

after hours™

a journal of Chicago writing and art

Issue No. 32-33

Summer 2016

Publisher

Albert DeGenova

Editors

Albert DeGenova

P. Hertel

Circulation Manager

Andrew Byrne

© 2016 After Hours Press
All rights revert to the individual artists.

Cover photo *untitled* by Santiago Weksler

Thank You to our generous Patrons, Supporters and Friends
without whom this issue of *After Hours* would not be possible:

Patrons

Jack Goldberg
Ann Chipman
Greg Kuepfer
Dan Campion
Hagen and Cherie Dost
Donna Dydo
Paul Freidinger
Samuel Harnish
Jenene Ravesloot
Tamara Tabel
Judith Valente

Supporters

Don Barshis
Andrew Byrne
Jim Davis
Lori Rader Day
R. Jerome Gibbons
Karin Gordon
Thomas Gossett
Ellen T. McKnight
Patricia McMillen
Arlyn Miller
Katia Mitova

Supporters

Joan Mulvanny
Charlie Newman
Tom Roby
Jared Smith
George Stein
Martha Modena Vertreace-Doody
Virtual Artists Collective
Donna Vorreyer

Anonymous donors, you know
who you are. Thank you all.

Subscriptions

\$20 annually, 2 issues
\$6.00 for back issues
\$15.00 for current double issue

Submissions

Electronic submissions encouraged:
submissions@afterhourspress.com

Deadlines: March 15/Summer Issue
September 15/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

Table of Contents

Santiago Weksler	
<i>untitled</i>	6
Jerome M. Pendergast	
Born in Chicago 1955	7
Anita Olivia Koester	
<i>Self-Portrait As A Bride</i>	10
Siegfried Mortkowitz	
For Anna	11
Charles Rossiter	
Visiting The Old Neighborhood	13
On The High Road to Taos	14
Donna Pucciani	
Vigil	15
Kathleen Kirk	
In The Gazebo Behind The Cancer Center	16
Albert DeGenova	
Black Pearl	17
Mark Baker	
<i>Stromovka Snow</i>	18
Paul Freidinger	
How Young I Was When I Dreamed I Was Old	19
Ky Krauthamer	
My Favorite	21
Marydale Stewart	
High Plains Revenant	24
Henrik Schenk	
<i>Forest at Night</i>	26
Ralph Murre	
Above The River	27
Santiago Weksler	
<i>untitled</i>	28
Melissa Rodriguez	
My Bathroom, A Still-Life	29
Grace Phan Jones	
It Happens in The Now	30
Nina Rail	
<i>untitled</i>	32
Nikki Bartoloni	
2B	33
Jan Stojaspal	
<i>untitled</i>	34
Susan Gundlach	
brown	35
Pamela Miller	
Seeing Sweden The Hard Way	36
How To Do The Greased Wombat Slide	37
Henrik Schenk	
<i>untitled</i>	38
Jennifer Dotson	
Beer, an Etheree	39
Suzanne Cosgrove	
<i>Donut Truck</i>	40
Bill Yarrow	
Cranshaw Engages in Debate	41
Andrew Byrne	
Film Noir	42
Sharon Auberle	
Poem for Two Lovers	43
Jan Stojaspal	
<i>Kiss</i>	44
Siegfried Mortkowitz	
Hotel Story (at the Le Marquis)	45
Hotel Story (The Greenwich)	46
Jilong Du	
<i>untitled</i>	48

Table of Contents

Dave Awl	
The Distance of The Sun	.49
Andrew Byrne	
Rosie	.50
P. Hertel	
<i>Strandbeest and Bandshell</i>	.52
Marion Kaczmar	
Where I Live	.53
Kathleen Kirk	
In My Hands	.54
Dave Awl	
Letter 1:04 am	.63
Joseph Giordano	
<i>untitled</i>	.56
Paul Smith	
Heat	.57
Emmie Graham	
<i>Snow</i>	.58
Jenene Ravesloot	
Grief Ghazal Variation	.59
Dan Campion	
Capture	.60
M.C. St. John	
Artichokes	.61
Jan Stojaspal	
<i>Bedroom</i>	.62
Livia Harkow	
Figure Father	.63
Joe Mills	
Exeunt omnes, as fast as may be, frightened	.64
Albert DeGenova	
This is the hour	.65
Santiago Weksler	
<i>untitled</i>	.66
Joan Colby	
The Life List of Birds	.67
Elaine Cannell	
night cage	.68
Larry Janowski	
Danseur	.69
Viola Lee	
Parkinson's and The Body	.70
Stewart K. Moore	
<i>At the wheelwright's</i>	.72
Ann Gearen	
To Wu Dong, from Her Mother in America	.73
James Paradiso	
<i>Toe the line</i>	.74
Terry Savoie	
Envy	.75
Susan Bass Marcus	
Pieces of Stars	.76
Rachel Slotnick	
Dear Fisherman	.80
Donna Pucciani	
Always	.81
Santiago Weksler	
<i>untitled</i>	.82
Sandra Fenton	
A Long Winter's Night	.83
<i>In Memory of Mary Blinn</i>	.85
Contributors	.86

Contributors

***Sharon Auberle** is the author of three poetry collections, two of which also contain her photographs. A Pushcart Prize Nominee, her poetry has appeared in numerous publications and anthologies. Auberle has authored a blog--"Mimi's Golightly Cafe" for ten years, which contains a potpourri of her images and words.

Dave Awl has been writing and performing in Chicago since 1988. He is the author of the book *What the Sea Means: Poems, Stories & Monologues, 1987-2002*. His work has also been published by *Blithe House Quarterly*, *Milk Magazine*, and *Escape Into Life*. He spent the 90s performing in the long-running fringe theater hit "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" with The Neo-Futurists theater company; a number of his short plays have been published in the collections *200 More Neo-Futurist Plays* and *NEO SOLO*.

Mark Baker is independent travel writer and photographer, based in Prague, Czech Republic. He writes for newspapers, magazines and guidebook publishers. His photographs have appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Lonely Planet*, and others.

***Nikki Bartoloni** is a writer living in Chicago and a graduate of DePaul University's MA in Writing and Publishing program. She primarily writes nonfiction and poetry, and enjoys reading her work at live storytelling events throughout the city, including Miss Spoken and Story Club Chicago. "2B" is her first published poem.

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

Dan Campion is a Chicago native who has lived in Iowa City since 1978. His poem "Capture" belongs to a series he has been writing for his late wife, JoAnn Castagna. Other poems in the series appeared in the previous issue of *After Hours* and have been published or are forthcoming in *Able Muse*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Ekphrasis*, *Light*, *Measure*, *Medical Literary Messenger*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, and the Iowa City Poetry in Public program.

Elaine Cannell spent her childhood living in a very small town an hour west of Chicago, but (to the sometimes-concern of her parents) her formative years were spent exploring the city's art, music, and cultural scene, a scene which later became highly influential to her writing. She is a poet and graduate student in literature at Purdue University. She teaches freshman composition and reads a lot.

Joan Colby has published widely in journals such as *Poetry*, *Atlanta Review*, *South Dakota Review*, etc. Awards include two Illinois Arts Council Literary Awards, an Illinois Arts Council Fellowship in Literature. She has published 16 books including *Selected Poems* from FutureCycle Press which received the 2013 FutureCycle Prize and *Ribcage* from Glass Lyre Press which has been awarded the 2015 Kithara Book Prize. One of her poems is among the winners of the 2016 *Atlantic Review* International Poetry Contest. Colby is also a senior editor of FutureCycle Press and an associate editor of *Kentucky Review*.

Suzanne Cosgrove is a writer and editor who lives in Evanston with her family and sweet dog, Dottie.

Albert DeGenova is an award-winning poet, musician, teacher and publisher/co-editor of *After Hours*. His poetry collections include *Back Beat*, *The Blueing Hours*, *Postcards to Jack*, and most recently *A Good Hammer*. His poetry has appeared in *RHINO*, *The Louisville Review*, *The Paterson*

Literary Review, *Oyez Review*, *Café Review*, *Haibun Today*, and other journals and anthologies. He earned his MFA from Spalding University, and leads the annual Norbert Blei Writing Workshop in Door County, Wisc.

Jennifer Dotson is the founder and program coordinator for HighlandParkPoetry.org. Her collection, *Clever Gretel*, received the *Journal of Modern Poetry* First Book Award and was published by Chicago Poetry Press in 2013.

***Jilong Du** was born and raised in Beijing, China. He first came to Chicago in late summer of 2010 as a graduate student at DePaul University and has lived and worked in Chicago ever since. He explores the similarities and differences between these two great cities in almost everything, art, streets, buildings, food, and people, people who have always been the major inspiration of his works. Through his favorite camera that utilizes tiny 110 film, he sees the avant-garde, the old-soul, the extremely cold winter days, and the joyful stranger.

***Sandra Fenton** is a mother, cemetery keeper, doll maker, and occasional birthday party mermaid.

Paul Freidinger is a poet residing in south suburban Chicago. His poems have appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Basalt*, *Bayou Magazine*, *New York Quarterly* and *Cold Mountain Review*, among others.

Ann Gearen is a poet and a retired psychotherapist who worked with battered women for over twenty five years. She has published *Homecoming*, a book of poetry, and her poems have appeared in *Calyx*, *Hope Town Writers Read*, *Primavera*, *River Oak Arts*, *Mobius*, and a number of times in *After Hours*.

J. M. Giordano is a professional photojournalist based in Baltimore. He was a semi-finalist in the Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition for the The National Portrait Gallery Prize and currently has two portraits in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. He is the current photo editor for the *Baltimore City Paper* and a regular contributor to *After Hours*.

***Emmie Graham** grew up in Carbondale, Illinois, surrounded by trees and corn fields. Her senior year of high school, she took a photography class as an elective, and discovered an unknown love. She is drawn to nature, abandoned buildings, and the way light illuminates everything in unexpected and beautiful ways.

Susan Gundlach has published articles on topics ranging from family history and puppetry, to the Great Wall of China and the Nile River. Her poems have appeared in such journals as *Dark Matter*, *The Middle Gray*, *Lingerpost*, **82 Review*, and in the walkway of the Evanston Public Library -- etched in stone, or cement, actually. Her work can also be seen in *Crickets* magazine, which features some of her children's poems. Currently, she is working on collaborations with artist and musician colleagues.

***Livia Harkow** is a graduate of DePaul University, majoring in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies. She was a finalist in the 2014 Gwendolyn Brooks Open Mic Award. She has spent the last two years living and learning in New Orleans and recently graduated from Tulane University with a Master's Degree in Social Work. She is a native Rhode Islander but she still dreams of Lake Michigan.

P. Hertel is an artist, writer, vintage Art Deco aficionado and co-editor of *After Hours*.

Contributors

A Chicago native, **Larry Janowski**, the son of a Chicago used car dealer, is a Franciscan friar and priest who has been writing poetry since the 1990s. He is a 2008 recipient of an Illinois Arts Council Literary Award and was awarded Best Original Poem from the Catholic Press Association. His work appears in *After Hours*, *Rhino*, *Court Green*, *Fifth Wednesday*, and has been anthologized in *Skylines*, the Poets Club of Chicago 78th Anniversary Anthology (2014); *The Northwest Cultural Council Poet and Artist Chapbook* (2012); *City of the Big Shoulders: an Anthology of Chicago Poetry* (2012); *Brute Neighbors* (2011) and *A Writers' Congress* (2009) both published by DePaul University. Larry's last book, *BrotherKeeper*, was published by The Puddin'head Press (2007).

***Grace Phan Jones** is an Amerasian fiction writer, journalist, and visual artist. She is proficient in English, French, Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Spanish. Born and raised in Uptown, Chicago, she is seventeen years old and currently in pursuit of higher education and the development of her artistic and linguistic passions. Grace has worked regularly with Young Chicago Authors. She is the 2016 recipient of the John Vietnam Nguyen "Tell Your Story" Award.

Marion Karczmar has been a long time resident of Chicago. Her stories based on gentrification in uptown neighborhoods were published in the *Chicago Reader*. Her plays written for children were presented at Unitarian Church in Oak Park. She was the founder and Artistic Director of the Oak Park Festival Theater.

Kathleen Kirk is the author of six poetry chapbooks, mostly recently *ABCs of Women's Work* (Red Bird Chapbooks, 2015) and *Interior Sculpture* (Dancing Girl Press, 2014). Her work has appeared previously in *After Hours* and in many other print and online journals, including *Poetry East*, *Eclectica*, *Nimrod*, *Greensboro Review*, and *Waccamaw*.

Kim Kolarich is a Pushcart Prize nominee. Her fiction was long-listed for the Fish International Short Story Prize, and her work has appeared in the *Birdport Prize Anthology*, *FreeFall*, *Julien's Journal*, *3711 Atlantic*, *34th Parallel*, *Karamu*, and *Rollick*.

Anita Olivia Koester is a Chicago poet and photographer. She is the author of the chapbooks *Marco Polo* (Hermeneutic Chaos Press) and *Year of the Dogs* (Back to Print). Her poetry and photography is published in *Vinyl*, *Tahoma Literary Review*, *Hobart*, *Midwestern Gothic*, *Stirring*, and elsewhere. In 2015, *Shot Glass Journal* nominated her for a Pushcart Prize and she won the First Night Evanston Poetry Contest. She was also a finalist in Photographer's Forum Annual Spring Contest and is published in their book, *Best of Photography 2015*.

*Minnesota-born, California-reared, **Ky Krauthamer** is a journalist and translator based for the past 24 years in Prague, Czech Republic.

Viola Lee was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She received her MFA from NYU and currently teaches at Near North Montessori School. She lives in Chicago with husband, son and daughter and on most days can be found walking the 606.

*A native Chicagoan, **Susan Bass Marcus** found inspiration at her local branch library to become a storyteller, as well as a puppeteer. Those skills and a storehouse of tales enhanced her subsequent career in museum education. Along the way her passion for dragon myths and legends fueled her first novel set in a world of her own invention and is the first in a planned trilogy, *Malevir*.

Pamela Miller is a longtime contributor to *After Hours* and was proud to be the featured writer in *AH #29*. Her work has recently appeared, or is forthcoming, in *RHINO*, *Blue Fifth Review*, *Caravel*, *Circe's Lament: Anthology of Wild Women Poetry* and elsewhere. Her most recent book, *Miss Unthinkable*, is available from Mayapple Press.

Joe Mills is a faculty member at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts where he holds an endowed chair, the Susan Burrell Wall Distinguished Professorship in the Humanities. His books include five volumes of poetry with Press 53, most recently *This Miraculous Turning* and a second edition of *Angels, Thieves, and Winemakers*.

Stewart K. Moore is a dad who lives in Prague. He also draws and has just completed a graphic novel *The Tragedie of Macbeth*. See more at -- <http://wineink.blogspot.cz>

Siegfried Mortkowitz is a writer living in Prague with his wife, son and cat. He is the author of *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*. Though the world continues to disappoint him, he is always merry and bright.

Ralph Murre lives in Door County, Wisconsin, which he feels qualifies him as an honorary Chicagoan since on any summer weekend thereabouts, there are more Illinois licence plates in evidence than Wisconsin. He is the author of three slim volumes of poetry and, with Sharon Auberle, co-author of a fourth. Murre is the 2015-2017 Door County Poet Laureate and swears there really is such a thing, and he didn't just make that up.

James Paradiso is a recovering academic in the process of refreshing himself as a photographer and writer.

***Jerome M. Pendergast** is a lifelong Chicago area resident. He is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, and has worked for Northwestern University Medical School since 1991. His work has been recently published in *Children Churches and Daddies*, *Blue Collar Review* and *Solidarity Times*. He frequently reads at Quencher's, Gallery Cabaret, Let Them Eat Chocolate and Roots Room. He is active in Athletes United For Peace and Chicago-Cinquera Sister Cities.

Donna Pucciani has published poetry on four continents in such diverse journals as *Poetry Salzburg*, *Istanbul Literary Review*, *Shi Chao Poetry*, *The Christian Century*, *Acumen* and *Gradiva*. Her work has been translated into Italian, Chinese, Japanese and German. In addition to five Pushcart nominations, she has won awards from the Illinois Arts Council and The National Federation of State Poetry Societies, among others. Her sixth and most recent collection of poems is *A Light Dusting of Breath* (Purple Flag Press, Virtual Artists Collective, Chicago, 2014).

***Nina Rail** is a photographer and potter from Prague. Samples of her work can be found on www.etsy.com/Nina

Jenene Ravesloot is a member of The Poets' Club of Chicago, the Illinois State Poetry Society and Poets & Patrons. She has written three books of poetry. Jenene has published in the *Caravel Literary Arts Journal*, *After Hours*, *The Poetry Storehouse*, *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *Packingtown Review*, *The Miscreant*, *Exact Change Only*, *CC&D Magazine*, *THIS Literary Magazine* and other journals online and in print.

Contributors

***Melissa Rodriguez** is native to the Chicagoland area. She attended the University of Illinois at Chicago to study Criminal Justice and Psychology. She enjoys writing without rules and expressing what she can't say through pen and paper.

Charlie Rossiter is a frequent *After Hours* contributor who hosts the podcast series at www.poetryspokenhere.com His latest book, *Lakeside Poems* continues his explorations of classical Chinese poetry. His recent books are available at www.Foothillspublishing.com.

***Terry Savoie** is the author of more than three hundred poems which have been published in literary journals over the past three decades. These include *Poetry*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Ploughshares*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Great River Review*, *The Iowa Review* and *North American Review*, as well as recent or forthcoming issues of *Tiferet*, *Tar River Poetry*, *Poem*, *One*, *Quiddity*, *Spillway*, *Kentucky Review*, *Commonweal*, and *America* among others.

***Henrik Schenk** is a photographer and light aircraft pilot. He has had three exhibitions of his photographs in his hometown of Prague, Czech Republic. His work has also been published in *Czech Pilot* magazine, as well as in publications in Canada, Austria, Germany, France, and the USA. He sees himself as a “photographer of the moment” and has a camera handy most of the time to capture images that attract him at any given time.

***Rachel Slotnick** is a Chicago-based author and muralist. She received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work is on permanent display at the Joan Flasch Artist Book Collection at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is a muralist for the 35th, 39th, 46th and 47th wards, and her paintings were displayed last August in a solo exhibition at Beauty & Brawn Gallery & Think Space. Recently published in *Mad Hat*, *Thrice Fiction*, and *The Brooklyn Rail*, Rachel was the first place winner of *Rhino Poetry's* Founder's Prize, and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2015. Her most recently released book of poetry, entitled *In Lieu of Flowers*, is available through Tortoise Books. Rachel currently resides in Chicago where she works as Full-Time Faculty at Malcolm X College, and Adjunct Faculty at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

***Paul Smith** lives near Chicago, which he finds a source of inspiration for poetry and short fiction. He likes walking along the canal, Milwaukee Avenue, the Bloomingdale Trail, and public transportation.

M.C. St. John is a writer living in Chicago. His works have been published in *After Hours*, *Literary Orphans*, *Maudlin House*, *Chicago Literati*, *Quail Bell Magazine*, *Word Branch*, and *Unbroken Journal*. His short story collection *Other Music* was recently published.

Jan Stojaspal is a freelance journalist based in Prague, Czech Republic.

Marydale Stewart is a retired English teacher and librarian and has lived in Illinois, Kansas, and Colorado. She received her Ph.D. at Northern Illinois University and taught at NIU and a number of community colleges. Her chapbook *Inheritance* was published in 2008 by Puddin'head Press and her full-length poetry collection, *Let the Thunder In*, was published in December 2014 by Boxing Day Books.

Santiago Weksler, originally from Peru, has been a Chicago-based writer and photographer for many years. His poetry appeared in the anthology *En la 18 a la 1 - escritores de Contratiempo en Chicago*. He has had exhibitions of his photographs at the Old Town Triangle Gallery, Calles y Suenos cultural center and