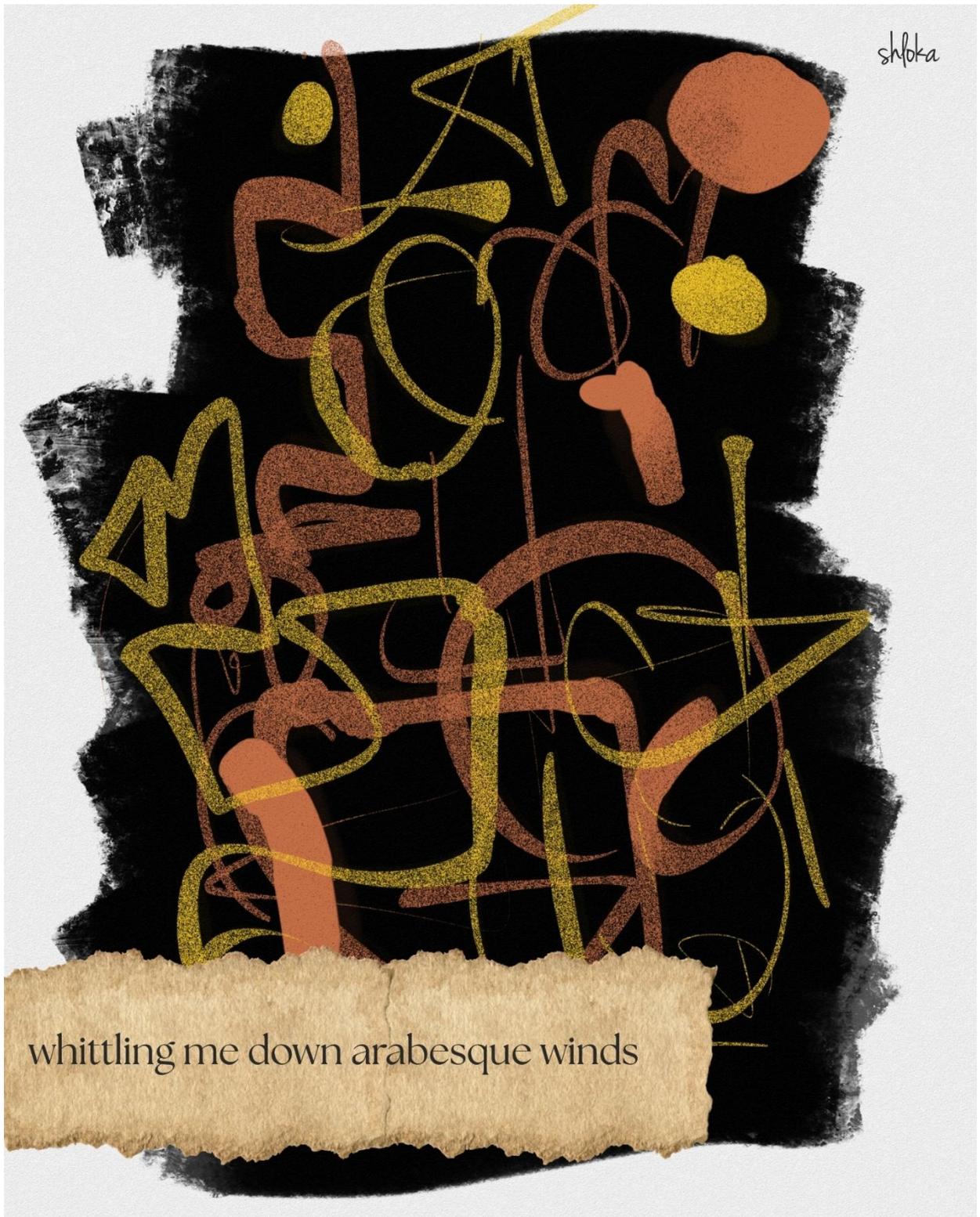
Scott F. Parker

the mean reds my autobiography

Matthew Markworth

if not for you red knots

Shloka Shankar



Shloka Shankar

## Timeline

a-an-air-aloe-audio-bureau-auditor-automata

javi tuesday

a desperate clock is attractive

(erasure poem from Gertrude Stein's "A Method of a Cloak." in *Tender Buttons*)

Bob Lucky

between casts  
the is  
of the fisherman

Sandra Simpson

fog  
untitled  
day

Olivier Schopfer

coral reef's idiolect

George Swede

weekends  
when I lived  
on pirate ships

Robert Hirschfield

ordering fish soup  
or writing a song  
about it or walking through  
bright streets thinking about it

Valerie Coulton

*After Kobayashi Issa*

Today and today  
also – sneakers coiling  
on a power line

JDG

## **Accordions**

The many echoes  
of an empty house have lives  
of their own, and the  
black wind, outside, is a Greek  
chorus of accordions.

Jason Ryberg

## **Change in the Wind**

golden heads,  
supple spines

in ancient times,  
the splendor  
of Greek youth  
today,  
a field of corn

John Grey

windflaw

in your silk

ministry

brother

Dylan Stover

existing as sentiment autumn wind

Bryan Rickert

sunset that burning suitcase

Cherie Hunter Day

after dusk the habit of dusk

Vijay Prasad

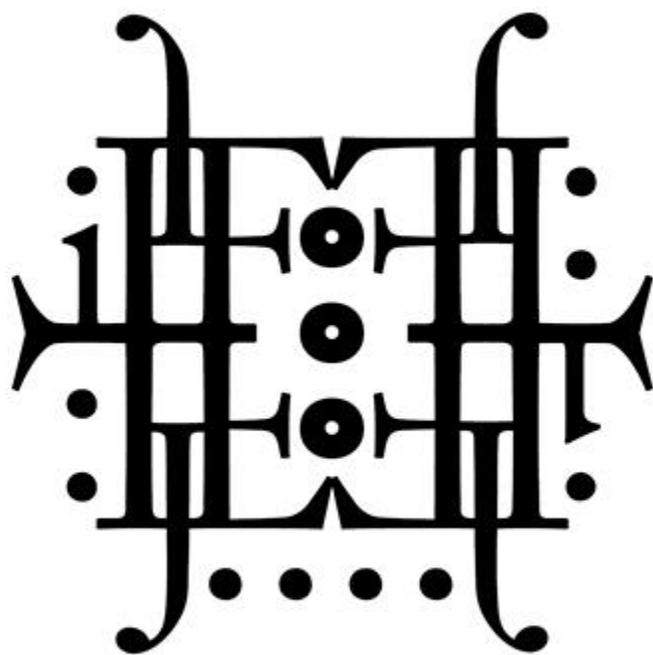
there's always an after the lone wolf's wife

Julie Schwerin

they part ways  
in front of  
an  $\Omega$  store

Pegah Rahmati Nezhad

Vox Box



Cherie Hunter Day

a pile of leaves  
what if I hid like  
my dog?

sterta liści  
a gdyby tak ukryć się  
razem z pieskiem?

Urszula Marciniak

not even i am  
                  (when  
no one is)  
                  looking  
but  
                  me

Biswajit Mishra

**(but it was I who set it)**

mouse

back broken

by the half-sprung trap

my hesitant

foot

:

obdurate Death

ferrying away

the word mercy

before the word

killing

JeFF Stumpo

## Meta

What if

I

am the abyss

I have stared  
too long  
into?

Randy Streu

the coordinates  
you'll have to forgive me  
in

Jonathan Humphrey

verdigris & vetiver the forest path turns  
to forest

Ash Evans Lippert

distant glow  
of night-blind eyes  
tancho zuru

fernes leuchten  
aus nachtblinden augen  
tancho zuru

Ulrike Titelbach

first meeting  
cicada music instead of  
difficult questions

pierwsze spotkanie  
muzyka cykad zamiast  
trudnych pytań

Urszula Marciniak

somewhere between a comma and a question mark butterfly

Sarah Metzler



Debbie Strange

holding on  
to the mothership  
milkweed seed

Randy Brooks

all plumes and castanets  
the milkweed's fan-  
dango

Susanna Rich

late evening light  
barely touching your bare legs  
mosquito dreams

nackte beine  
im späten abendlicht  
stechmückenträume

Ulrike Titelbach

the good wool  
over eyes    zinc  
let (loose    flesh)  
bronze  
snapchat filter  
soucouyant

JDG

cave spider the darkness spreads her legs

John Hawkhead

**At the Time, It Sounded Reasonable**

She always said that  
the wind kept the spiders from  
blocking out the sky  
with their webs, and at the time,  
it sounded reasonable.

Jason Ryberg

antifaces  
in the shadows  
in the cloud

Mark Gilbert

headfirst like a rock. oh dear lord

Daniil Ganzin

waiting

half caff  
eine sick  
and half  
ready to die  
like biggie  
s. weil  
waiting  
for god  
with no  
cream

Scott F. Parker

onUS

Julie Schwerin

*PEOPLE HEARING WITHOUT LISTENING*

more or less than  
verbicidal

ear-slaughterED. scissorED.  
MEANING circumcisED

chiseLED. soundicidal.

Kathleen Hellen

godhead addiction return, return

John Tracy

past the sour temple and her sounds

Flossie Hedges

autumn in a teen's gun we find god yellowed

in the garden. He inaugurates a ballroom of good & evil

for congress a qr code to harvest an arkful of the feminine

Rowan Beckett Minor

the back of America smelling of urine

Michael Nickels-Wisdom

Chekhov's gun

fills each white mantle  
of American homes,  
scuffs true blood  
unloads bourbon  
dreams. How Lent  
never comes.

Chris Bridgen

to [redacted] hem as i [redacted]  
[redacted] have [redacted] art like [redacted]  
b [redacted] one can be  
a soft [redacted] end [redacted] o [redacted]  
you don't see  
the pe [redacted] s [redacted] t [redacted]  
you see [redacted] on  
t [redacted] o [redacted] l [redacted] o [redacted]  
[redacted] g [redacted]  
[redacted] y [redacted] taken [redacted]  
out of you [redacted]  
[redacted] o [redacted] empty

- [redacted] i [redacted] u [redacted]



JDG

the way  
a planet looks at itself  
sold separately

Jonathan Humphrey

all the people living as one dust nebula

Dylan Stover

just when we needed Northern Lights

Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff

s

on Perseid night  
I know what I want  
but what do I need?

w noc Perseidów  
wiem czego chcę, a czego  
potrzebuję?

Urszula Marciniak

eyes and ears permanent markers

Peter Jastermsky

**shin**

wind whittled shiver  
of a beech branch

cold-boned body  
without leaves

bare skin silent  
to the touch

fractures in the sky

Daniel Cartwright-Chaouki

Bajo el claro de luna,  
junto a las vías,  
yace un comatoso.  
San Miguel de Allende, 1968

under the moonlight  
on the railroad tracks  
a comatose man  
San Miguel de Allende, 1968

Alvaro Carrasquel Gomez

tiny casket  
the small  
talk

Lorraine A Padden

clouds going everywhere mind going nowhere

John Paul Caponigro

Stars appear.  
Insert your needle here and here and here.  
Embroider.

Peter Yovu

## Index of Authors

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Ella Aboutboul, West Sussex, UK                     | 2, 24          |
| Francine Banwarth, Dubuque, Iowa, USA               | 18             |
| Chris Bridgen, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada              | 59             |
| Randy Brooks, Taylorville, Illinois, USA            | 51             |
| Sondra J. Byrnes, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA         | 17             |
| John Paul Caponigro, Cushing, Maine, USA            | 65             |
| Alvaro Carrasquel Gomez, Mérida, Venezuela          | 64             |
| Valerie Coulton, Barcelona, Spain                   | 10, 14, 39     |
| Cherie Hunter Day, Auburn, New Hampshire, USA       | 16, 26, 42, 44 |
| Marie Derley, Ath, Belgium                          | 2, 8           |
| Daniil Ganzin, Tbilisi, Georgia                     | 54             |
| Mark Gilbert, UK                                    | 54             |
| John Grey, Lincoln, Rhode Island, USA               | 40             |
| Carolyn Hall, Santa Rosa, California, USA           | 30             |
| John Hawkhead, Bradford on Avon, UK                 | 53             |
| Flossie Hedges, McKee, Kentucky, USA                | 57             |
| Kathleen Hellen, Baltimore, Maryland, USA           | 56             |
| Robert Hirschfield, New York, New York, USA         | 4, 38          |
| Jonathan Humphrey, Hermitage, Tennessee, USA        | 9, 47, 61      |
| Peter Jastermsky, Yucca Valley, California, USA     | 63             |
| JDG, New York, New York, USA                        | 39, 52, 60     |
| Ravi Kiran, Hyderabad, India                        | 21             |
| Laurinda Lind, Sackets Harbor, New York, USA        | 3, 6, 15       |
| Ash Evan Lippert, Pendleton, South Carolina, USA    | 21, 27, 48     |
| Meg Loughman, Brooklyn, New York, USA               | 14             |
| Bob Lucky, Viana do Castela, Portugal               | 36             |
| Linda I Ludwig, Inverness, Florida, USA             | 29             |
| Urszula Marciniak, Lodz, Poland                     | 45, 49, 62     |
| Matthew Markworth, Miamisburg, Ohio, USA            | 34             |
| David McKee, Madison, Wisconsin, USA                | 9              |
| Sarah E. Metzler, Marion Center, Pennsylvania, USA  | 12, 18, 49     |
| Rowan Beckett Minor, Cleveland, Ohio, USA           | 58             |
| Biswajit Mishra, Calgary, Alberta, Canada           | 45             |
| Beverly Acuff Momoi, Mountain View, California, USA | 31             |
| Sheila E. Murphy, Phoenix, Arizona, USA             | 6              |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Michael Nickels-Wisdom, Delavan, Wisconsin, USA              | 12, 25, 59 |
| Amy Oldfield, Ottawa, Toronto, Canada                        | 20         |
| Victor Ortiz, Bellingham, Washington, USA                    | 13         |
| our thomas, Exeter, New Hampshire, USA                       | 22, 29     |
| Lorraine Padden, San Diego, California, USA                  | 64         |
| John Pappas, Boston, Massachusetts, USA                      | 8, 20      |
| Scott F. Parker, Bozeman, Montana, USA                       | 17, 33, 55 |
| Thomas Powell, Ballynacarrick, County Down, Northern Ireland | 22, 31     |
| Vijay Prasad, Patna, Bihar, India                            | 25, 42     |
| Pegah Rahmati Nezhad, Tehran, Iran                           | 43         |
| Susanna Rich, Blairstown, New Jersey, USA                    | 51         |
| Bryan Rickert, Belleville, Illinois, USA                     | 41         |
| Jason Ryberg, Belle, Missouri, USA                           | 40, 53     |
| Joshua St. Claire, York County, Pennsylvania, USA            | 24, 27     |
| Jacob D. Salzer, Camas, Washington, USA                      | 13         |
| Olivier Schopfer, Geneva, Switzerland                        | 37         |
| Dan Schwerin, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, USA                    | 3          |
| Julie Schwerin, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, USA                  | 43, 55     |
| Shloka Shankar, India  | 23. 34. 35 |
| Sandra Simpson, New Zealand                                  | 28, 37     |
| Dylan Stover, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, USA                      | 32, 41. 61 |
| Debbie Strange, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada                   | 11, 50     |
| Randy Streu, Appleton, Wisconsin, USA                        | 47         |
| JeFF Stumpo, Litchfield, New Hampshire, USA                  | 4, 46      |
| Jennifer Sutherland, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia          | 7          |
| George Swede, Toronto, Ontario, Canada                       | 38         |
| Kegan Swyers, Los Angeles, California, USA                   | 10         |
| Ulrike Titelbach, Vienna, Austria                            | 15, 48, 52 |
| Stephen Toft, Lancaster, UK                                  | 28, 32, 33 |
| John Tracy, Tuckahoe, New York, USA                          | 57         |
| javi tuesday, Boston, Massachusetts, USA                     | 36         |
| Michael Dylan Welch, Sammamish, Washington, USA              | 5          |
| Sharni Wilson, London, UK                                    | 7          |
| Valorie Broadhurst Woerdehoff, Dubuque, Iowa, USA            | 62         |
| Peter Yovu, Middlesex, Vermont, USA                          | 65         |
| Matt Zambito, Wilson, New York, USA                          | 30         |

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*Melissa Allen, editor  
Madison, Wisconsin  
veryshortpoetry.com*

## CORRECTIONS

In issue 2.3:

- In the note for Camille Newsom's poem, "Somehow I Catch the Pope," the name of the poet from whom the poem's words are borrowed should read "April Lindner."
- Cherie Hunter Day's location is listed incorrectly.