

Biblio File

Susan Croce Kelly, a Midland Authors member from Missouri, was inducted into the Missouri Writers Hall of Fame during a special online edition of the organization's annual Quill Gala in September. "We are proud to recognize Susan for her storytelling career and her contributions



Susan Croce
Kelly

to the written word," said Randy Berger, president of Missouri Writers Hall of Fame. "Her work will stand as an inspiration to a new generation of writers who will use their talents to tell the stories of our region. We are honored to celebrate her legacy and her ties to Missouri." ... **Joan E. Cashin's** most recent book, *War Stuff: The Struggle for Human and Environmental Resources in the American Civil War* (Cambridge, 2018) will be translated into Russian and published by Academic Studies Press. ... **Joyce Burns Zeiss** received an Honorable Mention in The Chicago Writers Association First Chapter contest for the beginning chapter of her novel, *American Mai*. This is a sequel to her debut novel, *Out of the Dragon's Mouth* (Flux 2015), the story of a young girl's escape in the hold of a fishing trawler from Vietnam after the fall of Saigon. The sequel continues her life as she resettles in Chicago. ... **Patrick Reardon** was scheduled to read poetry from his latest book, *Darkness on the Face of the Deep*, on Nov. 11 at the University of Chicago. ... **Marlene Targ Brill's** latest painting, "Winter Wonderland," was on display in November at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center in Evanston, Illinois. ... **June Sawyers** will be teaching "Moulin Rouge: A Short History," an examination of the nightclub and the musical, at the Newberry Library from April 23 to May

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New book has 'terrific story I enjoy telling,' author says

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Connie Goddard, a historian of education and the author of the forthcoming *Revisiting Industrial Education: Lessons from Three Distinctive Progressive Era Schools*, presented the Nov. 16 Midland Authors program.

Goddard, who also is the co-author of a book about Chicago trivia and a former editor of *Chicago Books in Review*, has worked "sporadically" for three years on the project.

It focuses on the incorporation of manual or industrial training (called vocational education by 1920) in public schools, which Goddard said became a trend in the 1880s.

"Advocates of manual training felt that working with the hands expressed ideas in tangible things," Goddard said.

Illinois played a significant role in promoting that idea, she said. In the 1850s, Jonathan Baldwin Turner promoted the establishment of the Illinois Industrial University, one of the 37 universities created under the first Morrill Land-Grant Act.

"The idea was that it would train thinkers to be laborers and laborers to be thinkers," Goddard said.

In 1885, the institution was renamed the University of Illinois, she said.

Beginning in 1882, members of the Commercial Club of Chicago, including Marshall Field and Richard Crane began committing money to the Chicago Manual Training School, which opened in 1884 with a curricular that was half academic and half industrial.

The school was a city showplace,

“The idea was that it would train thinkers to be laborers and laborers to be thinkers.”

Goddard said.

In 1896, a school opened at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park with the idea of occupations at the center of its curriculum.

It taught "academic skills such as math and science via work done in the community – weaving and woodworking, cooking and sewing among them," Goddard said.

A subsequent idea for a school of education blew up in just three years because of conflicting educational philosophies.

"It's a terrific story I enjoy telling," said Goddard, who said the full story will be recounted in Chapter Three of her book.

Chicago also was a center of the arts and crafts movements, with centers at the U. of C. and Hull House.

In 1899, the U. of C.'s Oscar Lovell Triggs formed the Industrial Art League of Chicago as an offshoot of the Arts and Crafts societies.

"The league aimed at nothing less than a new relationship between work and workers as a means for transforming society," Goddard said. "Art would become more social and labor more artistic."

Since those years, educational philosophies have changed and many schools have closed, she said.

"I think it is a tragedy we eliminated a lot of these schools, Goddard said.



Connie Goddard

Watch the full program at: <https://midlandauthors.org/events-past/>

Biblio File

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14, 2022. ... **Eckhard Gerdes** writes to say, "My magnum opus, my 240,000-word-plus novel, *The Chronicles of Michel du Jabot*, was published on New Year's Day. It had a write up in Publishers Weekly's 'Booklife' site" ... **Arnie Bernstein** tells Biblio File, "I was interviewed about writing, my books and all things word, on the podcast 'Limitless,' a show out of the UK hosted by Alex O'Neill. It's available on Apple Podcasts and other platforms. Alex is a great interviewer. We had a good time! Also, an updated edition of my book *Bath Massacre: America's First School Bombing* is coming out in March 2022. After the book was published in 2009, I was contacted by a couple of other survivors of the 1927 Bath School bombing. Between their stories and new information that has since been uncovered, the time was right for the new edition. Some stories in the book have been expanded; other new material has been incorporated into the narrative; and I wrote an introduction, looking at the Bath School bombing through the historical lens of Sandy Hook, Parkland and other mass

Literary License

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of Midland Authors
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school killings that have happened since the book first came out. It never ends." ... **Michael H. Ebner** wrote "There was a time in history when Republican senators were willing to censure a colleague" for the Nov. 30 Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Robert Fieseler** had a new piece out in 64 Parishes in the first week of December, "an incredible true story about the star-crossed love affair between an aspirant Black priest and his transgender lover leading into New Orleans' infamous 1973 Up Stairs Lounge fire." ... **David L. Harrison's** most recent book of poems – *The Dirt Book* – just made National College of Teachers of English's list of Most Notable Books of Poetry for children. It is his fifth book of poems out of eight published since 2008 to make the list. *The Dirt Book* has also been named by the New York City Public Libraries as one of the six best books of children's poetry published in 2021. Three of the poets are from Argentina, Chili and Haiti. In addition, *The Dirt Book* has just been named by National Science Teachers Association to its 2022 list of Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K-12. Also, David writes to say, "In October, I gave a virtual book talk about my new picture book, *I Want An Apple, How My Body Works*, at the Bookmark bookstore in Neptune, Florida. I also spoke to kids at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Literature Festival in Mansfield, Missouri. In addition, I made a 25-minute video on partner poems in early education for California Reading Association Conference with Tim Rasinski (Kent State University) and Mary Jo Fresch (The Ohio State University). Our two new books together for Scholastic, *Partner Poems* and *Word Ladders*, are now posted on Amazon with a Feb. 1 pub date. In November, I teamed with Tim, Mary Jo and Laura Robb (reading authority based in Virginia) for a 60-minute webinar on early literacy development for California Reading." ... After taking the summer off, **Chris Lynch** and **Patrick McBriarty** are back with new episodes of the Windy City Historians podcast to present a chronological survey of Chicago history. "Laying the Foundation" is available almost anywhere where podcasts are available or directly from the Windy City Historians website. ... **Jacquelyn Mitchard**, who presented a

Midland Authors program with **Scott Turow** in the late 1990s titled "Hitting the Jackpot with Your First Book" offers this writing tip: "Most fiction has a kernel of the author's real-life experience in it. Some is almost entirely based on fact, such as Pat Conroy's *The Great Santini* and Meg Waite Clayton's *Beautiful Exiles*. My own new novel *The Good Son* (Mira HarperCollins) was suggested by someone else's real-life experience and my Christmas novel, *Christmas, Present* (HarperCollins) was taken word-for-word from a life event of a friend's close relative (with her permission, of course). What I provided were the mystical elements that made it more than just an account. That's what you have as a writer do: A story may have all the necessary moving parts but you summon the context – the magic – from the fire and air of philosophy and fate. Subtly, you teach the reader what the story means." ... **Grace Bauer** has been actively promoting her latest collection, *Unholy Heart: New and Selected Poems* (Backwaters/University of Nebraska Press, March 2021), participating in zoom readings with Poetry Buffet (New Orleans), Cultivating Voices Live (U.S./International), the University of Nebraska Visiting Writers Series and Francie & Finch Books (Lincoln, Nebraska), Kaktus Reading Series (Placita, New Mexico), Mercy Street Reading Series (Chicago), the Ames Reading Series (Lincoln Public Libraries), and the University of New Orleans. She has enjoyed the wide and varied audience zoom readings can provide, though also enjoyed her first live, in-person reading in October at the Larksong Writers Group Center—a new venue for poets and writers being developed in Lincoln. Reviews of *Unholy Heart* have appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star, Lily Poetry Review, and on Cultural Daily (culturaldaily.com, Oct. 27, 2021), which also nominated her poem "Midlife Heavy Metal" for a Pushcart Prize. ... **Mark Jacob** wrote "We must get serious about fighting the Republican threat to our democracy" for the Dec. 7, Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Robert Loerzel** wrote "Why aren't there any federal Indian reservations in Illinois?" for the Dec. 10 Chicago Tribune. ... **June Sawyers** writes to say,

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'Wonderful material' from exhibit led to a new book

John Holden, co-author of *Remembering Edgewater Beach Hotel, is a lifelong Chicagoan, a student of Chicago history and a vice president of the Edgewater Historical Society. Here is what he tells Literary License about his new book:*

Literary License: *What made you decide it was time for a book about the Edgewater Beach Hotel?*

John Holden: The book organically emerged from an exhibit on the hotel at the Edgewater History Museum. It was an excellent exhibit that my co-author Kathy Gemperle quarterbacked when it went up in 2016 in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the opening of the hotel. When it was time for the exhibit to come down, I thought it would be a shame for such wonderful material to be locked away in the museum's archives. That was the basis for the exhibit, but far more went into the book.

Literary License: *How did you do your research?*

John Holden: The book was largely drawn from coverage on the hotel in Chicago's daily newspapers of the time. We also had a fair amount of primary source reporting in the book and were lucky to track down a fair number of people who had direct connections to the hotel. Our research also utilized the archives of many of Chicago's leading historical repositories, including the Chicago History Museum, the Newberry Library and the Harold Washington Library. But due to COVID restrictions, it was tough to spend a lot of time with their collections. Fortunately, the Edgewater History Museum has the most substantial archives on the hotel in all of Chicago.

Literary License: *How well do Chicagoans remember the hotel as an opulent symbol of Chicago's Jazz Age and war years?*

John Holden: We have been really

Feb. 8, 2022, program

Cliff Dwellers
200 S. Michigan Ave., 22nd floor

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

Free - donations accepted

overwhelmed by how many people still fondly remember the hotel, even if only through second-hand stories they heard from their parents and other family members. One of the most common stories we hear is "my parents had their honeymoon at the Edgewater Beach Hotel." Also, lots of weddings, graduations, birthday parties and bar mitzvahs. For all of them, it

always was one of the highlights of their lives. Many of these folks of modest means who only got to hang out at such a swank place once or twice in their entire lives.



*Literary
Landscape*
**John
Holden**

Literary License: *What part did the hotel play in the creating an image of Chicago across the nation?*

John Holden: The Edgewater Beach Hotel might well have been the most famous hotel in Chicago history even though it was only around for just over 50 years. It was one of the major centers for jazz and big band music and that was broadcasted throughout the nation for years. Its ballroom and, even more so, its outdoor lakeside marble dance floor were legendary outposts for swank and swinging good times.

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

John Holden: I have a few ideas, but nothing set in stone just yet. I have been doing research on the artistry of Chicago's wonderful Catholic churches and on the topic of how community organizing has helped certain Chicago communities thrive.

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"I will be teaching 'Moulin Rouge: A Short History,' an examination of the nightclub and the musical, at the Newberry Library from April 23 to May 14, 2022. The History Press just informed me they will be publishing *Chicago Beer: A History of Brewing, Public Drinking and the Corner Bar* in March 2022. ...

Linda Nemeč Foster had new poems and flash fiction accepted or published in the South Florida Poetry Journal, Presence, Paterson Literary Review, North of Oxford, Taj Mahal Review and MacQueen's Quinterly. The editor of the latter online journal, Clare MacQueen, nominated Linda's prose piece, "The Irish Guest at the Wedding in Krakow," for the 2022 Best Small Fictions Anthology. Her new poetry book, *The Blue Divide*, was reviewed in North of Oxford, Publishers Weekly, and Presence. Linda has done recent Zoom readings for the book at Aquinas College (where it was taught in a Women's Studies Class), the Grand Rapids Art Museum, and the Lansing Poetry Club. *The Blue Divide* was also featured in DMQ's Virtual Salon for January. Her poem "My Silent Uncle and His Orchids" was published in the 2022 Roethke House Calendar sponsored by Saginaw Valley State University. And another poem, "History of the Hand," was featured on the Poetry X Hunger website – a project that works to end hunger in the U.S. and worldwide. Her video/poem "City of Stone, City of Trees" was a finalist in Slippery Elm's Deanna Tulley Media Contest. Two other poems were published by Michigan State University Libraries' Short Editions collection and chosen to be considered for inclusion in MSU's Filmetry: A Festival of Poetry and Film in 2022. Two of Linda's collaborations with visual artists (Meridith Ridl and Dianne Carroll Burdick) were selected for the WordView Exhibit sponsored by LowellArts in Lowell, Michigan, which runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 20. And, last but certainly not least, Linda's new manuscript of prose poems, *Bone Country*, was a finalist (one of three) from over 450 submissions for the Off the Grid Poetry Prize.

MIDLAND AUTHORS and the CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
present

Anthology of Black American Literature
from the *Chicago Quarterly Review*



March 8, 2022

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

Cliff Dwellers Club
200 S. Michigan Ave.
22nd floor penthouse—
overlooking Millennium Park!



Free and open to the public; Free appetizers, cash bar

 **Tsehaye Hébert** is a nationally acclaimed citizen playwright and a cultural architect whose work nuances and centers the African American experience. Her devotion to craft, inclusion and access brings her unique voice to the fore with hybrid, quirky stories of Black American life.

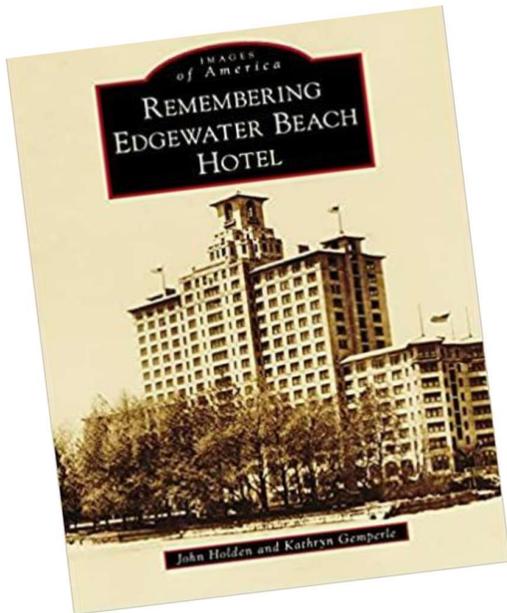
 **E. Hughes** received her MFA+MA from the Litowitz Creative Writing Program at Northwestern University. She has been published in *Guernica Magazine*, *Poet Lore* and *Wildness Magazine*, among others. Her first manuscript of poems is titled *Black Women Standing Ankle-Deep in Pacific Water*.

 **LeVan D. Hawkins** received his MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University-Los Angeles. One of his areas of interest is the intersection of various writing genres with the art of performance. A recipient of several writing fellowships, including the MacDowell, Hawkins is working on his memoir, *What Men Do*.

 **Syed Afzal Haider, Moderator.** Haider's short stories and essays have been widely published and anthologized by Oxford University Press, Milkweed Editions, Penguin Books, Pearson, and Longman Literature. He is the author of the novels *To Be With Her* and *Life of Ganesh* (Weavers Press). When not working on his own writing, he keeps busy as the founder and senior editor of *Chicago Quarterly Review*.

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For more information, contact Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; gregborzo54@gmail.com

# MIDLAND AUTHORS



*presents:*

## A look back at Chicago's preeminent playground

*with author John Holden*

**Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022**

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

**Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Ave.**

22<sup>nd</sup> floor penthouse — with a great view of Millennium Park!

**Free, open to the public; free appetizers, cash bar**

Nothing epitomized the glamour and excitement of Chicago's Jazz Age and war years like the fabled Edgewater Beach Hotel, a world unto itself – the only urban resort of its kind in the country. It was the place to go for dinner and dancing, fabulous floor shows, theater and some of the best jazz and swing music ever. It was patronized not only by the rich and famous but also by ordinary people who wanted a taste of the high life.



*Remembering Edgewater Beach Hotel* is a new book by John Holden and Kathryn Gemperle, students of Chicago history and board members of the Edgewater Historical Society. Holden is a lifelong Chicagoan and has been actively involved in numerous community improvement organizations and historical societies for the past 30 years. He's vice president of the Edgewater Historical Society and a past president of the Uptown Historical Society. A long-time journalist and public relations professional, Holden has witnessed much Chicago history in the making.

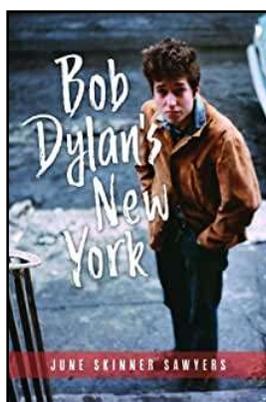
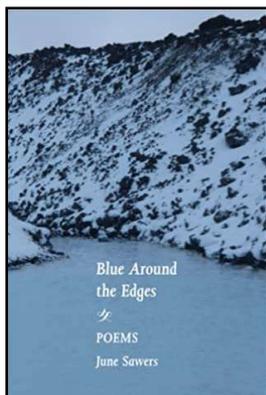
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Check midlandauthors.org for program updates

For more information contact: Greg Borzo: (312) 636-8968; gregborzo54@gmail.com

Literary Latest

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TWO NEW BOOKS

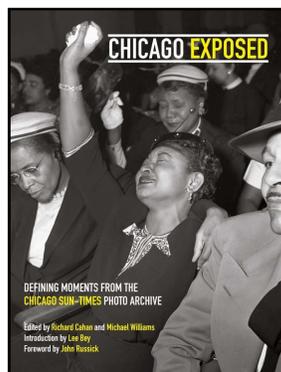
June Skinner Sawyers writes to say, “My poetry book, *Blue Around the Edges*, was just published (Phantom Collective) under my birth name, **June Sawyers**. It is available on Amazon now. Meanwhile, the History Press published *Bob Dylan's New York* on Jan 24, 2022.”

From the publishers:

Blue Around the Edges is a combination of memoir, family history and journalism: a cathartic way of making sense of the world. The poems often capture small moments in time, such as savoring a fine meal in an upscale restaurant. They also include a few memorials to famous and not-so-famous people.”

“Bob Dylan honed his craft by drifting in and out of New York’s thriving arts scenes of the 1960s and early ’70s. In this revised edition, originally published in 2011, author June Skinner Sawyers captures the thrill of how a city shaped an American icon and the people and places that were the touchstones of a legendary journey.”

LITERARY LICENSE, DECEMBER 2021-FEBRUARY 2022



REVEALING CHICAGO

Chicago Exposed: Defining Moments From the Chicago Sun-Times Photo Archive (CityFiles Press, Dec. 1, 2021) is edited by **Richard Cahan** and **Michael Williams**.

From the publisher: “*Chicago Exposed* ... is based on the most eye-opening photographs taken over the past 80 years by the staffs of the Chicago Sun-Times and Chicago Daily News.

“Pictures of labor strikes, racial unrest, immigration, crimes and catastrophes, renewal and resistance. ...

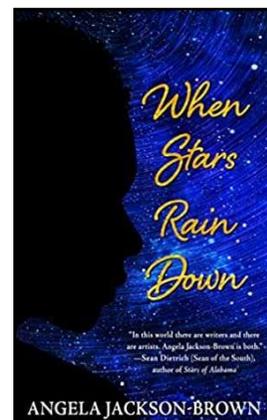
“Each of these iconic photographs is paired with text from varied and vital writers.”



‘WORTHY INTRODUCTION’

Kirkus Reviews wrote **Barb Rosenstock’s** *Mornings with Monet* (Knopf Books for Young Readers, March 2021) is a “worthy introduction to this master artist.”

From the publisher: “The stellar team that brought you the Caldecott Honor book *The Noisy Paint Box* explores another influential painter, in a moving tribute to creativity, commitment and new ways of seeing the world around us.”

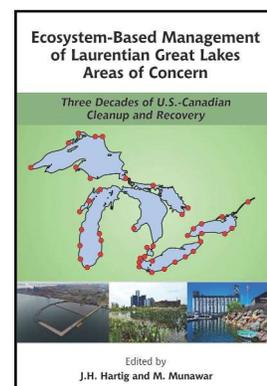


‘VIVID PICTURE’

Angela Jackson-Brown’s *When the Stars Rain Down* (Thomas Nelson, April 13, 2021) tells this story:

“A young woman’s coming of age against a backdrop of an unseasonably hot summer in 1936 Georgia is upended by KKK activities that raise questions about her community’s unacknowledged racism and the kind of person she wants to be.”

The Library Journal wrote: “Jackson-Brown ... paints a vivid picture of family and community persevering in the pressure cooker of the Deep South.”



‘IN-DEPTH LOOK’

J.H. Hartig is co-editor of *Ecosystem-based management of Laurentian Great Lakes: Areas of Concern* (Michigan State University Press, Dec. 21, 2021).

From the publisher: “This volume provides an in-depth look at the remediation and restoration of the 43 most polluted areas of the Great Lakes.”

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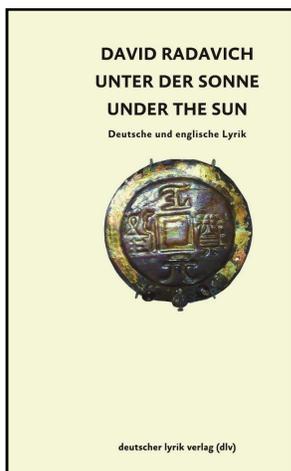
Literary Latest

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DUAL-LANGUAGE POEMS

David Radavich's new book, *Unter Der Sonne / Under the Sun: German and English Poems*, was published by Deutscher Lyrik Verlag, in December 2021.

This dual-language lyric collection features Radavich's German poems with English translations, along with four English poems translated into German by leading scholars and writers. The first of three sections focuses on Stuttgart and Southwest Germany, where the author taught as a visiting Fulbright professor. The second section



explores literature and history, while the third concentrates on travel to new realms. Radavich exhibits a kinship with German writers such as Friedrich Hölderlin, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Hilde Domin, whom he knew personally. This new collection represents a signal departure from his earlier work—into another language, another lyric sensibility, and a dual perspective that opens readers to a literary tradition

beyond American shores.

NEW BACK STORY

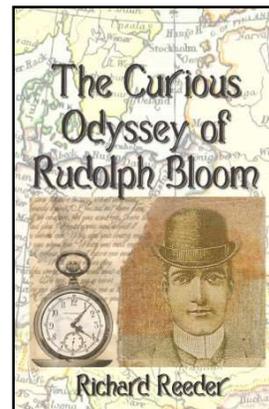
Readers of James Joyce's *Ulysses* will recognize the central character in *The*

Curious Odyssey of Rudolph Bloom (Propertius Press, Feb. 9) by **Richard Reeder** as the father of Leopold Bloom.

Reeder creates, for the first time, a back story for Rudolph Bloom, a tailor who manages a family operation in Milan making buttons for the occupying army of the Hapsburg Empire.

Bloom discovers opera and art and meets Peppino, a Florentine man who is his project supervisor and the love of his life,

The title is available in ebook formats.



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 **Steve Bogira, John Cella,**

Michael C. Dorf, Timothy Gilfoyle & Mary Rose Alexander, Mark Jacob and Robert Nelson who made recent contributions.

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