

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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## Contributors

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**Andrew Byrne's** work has appeared in the *Chicago Reader*, *Oyez Review*, *Poetry Quarterly* and *North Chicago Magazine*. He is also the author of a book of poems, *First Words*.

**Dan Champion** is a Chicago native who has lived in Iowa City since 1978. He is co-editor of *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song*, the third edition of which was published in honor of Whitman's 200th birthday. Dan's poetry has appeared in *After Hours*, *Able Muse*, *Ars Medica*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Ekphrasis*, *Innisfree*, *Light*, *Measure*, *Medical Literary Messenger*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *The North American Review*, *Parody*, *Poet Lore*, *Poetry*, *Rolling Stone*, *Shenandoah*, *Think*, and many other journals.

**Joan Colby's** *Selected Poems* received the 2013 FutureCycle Prize and *Ribcage* was awarded the 2015 Kithara Book Prize. Her recent books include *Her Heartsongs* from Presa Press, *Joyriding to Nightfall* from FutureCycle Press, *Elements* from Presa Press and *Bony Old Folks* from Cyberwit Press. She has another book forthcoming from The Poetry Box Select series titled *The Kingdom of the Birds* which should be out next August.

\***Scott Cramer** is the author of two novels set in our city, and is Chicago to the core. Every zip code Scott has resided in has yielded a dozen stories, most of them cutting different angles from which Chicago can be seen.

**Albert DeGenova** is an award-winning poet, editor, teacher and blues saxophonist. His most recent collection is titled *Black Pearl*; his book *Postcards to Jack* was recently published as an expanded second edition. His work has appeared in numerous journals and anthologies including *RHINO*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, *Aesthetica*, *Lips*, *The Louisville Review*, *Door County Living* and others. He teaches an annual week-long writing class at the Clearing Folk School, Ellison Bay, WI, as well as workshops for WriteOn Door County. He is the publisher and co-editor of *After Hours*.

**Alan Gross** is an award winning poet and playwright. A Chicagoan born and bred, he currently lives in Old Town with his wife Norma Topa, 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 Bootsy Butterman.

**Susan Gundlach's** connection with Chicago is almost life-long, or at least adult-long, from university days until the present. She attended Northwestern University and covered many miles traveling to see friends at the University of Chicago and going into the city for athletic, cultural, and other events. She continues to be involved in various activist projects involving immigration, gun control, environmental issues, and the ever-nearer 2020 election.

**P. Hertel** is a photographer, painter, volunteer at a homeless shelter, former college professor, and co-editor of *After Hours*.

\***Lee Hodge** is a current Master of Fine Arts candidate at Virginia Commonwealth University. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in writing from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. Her work has appeared in *Funny Looking Dog Quarterly*, *Heartwood Literary Magazine*, and *Mouth*. She is a recipient of a 2019 Carol Weinstein Grant and a 2020 Laura Bassi Scholarship.

**Lenka Capounová Konopásková** has been taking pictures for many years for her own pleasure and that of her friends. Her first published photograph, “Ice” appeared in *After Hours* # 34. Lenka also writes poetry and her work has been published on Czech poetry websites, as well as on her own blog. She is a lawyer and lives in Prague, Czech Republic, with her husband and 15-year-old son Jan.

\***Ky Krauthamer** is a journalist and translator in Prague, Czechia (Czech Republic).

\***Sharon & David Mathews** are a mother and son duo from Chicago. David works as a Creative Writing Instructor at the Chicago High School for the Arts (ChiArts). Sharon 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 recent work together can be found in *Eclectica* magazine. They also recently reflected on their collaborative partnership for *Proximity Magazine's True*.

**Susan Messer** has had fiction and nonfiction published in *TriQuarterly*, *Glimmer Train Stories*, *North American Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *Fourth Genre*, *After Hours*, and *Another Chicago Magazine*. Awards include an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship in prose, an Illinois Arts Council literary award for creative nonfiction, and writing prizes from *Moment* magazine, Chicago Public Radio, and the Center for Yiddish Culture. Her first novel *Grand River and Joy* was chosen by the University of Michigan Honors College as the summer reading book for freshmen. She lives with her husband in Oak Park, Illinois, and works as an editor.

**Jean Passarelli** is a lifelong Chicagoan, living and working in the city that is a constant source of inspiration. She has proudly had previous poetry acceptances to *After Hours*, as well as several other online and print publications. Her recent rescue of a 6 lb. Yorkshire terrier has been life-affirming.

**Moira Pujols** presents and publishes literature and cultural journalism in Spanish through her work as executive director of *contratiempo nsp*, and co-founded the annual Poesía en Abril poetry festival. Moira is a conference and court interpreter. Her photography has been previously published in *After Hours* and *revista contratiempo*.

**Jenene Ravesloot** has written five books of poetry. She has published in *After Hours*, *The Ekphrastic Review*, *Sad Girl Review*, *DuPage Valley Review*, *Caravel Literary Arts Journal*, *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *Packingtown Review*, *The Miscreant*, and other online journals, print journals, chapbooks, and anthologies. She received two Pushcart Prize nominations in 2018.

\***Jane Richards** is a piano teacher with an intense interest in writing and nature. She has published both nonfiction and poetry works in *Snowy Egret*, *Rosebud*, *Avocet*, and *Bird Watchers Digest*. She grew up in the northern suburbs of Chicago and lived in the city for a few years after college. Since then, she has resided in the western and northwestern suburbs. She learned to write at Columbia College, Chicago, where she received a Master's degree in creative writing.

**Charles Rossiter**, an NEA Fellowship Recipient, hosts the twice-monthly podcast series at [www.PoetrySpokenHere.com](http://www.PoetrySpokenHere.com). Books include the just-released *Green Mountain Meditations* and *Winter Poems*, both from FootHills Publishing. After 20 years in the Chicago area, he now lives and writes in Bennington, Vermont.

\* First appearance in *After Hours*

## Contributors

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Jacob Saenz is the featured writer for After Hours #39.

\*Victor Ladis Schultz was born in the Chicago suburbs, has lived most of his life there, and will probably die there. His fiction is published or forthcoming in *Barrelhouse*, *The Other Stories*, *Third Coast*, and other fine venues.

Jan Stojaspal is a freelance writer and photographer covering Central and Eastern Europe.

\*Charles Talkoff is a writer/photographer who has lived in Chicagoland for 3 years. His poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Visions International*, *Collective Unrest*, *The Pangolin Review*, *The Scarlet Leaf Review*, *Dime Show Review* and *Dove Tales for Peace*. His short fiction has appeared in: *JMWW*, *Underground Voices*, *The Urbanite*, *3QR*, *Rumble Fish*, and *The Midway Journal*.

\*Mark Valenta is a creative director, writer and photographer based in San Francisco. His work has appeared in *The Prague Post*, *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and other publications, as well as on Post-it Notes, holiday cards, grocery lists, and the backs of parking tickets.

Christopher Watkins lives in Chicago's Rogers Park and is a graduate student in DePaul University's creative writing program. He works in the DePaul English Department's publishing division and is an assistant editor at *Poetry East*. His poetry has appeared in such journals as *Foundry*, *Bosque*, and *Inscape*; this is his second appearance in *After Hours*.

Santiago Weksler is a writer and photographer who was based in Chicago for many years. He has had exhibitions of his photographs at the Old Town Triangle Gallery, Calles y Suenos cultural center and the University of Illinois. His work has appeared many times in *After Hours* and he was the featured artist in AH #22. He recently moved back to Lima, Peru, where an exhibition of his photographs, "Santiago de Chuco, Tierra de Vallejo" was on view at El Centro Cultural Inca Garcilaso del Ministerior de Relaciones Exteriores.

\*Cynthia Zhang is an aspiring writer, academic-in-training, and professional dog petter. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California, she divides her time between Los Angeles, Chicago and St. Louis. Her work has previously appeared in *The Other Stories*, *daCunha Global*, *Lunch Ticket*, *Leading Edge*, *Coffin Bell*, and *Orca*.

