

Mark your calendars for these events:

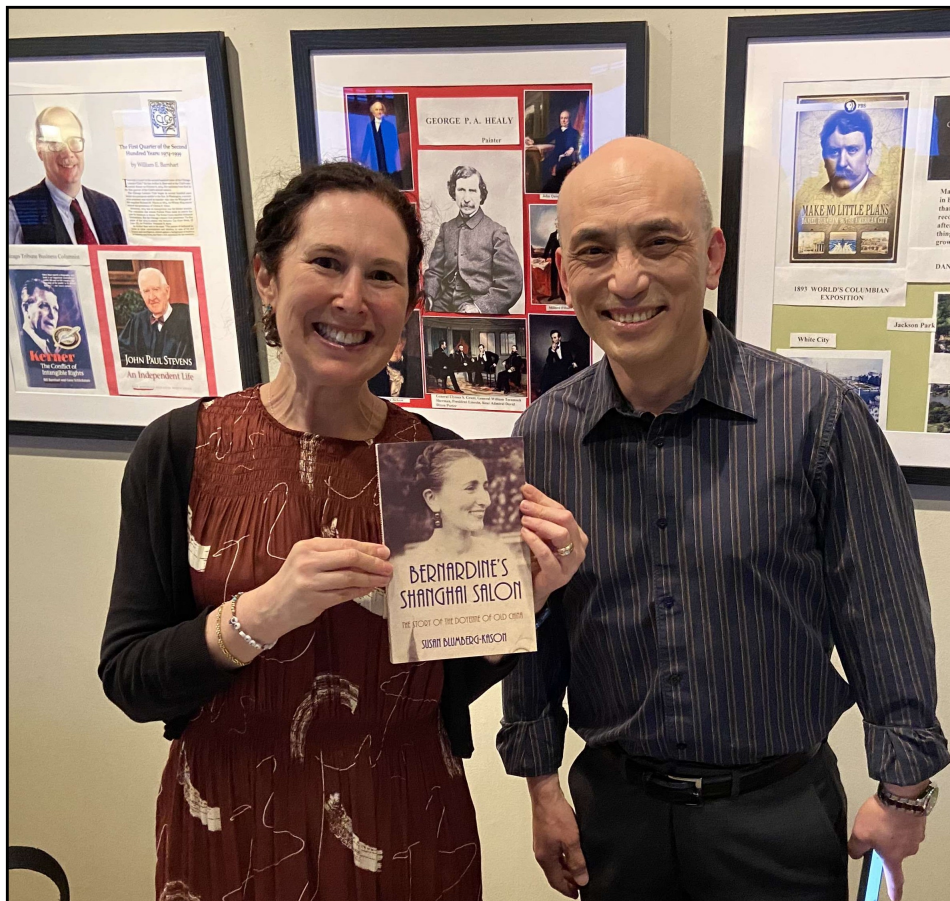
- The April 9 program with a working title “Booking the National Pastime: Writing a Baseball Book.” The panelists will be **Jim Walker, Judith Hiltner, Stuart Shea and Thom Henninger**. Location: Turtles in Bridgeport, 238 W. 33rd St., Chicago.
- The 2024 Midland Authors book awards and banquet on May 21 at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago. *Note that this is a change from the original scheduled date of May 14.* See Page 8 for a registration form.

Biblio File

At the recent Association of Writers and Writers Programs conference in Kansas City, **Steve Paul** moderated a panel discussion on the work of two Midwestern authors – Evan S. Connell, the subject of Steve’s Midland Authors biography and memoir prize winner for 2022, and Vincent O. Carter. Both writers were born in Kansas City in 1924 and both wrote autobiographical novels based on their years growing up in that city, one in upper-crust white society (see Connell’s *Mrs. Bridge and Mr. Bridge*), the other in the Black part of the segregated town (Carter’s *Such Sweet Thunder*). ... **Melissa Fraterrigo** writes to say, “I’m thrilled to share that my third book, a collection of essays, *The Perils of Girlhood*, has been accepted by the University of Nebraska Press as part of its American Lives Series edited by Tobias Wolff. The book is slated for Fall 2025. ... Midland Authors Board Member **Dominic A. Pacyga** took part in a podcast with Andrew Sola and Tobias Brinkman concerning Polish, Jewish and East European immigration to Chicago. The podcast is sponsored by Amerikazentrum-Hamburg, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit institute dedicated to

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From Peoria to hosting renowned Shanghai salon



Frank Liu (right), who originally is from Shanghai and now is part of an Elmhurst, Illinois, literary salon, attends Susan Blumberg-Kason’s March 12 Midland Authors program about Bernardine Szold Fritz, who hosted a 1930s salon in Shanghai. Liu learned of the program from a Shanghai contact he and Blumberg-Kason both know. (Photo by Thomas Frisbie)

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

“Everything ... started in the beautiful city of Peoria,” author **Susan Blumberg-Kason** said on March 12 as she talked about the central figure in her book *Bernardine’s Shanghai Salon: The Story of the Doyenne of Old China* (Post Hill Press, Nov. 7, 2023).

Speaking at the Midland Authors’ monthly program at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago, Blumberg-Kason said,

“Bernardine’s family came to Peoria from Hungary in 1890. ... When Bernardine was 12, the family moved to Gary, Indiana.”

Eventually, Bernardine, whose full name became Bernardine Szold Fritz, went into acting and joined the Chicago Little Theater, which was housed in the city’s Fine Arts Building. The theater was the first in America to produce plays by Henrik Ibsen and George Bernard Shaw.

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Biblio File

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increasing transatlantic understanding and strengthening transatlantic relations in celebration of the 30-year anniversary of the Chicago-Hamburg Sister-City Partnership. Dominic also spoke at the Annual Pulaski Day Celebration at the Polish Museum of America in Chicago on March 4 concerning Kosciuszko and Pulaski as symbols for the American Polonia. On March 16, Dominic will chair a session of a conference exploring Midwestern Polonias at the Chicago History Museum sponsored by the Polish American Historical Association and The Chicago History Museum. The conference will also celebrate the first exhibition on the Chicago Polonia in a major Chicago museum, "Back Home Polish Chicago." Dominic was the principal researcher for the exhibit, which is largely based on his book *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2019). ... On March 4, **Robert Loerzel** wrote " 'Oppenheimer,' nukes and secrets: Take a walking tour of Chicago's atomic history" for the WBEZ (Chicago)

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Literary License

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of Midland Authors
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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.

2024-25 slate of candidates for Midland Authors positions

The Midland Authors Board's Nominations Committee is nominating these candidates to hold office in the coming 2024-25 year, which starts July 1.

If any member wishes to nominate other candidates for any seat, that member should contact a current board member or officer. For a list of officers and board members, go to midlandauthors.org.

A vote will be held at the annual books awards dinner on May 21.

President: Gerard Plecki
Vice President: Walter Podrazik
Treasurer: Greg Borzo
Recording Secretary: Jim Schwab
Corresponding Secretary: Jon Lauck

Membership Secretary: Thomas Frisbie
Board Members:
Marlene Targ Brill
Christopher Lynch
Dominic Pacyga

■ From Peoria Continued from Page 1

"It was a great introduction into the theater for Bernardine," Blumberg-Kason said. "She not only acted – that was her interest – but also ... it was like a management training program because they learned to do stage management and set design and lighting. And she learned a little bit about directing."

Blumberg-Kason, who also is author of *Good Chinese Wife: A Love Affair with China Gone Wrong* (Sourcebooks, July 29, 2014) and co-editor of *Hong Kong Noir* (Akashic Books, Dec. 4, 2018), said Bernardine next became a journalist, got a newspaper job and befriended a young poet named Ernest Hemingway.

But after two divorces, she moved to New York, said Blumberg-Kason, whose next book will be *When Friends Come From Afar: The Remarkable Story of Bernie Wong and Chicago's Chinese American Service League* (Sept. 10, 2024).

In 1925, Bernardine got divorced for the third time and then moved to Paris.

"She kept marrying people ... who she wasn't happy with," Blumberg-Kason said.

Between 1925 and 1929, she started a novel that she never finished.

"Nobody knows what happened to it," Blumberg-Kason said. "It appears in her writings, but no one knows what it was about."

Besides befriending Hemingway, she also became good friends with F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald. In 1927, she went on a trip with a friend who had to leave Paris and paid for the trip.

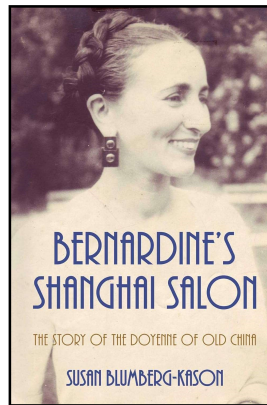
"They go through Europe through the Middle East, they were in India for a month, they went through all of Southeast Asia and after 13 months, they get to Shanghai," Blumberg-Kason said.

In Shanghai, she met another man. She left to return to Paris, but he sent her telegraphs saying he wanted to marry her, so she decided to do it. She took the Trans-Siberian Railroad through the newly formed Soviet Union and eventually reached Shanghai.

"She quickly learned that her life was going to be different from Paris, New York and Chicago because she didn't know anyone in the arts," Blumberg-Kason said.

Moreover, her new husband, Chester, didn't have any Chinese friends, and the friends he had were mostly in business, which she had no interest in. But she really loved learning about Chinese culture.

After a couple of years, Bernardine did start to meet Chinese writers, and those writers introduced her to other writers and also illustrators and musicians. She she opened her home and had a salon, mod-

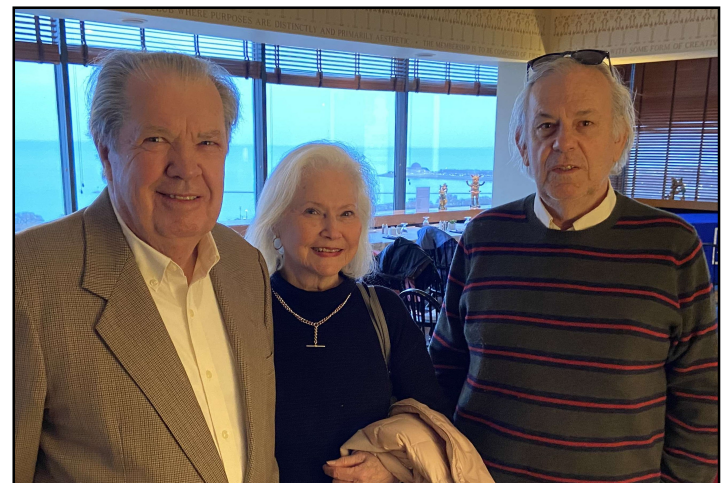


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LEFT: Jennifer Gaves, Susan Blumberg-Kason and Sharon Woodhouse enjoy the pleasant weather on the Cliff Dwellers Club balcony before the start of the March 12 program. **RIGHT:** Glenn Gabryel checks out some of the club’s publications. (Photos by Thomas Frisbie)

■ From Peoria Continued from Page 2



LEFT: James Klise and Mike Kuras. Klise was a co-panelist for the Midland Authors’ April 2023 program. **RIGHT:** Art and Katherine McCaughan and former Midland Authors President Craig Sautter. (Photos by Thomas Frisbie)

eled after Gertrude Stein’s in Paris, which she had gone to.

“She wanted people to have a discussion about a musician she brought in or a poet,” Blumberg-Kason said. “She wanted a discussion, and it got to be really difficult because 150 people would show up. She had people from the Foreign Service, she had people from the Shanghai government, the mayor of Shanghai and people from industry. She had writers, artists and

movie stars. And people came from different ideologies.”

At one meeting, “she met a man who had written about a half a dozen ballets based on Chinese folklore, and she wanted to produce one of them. ... It was so successful.”

Bernardine wanted to do things on a grand scale “which all goes back to her years at the Little Theater in Chicago,” Blumberg-Kason said.

Bernardine created a theater company that performed plays, Shakespeare, Chinese plays and ballets. She also presented lectures.

But in 1937, after Bernardine had returned to the United States to care for her ailing daughter, Rosemary, Japan started bombing Shanghai.

“Bernardine never went back to Shanghai after that,” Blumberg-Kason said.”

Biblio File

Continued from Page 2

website. Later, it ran across three pages in the Chicago Sun-Times. ... **Gail Lukasik's** historical mystery *The Darkness Surrounds Us* won an honorable mention in BooksShelf's 2024 fiction contest. Also, her new nonfiction book *What They Never Told Us* (Skyhorse) will be released in November. And Gail writes to say, "I'll be appearing on a special segment of "Finding Your Roots: A WTTW Community Conversation" on April 25 at 4:30 p.m. at the WTTW Studios, 5400 N. St. Louis, Chicago. I'll be in conversation with Brandis Friedman, "Chicago Tonight" co-host and host of "Chicago Tonight: Black Voices," Rachel Jamison Webster,



Amina Gautier

author of *Benjamin Banneker and Us: Eleven Generations of an American Family*, and Chianti Dorsey, Division Chief, Archive & Special Collections at the Chicago Public Library. I was asked to participate because of my book, *White Like Her: My Family's Story of Race and Racial Passing*. The event is free and open to the public." ... **Amina Gautier's** *The Best That You Can Do: Stories* (See Literary License, February 2024) was one of five titles oprahdaily.com included on Feb. 22 in "Five Fresh Fiction Picks That Everyone Will Be Talking About." ... Last August, applying his writing skills in a way that became familiar in his urban planning career, former Midland Authors President **Jim Schwab** took the lead in writing a grant proposal for Augustana Lutheran Church of Hyde Park to support installation of solar panels on the church's roof. The proposal was under the auspices of the Chicago Recovery Plan, which the city developed under the American Recovery Plan Act, supplemented by city bond issuances. By late January, the announcement came that the church would be a grant recipient under the city's Climate Infrastructure Fund for just over \$230,000. Jim, who now is Midland Authors recording secretary, is now serving as the project lead to imple-

Bilingual book wins a prize

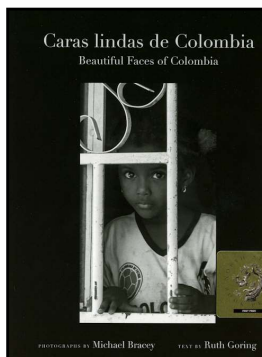
In 2018 Chicago photographer Michael Bracey and writer **Ruth Goring** collaborated to produce a bilingual book, *Caras lindas de Colombia/Beautiful Faces of Colombia*, based on their 2014 trip to several Afro-Colombian communities. Five-plus years later it has taken first place in the Art Book category of the 2023 North Street Book Prize.

Goring, who is bilingual having grown up in Colombia with U.S. parents, explains the book's genesis:

"Michael contacted me after he had already spent years documenting the African Diaspora in the Americas. I'd been interviewed on the Worldview show on WBEZ about my experiences accompanying a couple of Afro-Colombian communities, and Mike hadn't yet been in Colombia, which was still in the midst of its long civil war. It happens that I'm a manuscript editor as well as a writer, so I edited several projects for him and we had many wonderful conversations. At last we had the opportunity to travel to Colombia together with his Puerto Rican partner María Vázquez. The leader of a Black women's organiza-

tion arranged for us to be hosted with local leaders in several communities. We shared everyday life with them, heard dozens of heartbreaking stories, laughed and cried together – and Mike took many powerful photographs.

"We both worked full time, so it took a few more years for our stories and photos to become a book. Because of the urgency we felt, we dug into our savings and chose the self-publishing route. After initial sales among mostly local friends, the book went dormant until recently. "Last fall, we came upon an announcement of the North Street prize



(Winning Writers), which is for independently published books and those released under hybrid arrangements. It seemed like a perfect opportunity to revive the book and bring it some notice, so we submitted. What a great joy, in late December, to be notified of its prize!

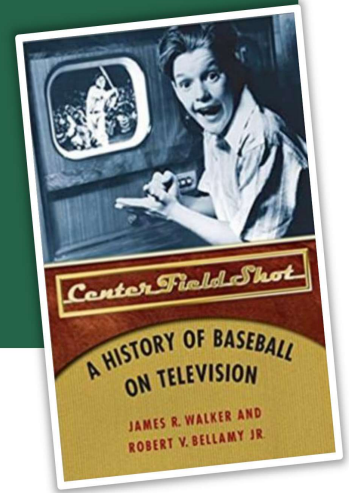
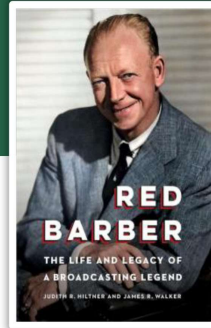
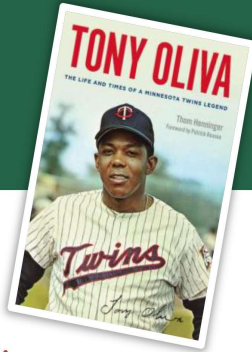
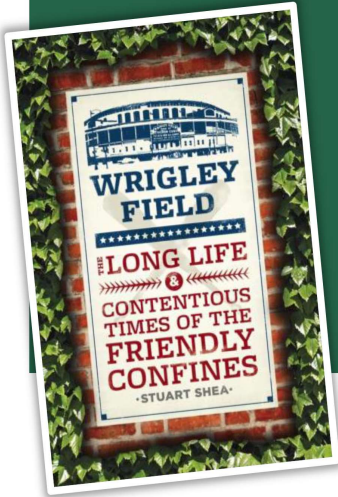
"For now it's available only on my website, but later in 2024 it will be featured by a newly formed organization centered on the Diaspora. We've been told that it's seen as a model of respectful solidarity, and we feel deeply honored."

ment the project, which will supply nearly all the church's electrical energy needs and allow some energy to be sold back into the grid. ... In February, *When Slavery and Rebellion Are Destroyed: A Michigan Woman's Civil War Journal*, edited by **Jack Dempsey**, received a favorable review in *The Civil War Monitor*, a national Civil War journal. ... **James Kennedy** reports the 13th annual 90-Second Newbery Film Festival, in which kid filmmakers worldwide create short movies that tell the stories of Newbery-winning books, "was amazing." The event was held March 9 at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago. ... **David L. Harrison** was interviewed via

Zoom on March 15 by anchor/reporter Kevin Barry for Kansas City's FOX4. The aired report on that evening's 9 p.m. news was called "The Poet Laureate of Missouri's Attempt to get Poetry into Your Newspaper." By request, David also read his poem, "Missouri," for the report. ... **Amelia Cotter** was quoted in the Oct. 30 Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune in a story headlined "Preserving the past through the paranormal." ... A remake of the movie based on **Scott Turow's** *Presumed Innocent* is coming up this year on Apple TV+. ... **Carol Felsenthal** wrote "Downsizing my life – or how not to age in place" for the March 12 Crain's Chicago Business.

A Society of Midland Authors Event “Booking Baseball”

April 9, 2024 – 6 to 8 PM



Four Veteran Writers

Collectively, SMA members, Thom Henninger, Judith Hiltner, Stuart Shea and Jim Walker have written seven books and countless articles on baseball. The Society of Midland Authors and the Chicago chapter of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) invite you to learn how they approach writing about the National Pastime.

Topics include:

Why so many baseball books are written and who publishes them.

Working with teams and conducting interviews

Using research facilities

Managing your writing project

Memorable experiences



Thom Henninger



Stuart Shea



Judith Hiltner



Jim Walker

Essential Details

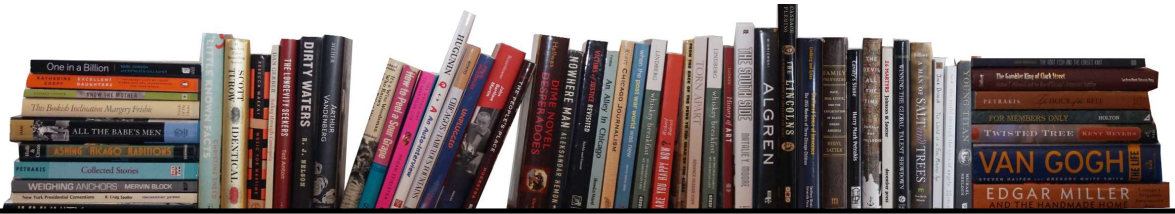
Date: April 9, 2024

Time: 6 to 8 PM

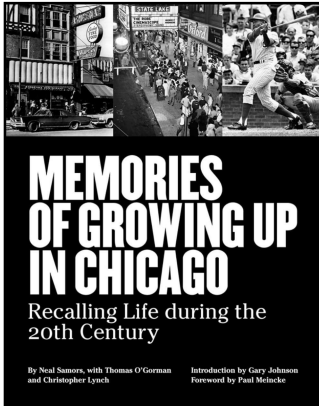
Location: Turtle’s Bar & Grill

238 W. 33rd Street, Chicago. Turtle’s is two blocks south of Guaranteed Rate Field

Free Food! Cash Bar



Literary Latest



CHICAGO MEMORIES

Christopher Lynch is co-author of a new book, *Memories of Growing Up in Chicago: Recalling Life During the 20th Century* (Chicago's Neighborhoods, Jan. 8, 2024). The other co-authors are Neal Samors and Thomas O'Gorman.

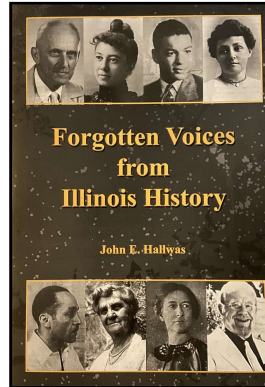


Christopher Lynch

The introduction was written by Gary Johnson, president emeritus of the Chicago History Museum. Lynch tells Literary Latest, "The book includes interviews with a variety of individuals, including Shelley Berman, Jo Baskin Minow, Joe Mantegna, Gary Sinise, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Georgie Anne Geyer, James Thompson, Warner Saunders, Bill Jauss, Bill Gleason, Jesse White, Rob Feder, Neil Hartigan, Richard Elrod, Carmen Salvino, Midland Authors member **Rick Kogan** and Joel Weisman.

FORGOTTEN VOICES

John Hallwas' new book is titled *Forgotten Voices from Illinois History* (Illinois State Historical Society, 2023), and it has chapters on more than 40 Illinois authors from the frontier to our own time.



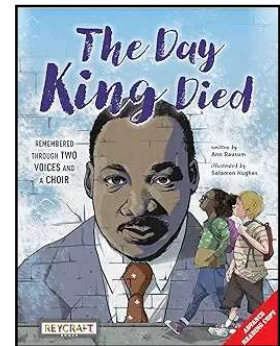
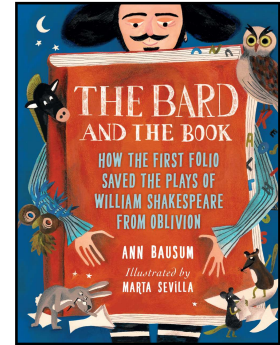
Hallwas tells Literary Latest, "Some of those authors (such as poet John Hancock, children's author Clara Bayliss, playwright Charles T. Dazey and social crusader Hilda Satt Polacheck) the reader will be totally unfamiliar with, and the names of other ones (such as small-town author Frazier Hunt, poet Dave Etter, Chicago black novelist Cyrus Colter, and civil rights crusader C. T. Vivian) may be still known to some, but their works are seldom read. Others are even famous names whose writings are often ignored (such as poet and government leader John Hay, actor Burl Ives and social activist Jane Addams). But in any case, the overview chapters on them all are designed for the general public, not just scholars, and their photos are included in the book, too.



John Hallwas

"As that suggests, the book also deals with some matters that should interest all modern writers – such as, the tendency of the public to ignore insightful authors of the past, the incredibly vast literary tradition from our state, the crucial issues that such a variety of authors have effectively dealt with, etc.

"The book promotes authors and writings – and our literary tradition in Illinois."



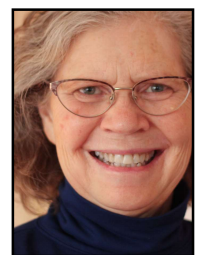
TWO NEW NONFICTION BOOKS

Ann Bausum has written two new non-fiction books for children.

The first is *The Bard and the Book: How the First Folio Saved the Plays of William Shakespeare* (Oblivion Peachtree Publishing, April 2, 2024).

The second title, a picture book, will release on June 11, 2024. It's *The Day King Died: Remembered With Two Voices and a Choir* (Reycraft Books).

Of the *The Bard and the Book*, Bausum writes to say, "I'd never paid much attention to the story behind the 1623 publication of Shakespeare's collected plays, known as the First Folio, until I saw "The Book of Will," a portrayal of the history



Ann Bausum

SAM BOUTELLE

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Literary Latest

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that was produced in 2019 by the American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin. By intermission I was already asking, Could there really be that much drama behind the collection of that much drama? Turns out there was.

“Before the year was out I’d undertaken research at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., and been introduced personally to one of the library’s 82 copies of the First Folio. I began to craft a manuscript for middle grade students soon after in what became an ideal companion project during the pandemic.

“My agent, Hannah Mann of Writers House, and I found the perfect publishing partnership for the work with Catherine Frank at Peachtree Publishing. Catherine and I had collaborated on four nonfiction titles at other publishers by then, and we clicked on this text immediately. The manuscript was a bit of an oddball – longer than a picture book but shorter than a typical narrative nonfiction title. Catherine envisioned merging my conversational text with historical images and spot art in what proved to be an inspired portrayal.

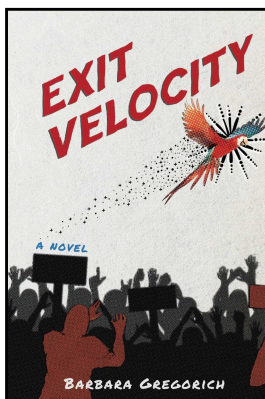
“Before I’d written a single word, I knew exactly who had earned the book’s dedication: ‘For the players, especially the acting company at the American Players Theatre, who keep me laughing, crying, and joyful. Bravo!’ My First Folio story had come full circle.”

Both Booklist and Publishers Weekly have given *The Bard and the Book* starred reviews.

NEW GENRE

Barbara Gregorich writes to say, “I seem to move from one genre to another in my writing life, tackling the issues that interest me. I started out writing about women in baseball, then moved to mysteries and now I’m writing about the working class and social justice.

“*Exit Velocity* (Philbar/Bookbaby, June 4, 2024) is set in Chicago’s Bridgeport neighborhood, where Rowan Pickett’s world has gone to hell, her sister mur-



dered in a high school shooting, her mother leaving and Rowan sitting home and mourning.

“But then reality kicks in: Rowan realizes that she wants to survive, and to survive she needs a job. This leads her to Titus Longshaw, Black leader of the socialist organization Working Class Control. Titus points Rowan to a job at Package Nova, a global shipping firm on Chicago’s South Side.

“As I was writing this story, I was aware that I didn’t want to fall into the exposition trap of having characters spout long passages of political information. Out of nowhere, the idea came to me that I needed a being from another planet to do so (though not in long passages). As I pondered the nature of this extra-terrestrial, I happened to read about the discovery (in New Zealand) of a gigantic extinct parrot from 16 million years ago: *Heracles inexpectatus*.

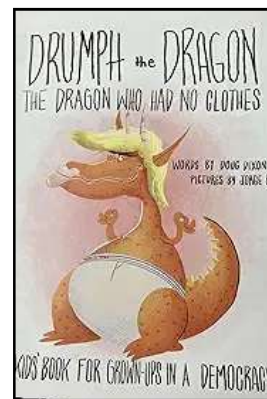
“And so the being from another planet became a large parrot, sent to Earth on a mission.

“In trying to solve my exposition problem, I’ve ended up writing a fusion of political fiction and science fiction.”

Kirkus Reviews wrote, “Gregorich injects just enough SF whimsy into a very relevant modern-day plot to make the story truly memorable. Rowan’s newfound sense of justice – and her harsh discovery of the lengths that are sometimes necessary to achieve it – will likely stir readers as they reach the inventive novel’s conclusion.”



Barbara Gregorich



‘CITIZENS NEED TO BE REMINDED’

Doug Dixon’s new pamphlet is *Drumph the Dragon: The Dragon Who Had No Clothes, A Kids’ Book for Grown-ups in a Democracy* (Paragon Printing (Jan. 1, 2024).

Dixon writes to say, “As an avid student of politics (much of it taken as a Ph.D. candidate in politics), I was shocked that someone like “Drumph” could become president of our country. It took quite a lot of institutional breakdown (e.g., political party, elected leaders’ failure, media scandal) and citizen ignorance. Presidential experts have now ranked Drumph as the worst chief executive ever!

“Our country continues to suffer the blows caused by Drumph’s tragic buffoonery while in the White House.

Citizens need to be reminded that he incited a mob to storm the US Capitol. And it continues to wreak chaos on the way our system is working (or failing to work).

“I have read several books that feed into the text (and my thinking) of Drumph the Dragon as well – Maggie Haberman’s *Confidence Man* most recently – that retold all the problems that the former president’s own Cabinet members (among others) voiced about his narcissism, paranoia and general incompetence and ignorance about government and history.

“Having written a series of children’s books in the last couple of years, this year, I worked with my illustrator to turn to a “Kids’ Book for Grown-ups in a Democracy” (i.e., *Drumph the Dragon*).”



Doug Dixon

Society of Midland Authors

Dinner Registration Form

The Society of Midland Authors annual awards banquet will be held May 21 at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 22nd floor, 200 S. Michigan, Chicago.

The reception with a cash bar will start at 6 p.m. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m.

Emcee: **Justin Kaufmann**

Name: _____

Number of medallions of pork tenderloin dinners at \$80 each. _____

Number of vegetarian (Grilled Vegetables, Portabella Mushroom Mediterranean couscou) dinners at \$80. _____

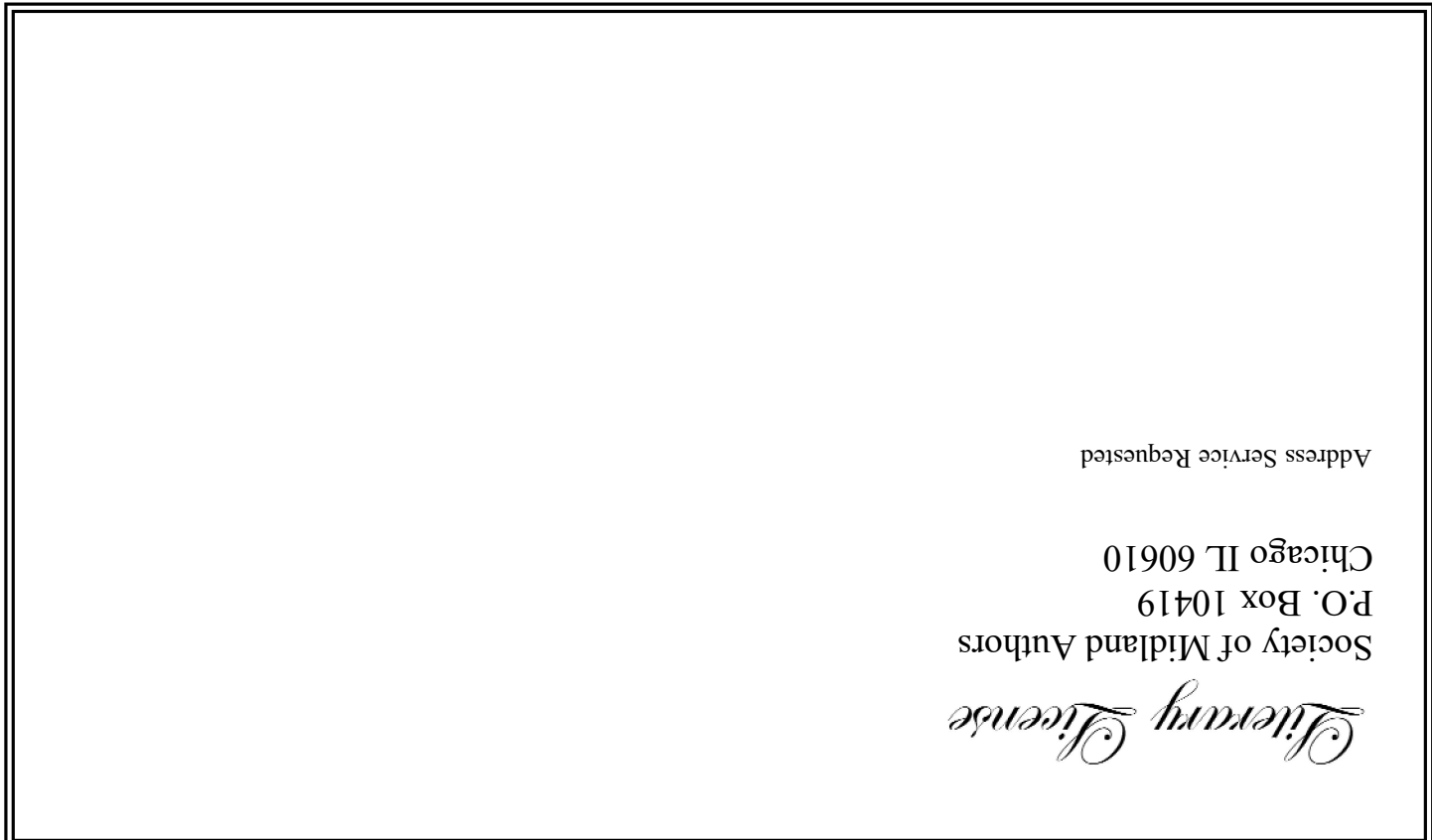
Number of grilled filet of swordfish dinners at \$80 each. _____

Donation. _____

Awards Dinner Sponsorship (includes two dinner tickets and a mention in the awards dinner program). \$250. _____

Total _____

Please clip above form and mail to: Dinner Reservation, Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago IL 60610
 You may also download a similar form at our website, www.midlandauthors.org or pay via PayPal.



Address Service Requested
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Literary License

Midland Authors announces 2024 book awards semifinalists

The Midland Authors is pleased to announce that the books in the categories listed below have been selected as semifinalist entries for our awards competition, which honors books by Midwestern authors published in 2023.

Due to the very large number of entries in the Adult Fiction category, those semifinalists will be listed in a separate notice, to follow soon.

Finalists will be announced in two weeks, with the announcement of winners and honorees to follow in mid-April.

Richard Frisbie Award
for Adult Nonfiction

Touch the Future: A Manifesto in Essays by John Lee Clark (W.W. Norton)

Higher Power: An American Town's Story of Faith, Hope, and Nuclear Energy by Casey Bukro (Agate)

Hit Girls: Women of Punk in the USA, 1975-1983 by Jen B. Larson (Feral House)

Moby Dyke: An Obsessive Quest to Track Down the Last Remaining Lesbian Bars in America by Krista Burton (Simon & Schuster)

Murder Ballads Old & New: A Dark and Bloody Record by Steven L. Jones (Feral House)

Programmable Planet: The Synthetic Biology Revolution by Ted Anton (Columbia University Press)

How to Taste Coffee: Develop Your Sensory Skills and Get the Most Out of Every Cup by Jessica Easto (Agate)

How Not to Kill Yourself: A Portrait of the Suicidal Mind by Clancy Martin (Pantheon)

Writer's Postcards by Dipika Mukherjee (Penguin)

Paper Valley: The Fight for the Fox River Cleanup by P. David Allen II and Susan Campbell (Wayne State University Press)

Bernard J. Brommel Award for Biography & Memoir

Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees by Diana P. Parsell (Oxford University Press)

Fieldwork: A Forager's Memoir by Iliana Regan (Agate)

Love and Industry: A Midwestern Workbook by Sonya Huber (Belt)

Newspaperwoman of the Ozarks: The Life and Times of Lucile Morris Upton by Susan Croce Kelly (University of Arkansas Press)

Bernardine's Shanghai Salon: The Story of the Doyenne of Old China by Susan Blumberg-Kason (Post Hill)

We Will be Free: The Life and Faith of Sojourner Truth by Nancy Koester (William B. Eerdmans)

Chinese Prodigal: A Memoir in Eight Arguments by David Shih (Atlantic Monthly Press)

Children's Reading Roundtable Award for Children's Nonfiction

How to Spacewalk: Step-By-Step With Shuttle Astronauts by Kathryn Sullivan and Michael J. Rosen (MIT Kids Press)

Virginia Wouldn't Slow Down! The Unstoppable Dr. Apgar and Her Life-Saving Invention by Carrie Pearson (Norton Young Readers)

Work With What You Got: A Memoir by Zion Clark and James S. Hirsch (Candlewick)

Restoring Prairie, Woods, and Pond: How a Small Trail Can Make a Big Difference by Laurie Lawlor (Holiday House)

Do Not Eat This Book: Fun With Jewish Foods & Festivals by Beth Kander (Sleeping Bear Press)

What Music! The Fifty-Year Friendship Between Beethoven and Nannette Streicher, Who Built His Pianos by Laurie Lawlor (Holiday House)

Ted Kooser: More Than a Local Wonder by Carla Keiner (University of Nebraska Press)

Children's Fiction

Mèo and Bé by Doan Phuong Nguyen (Lee & Low Books)

Maddie's Ghost by Carol Fisher Saller (Duckweed Books)

Sweet Dreams: Poems and Paintings for the Child Abed by Rick Telander (Skyhorse Publishing)

Maybe There Are Witches by Jude Atwood (Fitzroy Books)

We, the Curious Ones by Marion Dane Bauer (Candlewick Press)

Stanley's Secret by John Sullivan (Simon & Schuster)

The Puppets of Spelhorst by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick Press)

Poetry

I Done Clicked My Heels Three Times by Taylor Byas (Soft Skull Press)

When I Reach For Your Pulse by Rushi Vyas (Four Way Books)

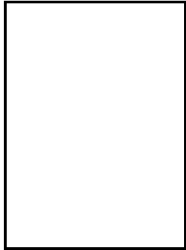
Tender Headed by Olatunde Osinaike (Akashic Books)

Empire by James Armstrong (Shipwreckt Books)

Breathing in Minneapolis by Patrick Cabello Hansel (Finishing Line)

New Members

John Sullivan is the author of *Kitten and the Night Watchman* (Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster), his debut



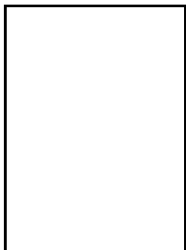
John Sullivan

picture book; *Stanley's Secret* (Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster, 2023), and *Ethan and the Strays*, (2023).

He received the Ezra Jack Keats Award and Margaret Wise Brown Prize for *Kitten and*

the Night Watchman, which also was named a best book of the year by the Boston Globe, Kirkus Reviews, Publishers Weekly and BookPage.

He is a graduate of the University of Chicago.
He was nominated by **Esther Hershenhorn**.



Kolin Jordan

Kolin Jordan is the author of *Feeling Less Wrong* (Curbside Splendor, 2020) and a writer of short stories.

He also is the publisher of 7Vientos Press.

He was nominated by **Gerry Plecki**.

Agata Szczeszak-Brewer is professor of English and John P. Collett Chair in Rhetoric at Wabash College, where she teaches courses on South African Literature, Irish



Agata Szczeszak-Brewer

Literature, James Joyce, 20th century British and Irish Literature, and Postcolonial Theory, among others. She has published two books: *Empire and Pilgrimage in Conrad and Joyce* (University Press of Florida, 2010) and *Critical Approaches to Joseph Conrad* (University of South

Literature, James Joyce, 20th century British and Irish Literature, and Postcolonial Theory, among others. She has published two books: *Empire and Pilgrimage in Conrad and Joyce* (University Press of Florida, 2010) and *Critical Approaches to Joseph Conrad* (University of South



Melissa Grunow

Carolina Press, 2015). Her current book project is a comparative study of Irish and South African literatures.

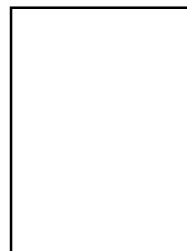
She was nominated by **Melissa Fraterrigo**.

Harry Pinkus is the author of the crime thrillers *The Kingmaker's Redemption* (BQB Publishing, 2021), *Human Collateral* (BQB Publishing, 2022) and *Justified Malice* (BQB Publishing, (2023).

Harry Pinkus

Pinkus studied journalism and wrote for the campus newspaper at University of Wisconsin.

He was nominated by **Patricia Skalka**.



Michael Breyer

Michael Breyer is the author of *Pencils Down: Career Journeys of Educators who left the Profession, and What We Can Learn From the Crises in Education* (Erie Publishing, 2023)

He was born in Woodstock, Illinois. He is a former principal and now a consultant.

He was nominated by **Joseph Gustaitis**.

Michael S. Lewis is the author of *The Ball's in Your Court* (Four Colour Print Group); *Getting Wiser: 101 Essential Life Lessons and Inspirational Stories* (Munn Avenue Press, 2022); *Seeing More Colors*, and *Invitation to Joy*.

Michael S. Lewis

He was nominated by **Gerry Plecki**.

Melissa Grunow is the author of *I Don't Belong Here: Essays*, (New Meridian Arts Press, 2018) and *Realizing River City: A Memoir* (Tumbleweed Books, 2016). Her work has appeared in Creative

Nonfiction, *River Teeth*, *The Nervous Breakdown*, *Two Hawks Quarterly*, *New Plains Review* and *Blue Lyra Review*, among many others.

She has an MFA in creative nonfiction with distinction from National University.
She was nominated by Dick Simpson.

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

For the use of members only.



NOMINATION FORM

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

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

<p>Name:</p> <p>Address:</p> <p>Qualifying residence or place of birth:</p> <p>Biography:</p>	<p>Phone number(s):</p> <p>E-mail address:</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <p>Name of proposer:</p> <p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p> </div>																																							
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