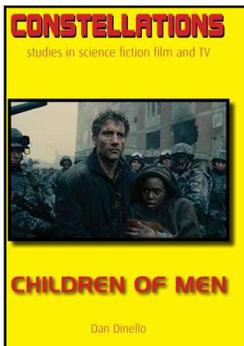


Biblio File

Dan Dinello has signed a contract with Britain's Auteur Publishing to write a book about "Children of Men," Alfonso



Cuaron's 2006 dystopic science fiction film. It will come out in spring, 2019. ... **Donna Seaman** and Chicago writer Susan Hahn on Oct. 12 at Women & Children First, discussed Hahn's

forthcoming novel, *Losing Beck*. Oct. 20, Donna was on a panel of Chicago writers for a WTTW live event at the Cultural Center in conjunction with PBS' "The Great American Read" series. She, Julia Fine and Liesl Olson discussed the Great American Read list of 100 favorite novels. Donna writes to say, "I also spoke at the Fuller Award presentation to **Stuart Dybek** at the Poetry Foundation on Oct. 30. The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame put on the event, under **Don Evans'** direction, and **Bill Savage** was emcee. Many Chicago writers spoke along with myself: **Scott Turow**, **Alex Kotlowitz**, Ed Roberson, Mark Turcotte, Rachel Jamison Webster, **Reginald Gibbons**, Dennis Zacek, and the former head of the Chicago Public Library, Mary Dempsey. Everyone had something distinct and illuminating to say about the artistry and spirit of Stuart's work, and about how caring and generous a teacher, mentor, and friend Stuart is. Stuart's acceptance speech was eloquent and stirring; he

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Getting write to the point: Authors tell how they started



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Panelists Michele Weldon, Craig Sautter, Michael Raleigh and Linda Neme Foster. (Thomas Frisbie photos)

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

At the Society of Midland Authors monthly program on Oct. 9, which was sponsored with the Illinois Writing Project, four authors told their stories of how they became writers.

Michele Weldon said she has been a writer since she was 10, when she had her

own monthly newspaper called the *Juvenile Journal*, which her father mailed out to relatives. When she was 12, the local newspaper, the *Oak Leaves*, paid her \$25 to write teen features.

"I have had an identity for the last 50 years as a writer, and I would really not

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Continued from Page 1

spoke about essential it was that we all protect the world of writers and books. It was an exceptionally warm and inspiring night.” ... **Sara Paretsky’s** new V.I. Warshawski book is *Shell Game*

(Morrow). ... **Craig Sautter** was a featured poet for the 20th anniversary of the Reiberg Reading Series at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and will be reading poems in a Chicago Quarterly Review event at the Evanston Public Library on Nov. 10. ...

Christoph Irmsher wrote “The Kafka papers: Settling the fate of the author’s manuscripts took an international legal battle” for the Sept. 16 Weekly Standard. ... 2011 SMA book award winner

Deborah Blum’s new book is *The Poison Squad: One Chemist’s Single-Minded Crusade for Food Safety at the Turn of the Twentieth Century* (Penguin Press). ... **A. James Fuller** gave an Oct 1

lecture at the University of Indianapolis about a Civil War-era scandal that involved Illinois Gov. Richard Yates and a married woman. ... The Asheville Citizen-Times listed **April Pulley Sayer’s** *Full of Fall* among its “books [that] will get your kids excited for fall.”

... On Oct. 4, **Eldon Ham** wrote “Athlete Free Speech – It’s Not The Standing, Stupid” for CBS Chicago. ... **Bonnie Rochman** wrote “Those ‘superhumans’ of the future Stephen Hawking feared? Look around” for the Oct. 10 Washington Post. ... On Oct. 9, **Carol Fisher Saller** told the Chicago Tribune she has noticed a proliferation of online grammar shaming, much of it wrong. ... The Oct. 5 Illinois News Network quoted

Christopher Mooney. ... **Crystal Chan** will speak from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 16 at Vineyard Church for the Arts and Social Justice, 2495 Howard St., Evanston, Illinois. ... **Burt Levy** will speak at the Vintage Sports Cars Drivers Association banquet at Maggiano’s in Oak Brook, Illinois, on Nov. 10 about 40 years of racing and writing. He will start signing copies of his latest title in his The Last Open Road series at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. ... On Oct. 21, seattlepi.com ran a Q&A with “Linda

know who else to be,” said Weldon, the author of five books and a sixth, a collection of essays, she is trying to sell. “I knew early on that I love to do what I do.”

Although she does a lot of things, such as present seminars, that help pay the bills, “I always leave time for the heartfelt writing,” Weldon said.

Michael Raleigh traced his roots as a writer to his days as a child when he would draw “incredibly detailed pictures with hundreds of little figures engaged in a desperate battle in the siege of a castle, and then I would narrate these pictures while I was drawing.

“Once in a while, an adult, usually my father, would decide to join me, and ask: Who are you talking to? And I would say: Nobody.

“I became a storyteller, and as I got older I told the stories to my friends. Sometimes they were things that I had read. Sometimes they were things that I had made up.”

When he was 16, he wrote a short story for an English class that he loved but that his teacher found unimpressive.

“He had this very nasty, sarcastic face, and he said, ‘Really, in a 10-page story you manage to kill off the protagonist on Page 6, defying the laws of logic and the Aristotelian unities?’” Raleigh said. “I didn’t know that Aristotle had any unities.”

Then a friend suggested he read the



Steve Zelman, director of the Illinois Writing Project, who helped introduce the SMA panel.

Studs Lonigan books.

“I read Studs Lonigan, and that did it for me,” Raleigh said. “That relentlessly dark book with 100 minor characters – I had never seen anything like that in my English classes, where someone really got into the life of a neighborhood and the life of a city. I wanted to do that.”

After completing graduate school, he started sending his stories to publishers and getting rejections.

“Eventually, things turned because I had patience,” said Raleigh, who has written several books, taught English at all levels and now teaches at

DePaul University. “Most of the magazines that rejected me are gone, and most of those editors are dead. I’m like a literary King Tut’s curse.”

The other reason his work started getting published, he said, was “I got better. Some of the early stuff I was sending out wasn’t very good.”

Linda Nemeč Foster, the author of 11 collections of poetry and the first Poet

“*I write because I want to connect with others.*”

Laureate of Grand Rapids, Michigan, said her two themes for success as a writer are perseverance and resilience.

“I write because I want to connect with

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Literary License

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www.midlandauthors.com

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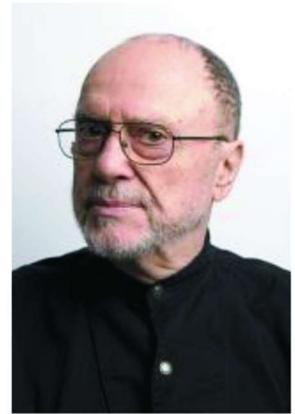
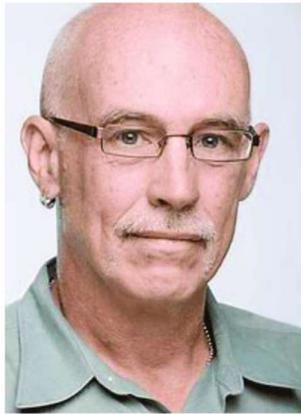
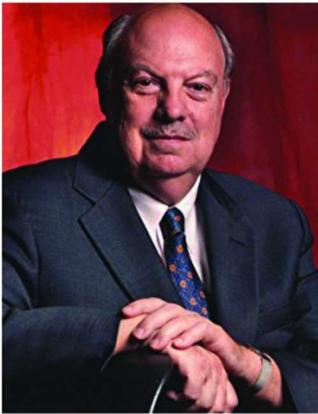
Society of Midland Authors members can now pay their membership dues, buy tickets to the annual dinner and make donations on our website with PayPal (there is a \$1 fee to help cover PayPal’s fee). To make a donation, visit our home page at www.midlandauthors.com and click on the “Donate” button in the upper right corner.

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∞ You're invited: ∞

Analysis: Mid-term elections

When: Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018. Cocktail hour: 6-7 pm; Panel discussion: 7-8 pm
Where: Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Ave, 22nd floor penthouse—with a view!



Authors, journalists, political consultants analyze results of Nov. 6th mid-term elections

∞ **Dick Simpson, Moderator:** political consultant, professor of political science at University of Illinois Chicago, former 44th Ward Alderman and two-time candidate for Congress. Simpson has written more than 20 books on political action, ethics and strategy. In his new book, *The Good Fight*, this progressive politician lays out his career—and calling.

∞ **Greg Hinz:** long-time, award-winning journalist. Hinz is a columnist and blogger for *Crain's Chicago Business*. He covers politics and government, as well as public policy, education, transportation and economic development.

∞ **Betty O'Shaughnessy:** visiting lecturer in political science at the University of Illinois Chicago and former elected official. O'Shaughnessy coauthored *Winning Elections in the 21st Century and The Struggle for Power and Influence in Cities and States*, both with Simpson. Together they made the case that voters need to win democracy along with elections—a lesson that should not be lost in the 2018 mid-term elections.

∞ **Don Rose:** legendary independent political consultant, journalist and social activist. Rose has been dubbed a “Warrior for Justice” and has been fighting on the behalf of democracy in Chicago for decades. He was influential in launching the careers of journalist David Axelrod, former Mayor Harold Washington and former President Barack Obama.

Biblio File

Continued from Page 2

Keir,” a nom de plume for Linda Hull and **Keir Graff**, authors of *The Swing of Things*. Keir said, “Our next book (*Drowning with Others*) is wrapped up, and it will be published tentatively in August of 2019. We wrote it in seven months, which was not easy but less of a challenge than we had anticipated.” ...

Erika Sánchez received the 2018 Chicago Public Library/Chicago Public Library Foundation’s 21st Century Award, which honors significant recent achievements in writing by an author with ties to Chicago. Sánchez wrote the 2017 poetry collection *Lessons on Expulsion* and a young adult novel, *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, which won a Society of Midland Authors award and was a finalist for the 2017 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature. Among the Carl Sandburg Award guest authors at the event were **Blue Balliett, Jonathan Eig, Amina Gautier, Claire Hartfield, Rebecca Makkai, Robert Marovich, Todd Mayfield, Natalie Moore, Nami Mun, Dominic Pacyga, Donna Seaman, John Wasik** and **Mary Wisniewski**. ...

Cynthia Clampitt spoke Oct. 11 at the Orange City (Iowa) Public Library. ... *Homeless Bird* by **Gloria Whelan** and *The Birchbark House* by **Louise Erdrich** were among the titles in the South Carolina Independent School Association’s High School recent Battle of the Books. ... The Oct. 24 Chicago Tribune quoted **Joanne Koch** in a story about narrative medicine, which encourages patients to write about their struggles. ... **Jonathan Eig** was quoted in the Oct. 2 Washington Post about new genetic evidence Muhammad Ali’s family turned up. ... On Oct. 19, signature-reads.com included **Lesley Nneka Arimah’s** SMA award-winning debut collection *What It Means When A Man Falls From the Sky* among its “8 Titles that Prove the Power of Magical Realism.” ... **William O’Rourke** wrote “Flannery O’Connor, Robert Giroux’s ‘partnership’ succeeds” for the Oct 24 National Catholic Reporter.

Follow Biblio File on Twitter @BiblioFile_SMA.

■ Authors Continued from Page 1



The panelists at the Society of Midland Authors’ Oct. 9 program at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago included (from left) Michele Weldon, Michael Raleigh, Linda Nemece Foster and Craig Sautter.

others,” Foster said.

“I did not start out wanting to be a writer,” said Foster who majored in political science, sociology and economics in college.

“I wanted to go into broadcast journalism,” she said.

But after a year as an intern an NBC affiliate “where I really did everything,” she realized she didn’t like it.

“I was 19 and realized what a blessing in disguise to know what you don’t want,” she said.

Throughout her college career, she had read and loved poetry, however, and wrote poems for herself.

“After college, I kept on writing and I kept on reading a lot,” she said. “To be a good writer in any genre, you really need to be a good reader. And I attended a little free community poetry workshop that was sponsored by a library – hurray for libraries.”

After receiving encouragement from established writers, Foster got her MFA from Goddard College in Vermont, and started getting her books published.

“Another big asset, I tell anyone who

“I write to discover and define what I think.”

wants to be a writer, is self-confidence,” she said. “Believe in yourself more than anything because no one can tell your story. No one has your voice.”

Craig Sautter, a poet, philosopher and educator who has written or co-written 10 books and six more “that are still looking for a home,” said, “I write to discover and define what I think.”

Writing *Inside the Wigwam* with SMA member **Edward Burke** “was a transcendental work,” Sautter said. “I would write until my arms wouldn’t move anymore and then I would start researching the next chapter. ... I wrote 800 pages in six months.”

When he writes a short story, “I am just walking down the street and I think of a character and I sit down and tell their story,” said Sautter, the 47th president of the Society of Midland Authors. “... I never had any problem with writing. I just pick up the pen and it flows.”



SMA Program Chair **Greg Borzo** introduces the authors at the SMA’s Oct 9 program.

Great works ‘should draw us together’

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Working at the post office helped make **Scott Turow** a man of letters.

As a college student, Turow had a summer job delivering mail for the Glencoe, Illinois, post office. Because he'd been warned by a fellow employee not to return to the post office until quitting time, he headed over to the local library each day when he finished his route early. Once there, he set the goal of reading, bit by bit, James Joyce's *Ulysses*, then considered by many people to be the world's finest novel, although a challenging read.

But when he returned to the library each day, he was surprised to find its copy of *Ulysses* was always right where he had left it on the shelf.

"Here I was in one of the wealthiest, best-educated towns in the Chicago area,

Literary Life

and no one was competing with me for the opportunity to read the greatest novel ever written," Turow said at an Oct. 17 program at the Niles-Maine (Illinois) District Library. "That had to tell me something."

What it told him, he said, was "the greatest works should be able to be enjoyed by both the bus driver and an English professor, and that continues to be my view of the greatest literature. It should create universals. A truly great work of art, of whatever kind, should draw us together as human beings and draw from each of us a sense of response to that work."

Turow, the author of numerous best-selling books, including *Presumed Innocent*, said he was drawn to writing by his mother, **Rita Turow**, an author and a member of the Society of Midland Authors board in the 1980s, and by one of the books she gave him to read when he was young, *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

"It just lifted me from the face of the Earth," he said of the book. "It took hold of me in a way that I hadn't yet experienced. It is sword fights and costumes and long-nurtured revenge. ... I thought if it is that exciting to read a book, imagine how much ever more exciting it must be to write it. From that point on, when peo-

ple asked me what I wanted to do, I said I wanted to be a novelist."

Oddly, he also got a lift from a rejection once he started writing novels. An editor at Farrar Straus and Giroux who rejected one of his early efforts at a novel wrote him: "I read your novel. It shows great promise. I suggest you put it in a desk drawer in favor of the second novel you will surely write."

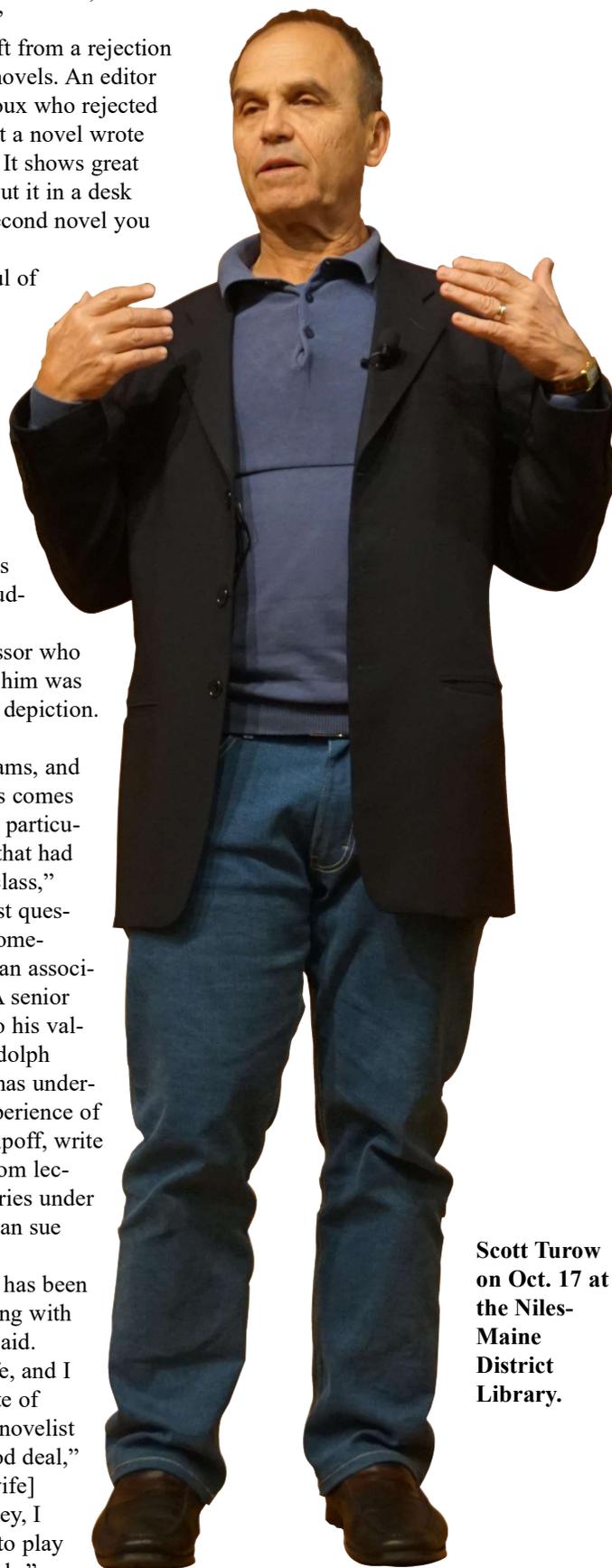
"Even that teaspoonful of recognition really was enough to keep me going," Turow said.

Turow's first published book was *One L: The Turbulent True Story of a First Year at Harvard Law School*, which happened to come out when he was still on campus and included a professor he called Rudolph Perini. A professor who believed that referred to him was not at all happy with his depiction.

"I had taken my exams, and one my of friends comes running with this particular professor's exam he that had given in his copyrights class," Turow said. "And the last question on the exam went something like this: 'You are an associate in a large law firm. A senior partner introduces you to his valued client, Professor Rudolph Perini. Professor Perini has undergone the humiliating experience of having a student, Ray Ripoff, write a book about his classroom lectures. Please list all theories under which Professor Perini can sue Ray Ripoff.'"

But most of his career has been more pleasant than dealing with annoyed professors, he said.

"It has been a great life, and I wish on everyone the fate of becoming a best-selling novelist because it is a pretty good deal," he said. "As I tell [my wife] most mornings, OK, honey, I am going to go upstairs to play with my imaginary friends."



Scott Turow on Oct. 17 at the Niles-Maine District Library.



At the Write Across Chicago program

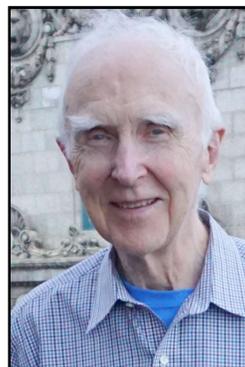
Authors attending the Oct. 9 Society of Midland Authors' program, which was part of the city-wide Write Across Chicago effort, enjoyed the spectacular view from the Cliff Dwellers Club's deck overlooking Chicago's Grant and Millennium parks. The program featured a panel of authors who had contributed to Write Across Chicago.

The SMA's next monthly program will be a panel on Nov. 13 analyzing the outcomes of the Nov. 6 election.

On Jan. 8, the Society will return to the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago for a program featuring women who have written books about the Vietnam War.



ABOVE: Margaret England (from left), Mary Nitsch, Tony Foster and SMA Board Member Dick Simpson. **LEFT:** Leslie P. Recht, past president of the Cliff Dwellers, and SMA Member Emily Clark Victorson.



LEFT: SMA Board Member Allen Salter and former SMA President Jim Schwab. **ABOVE:** SMA Member Gunter Nitsch (left) and SMA Vice President Marlene Targ Brill with panelist Michele Weldon. (Thomas Frisbie photos)

A long history of SMA book awards

This is Part 28 of the history of the Society.

The Society gave out the Thermo Mosen Award for eight years. After that, the names and the categories of the awards changed several times, but the Society continued to honor its choices for the best books by the Midwest's authors every year (with one exception, 1990).

Since 1997, the SMA has awarded books in six categories: adult fiction, adult nonfiction, biography (which changed to biography and memoir in 2014), children's fiction, children's nonfiction and poetry. A panel of judges in each category chooses a winner and finalists after reading books submitted by authors and publishers.

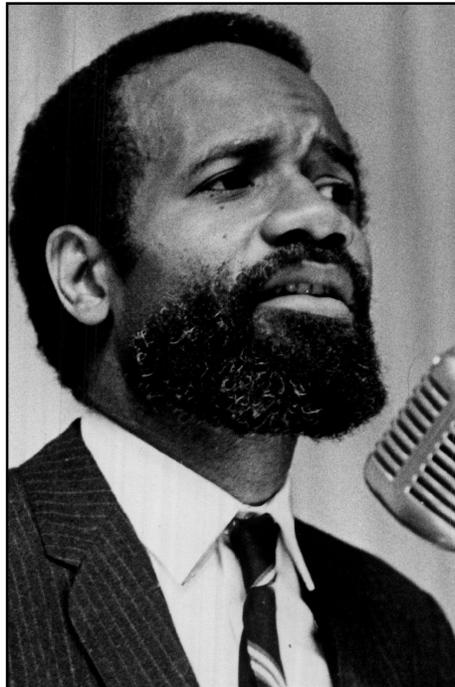
From 2002 to 2018, the Society also presented the James Friend Memorial Award for Literary and Theater Criticism, funded by **Beverly Friend**, a longtime member both of the SMA and of the Friends of Literature.

"Award winners often comment they particularly cherish the awards because they come from fellow authors," the late **Richard Frisbie**, a former SMA president, observed.

Many of the books honored by the SMA with its awards are classics that remain popular and widely known to this day, including the novels *Herzog* by **Saul Bellow**, *Slaughterhouse Five* by **Kurt Vonnegut Jr.**, *So Long*, *See You Tomorrow* by **William Maxwell**, and *Gilead* by **Marilyne Robinson**; and the nonfiction books *Division Street: America* by **Studs Terkel**, *Boss* by **Mike Royko**, and *There Are No Children Here* by **Alex Kotlowitz**.

Not all of the winners are so famous, but the SMA's judges believed they were also worthy of being remembered and read for years to come.

The last author to capture the Mosen Award was **Gwendolyn Brooks**, who



Lerone Bennett Jr. (left) and Gwendolyn Brooks were among the many authors who won SMA Book awards in the early years of the awards.

“Award winners often comment they particularly cherish the awards because they come from fellow authors.”

received the honor in 1964, for *Selected Poems*. In 1969, Brooks won the SMA's Patron Saints Award for her book *In the Mecca*, and in 1980, she won the SMA's poetry award again, this time for her "continuing poetic achievements."

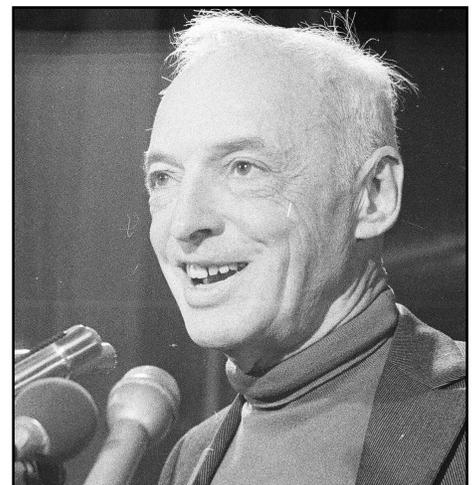
Brooks was appointed Poet Laureate of Illinois in 1968, a position she held until her death in 2000. She was inducted into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame in 2010.

In 1965, **Lerone Bennett Jr.** won the SMA's Patron Saints Award for his book *What Man of Man: A Biography of Martin Luther King Jr.*, which Chicago's Johnson Publishing had printed. The

Chicago Defender proclaimed "Bravo" to this award for an African-American writer, and Johnson Publishing held a supper party to celebrate in the Guildhall of the Ambassador West Hotel.

"It was attended by all of Chicago's elite," Defender columnist Ruth H. McCoy reported. "We overheard one of the Midland authors who lives in Winnetka say she is going to switch publishers, because hers never gives such lavish parties for their authors."

Literary Lore
Robert Loerzel



Saul Bellow in 1976.

SMA award competition is open

The Society of Midland Authors is now accepting submissions for its annual literary awards, which will honor books by Midwestern authors published in 2018.

Three judges on each committee will select one winner that is best in that category. Category winners receive \$500 and a recognition award. Judges may also deem one or two honorees as worthy of recognition. Each honoree will receive a commemorative award. All honors are given out at the awards banquet in May. A book may be nominated by its author or publisher. Please read the following rules carefully before submitting. (The rules are also on our website.)

An entry form must accompany each book that goes to each of the three judges in its category. That means a total of three forms per title (three judges each receive a form and book). Books unaccompanied by completed entry forms will not be considered.

Each book entry must have a 2018 publication date that corresponds with its copyright date. The author must either reside in, be born in, or have strong ties to one of the 12 Midland states SMA represents: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

Each submission requires an entry fee of \$25. To pay by PayPal or credit card, please click [here](#). You may also send a check to Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610. This payment must identify the book title, author and source of check, so SMA knows which author and book entry to confirm as a paid entry. (You can use the "comments" box to write the information for PayPal. Copy the entry form to go with your snailmail check.)

For now, we do not consider e-book originals unless accompanied by a print edition.

Books by deceased authors are eligible,

providing they meet the other requirements.

Submissions must be postmarked by Saturday, January 5, 2019. We urge early submissions. Send entries to the appropriate judges listed below. (The list of judges is also on our website.)

To enter this year's competition, print out the entry form at this link: http://midlandauthors.com/contest_form.html. Include a completed copy with each nom-



Award winner Natasha Tarpley with judges Brian Wilson and Shari Frost at the 2018 SMA book awards.

inated book. Mail a copy of the form and the book to each of the three judges in the selected category. Make sure that you enter the book in the proper category. (For example, all children's books go to children's categories, rather than Poetry or Biography and Memoir, which are for adult submissions only.) Books submitted to improper categories will be disqualified.

For comments, questions or to confirm an entry has reached the judges, contact **Marlene Targ Brill** at marlenetbrill@comcast.net.

JUDGES FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2018

Adult Fiction Award

Melinda Braun, 5708 Hawkes Drive,
Edina, MN 55436

Sue Harrison, 23387 South Rocky Point

Road, Pickford, MI 49774

Rick Reeder, 8519 Karlov, Skokie, IL
60076

The Richard P. Frisbie Adult Nonfiction Award

Jillian McKeown, Adult Services,
Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette
Ave., Wilmette, IL 60091

Don Rose, 2025 N. Sedgwick, Chicago,
IL 60614

Jim Schwab, 1755 N.
Campbell, Chicago, IL 60647

The Bernard Brommel Biography & Memoir Award

Jonathan Eig, 444 W. Oakdale
Ave, 2E, Chicago, IL 60657

Sue William Silverman, 411
Howard Ave., Grand Haven, MI
49417

Mary Kay Shanley, 1140
Vividell Lane, West Des
Moines, IA 50266

Poetry Award

Lisa Coutley, 6014 Franklin
St., Omaha, NE 68104

Joseph G. Peterson, 5420 East
View Park, Apt. 2, Chicago, IL
60615

Leland James Whipple, 5776
Cottage Drive, Bellaire, MI

49615

Children's Nonfiction Award

Pat Kummer, 2671 Normandy Place,
Lisle, IL 60532-1081

Janet Riehecky, 657 Shenandoah Trail,
Elgin, IL 60123

Carol Saller, Until December 31, c/o
University of Chicago Press, 1427 E 60th
St., Chicago IL 60637; After December
31, 1469 E Park Pl., Chicago 60637

Children's Fiction Award

Debbi Chocolate, 1431 Haverhill Drive,
Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Shari Frost, 8748D Kedvale Ave,
Skokie IL 60076

Brian E. Wilson, 1440 West Argyle St.,
Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60640

We look forward to your submissions.
Thank you and good luck

Print this page. Make **three** copies for each book entered.

AWARDS ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 5, 2019

Send one book and one copy of this completed form to **each** of the three judges in the book's category. Please type or print clearly. Note: We need author contact information to communicate with winners.

Name of book:

Publisher:

Publication date:

(If publication date differs from copyright date, please explain in "Comments" section below.)

Author:

Author's address:

Author's email address:

Category of entry (circle one). Entries improperly categorized will be disqualified.

ADULT FICTION

POETRY (Adult)

CHILDREN'S FICTION

ADULT NONFICTION

BIOGRAPHY and MEMOIRS (Adult)

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

I nominate the above work for a Society of Midland Authors Award.

(An author may nominate their own work.)

Your name:

Signature:

Company and Business title:

Telephone and/or email address:

Address:

If the author is not currently a resident of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota or Wisconsin, please explain the author's connection to this region

Comments:

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Midland Authors Monthly Meeting

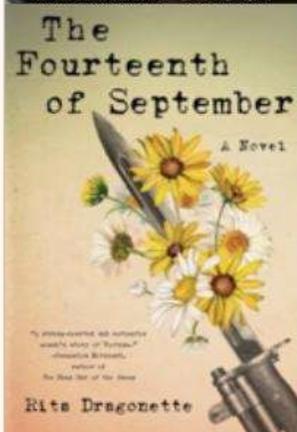
Women Writing the Vietnam War

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 • Panel discussion at 6 pm
Harold Washington Library • Pritzker Auditorium • 400 South State Street



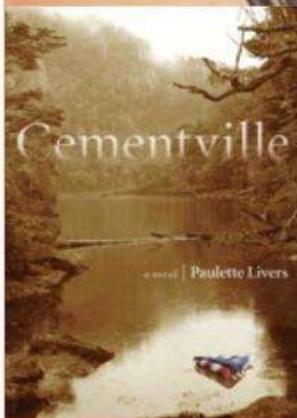
Barbara Shoup *An American Tune*

Nora Quillen hears someone call her real name, which she hasn't heard in 25 years. Back in the '60s she was Jane Barth, a student involved in the antiwar movement. The novel tells the story of Jane, a girl who fled town after she was complicit in a deadly bombing, and Nora, the wife and mother she became. It shows the irrevocability of our choices and how those choices compose the tune of our lives.



Rita Dragonette *The Fourteenth of September*

Private Judy Talton celebrates her 19th birthday by secretly joining the campus anti-Vietnam War movement. In doing so, she jeopardizes her future and family. But her doubts have escalated with the war. Who is she if she stays in the army? What is she if she leaves? Judy's coming-of-conscience journey propels her toward a life-altering choice as fateful as that of any male draftee.

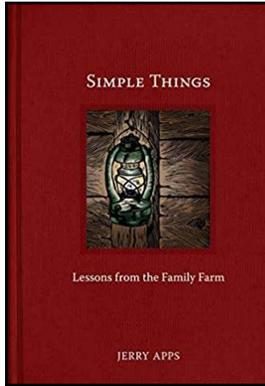
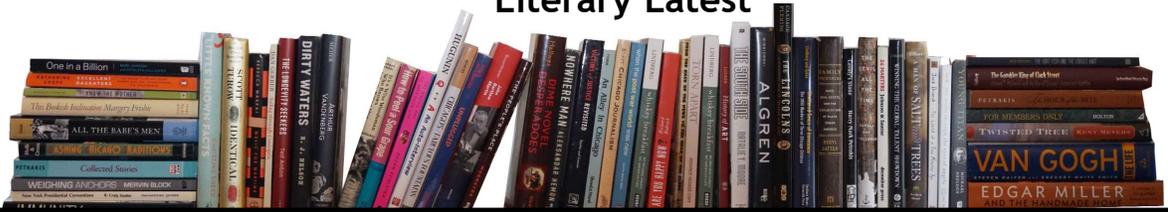


Paulette Livers *Cementville*

Favored sons of a small town joined the National Guard hoping to avoid the draft and the killing fields of Vietnam. They were sent into combat anyway, and seven were killed in a single, horrific ambush. The return of the bodies sets off something inside of the town itself—a divisive political reality, a gnawing unease with the future—pushing the families of Cementville further into grief and alienation.

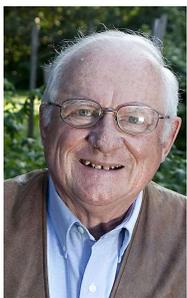


ALL ARE WELCOME • PLEASE COME!



LEARNING WITHOUT KNOWING IT

Here’s what **Jerry Apps** writes to say about his new collection of essays, *Simple Things: Lessons from the Family Farm* (Wisconsin Historical Society Press, Sept. 11, 2018): “As a farm boy growing up during the waning years of the Great Depression and World War II without electricity or indoor plumbing and in a house heated with woodstoves, I



Jerry Apps

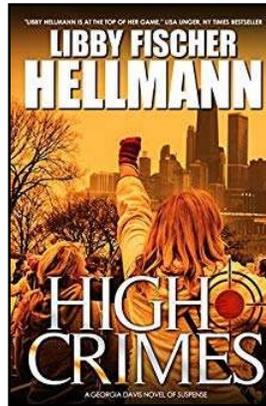
reflected on what I had learned from those early years, without knowing I was learning it. For instance, I learned the power of silence and the beauty of a dark night. I learned the importance of never giving up hope, not fearing taking risks, and the

importance of friends and family and much more.”

From the publisher: “Celebrated rural storyteller Jerry Apps returns to the ‘simple things’ that defined life on his post-Depression Era farm – an old cedar fencepost, Fanny the farm dog, trust tools, the kerosene lantern – recalling the stories, and values, that spring from even the most familiar of objects.

“In this collection of thoughtful essays, Apps holds each everyday item up to the light for a closer look, plumbing his

memories for the deeper meanings of these objects that share the values instilled in him during his rural boyhood in the 1940s and 1950s. He concludes that people who had the opportunity to grow up on family farms gained useful skills, important knowledge, and lifelong values that serve them well throughout their lives. Apps captures and shares those things for people who remember them and for those who never had the benefit of living on a small farm.”



15TH CRIME THRILLER

Libby Fischer Hellmann’s new book is *High Crimes: A Georgia Davis Novel of Suspense* (The Red Herring Press (Nov. 10, 2018).

Hellmann writes to say: “This is my 15th crime thriller and the 5th in my Georgia Davis PI series. It was personal. And it’s somewhat political. It takes place about a year after the 2016 election when Georgia is tasked with investigating the assassination of a Resistance leader at an anti-Trump demonstration in Grant Park.

“The killer is himself killed shortly after he shoots her, but there’s something fishy about it, so the family asks Georgia to take a look.

“In reality, I couldn’t write for a year, but when I realized I’d been giving all my power to the occupant of the Oval Office, I decided I should start writing

again. I had joined a resistance Facebook group right after the election, and I played the ‘what-if’ game. What if the leader of a Facebook group was assassinated? Who would have done it and why? With a group of 42,000 suspects, let’s just say that Georgia has her hands full.

“There’s also a personal complication — the mother who abandoned Georgia as a child comes back into the picture, and Georgia needs to deal with her rage and sense of betrayal.”

Publishers Weekly wrote, “Hellmann’s entertaining fifth mystery featuring Chicago PI Georgia Davis (after 2014’s *Nobody’s Child*) echoes current events right down to dropping the names of Vladimir Putin, Steve Bannon, John McCain, and even Rachel Maddow. The only real-life public figure to go unnamed is the ‘most unpopular president ever.’

“Dena Baldwin, the daughter of a powerful and corrupt Washington, D.C., lobbyist, is the founder and charismatic leader of ResistanceUSA.

She has organized a massive protest rally in Chicago’s Grant Park. As she takes the stage to deliver the opening remarks, she’s shot dead, and the assassin subsequently dies in an explosion. The FBI puts it down to domestic terrorism and determines that the shooter acted alone. Dena’s mother isn’t satisfied with this assessment and asks Georgia to find out the truth behind her daughter’s death. A shrewd investigator, Georgia surrounds herself with top-notch computer techs and police and FBI contacts. The plot unfolds logically, and for readers who watch the nightly news with dismay, the novel offers a satisfying alternate reality.”

Author Michael Koryta wrote, “*High Crimes* is the P.I. novel for our moment.”

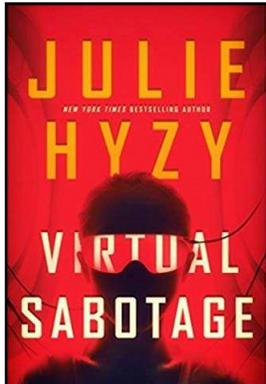


Libby Fischer Hellmann

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Literary Latest

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THE DARK SIDE

Julie Hyzy writes to say, “Even though I’ve had some success writing cozy mys-

teries, I’ve longed to return to the dark side for quite some time. *Virtual Sabotage* (Calexia, Oct. 23, 2018) is a techno-thriller set in the very near , and protagonist Kenna Ward is a lifeguard for the brain. When VR participants become too immersed in their scenarios, Kenna is sent in to rescue them. Readers who have ever wondered about criminal forces exploiting technology will (hopefully) enjoy *Virtual Sabotage*.”



Julie Hyzy

From the publisher: “Virtual Sabotage introduces Kenna Ward, an envoy for a virtual reality company whose implants create a thrilling world that allows people to create daring

scenarios in a safe environment. Most of the time, that is. When in the rare instance the human brain mistakes the terrifying event as real, it’s up to Ward to enter the scenario and pull them back to reality. But when a key envoy goes rogue and people begin responding in odd and dangerous ways, Ward delves deeper, finding a sinister conspiracy to take over not only the virtual reality world, but the real one as well. Ward must stop it before there are no longer any independent minds left to control.”

Booklist wrote, “Hyzy, best known for her popular White House Chef series, shifts gears with this engaging take on the techno-thriller. ... The book has a great premise ... and the story unspools cleverly and with plenty of suspense. In addition, Kenna is a notably empathetic lead character.”

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.

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