

after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

Issue No. 49

Winter 2025

Publisher

Albert DeGenova

Editors

Albert DeGenova

P. Hertel

Circulation Manager

Andrew Byrne

Cover photo *Retro Future. Uptown, 2018* by Bruce Sharp.

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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

***Azam Anees** is an extremely unpublished poet based out of Chicago but originally grew up in Lahore, Pakistan. You can find him writing his sad little poems in his home, in coffee shops, in restaurants eating dinner for one but ordering food for two, and generally in notebooks carefully numbered – but really even a pen and a napkin work. He also struggles to write bios. He visits home often and writes about it even more. He moved to Chicago in 2019. He loves the wonderful variety of cuisine here, the endless and terrifying opportunities to do stand-up, and the weather that seems so far from what his body is used to, but has become home.

Dan Campion's poetry books are *Calypso* (Syncline Press, 1981), *A Playbill for Sunset* (Ice Cube Press, 2022), and *The Mirror Test* (MadHat Press, 2024). He is the author of the monograph *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* (Bucknell University Press, 1995) and a coeditor of *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song* (Holy Cow! Press, 1981, 1998; 2019). His poetry has appeared previously in *After Hours* and in other journals and anthologies. A native Chicagoan, Dan lives in Iowa City, Iowa.

***Tomáš Čejchan** lives in Prague, ever struggling to balance his work as a lawyer with his life as a sentient being.

Suzanne Cosgrove is a full-time journalist and part-time poet and photographer who lives in the Chicago suburb of Evanston.

***Mag Cramer** is a poet whose work explores the intersections of mythology, ecology, memory, and motherhood. Her work has appeared at Women Made Gallery and in the forthcoming publication of *East on Central*. Mag has lived all over the city of Chicago, from Ukrainian Village to Logan Square to Lincoln Square. But now she's come full circle, returning to her hometown of Evanston.

Albert DeGenova is an award-winning poet, publisher, and teacher, as well as the Executive Director of Write On, Door County. He is the author of five 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, that launched in June of 2000. He received his MFA from Spalding University in Louisville. He is also a blues saxophonist.

Steve Geer is a scientist and photographer living in Chicago who has exhibited his photographs in approaching 30 solo and group exhibitions in the U.S. and in Europe, published his work in numerous photography magazines, and is on the board of directors of the Perspective Fine Art Photography Gallery in Evanston, IL. Steve is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society (FRPS).

***Carolyn Guinzio's** eighth collection, *Cameo Blue*, is forthcoming in 2026 from Carnegie-Mellon University Press. Earlier books include *A Vertigo Book*, winner of The Tenth Gate Prize and the Foreword Indies Award for Poetry Book of the Year, and *Meanwhile in Arkansas* (2025), winner of the Quarterly West Chapbook Prize. Her work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *Poetry* and many other journals.

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

Nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net, **Caroline Johnson** has two illustrated poetry chapbooks, and a full-length collection, *The Caregiver* (Holy Cow! Press, 2018). She has won numerous local and national awards for her poetry, including the 2012 *Chicago Tribune's* Printers Row Poetry Contest. Her work can be found in Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*, *Origins Journal*, *Ekphrastic Review*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Encore*, *Pink Panther Magazine*, *Turtle Island Quarterly*, among others. Her second full-length poetry collection, *The Language of Cancer*, is forthcoming in April 2025 from Kelsay Books. She is past president and current treasurer of Poets & Patrons of Chicago, and a member of the P2 Collective.

***e. lambert-arnold** (she/they) is a queer writer from Maine, based in Chicago. Their writing has been featured in the *Oxford Review*, the *Gallatin Review*, and *Petit Mort*. They have forthcoming work in *LIBER: A Feminist Review*.

David Mathews' work has been nominated for Best of the Net, a Pushcart, and he was a two-time finalist in the Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Awards. Recent publications include *Midwestern Gothic*, *Eclectica Magazine*, *Belt Magazine's Rust Belt Chicago: An Anthology*, and *Open Heart Chicago: An Anthology of Chicago Writing*. David lives in his hometown of Chicago.

Sharon Mathews enjoys reading multiple books at the same time, frequently visiting her grandchildren, and of course shinrin-yoku ("forest bathing"). Coming back to poetry with encouragement from her son, their work together can be found in *After Hours*, *Eclectica Magazine*, and *Proximity Magazine's True*.

***Michael Mattes** is the author of *An Instinct for Movement*, a collection of short fiction published in 2024 by Cornerstone Press. His work has appeared in *Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Santa Monica Review*, *World Literature Today*, *West Branch*, *Northwest Review*, and elsewhere. He resides with his family in western Washington.

***Nyx Melancon (he/they)** is a non-binary transmasc lesbian poet born on the Westside of Chicago. Since the Great Migration, his family has called Chicago "home." They are currently majoring in English and minoring in African American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Their work has been published in the *Pink Slip Zine Issue 004*, the *Montage Arts Journal Issue #18*, and Issue 22 of the *Ebony Tomatoes Collective* magazine.

Suzanne Metzler is a founding member and former board member of the Perspective Gallery in Evanston, IL. She uses photographic images to produce photopolymer gravure prints on an etching press. Her work has been exhibited both national and internationally.

Siegfried Mortkowitz lives in Prague with a very talkative orange tabby named Joe. He (Siegfried, not Joe) is the author of the chapbook *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*. He recently hosted a Substack blog called "Offbeat" featuring his poems and short stories. He hates winter.

Susan T. Moss is the author of a recent full-length poetry collection, *Mapping A Life* from Antrim House, and two chapbooks, *In From The Dark* and *Keep Moving 'til The Music Stops*. Her work has been included in anthologies, journals, magazines, and radio and television productions. She is President Emerita of the Illinois State Poetry Society, having served seven terms as president, and is a member of Poets & Patrons of Chicago, the Poets Club of Chicago, and the P2 Collective.

***Jermaine Nolen** is a multidisciplinary artist, writer, and designer based in Chicago. Born and raised in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood, his work explores minimalism, color theory, and abstraction through painting, photography, and poetry. A U.S. Navy veteran and former journalist, Jermaine's creative practice is deeply influenced by his experiences, blending visual and verbal expression to challenge perception and evoke introspection.

P2 Collective, a collaboration of four Chicago-area poets and three photographers, meets to discuss the idea of pursuing an ekphrastic conversation between poetry and photography, a conversation in which one art-form inspires the other. The group presents poetry readings with projected images in various local venues, has exhibited their work in gallery settings, and published their images and associated poems in various poetry publications, including *After Hours* (Issue No. 43, Winter 2022).

Moira Pujols is a Chicago-based consultant interpreter with years of experience in nonprofit publishing and cultural event production. Originally from the Dominican Republic, she has spent over two decades traveling the world as a conference interpreter, capturing moments through her camera and gathering stories along the way.

***Gabrielle Rabon** (she/they/he) is a queer writer and media professional living in Chicago. Their work primarily draws influence from love, mythology and the natural world. Through their writing, Rabon seeks to better understand the human condition, with a specific focus on gender, sexuality and bodily autonomy.

Patrick T. Reardon, who was a *Chicago Tribune* reporter for 32 years, has published six poetry collections, including *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* and *Puddin': The Autobiography of a Baby, A Memoir in Prose Poems*. His next collection *Every Marred Thing: A Time in America*, the winner of the 2024 Faulkner-Wisdom Prize from the Pirate's Alley Faulkner Society of New Orleans, is forthcoming from Lavender Ink. He has been nominated five times for a Pushcart Prize.

Jane Richards' poetry has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies, including *Gyroscope Review*, *The Best of Choeofpleirn Press*, *Coneflower Cafe*, and *After Hours*. Her chapbook, *The Feather Variations*, was published in 2024, and her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. A former piano teacher and social worker, she now pursues her life-long passions for writing, nature and travel. She holds masters degrees in social work and creative writing and has lived most her life in the Chicago metro area.

***John Salter** is the author of *There Will Never Be Another Night Like This*, *A Trout in the Sea of Cortez*, and *Alberta Clipper*. His short fiction has appeared in *Massachusetts Review*, *Chattahoochee Review*, *Third Coast*, *Florida Review*, *Vestal Review*, *Hong Kong Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in Fargo, North Dakota.

***Bruce Sharp** received his first camera in the mid-1970s. Since then, he estimates that he has shot around 60,000 photos, including eight or nine which were fairly good. He has lived in Chicago since 1981 and quickly changes the subject if anyone asks where he lived before that. His photos have appeared in several books including *Photography in Cambodia* (by Nicholas Coffill), *Brother Number One* (David Chandler), and *Phnom Penh: Capital City* (Michael Waibel). Other publication credits, typically the result of serendipity rather than skill, include the *Washington Post*, the *Chicago Reader*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, and *Natural History* magazine.

***R.A. Stewart** is a librarian and poet, originally from southern Illinois, but a Chicagoan for the last 52 years.

***Stephanie Trenchard** is the featured writer in this issue of *After Hours* (see page 32).

Doug Van Hooser splits his time between suburban Chicago where he uses pseudonyms with baristas, and southern Wisconsin where he enjoys sculling and cycling. His poetry has appeared in numerous publications and has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and *Orison Anthology*. He has also published short fiction and had readings of his plays in Chicago.

Santiago Weksler was born in Lima, Peru. He started studying analog photography in 2007 at Truman College in Chicago, where he became passionate about black and white photography and the study of light. The master painters of chiaroscuro, German expressionism, film noir and street photography are references in Weksler's work. He has exhibited at several literary cafes in Chicago and also at the Truman and Harold Washington Colleges, University of Illinois at Chicago and the Old Town Triangle Gallery. His photos have appeared in *Contratiempo*, *After Hours*, *Hoy*, *Resiliencia*, *Foto Argenta*, *Lamono*, *B&W*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*, *Proyecto 1x1*, *Mundo Foto*, *Ojos rojos y Lenculture*, and *MOLOK* magazines. His exhibition "Santiago de Chuco, tierra de Vallejo" was exhibited in 2018 at the Inca Garcilaso Gallery of the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lima. In addition, he was selected for the Second Cusco Photo Biennial in 2019.

Jamie Wendt is the author of the poetry collection *Laughing in Yiddish*, which was a finalist for the 2022 Philip Levine Prize in Poetry. Her first book, *Fruit of the Earth*, won the 2019 National Federation of Press Women Book Award in Poetry. Her poems and essays have been published in various literary journals and anthologies, including *Feminine Rising*, *Green Mountains Review*, *Lilith*, *Jet Fuel Review*, *the Forward*, *Poetica*, *Catamaran*, *Minyan Magazine*, and others. She contributes book reviews to the Jewish Book Council. She won third prize in the 2024 Reuben Rose Poetry Competition and won second prize for the 2024 Holloway Free Verse Award through the Illinois State Poetry Society. Wendt holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Nebraska Omaha. She lives in Chicago with her husband and two kids.

