

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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Issue No. 46

Summer 2023

*Publisher*

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Cover photo *untitled* by Santiago Weksler

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**Subscriptions**

\$20.00 annually, 2 issues

\$6.00 for back issues

\$12.00 for current issue

**Submissions**

Electronic submissions encouraged:  
submissions@afterhourspress.com

Deadlines: March 31/Summer Issue  
September 30/Winter Issue

Email correspondence encouraged  
editor@afterhourspress.com

Refer to our web site for more details  
<http://www.afterhourspress.com>

After Hours Press  
2417 N. 75th Avenue, Unit F  
Elmwood Park, IL 60707

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## Contributors

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Thanks to a serendipitous encounter on Ellis Island, **Elizabeth Bush's** grandfather Ted "Papa" Bush was routed to Chicago, beginning her family's lifelong affection for the city by the lake. Water imagery abounds in most of the photographs Elizabeth takes each summer when she visits her family in Delray Beach, Florida.

**Dan Campion** is the author of *A Playbill for Sunset* (poems) and the monograph *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* and a co-editor of the anthology *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song*. His poems have appeared in *After Hours* and other journals. A new book of poems, *The Mirror Test*, is forthcoming from MadHat Press. A native of Chicago, Dan has lived in Iowa City, Iowa since 1978.

**Suzanne Cosgrove** is a journalist and poet currently based in Evanston, Illinois.

\***Mary Ann Crowe** moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico to recuperate from debilitating illness. Recent poems appear or are forthcoming in *Up From The Ashes, We Rise, The Ekphrastic Review, Flying South, Stories That Need To Be Told 2022, Sin Fronteras*, and *Miriam's Well*. "War Child Lament 2020" was a poetry prize winner for the *Pasatiempo 2020 Writing Contest*, reprinted online in *Writing In A Woman's Voice*, in February 2023. As a visual artist-activist-writer, her essays, art installations and public art projects have addressed gender, the environment, war, and gun violence. Barnard College graduate born in Munich; Santa Fe is her 30th move between Germany, New York, Chicago, and Puerto Rico.

\***Jesica Davis** is a poet and technical writer from Chicago. She's an Associate Editor for *Inverted Syntax*; her work has appeared in *Dream Pop, Storm Cellar, streetcake magazine, The Laurel Review, Kissing Dynamite*, and others. Sometimes she makes poemboxes which are sculptural interpretations of her poems.

**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 co-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.

\***Joanne Durham** is the author of *To Drink from a Wider Bowl*, Sinclair Poetry Prize winner (Evening Street Press 2022) and *On Shifting Shoals* (Kelsay Books 2023). Her poetry appears or is forthcoming in *Poetry South* (2022 Pushcart Nomination), *Whale Road Review, Inflectionist Review, Poetry East*, and many other journals and anthologies. She was the winner of the *Third Wednesday 2023 Annual Poetry Contest* and the Mary Ruffin Poole Award from the NC Poetry Society. She lives on the North Carolina coast, with the ocean as her backyard and muse.

\***Fritz Eifrig** has been writing poetry on and off for forty years; he has lived in Chicago for the past 35 of those. His poems have appeared in *Olney Magazine, Blue River*, and the *Hiram Review of Poetry*. His self-published chapbook, *familiar dark*, is available from his Etsy store, the Weeping Manatee.

\***Elissa Fertig** is a recent Art History Master's graduate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and current registrar at an art conservation company. She has been published in *JAKE magazine, The Racket Reading Series, Sour Cherry Press, the Bitchin' Kitsch, Polyester Zine*, and others. When she isn't writing she is rock climbing.

\***Bea Forkan** is a writer from Chicago and recently graduated from Columbia College Chicago's MFA Creative Writing Program. She runs Vacation Writing, an adventure travel company that offers writing retreats around the world. Previously, she worked as a youth librarian with an emphasis on trauma-informed practices and protecting children's right to read.

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

\***Julian Kanagy** is a Chicago-based poet who studied at Northwestern University and Trinity College Dublin. His poetry thrives both in the confines of formal structure and the simplicity of its absence, and expands into explorations of complex identities, meditations on neurodivergence and mental health, and an ongoing search for the beauty in everyday life. He started *Heirlock Magazine* to amplify underrepresented voices and *The Wild Umbrella* to celebrate writing for writing's sake. Both as an editor and as an emerging poet, Julian follows the advice of a mentor: "find the poems that nobody else could have written."

\***Christopoher Kleihege** began photographing professionally in 2002, focusing on archaeology. His work has appeared in numerous books, including *Caral: the First Civilization in the Americas* and *Prehistory: the Making of the Human Mind*. His photographs have been exhibited in galleries and museums ranging from The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian to the Museo de la Nación (Peru). His photographs have been used in newspapers, magazines, academic publications and on banknotes, coins and opera backdrops. Kleihege's works are held in museums and in private collections worldwide.

\***Vignette-Noelle Lammott** is a disciple of beauty, heavily inspired by the natural world and the early Transcendentalists. Poet, photographer and scholar of antiquarian works, she lives a quiet life in southern New Jersey.

\***Haki R. Madhubuti** is the featured writer in this issue of *After Hours*. See page 30.

\***Brendan McNally** is a journalist and writer endlessly bouncing between Dallas, Texas and the Czech Republic. His first novel, *Germania*, published in 2011 by Simon & Schuster, was set in the final days of the Third Reich and concerned identical Jewish quadruplets who may or may not be magic. The excerpt in this issue is from *Friend of the Devil*, a novel set in the depression-era south. It is yet to be published, but an e-book version exists on Kindle. Brendan is currently finishing a non-fiction work, *Traitor's Odyssey, Martha Dodd and Soviet Espionage in Mid-Century America*, to be published by Icon Books.

\***John Middlebrook** lives in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He has been writing since he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago where he also served on the staff of *Chicago Review*. His work has been published by *Cleaver Magazine*, *Wilderness House Literature Review*, and *Synchronized Chaos*, among others.

**Siegfried Mortkowitz** is a writer living in Prague. He is the author of *Eating Brains and Other Poems*, published by After Hours Press. "What I Like" is taken from a longer PIP (Poem-In-Progress). His poems and autobiographical complaints have been published in *Body*, *After Hours* and *The Prague Revue*. He is not too proud to accept contributions to his campaign to live to 100.

**Donna Pucciani**, a Chicago-based writer, has published poetry worldwide in *Shi Chao Poetry*, *Poetry Salzburg*, *Journal of Italian Translation*, *Li Poetry*, *Meniscus*, *Agenda*, *After Hours* and other publications. Her seventh and latest book of poetry is *Edges*.

**Patrick T. Reardon** is the author of twelve books, including the poetry collections *Requiem for David*, *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* and *The Lost Tribes*. His memoir in prose poems *Puddin': The Autobiography of a Baby* was published by Third World Press with an introduction by Haki Madhubuti. It has been described by *Mindbender Review of Books* as "the most improbable and intriguing personal account by a writer published in 2022, but quite possibly the most ingeniously imagined memoir by any writer in any given year." He has two poetry collections forthcoming: *Salt of the Earth: Doubts and Faith* from Kelsay Books and *Let the Baby Sleep* from the Australian publisher In Case of Emergency.

**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.

\***Lily Valentine** is a poet and current resident of Chicago. While attending Kenyon College, she was one of two students to receive the Kenyon Writing Award. Her short story "Nancy" was featured in the collegiate publication *Hika*. More recently, her poem "five minutes early" was selected as a semi-finalist for the poetry contest on poetrynation.com.

**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.

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.

\***Caroline Wellman** earned degrees in creative writing and American literature from the University of Arkansas. Her poetry collection *Presences* was published by Parallel Press in 2014. Her 2023 Mary Blinn Poetry Prize winning poem "Portrait of My Father as a Mute Swan" also appears in *Peatsmoke Journal*. Her poem "Winter Dreams," which won the *Anthology Poetry Award* for 2022, appeared in volume 19. She previously taught writing and literature at colleges in the Midwest and the South. She has taught beginning journalism and creative writing to middle school students. She works for the US Postal Service in Illinois.

\***Dan Wienczek** is a poet, critic and humorist who moved from Chicago to Portland, Oregon, and whose work has appeared in *Sou'wester*, *New Ohio Review*, *Timberline Review*, *Carve* and other publications. His first collection of poems, *Routes Between Raindrops*, was published by First Matter Press in 2021.