

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Midland Authors book awards on May 14 at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago.

Biblio File

Jack Dempsey (see Literary Latest, Page 6) was scheduled to do a presentation at the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University on Nov. 30, titled “Midwest Woman Speaks: The Civil War Story of Ellen Woodworth.” ... **Arnie Bernstein** presented a Nov. 1 online program about his book *Swastika Nation: Fritz Kuhn and the Rise and Fall of the German-American Bund*. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of History at Fairfield University. Arnie reports, “It went well.” ... In February, the Seminary Co-op Bookstore and



Leon Forrest

Northwestern University Press re-issued former Midland Authors President **Leon Forrest’s** 1992 novel *Divine Days*. ... Interlochen (Michigan) Public Radio published an interview titled “Fresh Coast Creatives: Art in the age of climate change” on Oct. 11 with **Anne-Marie Oomen**, along with a photo of her book-lined writing cabin, the “Think House,” in the woods. ... **Darwin McBeth Walton** was profiled on Oct. 20 in the Downers Grove (Illinois) Patch. ...



Darwin McBeth Walton

Robert Pruter has delivered a final manuscript to and signed a contract with Syracuse University Press for the publication of his second sports history book, *Creation of Modern Women’s Sporting*

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How Chicago nurtured country and folk music

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Chicago was the first important center of what came to be called country and western music, and it nurtured folk music in the 1970s when rock ‘n’ roll drove the genre out of other cities, author **Mark Guarino** said at the Midland Authors Nov. 14 program at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant in Chicago.

Guarino, author of *Country & Midwestern: Chicago in the History of Country Music and the Folk Revival* (University of Chicago Press, April 24, 2023), said Chicago became the nation’s center of what is now country and western music when WLS Radio started broadcasting a program called “National Barn Dance” in 1924.

“At that time the term ‘country’ music didn’t exist. It was called

folk music. It was these very old songs that people played in their homes, in their communities and in community halls,” he said.

WLS transmitted the music on its clear channel throughout most of the United States and popularized the genre, making Chicago a “country music Camelot,” Guarino said. With its growing popularity and sophisticated marketing by WLS, the

musicians who played it became more skilled, slicker and more presentational.

“Right from that moment you are seeing the selling of country music,” he said.

But by the early 1950s, the epicenter of country and western

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Mark Guarino with his book *Country & Midwestern* at the Midland Authors’ Nov. 14 program.

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Culture in Chicago between the Wars, 1918-1942. ... In October, Axios Chicago named **Carol Marin** Chicago's all-time best news anchor. ... The 2023 Midland Authors-honored book *Sirens & Muses* by **Antonia Angress** was listed by USA Today on Sept. 23 as one of its books "to help you transition from summer to fall." ... **James Plath** has won a 2023 Quarry Farm Fellowship, which will help him write an essay linking Mark Twain to John Updike. ... In April, **Glennette Tilley Turner** was given a 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Illinois State Historical Society. ... **Kathie Giorgio** has just signed her 15th book contract. *Don't Let Me Keep You*, Kathie's eighth novel, will be released in October of 2024. ... **Joe Gustaitis** recently did a PowerPoint presentation for an audience of 50 people about his book *Jazz Age Chicago* at the Green Mill jazz club. The event, which was sponsored by the Chicago Art Deco Society, combined period photos of personalities, buildings and so on with performances of contemporary popular songs by the celebrated jazz piano player and

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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

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Country, folk

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Author Mark Guarino (left) and interviewer David Witter, a Midland Authors board member, discuss Guarino's book *Country & Midwestern* at the Midland Author's Nov. 14 program at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant in Chicago. (Photo by Thomas Frisbie)

music had moved to Nashville, with its Grand Ole Opry.

"In the '50s, that is when the studios and publishing houses came in, and the Grand Ole Opry became relevant," he said. "Up until about 1950, Nashville was a nothing town, and Chicago was the center of rural America."

But even as country music was leavin' and sayin' goodbye to Chicago, the city was to become a center of another genre: folk music. It started, Guarino said, when the Gate of Horn opened in 1956 at the corner of Dearborn Street and Chicago Avenue.

"It was the first nightclub in Chicago dedicated to folk music," he said.

The club attracted national acts, and it was where the three co-founders of the storied Old Town School of Folk Music met.

The Old Town School of Folk Music provided an anchor where musicians could find jobs, learn music and meet

each other. Other clubs opened, and local record labels sprang up. Soon, folk musicians such as John Prine, Bonnie Koloc, Fred Holstein and Steve Goodman had large, enthusiastic followings.

"Clubs continued opening up in the '70s and kept stoking the fire," Guarino said.

Among the clubs Guarino cited in his book were The Fifth Peg, The Quiet Knight, The Earl of Old Town, Holstein's and Somebody Else's Troubles.

Chicago-based Flying Fish Records and later Bloodshot Records broadened the listening audience for folk musicians, he said.

"Bloodshot showed there was a giant audience for music the major labels had completely not even recognized," Guarino said. "Chicago was the first city to have a scene here to support all that stuff. ... That whole scene was completely organic. Any scene that happens in history, it just happens because a bunch of factors happen to

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Literary Largess

Dues cover mailings and other organizational expenses, but the Society always needs additional money for programs such as the awards at the annual May

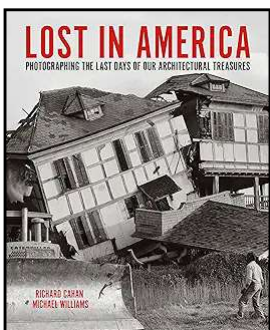
book awards banquet.

Thanks to **John Cella, Michelle Cox, Thomas Dyja, Milton Nieuwsma, Dan Gerber, Stuart Shea and Donna Solecka Urbikas**, who made recent contributions.

Biblio File

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singer Paul Asaro, a specialist in old-time music. Some of the pieces were jazz classics, such as “Struttin’ with Some Barbecue,” while others have been virtually forgotten, such as “The Toddle,” “Hello Montreal,” “Nighthawk Blues,” and a rare song written especially for the 1933 Century of Progress World’s Fair, “Marching On to Chicago.” ... On Oct 1, South Dakota Public Broadcasting Radio reported on **Connie Goddard’s** research into manual or industrial training in schools. ... In a Nov. 11 post, **Mark Jacob** wrote: “Just published: *Lost in America: Photographing the Last Days of Our Architectural Treasures* by my friends **Richard Cahan** and **Michael Williams**. It’s an extraordinary and already much-praised book by two of the nation’s finest authors on history and the photographic record. Shown on the cover is the Ulysses S. Grant Cottage in Long Branch, N.J.” Richard and Michael presented the Midland



Authors’ September, 2017 monthly program. ... On Nov. 5, **Wally Podrazik** discussed the Beatles’ single “Now and Then” on WGN Radio Sunday with Steve King and Johnnie Putman. ... **Eldon Ham** wrote “Baseball broadcasting history includes Carlton Fisk and Chicago’s very own WGN” for the Oct. 21 Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Margaret McMullan** wrote “Why Elvis’ Cousin has Mississippi All Shook Up” for The Hill on Oct. 11. ... **Stuart Dybek** wrote “Blue Island” for the Aug. 23 New Yorker. ... On Oct. 17, **Pat Camalliere** conducted a tour of Lemont for residents of Smith Crossing, a senior living community. The tour was based on settings in her book *The Mystery at Black Partridge Woods* and included stops at the Lemont Historical Society and Museum, lunch and a bus trip to historic places in Lemont that was narrated by the author. Lemont’s mayor, Illinois Rep.



Roderick Townley (right) and **Wyatt Townley (not pictured)** presented on different panels at the Kansas Book Festival at Washburn University. Roderick moderated a panel on kid lit, and Wyatt, poet laureate of Kansas emerita, read and discussed the role of landscape in poetry for *Wild Words*, an anthology sponsored by Humanities Kansas. “All went well, and the festival was a great success,” Wyatt reports.



Pat Camalliere

John Egofske and Village Administrator George Schafer joined the group for the day’s events. ... On Sept. 8, Porchlight Music Theatre presented its 2023 Luminary Award to **Paul M. Lisnek**. ... **Sara Paretsky** was scheduled to be among the authors at the Authors’ Literary Brunch on Oct. 15, at noon at the UMass Dartmouth campus. ... Ozarks Public Radio KSMU interviewed **Susan Croce Kelly** on Aug. 24. ... **Kelly Barnhill**, whose *The Ogress and the Orphans* was honored at the 2023 Midland Authors book awards, wrote “Am I Still A Writer If I’ve Lost All My Words” for the Nov. 26 New York Times. ... In an Oct. 25 Facebook post, **Gail Lukasik** said, “After my talk at Palatine Library, a high school teacher referred me to a John Updike poem. I’d been talking about how my characters speak to me. I really related to what he says about writing characters, especially this quote: ‘I do what I can for them,/but it is not enough’ (from ‘Marching Through a Novel’).” On Nov. 5, Gail wrote, “It was a raucous and fun book talk at Centuries & Sleuths bookstore yesterday. First time giving a book talk during a wine festival. Contrary to my photo, I was stone sober.” ... **Ted Kooser: More Than a Local Wonder**



Gail Lukasik at the Centuries & Sleuths bookstore on Nov. 4 in Forest Park, Illinois.

(University of Nebraska Press, Nov. 1) tells the story of the Nebraska poet’s childhood. **Ted Kooser** won the Pulitzer Prize in poetry in 2005 and was the U.S. poet laureate from 2004 to 2006. ... In October, the Loyola Phoenix quoted **Timothy Gilfoyle** in an article about cemetery design in the early 19th century. ... **Jim Nolan** wrote “It is true. There are people who don’t want to work anymore” for the Nov. 27 Chicago Tribune.



FROM LEFT: Midland Authors Board Member Jim Walker, Jim Sikora, Program Chair Mary Wisniewski and Board Member David Witter enjoy a chat before the start of the Nov. 14 program. Note the widely admired Midland Authors table skirt. (Photos by Thomas Frisbie)

■ Country, folk music Continued from Page 2



Midland Authors President Gerard Plecki and Board Member Christopher Lynch at the Nov. 14 program.



Ben Segedin and Carolyn Garrett attend the Midland Authors' Nov. 14 program.

be in the right place at the right time.”

The second folk boom happened in Chicago in the 1970s partly because clubs featuring folk music began opening in the Old Town and Lincoln Park neighborhoods.

The Quiet Knight was a club that gave singer and songwriter Steve Goodman his start, for example, Guarino said.

The club owners were “a generation older than the people who played them, and they really were the World War II generation, but they were really like these really generous mensches who just loved all these young kids with their folk music coming out of the Old Town School,” Guarino said.

The Earl of Old Town club “gave space to a lot of people like John Prine and Bonnie Koloc,” he said.

Midland Authors member **Rick Kogan** wrote in a review Guarino’s book is “exhaustively researched, stylishly written and exciting on every single page.”

Booklist wrote, “With an epic scope ... this is a vital contribution to the history of American music and required reading for country and folk music fans.”



FROM LEFT: Cliff Ratza, Dorothea Frisbie, Gunter Nitsch and Mary Nitsch.

Authors to discuss modern mayors

On Jan. 9, six authors will discuss Chicago's five modern mayors from Harold Washington to Lori Lightfoot.

In this Q&A, two of the authors touch on a few of the many thoughtful insights and intriguing history that will be presented at the program, which will be a book launch for the book *Chicago's Modern Mayors*.

Literary License: *How do the five modern mayors differ from their predecessors?*

Kari Lydersen: I'm not sure how to compare the five modern mayors to all of their predecessors, but I think it's instructive at least to compare them with Mayor Richard J. Daley. The senior Daley of course was synonymous with the Chicago Democratic Machine, and every mayor since has grappled with that Machine including its changing nature. You could argue that the old-fashioned Machine doesn't exist anymore, but Chicago is still very much defined by the system of



Kari Lydersen

patronage, literally and symbolically, that it created; and the powerful interest groups and leaders of ethnic constituencies who understand their role in the Machine and how to use it to serve their communities. Rahm Emanuel and Lori Lightfoot seemed unwilling to work within that framework, to their detriment, in terms of not sufficiently acknowledging or understanding the importance of all these centers of power within the city.

Chicago of course has undergone so much racial reckoning during the time of the five modern mayors, with Harold Washington obviously offering a major counterpoint to the days of the senior Daley, who was a member of an athletic club involved in the 1919 race riots. It's a huge deal that there were three Black mayors among the "modern five," not to mention our current mayor Brandon Johnson. And yet the segregation and systemic racism that has long characterized the city persists; the city continues to lose Black population and the state of things

Jan. 9, 2024, program

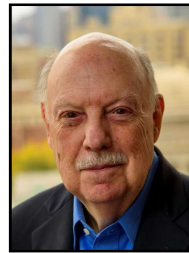
Harold Washington Library,
400 S. State S. Chicago

5:30 p.m.

Free

like jobs and mental health care in Black neighborhoods are arguably worse than during the tenure of some predecessors.

Dick Simpson: In the decades before modern mayors, Chicago had political Machine bosses like Edward Kelly and Richard J. Daley; reformers like Edward Dunne and William Dever; and Trump-style populists like Big Bill Thompson.



Dick Simpson

Beginning with Harold Washington, there was a break in these patterns with progressive mayors like Washington and Lightfoot and builder, global city mayors, like Richard M. Daley and Rahm Emanuel.

The political machine was transmogrified under Daley and Emanuel as they created a global "City of Spectacle." Alternatively, Washington and Lightfoot defeated the old Machine and created progressive policies that focused on an agenda to bring the South and West sides economic and housing developments. This progressive agenda has accelerated under Brandon Johnson.

Literary License: *What was Mayor Lori Lightfoot's defining characteristic?*

Dick Simpson: Mayor Lightfoot was an outsider from the traditional Democratic Party and the new machine of Daley and Emanuel. She was elected because of her strong stand against political corruption and her progressive agenda. She was more successful as a mayor than she has been given credit for, but she alienated many political leaders and too many members of the media and the public with her combative personality.

Under her watch the rubber stamp City Council was ended. During both her and her successor Brandon Johnson's term, the Chicago City Council has become a more representative democratic legislature

“It's a huge deal that there were three Black mayors among the 'modern five.'”

with alderpersons introducing more legislation on their own and multiple distinct factions forming. Like Harold Washington in the Council Wars period, Lightfoot interrupted the old political and governmental control by the Machine.

Literary License: *What was Mayor Rahm Emanuel's defining characteristic?*

Kari Lydersen: A defining characteristic of Rahm Emanuel was certainly his arrogance, which was a major problem in his governing style and one that he himself essentially acknowledged during his second campaign, when he tried to present himself as a more approachable "warm and fuzzy" mayor including with the "sweater" ad. Emanuel came in with lots of policy experience, powerful connections, energy and intelligence, but also impatience and unwillingness to listen or involve others in the true spirit of democracy. He had big plans for the city and didn't want to be slowed down by dealing with the mosaic

“A defining characteristic of Rahm Emanuel was certainly his arrogance.”

of important community leaders or the needs and demands of the city's more vulnerable residents. He had an efficiency-driven, corporate mentality and approach more indicative of the high-finance and startup worlds, which he prioritized and embraced arguably at the expense of other communities. And when Emanuel was implicated in bad governance, like corruption in the schools administration and a coverup of the shooting of Laquan McDonald, I think that arrogance drove his belief that he would "get away with it" and that the end justified the means in his grand scheme for Chicago.

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■ Modern mayors

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Literary License: *What don't people understand about Chicago's modern mayors?*

Dick Simpson: The most important fact is how profoundly these modern mayors and modern Chicago differ from the older mayors and old Chicago. They changed the direction of the city and our lives in ways which most people have failed to recognize.

There is the era before the modern mayors and the era afterward. We are now intricately connected with the rest of the world and subject to the effects of war, depressions, epidemics and immigration. Also, each of the mayors had to cope with

““ *These modern mayors ... changed the direction of the city and our lives in profound ways.*””

different major crises.

Mayor Washington had to deal with Reaganomics, Daley with recession and inflation, Lightfoot with a pandemic unlike any since the influenza epidemic a century earlier. During these last 50 years, Chicago and its politics, economy, society, and government has been permanently changed. While I have supported some mayors and opposed others on specific policies, I am grateful that they have presided over this arc of our history.

Kari Lydersen: I think one thing most people don't understand regarding the five modern mayors is just how hard it is to be Chicago mayor, probably during any point in history and certainly in recent decades. The

gun violence problem seems sadly so intractable, and the effects of deindustrialization, job loss and de-unionization affecting the working class nationwide certainly continues to hurt Chicago even if we've fared better than other Rust Belt cities. Meanwhile the toll of environmental injustice and legacy pollution in Chicago only continues to become more

clear; and Chicago's wonderful status as a city welcoming immigrants also means more resource and governing challenges. Especially in recent years, Chicago has also been so viciously attacked by power-

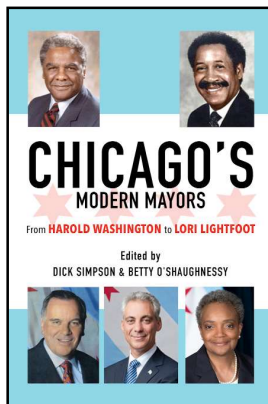
““ *I think one thing most people don't understand ... is just how hard it is to be Chicago mayor.*””

ful conservatives like Donald Trump, Bruce Rauner and Ken Griffin, who can do real damage with their words and actions. Which is all to say, I have big criticisms of most of the modern mayors as I'm sure most Chicagoans do, but I think we often fail to understand just how difficult it is to run this city in an equitable and democratic way, and they all in their own way were surely passionate about the job and doing “the best they could.”

Literary License: *How did you research the section which you contributed to the book?*

Kari Lydersen: I wrote a book published by Haymarket Books in 2013 called *Mayor 1%: Rahm Emanuel and the Rise of Chicago's 99%*. For that book, I attended key events, meetings, protests and government proceedings during Emanuel's campaign and first few years in office; did lots of reading and googling; and interviewed scores of community leaders, union leaders, and “regular people,” and attempted without success to interview Emanuel. I drew on that research and reporting for this chapter, as well as reporting I'd done for In

These Times magazine and other outlets during the rest of Emanuel's two terms. Working with my chapter co-author **Daniel Bliss**, meeting with the other *Modern Mayors* authors and talking with Dick Simpson also helped me gain deeper understanding of how Emanuel fits in the larger trajectory of Chicago politics – I feel very grateful for this opportunity.



Dick Simpson: All our chapters answered basic questions such as how did the mayor get elected; what was the coalition with which they governed; what was their relationship with the Chicago City Council; and what was their legacy? For most mayors there were previous books, news articles and biographies to draw upon. However, for Lori Lightfoot, other than news articles, it was too soon for those to be available.

Luckily, I had special access because I was on the finance committee of both her election and failed re-election campaigns. So, I had reports on fund-raising, polls, and strategy that I could use along with election statistics to answer why she was elected.

Her governing coalition information was available from news reports and documents like the transition team report. For each mayor, including Mayor Lightfoot, we had detailed analyses of voting statistics and the major issues in the City Council (including vote totals by which they passed) analyzed in the UIC City Council reports. Finally, for her legacy, I and my co-author, Rosaire Rossi, depended upon accounts of her accomplishments such as the city's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Lightfoot chapter was particularly challenging as the 2023 election was still underway as we were going to press. We had written it originally with the assumption that she would be re-elected, but we had to revise it when she was defeated and Brandon Johnson was elected.

““ *Especially in recent years, Chicago has also been so viciously attacked by powerful conservatives like Donald Trump, Bruce Rauner and Ken Griffin, who can do real damage with their words and actions.*””

New Members

Barbara Klinger is the author of *Immortal Films: "Casablanca" and the Afterlife of a Hollywood Classic* (University of California Press, 2022); *Beyond the Multiplex: Cinema, New Technologies, and the Home* (University



Barbara Klinger

of California Press, 2006), and *Melodrama and Meaning: History, Culture, and Films of Douglas Sirk* (Indiana University Press, 1994).

Klinger is Provost Professor Emerita of Cinema and Media

Studies in The Media School at Indiana University.

She served as president of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2013-2015) and, more recently, worked on the screening committee and the international feature film jury at the Chicago International Film Festival (2020-2021). She received an M.A. from Ohio University in 1981 in Film and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa in 1986 in Communication Studies/Film.

She was nominated by **Jim Walker**.

John Kropf is the author of *Color Capital of the World: Growing Up with the Legacy of a Crayon Company* (University of Akron Press, 2022);



John Kropf

Unknown Sands: Journeys Around the World's Most Isolated Country (Dusty Sparks Review, 2005); *The Spirit of Innovation in Ohio Cities* (Middle West Review, 2022) and *Ruin, Revival, and Something in Between: Memoirs of the Rust Belt*.

He was born in and raised in Erie County, Ohio, and earned a B.A. from Denison University, a joint degree in law and a masters in international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh.

He is an attorney in the Washington, D.C., area.

He was nominated by **Jon Lauck**.

Ken Trainor is the author of *Our Town*

Oak Park: Walk with Me, in Search of True Community (Streetlight Books, 2023); *We Dare to Say – An Adventure in Journaling* (ACTA, 2007), and *Unfinished Pentecost: Vatican II and the Altered Lives of Those Who Witnessed It* (CreateSpace, 2023).

Trainor also is a writer and editor at the Wednesday Journal in Oak Park, Illinois, and he has been a weekly columnist for newspapers in Ft. Collins, Colorado and Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. In the 1990s, he wrote a monthly parenting column for Chicago Parent Magazine

He was nominated by **Robert Marovich**.

Marcia Noe is the author of *Three Midwestern Playwrights: How Floyd Dell, George Cram Cook, and Susan Glaspell Transformed American Theatre* (Indiana University Press, 2022); *Susan Glaspell: Voice from the Heartland* (Western Illinois University Press, 1983), and other books.

Noe is a professor of English at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She was born in Rock Island, Illinois, and is the author of more than 24 publications about the Pulitzer Prize-winning Iowa playwright, Susan Glaspell.

Noe holds a B.A. from Marquette University and an M.A. and Ph.D from the University of Iowa.

She was nominated by **Jon Lauck**.

Sonya Huber is the author of eight books, including *Love and Industry: A Midwestern Workbook* (Belt Publishing, 2023) (See Literary Latest, Page 8); *Supremely Tiny Acts: A Memoir of a Day* (Mad Creek/Ohio State); *The Evolution of Hillary Rodham Clinton* (Squint Books, 2018);



Ken Trainor



Sonya Huber

Voice First: A Writer's Manifesto (University of Nebraska Press (Sept. 1, 2022); *Pain Woman Takes Your Keys, and*

Other Essays from a Nervous System (University of Nebraska Press, 2017); *The Backwards Research Guide* (Equinox Publishing (November, 2011); *Cover Me: A Health Insurance Memoir* (University of Nebraska Press, 2010), and *Opa Nobody* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008).

Huber was born in Evergreen Park, Illinois.

Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Brevity, Creative Nonfiction, The Atlantic, The Guardian, and other outlets. Huber is an associate professor of English at Fairfield University and in the Fairfield low-residency MFA program.

She was nominated by **Jon Lauck**.

Novelist and children's book author **Jerdine Nolen** is the author of *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* (HarperCollins, 1994); *Hope's Path to Glory* (Simon & Schuster, 2023); *On Her Wings: The Story of Toni Morrison* (Simon & Schuster, 2022); *Raising Dragons* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1998); *Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life* (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2013); *Calico Girl* (Simon & Schuster, 2017), and other books.



Jerdine Nolen

Nolen grew up in Chicago.

She has a B.A. in special education from Northeastern Illinois University and an M.Ed. in interdisciplinary arts education from Loyola University in Chicago.

She lectures on a variety of topics related to books and the writing process.

She has won many awards, including a Bank Street Best Book of the Year award for *Hewitt Anderson's Great Big Life* and an ALA/YALSA Best Fiction Nominee for Young Adults for *Eliza's Freedom Road*. *Calico Girls* was a Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year,

Her book *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* was made into a 1999 television film titled *Balloon Farm*.

She was nominated by **Marlene Targ Brill**.

Literary Latest

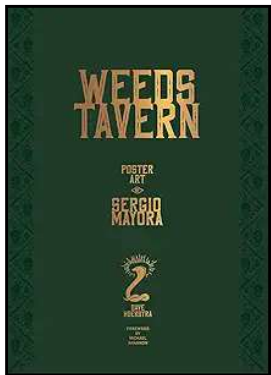
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chief medical officer of the Army of the Potomac?

“Research revealed a physician devoted to patient care, open to advances in science and practice, and whose career had been torpedoed by the political skullduggery of a civilian organization that history has largely characterized as being pure as first-fallen snow. As a general matter, it opened my eyes to the real state of Civil War medical knowledge and care – not barbaric, as traditionally understood, but replete with heroic efforts to serve and to save hundreds of thousands of ill, wounded and dying soldiers. Tripler did not tolerate fools, and yet he continued in the Army after his promotion was blocked, serving as director of medicine for Midwest army departments. His death right after the war undermined accurate memory and respect for his legacy. Visiting his grave in a Detroit cemetery, and finding a poignant memorial funded by his many military colleagues, galvanized my conviction that this story had to be told, and with powerful writing, for the very first time.”

Dempsey has also edited the book *When Slavery and Rebellion Are Destroyed: A Michigan Woman's Civil War Journal* (University of Georgia Press, Nov. 15, 2023).

The book includes the correspondence between a rural Midwestern woman and her husband serving in the army that shed new light on the Civil War.



ECCENTRIC ARTWORK

Dave Hoekstra wrote the text for *Weeds Tavern: Poster Art by Sergio*

Mayora (Trope Publishing, Nov 28).

From the publisher: “Weeds Tavern collects the eccentric artwork of Sergio Mayora that once adorned the streets of Chicago.

“Before the days of social media and the internet, Weeds Tavern’s host and bartender Sergio Mayora attracted a loyal, diverse and eclectic crowd to the bar with his unique and vibrant collage poster art promoting the tavern. These advertisements were singular cut-and-paste works of art.

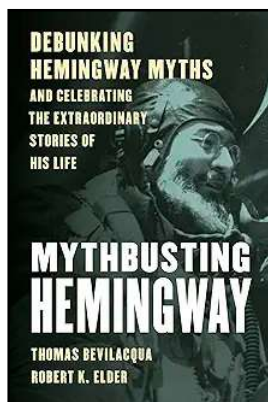


WENDY LOVE

Dave Hoekstra

“From 1988’s “Weed’s Pollution Night” to 2004’s poetry night “Making America Safe in the War Against Censorship,” many of Mayora’s posters predicted the world we are living in today.

“Echoing the bright colors and catchy phrases of Mayora’s poster art, *Weeds Tavern: Poster Art of Sergio Mayora* collects over 40 of these iconic posters that once adorned the phone booths and street lamps of Chicago’s streets.”



ASTONISHING TRUE STORIES

Here is what Literary Latest has learned about *Mythbusting Hemingway* (Lyons Press, Nov. 1, 2023) from its author, **Robert K. Elder**:

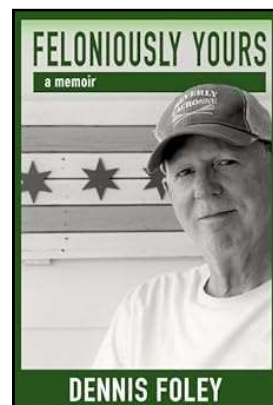
“I live in Hemingway’s hometown of Oak Park and have written three other Hemingway books – but it has always surprised me how much misinformation and false myths there are actively circulating about him.

“For example, he never said that Oak

Park was ‘a place of wide lawns and narrow minds,’ and one of his most famous internet memes is a misattribution of a Leonard Cohen lyric.

“But the true stories were astonishing. Hemingway was twinned with his older sister and dressed like a little girl in his early childhood – the impact of which has sparked debate amongst scholars for decades. He was a survivor and lived through two back-to-back plane crashes in Africa. Hemingway led an extraordinary, adventurous life. He was also a difficult, multi-faceted person. This book, written with Thomas Bevilacqua, was a chance to explore the myth and the man.”

From the publisher: *Mythbusting Hemingway* is a “fitting treatment for an author who won both the Pulitzer and Nobel prizes, survived back-to-back plane crashes and played the cello. He really was ‘The Most Interesting Man in the World,’ who once shot himself in the leg (while hunting sharks) and brawled with Orson Welles. In this book, Hemingway legends – both true and debunked – are informed by detective work the authors did for the Paris Review, Chicago Tribune and Huffington Post. For this volume, the authors conducted fresh interviews and scholarship that shed new light on the man, his work, and legacy.”



‘A BOOK I NEVER INTENDED TO WRITE’

Feloniouly Yours: A Memoir (McBride and Roche Press, Nov. 1, 2023) is **Dennis Foley’s** latest book.

Foley writes to say, “Let me first say, that *Feloniouly Yours* is a book that I had never intended to write. I was working on a novel/screenplay set in Chicago

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Literary Latest

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in the early 1900s involving the great anarchist Emma Goldman and her Chicago lover and man about town, Ben Reitman.

“After wrapping up about 60 pages of material, I started getting bombarded with stories from my own past.



Dennis Foley

“I could no longer focus on the novel, so I kicked it to the curb for the time being and ran with the memoir pieces flooding my brain.

“I wasn't sure where it was all going, but after about a year,

when almost all of the material was written, things took shape and fell into place for me.

“It made some sense. At the very end of my book *The Drunkard's Son* (part memoir – part not), after the narrator's buddies are finally allowed to visit him in the hospital following the narrator's lengthy stay from a near-fatal stabbing in an alley fight, the 15-year-old narrator looks out at his friends, and thinks, “... all I can do is wonder, what will become of us? What will become of me?”

“*Feloniously Yours* is my attempt to be true to that 15-year-old boy (me) and to answer one of the questions he posed.”

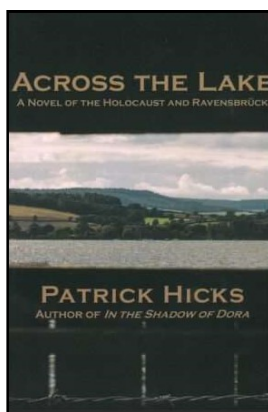
Midland Authors member **Rick Kogan** wrote, “The life of Dennis Foley has been, so far, a wild ride. That he is brave enough to put it all on the pages of this book with a palpable honesty and considerable charm not only makes for good reading but should give every reader hope.”

A STORY OF SURVIVAL

Patrick Hicks' latest book, *Across the Lake* (Stephen F. Austin University Press, Oct. 10, 2023), is set in Nazi Germany's only all-female concentration camp.

It is a story of survival amid brutality.

From the publisher: “With a keen eye toward historical accuracy, this is an unflinching portrayal of how prisoners supported each other while holding



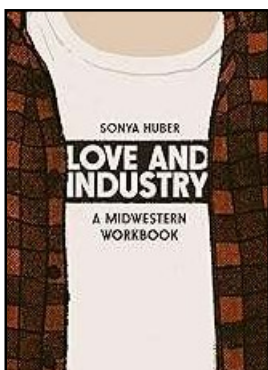
onto their humanity.

“This is also a story of the female guards – the Aufseherin – who were every bit as vicious as the SS in Buchenwald, Dachau, and Auschwitz. What did it mean to be a woman in a concentration camp like Ravensbrück?

“*Across the Lake* is an unforgettable story about gender and violence in the Holocaust.”



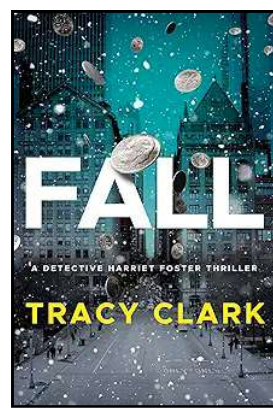
Patrick Hicks



'MASTERFUL ESSAYIST'

Sonya Huber's new book is *Love and Industry* (Belt Publishing, Sept. 12, 2023).

Megan Stielstra, who presented the Midland Authors' Oct. 10, 2017, program, wrote, “Huber is a masterful essayist. I mean – holy s---. I felt this book in my bones. The deeply felt essays in *Love and Industry* feature hard love and loud music, radiation poisoning in our bodies and our land, and aching questions about the places that make us ask: How do I get out of here? and Can I ever stay away?”



'ALL ABOUT CHARACTER'

“I'm all about character,” **Tracy Clark** says about her new book, *Fall* (Thomas & Mercer, Dec. 5, 2023), “so when I approached the start of *Fall*, my mind was on Det. Harriet Foster and what she needed to do to get her life restarted.

“Her case, the murder, was kind of secondary for me. I knew somebody had to die. I write crime fiction. She's a homicide detective. I knew I had to give her something to do. But the focus for me is always character first, dead body second. So, I sat down in front of that blank page, took a bead on where I left Harriet at the end of book one, and then I got her moving. I dug deep. I tried to go beyond the badge and Kevlar vest. I need to find out who she is.

“And not just her. I want to know what makes the rest of the team tick too – her new partner Det. Vera Li, the old veterans, Detectives Lonergan and Symansky, and then Kelley and Bigelow, who are all different, but who all have to work in concert. I don't rely on inspiration, I don't think. I write whether I feel inspired or not, and I keep writing until stuff works.

When the words move right and sound right and the characters do things that matter, I know I'm done.”

From the publisher: “In the second book in the Detective Harriet Foster thriller series, author Tracy Clark weaves a twisted journey into the underbelly of Chicago as Harriet and her team work to unmask a serial killer stalking the city's aldermen.”



Tracy Clark

Society of Midland Authors Program

Demystifying Publishing

How to Get Published: How to Keep Publishing

(Hints and insights: what to do once writing is finished)

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

Free and open to the public

Virtual Panel discussion: 7-8 CST pm

To join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83839767320?pwd=a2R0OU5hYmQ2a0h5Y2pZUjYlZkRaUT09>



Donna Beasley is a children's book author, former digital travel magazine owner, writing coach and president/publisher of KaZoom Kids Books, a multicultural children's publishing company, focusing on Black and Latino characters and stories for children ages 3 to 8.



Sylvia Frank Rodrigue acquires history and criminology books for SIUPress. Through her business Sylverlining she copyedits nonfiction and fiction manuscripts. She was editor-in-chief at LSU Press and associate editor at Stackpole Books. Rodrigue is the co-author of *Images of America: Baton Rouge* and *Historic Baton Rouge*.



Sharon Woodhouse was an indie publisher for over 25 years (Lake Claremont Press, Everything Goes Media). She currently owns Conspire Creative, which provides coaching, consulting, and project management services for authors and publishers, with a specialty in entrepreneurship and publishing options.

To learn more, contact moderators MarleneTarg Brill: marlenetbrill@comcast.net or Walter Podrazik: wallypodrazik@live.com.

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

Address Service Requested

