

Biblio File

David W. Berner will have a new book out in the fall of 2020 from John Hunt Publishing UK, *Walks with Sam: A Man, A Dog, and a Season of Awakening*. ...

Robert O. Harder was named a Machigonne Fiction Contest semifinalist for his short story "Synchronizing My Pratt and Whitneys." It will be published in the Autumn 2019 edition of *The New Guard Review*. He also reports "an incredibly



Susan Orlean

successful book talk" on Aug. 6, at Chicago's University Club about his 2015 hardcover *The Three Musketeers of the Army Air Forces*, sponsored by the Patriot Society. ... On Sept. 22, the Coronado (California) Public Library selected **Susan Orlean's** *The Library Book* for the 2020 Coronado Community Read. ...

Timuel Black signed copies of *Sacred Grounds: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black as Told to Susan Klonsky*" during the First



Timuel Black

Unitarian Church of Chicago's "Roots" celebration, on Aug. 25. ... Charlotte Center for the Literary Arts recently presented the first-ever dramatic reading of **David Radavich's** *American Bound: An Epic for Our Time* to honor the historic day of September 11. Set in a small town named Troy near

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3 authors describe efforts to bring reform to Chicago

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Although he didn't realize it at the time, the infamous 1969 Chicago police raid that killed Mark Clark and Fred Hampton helped start **G. Flint Taylor** on the path to becoming an author.

"Without knowing it, I was operating as a writer as well as a lawyer because what we were trying to do was to give a people's narrative ... and to expose the false narrative [of] the police and the state's attorney of Cook County and the mayor of the city of Chicago," Taylor said Sept. 10 on a panel at the Midland Authors' monthly program at the Harold Washington Center in Chicago. "Over 13 years, we were able to do that."

Taylor, author of *The Torture Machine: Racism and Police Violence in Chicago* (Haymarket Books, March 19, 2019), was joined by **Ed Bachrach** and **Austin Berg** in a panel discussion moderated by Midland

Authors President **Dick Simpson**.

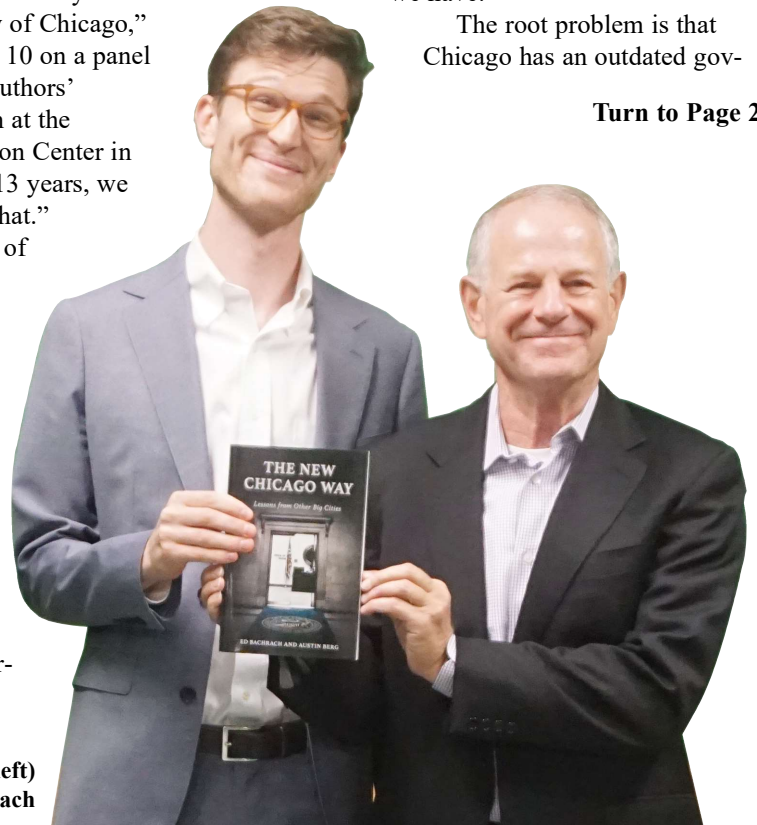
Bachrach and Berg are co-authors of *The New Chicago Way: Lessons From Other Big Cities* (Southern Illinois University Press, Jan. 16, 2019).

Bachrach said he was motivated to write a book after he sold his business in 2005 and then saw Chicago's government make a series of bad decisions.

"I started digging into some of those decisions, and I began to see a pattern," he said. "What evolved is the book that we have."

The root problem is that Chicago has an outdated gov-

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Austin Berg (left) and Ed Bachrach

Biblio File

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Saint Louis on the Mississippi River, this work features 24 monologues spoken by a diverse group of everyday Americans from World War II to the war in Iraq. During these three generations, the nation undergoes radical change from the post-



Walter Podrazik

World War II boom through the turbulent 1960s, civil rights movements, AIDS crisis, and into the new century. ...

Walter Podrazik was quoted Aug. 1 in the Daily Beast. ...

June Sawyers' latest book, the co-edited

anthology, *Long Walk Home: Reflections on Bruce Springsteen*, was published on Sept. 23, Springsteen's 70th birthday. Along with her co-editor Jonathan Cohen, she was set to co-host a panel discussion with Long Walk Home contributors Irish poet Paul Muldoon, racial justice activist Deepa Iyer, New York Times film critic A. O. Scott, and writer Natalie Adler at the Strand bookstore in New York's

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Reform

Continued from Page 1

ernment structure in which "the mayor calls all the shots." Bachrach said.

"Other cities over the last 120 years have modernized their governments," Bachrach said. "They've distributed power intelligently to places where the expertise should lie and the authority should lie. But Chicago hasn't done that."

Berg said he was interested in co-authoring the book partly because of his work in legalizing food carts in the city. Although the prohibition was lifted, "You had aldermen across the city stand up and say, 'not on the street, not on this corner, not on this block, not next to this business, not in my ward.' ... People who are supposed to be legislators acted as mini-kings and ombudsmen of their wards."

Taylor said his book, "is rather ambitious both in length and in subject matter. What I attempted to do – and it took me three years to write and 50 years to live – was to document police violence, particularly in the area of torture. The book starts out with myself ... as a young law student going to the apartment at 2337 W. Monroe St. ... We went there hours after [State's Attorney] Eddie Hanrahan and his 14 Chicago police officers had raided that apartment and fired over 80 bullets into that little apartment on the West Side and had left Fred Hampton and Mark Clark dead and several others seriously wounded."

That was the first chapter.

"The balance of the book, with some detours for some other cases that I and others in my office worked on, is about the Chicago Police torture scheme. It is about the fact that here in this country, here in this city, a gang of Chicago police officers, led by an officer who went up the ranks from detective all the way to commander in the

“It took me three years to write and 50 years to live.”

shortest period of time in Chicago police history by the name of Jon Burge, were involved in torturing on the South Side of Chicago and later on the West Side of Chicago.”

For *The New Chicago Way*, Bachrach said he and Berg looked at Chicago and compared its outcomes to other of the top 15 cities in the United States.

"We look at the government structure of those cities," Bachrach said. "The hard work was for every chapter we talked to scores of people in those other cities ... about what's going on in those cities."

While doing research, Bachrach said he found an obscure 1953 book that said Chicago had an anachronistic form of government.

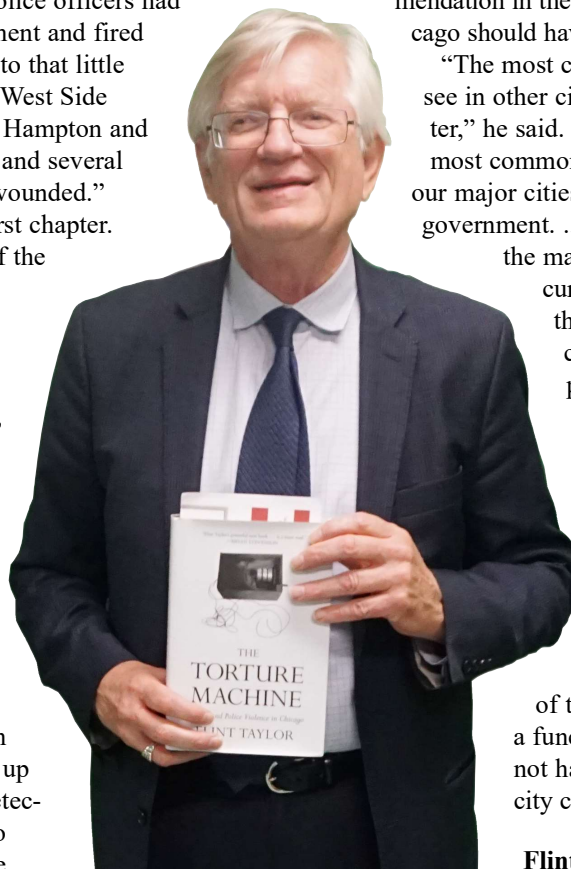
"So it's nothing new," he said. "We don't have any original ideas in the book, but it should open your eyes."

Berg said the most important recommendation in the book is that Chicago should have a city charter.

"The most common thing we see in other cities is city charter," he said. "... It is the most common way by which our major cities in America are government. ... In one sense,

the mayor we have currently is weak in the sense that she can't go to the people of Chicago and say vote up or down on these reforms to our city constitution. She has to go to Springfield and ask for all of the things. That's a function largely of not having a modern city charter."

Flint Taylor



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Continued from Page 2

Greenwich Village on Sept. 23. The following night, on Sept. 24, she was to do another LWH book signing with LWH contributor Kenneth Womack. Monmouth



June Sawyers

University professor and singer Joe Rapolla will offer some renditions of Springsteen's songs. Along the same theme, on Nov. 1, June will present a similar program at 57th Street Books in Hyde Park with singer-songwriter Bucky Halker. Also, June's arts group, the

Phantom Collective, will be presenting "Reckless Daughter: The Songs of Joni Mitchell" on Nov. 4 at Davenport's in Wicker Park. And June just signed a contract with the University of Illinois Press to write a cultural history of Midwestern coffeehouses. ... The Aug. 30 Mattoon (Illinois) Journal-Gazette and Times-Courier interviewed **Jason Lee Brown** about his 2014 book *Prowler: The Mad Gasser of Mattoon*. ... **Emily Victorson** will moderate a panel of four mystery writers – Tracy Clark, Susanna Calkins, Bryan Gruley and Raymond Benson – Oct. 29 at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan, Suite 2200, Chicago. A cash bar opens at 4:30 pm. The free program begins at 6, the \$35 dinner begins at 7.

Reservations are requested: reservations@cliff-chicago.org or 312-922-8080. ... **Harry Mark Petrakis** wrote "Immigration: We talk little of the courage and faith it requires" for the Aug. 22 Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Linda Nemece Foster** will be in Europe for a good part of the fall. She's been invited to be a guest lecturer in contemporary American poetry at the University of Bielsko-Biala in Poland for their English language seminar students. Recently, several of her poems have been honored: with an Editor's Choice Award from the Allen

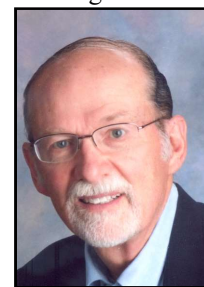


Linda Nemece Foster

Ginsberg Poetry Contest sponsored by the Paterson Literary Review; and with second place in a national poetry competition sponsored by Sensations Magazine in New Jersey. ... **Theodore Karamanski** was quoted Aug. 14 in a Chicago Tribune in a story about Ronald Reagan's boyhood home in Dixon, Illinois. He also was quoted in a June 18 Trib story about Ida B. Wells. ... **Steve Wiegenstein** spoke at the Fredericktown, Missouri, branch of the Ozark Regional Library on Sept. 26. ... **Shane Bauer** reported from Syria in June as forensics teams uncovering bodies in Raqqa and as he investigated an abandoned ISIS prison. ... **Ruth Spiro's** *Baby Loves the Five Senses: Sight!* (See Literary Latest (Page 6), was included in this year's ABC Best Books for Young Readers. ... **Jim Daniels** is scheduled to speak next April 2 as part of the Gonzaga University Visiting Writers Series. ... **Rosellen Brown** and **Jeremy T. Wilson** were among the authors at the Sept. 21 Deerfield (Illinois) Library's Local Authors Fair. ... **Richard Babcock** reviewed a new biography of former Chicago Bears' quarterback Sid Luckman for the Sept. 4 Wall Street Journal. The book features an examination of the second-degree murder conviction of Luckman's father. ... **Patrick Reardon** wrote "The day I fell in love with Emma" for the Sept. 3 Chicago Tribune. ... **Patricia Hruby Powell** reviewed *Darius the Great Is Not OK* for the Sept. 15 Champaign-Urbana (Illinois) News-Gazette. ... The Sept. 26 New York Amsterdam News said **David W. Blight's** biography of Frederick Douglass is "highly praised." ... WSBT-TV quoted **Patricia Sutton** on July 20 in a story about a memorial service for SS Eastland Disaster in Michigan City, Indiana. Patricia said, "Once you read the story and know about it, you're now connected to those 844 lives and it's our responsibility to help keep the story alive. And I kind of think that kids might be the ones who can shine a little bit more light on it." ... The Sept. 12 Door County (Wisconsin) Pulse reports **Patricia Skalka** writes her books at her cottage overlooking Lake Michigan. "I'm totally inspired by where I am," Patricia said, adding that her first book was inspired while she was sitting on the beach on a gorgeous day on Lily Bay near

Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, and then sitting in the very same spot as night came on. ... **Libby Fischer Hellmann** presented the pros and cons of self publishing to the American Christian Writers Association Sept. 13 at the Schaumburg (Illinois) Township Library. ... **Kate Hannigan** was among the authors featured at the Hyde Park (Chicago) 32nd annual Children's Book Fair in September. ... Jalopnik.com quoted **Jon Teaford** on July 30 about the history of special interests and urban renewal. ... **John Hallwas** spoke on "Aging: Literary Reflections on Growing Older," at the Arts Center during the Macomb (Illinois) Senior Festival on Sept. 21. ... **Jerry Apps** wrote "First day of school changed my life forever" for the Sept. 3 Wisconsin State Farmer. ... On Aug. 4, public radio station WGLT-FM of Normal, Illinois, reported on **James Plath's** *The 100 Greatest Literary Characters*. Of working with his two co-authors, Plath said, "It's tough narrowing things down. We were also very concerned about things like are we going for coverage, are we going for a broad spectrum? Are we consciously trying to make this book about more than just the 100 greatest fictional characters? How do we define the 100 greatest?" ... Writing in the Sept. 22 Price County (Wisconsin) Review, Terri Kaiser listed *My Sister's Mother* by **Donna Solecka Urbikas** as one of her favorite books. ... **Frances McNamara** and **D.M. Pirrone** were scheduled to speak Sept. 16 at the Book Cellar bookstore in Chicago. ... Western Kentucky University's Cultural Enhancement Series Committee will present "Poetry in Context: An Evening with Dr. **Eve L. Ewing**" Oct. 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. ... The Stonecrest (Georgia) Library describes **Claire Hartfield's** *A Few Red Drops* as "a meticulously researched exposition of the socio-economic landscape and racial tension that led to the death of a black teen who wanted to swim and the violent clash that resulted."

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John Hallwas

Polonia is especially well researched

Stuart Dybek and Dominic Pacyga, together with moderator Sandra Colbert, will discuss the rich history of Chicago's ethnic neighborhoods, with an emphasis on Polonia. Here is what Pacyga tells *Literary License*:

Literary License: *How are Polonia and other Chicago ethnic neighborhoods treated in literature now compared with the way they were in past generations?*

Dominic Pacyga: The literature on Polonia and other ethnic neighborhoods has a rich history. At first a largely filiopietistic narrative emerged, later more popular and then more scholarly works were published. Today film and the internet have added to the discussion. The Chicago Polonia is especially well researched and written about as the city played the role of the capital of the American Polonia.

Literary License: *As ethnic populations become spread out over wider areas in the metropolis, how does that affect their identity?*

Dominic Pacyga: The identity of the ethnic community is impacted by various forces and events. For years ethnic groups without an independent homeland such as the Irish, Poles, Lithuanians, and Czechs saw a large part of their identity wrapped up in the struggle to regain independence. Later the relationship developed in other ways. The social class position of these various ethnic groups also impacted on their identity. For older ethnic groups the move to the suburbs and the middle class increased assimilation. Language maintenance is also an issue. Still many ethnic Chicagoans maintain customs especially around holidays. Also, many in the third

October 8, 2019, program

Cliff Dwellers
200 S. Michigan Avenue
22nd floor

6 p.m. - Social Hour
7 p.m. - Program

Free - donations accepted

generation and beyond develop an interest in the history of the group and its traditions.

Literary License: *How did you research your new book, *American Warsaw*?*

Literary Landscape Dominic Pacyga



Dominic Pacyga: I spent a good deal of time in various archives here in Chicago and also in Minneapolis where the Immigration History Research Center is located. The city's vari-

ous Polish language newspapers proved to be a valuable resource. Many of these are located at the Center for Research Libraries in Hyde Park. The Chicago Foreign Language Press Survey also proved to be very valuable. In addition, various studies of different aspects of Polish American History and especially of the Chicago Polonia proved essential for understanding this rather large and complex topic.

Literary License: *In what ways has the Polish community redefined what it means to be Polish in Chicago?*

Dominic Pacyga: Polishness or Polsko?? has always been important for membership in the Polish community. The definition has changed over time, but it

remains an essential aspect of group identity. Polonia was once largely defined by its Catholic peasant and working-class roots. At its peak the community contained some 60 Polish Catholic parishes in Chicago alone. The Polish National Catholic Church, which grew out of the Independent Church Movement and broke with Rome, also maintained a large presence in Polish Chicago. Obviously, religion and culture played an important part of the definition of what it meant to be a Pole in Chicago. The overwhelming aspect of Polishness, however, was the relationship with Poland and a sense of duty toward the homeland whether that constituted agitating for Polish independ-

““The literature on Polonia and other ethnic neighborhoods has a rich history.””

ence before World War One, sending relief to Poland during the Nazi occupation, maintaining a strong voice against the communist regime during the long Cold War, or aiding the Solidarity Movement. Now that Poland has regained its independence, joined NATO and become a member of the European Union the relationship has again shifted and in turn the attitude of Polonia has changed from one of advocate and protector to one that allows a relationship that is less concerned with the fate of the country.

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

Dominic Pacyga: My next book project will be a study of "clout" and Chicago politics since the Great Fire. I hope to trace the socio-cultural roots of the city's political system.

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 Merv Block, Catherine Browder, Steven Burgauer, Joanne Koch, Rick Kogan,

Marcia S. Nelson, Harriette Robinet, Joyce Zeiss, who made recent contributions.

'Many of us stood with admiration'

This is Part 34 of the history of the Midland Authors.

Lila Weinberg (1918-2010) was a senior book manuscript editor and a journal manuscript editor at the University of Chicago Press for 34 years. She and her husband, former Midland Authors President **Arthur Weinberg**, were honored by the Midland Authors with a special award in 1987 for the body of their work. In a March 2013 Literary License article, member Joan Kufrin recalled the "great, bearded, curly-haired Arthur" as "hilarious, curious, incisive, opinionated," while soft-spoken Lila was the "bestower of the sweetest smile we'd ever been the recipients of."

Member Jennifer Bartoli-Kalina recalled attending a Midland Authors meeting at the Weinbergs' home: "And now I am seated at Arthur and Lila Weinberg's dining room table, March sunshine lighting our Saturday morning faces from windows onto their back yard and a group of us ladies, armed with ink pens, divvying up index cards with names and addresses of people we are to send invitations to the annual SMA banquet, a grand occasion that requires self-addressed stamped envelopes, just like our manuscript submissions, when suddenly Art enters the room from the hallway and pushes through the kitchen door, returning with a cup of coffee to sit opposite Lila, and I wish I could remember more about the life of **Clarence Darrow** than his having died (and promised to return if he could) so I might ask them both a question, but Art looks sleepy still and people have moved on to talk about Ronald Reagan and I really can't say I dislike the man. Several years later when Art received the Society's annual award for a distinguished body of work at the 1987 banquet, many of us stood with admiration and gratitude that we were there to hear his valedictory speech."

Richard Frisbie started his career as a writer and editor for the Chicago Daily



Lila and Arthur Weinberg.

News, before editing Chicago magazine and working as a creative director for advertising agencies. His books include *The Do-It-Yourself Parent* (co-authored with his wife, **Margery Frisbie**), *How to Peel a Sour Grape: An Impractical Guide to Successful Failure*, *Who Put the Bomb in Father Murphy's Chowder?*, *It's a Wise Woodsman Who Knows What's Biting Him*, *Family Fun and Recreation*, *Basic Boat Building* and *Daily Meditations for Busy Grandpas*. He has been president of the Illinois Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Center for the



Literary Lore
Robert Loerzel

Book at the Library of Congress; the Arlington Heights public library board and the North Suburban Library System.

Dempsey J. Travis (1920-2009) sought to revitalize Chicago's black neighborhoods with his real estate company, which he started in 1949, and a mortgage firm he began four years later, increasing the availability of mortgages for African-Americans. "He was like one of those waves that just keeps crashing against this hard rock of resistance to change," documentary filmmaker Jeff Spitz, who'd interviewed Travis, told the Chicago Tribune. "He crashed against those rocks

for a long time and he eroded some of the worst resistance."

A native of Chicago's "Black Belt," Travis graduated from Du Sable High School in 1939, where his classmates included singer Nat "King" Cole, publisher John H. Johnson and comedian Redd Foxx, and Roosevelt University in 1949. He aspired to be a jazz pianist. While serving as president of the NAACP Chicago chapter in 1959, he coordinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s first civil rights march in Chicago on July 24, 1960. In 1969, he founded Urban Research Institute, later renamed Urban Research Press, to publish studies on socioeconomic issues affecting urban African-Americans, but it evolved into a literary press, publishing 21 books by Travis. In 1981, he wrote *An Autobiography of Black Chicago*, which won the SMA's biography award. Travis also wrote *An Autobiography of Black Jazz* and *An Autobiography of Black Politics*, weaving historical research and information from in-depth interviews with biographical anecdotes.

As SMA president, Travis endeared himself to fellow board members by hosting all the board meetings with dinner at the Cliff Dwellers Club, where the Society now holds its monthly programs. Asked about his generosity, he said, "It goes with the territory."

Literary Latest

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second is *Baby Loves the Five Senses: Hearing!* (Charlesbridge, Sept. 24, 2019).

Both books are described by the publisher as, “Accurate enough for experts, yet simple enough for baby, [these board books explore] the science of [sight], sound and hearing. Beautiful, visually stimulating illustrations complement age-appropriate language to encourage baby’s sense of wonder. Parents and caregivers may learn a thing or two as well.

The final three books on the remaining senses will be published next summer.



Ruth Spiro



SMOOTH BALANCE

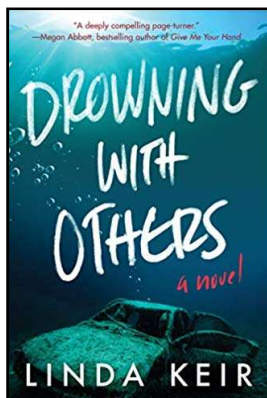
Publishers Weekly says of **John Galligan’s** new book (Atria Books, July 9, 2019): “Intense ... Galligan smoothly balances multiple story lines ... readers will hope this is the start of a series.”

From the publisher: “Dennis Lehane meets Megan Miranda in this tense, atmospheric thriller about the first female sheriff in rural Bad Axe County, Wisconsin, as she searches for a missing girl, battles local drug dealers, and seeks the truth about the death of her parents 20 years ago – all as a winter storm rages in her embattled community.

“Fifteen years ago, Heidi White’s parents were shot to death on their Bad Axe County farm. The police declared it a

murder-suicide and closed the case. But that night, Heidi found the one clue she knew could lead to the truth – if only the investigators would listen.

“Now Heidi White is Heidi Kick, wife of local baseball legend Harley Kick and mother of three small children. She’s also the interim sheriff in Bad Axe. Half the county wants Heidi elected but the other half will do anything to keep her out of law enforcement. And as a deadly ice storm makes its way to Bad Axe, tensions rise and long-buried secrets climb to the surface.”



‘WRITER TO WATCH’

Publishers Weekly says of *Drowning With Others* by Linda Keir (Lake Union Publishing (Oct. 1, 2019): “Keir remains a writer to watch.”

Booklist says, “Another well-crafted, page-turning suspense tale.”

Some Midland Authors members might say: Who is behind the nom de plume of Linda Keir, which is why Literary License has included a photo of one of the two authors who wrote this book.

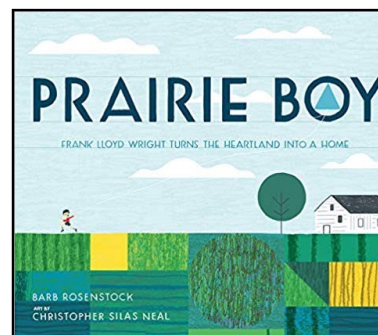
From the publisher: “Prep school sweethearts Ian and Andi Copeland are envied by everyone they know. They have successful businesses, a beautiful house in St. Louis, and their eldest daughter, Cassidy, is following in their footsteps by attending prestigious Glenlake Academy. Then, a submerged car is dredged from the bottom of a swimming hole near the campus. So are the remains of a former writer-in-



Keir Graff

residence who vanished 20 years ago – during Ian and Andi’s senior year.

“When Cassidy’s journalism class begins investigating the death, Ian and Andi’s high school secrets rise to the surface. Each has a troubled link to the man whose arrival and sudden disappearance once set the school on edge. And each had a reason to want him gone. As Cassidy unwittingly edges closer to the truth, unspoken words, locked away for decades, will force Ian and Andi to question what they really know – about themselves, about the past, and about a marriage built on a murderous lie.”



‘LYRICAL TEXT’

Barb Rosenstock’s new book is *Prairie Boy: Frank Lloyd Wright Turns the Heartland into a Home* (Calkins Creek, Sept. 10, 2019).

Booklist said, “This picture-book biography captures how Frank Lloyd Wright revolutionized the American home. Lyrical text recalls Wright’s early passion for architecture and his desire to break away from the old European-style houses he felt didn’t match the American landscape.”

From the publisher: “Frank Lloyd Wright loved the Wisconsin prairie where he was born, with its wide-open sky and waves of tall grass. As his family moved across the United States, young Frank found his own home in shapes: rectangles, triangles, half-moons, and circles. When he returned to his beloved prairie, Frank pursued a career in architecture. But he didn’t think the Victorian-era homes found there fit the prairie landscape. Using his knowledge and love of shapes, Frank created houses more organic to the land. He redesigned the American home inside and out.”

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Don't give up your day job

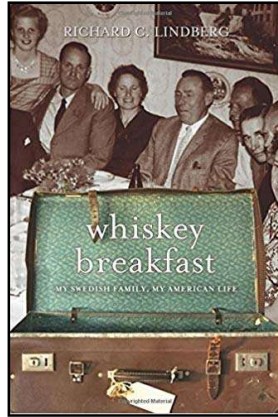
This is the third part of a series reflecting on writing.

The reality is this: Never give up your day job. Since I published my first book way back in 1978, I've worked as retail salesman for Sears, a prep sports reporter for the Lerner Newspapers, a telemarketing script writer for the credit marketing division of Montgomery Ward, a Crime Books Inc. encyclopedia writer, as an editor/writer for an Illinois police union newspaper, a research-investigator for a suburban private investigations firm, an RFP proposal writer and national media coordinator for a large global commercial real estate firm, and during the past four years as a speech writer for Ald. **Edward Burke** in City Hall.

Do not expect your life to change once you publish a book. It often takes five, 10, maybe even 20 books to achieve a modicum of success, peer recognition and a professional reputation. Do it because it is in your heart – with no expectations for your wallet. The rainbow is wide opportunities fleeting, and fame and success could come quickly or after a long wait, or not at all. But I know that I will never give up, not now in my advancing years, and not ever. As a boy I read Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*, and I took to heart the words of the optimistic and beloved Wilkins Macawber, who expresses the "Micawber Principle" to young Davy by saying, "Something will turn up tomorrow." I keep hoping for tomorrow.

It's a memoir, and it's real

One Amazon reviewer criticized me for creating a "distorted view" of the Northwest Side neighborhood I grew up in and took me to task for excoriating dear old Onahan School. Distorted? Everything I reported on happened. I could not have made it up if I tried. Another said it was "grim and depressing, and not worth reading." Escapism, it is certainly not, I will concede. But it was never intended to be that, either. It is memoir, and it is real. And yes, sometimes life can be grim and



depressing.

The "big books" brought out by New York houses will garner hundreds, sometimes thousands of anonymous reader reviews before interest peters out. Regional volumes potentially garner up to 10 or 15 (hopefully objective) comments – many more if the author "invites" family, friends, colleagues and everyone else in their Outlook contacts to post flattering

"best book I ever read!" comments to their Amazon page. I believe it is a deceptive practice unworthy of the author.

The Devil is in the details not in the White City

In 1985, I pitched several big publishing houses in New York about an idea I had for a true crime book about H.H. Holmes, Chicago's first serial killer. Six rejections carried with it a familiar but dismal message: "Who really cares about a forgotten 19th century murderer? Try a Chicago publisher. That is where you should send this."

Very sound advice. Millions of sold copies later, Erik Larson reaped the whirlwind of *Devil in the White City* – a story of Chicago during the time of the 1893 World's Fair wrapped around Holmes, the same killer I was assured that nobody would be interested in outside of Chicago.

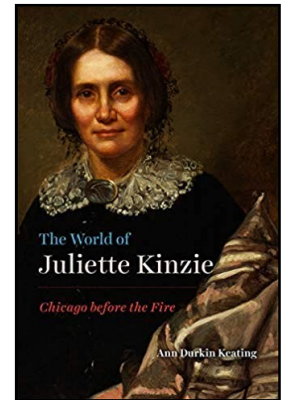
Richard Lindberg's forthcoming books are a village history of suburban Addison, Illinois, and Tales of Forgotten Chicago, due out with Southern Illinois University Press later this year or in the spring.

Literary Life by
Richard Lindberg



Literary Latest

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REVEALING WINDOW

Midland Authors member **Theodore J. Karamanski** says of **Ann Durkin Keating's** new book *The World of Juliette Kinzie: Chicago before the Fire* (University of Chicago Press, Nov. 7, 2019): "Through her discovery of Juliette Kinzie's correspondence Ann Durkin Keating has opened a revealing window on antebellum Chicago's social and economic life. This intimate history restores a mostly forgotten founding mother of the city. At the heart of Keating's analysis is the role of households forming and dissolving amid western migration, economic challenges, and the Civil War."

From the publisher: "When Juliette Kinzie first visited Chicago in 1831, it was anything but a city. An outpost in the shadow of Fort Dearborn, it had no streets, no sidewalks, no schools, no river-spanning bridges. And with two hundred disconnected residents, it lacked any sense of community. In the decades that followed, not only did Juliette witness the city's transition from Indian country to industrial center, but she was instrumental in its development.

"Juliette is one of Chicago's forgotten founders. Early Chicago is often presented as 'a man's city,' but women like Juliette worked to create an urban and urbane world, often within their own parlors.

"With *The World of Juliette Kinzie*, we finally get to experience the rise of Chicago from the view of one of its most important founding mothers."



From left: Midland Authors program panelist Austin Berg, an unidentified program attendee, Margaret Berg, Tony Parkinson, Nancy Parkinson, Emily Parkinson and Justin Berg.

Discussing reform in Chicago

Ed Bachrach, Sara Trachina and Midland Authors program Chair Greg Borzo

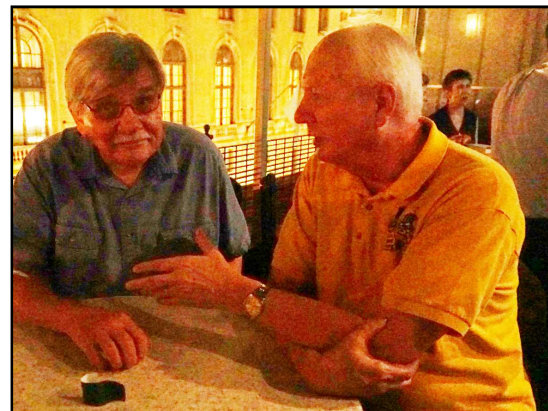


Authors and readers gathered after the Midland Authors Sept. 10 program to discuss **Flint Taylor's** *The Torture Machine* and **Ed Bachrach** and **Austin Berg's** *The New Chicago Way*.

Upcoming events will feature **Dominic Pacyga** and **Stuart Dybek** (see Page 11) and **Michael Dorf** and **George Van Dusen** (See Page 10).

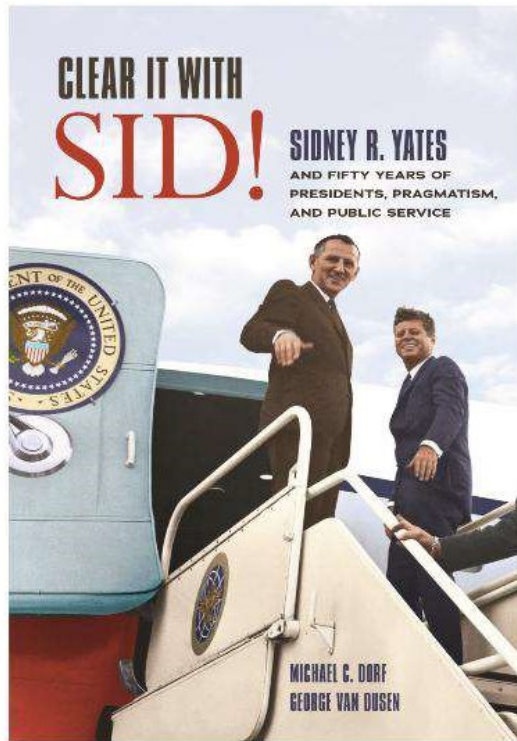
On Feb. 11, **Lori-Rader Day**, **Patricia Skalka** and **Tracy Clark** will talk about writing mysteries. On March 10, **Ann Durkin Keating** will talk about her book *The World of Juliette Kinzie: Chicago Before the Fire*. The Feb. 11 and March 10 programs will be held at the Cliff Dwellers.

John Holden and program panelist Flint Taylor



Midland Authors board member **Dominic Pacyga** and Corresponding Secretary **Jim Schwab**.

MIDLAND AUTHORS



Sid Yates

**Fifty Years of Presidents,
Pragmatism, Public Service**

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019

Cocktail hour: 6-7 pm

Panel discussion: 7-8 pm

Cliff Dwellers Club

200 S. Michigan Ave,
22nd floor penthouse—with a
terrific view of Millennium Park!

Free, open to the public ☘ Free appetizers, cash bar

Authors **Michael C. Dorf** and **George Van Dusen** draw on scores of interviews and unprecedented access to private papers to illuminate the life of a political icon. **Dorf** is a practicing lawyer and adjunct professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. **Van Dusen** is Mayor of Skokie and adjunct professor at Oakton Community College.

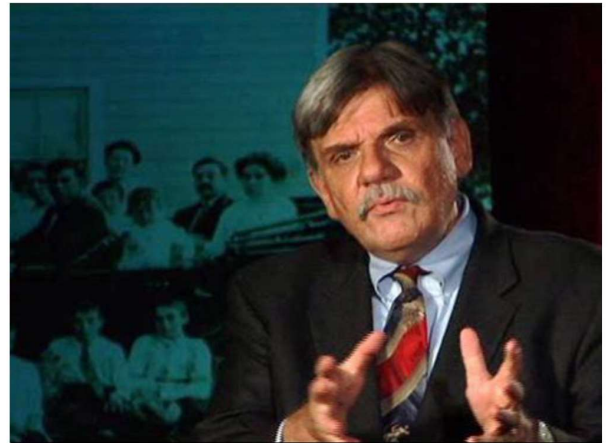
"Clear It with Sid! offers a close look at one of America's political titans. It's an indispensable resource for understanding post-World War II America because it reveals the nitty-gritty of how national politics was done over five decades." — Gary Johnson, President, Chicago History Museum

Sidney Yates was born in Chicago, the son of a Lithuanian blacksmith, and rose to the pinnacle of Washington power and influence. Wise, energetic, charismatic, petty, and stubborn—Yates presented a complicated character to constituents and colleagues alike. Yet his get-it-done approach allowed him to bridge partisan divides in the often-polarized U.S. House of Representatives. He was a preeminent national figure involved in issues that ranged from the environment and Native American rights to Israel and support for the arts. Speaker Tip O'Neill relied on him and advised anyone with controversial legislation to first "clear it with Sid!"

For more information, contact Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; gborzo@comcast.net

MIDLAND AUTHORS

Stuart Dybek ⌘ Dominic Pacyga



Polonia and other Chicago ethnic neighborhoods

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019

Cocktail hour: 6-7 pm; Panel discussion: 7-8 pm

Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Ave.

22nd floor penthouse—with a terrific view of Millennium Park!

Free, open to the public. ⌘ Free appetizers, cash bar.

Join Stuart Dybek (author of several books, including *The Coast of Chicago*), Dominic Pacyga (author of several books, including *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago*) and Sandra Colbert (discussion moderator and author of several books, including *Chicago Bound*) as they discuss the rich history of Chicago's ethnic neighborhoods, with an emphasis on Polonia, Chicago's Polish-American community.

For more information, contact Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; gborzo@comcast.net

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