

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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Issue No. 25

Summer 2012

Publisher

Albert DeGenova

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Cover photo "Old Town, Chicago" by P. Hertel

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Subscriptions

\$14 annually, 2 issues

\$6.00 for back issues

\$8.00 for current issue

Refer inquiries to  
subscriptions@afterhourspress.com

Submissions

Electronic submissions encouraged  
submissions@afterhourspress.com

Send email or SASE for guidelines.

Deadlines: March 15/Summer Issue  
September 15/Winter Issue

After Hours Press  
538 N. Kenilworth  
Oak Park, IL 60302

Email correspondence encouraged  
editor@afterhourspress.com

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

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## Contributors

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**Henry Berry** began his visual art career as a wedding photographer in the 1980s. In the 20+ years since he left that profession, he has been a fine art photographer exploring his artistic vision through the medium of black and white photography. He has exhibited in numerous shows including the Oak Park Art League 2012; Oak Park Arms Group Show 2011; Harold Washington Art Show 2011; and was a finalist in *Photographers Form Magazine, Summer 2011*.

**Mary Blinn** is a Chicago-area poet whose work appears regularly in *After Hours*. She 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. Most recently, Mary co-authored the book *Putting Creativity to Work*, with her husband, Bob. She earned her MA in Interdisciplinary Art from Columbia College, Chicago.

**Andy Byrne** is a regular contributor to *After Hours*. His short story, "Dolores Decides to Die" was adapted into a play and performed at the 2003 Circle Theatre New Plays Festival. He recently retired after many years as a psychotherapist. He continues to write short fiction, enjoys being a new grandfather, and is the circulation manager of *After Hours*.

**Dan Campion's** poems have appeared in the first issue of *After Hours* and in other magazines, including *ACM, Light, North American Review, Poetry, Quiddity, Rolling Stone*, and *Shenandoah*. A native Chicagoan who lives and works as an editor in Iowa City, he is the author of *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* (Bucknell University Press, 1995) and co-editor of *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song* (Holy Cow! Press, 1998).

\*What started out as a hobby for **Tom Carlson** about 2 years ago has transformed into something more challenging. All of his photography is created without the use of any software to alter or enhance. In early 2011 he built his own website and with the inspiration of one picture named it [skyonfire.weebly.com](http://skyonfire.weebly.com). In 2011 his photo "Vortex" was used by writer Brooks Kohler for the cover of his short story collection, *The Up Down Scholars*.

**Nina Corwin** is the featured writer for *After Hours* #25.

**Albert DeGenova** is a poet, editor/publisher, teacher, blues saxophonist, and former contributing editor to *Down Beat* magazine. 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. In June of 2000 he launched *After Hours* as publisher and co-editor (with P. Hertel). He is the author of *The Blueing Hours* (Virtual Artists Collective); and *Back Beat* (2nd Ed, Fractal Edge Press). His chapbook *Postcards to Jack* was released in 2010 by Naked Mannekin Press. He earned his MFA from Spalding University, Louisville.

**Max DeGenova** is a writer, photographer and musician who is about to begin studies at Columbia College in Chicago. His work was selected to compete in the 2012 Congressman Danny Davis Art Competition.

**Maureen Tolman Flannery's** most recent volume of poems is *Tunnel into Morning*. Her other books include *Destiny Whispers to the Beloved, Ancestors in the Landscape*, and *A Fine Line*. Maureen is a Chicago resident still emboldened by her infatuation with the city's trees. Her poems have appeared in fifty anthologies and over a hundred literary reviews, including *Birmingham Poetry Review, Xavier Review, Calyx, Pedestal, Atlanta Review, Out of Line, North American Review, Poetry East*, and *Santa Fe Literary Review*.

**Paul Freidinger** is a poet residing in south suburban Chicago. He has poems recently published or forthcoming in *Atlanta Review, Basalt, Bayou Magazine, Big Muddy, Cold Mountain Review, Confrontation, Eclipse Existere, Florida Review, Grist, New York Quarterly, Santa Fe Literary Review, South Carolina Review*, and *South Dakota Review*.

**P. Hertel** is an artist, photographer, writer, teacher, creator of handmade books and co-editor of *After Hours*.

**Larry Janowski** is a Chicago native and poet. His most recent book is *BrotherKeeper* (Puddin'head Press 2007). He is a 2008 recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award and the winner of the 2010 Best Original Poem award by the Catholic Press Association. Larry is a Franciscan friar and teaches poetry at Loyola University, and is mightily proud to be published in *After Hours*.

\***Gabriel Kalmuss-Katz** is very torn up about leaving the great city of Chicago to begin the MFA program at UC-San Diego. His work has appeared in *Juncture* and *80 Minutes for Life*, and is forthcoming in *Curbside Splendor* and the *Poydras Review*. With fellow poet Naomi Schub, he runs Na Zdravi Na Shledanou press. They have published two co-authored collections, the more recent of which is *I Fall Asleep Watching Triumph of the Will*.

\***J.R. Kangus** was born in Chicago, where his father worked as a welder during World War II. He is a semi-retired academic librarian who plays the viola in a regional orchestra. His pieces have appeared in many magazines including *Atlanta Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Madison Review*, *The New York Quarterly*, and *West Branch*.

\***Shay Lessman** is an MFA Poetry student at Columbia College Chicago. His work has appeared in *Columbia Poetry Review*, *The Legendary* and *Definitely Magazine*. He has taken workshops taught by Erica Bernheim, David Trinidad, and Arielle Greenberg.

**Patricia McMillen** is a musician, writer and activist. Her poetry and creative nonfiction have appeared in many literary journals and anthologies, and she has authored one chapbook, *Knife Lake Anthology* (Puddinghouse Press 2006), on the theme of capital punishment. Patricia holds a BA (Human Studies) from Brown University, a JD from University of Chicago Law School, and an MA in English from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

\***John Middlebrook** lives in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, where he manages a consulting firm focused on non-profit organizations. He has been writing poetry since he was a graduate student at the University of Chicago, where he also served on the poetry staff of *Chicago Review*. His work has appeared in *Writers' Bloc*, *Foundling Review*, and *Poetry*.

**Pamela Miller's** newest collection of poetry, *Miss Unthinkable*, is forthcoming from Mayapple Press in spring 2013. Her previous books include *Recipe for Disaster* (Mayapple Press), *Mysterious Coleslaw* (Ridgeway Press) and *Fast Little Shoes* (Erie Street Press). Her work has been widely published in print and online literary magazines and anthologies since the 1970s, most recently in *blossombones*, *Exact Change Only*, *Poetry Super Highway* and the anthology *Solace in So Many Words*. She makes her living as a freelance writer and editor on Chicago's North Side.

\***Katia Mitova** was born in Sofia, Bulgaria and lived there and in Poland until 1993 when she moved to Chicago. After the fall of communism in 1989, she was the Editor of the Bulgarian quarterly for foreign literature, *Panorama*, and a correspondent for the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe. She has translated ten books from Polish and English into Bulgarian, including poetry by Czeslaw Milosz and Mark Strand. She has published short stories, literary criticism, and a poetry collection, *The Human Shell*, in Bulgarian. Since 1999 Katia Mitova has been writing in English. Some of her poems were published in *The Chicago Literary Review*, *Disclosure*, *Di-verse-city*, *The New Mexico Poetry Review*, and *The Penwood Review*, as well as in *The Secret of Flight: Eight Poets* (Chicago: Vacteam, 2005).

\* First appearance in *After Hours*

## Contributors

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**Siegfried Mortkowitz** was born in Germany, lived in New York and Paris, and currently makes his home in Prague, Czech Republic. He is a frequent contributor to *After Hours* and is the author of the recently published chapbook, *Eating Brains and Other Poems*. He loves red wine, the music of Thelonious Monk, and being a father.

\***Susan T. Moss** is a Chicago native who now lives in Evanston and teaches high school English. Her poetry has appeared in *Vermont Literary Review*, *Out of Line*, *DuPage Vallery Review*, *A Light Breakfast*, *Cram 7*, *Seeding The Snow*, *Siftings From The Clearing*, *Northbrook Star*, and *Peninsula Pulse*, among others. In the fall of 2011, Susan had a writer's residency at the Vermont Studio Center. Her chapbook *Keep Moving 'til The Music Stops* was published by Lilly Pool/Swamp Press. She was president of Illinois State Poetry Society from 2009-2011, and is a member of the Poets Club of Chicago and Poets and Patrons.

**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*.

**Charles Rossiter**, NEA Fellowship recipient and four-time Pushcart Nominee hosts the audio website poetrypoetry.com. He is the author of four books of poetry and recently edited an anthology of American poets who write in the spirit of the ancient Chinese entitled *In The Spirit of T'ao Ch'ien* (FootHills Publishing 2012). His work has been featured on NPR and at the Chicago Blues Festival.

\***Sharron Singleton** was born in Chicago from a long line of Irish immigrants (her father's great-grandmother was a Mary O'Leary so she's always wondered if she had a cow...) Before turning to poetry she was a social worker. Her poems have appeared in *Agni*, *Rattle*, *The Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Sow's Ear* and *Atlanta Review*, among others. She was nominated for a Pushcart Prize, named Poet of 2010 by the journal *Passager* and in 2011 was one of the winners of the Poetry Society of Virginia and the Washington DC Metrorail contest. Her chapbook, *A Thin Thread of Water* was published in 2010 by Finishing Line Press. She currently teaches poetry in a small Virginia town and conducts an online workshop with a group in the UK.

\***Neil Stratman** is a 24 year old performer with a degree in Music Theatre who just moved back to Chicago from NYC. He is previously unpublished; "Conversationalist" is his first submitted work.

\*A transplant from Michigan, **Natalie Tomlin** has lived in Chicago since 2010. Her poems, essays, sound art and short stories have been published in magazines and newspapers, including *Blue Root*, *Patterns*, *Cellar Roots*, and *Seven Corners*. She teaches writing at DePaul University and Oakton Community College.

Originally from Peru, **Santiago Weksler** has been a Chicago-based writer and artist for over 10 years. His poetry appears in the 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 Suenos cultural center, University of Illinois, and Efebinas Cafe. He was the featured artist in *After Hours #22*.