



UNIVERSITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Gleeson Library |
Geschke Center

November 2014

"Going Out"

Donald Hall

Follow this and additional works at: <http://repository.usfca.edu/ontarioreview>



Part of the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hall, Donald (2014) "'Going Out,'" *Ontario Review*: Vol. 41, Article 12.

Available at: <http://repository.usfca.edu/ontarioreview/vol41/iss1/12>

For more information, please contact southern@usfca.edu.

Going Out

DONALD HALL

When my parents celebrated
or relaxed, it was always
by going out to dinner.
When my father died, my mother
kept eating out with friends,
with neighbors, and, in the years when she
substitute-taught, with other teachers.
Her friends have died. For ten
years arthritis has kept her
in a Barcalounger mostly,
watching birds and schoolchildren, squirrels
and dogs. Now at ninety,
she lives in the sunroom
not too far from toilet and kitchen;
she cooks in five-minute
episodes of standing up. One day
I heard her mention—
with the scorn we keep for other people's
frivolities, like Learjets
or gilded toenails—"Oh, I don't
care to *go out*." She sews aprons
and makes scrubbers from nylon
net. She rereads Agatha
Christie in Large Type editions.