

## Biblio File

Carol Fisher Saller's new children's book, *Eddie's War*, has been named a Best Book of 2011 by Kirkus Reviews: The starred review called *Eddie's War* "an



Carol Fisher  
Saller

emotionally resonant coming-of-age tale" that "provides a poignant look at boyhood before and during the long years of World War II." (Other Best Books for 2011: **Candace Fleming's** *Amelia Lost* and **Gary D. Schmidt's** *Okay for Now*.) *Eddie's War*

also was one of 20 books chosen for the Chicago Public Schools' 2012 Battle of the Books. ... Next year, McFarland and Co. will publish *Children's Surgery, A Worldwide History* by **John Raffensperger**, who also has a new book out about 19th century medicine (see New Books, Page 4). ... **Jeffrey Zaslow** has another new book out, close on the heels of *Gabby, a Story of Courage and Hope*, a New York Times best-seller. He writes to say, "I know, it seems nuts to have two books so close together. I sound like some deranged typist! But the books had different publishers, the release dates ended up close together, so here we are. The new book is a nonfiction narrative titled *The Magic Room, A Story About the Love We Wish for Our Daughters*. As the father of three girls, it's a project close to my heart. (It was written a year before *Gabby*.)" ... New City Lit on Oct. 27 called **Paul McComas'** new book *Unforgettable: Harrowing Futures*,

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## For Chicago's rapid transit, robber barons did L of a job

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Author **Greg Borzo** put in a good word for robber barons Nov. 8 at the Society of Midland Authors monthly program at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago.

Borzo, author of *The Chicago L* (Arcadia, 2007) and other books, said those robber barons used bribery and other uncouth means to erect in just 10 years the framework of today's Chicago L system of elevated rapid transit trains.

"That skeleton was built in just one decade in the 1890s," Borzo told the audience of about 60 authors and L enthusiasts.

"They did so much in a decade. And we benefit from it to this day. It was done through the work and scheming of a lot of robber barons and some shady characters. But they did accomplish something pretty incredible."

It was so incredible that even as a virtual antique, the L carries a half a million riders a day and is safe, registering only a handful of accidents while moving more than 15 billion riders in 119 years.

"Many the cities around the country would love to have an L system like ours," Borzo said.

So who were these robber barons?

One was Charles Tyson Yerkes: "A real archetypal robber baron and transit magnate. He was on a par with Carnegie and Rockefeller, on a slightly smaller

stage, but quite a character. He had to do a lot of bribery and fast footwork to get the L built and to get it built so quickly. He had a lot of opposition to the L."

Another was Mike McDonald: "This guy was flat-out corrupt. At least Yerkes wanted to run trains and make money off them, as many nickels, riders as he could. Mike McDonald was just a crook. He made his initial fortune in gambling, alcohol and other vices. And invested some of that money in L system and made a fast buck."

(McDonald is the subject of **Richard**

**Lindberg's** book *The Gambler King of Clark Street*, which won the 2010 Society of Midland Authors Biography Award.)

Even though the L is best known for its downtown Loop, the Loop was preceded by four other lines, Borzo said.

"Even though the Loop is in the central part of the L system, it is not the oldest at all," he said.

"The Loop was built later to

connect these four lines. ... Each of the four lines was prohibited from entering the city center, so Yerkes is the one who got through bribery the permission to build a loop system connecting the four lines."

Those early lines followed experiments with other types of mass transit, Borzo said.

In 1853, there was the horse-drawn omnibus, which was a lot like a stage

Turn to CHICAGO L, Page 2



Greg Borzo

Note: If the label on your Literary License newsletter says 2011, please send in your renewal today.

**Dick Simpson, Don Rose** and **Constance A. Mixon** will discuss *Twenty-First Century Chicago* **Jan. 10**, at the **Cliff Dwellers**, 200 S. Michigan

Avenue, 22nd floor. The social hour starts at 6 p.m. The program runs from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. For details, see Page 6. Free - donations accepted

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*Horrors & (Dark) Humor* a “sly update to now-classic gothic stuff and science fiction ranging back to the 1930s and 1940s. Much of this volume’s pleasure derives from satirical takes on the popular culture that is our common currency.” Also, Paul was one of three finalists in the Guild Literary Complex of Chicago’s 2011 Short Fiction Competition. ... A big crowd — an estimated 100 — turned out Oct. 27 at Chicago’s Swedish American Museum for a party celebrating the release of **Richard Lindberg’s** book *Whiskey Breakfast: My Swedish Family, My American Life*. The speakers introducing Lindberg included



Walter Podrazik

past SMA President **Bernard Brommel**, who was one of Lindberg’s professors at Northeastern Illinois University. “Richard’s one of those, out of thousands, that you never forget,” Brommel said, praising Lindberg for his meticulously researched and written books, as well as the work he has done helping other authors. When it was his turn to speak, Lindberg said, “What do I say after that?” Recounting how he’d spent 22 years working on this book, which is part memoir and part family his-

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# Chicago L

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coach. In 1859, the city upgraded to horse-drawn rail cars. But upkeep was expensive for animals that needed stabling and could work only about four hours a day.

So, Borzo said, the city turned to cable cars starting in 1882.

“A lot of people don’t know we had them, but believe it or not, we had the biggest cable car system the United States ever had,” he said.

The former Michael Jordan’s restaurant on La Salle Street was a cable car building from that era, Borzo said.

Then, in 1890, Chicago turned to street cars.

“Chicago had the biggest street car system the country has ever seen as well,” Borzo said. “This really took over. This doomed the horse-drawn cars.”

The city also experimented with battery-powered cars that ran on the South Side of Chicago for several years, compressed-air-powered cars, and gas-powered transit cars.

Also on the drawing boards was monorail, which would have caused less shadowing and noise on the street, but it was more expensive.

Instead, Mike McDonald went with off-the-shelf technology.

The first Ls were pulled by steam locomotives.

“One reason the L is built so strongly is it was built to support the weight of steam locomotives, and that is why people are surprised to learn that some of that L structure that is out there today is original to 1892,” Borzo said.

But the L almost followed cable cars and street cars into oblivion, he said.

“Lots of people wanted to tear it down

“*Every time you hear about a budget crisis ... people start talking about closing the L down.*”

in the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s,” he said. “But they didn’t because it was not really in the way, it was not doing too much harm or damage. And so now we are not going to tear it down. We value it more today than we did probably 20 years ago.”

Street cars, or trolleys, were more vulnerable because they competed with automobiles for space on the street.

“If you had been a betting person in the ’40s, ’50s, you would have bet on the trolley because it was carrying 10 times as many passengers as the L, and it had a lot more support, but it’s gone,” Borzo said. “The L is still here.”

But that doesn’t mean the L is completely out of danger.

“Over eight miles of the traditional structured steel system have been torn down, Borzo said. “We have lost lots of the system. ... So who knows what is going to happen? Every time you hear about a budget crisis ... people start talking about closing the L down. Two years ago the plan was to shut down the Purple Line and the Yellow Line. Once you shut them down it is awfully hard to get them back.”

*The Society of Midland Authors’ 2010-2011 programs may be heard in their entirety at [www.chicagopublicradio.org](http://www.chicagopublicradio.org)/amplified.*

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## Board Notes

After thorough discussions at several meetings, Webmaster **Mary Claire Hersh** said at the November board meeting we are ready to go on PayPal.

Members now can use PayPal to renew their annual dues or for tickets to the annual dinner in May.

Paypal charges a fee for transactions. A \$40 dues renewal incurs a fee of \$1.18. A

\$75 dinner ticket (that’s last year’s price, this year’s hasn’t been set yet) would incur a fee of \$1.95.

The board decided to add a \$1 service charge for using PayPal to help cover the cost of the PayPal fee.

The board also has voted to have the annual dinner May 8, 2012, at the Cliff Dwellers, 200 S. Michigan Ave., 22nd floor, Chicago.

LITERARY LICENSE, NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2011

## Final Chapters

Some information Literary License requested from the children of L. James Binder for the obituary that ran in October issue didn't arrive before deadline. But it has now. Here is what his son Doug wrote to us after conferring with his brother.

Dad had pretty eclectic taste in books and stories. He was a disciple of Strunk and White and the Associated Press Stylebook, so form came over substance – the subject didn't matter as much as the skill of the writer in telling the tale. He preferred straightforward, uncluttered prose. He admired writers who could strike a chord with the reader ... who could, with few words, convey exactly the image intended. It was these passages, as opposed to works as a whole, that he would most often recall.

One of his favorite paragraphs was Truman Capote's description of the asymmetrical face of murderer Richard Hickok in *In Cold Blood*: it likened his features to an apple that someone had sliced into pieces and then fit back together – it just didn't look quite right.

Dad had few favorite authors, as such; his favorite novel was *The Late George Appley*, but I never heard him mention any other works by John Marquand. One writer Dad did like was C.S. Forrester, including all of the Horatio Hornblower series, as well as an unrelated novel, *The Gun*, about a band of rebels who confiscate and transport a huge cannon. He also enjoyed the work of Conan Doyle – he found Sherlock Holmes a compelling character, and was amused by the surname-only formality between him and Watson – and one of his favorite stories was Doyle's "The Croxley Master," the saga of an Edwardian-era prizefight.

In written humor, his favorite works, without question, were the first three books by Max Shulman: *Feather Merchants*, *Barefoot Boy with Cheek*, and *Zebra Derby*. The first of these came into his hands in the Navy and must have been a Godsend to a teenager thousands of miles out to sea and starved for reading

“He admired writers who could strike a chord with the reader ... who could, with few words, convey exactly the image intended.”

material. *The Catcher in the Rye* was another of his favorites, and my Mom told me that when he read it in bed, soon after publication, she would be kept awake by his laughter long into the night. Two other humorous works that Boss enjoyed were *The Joyous Season* by Patrick Dennis and *The Sweet Singer of Michigan*, a collection of absolutely awful verse by a rural poetess of the late 19th century.



L. James Binder

In terms of nonfiction and history, a tome had to be pretty good to attract Dad in his leisure hours; he pored over such stuff for hours each day at ARMY. He liked most of [SMA award-winner] Bruce Catton's work on the Civil War, and greatly enjoyed Russell Baker's autobiography about his journalistic career, particularly the familiar early part about a young reporter on police beat. He also praised the autobiography of Ulysses S. Grant – he had a first-edition left to him by his mother-in-law – because it was so clearly written and devoid of self-serving content.

In all of his readings, particularly in the last five years, he would read aloud to my Mom for hours at a time, sometimes succumbing to fits of laughter. Because my Mom very much likes the audio-book experience, I think having his and her favorite books read in Dad's voice was very pleasing.

And I think it's something she misses most about his passing.

Longtime Society of Midland Authors member L. James Binder died May 23 year at his home on Lake Michigan in Mears, Mich. He was 84.

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tory, he remarked, "This is the culmination of my career as a professional writer in Chicago." ... **Joseph Epstein's** new book, *Gossip*, was reviewed in the New York Times on Jan. 1. .. **Arnie Bernstein** was on Chicago's WTTW-TV on Halloween, talking about gore filmmaker H.G. Lewis. ... **Sara Paretsky** testified Nov. 2 at the Chicago City Council budget hearings against library budget cuts. ... The University of Illinois at Chicago's UIC News ran a profile Nov. 2 of **Walter Podrazik**. It reported he is consulting curator for the National Radio Hall of Fame Gallery, which opened Nov. 5 in Chicago. ... Last month, **John Green** signed the 150,000th copy of his upcoming book, *The Fault in Our Stars*. Also, John was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at Mediabistro's Publishing App Expo, a Dec. 7-8 conference showing writers and publishers how to share their stories on tablets and other mobile devices. ... **Carol Felsenthal** was on "Beyond the Beltway" with Bruce DuMont Nov. 6 and on WLS-AM Chicago discussing Herman Cain. ... **Dan Dinello** contributed a chapter titled "Lucifer Rising and Falling" to a new book *The Rolling Stones and Philosophy* (Open Court, Nov. 22). Dan argued that the Rolling Stones were cast as the agents of Satan by the moral authorities of the 1960s; at the same time, the Stones embraced a 19th century Romantic Vision of Lucifer as a rebellious angel fighting the forces of moral repression. ... **Lynda O'Connor** recently organized a two-week book tour for **Jim O'Connor**, whose new book *Another Man's Treasure* takes place in the Hudson River Valley. Jim met for an hour with the Mayor of Albany, N.Y., and he was on Fox News (twice), "The Roundtable with Joe Donahue," "Good Morning Hudson Valley," and he was featured in the Albany Times-Union, The Northern Dutchess News, and The Troy Record. Libraries and bookstores along the Hudson River were happy to have him speak about his new mystery-romance whose story relays a search for hidden

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## New Books

### TWO SCOTTISH TALES OF MEDICAL COMPASSION

It took **John Raffensperger** 30 years to find a publisher for this volume (Cosimo Classics, 2011), which includes two 19th century Scottish stories emphasizing medical compassion and dedication and a section by Raffensperger titled "A Brief History of the Edinburgh School of Medicine."

Raffensperger is co-author of the book with John Brown and Ian Maclaren.

### THE LOST PANORAMAS: WHEN CHICAGO CHANGED ITS RIVER AND THE LAND BEYOND

**Michael Williams** and **Richard Cahan's** new book (CityFiles Press, Nov. 29) contains many never-before-published photos taken when photographers set out in 1894 to document the reversal of the Chicago River, an engineering feat known at the time as the eighth wonder



**Michael Williams  
and Richard Cahan**

of the world. The photos, all from long-lost glass negatives, tell the story of an audacious scheme as well as the consequences. In a starred review, Booklist said this is the "latest volume of discovery from Williams and Cahan, the eloquent archival sleuthing duo who, along with Nicholas Osborn, brought us *Who We Were: A Snapshot History of America* (2008), among other stellar books." TimeOut Chicago wrote the book "features sweeping scenes of the riverbed and its state-of-the-art infrastructure and provides a fascinating view of a true city on the make."

### BROADCASTING BASEBALL: A HISTORY OF OUR NATIONAL PASTIME ON RADIO AND TELEVISION

An author of four sports histories, **Eldon L. Ham** in this book (McFarland: 2011) traces the symbiotic evolution of baseball and broadcasting from the first 1890s telegraph reports to the advent of radio, HD television, computer graphics, and the Internet.

A sentimental journey of innovation, entertainment, and even childhood, baseball broadcasting has become an indelible part of American culture.

The story starts with the first telegraph reports of games in progress, the influence of early TV pioneers and the launch of the Telstar satellite.

### GABBY: A STORY OF COURAGE AND HOPE

*Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope* (Scribner, Nov. 15) by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly with **Jeffrey Zaslow** is the memoir of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords or Arizona and astronaut Mark Kelly.

The book had an hour-long ABC special tied to it, along with a three-minute piece from ABC News that offered the first footage from the special. The book also was excerpted in *People* magazine.

The book relates the challenges of brain injury, the painstaking process of learning to communicate again, and the responsibilities that fall to a spouse. Told in Mark's voice, the book also chronicles the lives that brought these two together.

The Dec. 19 *Publishers Weekly* said, "... this stirring account traces family stories, the logistics of living through a medical nightmare, and his simultaneous struggle to command his final space mission.

Jeffrey also has another new book out, a nonfiction narrative titled *The Magic Room, A Story About the Love We Wish for Our Daughters*. (See Biblio File on Page 1).

### A BIRD IN THE HAND – RISK AND FLIGHT

**Whitney Scott** has announced publication of the 190-page *A Bird in the Hand – Risk and Flight*.

It is the most recent in the "Black-and-White" anthology series of which she is editor and publisher.

It includes poetry, short fiction and essays on runaway teens, casino gambling, personal physical risk, planes, almost-angels, butterflies and birds: herons, hawks, mallards, loons, bower birds, blue-footed boobies and more.

Booklist said, "... all manner of human emotion and endeavor are invoked in a stellar collection that examines what it means to be caught at the mercy of the natural world. ... Themes of faith and home, desire and distress, survival and peril -- all receive novel and intriguing treatment through the contributions of more than 60 essayists, poets and writers of fiction. Scott's inventively themed series offers an enduring forum for emerging writers, and this collection introduces particularly appealing new talent."

### IN PRAISE OF CHICKENS: A COMPENDIUM OF WISDOM FAIR AND FOWL

**Jane S. Smith's** new book (Lyons Press, Dec. 8) is a compact miscellany of chicken wisdom.

It includes quotations from chicken authorities, brief editorial comments and brrawwbats, er, bricwbats. (Sorry, Jane, Literary License couldn't pass that one up.)

"I buttonholed curators," Smith writes. "I pestered experts for translations from the Latin, pored over scientific treatises and agricultural how-to books of prior centuries. ... The result? Treasures too wonderful not to share."

Lyons is an imprint of Globe Pequot Press.

# Free dashboard helps follow posts on social media sites

**G**eje is a free dashboard that helps you follow other people's posts on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and more.

How do people use it?

Sign up for a free account and choose the people or companies you want to follow. Whenever there is new content that you haven't seen before, it highlights it so that you can read it easily.

How can you use it for writing?

Instead of going to various websites to find news about the area in which you write, you can follow the news in just one place. You can also use it to connect with coworkers or other people in your professional network.

Basically, it's a way to centralize your social networks and whatever news you like to read every day. You can also connect it to your Facebook account and it has a simple interface, so it seems easy to use.

Be sure to have the correct RSS feeds whether you choose to follow a blog, news site, or a Twitter, Tumblr, or other type of account. Simply putting in the URL isn't enough, and you will get an error message.

One negative point about this tool is the Help page. They don't have any information there, and say that you should contact them if you have any questions. However, when we contacted them with questions, they did not respond, so we're not impressed with their lack of communication. So if you use it, don't expect any support or help from them.



It's wise to thank people who have been helpful on your book projects. Of course, you can send them gift cards, cookies, and flowers, but there are a few other things that you can do to show them that you're thankful.

*“ Instead of going to various websites to find news about the area in which you write, you can follow the news in just one place.”*

Share a free ebook. An ebook doesn't have to be hundreds of pages, and it's not complicated to do. You can simply create

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*Literary  
Loudspeaker*  
**Tom  
Ciesielka**

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a PDF of some useful information that you think people will need, or offer an analysis of societal trends or prominent current events.

Create content for a variety of audiences. For instance, you can

offer helpful tips for a general audience and create another PDF with more specific information that reflects your expertise.

Give music. People assume that gifts should be edible, but some people prefer to not eat candy or other treats. A good alternative to food which everyone would appreciate is a song. The average price of an iTunes song is one dollar, and you can get a gift card for someone that he or she can easily use online.

Send a handwritten note. Andrea Nierenberg, who I've worked with and is the Queen of Networking, has promoted this idea for years. Think about the people who have helped you recently, whether in a big or small way, and thank them with a small card and short note that is just a few lines. Today, since many people are on email, their phones, or get lots of junk mail, a handwritten note really stands out.

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riches and lasting love. ... **Michelle Weldon** wrote a Nov. 8 op-ed for the Chicago Tribune headlined: "Keeping predators away from young athletes."... Founding Society of Midland Authors member and past president **Harriet Monroe** was inducted Nov. 15 into the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame. Other late SMA members inducted were **Cyrus Colter, Carl Sandburg** and **Mike Royko**. ... Is **Stuart Meck** ready for this? **Jim Schwab**, manager of the American Planning Association's Hazards Planning Research Center, headed to Vermont Dec 11-13 as a result of the flooding in towns there during Hurricane Irene's visit in late August. Jim was invited as an expert to participate in the Governors' Institute on Community Design forum with Gov. Shumlin, to help formulate ideas for post-disaster planning. GICD is a national program managed by Smart Growth America, with funding from U.S. EPA's Office of Smart Growth and the National Endowment for the Arts, and works with governors on community design issues of their choosing. Jim previously served in the same capacity in Montana in June 2009, where the issue was wildfires. Jim is also slated to speak in San Diego in early February, as part of a panel at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference (Feb. 2-4), run by the Local Government Commission, based in Sacramento. The topic will be "Integrating Smart Growth into Post-Disaster Recovery Planning." Jim also spoke in Nashville, helping to conduct an APA workshop on flood issues on Sept. 28, and speaking as the breakfast keynote Sept. 30 for the Tennessee APA chapter's annual conference, on "Getting Ahead of the Next Flood." Nashville made national news in 2010 when it suffered major flooding in its downtown area along the Cumberland River. ... **Paul M. Green** is pushing to complete the fourth edition *The Mayors: The Chicago Political Tradition*, which he co-authored with **Melvin G. Holli**. ... **Richard Cahan** flew to China in early September. His latest book, (See New Books, Page 4) was

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## Upcoming Programs

Here are the upcoming Society of Midland Authors programs.

*Jan. 10:* **Dick Simpson, Don Rose** and **Constance A. Mixon** discuss *Twenty-First Century Chicago*.

This new anthology (see October, 2011 Literary License) was edited by Simpson, a former Chicago alderman and head of the political science department at University of Illinois at Chicago, and Mixon, an associate professor of political science and director of the Urban Studies Program at Elmhurst College.

Rose, an independent political consultant, is one of the contributors to the book, which includes speeches by politicians, newspaper stories, editorials, memoirs and little-known research reports advocating change in Chicago.

*Feb. 14:* Romance — Chicago authors **Jennifer Stevenson, Sherrill Bodine** and **Patricia Rosemoor** discuss writing and publishing romance novels.

Stevenson's romance and fantasy novels include *The Brass Bed, Fool's Paradise* and *Trash Sex Magic*. Bodine's books include *All I Want Is You* and *A Black Tie Affair* as well as books written under the name Leslie Lynn.

Rosemoor has written 86 books, including 50 for the Harlequin Intrigue series. As Patricia Pinianski, she teaches fiction writing at Columbia College Chicago. All three are members of the Chicago-North Romance Writers of America.

*March 13:* Historian **Rick Perlstein** discusses his upcoming book *The Invisible Bridge: The 1970s and the Rise of Ronald Reagan*. Perlstein is the author of the acclaimed books *Before the Storm: Barry Goldwater and the Unmaking of the American Consensus* and *Nixonland: The Rise of a President and the Fracturing of America*.

Perlstein is a former chief national political correspondent for the Village Voice.

In 2011, The New York Times Op-Ed page published his essays about Hubert Humphrey and Betty Ford.

*April 10:* Poetry program. TBA.

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## New Members

**Arthur Plotnik** is the author of eight books, including *Spunk & Bite: A Writer's Guide to Bold, Contemporary Style* and two Book-of-the-Month Club selections: *The Elements of Editing* and *The Elements of Expression*. Among his many publications are award-winning essays, biography, short fiction, and poetry. He studied under Philip Roth at the Iowa (Graduate) Writers Workshop and worked as a reporter, government editor, and, for the American Library Association and others, as magazine and book editor. A contributor to *The Writer* magazine, he serves on its Editorial Board. His latest title is *Better Than Great: A Plenitudinous Compendium of Wallopingly Fresh Superlatives* (Viva Editions, June 2011). He lives in Chicago with his wife, the artist Mary H. Phelan.

**Don De Grazia** is author of *American Skin* and a professor of fiction writing at Columbia College Chicago. In 1996, he was working as a bouncer and was teaching at Columbia when he spent his last \$75 to send his unsolicited novel to the British publisher Jonathan Cape. Jonathan Cape published it in 1998 and Scribner published it in the United States in 1999.

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printed in Guangdong Province. ... On Nov. 21, **Deborah Blum** blogged about pepper spray for PBS and Scientific American. She wrote: "Pepper spray use has been suspected of contributing to a number of deaths that occurred in police custody." ... Four of **Libby Fisher Hellmann's** novels are now on Audio: Two more, *Set the Night on Fire* and *An Eye for an Eye* were set to be available by Dec. 15. *Doubleback* will be out in audio next spring. ... **David Ansell** was scheduled to discuss his book *County: Life Death and Politics* Dec. 13 at the Arlington Heights (Ill.) Memorial Library. ... **Laura Caldwell** reports she's been "in a writing foxhole, working on Izzy McNeil novel #6, called *False Impressions*." It's due out in September.

A member of the Screenwriters Guild of America, he is adapting the script for *American Skin*, and he is at work on his second novel, *Reel Shadows*, a chapter of which appeared in the March 2009 issue of *TriQuarterly*.

**Wayne Klatt** is author of *Chicago Journalism: A History* and *King of the Gold Coast: Capn Streeter, the Millionaires and the Story of Lake Shore Drive* and co-author of *Freed to Kill* and *I Am Cain*. He is a lifelong Chicagoan with a degree in communications from the University of Illinois. He worked first as a reporter and then as an editor and informal journalism teacher for 43 years at the (Chicago) City News Bureau.

**Susan Klonsky** is an education writer and author. She is working with Timuel Black on his memoirs, due out in 2012, and is also editing the third volume of his *Bridges of Memory*.

**Jim McGarrah**, author of *A Temporary Peace*, has a master's degree in liberal studies and an MFA in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. He teaches creative writing at University of Southern Indiana and is poetry editor of *Southern Indiana Review*.

**Hugh Moore**, author of *Beaming on Dreamsville*, is a poet, artist and composer. He is the son of a Scottish father and American mother. His poetry has been published in *Snowy Egret*, the *Lyric*, *Springhouse*, *Light Quarterly*, *Writers' Journal*, *Capper's* and *Meadowlark*. He hosts the radio show the *Flyover Zone* for writers, musicians and actors.

**David Ansell**, co-author with Quentin Young of *Life, Death and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital*, is vice president for clinical affairs and chief medical officer at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

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## Letters to the Editor

Thanks so much for your obituary of Mary Jane Miller. What a beautiful tribute to a special lady.

**Sue Sussman**

# AWARDS ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: February 1, 2012

**Duplicate this page. Make three copies for each book entered. Send one book and one copy of this completed form to each of the three judges in the book's category. Please type or print clearly.** (Judges are listed on Page 8.)

Name of book: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

Publication date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If publication date differs from copyright date, please explain in "Comments" section below.)

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Category of entry (circle one). Entries improperly categorized will be disqualified.

ADULT FICTION

POETRY

CHILDREN'S FICTION

ADULT NONFICTION

BIOGRAPHY

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

I nominate the above work for a Society of Midland Authors Award. (An author may nominate his or her own work.)

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Company and business title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone and/or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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## Contest judges

*Here are the judges and contact information for this year's book awards:*

### ADULT FICTION

**Mark Eleveld**, 305 Brooks Ave.,  
Joliet, IL 60435

(eleveld\_2000@yahoo.com)

**Mary Claire Hersh**, 5000 Marine  
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**Tony Romano**, 23W279 St. James  
Court, Glen Ellyn IL 60137  
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### ADULT NONFICTION

**Richard Bales**, c/o Chicago Title  
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Wheaton, IL 60189 (balesd@ctt.com)

**Carol Jean Carlson**, 1420 West  
Farragut, Chicago, IL 60640  
(writercc@aol.com)

**Dr. Richard Prince**, Palm Lake  
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**Jim Schwab**, 1755 N. Campbell,  
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