

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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## Contributors

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**Rane Arroyo** (1954-2010) was a professor at the University of Toledo and in the Spalding University MFA writing program. He is the author of ten poetry books, seven published plays, a book of short stories and ten performed plays. He also won an array of distinguished writing awards, including the John Ciardi Poetry Prize, the Carl Sandburg Poetry Prize and a Pushcart Prize, as well as being featured in *Poetry Magazine*. He was the featured writer in *After Hours #14*.

**Mary Blinn** is a Chicago-area poet whose work has received several local and international prizes, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and recognition for formal verse from the Illinois State Poets Society. She was the featured poet in *After Hours*' Summer 2008 issue, and her work appears regularly in *After Hours*. Her poems are also included in the TallGrass Writers' anthologies 2006, 2007, 2008, and *The Best of Chicago Poetry and American Open Mike, Vol. 2* (ChicagoPoetry.com). Mary earned her MA in Interdisciplinary Art from Columbia College Chicago.

Since she began writing in 1998, **\*Jan Ball's** poems have appeared in: *Atlanta Review, Bluestem, Connecticut Review, Iodine Poetry, Review, Nimrod, Rosebud* and many other journals. Poems are forthcoming in *Chest, The Great American Poetry Show, Pearl, poetalk, Pointed Circle, U.S. Worksheets, and Verse Wisconsin*. Her first chapbook, *Accompanying Spouse*, was published in October of 2011 and is available from Finishing Line Press as well as Amazon. She currently teaches ESL at DePaul University.

**\*Jody Burke-Kaiser** is a poet and Certified Nurse-Midwife living in Lincoln Park. Her work has previously appeared in *The Louisville Review, Medicinal Purposes, and Exact Change Only*. Originally from Kentucky, she moved to Chicago four years ago and has fallen in love with the city.

**Andrew Byrne's** short story, "Dolores Decides to Die" (*After Hours #3*), was adapted into a play and performed at the 2003 Circle Theatre New Plays Festival. He is a retired psychologist and continues to write poetry and short fiction, and is the circulation manager of *After Hours*. His chapbook *First Words* is forthcoming in early 2013. He was the featured writer in *After Hours #15*.

**\*Charles Byrne** is a poet living in San Francisco. He was born in Chicago, raised mostly in the suburbs, and lived in the city as an adult. He has recent or forthcoming work in *Clarion, Emrys, and Poetry Quarterly*.

**Jim Davis, Jr.** is a graduate of Knox College and now lives, writes, and paints in Chicago. Jim edits the *North Chicago Review*, his work has appeared in *Seneca Review, Blue Mesa Review, Poetry Quarterly, After Hours, Whitefish Review* and *Contemporary American Voices*, among others.

**Helen Degan Cohen** has won numerous awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, First Prize in British *Stand Magazine's* international fiction competition, three Illinois Arts Council awards, an IAC Fellowship, and an Indiana Writers Conference Award. She co-founded and co-edits *RHINO* and coordinates its adjunct, The Poetry Forum. Her newest chapbook is *Neruda Nights*.

Photographers **\*Barbara Ciurej** and **Lindsay Lochman** collaborate on projects that address the confluence of history, myth and popular culture. Their photographs are in public and private collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, Walker Art Center, Museum of Contemporary Photography and Milwaukee Art Museum and most recently exhibited at Schneider Gallery in Chicago and Portrait Society in Milwaukee.

**Esteban Colon** is an experiential educator who was born in Chicago and raised in the south suburbs. He performs poetry at several venues in the city and is a member of the Waiting 4 the Bus Poetry Collective. He serves as the Editor in Chief of *Exact Change Only*. His poetry has appeared in *The American Open Mic, Volume 2, Love's Chance, and The Mainstreet Rag*. His series of poems, "Edgar Avenue" was published in a chapbook by Naked Mannekin press.

**Albert DeGenova's** most recent collections of poetry are the chapbook *Postcards to Jack* (Naked Mannekin, 2010) and the full-length book, *The Blueing Hours* (Virtual Artists Collective, 2008). His poetry has appeared in *Lips, The Paterson Literary Review, Oyez Review, Café Review, Haibun Today, Modern Haibun and Tanka Prose* and other literary journals and anthologies. He is a blues saxophonist and former contributing editor to *Down Beat* magazine. He earned his MFA from Spalding University, and is the publisher and co-editor of *After Hours*.

**Richard Donnelly** has published poems in *After Hours* and *Chronogram*. His first book, *The Melancholy MBA* ([www.themelancholymba.com](http://www.themelancholymba.com)), was published by Brick Road Poetry Press of Columbus, Georgia.

\***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 *HerMark* by WomanMade Gallery. Most recently, her poem "Fortune Cookie" was selected by Poetic License Press for their newest collection of poems titled *A Midnight Snack*.

**Beatriz Badikian-Gartler** was born in Buenos Aires and is a long time Chicago resident. She's taught at Roosevelt University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the Newberry Library and Northwestern University. She was named one of "100 Women Who Make a Difference" by *Today's Chicago Woman* magazine.

**Ann Gearen** is a poet and psychotherapist with a private practice in Oak Park where she lives with her husband. She has worked with battered women for over 25 years. She has had several residencies at Ragdale, and has published *Homecoming*, a book of poetry. Her poems have also appeared in several journals including *Mobius*, *River Oak Arts*, *Primavera* and *After Hours*.

**P. Hertel** is an educator, writer, photographer, painter, creator of handmade books and cards, and co-editor of *After Hours*. A solo exhibition of her photographs, "Good Eye," was featured at the Old Town Art Center in February 2013.

**Larry Janowski** is the son of a South Side Chicago used car dealer and used to live around the corner from Barack Obama's home. (No, really!) He is the author of *Brother Keeper* (The Puddin'head Press 2007), and a 2008 recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award. He is a contributor to the anthology *A Writers' Congress: Chicago Poets on Barack Obama's Inauguration* (DePaul Poetry Institute 2009). Larry is a Franciscan friar and teaches poetry at Loyola University.

**Marci Rae Johnson** teaches in the English Department at Valparaiso University and edits poetry for WordFarm press and The Cresset. Her poems appear in The Valparaiso Poetry Review, The Louisville Review, and 32 Poems, among others. Her first collection of poetry won the Powder Horn Prize and will be published by Sage Hill Press.

**Kristin LaTour** loves being part of *After Hours*. Her poems have recently been included in *Blast Furnace*, *Fifth Wednesday*, *Medulla*, and *Labletter*. Her third chapbook is forthcoming in the spring/summer of 2013 with Dancing Girl Press titled *Agoraphobia*. S

**Patricia McMillen** is an Illinois writer, musician, and community activist. Her poems, essays and creative nonfiction have appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies. "Square One" is an ekphrastic poem, based on a black-and-white fine art photograph "Mission Church."

**Prairie L. Markussen** lives and writes in Chicago currently, though she's lived and written all over the place. She teaches English composition and interpersonal communication. Her work has been included in the *Atticus Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Louisiana Literature*, and in an anthology of short poems *Bigger Than They Appear*.

\***Joe Mills** teaches at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. His most recent collection of poetry from Press 53 is *Sending Christmas Cards to Huck and Hamlet*.

**Siegfried Mortkowitz** was born in Germany, raised in New York City, and is living in Prague with his wife and rugby-playing 7-year-old son. His poetry has appeared in the online magazine *Body* and *After Hours*. His first chapbook, *Eating Brains*, was published in 2012 by After Hours Press.

\***Devin Murphy's** recent work appears or is forthcoming in *Glimmer Train*, *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Missouri Review*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Shouteast Review*, as well as other journals and anthologies. He is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Bradley University.

\***John S. O'Connor** is most recently the author of a book on teaching creative nonfiction called *This Time It's Personal*. The first chapter of that book was named a Notable Essay in Best American Essays, 2011. His book of haiku, *Things Being What They Are*, was a finalist for the Touchstone Distinguished Book Award in 2012. His poems have appeared (or are forthcoming) in places such as *The Cortland Review*, *Poetry East*, *RHINO*, and *The River Oak Review*.

## Contributors

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\***Darlene M. Pagán**, born and raised in Chicago, teaches at Pacific University in Oregon where she now lives. Her chapbook, *Blue Ghosts*, was published by Finishing Line Press. Pagán's work has appeared in *Calyx*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Hiram Poetry Review*, and *Hawaii Pacific Review*. Her essays have appeared in *Memoir(and)*, *Brevity*, and *Literal Latté*.

**James Paradiso** is a recovering academic in the process of reinventing himself as a photographer and memoirist.

\***Valerie Schmitt Prater** is an educator who develops new health information management courses and teaches at the university level. She lives in Chicago. Her artistic endeavors have included oil and acrylic painting and, most recently, photography.

**Donna Pucciani**, a Chicago-based poet, has published poetry in the U.S., Europe, Australia and Asia in such diverse journals as *International Poetry Review*, *The Pedestal*, *Shi Chao Poetry*, *Spoon River Poetry*, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and *Christianity and Literature*. Her work has been translated into Italian, Chinese and Japanese. Her books include *The Other Side of Thunder*, *Jumping Off the Train*, *Chasing the Saints*, and *To Sip Darjeeling at Dawn*. A four-time Pushcart nominee, she has won awards from the Illinois Arts Council, The National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and Poetry on the Lake.

**Jenene Ravesloot** is a poet and an artist. She received her B.A. from Columbia College, has studied drawing, painting, and textile design at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and interior design at the Harrington College of Design. She has shown her work in many venues in Chicago. Her poetry has been widely published in literary magazines. In 2008 she published her first book of poetry, *Loot: Stolen Memories & Tales Out of School*.

**Tom Roby** is President and critique leader of the Poets' Club of Chicago, and chaired their annual sonnet contest. He has two books, *Griever's Circuit* (Fractal Edge Press, 2004) and *Shape Shifter* (Puddin'head Press, 2008). His poems were performed as poetry theater at the Loop Theater in 2004. With his son, Lem, he performs in Omniphonic, a poetry sound duo.

**Charles Rossiter** is the featured writer in this issue of *After Hours*.

**Steven Schroeder** is a Texas native who has spent most of the last forty years in Chicago. He currently teaches at the University of Chicago in Asian Classics and the Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults. His most recent poetry collections are *Turn* and (with Debby Sou Vai Keng) *A Guest Giving Way Like Ice Melting: Thirteen Ways of Looking at Laozi*. *Four Truths*, a collection of three short stories and a drama in verse (with paintings by Debby Sou Vai Keng) was published by Wipf and Stock in 2011. A new poetry collaboration with David Breedon, *Raging for the Exit*, was published in early autumn 2012.

**Glenn Sheldon's** poetry has appeared in numerous literary journals, including: *Black River Review*, *Field*, *Georgetown Review*, *Poetry del Sol* and *Whiskey Island Magazine*. Most recently, his book *Angel of Anarchy*, was published by ahaDaDa books, one of the premiere publishers of surrealist poetry. Currently, he lives in Toledo, Ohio, where he is the Honors Professor of Humanities at The University of Toledo.

\***Jean Sotos** is a lifelong suburban Chicago resident, and recently realized the dream of also purchasing a condo in the loop.

Originally from Peru, **Santiago Weksler** has been a Chicago-based writer and artist for over 10 years. His poetry appears in the recently published anthology, *En la 18 a la - escritores de Contratiempo en Chicago*. He has had solo exhibitions of his photographs at the Old Town Triangle gallery, Calles y Sueños cultural center and University of Illinois. He was the featured artist in *After Hours* #22.

\***Bill Yarrow**, Professor of English at Joliet Junior College and poetry editor at *THIS Literary Magazine*, is the author of *Pointed Sentences* (BlazeVOX, 2012). His poems have appeared in many print and online magazines including *PANK*, *Poetry International*, *DIAGRAM*, *BLIP* and *Exact Change Only*.

\***Changming Yuan**, 4-time Pushcart nominee and author of *Allen Qing Yuan*, holds a PhD in English, teaches independently and edits *Poetry Pacific* in Vancouver. Yuan's poetry appears in 629 literary publications across 24 countries, including *Asia Literary Review*, *Barrow Street*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, *BestNewPoemsOnline*, *LiNQ*, *London Magazine*, *Poetry Kanto*, *Paris/Atlantic*, *Poetry Salzburg*, *SAND* and *Taj Mahal Review*.