

# after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

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## Contributors

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**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.

\***Daniel Bliss** is a world-traveling poet originally from Anchorage, Alaska. Currently, he is based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan as part of the writing MFA program at the University of Saskatchewan. His poems often focus on relationships to the long list of places he's lived. His poems have been published or are forthcoming in *Beyond Words*, *Blood and Bourbon*, *Cerasus Magazine*, *Down in the Dirt*, and many others.

**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 the author of *A Playbill for Sunset* (poems) and the monograph *Peter De Vries and Surrealism* and a coeditor of the anthology *Walt Whitman: The Measure of His Song*. His poems have appeared in *After Hours* and other journals. A new book of poems, *The Mirror Test*, is forthcoming from MadHat Press. A native of Chicago, Dan has lived in Iowa City, Iowa since 1978.

**Albert DeGenova** is an award-winning poet, publisher, and teacher. He is the author of five books of poetry and two chapbooks. His latest book is *Human Nature* from Kelsay Books. DeGenova is the founder of After Hours Press and co-editor of *After Hours* magazine. DeGenova received his MFA from Spalding University in Louisville. DeGenova works as Executive Director of Write On, Door County. He splits his time now between the metro Chicago area and Sturgeon Bay, WI. He is also a blues saxophonist.

\***Richard Fox** has been a regular contributor of poetry and visual art to online and print literary journals. *Swagger & Remorse*, his first book of poetry, was published in 2007. He holds a BFA in Photography from Temple University, Philadelphia. A thirty-year Chicago resident, he now lives in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is currently working on several collections of soundscapes, which are being made available online at Bandcamp: <https://richardfox.bandcamp.com/>

**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.

\***Billy Gee** is a fiction writer from Chicago who loves to ride his bike all year round and dreams of one day writing the perfect sentence, a sentence so good he can die happy. His stories have appeared in *Mung Being* magazine, *Intellectual Refuge*, and *Gravel Magazine*. He is a member of the Chicago Literary Writers, and an Assistant Editor at *Narrative* magazine.

\***Benjamin Goluboff** is the author of *Ho Chi Minh: A Speculative Life in Verse* and *Biking Englewood: An Essay on the White Gaze*, both from Urban Farmhouse Press. Goluboff teaches at Lake Forest College.

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

\***Dr. Tamara MC** is a cult, child marriage, and human trafficking Lived Experience Expert who advocates for girls and women to live free from gender-based violence and coercive control worldwide. Her Ph.D. is in Applied Linguistics, and she researches how language manipulates vulnerable populations. Tamara attended Columbia University for an M.F.A. and has been honored with residencies/fellowships at Bread Loaf, Iowa Writers' Workshop, Sewanee, Ragdale, Cave Canem, VONA, and VCCA. She's published in 60+ prestigious outlets including *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Salon*, and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. She is revising her debut memoir, *Child Bride: My Marriage at 12 in a Sufi Cult*.

**Siegfried Mortkowitz** lives in Prague with a talkative ginger 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 is currently developing a blog about the role poetry has played in his life and vice versa, tentatively named "Small Talk." Alternative suggestions are welcome.

\***Yolanda Nieves** is the featured writer for *After Hours* #47. See page 30.

**Marilee Pritchard** is a retired RN who lives in the Chicago suburbs with her partner, Tom, and Max, a spirited Russell terrier. She likes to create poetry that tells a story, uses accessible language, and employs beautiful imagery. She is a member of the Second Saturday Poets in Palatine, IL. Most recently her work has appeared in *Hole in the Head Review* and *Last Stanza Poetry Journal* with forthcoming poetry in *Book of Matches*.

**Maira Pujols** publishes literature and cultural journalism in Spanish. She is a regular photo contributor to *After Hours*, *Contratiempo*, and *Plenamar* magazines.

**Jane Richards'** poetry has appeared in numerous online and print journals, including *Gyroscope Review*, *The Glacial Hills Review*, and *After Hours*. Her work is included in *The Best of Choeofpleirn Press* and was 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 is a life-long resident of suburban and metro Chicago.

## Contributors

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\***Marius Stan** is a scientist and author. Until 2021, he was a Senior Scientist and leader of the artificial intelligence for material design program at Argonne National Laboratory. In addition to scientific literature, he has published in literary magazines and authored the books *Câteva zile* (*A Few Days*, short stories, 2013) and *Un foc viu* (*A Living Fire*, poems, 2015), both in Romanian. In 2018, he became a member of the Society of Midland Authors. After retiring from Argonne, he devoted himself to writing. Current projects include a book on human and artificial intelligence, a novel, and a collection of short stories, all in English. He and his wife Liliana live in downtown Chicago.

**George L Stein** is a writer and photographer in the New Jersey/New York metropolitan area with an interest in monochrome, film and digital photography, urban and rural decay, architectural, street, and more generally, art photography and digital manipulation. His work has been published in *Midwest Gothic*, *NUNUM*, *Montana Mouthful*, *Out/Cast*, *The Fredericksburg Literary and Art Review*, *DarkSide Magazine*, and previously in *After Hours*.

**Jan Stojaspal** is a freelance journalist and photographer based in Prague, Czech Republic. His photographic work is a visual exploration of people and places in and around Europe, with a focus on Mediterranean areas and countries of the former eastern bloc.

\***Michael Van Calbergh** currently lives in Normal, IL. His work has appeared in *SRPR*, *Apex Magazine*, *Cobra Milk*, *Cherry Tree*, and many other spaces. His work will also be appearing in the Broken Sleep Books anthology, *Masculinity*.

\***John Vlahakis** was born in Chicago of Greek immigrant parents. He studied political science, communications, and received a BS and an MBA from Northwestern University. John spent the next several decades leveraging his business know-how, passion for preserving the planet, and creative eye, as a pioneer of the green movement. He created an environmental home cleaning product line and built it into a multimillion-dollar consumer brand. Throughout his business career, John periodically took time off to travel and pursue his other passion – photography. When the green movement went global, he decided it was time to leave the consumer industry and fulfill his longtime dream of becoming a full-time photographer. In 2010 he became a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and since then his photography has found placement in museums, private collections, and in the public art installation of Terminal A at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey, USA. In 2020 he began working on several long-term projects including, “Enduring City” and one on “The Jersey Shore.” When he is not traveling, John and his camera can be found at the Jersey Shore, Athens or Chicago.

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.

