

after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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Albert DeGenova

Editors

Albert DeGenova

P. Hertel

Circulation Manager

Andrew Byrne

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<http://www.afterhourspress.com>

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Our Cover. The week we were putting together the final touches on the 44th issue of *After Hours*, the world was in the grip of an unprecedented heat wave. Unprecedented. It's a word we hear a lot these days, and unfortunately will probably hear a lot more. England was scorching at an unprecedented 105 degrees F, as were Spain and Portugal. Temperatures in the 90s spread across the interior of Europe like a thermal blanket. Things weren't much better in the States. In the West, an unrelenting string of 100-plus-degree days caused the very ground to catch fire. The Midwest was melting in an unprecedented steam bath of consecutive 90+ degree days. Even the East Coast was baking. And so it was in this context that we scrolled through the photos for this issue and stopped at the image of people crossing a snowy bridge and said, "Cover!" Just seeing that picture was a relief, a reminder that heat waves don't last forever. Hopefully, that's one unprecedented event that will remain unprecedented. —The Editors

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Contributors

Dave Awl has been writing and performing in Chicago since 1988. He is the author of *What the Sea Means: Poems, Stories & Monologues, 1987-2002*. In addition to *After Hours*, his work has been published by *Blithe House Quarterly*, *Milk Magazine*, and *Escape Into Life*. He spent the '90s performing in the long-running fringe theater hit "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" with The Neo-Futurists theater company. He is also the erstwhile host of an erstwhile cabaret variety show called The Partly Dave Show. He has lived in Chicago for 34 years now and yet somehow still feels entitled to put ketchup on anything he wants to.

Mark Baker is an American writer, journalist, and photographer. He is originally from Ohio, now based in Prague, Czech Republic. His book, *Time of Change*, about the Czech Republic in the late 1980s and early 1990s, was published in 2021.

John Brzezinski is a Chicago native. He bought his first camera in 1966 – used, on lay-away – at the age of 15. Brzezinski quickly discovered that the camera allowed him to compose, record and show what he had encountered in an interesting and compelling way. Initially, he shot only in black and white. It was years before color captured his eye. His most important photographic accomplishment is documenting the best collegiate architecture at well over 600 university campuses, in all the lower 48 states.

***Corbin Buff** is the grandson of Norbert Blei - a Chicago native and author of *Chi Town*. Corbin's poems have appeared in *Bird's Thumb*, *Verse-Virtual*, *Autumn Sky Poetry Daily*, and elsewhere.

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 *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* and co-editor of *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song*, a third edition of which was issued in 2019. Dan's poetry has appeared previously in *After Hours* and in *Poetry*, *Rolling Stone*, and many other journals. A selection of his poems titled *A Playbook for Sunset* was published in July 2022 by Ice Cube Press. *The Mirror Test* is forthcoming from MadHat Press.

*Former Chicago firefighter **Max King Cap** is a visual artist who has had numerous exhibitions in Europe and the United States. His writing has appeared in *The Racial Imaginary*, *Shenandoah*, *Type-house*, *The Puritan*, *The Threepenny Review*, and *TriQuarterly*. He interrupted graduate school (U of C) one class shy of completing his Visual Arts MFA. Most days he was a visual artist and none of his art friends knew what he really did for a living. Until now. He lives in Los Angeles.

***Marilyn Cavicchia** lives in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood and is an editor at the American Bar Association as well as a freelance grant writer. Other publications in which her poems have recently appeared include *The Parliament*; *Hags on Fire*; and *Amazing Offer!*, a Brigids Gate Press anthology of horror writing based on vintage ads. Follow her on Twitter: @MarilynCavi.

James Conroy is a writer and editor living in Chicago with his wife Helen. His poetry and short fiction have appeared in *After Hours* (#42), *Blue Unicorn*, *The Cafe Review*, *The Iconoclast*, *Freefall*, and *Speakeasy*, among numerous other journals. He has also published seven novels.

Albert DeGenova is an award-winning poet and teacher. He is the author of four books of poetry and three chapbooks. His chapbook, *Mama's Blues*, is forthcoming August 2022 from Finishing Line Press. His work has also appeared in numerous journals and anthologies. He received his MFA from Spalding University in Louisville. He 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 is also a blues saxophonist and one-time contributing editor to *Down Beat* magazine. He splits his time now between Sturgeon Bay, WI, and the metro Chicago area.

Paul Freidinger writes every day and continues to publish in journals here and abroad. He had poems recently published in *Atlanta Review*, *Basalt*, *Florida Review*, *Folio*, *Grist*, *Isthmus*, *Pacific Review*, *Southern Quarterly Review*, *Triggerfish Critical Review*, among others.

Alan Gross is an award-winning poet and playwright. A Chicagoan born and bred, he currently lives in Old Town with his wife Norma Toopa, a painter. His work has appeared in *After Hours*, *Story Quarterly*, *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Modern Haiku*, *Maple Leaf Rag* and the *Robert Frost Poetry Festival Anthology*. He spent ten fine years writing features for *Chicago Magazine*. In another guise he is the jazz singer Bootsyt Buttermen.

P. Hertel is a photographer, painter, writer, former college professor, former features editor of *The Prague Post* and co-editor of *After Hours*. Her photography was included in *Wherever I'm At: An Anthology of Chicago Poetry*, a partner project of After Hours Press, The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, and Third World Press.

Viola Lee is the featured poet in *After Hours* # 44, see page 34.

***George Looney** has lived in Chicago for several years and taught at Columbia College, Loyola University, and Roosevelt University. His books include the recently-released *Ode to the Earth in Translation* (Red Mountain Press), a collection of stories, *The Worst May Be Over*, which won the Elixir Press Fiction Award, *The Itinerant Circus: New and Selected Poems 1995-2020* (Red Mountain Press), the Red Mountain Press Poetry Award-winning *What Light Becomes: The Turner Variations*, the novel *Report from a Place of Burning* which was co-winner of The Leapfrog Press Fiction Award, as well as many other poems and books. He is the founder of the BFA in Creative Writing Program at Penn State Erie, editor-in-chief of the international literary journal *Lake Effect*, translation editor of *Mid-American Review*, and co-founder of the original Chautauqua Writers' Festival.

Winner of the Bill Holm Witness poetry award, **Jayne Marek** has also been nominated for Best of the Net and Pushcart Prizes. She has published seven poetry collections, with her next volume, *Dusk-Voiced*, due in 2022. Her writings and art photos appear in *Rattle*, *Spillway*, *Bloodroot*, *One*, *Salamander*, *Eclectica*, *Gulf Stream*, *Calyx*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Notre Dame Review*, and elsewhere. Her scholarly publications include *Women Editing Modernism: "Little" Magazines and Literary History*.

Patricia McMillen is a newly-minted septuagenarian; a proud former student of Maureen Seaton, Barry Silesky, and Luis Alberto Urrea (among many others); and a Bernedoodle puppy mom, who currently lives in the Little Italy neighborhood of Chicago.

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 visited 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 (Wisc.) 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.

Jean Passarelli is a lifelong Chicagoan, and finds all cities to be bottomless muses (picture that you naughty monkey). She has had previous poetry acceptances in *After Hours*, which holds a special place in her heart as the first publication to do so. Since then, Jean's poetry and flash fiction have appeared in a number of other publications such as *Cathexis*, *Northwest Press*, *The Stardust Review*, and *Crack the Spine*. When not playing with words, you can find her fostering her dog obsession, enjoying a foodie journey, or walking long distances with music in her ears.

Moira Pujols publishes literature and cultural journalism in Spanish. She is a regular photo contributor to *After Hours*, *Contratiempo*, and *Plenamar* magazines. She is on Instagram at @moirap

Contributors

Patrick T. Reardon is the author of eleven books, including the history *The Loop: The "L" Tracks That Shaped and Saved Chicago* and the poetry collections *Requiem for David* (Silver Birch), *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* (Kelsay) and *The Lost Tribes* (Grey Book). Reardon is an essayist, poet, book critic and Chicago historian who worked as a *Chicago Tribune* reporter for 32 years. His twelfth book will be published later this year by Third World Press – *Puddin': The Autobiography of a Baby, a Memoir in Prose Poems*. His blog, called *The Pump Don't Work*, can be found at <http://www.patrickreardon.com/blog/>.

Charles Rossiter, NEA Fellowship recipient, hosts the bi-weekly podcast, Poetry Spoken Here (since 2015). His poetry collections include *The Night We Danced With the Raelettes*, a memoir in poetry, *All Over America: Road Poems*, (FootHills Publishing) based on travels throughout the U.S. and Canada., and *BackBeat*, co-authored with Albert DeGenova. He's performed widely at such venues as Nuyorican Poets Café, NYC; Green Mill, Chicago; Dodge Festival in NJ, Detroit Opera House and Chicago Blues Festival.

***Crystal S. Rudds** holds an MFA from Indiana University-Bloomington and a PhD from the University of Illinois. Her work has appeared in *LitBop*, *Midnight & Indigo*, *Obsidian*, *NightBallet Press* and *Habits of Art: Best Stories* from the Indiana University Fiction Workshop. Her poem "Homage to DeCarava" was nominated for an Illinois Arts Council Agency Literary Award. Her winning poem in the 2022 Mary Blinn Poetry Prize "Freedom's Cage" is fashioned in the style of Terrance Hayes's poetic innovation, the Golden Shovel. The poem transposes a word from each line of Maya Angelou's poem, "Caged Bird."

George L. Stein is a photographer currently living in northern New Jersey. He was born in Chicago in the late 50's, and moved to Whiting, Indiana in the late 80's. *After Hours* was the first publication to publish his photographic work in 2009. He has since been published in a number of literary magazines including *Fatal Flaw*, *Wrongdoing Magazine*, and the *Toho Journal*. He works in the art, street, urban and rural decay, alt-por-trait and surreal photographic genres.

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.

Bill Yarrow, Professor of English at Joliet Junior College, is the author of eleven books of poetry including *Blasphemer*, *The Vig of Love*, and, most recently, *Accelerant*. His poems have been published in *Poetry International*, *FRiGG*, *Gargoyle*, *PANK*, *Confrontation*, *Contrary*, *Diagram*, *Thrush*, *Chiron Review*, *RHINO*, *Into the Void*, *FIVE: 2:ONE*, and many other journals. He has been nominated eight times for a Pushcart Prize.

