

Biblio File

Haki Madhubuti and **Angela Jackson** are among the recipients of the 2022 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prizes. ... **Walter Podrazik** co-authored “Streaming through a glass onion – curation, chronology, control and the Beatles’ legacy” for the premiere issue (Autumn 2022) of *The Journal of Beatles Studies*, from Liverpool University Press. It is also available



Walter Podrazik

online as a fully Open Access publication. ... On Dec. 1, *Esquire* magazine named **Jonathan Eig’s** *Ali: A Life* one of the 50 greatest biographies of all time. Jonathan’s upcoming book is *King: A Life* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, May 16), a biography of Martin Luther King Jr. ... **Craig Fehrman** and **Helen Frost** were among the 2022 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors awards winners. ...

Grace Bauer received a 2022 Special Honor Nebraska Book Award for her collection *Unholy Heart: New and Selected Poems*. The annual awards are sponsored



Grace Bauer

by the Nebraska Center for the Book. The awards ceremony took place on Oct. 22 at the Nebraska History Museum in Lincoln. In October, Grace gave an emeritus reading at the University of Nebraska and taught a workshop, “Envision & Revision” at the Larksong Writers Place. Also, Grace’s review of Jennifer Habel’s collection of poems, *The Book of Jane*, appears in the latest issue of *Lily Poetry Review*. ... **Cynthia Clampitt** writes, “I have just been selected for the 2023-2024 season of the Illinois Humanities Council’s Road

Turn to Page 2



Mary Schmich (clockwise from top left), Deborah Cohen and Kim Todd as they appeared on Zoom at the Midland Authors’ program on Nov. 15. Photo by Greg Borzo.

‘History can vanish if people don’t write it down’

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Attendees at the Nov. 15 Midland Authors program got a history lesson in early 20th century journalism from two authors who researched the era for their recent books.

After introductory remarks by Midland Authors program co-chair **Kate Hannigan**, moderator **Mary Schmich** said she was surprised she didn’t already know most of what she read in the two books after being a reporter for 42 years.

“It’s a reminder of how history can vanish if people don’t write it down,” said Schmich, a longtime columnist for the

Chicago Tribune and author of the comic strip “Brenda Starr, Reporter” for 25 years.

Deborah Cohen, the author of *Last Call at the Hotel Imperial: The Reporters Who Took on a World at War* (Random House, 2022), said the Hotel Imperial was one of the classiest hotels in Vienna and was also a reporters’ hangout. The book tells the stories of several well-known American reporters in the run-up to World War II.

“[The hotel] was the kind of place you went to gather the news from gun runners

Turn to Page 2

Literary
Landscape

PAGE 3

Literary Latest
New Books

PAGES 9-12

Literary Laudation
Book awards rules

PAGES 6-7

Biblio File

Continued from Page 1

Scholars speakers bureau, on topics related to two of my books, *Midwest Maize* and *Pigs, Pork, and Heartland Hogs*. In addition, I am doing a lot of presentations based on my newest book, *Destination Heartland*, which is about a lot of won-



Cynthia
Clampitt

derful places to visit to learn more about Midwestern history.”

... The title of **Rita Dragonette’s** next book will be *Last Sunset in San Miguel*.

... Former Midland Authors President **Richard Lindberg** tells Biblio File, “I’m

back from three weeks in London, Scotland and Sweden and just received some good news from my publisher, Southern Illinois University Press. SIU has accepted my proposal for a comprehensive book about Chicago’s notorious and politically controlled commercial vice districts spanning the 19th century up to 1920. The title of the book, targeted for a late 2023/early 2024 publication

Turn to Page 3

Literary License

©2023, Society
of Midland Authors
P.O. Box 10419, Chicago IL 60610

Editor: Thomas Frisbie
tomfrisbie@aol.com

Copy Editors: Marlene Targ Brill,
Dorothea Frisbie

www.midlandauthors.org

Follow the Society on
[Twitter@midlandauthors](https://twitter.com/midlandauthors)

Society of Midland Authors members can pay their membership dues, buy tickets to the annual dinner and make donations on our website with PayPal. To make a donation, visit our home page at www.midlandauthors.org and click on the “Donate” button in the upper right corner.

History Continued from Page 1

and ... other people who were dropping by – tipsters,” said Cohen, the Richard W. Leopold Professor of History and chair of the History Department at Northwestern University. “It was in particular a morning hangout for a group of American reporters from the 1920s and 1930s [who] left the Midwest, more or less, and [had] gone to Europe and to Asia. They tried to understand the world that was developing outside their windows.”

Kim Todd, the author of *Sensational, the Hidden History of America’s “Girl Stunt Reporters”* (Harper, 2021) and three other books, said, “It started when I was re-reading *Ten Days in a Mad-House* by Nellie Bly, and I got really taken by her writing style because I teach literary non-fiction and it seemed like all the things that she did were the things I was asking my students to do: incorporate interesting characters, use dialog, build themes into what you are doing, having an engaging first-person narrator.”

Bly’s book was so successful it spawned a decade-long period “where women were going a lot of times under cover in disguise to expose societal ills,” said Todd, who is on the creative writing MFA faculty at the University of Minnesota.

“Nellie Bly showed this was super popular to the reading public and super profitable.”

In 1888, the Chicago Times hired a woman to pretend to be pregnant and go to doctors and see if they would agree to give her an abortion.

“It was illegal at the time, and it was supposed to be an expose of all of these doctors who were doing this very simple thing and providing this woman an abortion, but actually it became sort of a primer on how to get an abortion in Chicago,” Todd said. “She listed all of the doctors names, she listed all of their addresses, she listed all the techniques that they used.”

The writer signed her work “The Girl Reporter,” “and then she vanished,” Todd said.

Cohen said she started her research at the University of Chicago by reading the letters of John J. Gunther, author of *Death Be Not Proud* and one of the authors covered in her book.

“I realized that pretty much every major

politician around the world was represented there,” Cohen said. “Further, there were these extraordinary diaries that Gunther had kept, especially in the 1920s and 1930s and into the beginning of the Second World War. ... What was opening up for me then was a world of inter-war American correspondents. Each of them had voluminous papers. And then I was off.”

One of the reporters Todd wrote about was Nell Nelson, whose actual name was Helen Cusack and “who was known for having a particularly caustic pen,” Todd said.

“She went into all these factories where these women worked and got herself

“*What was opening up for me then was a world of inter-war American correspondents. Each of them had voluminous papers. And then I was off.*”

hired and reported on the conditions she found there,” Todd said. “She reported on some very shocking things. ... She found very little kids working in the factories, very unsanitary conditions, some women were fainting from the heat and just pervasive sexual harassment, which she didn’t really hold back from describing in vivid detail.”

Her work was very influential, Cohen said.

“She inspired this group of women reformers in Chicago who would eventually help pass the Factory Act in Illinois in 1893.”

Cohen is also the author of *The War Come Home: Disabled Veterans in Britain and Germany, 1914-1939* (2001), *Household Gods: The British and Their Possessions* (2006) and *Family Secrets: Shame and Privacy in Modern Britain* (2013).

Todd is also the author of *Chrysalis: Maria Sibylla Merian and the Secrets of Metamorphosis* and *Tinkering with Eden: A Natural History of Exotic Species in America*.

Meet the authors who will present the Jan. 10 program

BY CLAIRE HARTFIELD

Tracy Clark, a native Chicagoan, is the author of the Cass Raines Chicago Mystery series, featuring ex-cop turned PI Cassandra Raines. A



Tracy Clark

multi-nominated Anthony, Lefty, Edgar, Macavity and Shamus Award finalist, Tracy is also the 2020 and 2022 winner of the G.P. Putnam's Sons Sue Grafton Memorial Award and the 2022 Sara Paretsky Award,

which honors crime writers from the Midwest.

Clark was also nominated for the 2022 Edgar for Best Short Story for "Lucky Thirteen," which was included in the crime fiction anthology *Midnight Hour*.

She is a proud member of Crime Writers of Color, Mystery Writers of America and Sisters in Crime and serves on the boards of Bouchercon National and the Midwest Mystery Conference.

HIDE, her new, police procedural featuring Det. Harriet Foster of the Chicago Police Department will be released in January 2023.

The second entry in that series, *FALL*, releases in 2024. Visit her online at TracyClarkBooks.com.

Michelle Cox is the author of the Henrietta and Inspector Howard series as well as "Novel Notes of Local Lore," a weekly blog dedicated to Chicago's forgotten residents. Her books have won over 60 international awards and have been praised by Kirkus, Library Journal, Publishers



Michelle Cox

Weekly, Booklist, Foreword, Elle, Redbook, Brit&Co., POPSUGAR, BuzzFeed and many others.

Unbeknownst to most, Cox hoards board games she doesn't have time to

Jan. 10, 2023, program

**Harold Washington Library
400 S. State St.**

Cindy Pritzker Auditorium

6 p.m. Program

Free

play and is, not surprisingly, addicted to period dramas and big band music. Also marmalade.

She lives in Chicago with her husband, three children and one naughty Goldendoodle and is hard at work on her latest novel. Visit her at MichelleCoxAuthor.com.

Mia P. Manansala is a writer and certified book coach from Chicago who loves books, baking and badass women.

She is the author of the multi-award-winning Tita Rosie's Kitchen Mystery series, and uses humor (and murder) to explore aspects of the Filipino diaspora, queerness, and her millennial love for pop culture. Find her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:



JAMILA YIPP

Mia P. Manansala

@MPMtheWriter. Or check out her website at [www.miap-](http://www.miap-manansala.com)

[manansala.com](http://www.miap-manansala.com).

Lori Rader-Day is the Edgar Award-nominated and Agatha, Anthony and Mary Higgins Clark award-winning author of *Death at Greenway*, *The Lucky One*, *Under a Dark Sky* and others.

She lives in Chicago, where she co-chairs the Midwest Mystery Conference and teaches creative writing at Northwestern University. Visit her at www.LoriRaderDay.com.



Lori Rader-Day

Biblio File

Continued from Page 2

date is *Citadels of Sin: Vice Under the Gaslight 1850-1920*. This is a subject I have written about extensively dating back to my 1985 book *Chicago Ragtime*, a social history of the city 1880-1920. Additionally, Illinois Heritage, the magazine of the Illinois State Historical Society, just published my article "The Babbling Burglar and Chicago's Infamous 1960 Summerdale Scandal" in the September-October issue." Also, Richard wrote online: "After 40 years and 20 published books, I am very pleased to now be represented by a



Richard Lindberg

respected and well-known Manhattan literary agency, Langton's International. Long time coming. Book publishing is a marathon – most often a hard climb across rough terrain – and not a sprint. That is what I tell a lot of young writers keen on publishing their first book. There are many setbacks down the road. And I've paid my dues." Richard also wrote, on a different topic: "University presses are in truth the only venue left for regional authors amid a widening gap between the big New York houses, which accept only agented subject matter of national interest, and the disappearing midlist trade publishers that served the writing community between the Hudson River and California. University presses deserve public support and greater media attention given to their authors and titles." ... On Oct. 15, **Peggy Reiff Miller** presented an illustrated talk for the Dayton International Peace Museum in Dayton, Ohio, on the topic "Turning Swords into Plowshares: The Story of the Seagoing Cowboys and the Heifer Project," highlighting their role in helping to transform the aftermath of World War II into a more peaceful world. Also, on Oct. 20, Peggy was the guest speaker for a younger set at the Lyceum Project Day for a Cincinnati, Ohio, home school cooperative, sharing the story of the

Turn to Page 4

Biblio File

Continued from Page 3

seagoing cowboys and their work of helping to repair a broken world after World War II. And on Nov. 20, she was scheduled to be the guest on Michael Delaware's podcast "Tales of Southwest Michigan's Past," talking about the history of the S.S. Battle Creek Victory and other ships named after Southwest Michigan cities that were used to transport livestock to Europe after World War I. ... **Red Barber: The Life and Legacy of a Broadcasting Legend** by Judith R.



Mary Wisniewski

Hiltner and **James R. Walker** is among the books nominated as finalists for Spitball Magazine's 2022 CASEY Award for Best Baseball Book of the Year. ... The Oct. 26 Los Angeles Times' Los Angeles Review of Books reviewed

Christine Sneed's *Pleased Be Advised*, saying, "Every single page is a joy to read." ... On July 21, Bookriot.com listed *Summer Sun Risin'* by **W. Nikola-Lisa** and Don Tate as one of "10 Farm Books for Preschool and Beyond." ... **Mary Wisniewski** was co-winner of the Chicago Journalists Association's 2022 Sarah Brown Boyden Award in the features category. ... **Dan Dinello** wrote a new story that was published on University of Michigan history professor

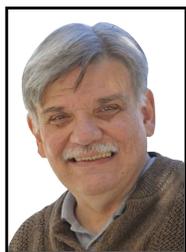


Robert Marovich

Juan Cole's website Informed Comment: "Invasion of the Mind Snatchers: How to Combat the GOP Election Denialists' Plot to Subvert Democracy." ... **Robert Marovich** discussed one of "the most beloved gospel songs of all time" in a Baptist News Global Nov. 21 article headlined "Author explains the history of 'Peace Be Still' and its social influence." The presentation was on the hymn and on Robert's book on the 1963 recording of the hymn by James Cleveland and the Angelic Choir. ... **Robert K. Elder** was quoted in an



On Nov. 10, **Dominic Pacyga** received a medal at a commemoration of Polish independence at the Polish Museum of America. The medal is from the Polish Ministry of Education's Commission on National Education for special contributions to education. Dominic says: "This recognizes my work on the Chicago Polonia and for promoting the history of the Polish Diaspora."



Dominic Pacyga

article posted Nov. 28 in The Atlantic headlined, "The Transcendent Power of Reading Diaries." The article talks about his and other diary collectors' efforts to establish a National Diary Archive. ... The Evanston RoundTable did a Q&A with **Lynn Sloan** on Nov. 27. ... The Oct. 20 Louisville Courier-Journal included **Ted Kooser's** poem "Abandoned Farmhouse" in an article headlined: "Here are 12+ scary story recommendations for children and adults this Halloween." ... Cincinnati Magazine reports **Tiffany McDaniel's** *The Summer That Melted Everything* was the first title to be hidden in a sort of a literary geocaching in which readers can find books left in plain sight around town. Close to 1,500 titles have been disseminated since then. ... On Oct. 24, **Burt Levy** wrote to say, "This past week, our warehouse received the new, ELEVENTH printing of *The Last Open Road*." ... **Tara Betts** appeared at an Oct. 21 conference titled "Confines of Places: The Intersections of Race, Place, Migration, and Mass Incarceration" at Lewis University in

Romeoville, Illinois. ... **John Hallwas** wrote "Reading – and appreciating the impact of authors" for the Oct. 25 McDonough County Voice. ... **Frank Joseph** tells Biblio File: "My novel *To Do Justice*, winner of the Chicago Writers Association's First Chapter Award, is to be published in April 2023 by TouchPoint Press.

Justice is the final novel in my "Chicago Trilogy." ... On Oct. 26, Britain's Daily Express wrote a story headlined: "How crime writer **Scott Turow** invented the modern courtroom thriller." ... The July 27 Chicago Tribune wrote an article headlined, "At 75, **Sara Paretsky**, the pioneering Chicago crime writer, has changed – but she doesn't plan to stop." ... On Nov. 11, NPR interviewed **Kathie Giorgio**. ... CBS Chicago mentioned **Robert Loerzel's** book *Alchemy of Bones* in an online article headlined "Chicago Hauntings: Tales of ghosts and the paranormal around the city." ... **Candace Fleming's** new book is *Crash from Outer Space: Unraveling the Mystery of Flying Saucers, Alien Beings, and Roswell*. ... **Craig Sautter** was quoted in a Nov. 13 article in The DePaulia about the impact of voters under 30 in the midterm election. ... **Michele Weldon** wrote "NU Title IX conference: Looking back and ahead after 50 years" for the Nov. 2 issue of The Evanston Roundtable. ... Past Midland Authors award winner **David Quammen's** new book is *Breathless*. ... **Michael Ebner** wrote for the Nov. 18 Chicago Tribune "One of Biden's most consequential and courageous decisions would be to not run in 2024." ... **Margaret McMullan** wrote "After Uvalde, How Do Teachers Keep on Teaching?" in The Bulwark on June 6. ... **Kevin Stein** was quoted on Dec. 3 in communityword.com in an article headlined, "Beauty of a winter lion: Poetry of



John Hallwas

... **Michael Ebner** wrote "NU Title IX conference: Looking back and ahead after 50 years" for the Nov. 2 issue of The Evanston Roundtable. ... Past Midland Authors award winner **David Quammen's** new book is *Breathless*. ... **Michael Ebner** wrote for the Nov. 18 Chicago Tribune "One of Biden's most consequential and courageous decisions would be to not run in 2024." ... **Margaret McMullan** wrote "After Uvalde, How Do Teachers Keep on Teaching?" in The Bulwark on June 6. ... **Kevin Stein** was quoted on Dec. 3 in communityword.com in an article headlined, "Beauty of a winter lion: Poetry of



Michael Ebner

Turn to Page 5

Biblio File

Continued from Page 4

Byron DeHaan.” ... **Thomas Frisbie** wrote “Susan Kelly Power, icon of Chicago’s Native American community, dies at 97” for the Nov. 2 Chicago Sun-Times and “Winfield author imagined ‘storytelling through a child’s eyes’ ” for the Oct. 24 Sun-Times. ... The Glen Arbor (Michigan) Arts Center hosted **Anne-Marie Oomen** during “Coffee with the Authors” on Nov. 26. Anne Marie told Biblio File, “An immense success. Forty some folks and great interview questions by Sarah Bearup-Neal. ... **Kaveh Akbar** was among the authors whose work was selected in November for the Irish Times’ best books of 2022. Also, Akbar edited *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse* (Penguin UK, Aug. 26, 2022). ... **John Galligan’s** new book, *Bad Day Breaking* (Atria Books (Sept. 13, 2022), was included in Isthmus.com’s “2022: The year in Wisconsin books.” ... **Dan Chaon** wrote, “The Story of My Imposter,” about a fake website masquerading as his, for the Nov. 6 Atlantic. ... **Emilio DeGrazia** was scheduled to present “The Writing Life” on at 1. p.m. Dec. 19, sponsored by the The Winona Learning Club at the Winona County History Center. ... In November, **Chris Abani** spoke at Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minnesota. ... **Christoph Irmischer** has a new book, *Audubon at Sea* (with Richard King, University of Chicago Press, October 2022). And a section from his work-in-progress, “Fühlung: On a Cache of Family Photos,” was just published in *Raritan*. Also, Christoph wrote “ ‘Exper-



Robert Loerzel wins an Emmy award on Dec. 3.

Robert Loerzel wins an Emmy

Former Midland Authors President **Robert Loerzel** won a Chicago/Midwest Emmy on Dec. 3 for the show he co-wrote for WTTW-Chicago PBS, “Chicago

Stories: The Union Stockyards,” in the historical documentary category.

He also was nominated in the writing category.

encing Olmsted’ Review: A Walk in the Park” for the Oct. 6 Wall Street Journal. ... The 2023 Sand Storytelling Festival and the Minnesota Marine Art Museum were scheduled in early December to co-host a performance of “Water Stories” by **Kao Kalia Yang**. ... **Christina Clancy** talked with Madison Magazine’s Maggie Ginsberg on Dec. 6 at Leopold’s Book

Bar Caffè in Madison, Wisconsin. Christina told Biblio File, “We had a great conversation and a big showing.” ... **Carol Fisher Saller** is starting a free email newsletter “Writer, Editor, Helper.” Carol says, “Emails will be random and occasional, lighthearted and informative. And they’re free! You can join at: <http://eepurl.com/gudtSL>.”

Literary Lookback: From Literary License, 1996

NEW BOOK REVIEW TO BENEFIT CHICAGO LITERARY SCENE

In an age of diminishing opportunities for authors to get their books noticed, a new local review has appeared. ...

Robert Remer, editor and publisher, says 50,000 copies will be distributed quarterly to bookstores, libraries and similar outlets in the metropolitan area. Individuals may also subscribe for \$16 a year. The first 20-page issue reviewed

more than 50 books and was supported by more than a dozen advertisers.

The second name on the masthead is that of **Connie Goddard**, former Midwest correspondent for Publishers Weekly and now a Chicago literary agent. As a member of the board of the Illinois Center for the Book a few years ago, she worked with SMA to obtain a grant from the Follett publishing family to finance a feasibility study for just such a publication.

The study concluded that there was a need for more coverage of books in the region, which Connie Goddard had been saying for years to anyone who would listen. Now the money has been found to launch a project that can only benefit authors, book-sellers and publishers alike.

Editor’s Note: The well-respected Chicago Books in Review was published from 1995 to 1998.

Rules for 2022-23 book awards

The Midland Authors is now accepting submissions for its annual literary awards, which will honor books by Midwestern authors published in 2022.

Please read the following rules carefully before submitting.

These rules are also posted on our website at midlandauthors.org/how-to-submit/ (Please note that we are using a new domain, midlandauthors.org, at this time rather than our previous .com website.)

2023 Competition Rules (for Books Published in 2022)

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 on May 9, 2023, or a substitute ceremony, if required by pandemic mandates.

Follow the directions below to submit a book and pay the entry fee.

To enter this year's competition, fill out the online entry form for each nominated book. Print three copies of the entry form. A printed entry form must also accompany each book sent to each of the three judges in its category. That means a total of three printed forms per title (three judges, three forms, three books) in addition to the online form. Books unaccompanied by completed entry forms will not be considered.

Each book entry must have a 2022 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. The online form allows payment

by PayPal or credit card.

To pay by a mail service, send a check and a printed copy of the entry form to Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610. If you pay by check or money order, be sure to write the author's name on the face of the check or money order so SMA can confirm the paid entry. A copy of the entry form should also accompany each book that you mail to each of the three judges in your category. (Do not mail books to the Society's P.O. Box.) For your convenience, a printable PDF of the submission form is available here.

We do not consider e-book originals unless accompanied by a print edition.

Books by deceased authors are eligible, providing that at least one of the authors meets the residency protocol and other requirements.

A book may be entered in only one category, not several categories.

Submissions must be postmarked by Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023. We urge early submissions. Send entries to the appropriate judges under your category of Contest 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 and 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 that entry.

For comments, questions, or to confirm an entry has reached the judges, contact Gerry Plecki at gplecki@travel-brokers.com

SEND ONE COPY OF THE BOOK
AND ONE ENTRY FORM
TO EACH OF THE THREE JUDGES
IN THE BOOK'S CATEGORY.

Judges:

History

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

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

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

Bernard J. Brommel Award for Biography and Memoir

Bob Remer, 5840 N. Kenmore,
Chicago, IL 60660

Steve Paul, 6400 Cherry St., Kansas
City, MO 64131

Sarah Vogel, 1203 N. 2nd St.
Bismarck, ND, 58501 until Dec. 1; then
P.O. Box 1223, Hanalei, HI 96714 until
Jan. 31

Adult Fiction

Andrew Graff, 34 E. Chillicothe St.,
Cedarville, OH 45314

Kate McIntyre, WPI Humanities and
Arts, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA
01609

Christina Clancy, 2809 Columbia Rd.,
Madison, WI 53705

Richard Frisbie Award for Adult Nonfiction

Greg Borzo, 520 S. State St., Unit
1009, Chicago IL 60605

Marlene Targ Brill, 314 Lawndale,
Wilmette, IL 60091

Kim Todd, 5116 Penn Ave. S.,
Minneapolis, MN 55419

Poetry

Tara Betts, 5414 S. Ingleside Ave.,
Apt. 1, Chicago, IL 60615

Simone Muench, 1508 W. Erie St. #3,
Chicago IL 60642

Jackie White, 3815 Hackberry St.,
Wellington, CO 80549

Children's Fiction

Laura Hirshfield, 3318 Noyes St.,
Evanston, IL 60201

Kelly J. Baptist, 9279 4th St., Berrien
Springs, MI 49103

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

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

Laurie Lawlor, 2103 Noyes St.,
Evanston IL 60201

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

Suzanne Slade, 605 Dawes St.,
Libertyville IL 60048 until Dec. 20; then
64 Peninsula Drive, Stratham NH 03885
until Jan. 31.

Awards Entry Form

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: January 31, 2023 | 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:

ADULT FICTION

BIOGRAPHY and MEMOIR: (Adult)

ADULT NONFICTION

CHILDREN'S FICTION

POETRY (Adult)

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

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: _____

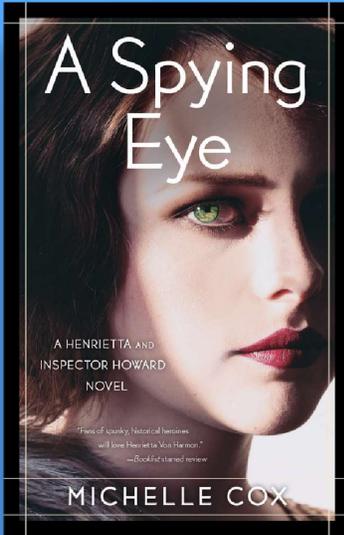
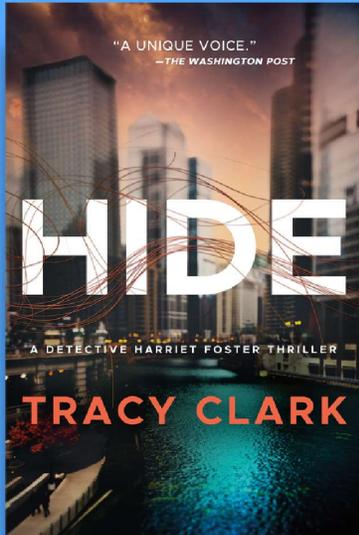
Comments: _____



Midland Authors presents our January event



Mystery Panel

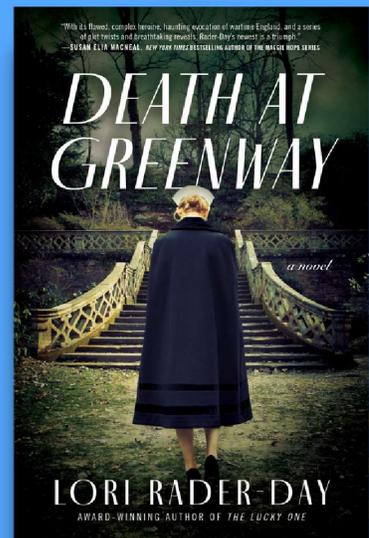
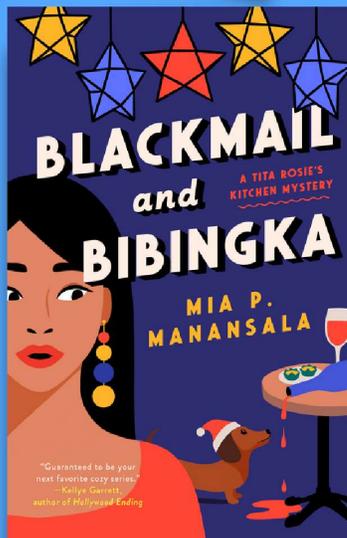


Kick off the new year with four exciting & award-winning authors:
Tracy Clark,
Michelle Cox,
Mia Manansala & Lori Rader-Day

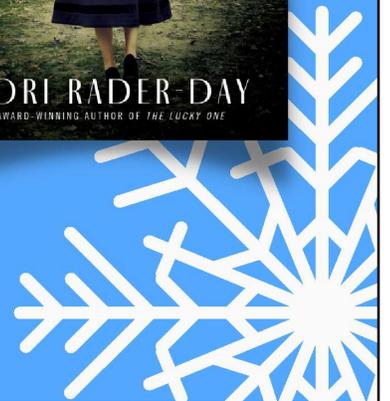
WHEN: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday,
January 10, 2023

WHERE: Harold Washington Library's Pritzker Auditorium;
400 S State St, Chicago, IL 60605

COST: Free and open to the public



Join us after for book signing
Learn more at MidlandAuthors.org



Literary Latest

Continued from Page 9

allowed me some wiggle room to imagine what could have happened and that Henrietta and Clive could have been involved in the search.

“I began a deep dive into this very storied piece of Renaissance art, painted in 1432 by Jan and Hubert Van Eyck in Ghent, Belgium.

“Over the decades, it has been the object of some 13 crimes, including six thefts. A whole novel could be written about the 1934 theft itself, the investigation of which was oddly bungled by both the Belgian police and local church authorities.

“The supposed thief was caught seven months after the crime, but died before he could reveal the location of the missing panel.

“There are many theories about who was behind the theft as well as where it is hidden, and Belgian police maintain an officer in charge of this cold case.

“Even more interesting to me were the theories behind why it was stolen and why, in particular, it was an obsession of Hitler.

“Like something out of an Indiana Jones movie or a Dan Brown novel, Hitler believed the altarpiece contained a coded map to the Arma Christi – ‘Instruments of Christ’s passion,’ which would give him power to rule the world.

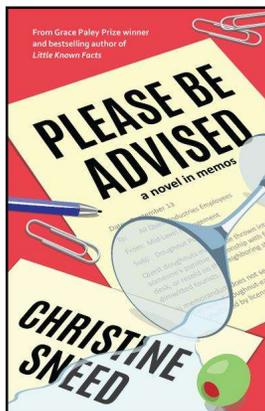
“He also believed it would lead him to Thule, the mythical land of the Aryan super-race, which would grant him and his armies supernatural powers of flight, telekinesis and telepathy.

“Several of Hitler’s top men, such as Himmler and Goring, scoured the globe for the missing panel to present to Hitler.

“Not only does this real-life historical backdrop give *A Spying Eye* a lot of flavor and drama, it also was immensely fun for me to imagine my characters were somehow connected to the world’s biggest art theft of all time.”

TWO NEW BOOKS

On Oct. 4, Tortoise Books published the short fiction anthology *Love in the Time of Time’s Up*, edited by **Christine**



Sneed, which includes 17 short stories by 16 different writers, including Lynn Freed, Karen Bender, Gina Frangello, **Amina Gautier**, **Rachel Swearingen**, and **Cris Mazza**.

On Oct. 18, Sneed also published *Please Be Advised: A Novel in Memos* (7.13 Books), which examines corporate office culture through a comedic lens, and is set in Chicago.

Christine writes, “The office where this novel is set is located in an actual building in the Loop, one where I worked for two years after college in the early ’90s. The characters are all fictitious but the setting is real.”

Midland Authors member **Kathleen Rooney** wrote: “Has anybody captured the petty power struggles, the absurd awkwardnesses and the ineffable humiliations of office life as brilliantly and with as much humor as Christine Sneed in her novel-in-memos *Please Be Advised*?”

“They have not. Make sure you get the memo and read it.”



Christine Sneed

A MEMOIR IN PROSE POEMS

Patrick T. Reardon tells Literary Latest: “*Puddin’: The Autobiography of a Baby, A Memoir in Prose Poems* (Third World Press, 2022) is the result of grief, psychotherapy and reporting skills.

“As I explain in an afterword, the suicide of my brother David in late 2015 led me to do a great amount of soul-searching in therapy into our shared childhood (as the two oldest siblings in a family that grew to 14 children) and into my own painful babyhood.

“I began making notes on what life was like for me as a baby during the 14



Patrick Reardon

months before David’s birth, imagining what the baby me would have said, if he’d had words, about life with two emotionally distant parents.

“I plumbed my own deep feelings and memories as far back as I could go and

closely studied some 30 or so photographs of me as a baby, images in which I never smiled (except once for a professional photographer) and often exhibited a thousand-yard stare.

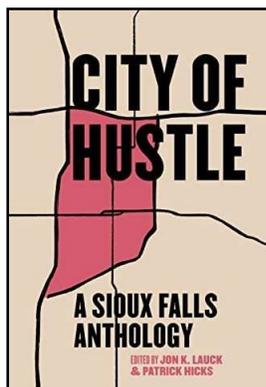
“I even created a special one-syllable language for the baby. It was a painful book for me to write, and it’s still a painful book for me to read.”

Haki Madhubuti wrote: “As a publisher, editor and poet for over 55 years, and also an educator of literature and writing for 42 years, I have never come across a memoir of this power, attractiveness, creativity and formative intuition.”

Turn to Page 11

Literary Latest

Continued from Page 10



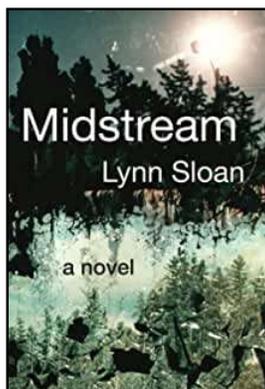
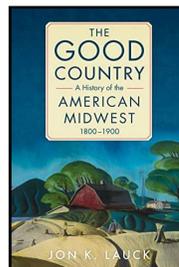
SCRIBBLED IDEAS – AND THEN A BOOK

“Like many literary projects, the idea for *City of Hustle* (Belt Publishing (Oct. 11, 2022) happened almost accidentally,” co-editor **Patrick Hicks** tells Literary Latest. “The germ of the idea came to Jon [Lauck] and I while we were having a beer in downtown Sioux Falls. We had gotten into the habit of visiting a chic piano bar on Fridays, and we got to thinking of the many stories in Sioux Falls. Someone should create an anthology that captures the vibrant nature of the town, we thought. We started scribbling ideas onto a napkin – what historical moments and places and personalities would have to be in a book like this? The list grew and we started to pair topics with possible authors.

“In a few weeks, we had an anthology on our hands, and there were many writers who were excited to join the project. It was important for Jon and I that the manuscript had a home at the beginning of the process – we wanted our authors to know that *City of Hustle* was definitely getting published – so we reached out to Anne Trubek at Belt Publishing. We knew about her wildly successful ‘City Series,’ and we pitched the idea of Sioux Falls being a part of it. There were anthologies for Chicago, St. Louis, Minneapolis and many others, but we would be the smallest city and also the furthest west. Anne has been a champion for Midwest literature, and she liked the idea. Once we got a contract, it was simply a matter of deadlines and finding a common voice among our writers. We

encouraged them to write in a voice that was ‘informed but informal.’ I think that’s one reason why *City of Hustle* has been so successful, even outside of South Dakota. The stories are compelling, welcoming and surprising.”

Lauck also has a separate new book, *The Good Country: A History of the American Midwest, 1800–1900* (University of Oklahoma Press, Nov. 21, 2022).



‘LUMINOUS’ BOOK

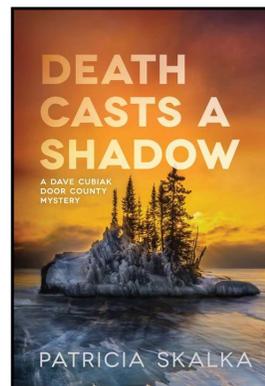
Lynn Sloan’s second novel, *Midstream* (Fomite, Aug. 23, 2022), is set largely in Chicago in the summer of 1974. The publisher says, “... America is restless, with the Vietnam War winding to a close, and feminists marching in the streets. Polly Wainwright respects the protesters’ demands for equal pay, but now nearing middle age, won’t risk her security.

“Her job, being a picture editor at a prestigious publisher, is enviable and too good to lose. Polly is comfortable with her life – her homey Chicago apartment, her war-correspondent boyfriend with the dangerous job that everyone admires, the steady paycheck.

“Still, she’d once dreamed of making documentary films.”

Sloan says that she was drawn to write about this period, nearly half a century ago, when America was convulsed with social conflict and a woman on the edge of this turmoil finds herself forced to question every decision she’s made. Foreword Review calls *Midstream* “luminous ... as it focuses on the concerns of creative, 21st century women trying to

make it in corporate environments that are dominated by men. *Midstream* is a sophisticated, insightful read.”



SO, LONG DAVE CUBIAK

Patricia Skalka tells Literary Latest this about her new book:

“*Death Casts a Shadow* (University of Wisconsin Press, July 26, 2022) brings the Dave Cubiak Door County mystery series to an end. Each of the seven books has its own story arc, but the overriding arc of the series traces Cubiak’s 20-year search for redemption following the deaths of his first wife and daughter who are killed in an accident he believed he could have prevented. The saga begins and ends on a snow-packed Chicago street.

“When I started the series, I knew that the last book would be set in the quiet of a Wisconsin winter. *Death Casts a Shadow* opens as the new year begins, with the Door County sheriff agreeing to a seemingly simple favor to his wife: checking in on an affluent widow with a questionable new suitor. When the woman takes a fatal tumble down the stairs, Cubiak senses that something more than an accident is to blame. Then there’s the matter of the grand dame in the white Rolls Royce, a second corpse in a burned-out ice-fishing shack, a treasured collection of Remington bronzes that may not be what they seem and a nascent internet scam that lead the former Chicago homicide cop through a maze of confusing clues and motives stretching from the present into the peninsula’s hazy and sometimes nefarious past and then back again until the trail brings him face to face with a hardened killer.

Turn to Page 12

Literary Latest

Continued from Page 11

“Midwest Book Review says the book boasts ‘the kind of narrative-driven storytelling that plays fair in terms of “who-dunnit” plot twists and clues. The stuff of which award-winning movies are made.’

“Why end the series now? Writers often say that their characters talk to them and guide the way. Cubiak did that for me with the wordless message that he was OK, that his journey was over, that it was time for him to rest and for me to move on.

“I’ll miss him and judging from readers’ comments so will many others. But that’s a good note on which to bid adieu.”



‘PERFECT FOLLOW-UP’

Midland Authors award winners **Amber Ruffin** and **Lacey Lamar** have a new book out, *The World Record Book of*

Racist Stories (Grand Central Publishing, Nov. 22, 2022).

Kirkus Reviews wrote: “A perfect follow-up to the authors’ [Midland Authors award-winning] *You’ll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey*. ... “The banter between the sisters is consistently funny, but the underlying social commentary remains incisive. ... An excellent look at lived experiences of Black Americans that should be required reading for all Americans.”

The Library Journal wrote: “A must-read that will have Black women feeling seen and heard, and will allow others to better understand the effects of racism. With YA crossover appeal, this is also an excellent choice for book clubs.”

Literary Largess

Dues cover mailings and other organizational expenses, but the Midland Authors always need additional money

for programs such as the awards at the annual May book awards banquet. Thanks to **Arnie Bernstein**, **Steve Bogira**, **Patricia Camalliere**, **Sue Harrison** and **James Walker**, who made recent contributions.

Note:

SMA members can get a free copy of our history, *A Century of Winged Words*, by sending \$1 for postage via PayPal or to our post office box.

Address Service Requested
Chicago IL 60610
P.O. Box 10419
Society of Midland Authors
Literary License