

after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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Contributors

Andrew Byrne's work has appeared in *The Chicago Reader*, *Oyez Review*, *Poetry Quarterly*, *North Chicago Magazine* and *After Hours*. He is also the author of a book of poems, *First Words*.

Dan Campion is a Chicago native who has lived in Iowa City since 1978. He is the author of *A Playbill for Sunset* (Ice Cube Press) and *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* (Bucknell University Press) and is a co-editor of *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song* (Holy Cow! Press). Dan's poetry has appeared previously in *After Hours* and in *New American Writing*, *Poetry*, *Rolling Stone*, and many other magazines. A selection of his poems titled *The Mirror Test* is forthcoming from MadHat Press.

Marilyn Cavicchia lives in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and is a managing editor at the Society of Critical Care Medicine. This is Marilyn's second appearance in *After Hours*. Her poem in this issue draws from her experience of herniating a disc in her lower back and suddenly entering the world of compromised mobility and invisible disability.

***Leonardo Chung** is an aspiring writer from Illinois. He has participated in several writing programs such as the Iowa Young Writers' Studio, Sewanee Young Writers' Conference, and Juniper Institute for Young Writers. His work has been previously published by various literary journals and magazines such as *Rigorous*, *riverSedge*, *Sheila-Na-Gig*, *SweetLit*, *Vermilion*, and more. When he is not writing, he enjoys traveling to Chicago's Magnificent Mile, just a hop, skip, and jump away from his hometown.

Suzanne Cosgrove is an Evanston, Illinois-based journalist and poet.

Albert DeGenova is an award-winning poet, publisher, and teacher. He is the author of four books of poetry and two chapbooks. DeGenova is the founder of After Hours Press and editor of *After Hours* magazine, a journal of Chicago writing and art which launched in June of 2000. DeGenova received his MFA from Spalding University in Louisville. DeGenova was recently named Executive Director of Write On, Door County. He splits his time now between the metro Chicago area and Sturgeon Bay, WI. He is also a blues saxophonist.

***Joyce Goldenstern** writes fiction and adapts folktales in Chicago. Her chapbook *Old Woman and Eel* was recently published by Ravenna Press, Triple Series. Her novel *In Their Ruin* is scheduled to be published by Black Heron Press in 2024.

Kurt Heinz is the featured author for *After Hours* #45. (see page 22)

***Leslie Henderson** is a recovering journalist who has practiced her hobby of photography all over the world. A veteran traveler who has lived and worked in both Beijing and Prague, Henderson's latest trip to Antarctica ticked the last boxes of the seven continents and five oceans. A Chicago native now living in East Tennessee, she is a mom of four, grandmother of six and slave to a small, rather hilarious, dog.

P. Hertel is a photographer and writer. She is co-editor and a founding member of *After Hours*.

About his photography, **Greg Kuepfer** writes: “Walking the same streets but always different thoughts, light, results. A total fascination with the variety of possibilities that the city offers. I could say more about myself but this is the part I enjoy the most.”

Pamela Miller is the author of six books of poetry, including *Recipe for Disaster* and *Miss Unthinkable* (both from Mayapple Press), *How to Do the Greased Wombat Slide* (forthcoming from Unsolicited Press) and *Mr. Mischief* (forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press). Her visual poetry and text poetry have appeared in *Otoliths*, *Word For/Word*, *shufPoetry*, *BlazeVOX*, *RHINO*, *New Poetry From the Midwest*, *Book of Matches*, and many other journals and anthologies. She lives on Chicago's northernmost border.

Siegfried Mortkowitz is a writer living in Prague. 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* and *The Prague Revue*.

Ralph Murre, most easily spotted near large bodies of water, has spent much of the last three-quarters of a century more or less along Wisconsin's east coast, but flirted with the Mississippi for a while during the nineties. He even claims to have spent time in Chicago on several occasions. Something of a jack-of-all trades and re-inventor of himself, he has done a bit of writing. In that regard, he was honored to serve as Door County's poet laureate for 2015-2017. His books of poetry include *Crude Red Boat*, *Psalms*, and *The Price of Gravity*. He also co-authored *Wind Where Music Was*. What he'll be dabbling in next is anybody's guess.

Philip Nemeč grew up in the Chicago area, and Chicago remains close to his heart. Philip has been writing his entire life, and Chicago is the setting for much of his work.

***Sarina Okrzesik** is an emerging writer based in Glendale Heights, IL. She has a BA in English from Elmhurst University, where she was Editor in Chief of the student journal, *MiddleWestern Voice*. Her poetry was featured in *Vol. 24 of MiddleWestern Voice* after being awarded an honorable mention in The Karl H. Carlson Poetry Contest. Her work explores themes of nostalgia, liminality, chaos, and resilience.

***Frederick Pollack** is the author of two book-length narrative poems, *The Adventure* and *Happiness* (both Story Line Press; the former reissued 2022 by Red Hen Press.) He has also written two collections of shorter poems, *A Poverty of Words* (Prolific Press, 2015) and *Landscape with Mutant* (Smokestack Books, UK, 2018). Pollack's work has appeared in *Salmagundi*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *The Fish Anthology* (Ireland), *Magma* (UK), *Bateau*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, and others. A former Chicagoan whose father worked at the Art Institute, Pollack still regards himself as spiritually Chicagoan.

Patrick Reardon, a three-time Pushcart Prize nominee, has authored eleven books, including the poetry collections *Requiem for David* (Silver Birch), *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* (Kelsay) and *The Lost Tribes* (Grey Book), and his memoir in prose poems *Puddin': The Autobiography of a Baby* (Third World). His poetry has appeared in *Rhino*, *Main Street Rag*, *America*, *Autumn Sky*, *Burningword Literary Journal* and many others. His poem “The archangel Michael” was a finalist for the 2022 Mary Blinn Poetry Prize.

* First appearance in *After Hours*

Contributors

Jane Richards' prose and poetry can be found in a number of journals, including *Gyroscope Review*, *After Hours*, *Willow Review*, *Plum Tree Tavern*, *Snowy Egret*, and *Bird Watchers Digest*. A former piano teacher and social worker, she now pursues her life-long passions for writing, nature study, and travel. She has lived in the Chicago area most of her life.

Jan Stojaspal is a freelance journalist and photographer based in Prague, Czech Republic. His photographic work is a visual exploration of people and places in and around Europe, with a focus on Mediterranean areas and countries of the former eastern bloc.

Frank Varela is the author of four books of poetry, and a former resident of the City of Chicago. He is currently living and writing in Las Cruces, New Mexico, but Chicago is never far from his thoughts.

J. Weintraub has published fiction, essays, translations, and poetry in all sorts of literary reviews and periodicals, from *The Massachusetts Review* to *New Criterion*, from *Prairie Schooner* to *Modern Philology*. A member of the Dramatists Guild, he has had dramatic work produced throughout the United States and in Australia, New Zealand, India, and Germany. As a translator he has introduced the Italian horror writer, Nicola Lombardi, to the English-speaking world, and his edition of Lombardi's *The Gypsy Spiders and Other Tales of Italian Horror* was published by Tartarus Press in the UK in 2021.

Photographer and writer **Santiago Weksler** was based in Chicago for many years. His photographs have been featured in a number of exhibitions in Chicago as well as his native Peru. His work has appeared in *Contratiempo* and *After Hours*, where he was the featured artist for issue #22.

