

## Biblio File

Leone Castell Anderson's latest poem, "As Seen From My Back Deck," appeared in the Galena Center for the Arts "Celebrating Summer" flip book exhibition. Also, on June 28, Midland Authors member **Esther Hershenhorn** led the tributes at a Zoom celebration of Leone's retirement after 27 years as the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators network representative for the northwest area of Illinois. Esther called attention to Leone's historical children's novels set during the Blackhawk War, *Sean's War* and the sequel, *Sean's Quest*. ... **Joyce Burns Zeiss** won first place in the Chicago Writers Association's Summer Flash Fiction contest for her piece "Joni," a teacher's nostalgic reminiscence of a life-saving and life-changing occurrence in her sixth-grade classroom. ... **Steven Lubet**, a finalist for the Midland Authors



BILL ADA

**Brandon Taylor**

Biography Award in 2013, has a new book out, *The Trials of Rasmea Odeh: How a Palestinian Guerrilla Gained and Lost U.S. Citizenship* (George Mason University Press, Sept. 7, 2021). ... On Sept. 10,

**Brandon Taylor** did a Q&A with the Los Angeles Review of Books about his new book, *Filthy Animals* (See Literary License, July-August, 2021). ... **Erika Sanchez** was scheduled to hold a virtual book club on Sept. 23 at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, California. ... Longtime Midland Authors member



ROBYN LINDEMANN

**Erika Sanchez**

**Joan Kufrin** writes to say, "Well, I've finally made the big move. As of June 17, I moved to California to be with my son,

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## A new Midland Authors year amid a different challenge

BY GERARD PLECKI

As the Midland Authors enters its 2021-22 season, we face a challenge that differs from ones we encountered a year ago, two years ago or decades ago. For example, a year ago, public gatherings were inadvisable; now, the landscape is beginning to change. We would like to return to our 2019 in-person presence as quickly as possible, but we cannot risk the health and well-being of our members by having in-person monthly presentations until it is safe to do so. Change will be gradual and incremental. As much as we would like to, we cannot rip off the bandage, or wave a wand and have a hundred people appear in-person at our October or November author's presentation.



**Gerard Plecki**

The good news is that, in the meantime, we will use Literary License, Zoom presentations, social media, our awards competition and enhancements to our website to continue to move forward. We will advance our ever-evolving mission to be responsive to the needs of our members.

By providing a platform for publicizing new works, by working to increase our membership base, and by continuing to educate ourselves about the complexities, the successes, and the trials and tribulations of writing, we will remain the same relevant and vital organization that our proud history has proven us to be.

To accomplish this daunting task, we rely on the suggestions of all Midland states authors. We need all members to

continue to inform us of their new books, of their contributions to all aspects of writing, of their works in the public eye, and of the progress of their professional careers in writing.

We need members to volunteer to serve on the Board of Directors. With the help of all members, we will continue to bring broad, national attention to our authors' books.

We are aware the Zoom format has limitations, and that many people believe that virtual presentations can be impersonal. For now, it's the best tool in the box for offering talks on topics that are sure to interest the broad base of our membership. We thank all members and soon-to-be members who have attended our Zoom presentations for devoting their time and for

using the chat options for questions and answer to express their interest in the topics being presented. We thank all authors who have agreed – quite enthusiastically – to talk about their books via Zoom.

We thank everyone who submitted their books for review in this year's Awards competition. We are grateful to all authors who have provided articles and updates for our monthly Literary License publication. Finally, I would be remiss not to thank all Board members and Officers for their work to bring all projects to fruition.

Together, I am confident we will make the 2021-22 season a resounding success.

Stay healthy!

*Gerard Plecki is the new Midland Authors president.*

*Literary Landscape*  
with John Wasik

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*Literary Latest*  
New Books

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Report from  
2021 Printers Row

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Ben Kufirin, a cinematographer, and his wife, Susan Shahoda, director of communications, UCLA. My husband, **George Kufirin** [also a Midland Authors member], died in 2016, and my kids thought I shouldn't be alone, even if I have been a devoted Chicagoan since birth. As of June 9, 2021, curator Scott Krafft and the Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections at Northwestern University are the recipients of all research, letters, communications and photographs (taken by my photographer husband, George, for our book published in 1981: *Uncommon Women* (New Century Publishers). Out of print now, the book consisted of interviews and photographs of women who had reached the pinnacle of their artistic careers – and told how they got there: **Gwendolyn Brooks**, Sarah Caldwell, Julie Harris, Mary McCarthy, Alice Neel, Roberta Peters, Maria Tallchief, Mary Lou Williams and Eugenia Zukerman.



Joan Kufirin

Second, Loyola University is the archive recipient of all of George's photographs during the '40s and '50s, when he was chief photographer of John Cuneo's Museum and Estate. Before George died in 2016, he sent many negatives and prints of his work to the exhibit co-coordinators for the Cuneo Museum and Gardens. He told me working at the museum, Hawthorn-Mellody Farm and Petting Zoo, photographing the Cuneo family, and the celebrities who drove out to the farm was one of the best times of his life. It's all recounted in his book, *Lucky George, the Unforgettable Adventures of a Freelance Photographer* (still in print on Amazon). He didn't send everything to the Cuneo Museum and Estate. I found a huge collection of photographs of folks who came out from Chicago to visit the museum and zoo, plus a batch of newspaper ads for Hawthorn-Mellody milk by noted celebrities of that time: Jimmy Dorsey, Sid Luckman, Jimmy Durante, Danny Thomas, **Studs Terkel**, Martin & Lewis, Peggy Lee, Dick Contino, Johnny

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# Midland Authors members elect 2021-22 officers, board members

At the 2021 Printers Row event, Midland Authors members voted on new officers and board members for 2021-22. The vote did not take place at the normal May banquet because it was canceled, due to COVID-19. Here are the new officeholders:

### Officers

President: **Gerard Plecki**

Vice-President: **Claire Hartfield**

Corresponding Secretary: **Lynn Sloan**

Membership Secretary: **Thomas**

### Frisbie

Recording Secretary: **Jim Schwab**

Treasurer: **Greg Borzo**

### Board Members

**Marlene Targ Brill** (Replaces **Greg Borzo** – Term expires 2024)

**Christopher Lynch** (Replaces **Allen Salter** – Term Expires 2024)

**Dominic Pacyga** (Ran for another term – Term Expires 2024)

**Carol Saller** (Replacing **Claire Hartfield** – Term Expires 2023)

**Jim Walker** (replacing **Lynn Sloan** – Term Expires 2022)

**Patrick McBriarty** will be Webmaster, which is an appointed position.

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## Literary Largess

Dues cover mailings and other organizational expenses, but the Society always needs additional money for programs such as the awards at the annual May book awards banquet. Thanks to **Theresa Amato, Ted Anton, Stan "Tex" Banash, Richard Bessette, Richard Bales, Charles Billington, Greg Borzo, Jim Bowman, David Clark, Michael Ebner, J. Ronald Engel, Joan Gibb Engel, Robert J.R. Follett, Helen Frost, Linda Nemece Foster, Connie Goddard, Frank Gonzalez-Crussi, Edward E. Gordon, Sue Harrison, Amy Hassinger, D. Leigh Henson, Michael Craft Johnson,**

**Maggie Kast, Susan Croce Kelly, Joanne Koch, Richard Lindberg, Mary Losure, Patrick McBriarty, Katherine McCaughan, Eileen Rajala Meyer, Marcia Z. Nelson, Milton Nieuwsma, Dominic Pacyga, Joseph G. Peterson, Carolyn Splear Pratt, Geraldine K. Piorkowski, Marcia Pradzinski, Michael Raleigh, Robert Remer, James Schwab, Stuart Shea, Lynn Sloan, Bernard Sieracki, Marius Stan, Jill Long Thompson, Scott Turow, Donna Urbikas, James Walker, Michele Weldon, Steve Wiegenstein, Gloria Whelan, David Witter, Claude Walker, Cathleen Young, John Wasik and Joyce Zeiss** who made recent contributions.

Desmond, Nina Foch, Nat King Cole – and many more. Those are now with Loyola University, too, (to whom John Cuneo and his wife Herta and the Cuneo Foundation bequeathed a \$50 million gift in 2009). I'm glad. The work will live on in archives." ... **Cyndee Schaffer** writes to say: "This is the beginning of the second Veterans Day in a pandemic – continuing with presentations on Zoom. I will be presenting my program, 'The Journey to Mollie's War: Women in the Military in WWII' to the Oak Park Library on Nov. 11 at 2 p.m." If you want to know more about what women did (other than nurses) in WWII, please join me. This is a story that is not told often." ... In his latest

newsletter, **Keir Graff** writes, "Now that [writing is] my full-time vocation, I spend my days grumbling about the hours, the pay, the lousy boss (me) and the worthless employee (also me), wondering how I got myself into this mess. I'm kidding, of course. I'm absolutely delighted to be in this mess. But I know I'm not alone in finding that



Keir Graff

the pandemic – the tragedies, the restrictions on daily life, the ebbs and surges of hope – prompts big questions about what

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# Lincoln, economics and infrastructure

**J**ohn Wasik is the author of 19 books, including *Lincolnomics* and *Lightning Strikes: Timeless Lessons in Creativity from the Life and Work of Nikola Tesla*. He is a contributor to the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Real Clear Investigations*, the *Wall Street Journal* and a former columnist for *Reuters* and *Bloomberg*. He is also Lake County commissioner, vice president of the Lake County (Illinois) Forest Preserve and chair of the county board's legislative committee. Here is what he tells *Literary License* about his latest book:

**Literary License:** People usually don't think of infrastructure or economic development when they think of Abraham Lincoln. What prompted you to write *Lincolnomics*?

**John Wasik:** I was originally asked by a publisher to do one book on the history of infrastructure, which is impossible to do in a single volume. Then I came across a paper on Lincoln's early years as a legislator and marveled at his fixation on infrastructure, which led to tracking down his speeches on the subject well into his presidency. It was a career-long obsession with him, although it's rarely highlighted in his bios. I found some real nuggets along the way, such as his patent for a boat design and a town he planned north of Springfield.

**Literary License:** Are Lincoln's ideas relevant today?

**John Wasik:** Lincoln's ideas are so relevant today, I'm stunned that no one has mentioned his involvement in promoting the basics of infrastructure. During his time, he championed legislation enabling the building of canals and railroads, including the seminal Illinois & Michigan Canal, which turned Chicago into a transportation, commercial and manufacturing hub. Then there was his advocacy of the Illinois Central Railroad, which he defended as a lawyer. The IC became the

Oct. 12, 2021, program

Presentation: 7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. (Central Time).

Join the meeting via Zoom:

<https://uic.zoom.us/j/7124160494>

Details on Page 15

longest railroad in the world in 1860. I grew up two blocks away from this iron enterprise. Then there was his signing of the Transcontinental Railroad bills, the Homestead Act and the Morrill Act, which created land-grant universities such as the University of Illinois. These bills all became law during the height of the Civil War! They literally propelled the United States into becoming an economic and technological colossus. I actually wrote the book backward, asking the question: What would Lincoln do about our current infrastructure



issues? Well, we need to upgrade our roads, water/sewer systems, public transit, passenger (Amtrak) and freight rail systems with trillions in repairs and improvements. We need to upgrade our social infrastructure to provide equity in health care, elder care, education and research and development. All of these elements of a prosperous society are foundations of a country built on economic progress, so there are big gaps we need to fill. Lincoln would've embraced all of those issues. I even think he would've advocated for a gargantuan infrastructure program to address climate change, which is something President Joe Biden and congressional progressives want to do.

**Literary License:** With all the books written about Lincoln, why isn't this important aspect of his career more widely known?

**John Wasik:** Most of the more than 16,000 books written about him focus on his Civil War leadership and how he became Lincoln – the Lincoln-Douglas

debates, the speeches and his tormented term in office during our bloodiest insurrection. I concentrated more on why he took the stances he did to foment economic progress and equality. Before the modern industrial age, you couldn't get the things you produced much beyond your home county. When he took two trips down the Mississippi to New Orleans, he realized what needed to be done with infrastructure on a large, federal scale, which was opposed by nearly all of the early presidents, who were slave-owners from Southern states. In reading most of his major biographies, I saw that most writers soft-pedaled this essential part of his political development. He was pushing policy to build canals and railroads long before he said anything about the evils of slavery.

**Literary License:** Why did you choose the title *Lincolnomics*?

**John Wasik:** *Lincolnomics* emerged as one powerful word-concept to capture his connection between economic advancement and building a great country that stressed making opportunity more broadly distributed. He wanted to climb the economic ladder – and certainly did as a successful lawyer – but he wanted everyone to be able to do so through higher education, better transportation, voting/citizenship and federal support for research, development, technology and infrastructure.

**Literary License:** What's your next book?

**John Wasik:** I have about four books on the back burner, but the most immediate project will either be what I call *The Iron Desert*, which is a deep examination at economic and ecological decline/revival in the South Chicago/Calumet steelmaking region over the past 50 years or so, or *The Natural Neighborhood*, a personal account on how to tackle climate change on the hyper-local level, which is based on my ongoing experience as a Lake County (Illinois) county and forest preserve commissioner. I'm seeking a publisher for both projects.



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I'm meant to do with my time on the planet. Time seems more precious than ever because there are fewer ways to spend it. The constantly shifting limits on things we can do and places we can go, however, resonate with one of the biggest reasons I'm a writer. Some authors aim only to entertain, while others attempt to ask and answer metaphysical questions, but I suspect that I do it for the same reason I'm a reader: because it takes me places I can't otherwise go." ... Midland Authors 2012 Adult Nonfiction winner **B.J. Hollars** has a new book coming out, *Go West, Young Man: A Father and Son Rediscover America on the Oregon Trail* (Sept. 21, Bison Books). ... On Sept. 24, **Amelia Cotter** presented a session at the Milwaukee Paranormal Conference at Alverno College. ... **David Witter** and *Oldest Chicago* were featured on Joan Esposito's radio show on Chicago's AM 820, WCPT on Sept. 9. ... Since January **Ed Gordon's** Gordon Report has been issuing segments of the "Job Shock" White Paper focusing on the growing talent deficits in the U.S. labor market. An updated version of it with an extensive bibliography is now available at [www.imperialcorp.com](http://www.imperialcorp.com). ... In her newsletter, **Rita Dragonette** writes to say the novel she is working on "is about a group of expats, each of whom has come to beautiful San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, with their last dream, the one that really has to come true. My writing journey with this story has taken me to some unfamiliar places, involving among other things, food and larceny. ... I'm having quite a wonderful yet frightening time trying to manage that in my tale." ... Midland Authors Board Member **Dominic Pacyga** was scheduled to make

## Allium Press, a Chicago literary star, to close

**Emily Clark Victorson** writes to say, "It is with a heavy heart that I share with you the news that I have come to the difficult decision that it is now time to close the doors on Allium Press. I have greatly enjoyed the last 12-plus years as the editor and publisher of Allium, and I treasure the relationships I developed with my authors, my publishing colleagues, the many folks I've met in the larger book world, all the wonderful writers I've had the opportunity to cross paths with over the years, and, of course, all the fabulous readers who embraced our books.

Unfortunately, COVID times have made the already perilous world of

small press publishing even more difficult to traverse. The time has come to move on to something else."

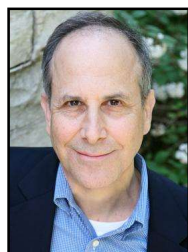
The Chicago Sun-Times reported in 2012: "From the beginning, Victorson decided Allium's niche would be fiction related to Chicago. It's territory similar to that occupied by Chicago's Lake Claremont Press, but Lake Claremont focuses on nonfiction. Victorson says she was delighted to find there was no shortage of good material in her niche."

Allium books will continue to be on sale through December 2021. You can find buy links on its website: <https://alliumpress.com/>.



Emily Clark Victorson

brief remarks at the official launch of the Packingtown Museum on Oct. 2. Dominic is museum curator. ... On Sept. 8, **Carl Smith** discussed the Chicago Fire on Chicago's WLS AM ahead of the fire's



Carl Smith

150th anniversary on Oct. 8-10. Among other books about the fire cited by Rick Kogan in the Sept. 7 Chicago Tribune were **Richard F. Bales' The Great Chicago Fire and the Myth of Mrs. O'Leary's Cow** and the "rather charming 2020 comic book, *History Comics: The Great Chicago Fire*, by writer **Kate Hannigan**" ... *In the Shadow of Dora* by **Patrick Hicks** is a finalist in the fiction category of the 2021 High Plains Book Awards. ... Ken Burns'

Muhammad Ali documentary, for which **Jonathan Eig** was a consulting producer, debuted on Sept. 19 on PBS. ... On July 23, Chicago's NBC-TV listed **Harriette Gillem Robinet** as one of "5 Trailblazers You Should Know From Oak Park (Illinois)." ... Eric Charles May, author of *Bedrock Faith*, which is the latest choice for One Book, One Chicago, will talk in December with Booklist editor **Donna Seaman**. Donna also was quoted in a Sept. 8 Chicago magazine article about Sandra Cisneros. ... The film "When Water Moves," a spoken-word & dance collaboration by **Anne-Marie Oomen** and Ari Mokdad with jingle dress dancer Hadassah Greensky was showcased in a live-streamed premier on Sept. 12 under the nonprofit FLOW's program "Art Meets Water" and with support from

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## Literary License

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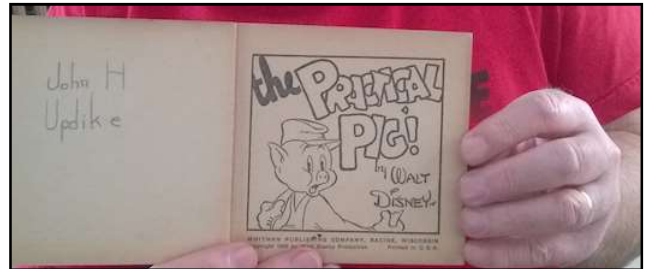
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## Biblio File

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MCACA. ... **David Clark** is scheduled to be among the speakers at the “Miles of Possibility Route 66 Conference” Oct. 21-24, and he will also be hosting the virtual “Route 66 Revival Tour” at 11 a.m. on the last day of the conference. ... **Rus Bradburd** received a Fulbright Scholar Award to spend the spring 2022 semester in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he will teach in the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen’s University. ... **Carolyn Holbrook** was a featured reader in the Literary Bridges reading series in St. Paul, Minnesota. ... **Esther Hershenhorn’s** *S is for Story: A Writer’s Alphabet* and **Blue Balliett’s** *The Wright Three* were among Red Tricycle’s Sept. 16 “20 Must-Read Children’s Books by Chicago Authors.” Also, in June, **Blue Balliett** was a featured speaker at the Nantucket Film Festival, giving a talk titled, “What is a Ghost?” She writes to say, “This was an adventure for me, exploring the visual intersection between storytelling, curiosity and ghosts, in conversation with Kate Brosnan, co-founder of The Nantucket Project. Also, the Illinois Reading Council honored my work with the 2021 Prairie State Award for Excellence in Children’s Writing back in 2020, which feels like eons ago now! The latest rescheduled date for their conference and my appearances there, Covid concerns allowing, is now March, 2022. ... On Aug. 6 on WGN Radio, **Walter Podrazik** discussed how

James Plath wrote “Historical Marker Dedication, Grand Opening of John Updike’s Childhood Home” on Sept. 7 for [bctv.org](http://bctv.org). **TOP RIGHT:** One of the Updike treasures that will be on display, an early author signature. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** The house, which Plath has had a hand in restoring since it was first bought in 2012.



the “rural purge” in programming 50 years ago led to modern television. ... The Oak Park, Illinois, Wednesday Journal quoted from **Greg Borzo’s** *Lost Restaurants of Chicago*. ... **Jim Daniels’** new book of poems is *Gun Shy* (Wayne State University Press, Aug. 31, 2021). The poems deal with the emotional weight of making do. ... **David L Harrison** writes to say, “I have a new children’s picture book due out Oct. 12, a picture book in which a young child wants an apple. At each step of the process to find an apple, pick it up and enjoy its taste, the child is helped by different parts of his busy body – a tasty way to learn how our body works. This will come out in PW shortly. I’m working with Dr. Tim Rasinski (professor from

Kent State University) to revamp part of the early reading program for grades K-2 at Fairfax County Virginia Public School District. My part of the partnership is to create 75 poems, each focusing on various elements of our language. There are 40,000 K-2 children in the system, which numbers 180,000-plus in total and ranks 11th in the nation. St. Louis children’s poet Constance Levy and I are featured in the summer issue of KS/MO SCBWI Scribbles Newsletter. ‘The Tale of Two Poets’ is an article/interview about our lives as poets.” ... On Sept. 7, **Chris Fink** wrote “Perspective: The View From 50” for WNIJ, Northern Public Radio. ... **Christopher Mooney** was quoted in the Aug. 28 Chicago Tribune about the Food

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## New Members

**T. Marie Bertineau**, author of the memoir *The Mason House* (Lanternfish Press, 2020), is of Ojibwe-Anishinaabe and French Canadian/Cornish descent. She is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community on the L’Anse Reservation, migizi odoodeman. Her work has appeared online with Minnesota’s Carver County



**T. Marie Bertineau**

Arts Consortium; in Mino Miikana, a publication of the Native Justice Coalition and Waub Ajjjaak Press and in the annual journal U.P. Reader. Her quarterly column, “Hankies in My Pocket: Tender Thoughts from the Keweenaw,” can be found at [carrotranch.com](http://carrotranch.com), home of the Carrot Ranch Literary Community. Married and the mother of two, she resides in the Great Lakes Region.

In January, *The Mason House* was chosen as a 2021 Michigan Notable Book. She was nominated by **Dick Simpson**.

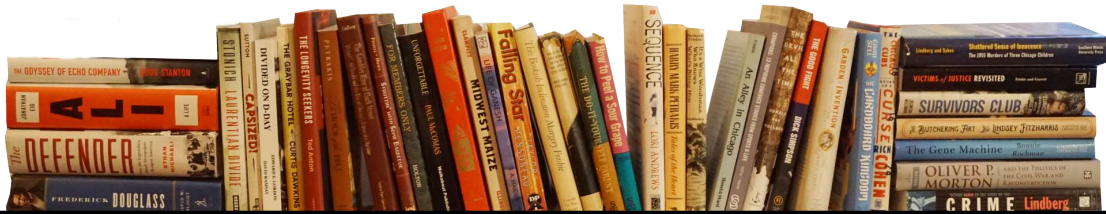
**Pete Beatty**, author of *Cuyahoga* (Simon & Schuster, 2020), is a Cleveland-

area native. He has worked at the University of Chicago Press, Bloomsbury and the University of Alabama Press. He currently teaches at the University of Alabama. He lives with his wife and son in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. *Cuyahoga* is his first novel, and was longlisted for the PEN/Hemingway Prize for Best Debut Fiction. The New York Times called it “a breezy fable of empire, class, conquest and ecocide.” He was nominated by **Edward “Ted” McClelland**.

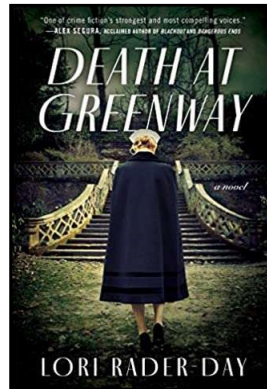
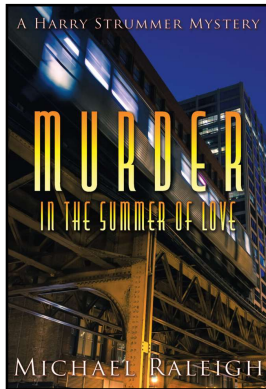


**Pete Beatty**





## Literary Latest



things. On the shelves, the names of five little girls were still inscribed. Once I saw those names, the story was mine.

"I've been an Agatha Christie fan for most of my life. She was one of the first authors I read when I graduated from the kid section of the library. Getting to spend so much time with her work and exploring her house has been the project of a lifetime."

Publishers Weekly called *Death at Greenway* a "[r]ichly nuanced mystery."

### THROWBACK PRIVATE EYE SERIES

In **Michael Raleigh's** latest book, it is the summer of love, and unorthodox private eye Harry Strummer is hired by night club singer Valerie Rolfe to find her estranged husband, who may or may not have been murdered by a pair of out-of-town killers.

Raleigh tells us, "I've been wanting to start a throwback private eye series set in the '60s (I've also started one set in the '40s). A few years ago I wrote a book called *Peerless Detective*, about a young drifter named Billy Fox, who comes to Chicago in the summer of 1977 looking for his childhood sweetheart. Along the way he meets a streetwise, slightly eccentric private detective who takes him under his wing and teaches him about life and about the detective business.

"The detective is Harry Strummer, who quickly became a favorite character of mine, and I decided he deserved his own book. *Murder in the Summer of Love* (Coffeetown Press, June 8, 2021) is that book. It is also a chance for me to write about Chicago in the '60s, a time I recall fondly, and Old Town, where the book is set."

From the publisher: "Against the backdrop of his colorful Old Town neighborhood, Harry's search for the missing man is complicated by a street kid informant, a smart Chicago cop and a Louisiana private eye hopelessly out of his depth."

### 'I WAS SO EXCITED'

**Lori Rader-Day's** new book is *Death at Greenway: A Novel* (William Morrow, Oct. 12, 2021).

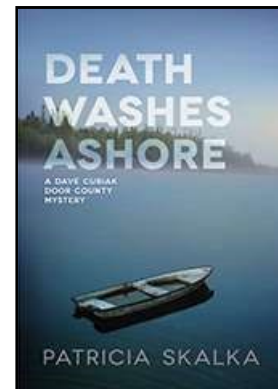
Here's the background of the book, as explained by Rader-Day: "I was reading a book about Agatha Christie (*John Curran's Agatha Christie's Secret Notebooks*) one night in bed and came across a little throwaway comment about how Greenway House, Christie's beloved family retreat, had been used for child evacuees. I sat up in bed, I was so excited. Because I wanted to read that book.

"The problem was, as I found out very quickly, the book didn't yet exist. I didn't think that I was the one who could write it, but I started tentatively imagining what it might look like. I thought it might be a sort of *Bedknobs and Broomsticks*-at-



**Lori Rader-Day**

Agatha-Christie's-house thing with children cavorting and solving mysteries. A little bit of research set me straight that the children had been too young for that sort of thing. I didn't believe I could be the one to write this story for a long time, until I visited Greenway in 2016 and was allowed into a locked room to see a cabinet where the children had kept their



### 'IDEAL BACKDROP FOR A MYSTERY'

Also on the mystery front, **Patricia Skalka** has a new book out, *Death Washes Ashore* (University of Wisconsin Press, April 20, 2021).

Skalka writes to say, "*Death Washes Ashore* emerged from two separate incidents. The first occurred when a harsh storm left a small vessel washed up on a Door County beach. "Wouldn't it be interesting if there was a body under the boat?" a neighbor said. The suggestion was facetious, but the more I considered the possibility, I thought, well, why not?"

"Then I learned about larping or live action role playing. I knew a little about Civil War re-enactments, but larping was different and grander in scope. The more I thought about this form of fantasy game

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## Literary Latest

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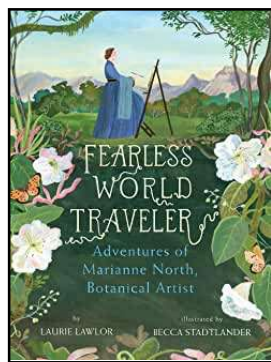
playing, the more I realized that a fictional larping center in Door County was the ideal backdrop for a mystery.

“By combining the elements – a devastating storm, a body washed ashore, and



Patricia Skalka

larping – I had the framework for the sixth book in the Dave Cubiak Door County mystery series. **Sam Reaves** (yes, we’re going with a pen name here) wrote, “*Death Washes Ashore* is a nice mix of traditional mystery and police procedural, set in a fascinating corner of the Midwest, with three-dimensional characters and a good feel for the life of a community. Patricia Skalka knows the Door County tourists don’t see.”



### ‘IMPECCABLY ATTUNED BIOGRAPHY’

“*Fearless World Traveler: Adventures of Marianne North, Botanical Artist* (Holiday House, May 11, 2021),” **Laurie Lawlor** tells Literary Latest, “is an illustrated, nonfiction picture book biography that’s been reviewed in Wall Street Journal and Horn Book. The book received a starred review from SLJ and is a Junior Literary Guild Selection. Becca Stadlander did the amazing illustrations, capturing the vivid flavor of North’s artistry.

“As a self-taught artist and scientist, Marianne North subverted Victorian gender roles and advanced the field of botanical illustration. Her technique of painting specimens in their natural environment

was groundbreaking. The legendary Charles Darwin was among her many supporters. The book chronicles North’s life, from her restrictive childhood to her wild world travels to the opening of the Marianne North Gallery at Kew Gardens to her death in 1890. The North Gallery at Kew Gardens remains open to the public today – one of the longest-running, one-woman shows in Great Britain.

“What really intrigued me about Marianne North was her energetic sense of adventure and her remarkable ability to adapt to different, challenging environments as she made her globe-trotting journeys. Because she was self-taught as an artist and botanist, she broke many boundaries of what was considered ‘acceptable.’ She was determined to find her own way.

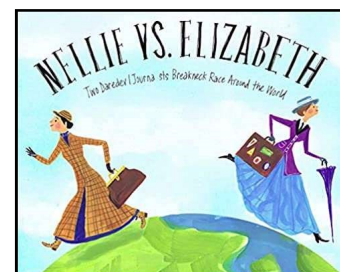
“The combination of action, scientific exploration, and art involving a relatively little-known yet accomplished woman who broke societal barriers engaged my curiosity and inspired my research quest. The more I found out about her passion for art and plants, the more I wanted to know.

“At a time when women were severely restricted by rules of proper behavior, Marianne North seemed irrepressible and singular. She traveled around the world twice – ‘unaccompanied’ by male protectors or anyone else for that matter. She set off for jungles, deserts, mountains and plains on a hunt for the flowers and plants. She preferred to be ‘out of range’ of ex-pats from the British Empire and often described her preference for native people.”

Despite physical challenges (rheumatism and a growing deafness), she embarked on her artistic and botanical adventure when she was 40 years old – after taking care of her demanding father for many years.

“The real clincher for me? Discovering that she rode elephants.”

The School Library Journal said, “This is an impeccably attuned biography of a woman who broke the rules to the benefit of all.”



### DAREDEVIL JOURNALISTS

*Nellie vs. Elizabeth* (Calkins Creek, Feb. 15, 2022) by **Kate Hannigan** tells the story of daredevil and groundbreaking journalists Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland racing against each other – and the clock – as they circle the globe by ship, train, and foot.

Hannigan writes to say, “I used to work in newspapers, so I’ve always been fascinated by stunt-reporter and barrier-breaker Nellie Bly. When I read about her racing around the world, I thought it sounded pretty brave for the time – 1889. And when I learned that another female journalist, Elizabeth Bisland, raced in the opposite direction, I was hooked! So I wrote about it for young readers, hoping to show women’s history as well as the history of travel, a little geography and the way a novel (*Around the World in Eighty Days*) captured the world’s imagination. I hope it finds an audience, because traveling the globe is something we can only dream about right now!”



Kate Hannigan

### LITERARY PORTRAIT

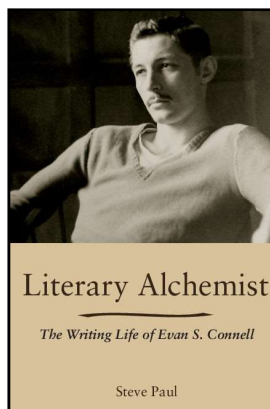
Of *Literary Alchemist: The Writing Life of Evan S. Connell* (University of Missouri, Dec. 1, 2021), author **Steve Paul** tells Literary License, “As I was finishing my book *Hemingway at Eighteen* and casting about for a new project, I woke up one morning with Evan S. Connell’s name on my brain. As a longtime book critic, I knew some of his books, and I’d written his front-page obituary, in 2013, for the Kansas City Star, Connell’s erstwhile hometown newspaper. I was intrigued by the uncom-

Turn to Page 8



## Literary Latest

Continued from Page 7



mon range of his work, from the minimalism of the novel *Mrs. Bridge* to the maximalist mosaic of his historical narrative *Son of the Morning Star*. As I began to look closer, I was challenged by his apparent desire for anonymity, and in my initial search into his papers I found enough material to think a biographical project was not only warranted but also essential toward raising his literary reputation out of semi-obscurity. More than four years later, the result is the first book about this extraordinary writer, *Literary Alchemist: The Writing Life of Evan S. Connell*, coming out Dec. 1 from the University of Missouri Press. One discovery of note: Though Connell lived most of his life in the west and southwest, Connell recognized that he couldn't shake his Midwestern roots."

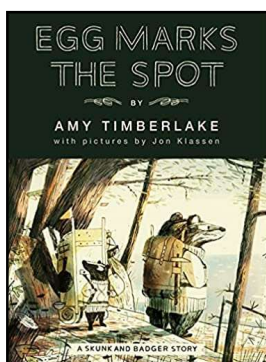
Author Jennifer Haigh wrote the "illuminating, highly readable biography paints a vivid portrait of a writer who eschewed fashion and maintained an almost monastic dedication to craft."

### 'LAUGH-OUT-LOUD MOMENTS'

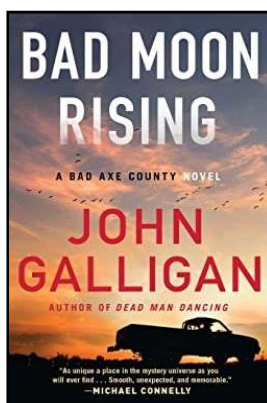
In **Amy Timberlake's** new book, *Egg Marks the Spot* (Algonquin Young Readers, Sept. 14, 2021), roommates Skunk and Badger find surprises behind every boulder on a rock-finding expedition. The book is a sequel to the Midland Authors award-winning *Skunk and Badger*.



Amy Timberlake



Booklist called *Egg Marks the Spot*, "an irresistible mix of high stakes, laugh-out-loud moments and truly unexpected plot twists."



### ATMOSPHERIC MYSTERY

In **John Galligan's** *Bad Moon Rising* (Atria Books, June 29, 2021), the publisher says, "A record heat wave suffocates remote rural Wisconsin as the local sheriff tracks down a killer hidden in the depths of the community in this atmospheric, race-to-the-finish mystery"

Galligan writes to say: "*Bad Moon Rising* arises from one true crime story, an abundance of disturbing facts about the world we live in, and (given that the book was written before the pandemic) one freakishly prescient leap of imagination in the realm of epidemiology."

"I've found it hard to talk about the book without giving too much away. But the true crime story involves a Midwestern farmer who picked up homeless men off city streets and brought them back to his farm, promising to pay them for labor but then finding it more convenient to ...

"The facts are too numerous to list, but

the heat wave and gypsy moth infestation affecting Bad Axe County represent the many ways, both obvious and subtle, that climate change is driving and will continue to drive conflict. ... As for the epidemiological leap ... what if, driven by climate change, an infectious agent went sideways between species and the human body couldn't cope? Or at least somebody thought this was happening? These are the elements that coalesce into the problem faced by Bad Axe County Sheriff Heidi Kick: a homeless man has turned up dead in a ditch, apparently after being buried alive and escaping his grave. Add to this a nasty re-election campaign that is disturbing one of the sheriff's children. Then, looking for a 'lunatic' who writes letters to the editor, the local newspaper editor goes missing."

Publishers Weekly said, "[An] outstanding sequel ... gripping."



### FIRST YA NOVEL

*The F Words* (Cross Your Heart, Sept. 15, 2021) is **Barbara Gregorich's** first YA novel.

Gregorich writes to say, "Two series of events, decades apart, inspired me to write my first YA novel, *The F Words*. The first series of events were the political protests of the '60s and '70s, in which I was an active participant. These included the struggle for Black equality, women's rights, and to end the war in Vietnam."

"The second series of events occurred in Chicago during the 2010s, when *The F Words* was coming together in my mind (but not yet on paper). I was looking for events that would cause teens to participate in the struggles for social justice."

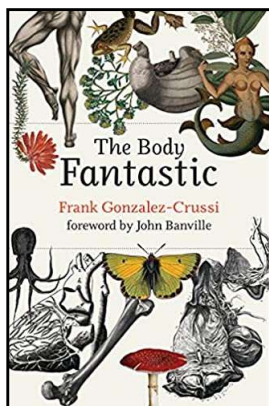
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## Literary Latest

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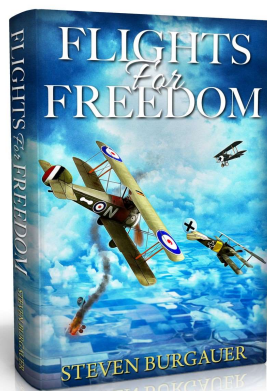
The two events that struck me were, first, the attacks on free public education: Rahm Emanuel's closing of more than 50 public schools, despite widespread protest by the communities those schools served. And second, the huge demonstrations for immigrant rights: against deportations, against the (then-proposed) wall. In *The F Words*, main character Cole Renner is deeply affected by these events because his father has been sentenced to time in Cook County Jail for leading protests against the school closings, and because his best friend Felipe Ramirez is damaged by the deportation of immigrants.



**'PLAYFUL, ERUDITE, EXPANSIVE'**

In *The Body Fantastic* (The MIT Press, Aug. 10, 2021), **Frank Gonzalez-Crussi** examines the human body through the lens of dreams, myths, legends and anecdotes of the bizarre. The Boston Globe wrote, "Playful, erudite, expansive, the book gives one much to chew on, widening our understanding of our corporeal selves, as well as how that understanding has shifted and evolved over time."

Gonzalez-Crussi writes, "As a pathologist, I was in daily contact with the body and its derangements for close to half a century. A good part of my literary work has dealt with the body, its strengths and its miseries. Fortunately, since my youth I cultivated a fondness for the humanities, and this has enabled me to reflect more deliberately and sensitively on what I saw in the lab or on the autopsy table. *The Body Fantastic* is one more product of my longstanding effort to join literature and biomedicine."



**'THE FASCINATION REMAINED'**

Here's what **Steven Burgauer** tells Literary License about his book *Flights for Freedom* (Battleground Press, Aug. 30, 2021): "I like history but I am not a historian, not by trade anyway. By trade, I am an economist and, back in the day, a good one. My interest in the mysteries and joys of flight date to my youth, although I never had the means or the opportunity to learn to fly. I was too busy becoming an Eagle Scout and pursuing other interests.

"But the fascination remained. Chuck Yeager, Alan Shepard, Gordon Cooper, all childhood heroes of mine. An interest in the manned space program led in straight-line fashion to a love for science fiction, which I soon came to write. Robert Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov. These men soon became my heroes.

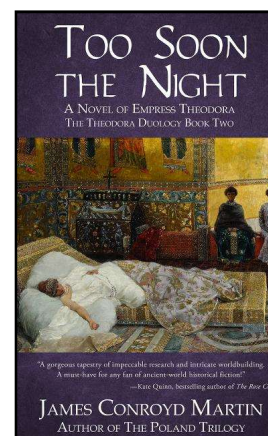
"My love of flight and especially space flight has been an inspiration since I was a Boy Scout and we watched the moon landing on a 14-inch black and white television in the mess hall of a Boy Scout camp in northern Wisconsin by stringing a hundred feet of antenna wire into the tallest pine to try and obtain a grainy image of that first step. One of the first books I read was *Childhood's End* by Arthur C. Clarke, but the second book I read was *Glide Path* by that same author. I have been to Space Camp as an adult and both my kids went there as children.

"I am supposing that I passed my love of flight on to my son, who soon became a pilot and joined the USAF. I commissioned a mural for my young boy's bedroom wall, the history of flight from an open-cockpit Camel to a supersonic passenger transport. That open-cockpit Camel held my fascination until long after I had retired. Fifty years on, that fascination became this book."

**'SOMETHING CLICKED'**

In **James Conroyd Martin's** *Too Soon the Night: A Novel of Empress Theodora* (Hussar Quill Press, July 4, 2021), Palace eunuch and secretary Stephen records Empress Theodora's life as she navigates wars, political and religious crises, a city-wide rebellion, and the first world plague pandemic, all in a male-dominated world.

Martin writes to say, "In the 1970s, I took an art appreciation course that covered the famous Ravenna (Italy) mosaics of Emperor Justinian and Empress

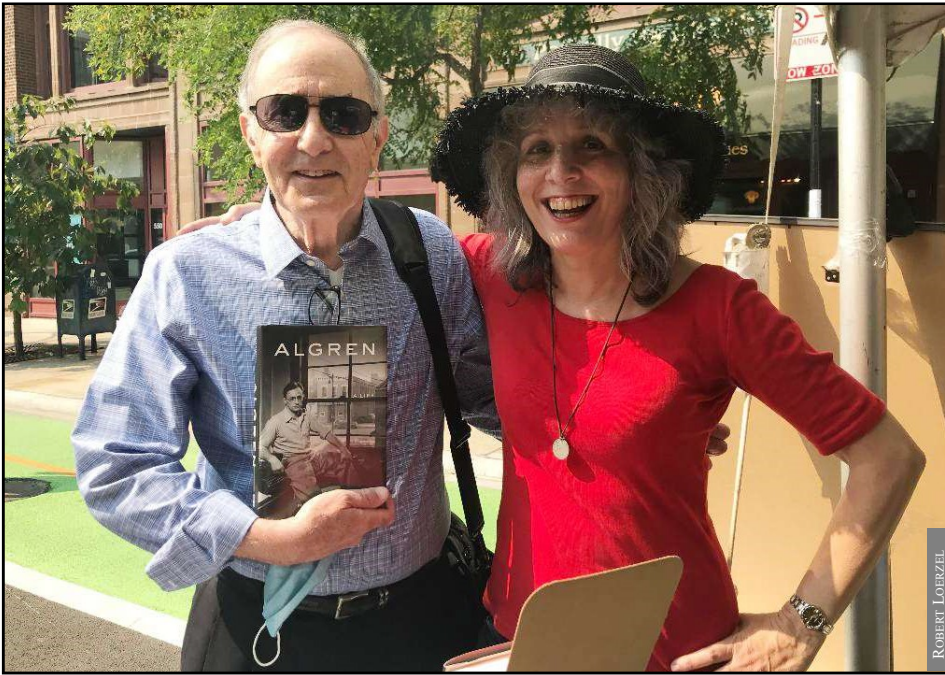


Theodora. When the professor declared that if he were a writer, he would be writing about Empress Theodora, something clicked.

"I researched the woman of many faces: actress, prostitute, mistress and finally Empress of the New Rome, one who fought to mend religious differences as well as secure more rights for women. Over the years, life and other books got in the way, but in 2019 the first of a duology, *Fortune's Child: A Novel of Empress Theodora* was published, taking the Eva Peron-like story up to her romance and marriage to Justinian. Kirkus Reviews called it a "thrilling political drama," and it was named the Overall Best Book of 2019 by Chanticleer International Book Awards.

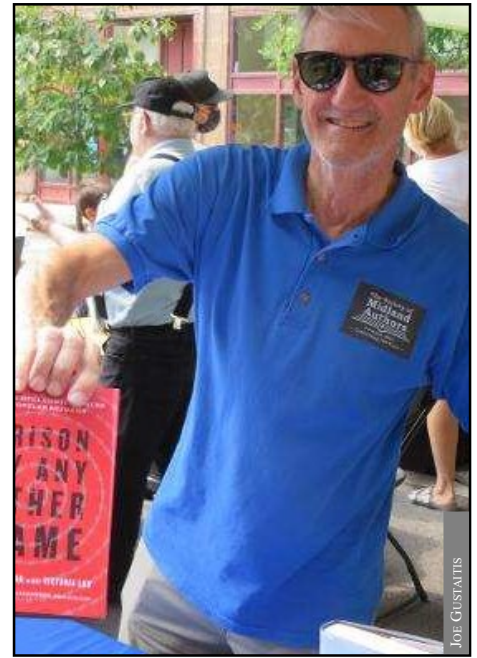
"In 2021 the second book, *Too Soon the Night*, detailing Theodora's life as empress, was released. Kate Quinn called it 'A gorgeous tapestry of impeccable research and intricate world building.' Key events dramatized are the world's first pandemic and the citywide uprising that nearly saw the royal couple lose their thrones, were it not solely for Theodora's strength and determination."





ROBERT LOERZEL

Rick Kogan (left) and Mary Wisniewski (right) as Kogan stops by the Midland Authors tent at the 2021 Printers Row Lit Fest.

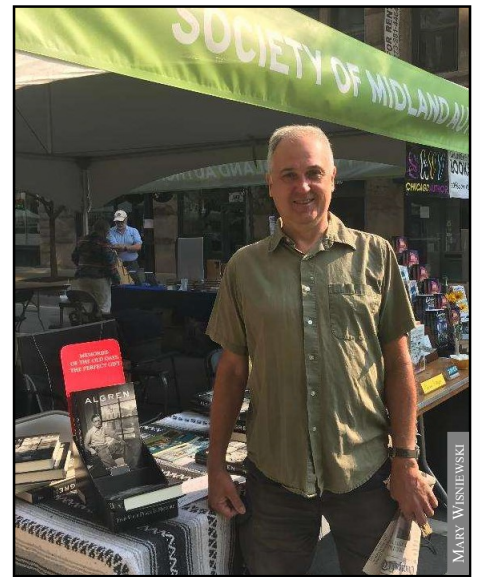


JOE GUSTATIS

Midland Authors Treasurer Greg Borzo at the Midland Authors tent at the Sept. 11-12 Printers Row Lit Fest.



Dave Hoekstra (left) and Pat Reardon hold up each other's books at the 2021 Printers Row Lit Fest.



MARY WISNIEWSKI

Former Midland Authors President Robert Loerzel at the Lit Fest.

# Printers Row: 'Woohoo! We did it.'

Members of the Midland Authors had a good time selling a lot of books at the Printers Row Lit Fest on Sept. 11 and Sept. 12.

Paul Lisnek said, "This was my first time participating in our Midland Authors' Tent and I had a blast. Not only

fun talking about my books with people who are really interested in reading books (which seems to be a dwindling number in the world), but also since I work on WGN-TV, there was an added level of getting to interact with WGN fans and viewers. I think they appreciated the per-

sonal connection, and I sure did, too. I look forward to joining in again!"

Dave Hoekstra added, "Sold a lot of books!"

Longtime Lit Fest exhibitors were delighted this year that there was no rain

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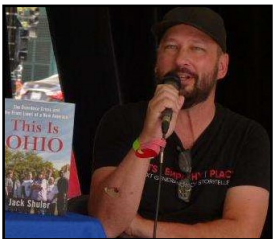


LEFT: David Witter and Midland Authors President Gerard Plecki. ABOVE: Helen Frost, Amy Timberlake at the program stage after the panel. RIGHT: Marlene Targ Brill with Amelia Cotter.

## Printers Row Lit Fest Continued from Page 10

– something that struck almost every year in the past decade. The buzz is that, going forward, Lit Fest might be moved from June to September. If you agree with this proposed change, let the organizers – the Near South Planning Board – know.

This year was the first time that Midland Authors rented an entire tent at Lit Fest and “sublet” tables to individuals – at a discount to members. No one knew if this would work out, but the Midland Authors tent was a busy place. Almost



Jack Shuler speaks at the Midland Authors panel at the Lit Fest.

every table in the tent was occupied both days. And in addition to selling books, authors in the tents struck up acquaintances with the other authors in the tent. It was a

very convivial atmosphere.

Every year, publishers send multiple copies of their books that won a Midland Authors award to be distributed to the public at our Awards Banquet. Due to COVID-19, however, we could not hold a banquet. Therefore, we distributed the books – one or two at a time – to readers who passed by the Midland Authors tent. At first folks couldn't believe they were



Amelia Cotter, Helen Frost, Riva Lehrer, Philip Metres and Amy Timberlake at the Midland Authors Awards Panel. About 40 people were in the audience. Not pictured: Jack Shuler. Note the widely admired Midland Authors table skirt.



Ed Labeledz and novelist Kathleen McElligott at the Midland Authors tent.

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# Printers Row Lit Fest Continued from Page 11

free to take a new, award-winning book, but once that sunk in – no strings attached – they carefully selected the book that would be of most interest to them. Every single book found a new home. Midland Authors Board Member **Dominic Pacyga** brought the copies of books that were honored in the 2021 Midland Awards book awards competition to the tent.

“At Lit Fest, we gave away every single book [by award winners] ... one or two at a time ... to appreciative readers,” **Greg Borzo** said. “It took a while, but at 5:15 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Gerry gave a copy of *Tapping Out: Poems* to a very appreciative young security guard seated on Harrison, who proceeded to devour the book.”

“Woohoo! It took a village, but we did it. Thanks to all,” Midland Authors Board Member **Marlene Targ Brill** said.

Among many other visitors, Tracy Baim, publisher of the Chicago Reader, stopped by the tent during the afternoon.

Besides staffing the Midland Authors tent, members of the Midland Authors held a panel program and appeared elsewhere at the Lit Fest.

**Charles Billington** said, “I was invited to Lit Fest by Elizabeth Taylor, the same individual who invited me some 14 years ago with my early book, *Wrigley Field's Last World Series* published by Lake Claremont. This invitation was based on my current work, *Comiskey Park's Last World Series: A History of the 1959 Chicago White Sox*, published by McFarland Books.

“Lively discussions and questions arose from many interested patrons,” he said.

Others among the 20 or so members at the Midland Authors tent over both days included: **Frances McNamara, David Clark, William Hazelgrove, Michele Weldon, Nancy Nau Sullivan, Pat Patella, Ray Ziemer, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Edward “Ted” McClelland, Daniel Burns and Geraldine Piorkowski.**

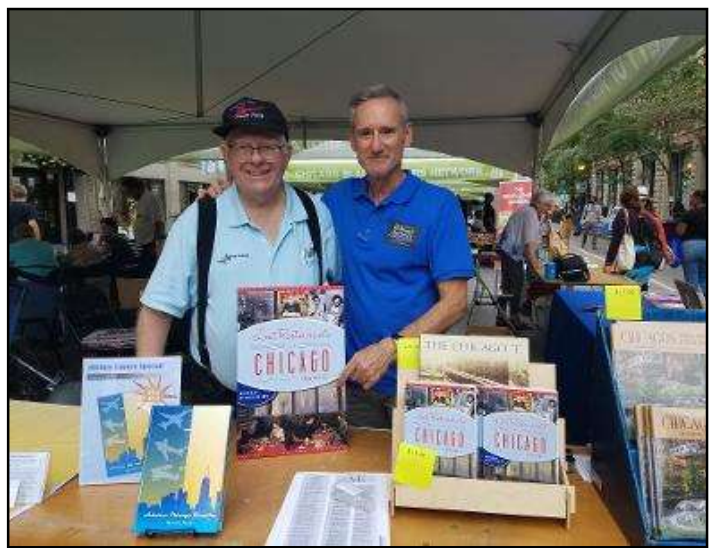
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**Amelia Cotter (left) and Roger Badesch, WGN News anchor/reporter at WGN Radio 720 AM Chicago and author of *The Unplanned Life*, at the Midland Authors tent after the panel.**

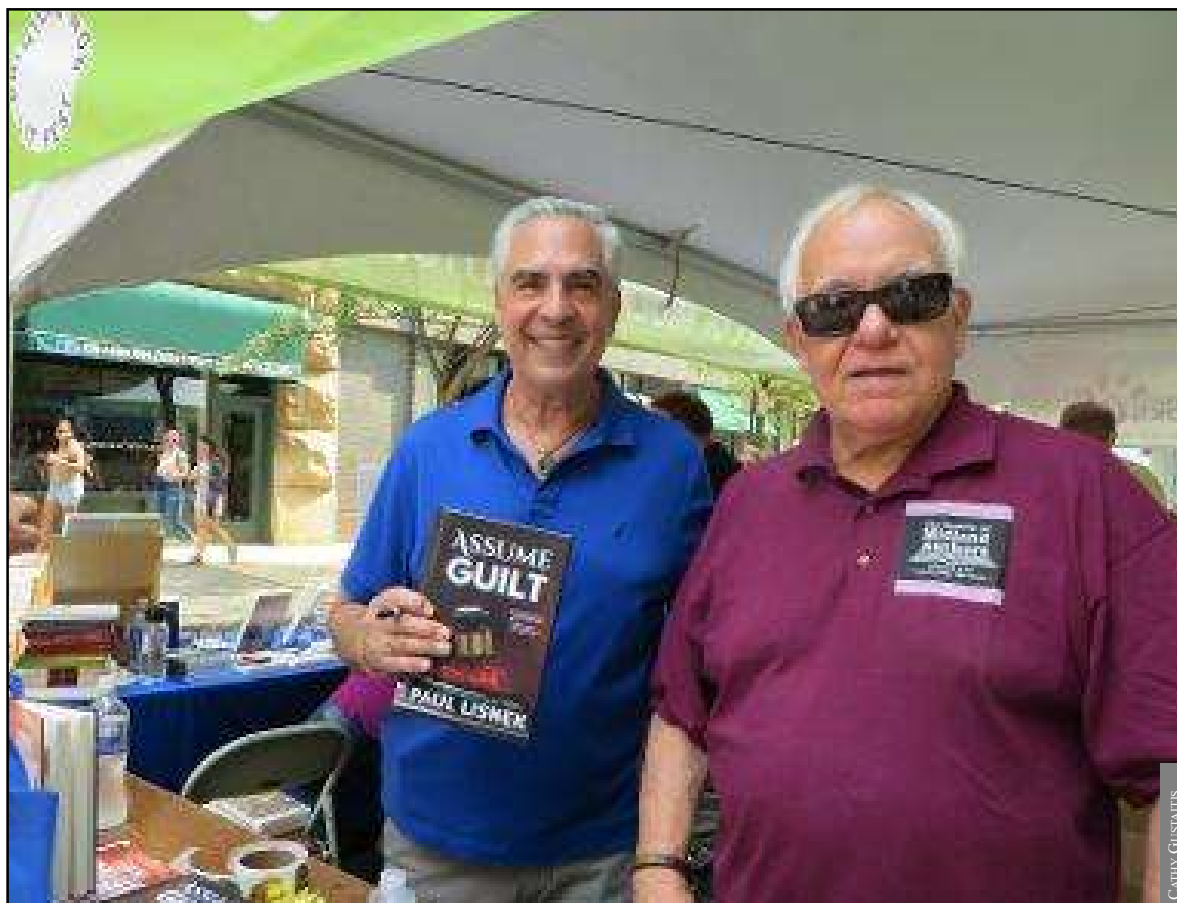


**Midland Authors Board Member Dominic Pacyga delivers books written by Midland Authors award winners to the Printers Row Lit Fest.**



**Michael Haupt (left) and Greg Borzo. The Printers Row Lit Fest, on Chicago’s Near South Side, this year moved from its traditional dates in June to September.**

# ■ Printers Row Lit Fest Continued from Page 12



Paul Lisnek and Midland Authors Board Member Joseph Gustaitis at the Midland Authors tent. It was Lisnek's first time at Printers Row, and he said he "had a blast."

CATHY GUSTAITIS



JOE GUSTAITIS



JOE GUSTAITIS

**LEFT: Kate Hannigan. RIGHT: Michael Haupt.** Printers Row Lit Fest is the largest free outdoor literary showcase in the Midwest. This year was its 36th year.



## Final chapters

When longtime Midland Authors member **Margery Frisbie** of Arlington Heights set up a signing event for her latest book in 1991 at the U.S. Catholic Bookstore in downtown Chicago and asked for 200 copies to be on hand, a doubtful store representative asked her if she didn't think she was going out on a limb.

The book, *An Alley in Chicago: The Ministry of a City Priest*, drew such a large crowd the title set a sales record at the store. A commemorative edition was published in 2002.

Mrs. Frisbie, who also was a columnist, a public relations expert, a scientist, a poet and an amateur pilot, died Aug. 8 of natural causes at her Arlington Heights home, surrounded by family. She was 98.

Besides *An Alley in Chicago* (Sheed & Ward, 1991), which former U.S. Senator Paul Simon, D-Ill., called a "fascinating story of a fascinating priest and courageous public servant," she co-authored *The Do-It-Yourself Parent* (Sheed & Ward, 1963) with **Richard Frisbie**. She also wrote *Help Your Child Enjoy Books* (Abbey Press, 1964); *This Bookish Inclination* (Friends of the Arlington Library, 1987); *How Beautiful Upon the Prairie* (First United Methodist Church, 1988).

She also wrote *Old-Timers' Reunion* (Frisbie Communications); *Radishes and Strawberries* (Frisbie Communications, 2015), and two graphic nonfiction books – *The Story of the Alexian Brothers* (Sadifa Meida, 1984) and *Mary Ward* (Sadifa Media, 1985). A video reading of her unpublished manuscript *Every Third House*, a book about a child struggling with her mother's mental illness, is available on YouTube, presented by her son-in-law Matt Binns

In 2017, the (Chicago) Daily Herald wrote, "[I]f there's one constant in her long career, it's her ability to tell stories."

Born in Geneva as Margery Rowbottom, near where her extended family owned a foundry, Mrs. Frisbie moved to Chicago in eighth grade. She



**Margery Frisbie with her book *An Alley in Chicago*.**

attended high school at St. Scholastica Academy in Rogers Park, where she was class president. She majored in biology and graduated in 1944 from Mundelein College, which subsequently became part of Loyola University Chicago. After graduating, she worked as a researcher for Magnaflux in Chicago, which tested for fatigue cracks in airplane engines. She recalled how, whenever she tried to quit, her boss would secure a raise for her.

An amateur pilot, she flew a Piper Cub she co-owned with fellow employees at Magnaflux out of the former Sky Harbor Airport in Northbrook.

After Magnaflux, Mrs. Frisbie worked as a chemist at a Chicago chemical company, where she invented an ink for

checks that could be not be erased. She left her chemistry career in 1948 to become head of public relations at Mundelein College. She also hosted a

radio show on the former Chicago radio station WAAF.

In 1950, she married Richard Frisbie, a Chicago Daily News reporter whom she met when he came to write a story about the well-known defected Soviet spy, Elizabeth Bentley, whom Mundelein had hired to teach social studies. In 1954, the couple moved to Arlington Heights. Richard Frisbie, her husband of 68 years, died in 2018. The couple had eight children. Mr. Frisbie was an author or co-author of seven books and served as treasurer, membership secretary and president

of the Midland Authors. He also was editor of *Literary License*.

Early in their marriage, Mrs. Frisbie was a co-writer with her husband of the column *Family Front* for *Marriage* magazine, published by Abbey Press. The couple also wrote *The Cana Couplet*, a newsletter for the Cana Conference, a marriage education program. She was children's book editor for the *National Catholic Reporter* and wrote a weekly column for the Archdiocese of Chicago's newspaper, *The New World*, for six years. After that, she wrote a

local history column for 19 years for the *Daily Herald*, which she gave up in 2016 when her eyesight began to fail.

She also found time to contribute articles to magazines and newspapers and was a prolific writer of letters to the editor at local newspapers, including the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Former Gov. Pat Quinn was so impressed with her letters he stopped to have his photo taken with her as he walked past her house in the 2014 Arlington Heights Fourth of July parade.

In the early 1990s, Mrs. Frisbie took a job as a public relations specialist for the Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, which increased her earnings. Because of that and *An Alley in Chicago*, published when she was 68, she liked to say her career didn't get fully underway until she was 70.

Both Mrs. Frisbie and Richard Frisbie, a longtime member of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library board, were social justice advocates and well-known figures in the community. In 2007, they were grand marshals of the village's Fourth of July parade. Mrs. Frisbie served on numerous commissions, including as president of Northwest Community Services; as a member of the Board of Councilors for Alexian Brothers Medical Center, and as chairperson of the Family Life Commission of the National Council of Catholic Women.

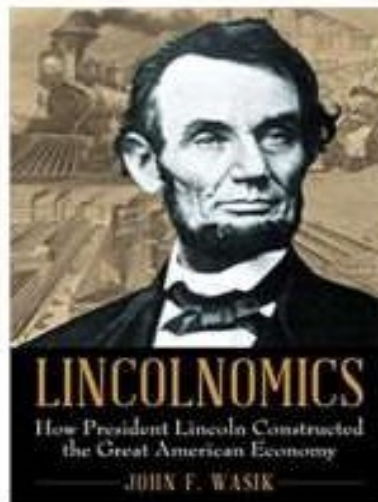
She was such a prolific writer to government officials that when her granddaughter Abigail Lantz was a Senate intern reading constituent mail, she opened a letter written by her grandmother.



❖ MIDLAND AUTHORS ❖

presents

John Wasik



## Lincolnomics:

How President Lincoln Constructed the Great American Economy


**Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021; 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.**


*Free, open to the public ❖ No need to register*

**Zoom link: <https://uic.zoom.us/j/7124160494>**

Despite the many books about Lincoln, this one is the first of its kind.

It tells the story of Lincoln as a significant builder of American infrastructure—how he developed an economic ladder to democracy through national transportation, public education and market access.

 “This unique blend of biography and policy prescription...traces the roots of Lincoln’s support for the transcontinental railroad and other ‘internal improvements.’ Wasik convincingly argues that (Lincoln’s) economic policies deserve more credit.” – *Publishers Weekly*

 “Wasik presents Abraham Lincoln as ‘nothing less than our foremost architect of economic opportunity.’” – *Ann Durkin Keating*

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## Biblio File

### Continued from Page 5

and Drug Administration's full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for people ages 16 and older. ... The Berkshire County Historical Society was scheduled to present a special Sept. 19 lecture and film screening by **Robert K. Elder** at Arrowhead, Herman Melville's house. Robert talked about his illustrated edition of Moby-Dick. Also, Robert spent a week as the artist in residence at Hemingway's house in Ketchum, Idaho. ... **David Treuer** wrote "A Sadness I Can't Carry": The Story of the Drum" for the Aug. 31 New York Times. ... **Steve Wiegenstein** was scheduled to read at the Sept 23-25 Ozarks Studies Symposium. ... **Taylor Pensoneau** is working on his next book, *Corruption, Incorporated*. ... In the Sept, 1 Architectural Record, **Thomas Dyja** discussed what he thinks the future holds for New York City. ... **Lee Ann Roripaugh** was among the authors scheduled to be at the 12th Biennial John R. Milton Writers' Conference, which is being held from Sept. 16-18 at the University of

South Dakota. ... **Delmarie Cobb** was quoted in a Sept. 2 Chicago Tribune article about Rahm Emanuel's nomination to be ambassador to Japan. ... On Sept. 7, **Dick Simpson** was quoted in an ABC-7 story about the death of former U.S. Sen. Adlai Stevenson III. ... **Edward "Ted" McClelland** joined John Landecker on Sept. 16 on Chicago's WGN Radio to talk about the most outdated stereotypes in Chicago. Also, Ted is the new 312 editor at Chicago magazine, and is taking pitches at emcclelland@chicagomag.com. ... **Jerry Apps** wrote "New growing on the roots of the old" for the July 12 Wisconsin State Farmer. ... **John Hartig** wrote "Great Lakes Moment: International Wetlands Treaty Turns 50" for Detroit Public Television's Great Lakes Now on Sept.6. ... **June Sawyers** wrote "Come to Chicago's Cabaret: Past and Present" for the Sept. 8 Third Coast Review. ... The Minneapolis Star-Tribune ran a Sept. 15 Q&A with **Alan Page**. ... The Manitowoc County (Wisconsin) Historical Society's Hungry for History lecture and dinner programs for fall 2021 will include "Fire Within: A Civil War

Narrative from Wisconsin" on Sept. 23 presented by **Kerry Trask**. ... **Laurie Lawlor's Fearless World Traveler: Adventures of Marianne North, Botanical Artist** (See Literary Latest, Page 7) was included on the Sept. 16 San Francisco Chronicle's "6 children's books celebrate women who changed the world of art." ... **Lisa Fay Coutley** was among the authors scheduled to be at the Sept. 3 26th annual Lit Fest in Omaha. ... **Patricia Skalka** will be among the faculty for the Oct. 22-24 Write On, Door County's Mystery Conference. ... **Rick Perlstein's** book *Reaganland: America's Right Turn 1976-1980* is out now in paperback. ... The Aug. 23 Publishers Weekly quoted **Ruth Spiro** on the future of school visits, and the concern among some authors that offering presentations for free during the pandemic may have set a precedent moving forward. ... **S.L. Wisenberg** wrote "On Vacation: A Traveler's Lexicon" for the Aug. 6 Newcity. ... The Aug. 26 Chicago magazine quoted **Steve Bogira**.

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