

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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Cover photo *untitled* by John Brzezinski

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# Table of Contents

<b>James Paradiso</b>	
<i>Book Boot</i> .....	6
<b>Siegfried Mortkowitz</b>	
Books .....	7
<b>Albert DeGenova</b>	
Kinetic Energy .....	10
The Cracked Mirror .....	11
<b>Jan Stojaspal</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	12
<b>Mary Blinn</b>	
Apology .....	13
<b>Christopher Watkins</b>	
And Be Brave .....	14
Again .....	15
<b>Ron Reikki</b>	
Nursing Home .....	16
<b>Charlie Newman</b>	
Jobbed .....	19
Across the Room .....	20
Another America Poem .....	21
<b>Jenene Ravesloot</b>	
A scent .....	22
<b>Moira Pujols</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	23
<b>Cole DeGenova</b>	
Aboard the First Flight to Midway Airport .....	24
<b>Tim Rogers</b>	
Brick by Brick a Tower Build .....	25
<b>John Brzezinski</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	22
<b>After Hours Feature: Mark Turcotte</b>	
Invitation .....	29
Uncle Big Tooth Explains the Northern Lights .....	30
Waitress .....	31
Autumn Door .....	32
A Blur of Echoes .....	33
Some Gethsemane .....	34
The Boy Drifts .....	35
Hawk Hour .....	36
Let Me Explain .....	37

## Table of Contents

<b>John Brzezinski</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	38
<b>Patrice Boyer Claeys</b>	
When I pick up my drunk daughter .....	39
<b>Dan Champion</b>	
The Heaviness .....	40
Reproduction .....	41
<b>Alan Gross</b>	
Upon Tossing the California Files .....	42
<b>Moira Pujols</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	43
<b>Laura Dixon</b>	
Things I'll Miss When I'm Divorced .....	44
<b>Cole DeGenova</b>	
Dream On .....	46
<b>Steve Hammond</b>	
A Sunday in March .....	47
<b>P. Hertel</b>	
<i>The Empty House</i> .....	48
<b>Susan Gundlach</b>	
A Ghost of a Plan .....	56
<b>Moira Pujols</b>	
<i>untitled</i> .....	57
<b>Jennifer Dotson</b>	
Apology to My Books .....	58
<b>Contributors</b> .....	60

## Contributors

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**Mary Blinn** (1953-2015) was a Chicago poet, artist and musician. She was a regular contributor to *After Hours* and was the featured writer for Issue #17. In addition she was a frequent participant in poetry readings. As a visual artist she had several exhibitions including a one-woman show at the Old Town Art Gallery, and a lifetime retrospective at Columbia College. Her CD of children's songs, *A Handful of Sunshine* was nominated for a Grammy. Her book of illustrated poetry, *When Words and Image Run Away*, was published by After Hours Press in 2016. To find out more about the Mary Blinn Poetry Contest, go to the *After Hours* web page: [www.afterhourspress.com](http://www.afterhourspress.com)

\***John Brzezinski** is a Chicago native. When he bought his first camera in 1966, at the age of fifteen, he thought it was simply for taking pictures, but soon discovered that it that it allowed him to frame what he saw in interesting or compelling ways. He uses photography to explain where he's been, what he's seen, and what has made an impression. He believes that photography is a language nearly everyone understands.

**Dan Campion** is a Chicago native who has lived in Iowa City since 1978. His poetry has appeared in journals and magazines including *After Hours*, *Able Muse*, *Ars Medica*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Ekphrasis*, *Innisfree*, *Light*, *Measure*, *Medical Literary Messenger*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *Parody*, *Poetry*, *Rolling Stone*, *Shenandoah*, and *Think*. He is a co-editor of the anthology *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song*, a third edition of which is in preparation for publication in spring 2019 in honor of Whitman's 200th birthday on May 31, 2019.

\***Patrice Boyer Claeys** revved up her creative writing at the University of Chicago's Writer's Studio after 15 years in publishing and PR. She joined Plumb Line Poets, of Evanston, Illinois, and completed her first book, *Lovely Daughter of the Shattering*, which will be published in 2019 by Kelsay Books. Her work has appeared in *Postcard Poems and Prose*, *Clementine Unbound*, *Your Daily Poem*, *Beech Street Review*, *Bird's Thumb* and *Light: A Journal of Photography & Poetry*, where she was featured artist. Patrice reads for and contributes to the *Mom Egg Review* and has been nominated for Best of the Net.

**Albert DeGenova** is an award-winning poet, editor, teacher and blues saxophonist. His most recent collection is titled *Black Pearl: poems of love, sex and regret* from Purple Flag Press. His work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *RHINO*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Aesthetica*, *Lips*, *The Louisville Review*, *Door County Living* and others. He teaches an annual week-long writing class at the Clearing Folk School, Ellison Bay, WI, as well as workshops for WriteOn Door County. He is the publisher and co-editor of *After Hours*.

\***Cole DeGenova** is a pianist/keyboardist, vocalist, songwriter and poet. He has released three albums under his own name with a fourth to be released in 2019. He's performed throughout the U.S and internationally from Indonesia to Krakow, with numerous recording credits including Grammy-winning and Grammy-nominated albums.

\***Laura Dixon** has an MFA in poetry from the Michener Center at UT Austin, where she also served as Associate Editor of *Bat City Review*. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *RHINO*, *Wicked Alice*, *Notre Dame Review*, and elsewhere. She lives in Oak Park with her husband and two children and teaches high school English and creative writing.

**Jennifer Dotson** first moved to Chicago in 1991 from the East Coast and felt it was her true home. She stumbled sideways into poetry over a decade ago after years of pursuing a career in the theatre. Her poems have been published in several issues of *East On Central*, assorted *CRAM* chapbooks, and an edition of *Her-Mark* by WomanMade Gallery. Her poem “Fortune Cookie” was selected by Poetic License Press for their collection of poems titled *A Midnight Snack*.

\***Alan Gross** is an award-winning poet and playwright. His work has appeared in *Story Quarterly*, *Modern Haiku*, *The Robert Frost Poetry Festival Anthology*, and *Midlands* magazine at the University of Missouri. He also spent ten fine years writing features for *Chicago* magazine. He has appeared in *The Reader*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times* and, yes, *Modern Maturity*. In another guise, he is the jazz singer Bootsy Butterman, and one of the worst trombonists ever.

**Susan Gundlach**'s poems have appeared in such journals as *After Hours*, *Dark Matter*, *The Human Touch*, *The Crafty Poet II*, *The Practicing Poet*, *\*82 Review*, *In Plein Air*, and in the walkway of the Evanston Public Library. Her children's poems can be seen in *Crickets* magazine and *Balloons Literary Journal*. She and a printmaker colleague have been featured in exhibitions pairing their prints and poetry.

**Steven Hammond** is a proud father and Zen-inspired radical who authored the book *P, Anyone?* His poetry has been published in such places as *Old City Cool*, *Exact Change Only*, *Cordite*, and *Why Vandalism?*

**P. Hertel** is a photographer and co-editor of *After Hours*.

**Siegfried Mortkowitz** is a writer living in Prague with his wife, son and cat. He is the author of *Eating Brains and Other Poems*, published by After Hours Press. His poems and autobiographical complaints have been published in *Body*, *After Hours*, *The Prague Revue* and *Politico*.

**Charlie Newman** was born in Newark, NJ, 5.17.43. Writing poetry since 1957. 4 books. 1 chapbook. 6 CDs. 12 or so posters. Various publications and collections. Has read with David Amram, the Viking Hillbilly Apocalypse Review, Mouth and Hands, ZOOTSUITBEATNICK!, & Chicago word brigade. Hosted a radio show and 2 poetry venues in Chicago. Now writes and reads and reads and writes.

**James Paradiso** is a recovering academic in the process of refreshing himself as a street photographer and an experiMENTAL writer. His photos and stories have appeared in dozens of publications both in print and online. Armed with graduate degrees in both Business Administration and Philosophy, he labors to fill temporal-spatial, psycho-social holes and on good days to enjoy the flow. All of his work is dedicated to his true love, sweet muse and body guard: Suzi Skoski Wosker Doski.

\*Through her work as executive directory of *contratiempo nfp*, **Moira Pujols** presents and publishes literature and cultural journalism in Spanish to celebrate the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversity and riches of Chicago. She also co-founded and developed the annual *Poesía en Abril* festival. Ms. Pujols is a language consultant, translator, conference and federal court interpreter, and was the founding president of the Midwest Association of Translators and Interpreters. Her photography has been previously published in *revista contratiempo*. You can follow her on Instagram at @moirap.

## Contributors

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**Jenene Ravesloot** has written five books of poetry. She has published in *After Hours Press*, *The Caravel Literary Arts Journal*, *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *Packingtowntown Review*, *The Miscreant*, *Exact Change Only*, *THIS Literary Magazine*, and other online journals, print journals, chapbooks, and anthologies. Jenene received two Pushcart Prize nominations in 2018.

\***Ron Riecki's** books include *And Here: 100 Years of Upper Peninsula Writing, 1917-2017* (Michigan State University Press), *Here: Women Writing on Michigan's Upper Peninsula* (Independent Publisher Book Award), *The Way North: Collected Upper Peninsula New Works* (Michigan Notable Book), and *U.P.: a novel*. Upcoming books in 2019: *Posttraumatic: a memoir*—essays & flash non-fiction on the military, prison, iggy pop, the devil, & writing (Hoot 'n' Waddle), *Undocumented: Great Lakes Poets Laureate on Social Justice* (Michigan State University Press, with Andrea Scarpino), and *The Many Lives of The Evil Dead: Essays on the Cult Film Franchise* (McFarland, with Jeff Sartain).

\***Tim Rogers** is an American poet living in Czechia, Europe. He graduated from Brooklyn College with an MFA, having studied under the tutelage of Allen Ginsberg. Today he runs an English-language bookstore and sits on the board of a nonprofit English-language resource and community center involved with teaching English to school-age children. His poems have appeared over the years in *Bombay Gin*, *Mudfish*, *Brooklyn Review*, *The Transnational* and *Otoliths* along with other literary outlets. He has been anthologized in *The Return of Král Majáles*.

**Jan Stojaspal** is a freelance journalist based in Prague, Czech Republic. For more of Jan's images, go to <https://instagram.com/janst74>

\***Mark Turcotte** is the featured poet for *After Hours* #37.

\***Christopher Watkins** lives with his incredible wife, Shannon, in Chicago where he is a graduate student in DePaul University's creative writing program. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Blueline*, *Poetry East*, and *Motley*.

