

As this issue of Literary License goes to press, the Midland Authors' longtime domain name, midlandauthors.com, is not working. We have set up an alternate domain, midlandauthors.org, through which members can access our website. We hope to restore midlandauthors.com in the future.

## Biblio File

"The King of Gospel Music: The Life and Music of Reverend James Cleveland," a combination book/CD set



Chris Abani

for which **Robert Marovich** wrote the album notes, was released on Sept. 21 by the Malaco Music Group. ... **Chris Abani** discussed his memoir, *The Face:*

*Cartography of the Void*, on Oct. 29 at

Northwestern University. ... Cambridge Scholars will soon publish "Essays on Medicine and Surgery" by **John Raffensperger**, who will soon turn 92. John writes to say, "MX of London will publish in December the second in my Sherlock Holmes/Conan Doyle/Joseph Bell trilogy and the Strategic Rights and Publishing Co. will bring out five novels, ranging from a Chicago thriller to *Jennifer the Flying Alligator*, a bit of fantasy for the four- or five-year-old set. I also have a series of



John Raffensperger

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## Who knew? Abraham Lincoln was an infrastructure pioneer

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Author **John Wasik** was surprised to learn there is much about Abraham Lincoln that we don't know, even after more than 16,000 books have been written about him.

For example, Wasik, author of several books about infrastructure history, said he didn't know about Lincoln's focus on infrastructure.

"I was flabbergasted to discover Lincoln and his passion for infrastructure," Wasik said on Oct. 12 at the Midland Authors' monthly program, which was held on Zoom. "He was talking about canals and railroads."

Wasik describes that facet of Lincoln in his latest book, *Lincolnomics: How President Lincoln Constructed the Great American Economy*, which, as the publisher says, "narrates the Great Emancipator's untold legacy as the Great Builder of American infrastructure – developer of an economic ladder to democracy through national transportation, public education and market access."

One of the first projects Lincoln really committed to in his career-long obsession with infrastructure was building a canal from Springfield to the Illinois River, Wasik said. And he actually designed a town, named Huron.

"In 1830, Chicago was kind of a swamp and it really didn't have any good connections," said Wasik, the author of 19

books. "As early as 1673, Joliet and Marquette said this is a good place for a canal."

The portage at the time ran through Mud Lake in what is now Chicago, which was "horrible" and could take a week by canoe, Wasik said.

Lincoln was one of the big proponents of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, which turned Chicago into a transportation, commercial and manufacturing hub. The canal provided a link that made it possible to go by water from New York's harbor to the Mississippi River and down to New Orleans.



John Wasik

"It was a game changer for Chicago," Wasik said. "Chicago became the fastest-growing city in the world by 1900 because of all the commerce that came here."

Later, Lincoln helped to get the Illinois Central Railroad off the ground. It became the longest railroad in the world in 1860.

"What was profound about Lincoln is he thought this was the way to promote economic equality," Wasik said.

Lincoln felt deeply that creating access to markets helped average people, Wasik said.

"When he was young, he took two trips down the Mississippi," Wasik said. "He knew that hardscrabble farmers or anybody [needed infrastructure]. He thought the transcontinental railroad was an essential link."

When a steamboat crashed into a rail-

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## Biblio File

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essays in the Hekoten International Journal, an online journal of the medical humanities. Writing is such fun and keeps me busy." ... **Glennette Tilley Turner** and fellow author LaVonne Ruoss were scheduled to discuss Turner's latest book,



**Glennette Tilley Turner**

*A Man Called Horse*, on an Oct. 21 virtual program sponsored by the Wheaton Public Library. ... Saginaw Valley State University has awarded the 2021-2022 Stuart D. and Vernice M. Gross Award for Literature to **T. Marie Bertineau**

for her debut memoir, *The Mason House*. Described as "an elegy for lost loved ones and a tale of growing up amid hardship and hope," *The Mason House* has been praised by reviewer M. Bartley Seigel as "a graceful and moving memoir . . . [that] paints an intimate and complicated portrait of life in Michigan's Upper Peninsula." Bertineau will visit SVSU in spring 2022, when she will accept the

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## Literary License

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# Lincoln

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road bridge, causing the wooden bridge to burn down, the steamboat company sued, saying the bridge was impediment to navigation. Representing the bridge company, Lincoln argued the bridge was a public amenity. He saw the bridge and after it a rail link to the West Coast as a way to build the country.

"There was tremendous resistance to public funding of infrastructure, as there is today," Wasik said. "Basically, all the early presidents, and I saw this even in Monroe's annual speech that he said it was unconstitutional to fund federal infrastructure. Why? Well, because the Constitution didn't mention it."

Because people remember Lincoln as a wartime president, they tend to overlook that he was also an inventor and a champion of innovation and education. He supported all sorts of medical and agricultural research, Wasik said. During the height of Civil War, he signed the Transcontinental Railroad bills, the Homestead Act and the Morrill Act, which created land-grant universities such as the University of Illinois, Wasik said. He was the first president to receive a transcontinental telegraph.

"What Lincoln achieved, he did in the

quest for a more equal footing for people," Wasik said. "If you had education, you could get out of the backwoods of Indiana and Kentucky. It led to this whole new way of rethinking what infrastructure meant to the country."

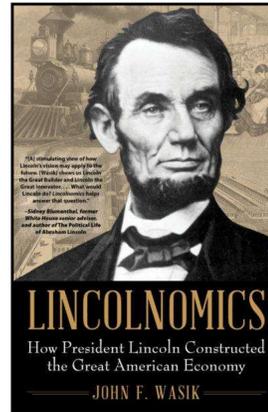
Of *Lincolnomics*, Midland Authors member **Ann Durkin Keating** wrote, "In an engaging, informal style, [Wasik]

explores the policies Lincoln promoted across his career including transportation improvements, public education, and free labor. He presents Abraham Lincoln as 'nothing less than our foremost architect of economic opportunity.'"

The debate over infrastructure continues today, Wasik said.

"I kind of wrote the book backward with this perspective on the trillions of dol-

lars of repairs we need to make, improving our water systems, bridges, tunnels, highways, social infrastructure, health system ... it's something that's with us today," he said. "Infrastructure is much, much more than what we think it is. It is supporting our society. It is supporting our need to be prosperous, our need to be healthy on equal footing in a democratic society."



## 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.

# Author's interest in book dates from her childhood

**C**onnie Goddard, a historian of education and the author of the forthcoming *Revisiting Industrial Education: Lessons from Three Distinctive Progressive Era Schools*, will present the Nov. 16 Midland Authors program. Here is what she tells Literary License:

**Literary License:** *What piqued your interest in manual/industrial training in schools?*

**Connie Goddard:** Great question, some of which I address below. My interest dates from my childhood – first, my father was a great believer in “Learning to Do and Doing to Learn.” Chicago and the Midwest were great places to practice that. Next, my mother attended the school in Ellendale, North

Dakota, that I write about; she had great regard for what she learned there.

Also, writing a dissertation on Ella Flagg Young, who worked closely with John

Dewey at the U. of C.;

both were staunch advocates of practical work in schools – so long as it enhanced students' academic education and delayed their dropping out of school before they were prepared to support themselves.

**Literary License:** *How did you research this book?*

**Connie Goddard:** At first, in libraries, both the New Jersey state library, the New Jersey state archives (one of the schools is here), and Regenstein, where I delved into its collection about the Chicago Manual Training School. Also, my local library here was immensely useful. Ditto Google Books and online journals.

Also – newspapers.com and a fellow historian in North Dakota who had digitized and uploaded yearbooks and catalogs from the school in Ellendale.

**Literary License:** *How did teaching in a prison shape your opinion of the value of manual/industrial training?*

**Connie Goddard:** One of the most instructive teaching experiences I ever had was at a state prison in New Jersey.

Nov. 16, 2021, program

Virtual program

Zoom link: [shorturl.at/xGHR3](https://shorturl.at/xGHR3)

7 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. - Program

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And while there, I kept wondering – why are these guys on the inside while I am free to come and go? I can date the genesis of this book to a 2015 meeting of the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow in Trenton.

One evening, our leader stated at the close that we had to look beyond the obvious – inequitable laws and regula-

tions and history. So many of these men had never had a real opportunity to learn how to earn a legitimate living. And that's what got them into trouble. Soon after that meeting, I learned about the manual training school

in Bordentown and began writing about it.

**Literary License:** *What has your experience been writing in a time of COVID-19?*

**Connie Goddard:** COVID actually helped – the book was underway before the shutdown, but from March 2020 on to well into 2021, the cutback in other activities offered time and motivation. I had a lot of the research materials on hand and once libraries got going again, I could borrow materials through inter-library loan. Zoom programs helped, too, as I able to talk about my work to a wider audience.

**Literary License:** *What is your next book?*

**Connie Goddard:** Ah, and thanks for this, too – Ella Flagg Young deserves a book from me; and I may focus on the industrial education programs she put into place as superintendent in Chicago. I've also thought of doing a YA bio of her for my granddaughters. But first this one has to get published and promoted!

## Literary Landscape

### Connie Goddard



## Biblio File

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award as well as visit classes and student groups on campus. She will also receive a \$1,000 prize. ... **S.L. Wisenberg** has an anguished essay, “Up Against It,” in The Rupture's October issue. She also has a short story, “Lilia the Preacher's Widow,” in the Bellevue Literary Review's fall



Arnie Bernstein

issue. She continues to edit Another Chicago Magazine online. ... **Arnie Bernstein** was invited to speak about the German American Bund for a panel discussion at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage on Jan. 20. ...

As part of a panel, **Jim Schwab** spoke on “Resilience on the Great Lakes” to the Urban Land Institute's Urban Revitalization Council at McCormick Place on Aug. 13. ... **Patrick Reardon's** essay “God is the ocean in which we all swim” will be included in *The Way of Love: Readings for a Meaningful Life*, edited by Michael Leach, Doris Goodnough and Maria Angelini and forthcoming from Orbis Books next May. Also, Reardon poems recently published include “Let me tell you” (Burningword Literary Journal), “Lot's brother” (Tipton Poetry Journal), “First Parents,” “Blame it on the Radio,” and

“The lost tribes, part 7” (Meat for Tea). ... **R.G. Ziemer** edited and published Rivulets 33, the literary journal of the Naperville Writers Group. The journal was launched at a public event Oct.



R.G. Ziemer

16, with presentation of the Founders' Prizes and readings at Naperville's 95th Street Library. An excerpt from Ziemer's work in progress, *South Side Story*, is one of the prose pieces included in the publication. Ziemer was also a featured reader in August at Westmont's Brewed Awakening for a combined live and virtual event sponsored by Poets and Patrons and the Illinois State Poetry Society. ... **Patricia**

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# 2022 book awards are underway

Midland Authors is now accepting submissions for its annual literary awards, which will honor books by Midwestern authors published in 2021. Please read the following rules carefully before submitting.

## 2021-2022 Competition Rules

The Midland Authors Awards recognize book writing excellence by Midwestern authors. 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 up to three honorees as worthy of recognition. Each honoree will receive a commemorative award. All honors are given out at the awards banquet the second Tuesday in May or a subsequent ceremony date, to be determined, if necessary due to any COVID-19 mandates.

To enter this year's competition, fill out the online entry form or printable entry form. Include a completed copy with each nominated book. An entry form must accompany each book sent to each of the three judges in its category. That means a total of three forms per title (three judges, three forms, three books). A book or books unaccompanied by completed entry forms will not be considered.

Each book entry must have a 2021 publication date that corresponds with its copyright date.

A book may be nominated by its author or publisher. 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. If the author lives outside these states, please indicate any connection to the Midwest on the "comments" section of the entry form.

Each submission requires an entry fee of \$25. Entrants can pay by PayPal or credit card on the SMA website: [midlandauthors.org](http://midlandauthors.org).

To pay by snail mail, send a check and a copy of our printable entry form to Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610. The payment with the form must identify the book title,

author, and source of check, so Midland Authors knows which author and book entry to confirm as a paid entry. Make three more copies of the completed form. One should accompany each book that you mail to each of the three judges in your category.

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, Jan. 29, 2022. We urge early submissions. Send entries to the appropriate judges under your category. Judges listed below.

Make sure your book entry goes to judges in the proper category. (For example, all children's books go to children's categories, rather than Poetry or Biography & Memoir, which are for adult submissions only.) Books submitted to improper categories will be disqualified. Any judge who has a conflict of interest with a submission will be recused from discussion of the entry.

For comments, questions, or to confirm an entry has reached the judges, contact Gerry Plecki, [gplecki@travel-brokers.com](mailto:gplecki@travel-brokers.com), or at 708-359-4553.

## JUDGES | CONTACT INFORMATION

Send one copy of the book to each of the three judges in the book's category.  
Do not send books to the post office box.

### Richard Frisbie Award for Adult Nonfiction

Marie Mockett, 2490 31st Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116

Jack Shuler, 17 Samson Place,  
Granville, OH 43023

Kim Hiltwein, Pritzker Library, 104 S.  
Michigan Ave., Suite 400, Chicago, IL  
60603

### Bernard Brommel Award for Biography & Memoir

John Hallwas, 14495 Tamarind Loop,  
Spring Hill, FL 34609 (please send entries  
after Nov. 10)

Bob Remer, 5840 N. Kenmore,

Chicago, IL 60660

Gary Schmidt, 7306 McCords Ave. SE,  
Alto, MI 49302

### History Award

John Holden, 1254 W. Elmdale Ave.,  
Chicago, IL 60660

Joseph Gustaitis, 1824 West Erie St.,  
Chicago, IL 60622

Dominic Pacyga, 10123 S. Wood Street,  
Chicago, IL 60643

### Adult Fiction Award

Dan Chaon, 2863 Meadowbrook Blvd,  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Kent Meyers, 1745 Third Street,  
Spearfish, SD 57783

Jean Thompson, 2201 Wyld Drive,  
Urbana, IL 61801

### Poetry Award

Chris Abani, 7833 Niles Center Road,  
Skokie, IL 60077

Nandi Comer, 3808 Virginia Park St,  
Detroit, MI 48206

Emilio DeGrazia, 211 W. Wabasha St.,  
Winona, MN 55987

### Children's Fiction Award

Laura Hirshfield, 3318 Noyes Street,  
Evanston, IL 60201

Julie Novak, Northfield Library, New  
Trier H.S., 7 Happ Rd., Northfield, IL  
60093

Sandy Renner, 420 Summit Ave., Suite  
401, St. Paul, MN 55102

### Children's Reading Round Table Award for Children's Nonfiction

Mary Losure, 1311 Osceola Ave., St.  
Paul, MN 55105

Marianne Malone, 714 St. Georges Rd.,  
Philadelphia, PA 19119

Judith Schein Cohen, 222 Main Apt 405,  
Evanston, Illinois 60202

### Awards Committee

Thomas Frisbie, [tomfrisbie@aol.com](mailto:tomfrisbie@aol.com)  
Chris Lynch, [mchrislynch@yahoo.com](mailto:mchrislynch@yahoo.com)

Dominic Pacyga, [dpacyga@colum.edu](mailto:dpacyga@colum.edu)  
Gerry Plecki, [gplecki@travel-brokers.com](mailto:gplecki@travel-brokers.com)

Wally Podrazik, [wallypodrazik@live.com](mailto:wallypodrazik@live.com)  
Jim Walker, [walker@sxu.edu](mailto:walker@sxu.edu)

# Awards Entry Form

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 29, 2022** | Print four copies of this form and send one copy with your payment. One copy should also go with each of the books that go to the three judges in your entry's category. Please type or print clearly. Note: We need author contact information to communicate with winner: providing only editor's contact information will disqualify the book.

Name of book: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's address: (must be author's info) \_\_\_\_\_

Author's email address: (must be author's actual email address) \_\_\_\_\_

**Category of entry (check one). Entries improperly categorized will be disqualified:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADULT FICTION    | <input type="checkbox"/> BIOGRAPHY and MEMOIR: (Adult) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADULT NONFICTION | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S FICTION            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POETRY (Adult)   | <input type="checkbox"/> CHILDREN'S NONFICTION         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY          |  |

***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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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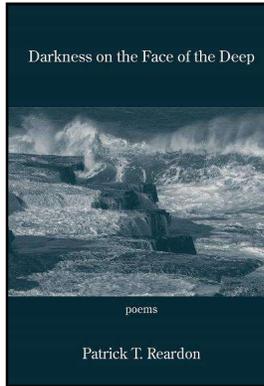
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## Literary Latest



### TENTH BOOK

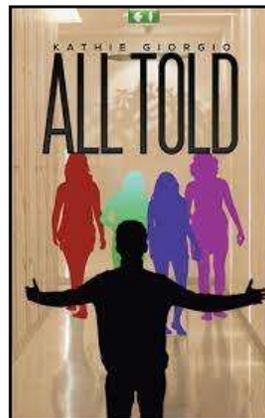
This summer, **Patrick T. Reardon** published his 10th book and second poetry collection, *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* (Kelsay Books), a pilgrimage through a Chicago of biblical alleys and streets, peopled with angels, saints, sinners and Windy City characters, a landscape of the soul, at once foreign and familiar. One of the book's poems "African Lion" honors Midlands Authors member **Haki Madhubuti**.

Reardon tells Literary License: "My first poetry collection *Requiem for David* (Silver Birch Press) was very personal inasmuch as it had to do with my brother's suicide in 2015. By contrast, *Darkness on the Face of the Deep* is a work that is a kind of kaleidoscopic epic about the world in which we all live, albeit through my somewhat askew lens. It's all about alleys and streets and the grittiness of Chicago and any city as the setting in which all of us – angels, sinners, lost souls and saints – are trying to find our way. This is a very crazy take on modern life, but one that, I think, readers will find familiar enough to resonate with.

"The book was reviewed at Third Coast Review by Chicago poet Renny Golden (The Music of Her Rivers), and I felt she really 'got' the book, such as when she writes: 'Reardon is looking for a God

who is absent and everywhere. His imagination is startling, because he is unwilling to accept any answer to suffering, yet his interrogations, so irreverent, so scarred and brave and tender, invite us to walk Ecclesiasticus and Leviticus Road. When it feels too much, he makes us laugh. His 'Communion of Saints' are all of us but especially Chicago's wretched: drunks, punks, street workers, buskers, rockers, runaways, vets in filthy blankets huddled below Wacker Drive. The saints and the sinners are indistinguishable which is good theology and zany poetry.'

"I love the idea that someone thinks the book is 'good theology and zany poetry.'"



### AFFAIRS AND INFIDELITY

**Kathie Giorgio's** 12th book and sixth novel, *All Told*, will be released on Nov. 20.

Imagine being an "other woman," and then finding out that you're not the only one. There have been many other women, before you and even standing alongside you right now. That's the premise of *All Told*.

Giorgio writes to say, "The concept for *All Told* came to me soon after the start of the #MeToo movement. While #MeToo is about sexual harassment in the workplace, and *All Told* is about affairs and infidelity, it just struck me how many women would step forward after a co-

worker's indiscretion came to light.

"I wondered how many of them knew about each other, and how it would feel to find out that they weren't the only one. From there, I transitioned to affairs and wondered about a man who would have affairs with many women, and those women wouldn't be aware of the others. I began to imagine what it would be like to be an Other Woman who found out that she was being cheated on by the man who was cheating on his wife with her. From there, the idea just exploded with possibilities. I also wanted to include storylines about how infidelity affects those outside of the typical triangle of spouse/spouse/other.

"As I explored this, and worked on the arc of the main character's storyline, I realized there were many stories to tell. Consequently, while this is a novel, each chapter is also a complete story, with a beginning, middle, end, and a conflict and resolution. But it all feeds into the main story of Jack's life and how his actions impacted so many lives."



### THIRD TITLE IN A SERIES

In *The Black Widow's Prey* by **Nancy Wikarski** (Independently published, Feb. 25, 2021), consulting detectives Evangeline LeClair and Freddie Simpson investigate when a priceless Egyptian artifact is stolen from a Chicago museum.

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## Literary Latest

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The museum's richest patron is robbed of a diamond necklace shortly afterward.

"This is the third title in my Gilded Age Chicago Mystery Series," Wikarski says. "As the name suggests, I write mysteries grounded in 1890s Chicago. I try to



Nancy Wikarski

weave my fictional mysteries around historical events taking place at the time. The first book in the series involved the Haymarket Riot and the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

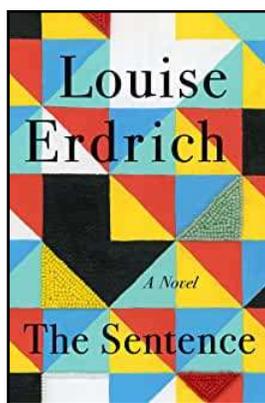
The second was set against the backdrop of the Pullman Strike of 1894. The third was based on the antics of rich American heiresses out to snag impoverished European noblemen as husbands.

"Edith Wharton's *The Buccaneers* is based on such events. My own story took its inspiration from socialite Alva Vanderbilt and her determination to force her daughter to marry a British duke in 1895. My fictional characters play out a similar scenario, and the mystery explores the theme of abusive parenting and its grim consequences.

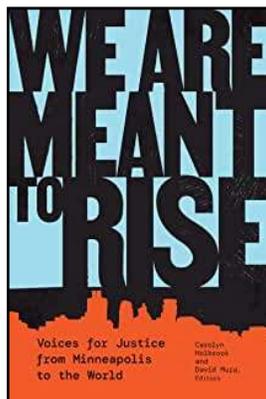
"*The Black Widow's Prey* is also a crossover with my Arkana Archaeology Thriller Series, which is set in contemporary Chicago. I get a chance to introduce an earlier generation of Arkana agents to my Gilded Age detectives as they all search for a missing artifact bound for the Field Museum. In the process, the characters learn that "history is a set of lies that men have agreed upon" (Napoleon). That's the main theme of the entire Arkana series and its planned spin-off in *The Trove Chronicles* series."

### FUNNY GHOST STORY, AND MORE

**Louise Erdrich's** latest novel, *The Sentence* (Harper, Nov. 9, 2021), "is a funny ghost story that is so much more, reflecting on themes of relationships, racism and meaning," the publisher says. "A gripping and emotional novel that will leave you wondering about the neighbors



next door. The Nov. 3 New York Times called it "a bewitching novel that begins with a crime that would seem to defy 'reliability' but becomes a practical metaphor for whatever moral felonies lurk unresolved in your guilty heart."



### 'RICH GATHERING OF VOICES'

**Carolyn Holbrook** is co-editor of *We Are Meant to Rise: Voices for Justice from Minneapolis to the World* (University of Minnesota Press, Nov. 23, 2021)

From the publisher: "A brilliant and rich gathering of voices on the American experience of this past year and beyond, from Indigenous writers and writers of color from Minnesota

"In this significant collection, Indigenous writers and writers of color bear witness to one of the most unsettling years in the history of the United States. Essays and poems vividly reflect and comment on the traumas we endured in 2020, beginning with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, deepened by the blatant murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers and the uprisings that immersed [the] city into the epicenter of passionate, worldwide demands for justice."

## Biblio File

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**Hruby Powell** was scheduled to be a featured author at the 2021 Chippewa Book Festival Oct. 25-29, visiting several schools and featuring her books *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* and *Struttin' With Some Barbecue: Lil Hardin Armstrong Becomes the First Lady of Jazz* (winner of the 2019 Midland Authors' Children's Round Table Award for Nonfiction) as well as *Loving Vs. Virginia* and *Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker* (honoree of the 2021 SMA's Children's Round Table Award for Nonfiction). This is her first in-person visit to schools in two years and Patricia tells Biblio File she's excited to see the students.



Gail Lukasik

... **Gail Lukasik's**

essay, "I thought I was White until I learned my mother's secret. The census helped me tell my family story," appeared in the Washington Post on Oct. 13. Gail was scheduled to speak at the Ela Public Library in Lake Zurich on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. ... On Oct. 12, **Keir Graff** wrote to say, "I've been cursed blessed with abundant work this fall, and following a brief bout of book doctoring, I'm preparing for



Keir Graff

presentations at the Flathead River Writers Conference this weekend while simultaneously bringing first drafts of two books to completion." ...

McFarland & Company has published the third edition of **Michael Sheehan's** *Word Parts Dictionary*. The dictionary has three sections. Part I, which covers prefixes, suffixes, roots, and combining forms (along with their meaning and etymology), contains 429 new entries. Part II, a reverse dictionary (meaning to word part), has 791 new entries. Part III, which covers 20 separate categories (animals, names of experts in various fields, fears, etc.) has

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## Final chapters

*Timuel D. Black Jr. 1918-2021*

When **Timuel D. Black Jr.** won a Midland Authors Lifetime Achievement Award in May 2019, then-incoming Midland Authors President **Dick Simpson**, in presenting the award, said Black was “the chronicler of the history of the Great Migration and the South Side of Chicago.”

Mr. Black, a Midland Authors member who also was part of a panel that presented the Midland Authors’ January 2013 program on the election of former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington, died on Oct. 13 after spending more than two weeks in hospice care at his Chicago home. He was 102.

In accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Black said, “Chicago has been the inspiration for that continued hope for the future across race, gender and all those other lines.”

Of his latest book, *Sacred Ground: The Chicago Streets of Timuel Black*, as told to Susan Klonsky, Mr. Black said, it “has to do with the spirituality that brought us from the South to the North in the belief that a change was going to come, and participating in that change is what most of us have done.”

Publishers Weekly wrote of *Sacred Ground*: “In this inspiring, affecting mem-



**Incoming Midland Authors President Dick Simpson (right) presents Timuel D. Black Jr. with the Midland Authors Lifetime Achievement Award in May 2019.**

oir, Black – an organizer, historian and educator – chronicles his experiences in and beyond Chicago’s historic and predominantly Black Bronzeville neighborhood.”



**Timuel D. Black Jr.**

Mr. Black also was the author of the oral histories *Bridges of Memory: Chicago’s First Wave of Black Migration* and *Bridges of Memory: Chicago’s Second Generation of Black Migration*.

At the Jan. 8, 2013, Midland Authors program, Black said, “Washington already

was politically active when I first met him in college after World War II. ... Harold Washington’s family was part of the first great migration of African Americans to Chicago, and Harold very early became politically involved because

“ [Timuel D. Black Jr.] was ‘the chronicler of the history of the Great Migration and the South Side of Chicago.’ ”

of his father,” Mr. Black said. “I was older, but I was like a big brother to those activists at Roosevelt College, which later became Roosevelt University.”

Mr. Black told how he was among the group that raised the money and registered voters to persuade Washington, then a congressman, to run for mayor. The group registered 263,000 new voters and raised more than \$1 million.

Author and former president Barack Obama said “the city of Chicago and the world lost an icon with the passing of Timuel Black.”

Mr. Black, who moved to Chicago when he was 8 months old, was also a sociology and anthropology professor at City Colleges of Chicago, a high school history teacher, lecturer, civil rights activist, decorated military veteran and archivist. He received a master’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1954.

The Chicago Public Library maintains a digital collection of Mr. Black’s speeches, letters and photos.

The April 2021 Literary License reported Mr. Black would be the first inductee when the Illinois Black Hall of Fame opened at (Illinois’) Governors State University.

## Biblio File

Continued from Page 7

274 new entries. It is Sheehan’s 11th book. ... **Burt Levy** writes to say, “Carol and I ... have been on an extended, exhausting, whirlwind road-trip odyssey (in our packed-to-the-gunwales Honda Odyssey, in fact) that has fallen somewhere between Book Tour, Traveling Circus and Forced March.” ... **Kathie Giorgio** tells Biblio File: “My poem, ‘Again,’ won first place in the poetry category of the Wisconsin Writers Association’s Jade Ring contest. And my



**Eckhard Gerdes**

Review and Windy City Reviews are both publishing long reviews of **Eckhard Gerdes’** latest book, *The Pissers Theatre*, and it has been nominated for the Eric Hoffer Award. Eckhard tells Biblio File,

short story collection, *Enlarged Hearts*, was selected by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel books editor, Jim Higgins, as one of the top 21 recommended books by Wisconsin writers of the 21st century. ... American Book

“This has been my best received book so far, which is gratifying after 45 years of writing novels.” ... The Oct. 29 Virginia Gazette quoted **Craig Fehrman**. ... **Doug Dixon** tells Biblio File, “Two of my works just came off the press recently. One that connects college history teaching and native Spanish second language learners of English; another extols old fashion virtues of what it means to be a historian. The one is a 500-word critical Letter to the Editor (of the nation’s leading historical association, in their

**Turn to Page 9**

## New Members

After working as a trial attorney, **R.W. “Obie” Holmen** discovered he had an affinity for writing about church history. He is the author of the historical novels *Wormwood and Gall – The Destruction of Jerusalem and the First Gospel* (Smashwords, 2019) and *A Wretched Man – A Novel of Paul the Apostle* (Beacon



**R.W. Holmen**

Hill Publishing, 2010) and the nonfiction book *Queer Clergy, A History of Gay and Lesbian Ministry in American Protestantism* (Pilgrim Press, 2014).

He also is the author of the novella *Gonna Stick My Sword in the Golden Sand: A Vietnam Soldier’s Story* (Wretched Man Publishing, 2014), which is based on his experiences as an Army Ranger scouting the jungles of Vietnam.

*Wormwood* was a finalist for a Midwest Book Award, and *Queer Clergy* was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award.

He was nominated by **Michael Haupt**.

**John Holden** is a longtime student of Chicago history and board member of the Edgewater (Chicago) Historical Society. He is co-author of *Remembering Edgewater Beach Hotel* (Arcadia Publishing, 2021).

Holden, who has worked in journalism and as a communications executive, cut his writing teeth at the City News Bureau of Chicago and American Medical News, in addition to dozens of publications he contributed to.

He served in senior communications positions with the City of Chicago, DePaul University and the Chicago



**John Holden**

Mercantile Exchange.

He was nominated by **Greg Borzo**.

**Bibiana Krall**, who was born and reared in Michigan, is the author of *Troika* (Black Calyx Books, 2019); *Escape into the Blue* (CreateSpace, 2020); *The Rage of Danu* (2020); *The Soul Keeper: A Ghost Story* (2019); *Carolina Spirit*, and other books.



**Bibiana Krall**

She is co-author with Virginia Cline Barton of the short story collection *Tangled Webs* (Black Calyx Books, Sept. 6, 2021) and other books.

Krall received her MA in fiction and MFA in creative writing from Wilkes

University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

Member **Cathleen Maza**, who nominated her, wrote: “She has published mostly traditional fiction and a few speculative fiction stories. Her speculative fiction is what truly grabbed my attention and impressed me. She is fearless in her creativity. She received her MFA in creative writing later in life through a private scholarship program and truly believes in ‘paying it forward’ by tirelessly supporting other writers.”

**Sandra Renner**, author of *Export Compendium: Series of Eight Essays & Comprehensive Guidance on Globalization (FasTrack Management Global Solutions, 2020)* and *FasTrack Exporting: How Your Company Can Succeed in the Global Market* (FasTrack Management Global Solutions, 1991), was born in Iowa.

She has lived in Minnesota for more than 50 years, working as a writer and as a consultant on international trade and globalization.

Renner is also working on children’s nonfiction book.

She was nominated by **Gerard Plecki**.

## Biblio File

Continued from Page 8

Perspectives on History), and after all, the literary push this book-award go-around is HISTORY.). The other is partly suggesting that it’s better to “read” history (and get feedback) in history courses than fall asleep during boring history college professor lectures (with a few exceptions that I remember back at Indiana University).” ... **David L. Harrison** writes to say, “The illustrations for *The Dirt Book, Poems About Animals that Live Beneath Our Feet* by Kate Cosgrove have been juried into The Original Art 41st Annual Exhibition in New York. I co-presented an exhibit by the Society of Illustrators created to showcase illustrations from the year’s best children’s books published in the U.S. in Salt Lake City at the national conference of American Association of School Librarians. The talk was titled ‘Take a Walk on the Wild Side: Connecting Young Readers to Nature.’ Laura Robb and I were interviewed on a 60-minute online program from Oklahoma about our recent book for classroom teachers, *Guided Practice for Reading Growth*. I learned that the Dayton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra in Dayton, Ohio, plans a reprisal of its 2014 performance called BUGS, after my book, bugs, poems about creeping things. The concert is planned for March, 2022.” ... On Oct. 21, *Viral: The Fight Against AIDS in America* by **Ann Bausum** was included in the Beloit (Wisconsin) Daily news story “Curl up with a good book this fall.” ... On Oct. 15, Third Coast Review interviewed **David Anthony Witter** about his book *Oldest Chicago* ... The Oct. 8 Chicago Sun-Times and the Oct. 11 NewCity quoted **Dominic Pacyga** in stories about the anniversary of the Chicago Fire.

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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 **Catherine Browder, Ray Boomhower, Edward Burke, Carol Felsenthal, Linda Gartz, Diane Piron-**

**Gelman, Jan Greenberg, Pat Palella, Gerard Plecki, John Raffensperger, Harriett Robinet, Sharon Solwitz, and Kerry Trask** who made recent contributions.

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# ❖ MIDLAND AUTHORS ❖

presents

## Connie Goddard



### Training Hands as Well as Educating Heads

*Revisiting Industrial Education:  
Lessons from Three Distinctive Progressive Era Schools*

**Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021; 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.**

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

**Zoom link: [shorturl.at/xGHR3](https://shorturl.at/xGHR3)**

Before there were vocational-education programs, there was manual training and industrial education, which emphasized the practical instruction of the hand and eye. Manual training improved perception, observation, dexterity and visual accuracy. It combined practical with academic education.

Goddard’s forthcoming book, *Revisiting Industrial Education: Lessons from Three Distinctive Progressive Era Schools*, examines influential schools in North Dakota, New Jersey and Chicago. Chicago’s innovative Manual Training School (CMTS), was created in 1884 and influenced dozens of similar schools before being incorporated into John Dewey’s department of education at the University of Chicago in 1901; once there, it lost its distinctive identity. Why Dewey ignored CMTS – as well as complementary ideas from Frank Lloyd Wright and W.E.B. Du Bois – are among the fascinating questions Goddard asks in her “rich contextualization of educational activities around the turn of the century,” as an early reviewer said of her book.

### **Goddard will also discuss:**

- ❖ Getting published
- ❖ Writing during Covid
- ❖ Lessons from writers who guided her research

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*For more information, contact program chair Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; [gregborzo54@gmail.com](mailto:gregborzo54@gmail.com)*

**Note from the SMA Board of Directors:** *Members of the Society of Midland Authors are encouraged to nominate authors from our 12-state region who have published with a recognized publisher. The nominations will be considered by the SMA board at its next meeting. The 12 states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin. The nomination form is below. Send it to Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610. You can also email it as a PDF to Membership Secretary Thomas Frisbie at tomfrisbie@aol.com.*

**For the use of members only.**



## NOMINATION FORM

**Author Member:** Author Members must be an "author or co-author of a book demonstrating literary style and published by a recognized publisher, or of a published or professionally produced play."

**Associate Member:** Associate members (without voting rights) may be "persons having some connection with literature, such as librarians, teachers, publishers, and editors."

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Qualifying residence or place of birth:</p> <p>Biography:</p>                                            | <p>Phone number(s):</p> <p>E-mail address:</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <p>Name of proposer:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p> </div> |
| <b>WORKS:</b>                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <p>Title:</p> <p>1:</p> <p>2:</p> <p>3:</p> <p>4:</p> <p>5:</p> <p>6:</p> <p>7:</p> <p>8:</p> <p>9:</p> <p>10:</p> <p>11:</p> <p>12:</p> | <p>Publisher:</p> <p>Year:</p>                                                                                                                                       |

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