

Biblio File

Amelia Cotter's poetry collection *apparitions* (Highland Park Poetry Press, 2022) was shortlisted for The Haiku Foundation 2022 Touchstone Awards for



Amelia Cotter

Distinguished Books as well as nominated for the 2023 Eric Hoffer Book Award. ... **Edward Gordon's** *Divided on D-Day* is now out in paperback with a new subtitle: *How Leadership Failures Threatened the Normandy Invasion*. The paperback edition was published by Prometheus on May 26. ... **Sandi Wisenberg** tells Biblio File, "NPR's Scott Simon interviewed me about my book *The Wandering Womb: Essays in Search of Home!*" ... **David L. Harrison** writes to say, "Missouri Gov. Mike Parson has just named me as the state's seventh state poet laureate. My term is from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025. I'm now in the process of considering ways in which I can help generate increased interest in poetry among Missouri citizens." ...

In June, **Edward "Ted" McClelland** won a National City and Regional Magazine Award for Best Online Column for his articles about neighborhoods in Chicago magazine. ... **Margaret McMullan**



Margaret McMullan

wrote "How I 'bribed' a justice to take a no-expenses-paid trip to Mississippi" for the Aug. 7 Washington Post. ... Sweet Briar College's 2023-24 "Common Read" is *Easy Beauty* by **Chloé Cooper Jones**. *Easy Beauty* was an honored title at the 2023 Midland Authors book awards. ... **Dan Dinello** wrote a feature story on the website Informed Comment titled "Why

Sign up now Sept. 9-10 Printers Row book fair

The Printers Row Lit Fest, the Midwest's largest outdoor literary festival, is returning on Saturday, Sept. 9, and Sunday, Sept. 10 – and the Midland Authors will once again participate.

Both members and nonmembers will be able to showcase and sell books under a tent that we will rent at the festival, which takes place in the Printers Row area of the South Loop, primarily along Dearborn Street.

Midland Authors members can reserve half a table for a two-hour time slot. The cost is \$30 for most time slots – or just \$20 for the 4-6 p.m. time slots.

Space is limited, so please respond ASAP. If you'd like to participate, email Joe Gustaitis at

jagustaitis@yahoo.com

with your first and second preferences from these time slots. We will confirm all time slots with authors and let them know about payment details.

In addition, Midland Authors members and nonmembers will be able to rent one table for \$330 or one-half of a table for \$180 – over both days – with a 10% discount for members.

This approach would give an author the

**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 9**
10 a.m.-noon
noon-2 p.m.
2-4 p.m.
4-6 p.m.

**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 10**
10 a.m.-noon
noon-2 p.m.
2-4 p.m.
4-6 p.m.

best opportunity to sell a significant number of books.

Table preferences within the Midland Authors tent will be given on a first-

come, first-served basis.

Again, email Joe Gustaitis at jagustaitis@yahoo.com.

Participants will be responsible for bringing their own books, selling them, collecting the money and taking away any unsold copies afterward. And they must remain at their



Dave Hoekstra (left) and Pat Reardon hold up each other's books at the 2021 Printers Row Lit Fest.

table for the duration of their assigned time. Payment must be made even for canceled time slots.

Authors should prepare for gusts of wind and not be surprised if it rains.

Authors can pay for their time slot by sending \$30 to our post office box at Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago 60610. Or they can visit our website at www.midlandauthors.org and pay via PayPal.

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Are U.S. Republicans Importing a Fascist Christian Nationalism from Orban's Hungary?" ... **Mark Jacob** and his brother Matt are writing a biography of Harlem Globetrotters founder Abe Saperstein for the publisher Rowman & Littlefield, with publication set for October 2024. The Harlem Globetrotters weren't from Harlem, and they weren't globetrotters in their early years. They were five Black basketball players from Chicago's South Side who went barnstorming in the rural Midwest in a Model T driven by a



Robert Marovich

London-born Jewish immigrant who grew up in Chicago. Over decades, they achieved international fame, thanks to Saperstein's amazing promotional instincts. (And did you know that the most revolutionary basketball rule change in the last seven decades, the three-point shot, was pioneered by Saperstein?) ... In July, **Ted Kooser** and **Connie Wanek** won the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education's Children's Poetry Award for *Marshmallow Clouds: Two Poets at Play among Figures of Speech* (Walker Books), illustrated by Richard Jones. ... **Robert Marovich's** article, "How a South Side church choir's hit single made them stars" on the 50th anniversary of the Beautiful Zion Missionary Baptist Church Choir's crossover hit "I'll Make It All Right" was published in the Chicago Tribune May 31. ... **Joyce Burns Zeiss** has two selections in the Off Campus Writers Workshop anthology *Meaningful Conflicts: The Art*

of Friction (Windy City Publishers, 2023). "Blackfoot or Bust" is a flash fiction piece based on a childhood memory and "The Shepherder" is a poem about her father. Also, Joyce was scheduled to read her poem "The Shepherder" at The Book Stall in Winnetka on Aug. 23 at



Joyce Burns Zeiss

Cookies and Conflicts, a Poetry Slam composed of poets from Off Campus Writers Workshop anthology. ... **Cyndee Schaffer** has been asked to appear at the Marshall Public Library in Marshall, Illinois, in September to share her mother's story as a member of the Women's Army Corps in World War II as told in Cyndee's book, *The Journey of Mollie's War: WACs and WWII*. ... **Eldon Ham** wrote "From high school to the NBA, NFL, skiing and beyond: Sports-injury liability is gaining visibility and legal traction" for the Illinois Bar Journal. He also wrote "Chicago's All-Star 'game of the century'" for the June 26 Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Dominic Pacyga** wrote "Hey, urban planners, the 15-minute neighborhood is not a new idea" for the July 14 Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Jon Lauck's** essay "The Midwest is Not the South" has been published by Great Lakes Review. ... **June Sawyers** writes to say: "I just finished writing my fifth Springsteen book, *We Take Care of Our Own: Faith, Class, and Politics in the Art of Bruce Springsteen*.



Jon Lauck

for Rutgers University Press. In February, I wrote a piece on 'I Am a Camera/Cabaret at Porchlight' for the Third Coast Review, an online culture magazine. For the same magazine, I reviewed The Threepenny Opera at Theo Ubuque, and on June 5 my poem on Taylor Swift, "Taylor Knows," appeared in the magazine. "Ode to the Pasty," about Upper Michigan's iconic dish, was published in the March issue of NewCity. Also in March, I taught a seminar, "A United Kingdom? Britain after Elizabeth II" at the Newberry Library. On April 28, I presented a seminar on writing and indexing, "Mapping Words: A Writer on the Mysterious World of Indexing" for the American Society for Indexing's annual conference. On April 29, I read poems from my poetry collection *Blue around the Edges*, at Read between the Lynes bookstore in Woodstock, Illinois. On May 13, I attended a public screening of Voices over the Water, a documentary on the Scottish diaspora for which I am an associate producer, at the Directors Guild of America Theatre in New York. Two of my poems, "12th Street Beach" and "A Poem for Blue," will be published on Highland Park Poetry's Facebook Daily Poem Posts in July and September 2023, respectively. Meanwhile, I continue to work on *Midwestern Coffeehouses: A Cultural History for the University of Illinois Press*. ... **Linda Gartz's** book *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago* has been released as an audiobook at more than 35 retailers. It's read by two narrators Linda appreciatively calls "great," Moe Egan and Robin Miles (*Hidden Figures*). *Redlined* is the story of the author's family's life before, during and after the racial changes in her West Side Chicago neighborhood, interwoven with the history of redlining. ... After attending the 2023 American Library Association



June Sawyers



Linda Gartz

Literary License

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www.midlandauthors.org

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Twitter@midlandauthors

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

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Slate of 2023-24 officers and board

Midland Authors has a slate of candidates for officer and board positions for the 2023-24 year.

If any member wishes to submit alternate candidates for any of these positions, that member should contact an officer or a member of the existing board. In that case, a mail election by all members will be held for open seats.

Otherwise, Midland Authors members attending the Oct. 10 program will vote on whether to ratify the slate.

Here's an updated list of the officers and board members on the slate.

Officers

President: Gerard Plecki
Vice-President: Walter Podrazik
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Wisniewski
Membership Secretary: Thomas Frisbie
Recording Secretary: Jim Schwab
Treasurer: Greg Borzo

Board Members

(Three three-year year terms that expire in 2026)

Joseph Gustaitis David Witter
Jon Lauck

(An unexpired term that expires in 2025)

Sharon Woodhouse
Anyone interested in the appointed position of program chair should contact President Gerry Plecki.

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 **Theresa Amato, Richard Bales, Stan "Tex" Banash, Anne Bausum, Richard Besette, Charles Billington, Ray Boomhower, Catherine Browder, Anthony Bukowski, Steven**

Burgauer, Patricia Camalliere, Sandra Colbert, Michael Dorf, J. Ronald Engel, Michael Fedo, Carol Felsenthal, Robert J.R. Follett, Melissa Fraterrigo, Thomas Frisbie, Timothy J. Gilfoyle, Frank Gonzalez-Crussi, Edward Gordon, Eldon Ham, Sue Harrison, Michael Haupt, D. Leigh Henson, Patrick Hicks, Mark Jacob, Maggie Kast, James Klise, Carla Knorowski, Joanne Koch, Rick Kogan, Ted Kosser, Laurie Lawlor, Carol Marin, Eileen

Meyer, Peggy Reiff Miller, Michael W. Nagle, Marcia Nelson, Robert J. Nelson, W. Nikola-Lisa, Gerard Plecki, Carolyn Splear Pratt, Jamilla Ra, David Radavich, Harriette Gillem Robinet, Dick Simpson, Sharon Solwitz, Jill Long Thompson, Kerry Trask, Claude Walker, John Wasik, Steve Wiegenstein, David Witter, Sharon Woodhouse and Joyce Zeiss, who made recent contributions.

Biblio File

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conference in Chicago, **Gail Lukasik** wrote, "[It] was awesome!! I met librarians and educators from as far away as Hawaii and as close to home as Illinois." ... As one of 12 new guest columnists for the Chicago Sun-Times, **John Wasik** wrote "Quest for growth amid former U.S. Steel site could see Chicago's rebirth as 'Garden City' for the paper's July 16 edition. ... In March, former Midland Authors Board Member **Carla Knorowski** joined the board of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library for a two-year term. ... **Claude Walker** wrote "Where in the world is Gov. DeSantis? A flight tracker tails his plane" for the May 19 Tampa Bay Times. **Curtis Dawkins** was scheduled to appear on a podcast sponsored by Prison Arts Collective, a collaborative based at San Diego State University. ... **Diane Seuss** wrote "High Romance" for the May 22 New Yorker. ... **Ed Bachrach** wrote "Why a New Yorker

who helped save his city from a fiscal crisis has lessons for Chicago" for the July 12 Chicago Tribune. ... Midland Authors 2023 award honoree **Ghassan Zeineddine's Dearborn** (Tin House Books, Sept. 5, 2023) was named one of



Ray Boomhower

Good Housekeeping's "13 Most Anticipated Fall Books of 2023." ... On July 12, **Jill Long Thompson** wrote "On democracy and leadership, pyrotechnics or serenity?" for The Republic. ... **Jingmai O'Connor** was profiled in the Aug. 2 Chicago magazine. ... **Laurie Lawlor** was scheduled to host a discussion at The Book Stall in Winnetka, Illinois, on July 10. ... **Patricia Hruby Powell** wrote "Every reader needs some magical realism on their bookshelves" for the Aug. 7 (Champaign, Illinois) News-Gazette. ... In June, **Ray Boomhower** appeared on WISH-TV's "Legends and

Leaders" podcast. ... **Robert Loerzel** wrote "Wildlife Celebrities: The foxes who took up residence in Lurie Garden and the peregrine falcon who dive-bombed downtown pedestrians to protect her ledge-nesting chicks are just the latest critters to enthrall us" for Chicago magazine on June 27. ... Here are a couple of new titles that will be featured in the Literary Latest column in the next issue of Literary License: **Sarah**

Layden's new book, *Imagine Your Life Like This* (University of Wisconsin Press, April 11, 2023), is a collection of short stories set in Syracuse and the Midwest. **Yvonne Zipter's** new collection of poetry is *The Wordless Lullaby of Crickets* (Kelsay Books, Feb. 27, 2023).



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."

Name:

Phone number(s):

Address:

E-mail address:

Qualifying residence
or place of birth:

Name of
proposer:

Signature:

Date:

Biography:

WORKS:

Title:

Publisher:

Year:

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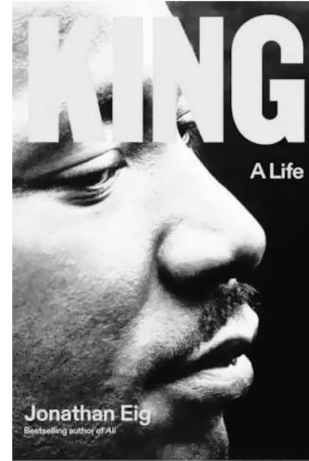
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❖ MIDLAND AUTHORS ❖
presents

Jonathan Eig on his new book *King: A Life*



Tuesday, Sept. 12, 2023; 6:00 - 7:15 pm
Harold Washington Public Library, 400 S. State

Free, open to the public ❖ No need to register

King: A Life is the first major biography in decades of Martin Luther King Jr.—and the first to include recently declassified FBI files. In this revelatory portrait of the preacher and activist who shook the world, Eig presents an intimate view of the courageous and often emotionally troubled man who demanded peaceful protest for his movement but was rarely at peace with himself.

In this landmark biography, Eig gives us an MLK for our times: a deep thinker, a brilliant strategist, and a committed radical who led one of history's greatest movements—and whose demands for racial and economic justice remain as urgent today as they were in his lifetime.

Jonathan Eig is a former writer for the *Wall Street Journal*. He's the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ali: A Life*; *Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig*; and *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. Ken Burns calls Eig "a master storyteller."

- "The definitive biography of King.... Eig's book is worthy of its subject." — *New York Times*
- "The most compelling account of King's life in a generation." — *Washington Post*
- "Eig has created 2023's most vital tome." — *Philadelphia Inquirer*

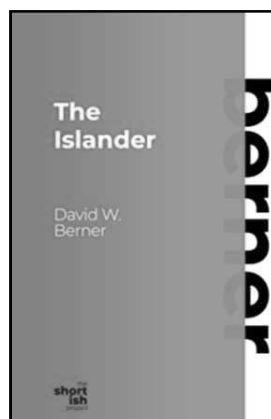
This program is part of the Chicago Public Library's "Voices for Justice" Speaker Series, which highlights issues of social justice.

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



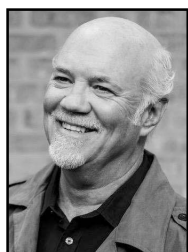
## Literary Latest

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Berner writes to say, “The setting for the story of *The Islander* comes out of my love of the windswept Irish coast, part of my own ancestry. The narrative takes place on an island loosely based on the Blasket Islands off the west coast of Dingle in County Kerry.

“But the narrative about an aging writer trying to find peace with his past and a young hiker wrestling with her own troubles comes out of the



David W. Berner

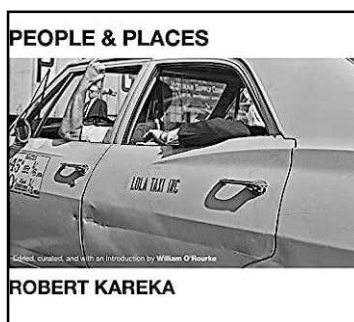
beauty of unexpected friendships. Something that has always fascinated me. How do we find and nurture the people who guide us in troubled times?

“I’ve always believed that true meaningful friendship does not just happen, but instead is born from mutually shared passions or trauma. In *The Islander*, the two main characters come together to reconcile their own personal struggles in a part of the world that forces one to accept and even embrace both solitude and hardship.”

*The Islander* has been honored with awards from Literary Titan and was a finalist for the Hawthorne Prize and the Readers’ Choice Awards

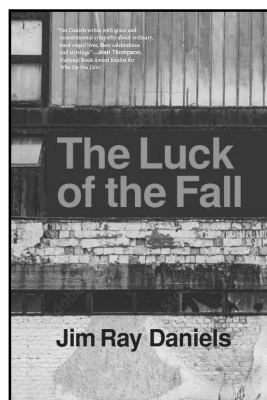
### EDITOR OF NEW BOOK

**William O’Rourke** is editor of *People & Places: Robert Kareka* (Dos Madres Press, Feb. 20, 2023)



Curating the work of his friend of a half century, O’Rourke, memorializes their connection by means of a long introduction in the form of a memoir, which chronicles Kareka’s artistic development as a photographer and sketches various highlights and lowlights of his long life and their sustained connection.

O’Rourke chose over 80 black-and-white photographs from the work of Kareka (1934-2020), concentrating on his black-and-white photographs from the 1960s, ’70s and ’80s.



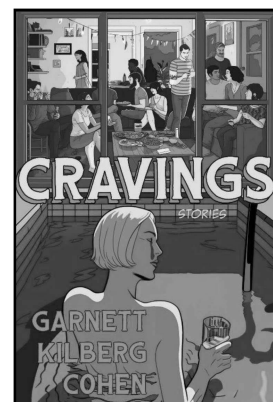
### NEW SHORT FICTION COLLECTION

Here’s a note from **Jim Daniels**:

“My new collection of short fiction, *The Luck of the Fall*, was just published by Michigan State University Press (July 1, 2023). It’s definitely a Midwest book, with Michigan being the setting of all the stories.”

From the publisher: “In *The Luck of the Fall*, characters get lost; they fall, but the falls shape their lives in ways that might even be called “lucky” – if luck is defined as survival, despite the scars left behind. They take consolation in their lack of prizes, in the clarity of their failures, while approaching the future with

gallows humor and faith in cynicism. Some stories read like dramatic monologues in the longer play of lives along Eight Mile Road on the edge of Detroit, a landmark location throughout Daniels’s six other fiction collections.”



### FOURTH STORY COLLECTION

**Garnett Kilberg Cohen** writes to say, “My fourth collection of stories, *Cravings*, is coming out in October of this year.

“The individual stories in *Cravings* (University of Wisconsin Press) were written in a span of over 10 years, the most recent in 2022. One story was inspired by a snatch of overheard conversation, another by a news story, a few by visual images and a few by memories that I felt I could shape-shift into something new.

“Although each had a different impetus, when I assembled them into a collection, I saw that the deeper meaning in all of them – no matter how different the characters or their situations were on the surface – was desire or longing for something that was just out of reach for a main character. I think what inspires me to write short stories is that a glimpse into a person’s life – perhaps just a moment – can reveal so much about a character in particular, or the human condition as a whole.”

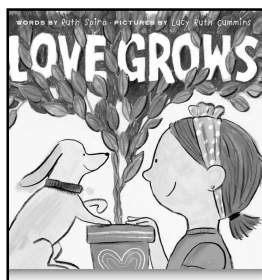
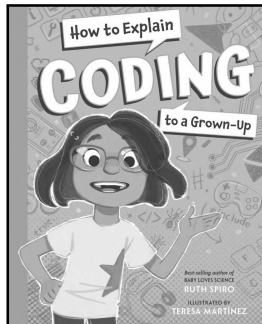
From the publisher: “The stories in *Cravings* pulse with longing, missed opportunities, recriminations and joy. Cohen leads readers through acutely crafted explorations of the way events shape and change our lives, sometimes for the better and sometimes in ways that haunt us forever.”

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## Literary Latest

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### TWO NEW BOOKS

Here is what **Ruth Spiro** tells Literary License: “I’m happy to report I have two new books releasing in the next few months.

“*How to Explain Coding to a Grown-Up* is a picture book published by Charlesbridge that releases on Oct. 10. It’s actually the first in a series of four, with one coming out each year. We started this series in response to the many requests we’ve received to “age up” my

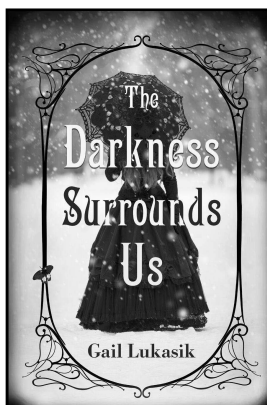


Ruth Spiro

Baby Loves Science books, and this series is written for ages 4-8. I’ll be celebrating the launch on Oct. 21 at The Book Stall. *How to Explain Coding to a Grown-Up* is illustrated by Teresa Martinez.

“Then on Dec. 26,

*Love Grows* comes out. It’s also a picture book, published by HarperCollins. The publisher’s description: “A delightful celebration of family, plants, and the boundlessness of love told in lively, poetic letters from aunt to niece with bright, irresistible illustrations!” *Love Grows* is illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins.”



### ‘GRIPPING GHOST STORY’

Gail Lukasik’s new book is *The Darkness Surrounds Us* (CamCat, Sept. 5).

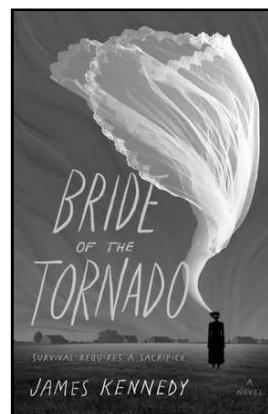
Lukasik says, “Though my gothic, historical mystery, *The Darkness Surrounds Us*, takes place during the 1918 flu epidemic, the recent pandemic didn’t inspire the book. I began writing in December 2019. It was a coincidence that I was writing the book when the COVID pandemic occurred. What did inspire the book was the 1918 epidemic, which I’d always been fascinated by.

“Though the recent pandemic wasn’t the book’s inspiration, it did influence my protagonist, Nurse Nellie Lester, who leaves her work in a Chicago contagion ward to care for the wife of a logger baron in a decrepit mansion on a remote Lake Michigan island. As the recent pandemic unfolded, I watched the horrors that the health care workers endured. Their experiences shaped Nellie. She’s haunted not only by the ghostly presence that appears in her room nightly, but also by the flu patients she couldn’t save. Another inspiration was the gothic novels I’ve read over the years from Daphne du Maurier’s *Rebecca* to Elly Griffiths’ *The Stranger Diaries*.

I was particularly interested in exploring how to use the supernatural to play on Nellie’s mind, making her question what is real and what isn’t; and how to keep the unrelenting focus on the eerie and haunting atmosphere by adding unsettling details such as the child’s death portrait, which Nellie thinks is decomposing every time she looks at it.”

Publishers Weekly wrote, “Lukasik (*White Like Her*) delivers a gripping ghost story of pandemics past in this well-crafted gothic mystery. ... Readers

will sympathize with Nellie’s fears and frustrations, and Lukasik maintains a deliciously dark tension throughout. With unpredictable plotting and superior atmospherics, this is an early-autumn treat fit for late-night devouring.”



### NEW HORROR NOVEL

James Kennedy writes to say, “I have YET ANOTHER book coming out this month! It’s a horror novel for adults called *Bride of the Tornado*. It’ll be available Aug. 15, but you can pre-order now from wherever you buy books. If you order it from Chicago indie bookseller Exile in Bookville, you’ll get a signed and personalized copy shipped to you!

“Even more good news: I’m going to be going on a book tour! Check out the dates and cities. If you’re anywhere near Chicago, San Francisco, Portland, Milwaukee, Seattle, Grand Rapids, Petoskey, Ann Arbor or Winnetka, I’d love to see you! More dates will be added soon.

“Good reviews are rolling in: *Bride of the Tornado* is one of Powell’s Bookstore’s ‘Picks of the Month,’ it’s one of New Scientist magazine’s Best New Science Fiction Books of August 2023 and its one of SciFiNow’s Best Science Fiction Books of August 2023.

“Publishers Weekly called it ‘an eerie, surrealist twist on the American Midwest, highlighting everything unusual about small-town living. ... Horror fans who value ambiance over jump scares will want to check this out.’

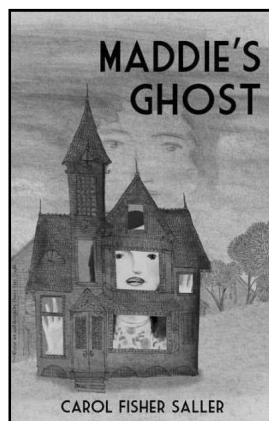
“Booklist praised it as “a genre-bending horror thriller that grapples with adolescent desire and existential dread. ... The narrator’s voice rings true.”

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## Literary Latest

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### NEW MIDDLE-GRADE NOVEL

**Carol Fisher Saller** tells Literary License “I have three ‘new’ books, having brought *The Bridge Dancers* and *Eddie’s War* back into print in March.

“[My latest book] *Maddie’s Ghost* and the others are all under my new indie Duckweed Books imprint. A new middle-grade novel, *Maddie’s Ghost* (Aug. 15, 2023), is a psychological suspense about

a girl whose great-grandmother was hanged for murder. Lainie’s belief in Maddie’s innocence is prompted by what appear to be messages from the dead woman herself.

“I had several ambitions for the book. I wanted it to be smart and tightly plotted, with no coincidences. I wanted it to center on a loving family – Lainie is desperate to protect her beloved great-uncles from a repeat of long-ago pain and scandal. And I wanted Lainie to be a regular kid. She’s no genius or superhero. She messes up big-time and has to dig herself out.

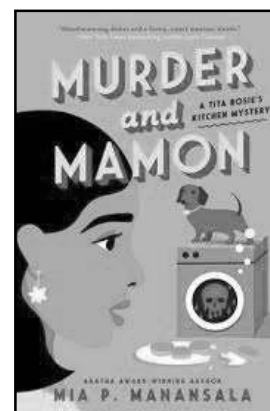
“Why Duckweed? I was feeling a bit hopeless joining the tsunami of self-publishers swamping the landscape. Duckweed is an Illinois native invasive plant. It seemed apt.”

From the publisher: “Madeleine ‘Lainie’ Stanton is about to become a local celebrity. Born at precisely midnight at the millennium, she’s turning 12, and a TV station wants an interview. But when



**Carol Fisher Saller**

the reporter finds out Lainie’s great-grandmother Madeleine was hanged for murder, the story threatens to blow up into something quite different.”



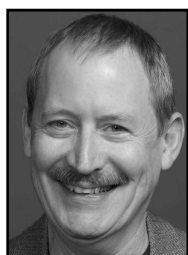
### NEW BOOK IN SERIES

*Murder and Mamon: A Tita Rosie’s Kitchen Mystery* (Berkley, Sept. 19, 2023) is **Mia P. Manansala’s** latest book.

From the publisher: “When murder mars the grand opening for Lila Macapagal’s aunties’ new laundromat, she will have to air out all the dirty laundry in Shady Palms to catch a killer.”

## New Members

**Charles Cosgrove** is the author of *An Ancient Hymn with Musical Notation: Papyrus Oxyrhynchus 1786* (Mohr Siebeck, 2011); *Music at Social Meals in Greek and Roman Antiquity: From the Archaic Period to the Age of Augustine* (Cambridge University Press, Dec. 1, 2022), and *Fortune and Faith in Old Chicago: A Dual Biography of Mayor*



**Charles Cosgrove**

*‘Chicago’ Maurine Watkins, Beulah Annan, and the Making of ‘Chicago’* (Southern Illinois Press).

*Augustus Garrett and Seminary Founder Eliza Clark Garrett* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2020).

His forthcoming book is *They Both Reached for the Gun: The True History of the Jazz Age Drama*

He grew up in Orland Park, Illinois, and lived most of his adult life in Brookfield, Illinois. He taught at Northern Seminary in Lombard, was a professor of Early Christian Literature at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, and now is professor emeritus.

He was nominated by **Ann Durkin Keating**.

**Margot McMahon** is the author of *The Fifth Season: The Chicago Tree Project* (2nd Edition 2023 Hummingbird Books), winner of the 2020 Mate E. Palmer First Place Book Award,

She also is the author of *Airdrie: Recollections of an Artist in Bloom* (Aquarius Press, 2021); *If Trees Could Talk* (National Book Award, Aquarius Press, 2021); *Mac & Irene: A WW II Saga* (Aquarius Press), and *Resist! A Visual History of Protest* (Aquarius Press, 2022).

*The Fifth Tree Project* also won the the 2020 First Place Book Award from the Illinois Women’s Press Association.

*Mac & Irene: A WWII Saga* is the story of her father, Franklin “Mac” McMahon, who was a B-17 navigator who was shot down over Germany. After surviving the POW camp, he returned to Chicago to marry his sweetheart, Irene, a Boeing flight attendant until 1945.

*Airdrie* and *If Trees Could Talk* are her family tales as she developed into a renowned artist.

Her most recent work, *Resist!*, is about her father, Franklin, who after his WWII ordeal became an artist and reporter documenting America’s struggle for social justice.

McMahon is also an internationally acclaimed artist and sculptor. She earned an MFA from Yale University and taught there as well at the School of the Art Institute Chicago and DePaul University.

She was nominated by **Michael Haupt**.



**Margot McMahon**

## Final Chapters

### *Marietta Marcin,* 1932-2022

For many years, **Marietta Marcin** was a regular attendee at the Midland Authors programs and dinners, showing up with a coterie of other North Shore authors who attended to catch up with each other and talk about books.

After the one of the book awards programs, Ms. Marcin demonstrated her enthusiasm by taking home the large poster the Midland Authors prepares for each banquet listing all the winners back to 1957, when the organization started presenting awards on an annual basis.

Ms. Marcin, a longtime Midland Authors member and a board member



**Marietta Marcin**

from 1982 to 1989, died in her sleep on Dec. 27 at age 90, surrounded by family.

Ms. Marcin was the author of *The Complete Book of Herbal Teas* (HarperCollins, March, 1984); *A Zoo in Her Bed* (Coward, McCann, Jan. 1, 1963); *The Herbal Tea Garden: Planning, Planting, Harvesting & Brewing* (Garden Way, Jan. 1, 1993), and *Herbal Tea Gardens: 22 Plans for Your Enjoyment & Well-Being* (Storey Publishing, Jan. 2, 1999).

She also served as a board member of the Chamber Music Chicago, of which she was president from 1987 to 1988, and of Contemporary Concerts. In addition, she was a member of the Midwest Writers Association, of Women in Communications and of the Chicago Press Club.

Ms. Marcin was born in 1932 in Chicago to William August and Marietta

(Calderini) Marshall. Her father, William Marshall was a radiologist who spoke five languages and served Chicago's German, Italian, Serbian and Czechoslovak communities.

Ms. Marcin earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Wisconsin in 1953. She was editor of Cuneo Topics from 1953-1955 and the NARDA News of the National Appliance Association from 1956 to 1962, and she worked for the International Design Conference in Aspen, Colorado, from 1963 to 1967.

She contributed to the 1968 Walker Report titled "Rights in Conflict," and later was a real estate consultant at Nash Realty in Winnetka, Illinois, from 1969 to 1985.

According to the Illinois Center for the book, she was a contributor to the Chicago Tribune magazine. She also was Midwest editor for Kasmar Publications and managing editor of Retailers Digest.

### *Carol Rausch Albright,* 1936-2023

"Science can tell us what's out there, but it can't tell you how to live," author and longtime Midland Authors member **Carol Rausch Albright** said at the Midland Authors Feb. 14, 2006, program.

Ms. Albright, whose specialty was examining the relationships among neuroscience, religious experience and theology, died on May 20 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 87.

"Carol was a dedicated and very knowledgeable science journalist," said former Midland Authors President **James Schwab**.

"With her husband, John, a physicist, she became involved in various programs at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago dealing with relations between science and religion, and she served as executive editor of Zygon, Journal of Religion and Science.

"She had a calm, intellectual approach to her topic but little time for those who dismissed religion as anti-science based on old tropes that she considered inaccurate.

Most of all, she was a thoughtful human being who wrote for an audience willing to think deeply about why we are who we are and the complexity of life," Schwab said.

Ms. Albright's most recent book was *Growing in the Image of God* (Novalis Press, June, 2002).



**Carol Rausch Albright**

With James B. Ashbrook, she also co-authored *The Humanizing Brain: Where Religion and Neuroscience Meet*, (Pilgrim Press, January, 1997); *Where God Lives in the Human Brain*, (Generic, January, 1987) and other books.

She also co-edited *Beginning with the End: God, Science, and Wolfhart Pannenberg* (Open Court, March 26, 1999) with Joel Haugen, and *Interactive World, Interactive God* (Wipf and Stock, 2017) with John R. Albright and Mladen Turk.

"[*Interactive World, Interactive God*]'s broad collection of invited essays in science, history, and theology will explore the theme expressed in the tentative title of the book," Ms. Albright said before publication of the work, which included essays by the co-editors.

For many years, *The Humanizing Brain* was required reading at a variety of col-

leges and universities, including Columbia University, the University of Vermont and St. Louis University.

Ms. Albright also lectured extensively across North America and in Europe, including at St. Paul University, the University of Ottawa, the University of Central Arkansas and the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology in Barcelona.

At the Midland Authors program, Ms. Albright said writing about science is like translating languages.

The trouble, she said, is that in the debates between science and religion, neither party understands the other without help.

While scientists tend to be those who quit going to church as soon as their mothers let them, "religionists" are the ones who "avoided science classes," she said.

For example, she said, consider the human trait of anger. Scientists take an interest in measuring adrenaline and other physiological components, while ethicists try to understand the effect on personality and human relationships, she said.

Ms. Albright attended Orion High School in downstate Illinois and graduated magna cum laude from Augustana

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## Final Chapters

### *Randy Garrett* 1958-2023

**Randy Garrett**, a longtime member of the Midland Authors, was an ardent reader besides being an author.

"Books were his life," Mr. Garrett's brother, Mark Garrett, said. "He had a collection of thousands of books."

Mr. Garrett died July 31 in Florida of congestive heart failure. He was 64.

As someone who became a knowledgeable legal investigator after witnessing a miscarriage of justice, Mr. Garrett unearthed information that helped overturn the death row convictions of two men in the 1983 killing of 10-year-old Jeanine Nicarico of Naperville and led to charges being dropped against a third man.

Several defense lawyers credited the encyclopedic knowledge Mr. Garrett acquired about the case with helping ultimately to bring the truth to light. Three Aurora men had been charged: Stephen Buckley, Rolando Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez.

"Randy's dedication to justice for Cruz, Hernandez and Buckley was something to behold," said Rob Warden, former executive director of the Center on Wrongful Convictions at the Northwestern University School of Law. "Once he saw what was happening, he couldn't let go. It was inspirational."

In 1985, he was a member of a Villa Park group called Stop Child Abduction. Now when he attended the first of five trials in the girl's killing.

The prosecutor's "opening statement caught my attention," Mr. Garrett told the Chicago Sun-Times in 1995. "It seemed like they didn't know what actually hap-

pened. They had no idea how many people were involved. They didn't know the motive. They didn't know where the car went or where the murder weapon went. They didn't know why witnesses saw only one person. ... And they didn't know who actually murdered her."

Information he unearthed from interviewing a large number of witnesses helped lead to charges being dropped against Buckley and to Cruz and Hernandez being freed from death row.

Another man, Brian Dugan, eventually confessed to committing the crime and is serving a life sentence.

"Randy's picture belongs in the dictionary next to the term 'dogged journalist,'" said author, lawyer and Midland authors member **Scott Turow**, who handled Hernandez's second appeal and won him a new trial. "He was tireless and inexorable in his commitment to unearth the truth. And he led the brigade of determined journalists who played an essential role in freeing Alex Hernandez and Rolando Cruz."

Before the third trial for Cruz – whose first two trials ended in conviction – Garrett noticed that prosecutors had switched the day of a critical phone call prosecutors said was by a sheriff's officer. That led to testimony by another sheriff's officer, who supposedly had received the call, that he actually was out of town and that the call could not have been made.

On hearing that, the judge cut the trial short and acquitted Cruz on the spot.

Subsequently, charges against Hernandez, who had two convictions overturned and was facing a third trial, were dropped.

Buckley's case was dropped earlier, before what would have been his second trial, after a hung jury in his first.

"He did all that work out of the goodness of his heart, without ever expecting a

dime for it," John Hanlon, then an assistant defender in the Illinois appellate defender's office, said of Mr. Garrett in a Sun-Times interview in 1995. Hanlon helped win new trials for Cruz and Hernandez in 1988.

Mr. Garrett continued to research the case and later co-authored a 1998 book about it, *Victims of Justice* (Avon), with Sun-Times reporter and former Midland Authors President **Thomas Frisbie**. An expanded 2005 edition, *Victims of Justice Revisited*, was published by Northwestern University Press.

He also wrote about legal matters for the Chicago Lawyer and Naperville Sun and did legal research on other cases.

"Randy was an author, investigator and a wonderful soul who devoted many hours seeking justice for the sake of justice itself," said Gary Johnson, who was a defense lawyer for Buckley and later Kane County state's attorney. "I know there are at least three innocent men who owe their freedom and reputations to Randy."

As a child, Mr. Garrett had a quick mind for mathematics and sports statistics and played in junior chess competitions. At about 10, he played against a grandmaster, who, as a test, intentionally started replaying a historical chess match, according to Mark Garrett. He said Mr. Garrett recognized the game and won by following the original victor's moves.

Mr. Garrett grew up in Villa Park, where he attended Willowbrook High School. He later attended classes at the former George Williams College in Downers Grove, now a campus of Aurora University. After college, he worked nights as a mental health counselor at Good Samaritan and then Elmhurst hospitals.

In 1995, he moved to Florida, where he worked for the hospital Broward Health North until retiring.



**Randy Garrett**

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## Final Chapters

### Continued from Page 10

College in Rockford.

Her first husband, Saul Gorski, with

### *Carol Rausch* *Albright*

whom she had two sons, died in 1963, and she married John R. Albright in 1991.

Ms. Albright also was associate for programs at the Chicago Center for Religion and Science, a regional director for the John Templeton Foundation and vice president for religion with the Institute of Religion in an Age of Science.

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