

Biblio File

David Radavich attended the recent International Lawrence Durrell Society Conference in Athens, Greece, on July 4-6, where he emceed the festive poetry celebration on the Fourth of July. He read one of his poems appropriate to the occasion and shared in the reading of the seven winners of the White Mice Poetry Contest. This year the theme was “Ruins,” in keeping with the location of the conference. Radavich was also honored with a plaque and three porcelain mice for his 17 years of dedicated service coordinating this contest. ... **Wally Podrazik** appeared briefly on-camera during a Fox News debate historical video piece prior to the June 27 presidential debate. That same pre-debate interview (recorded in Chicago two days before the debate) also led to Wally being quoted multiple times in a companion online historical article – which did a good job capturing some of the points covered in that recorded discussion. The article posted the day after on June 28. ... On July 31, **Barbara Gregorich** was nominated for the Society for American Baseball Research 2024 Dorothy Seymour Mills Lifetime Achievement Award. Also, in July, Barbara reported, “The Columbus Book Fair finished an hour early because a huge storm was moving in. Phil and I packed like crazy and ALMOST made it to the garage. About four minutes short of making it. We got drenched, and back at the hotel we had to change every piece of clothing we had on.” ... **Keir Graff** will have two new books out next year: *The Double Trouble Puzzle*, co-authored with James Patterson, and “a gorgeous hardcover profile of Chicago’s Fine Arts Building.” He also has two other books on submission to publishers: the fifth Linda Keir book and a solo middle-grade novel. There are, he writes in his newsletter, “also a screenplay, podcast scripts, manuscript evaluations, even a picture book. There’s a half-

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The Midland Authors tent at Printers Row in 2023. (Photo by Carol Fisher Saller)

Sign up for Printers Row

The Midland Authors still has openings for the Printers Row Lit Fest, the Midwest’s largest outdoor literary festival, which is returning on Saturday, Sept. 7, and Sunday, Sept. 8.

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

**SATURDAY,
SEPT. 7**
10 a.m.-noon
noon-2 p.m.
2-4 p.m.
4-6 p.m.

**SUNDAY,
SEPT. 8**
10 a.m.-noon
noon-2 p.m.
2-4 p.m.
4-6 p.m.

Midland Authors members can reserve half a table for a two-hour time slot. The cost is \$35 for most time slots – or just \$20 for the 4-6 p.m. time slots.

One table during the entire two days is \$345. A half a table during the entire two days is \$190. Members get a 10% discount on these last two categories.

This approach would give an author the best opportunity to sell a significant number of books. 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.

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 table for the duration of their assigned time.

The Midland Authors has been at Printers Row since **Richard Lindberg** and **Carol Carlson** started the tradition in 2000.

Authors should prepare for gusts of wind and not be surprised if it rains. Authors can pay for their time slot by sending \$35 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.

Authors who book a slot and don’t show up still are required to pay.

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finished detective novel and a tricky solo novel.” ... **Robert Fieseler’s** feature story “A Bar Called Charlene’s” in the Louisiana publication 64 Parishes received the top prize from the Society of Professional Journalists’ 2024 Green Eyeshade Awards, recognizing “The South’s best in new and old media.” ... **George Bilgere’s** poem “Tar Pits” was recently selected by Best American Poetry blog editor Terence Winch as his “Pick of the Week.” ... On July 18, GQ published an article titled, “*Presumed Innocent’s* **Scott Turow** Is the Best Legal-Thriller Writer Ever to Approach the Bench.” ... **Patricia Skalka** tells Biblio File, “This summer marks the 10-year-anniversary of *Death Stalks Door County*, the first volume in the Dave Cubiak series. Incredibly, Facebook posts about the ‘book-a-versary’ generated more than 1,000 responses in less than a week. To celebrate the milestone, the University of Wisconsin Press created a special webpage, initiated a week-long social media blitz, and sponsored a book give-away. Also, earlier this spring, I collaborated with Expert Content Pros to create several short videos about the series and launched my first ever YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/@DoorCountyMysterySeries>.” Patricia discussed her fictional sheriff on Aug. 11 at Novel Bay Booksellers in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. “The event included a champagne toast in Cubiak’s honor,” Patricia tells Biblio File. Also, at the end of August, Patricia was scheduled to be at Bouchercon, the world’s largest mystery convention of writers and fans, sharing her expertise on a panel titled: “Better Off Dead: How to keep a series fresh but know when it’s time to end it.” The 2024 event was held in Nashville. ... **Richard Lindberg** is scheduled to present a program at 1 p.m. on Nov. 13 at the North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, Illinois, titled “Citadels of Sin: Chicago Vice Under the Gaslight: 1880-1920.” Also, Rich writes to say, “I appeared on Larry Potash’s Backstory segment Aug. 10 on WGN-TV commenting about the still unsolved murders of the South Side Grimes Sisters in 1957. I am working with a group of armchair sleuths who

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New Members

Maggie Ginsberg, whose debut novel is *Still True* (University of Wisconsin, Press, 2022), is a senior editor at Madison magazine.



Maggie Ginsberg

Still True won the 2023 WLA Literary Award for Fiction. It was also the honorable mention selection for the 2022 Edna Ferber Fiction Book Award, one of four finalists for the Chicago Writers Association’s 2023 Book of the Year, a 2023 Midwest Book Awards silver medal winner in the Literary/Contemporary/Historical Fiction category and one of three finalists for the Women’s Fiction Writers Association’s STAR Award for Outstanding Debut.

She also has published hundreds of articles throughout her career, earning numerous honors from the City Regional Magazine Association, the American Society of Journalists and Authors and the Milwaukee Press Club.

She was nominated by **Thomas Frisbie**.

Vince Guerrieri is the author of *Ohio Sports Trivia* (Lone Pine Publishing); *The Blue Streaks and the Little Giants* (The History Press, 2013) and *Weird Moments in Cleveland Sports* (Gray Publishing, 2023).



Vince Guerrieri

He also is a journalist who grew up in Youngstown and now lives in the Cleveland area. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University.

He was nominated by **John Kropf**.

Lynne Shaner’s first novel is *Journey to Everland Bay* (Black Rose Writing, April 25, 2024).

Her poetry has appeared in a number of journals. She headed publications at the Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art at the Smithsonian Institution and has an MA from Johns



Lynne Shaner

Hopkins. She won an honorable mention in the 2022 Wisconsin Writers

Association’s Jade Ring contest.

She was nominated by Patricia Skalka.

Tim Pareti is the author of *Ernie’s Bleachers*, a coming-of-age novel based on a true tale about an Italian-American family living across from Wrigley Field. It’s a vintage yarn that explores the classic era of our national pastime, the ravages of war, the end of the Depression and the city of big bets and big shoulders.



Tim Pareti

He was born and raised on Chicago’s North Side. An award-winning journalist; reporter, editor for Scripps newspapers; and freelance writer for Chicago Tribune, he also plays jazz, blues guitar and softball.

He was nominated by **Sharon Woodhouse**, who wrote, “*Ernie’s Bleachers* was a treat to read. ... [It is] a wonderful piece of historic fiction filled with incidents and characters you would think are made up, but aren’t. It captures an era and a neighborhood so, so well – and in charming, nostalgic detail.”

Mary T. Wagner is the author of *When the Shoe Fits: Essays of Love, Life and Second Chances* (Waterhorse Press, 2014); *Of Bairns and Wheelie Bins* (Waterhorse Press, 2023); *Heck on Heels*, (Waterhorse Press, 2016), and *Running with Stilettoes* (iUniverse, 2008).

She was nominated by **Sharon Woodhouse**, who wrote, “*Running with Stilettoes: Living a Balance Life in Dangerous Shoes* is a collection of funny, vivid, insightful essays about navigating many life changes at once ... recovering from a horse back riding accident and a divorce, going to law school in midlife and practicing law, a brand-new habit of wearing stilettoes, and riding on a new boyfriend’s Harley.”



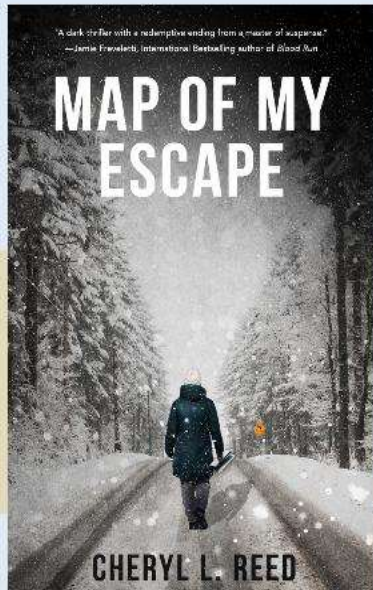
Mary T. Wagner

Wagner is a former newspaper and magazine journalist who changed careers at age 40 by going to law school and becoming a prosecuting attorney for the State of Wisconsin.

However, the joy of writing drew her

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An Evening with Author and Journalist Cheryl L. Reed



Cheryl L. Reed has shadowed dark and mysterious characters—from cops to murder suspects, cloistered nuns to girls doing drugs. Her new novel, *Map of My Escape*, is a thriller about an anti-gun activist who accidentally shoots a Chicago cop and flees to an island in northern Michigan.

Reed's debut novel, *Poison Girls*, won the Chicago Writers' Association Book of the Year Award. Her book of nonfiction, *Unveiled: The Hidden Lives of Nuns*, chronicles her bizarre journey of living with religious women in convents off and on for four years.

A former editor and reporter at the *Chicago Sun-Times* and other publications, Reed was a US Fulbright Scholar for the State Department in Ukraine and in Central Asia. She splits her time between Virginia and Washington, D.C.



Mary Wisniewski, *Newcity* critic and SMA board member, will interview.

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm

Volumes Bookcafe, 1373 N Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

Literary Largesse

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 **Charles Billington**,

Marlene Targ Brill, Anthony Bukoski, Carol DeChant, Michael Dorf, Michael Ebner, Elizabeth Fama, Daniel Gerber, Carol Felsenthal, Thomas Frisbie, Eldon Ham, Timothy Gilfoyle, Edward Gordon, James T. Klise, Helen Lambin, Janice Law, Paul Lisnek, Richard Lindberg, Katherine

McCaughan, Shanti Nagarkatti, Taylor Pensoneau, Jamila Ra, David Radavich, McLouis Robinet, June Sawyers, Stuart Shea, Robert Starks, John Sullivan, Rick Telander, Lynn Voedisch, Claude Walker, James R. Walker and Joyce Zeiss, all of whom who made recent contributions.

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have made some significant progress in attempting to unravel this nearly 70-year-old mystery.” ... **Linda Gartz** writes to say, “The audiobook of *Redlined: A Memoir of Race, Change, and Fractured Community in 1960s Chicago*, has recently been awarded the prestigious “Earphones Award” for excellence in narration by my two fabulous narrators, Moe Egan and Robin Miles. Audiofile Magazine said, ‘The award is given by AudioFile to truly exceptional titles that excel in narrative voice and style, characterizations, suitability to audio and enhancement of the text.’” ... The July 23 Daily Iowan quoted **Jim Schwab** in an article headlined: “Extreme weather places Iowa communities at infrastructural and financial risk.” ... **Grace Bauer’s** brief essay “Loss and the Limits of One’s Art” appeared on the Brevity Blog on May 24. Another of her essays, “My NaPoMo Dis/Grace” (on not completing the National Poetry Month’s Poem a Day challenge) appears in Gargoyle online, #8, June 2024. Two of Grace’s poems – “Call of the Wild” and “Nativity” – appear in Mezzo Cammin (also online), Vol 19. Issue 1, June 2024. ... **June Sawyers** has had a busy few months. She wrote two articles for Newcity (“Come into My Parlor: Jamie O’Reilly and Her Roots Salon Makes a Private Tradition Public” and “With Miles to Go: Music on the Road”); a poem (“Talk of the Town: An Eclipse Poem”) and two articles (“Last Call on Southport: Running the Literary Gauntlet of Independent Bookstore Day” and “Letter from New York: Culture Hopping in the City of Islands”) for Third

Coast Review. Her poem (“The Rising of the Earth”) and photographs (“Field of Dreams?”, “Taking Off,” “Empty Ride,” “Earth Shadow,” “Tooker Alley,” “Leaves on Water,” and “After the Eclipse”) appeared in the Chicago chapbook. In addition, in July she published a photography book, *Lines and Shadows: A Journey in Black and White* (Phantom Collective) and in September Rutgers University Press will publish *We Take Care of Our Own: Faith, Class, and Politics in the Art of Bruce Springsteen* (See Literary Latest, Page 8). She is also an associate producer of the Scottish diaspora documentary, “Voices over the Water,” which is being broadcast on PBS stations across the country. She is adapting her screenplay “The World Is Not Empty without Reason” into a play and will be teaching “The Red Planet: A Cultural History of Mars” at the Newberry Library in the fall.” ... **Jack Dempsey** writes to say, “Two exciting developments: The University of Georgia Press has just launched an online resource that is a companion to the book I edited on Ellen Preston Woodworth’s journal, *When Slavery and Rebellion Are Destroyed: A Michigan Woman’s Civil War Journal* (Nov. 15, 2023), and I gave a book talk on it that is now on the C-SPAN webpage.” ... **Cynthia Clampitt** is scheduled to present a program at 1 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the North Shore Senior Center titled “Mongolia: The Farthest Horizon.” On Sept 25, Cynthia will be at the Geneva (Illinois) Library at 1:30 p.m. to give a talk titled “Wild Boar to Baconfest: Pigs in History and Culture,” and on Oct. 16 she will give a talk titled “How Corn Changed Itself and Then Changed Everything Else,” at 6 p.m. at the Fossil

Ridge Library in Braidwood, Illinois. ... **Edward “Ted” McClelland** quoted **Stan “Tex” Banash** in a June 20 article for Chicago magazine. ... In May, **Vince Guerrieri** wrote “10 Cent Beer Night: An Oral History of Cleveland Baseball’s Most Infamous Night” for Cleveland Magazine. ... On Aug. 12, **Taylor Pensoneau** talked with the (Illinois) State Journal-Register about the 1968 Democratic National Convention, which he covered as a reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Taylor tells Biblio File, “When asked to look back on the convention, I remember much of it as a nightmare that I never thought I would see in a great American city.” Meanwhile, WGN-TV quoted **Craig Sautter** on Aug. 8 and ABC-TV quoted him on Aug. 12, both in stories about political conventions. ... **Rick Kogan** wrote “Are comic strips still a part of your daily life?” for the Aug. 13 Chicago Tribune. ... **Michael Cicchini** recently had three of his law review articles accepted for publication. “The Preliminary-Hearing Swindle: A Crime Against Procedure” will be published in the Loyola of Los Angeles Law Review; “Defense Lawyer Decision-Making and the Preliminary Hearing” will appear in the Northwestern University Law Review Online, and “Bail Jumping While Behind Bars” will be published in the University of Kansas Law Review. ... **Mary Wisniewski**, who wrote *Algren: A Life*, talked about Nelson Algren’s wives on Aug. 9 at the Nelson Algren Museum of Miller Beach (Indiana). ... **Charles Billington** is scheduled to present a program at 1 p.m. on Nov. 1 at the North Shore Senior Center titled “The Chicago Bears’ Midseason Report Card.”

Literary License

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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.

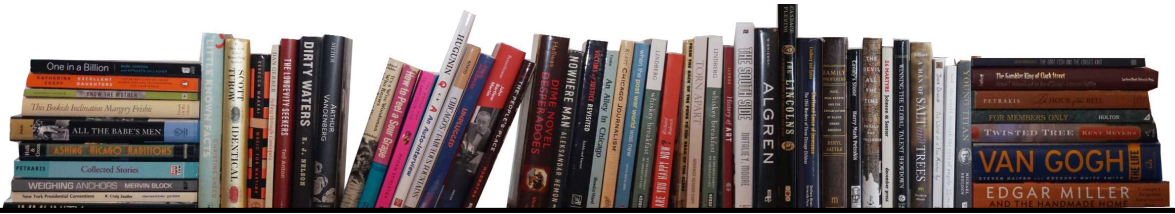
New Members

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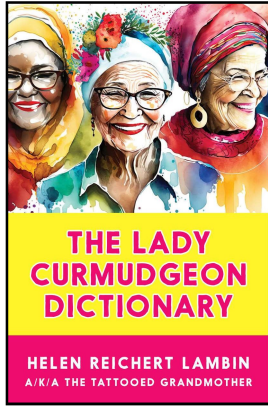
back to the keyboard.

A Chicago native, Wagner lives in “coastal Wisconsin,” where she draws inspiration for writing from frequent trips to the Lake Michigan shore. She is now retired from the law.

Wagner’s literary output also includes the Finnigan the Circus Cat series of children’s chapter books.



Literary Latest



'TRULY FUNNY BOOK'

Helen Reichert Lambin writes to say, “I had a new book out in June, published by ACTA Publications. The title is: *The Lady Curmudgeon Dictionary*.”

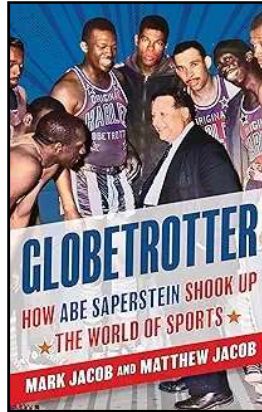
“If there is anything I can’t stand, it’s a know-it-all who isn’t me. *The Lady Curmudgeon Dictionary* started with this casual remark to my daughter Rosemary about something annoying I had just read or heard. I wasn’t planning to write another book at this point and had finally laid down my pen after writing more than 10 books.

“But I repeated the remark in a telephone conversation with my editor/publisher of almost 40 years, Greg Pierce of ACTA Publications, and he said it sounded like ‘something out of a curmudgeon dictionary.’”

“A curmudgeon dictionary? I thought. By a W-O-M-A-N? The idea was irresistible. (It is commonly assumed that a curmudgeon is always a man. Well, not anymore!)”

“It may be an uncurmudgeonly thing to say, but once I started this book the definitions and quotations – both real and imagined – came skipping by and slipping in like old friends.”

From the publisher: “A truly funny and perceptive book of observations by 91-year-old Helen Reichert Lambin, aka ‘The Tattooed Grandmother.’ Modeled on *The Devil’s Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce.”



'NUANCED PORTRAIT'

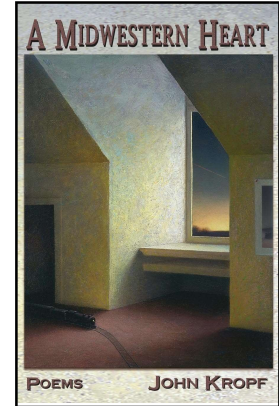
Globetrotter: How Abe Saperstein Shook Up the World of Sports (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Oct. 1, 2024) is a new book by **Mark Jacob** and his brother Matthew Jacob.

Mark Jacob says, “My brother and I were looking for a book topic. Rich Cahan suggested Abe, and we dived in.

“The first biography of Abe Saperstein, the Chicagoan who founded the Harlem Globetrotters, tells fascinating stories about Saperstein and his team battling bigotry and blizzards in the early years, and it reveals little-known facts, such as Saperstein’s pioneering role in introducing basketball’s three-point shot. Caitlin Clark owes him a debt.”

Jonathan Eig wrote, “A beautifully written, nuanced portrait of one of America’s most interesting, influential and overlooked sports figures. *Globetrotter* dazzles with its fine writing and scores over and over again with its impressive research. It’s a winner.”

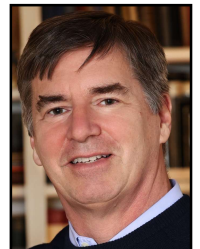
From the publisher: “The original Harlem Globetrotters ... [were] from Chicago’s South Side. ... But with Saperstein’s savvy and the players’ skills, the Globetrotters would become a worldwide sensation. ... [This] is the fascinating biography of Saperstein, a five-foot-three promoter who made an amazing impact in a sport where height is at a premium.”



FIRST POETRY COLLECTION

A Midwestern Heart (Bottom Dog Press, June 4, 2024) is **John Kropf’s** first poetry collection.

Kropf tells Literary Latest, “I live and work as an attorney in Washington, D.C., but many of the poems in my new book, *A Midwestern Heart*, go back to growing up in Northern Ohio and summers in Northern Michigan. With the loss of my parents and sister in the last few years, I wanted to capture the scraps of childhood memories and share them through poetry. Ironically, the longer I’m away from the Midwest, the more I feel drawn back to it, and this is a small tribute to the region. The book also draws from observations from everyday life, the ‘little miracles’ I wanted to record.”



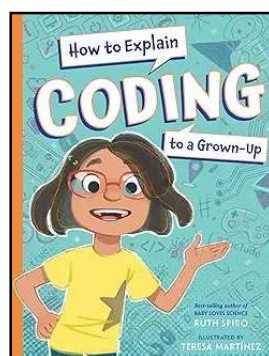
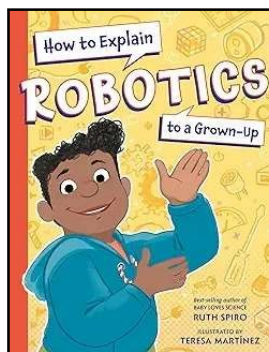
John Kropf

Midland Authors member **George Bilgere** wrote, “John Kropf is a time traveler, and *A Midwestern Heart* is a beautifully wrought inventory of the pleasures of a lost, mid-century America. ... Kropf chronicles the last days of a pre-digital childhood, before America went online.” These poems ... remind me of why I came to poetry in the first place.”

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TWO NEW BOOKS

Ruth Spiro writes to say: “I’m happy to report I have two new picture books coming out soon.

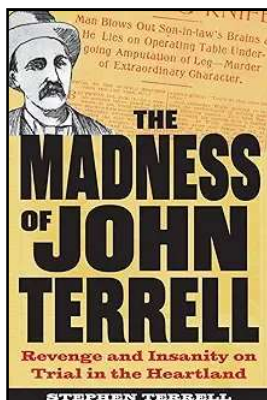
“*How to Explain Robotics to a Grown-Up* (Charlesbridge, Sept. 17) is the second of four books in a new series inspired by reader requests. Feedback from educators revealed that while they found the content in my “Baby Loves Science” books excellent, as board books they weren’t a good fit for early elementary classrooms. Similarly, parents reported that once their children outgrew their beloved “Baby Loves Science” board books they wished there was a “next step” available, along the same lines but with more information. I didn’t want to write straightforward nonfiction picture books on these topics, but instead wanted to continue the unique spin I’d created for the board books. After a year of research and planning I came up with the “How to Explain Science to a Grown-Up” concept.

“It’s the second of four books in the series and is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. The first in the series,

How to Explain Coding to a Grown-Up was a Mathical Prize Honor Book.

One Small Spark: A Tikkun Olam Story (Dial/Penguin Random House) is completely different from any of my other published books, and it’s a story that’s near and dear to my heart. Tikkun Olam is a Jewish concept that generally translates to “repair the world,” which sounds like an impossible goal – especially now. But I want readers to know that while they may not be able to change everything, even the smallest action can make a difference. Importantly, while Tikkun Olam is a Jewish concept, many faiths share the same values. While we find many ways to divide ourselves, I hope to shine a light on this so readers discover all we have in common, as well.

“I’ll be celebrating the launch of both books together at The Book Stall on Sunday, Sept. 22.”



‘FASCINATING STORY’

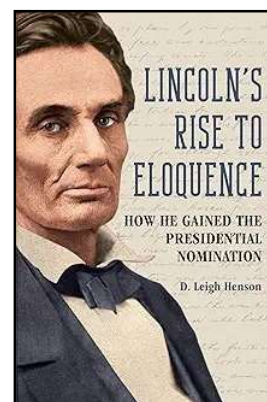
The Madness of John Terrell: Revenge and Insanity on Trial in the Heartland (The Kent State University Press, Oct.



Stephen Terrell

22) is **Stephen Terrell’s** upcoming book. Terrell writes to say, “Working on my family’s genealogy in the early days of the pandemic, I discovered a great uncle about whom I knew nothing except birth and death dates. When I searched for an obituary, the first story I found left me staring slack-jawed at my computer. John Wesley Terrell was perhaps the most notorious murderer in turn-

of-the-century Indiana, killing his son-in-law in 1903. Further searches found hundreds of newspaper articles across the nation about the sensational crime in which John ambushed Melvin Wolfe, then chased him to a doctor’s office, battered down the door to the operating room, put his shotgun against Melvin’s head and pulled the trigger. I found the trial transcript buried in the Indiana Archives, and the more I researched, the more I knew this was a fascinating story of wealth, lust, betrayal, revenge and a descent into madness that had to be told.



EMPHASIZING LINCOLN’S COMPOSITIONS

D. Leigh Henson tells Literary Latest, “I am pleased that the University of Illinois Press will release *Lincoln’s Rise to Eloquence: How He Gained the Presidential Nomination* on Aug. 20.

“Many publications variously trace Lincoln’s rise to the presidency, and some explain his presidential, literary distinction – his eloquence and statesmanship – but none of the 16,000-plus Lincoln books especially emphasize that his compositions – speeches and other writings – were a crucial factor in the political/rhetorical growth that led to his presidential nomination and literary distinction.

“I wrote *Lincoln’s Rise to Eloquence* to fill that void. An anonymous Lincoln expert who participated in the book’s multiyear review and revision process wrote: ‘Finding a compelling rationale for another Lincoln book can be tricky. I am happy to say that the author of this book has found such a rationale.’ This book’s central argument is that over time Lincoln

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developed a powerful and ethical rhetoric, gaining credibility and political capital by deploying rational and emotional appeals through historical, legalistic, and moral argumentation, while sometimes using demagogic and satirical methods.

“Many of Lincoln’s compositions show how he handled the demagogic methods of his political opponents, especially the lying, race-baiting, and personal attacks of his decades-long rival, Stephen A. Douglas. My book shows how Lincoln wrestled with whether and how to use personal attacks in retaliation to Douglas’. The book also explains how Lincoln used his literary ability to weave

humor into his main compositions – not so much with jokes and anecdotes – but with satire of Douglas’ political positions, policies and rhetoric. As arguably the most extensive rhetorical study of one of the greatest political/rhetorical rivalries in American history, this book should resonate with today’s readers, given the intensely demagogic rhetoric of some of our current politicians – their personal attacks, gaslighting and gish galloping.

“A reviewer wrote ‘I commend the author for his attention to detail. Henson carefully traces the way Lincoln’s moral and demagogic appeals intersected and shifted across the decades-long pre-presidential career. Because of Henson’s work, we now have important pieces of the puzzle for understanding Lincoln’s leadership, eloquence, and effectiveness.’ A sec-

ond Lincoln expert who also anonymously participated in the multi-year review and revision process observed: This book is ‘substantial, coherent and in-depth’; it is ‘well-structured, well-reasoned, highly readable and supported by the relevant evidence.’”

‘SURPRISING REVELATIONS’

Charles H. Cosgrove’s new book is *They Both Reached for the Gun: Beulah Annan, Maurine Watkins, and the Trial That Became Chicago* (Southern Illinois University Press, June 7, 2024).

Cosgrove writes to say, “After reading Erik Larson’s story of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, into which he interlaced the tale of a serial killer who took advantage

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Final chapters

Aric Lasher, 1961-2024

At a Nov. 10, 2009, Midland Authors program, author and architect **Aric Lasher** said that as good as Daniel Burnham’s 1909 Plan of Chicago was, it didn’t take into account something emerging “that was highly disruptive” – the automobile.

“We discovered there were plans subsequent to Burnham’s plan that addressed more localized conditions than his overarching approach for regional origination and enrichment of the civic center,” said Mr. Lasher, an architect and co-author with Sam Roche of *Plans of Chicago* (University of Chicago Press, 2010).

Mr. Lasher, a Midland Authors member, died peacefully on June 6 in Chicago from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Mr. Lasher’s husband and partner of 26 years, Bert Green, said Mr. Lasher enjoyed writing and planned to write more books, but got too busy with his architectural work.

“He was very proud of the book,” Green said. “In his mind, it was the pinnacle of whole bunch of research he had

been doing for a long time.”

The building projects Mr. Lasher was most proud of were the the Cordia Harrington Center for Student Success at the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville; the Jenkins and Nanovic Halls at the University of Notre Dame and the Edgar Shannon Library University of Virginia, Green said.

Born in 1961 in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Lasher earned a masters of architecture from Cornell University in 1984. He received a master of fine arts in film from the University of Southern California in 1995.

Mr. Lasher worked as an architect in Lucerne, Switzerland, from 1985 to 1986 and in Chicago from 1986 to 1993. In Los Angeles, he was a lead set designer for Hollywood feature films from 1995 to 2005. He was a production designer for “Minority Report” (2002), “The Island” (2005) and “Pearl Harbor” (2001).

He returned to Chicago and worked at the architectural firm of Hammond Beeby Rupert Ainge from 2005 to 2010 before succeeding Thomas H. Beeby as president and director of design from 2011 through 2022.

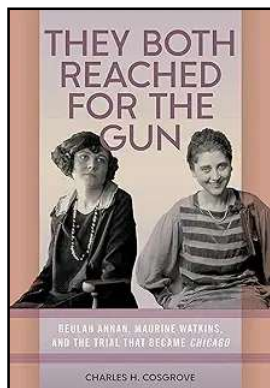
In 2016, he became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.



Aric Lasher

Literary Latest

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of the fair to carry out abominable deeds in a weirdly constructed house of horrors (*The Devil and the White City*), it struck me that I would enjoy writing a book that combined a subject of cultural interest with a Chicago crime story. I cast about for a tale from the jazz age and found references to the 1924 trial of Beulah Annan, which was covered in the Chicago Tribune by a reporter and would-be play-

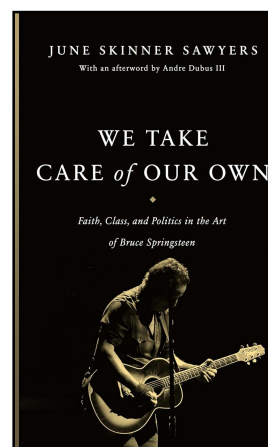
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wright named Maurine Watkins. The clever news articles Watkins wrote about the Annan trial became the basis for her 1926 play 'Chicago,' a drama that was subsequently remade into movie scripts and musicals, culminating in the 2002 blockbuster movie-musical 'Chicago.'

"Looking at hitherto unexamined sources about the Annan case and other 1920s Chicago murder trials led me to surprising revelations about the justice system and its public image, the methods of the press and the ways in which Watkins herself distorted the facts at her disposal, both as a reporter and as a playwright who claimed to have written 'Chicago' as an exposé. *They Both Reached for the Gun* tells the story of Beulah Annan, culminating in a critical examination of her trial, Watkins' play and the era's social assumptions that made the play's message so plausible in its era."

'INSIGHTFUL' BOOK

June Sawyers' new book, *We Take Care of Our Own* (Rutgers University



Press) will come out in September.

From the publisher: "*We Take Care of Our Own* traces the evolution of Bruce Springsteen's beliefs, beginning with his New Jersey childhood and ending with his most recent works. ... Among the themes are community, a sense of place, America as the promised land, the myth of the West and, ultimately, mortality."

Publishers Weekly called it "insightful ... It's a dynamic portrait of the complicated political and social influences of a rock legend."

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