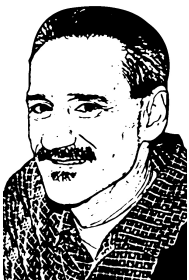


## Biblio File

**Robert Hellenga's** latest novel, *Snakewoman of Little Egypt*, has been included on the Washington Post's list of best 2010 books and the Kirkus Review's list of top 25 novels of 2010. ... On Feb. 10, **Bill Barnhart** spoke in the Chicago City Council Chamber to the City of Chicago Law Department about *John Paul Stevens: An Independent Life*. ...

Hard to believe Biblio File ever drops the ball, but we missed trumpeting the fact that in the summer of 2009 **Martha Miller** won a Raymond Carver short fiction award. ... **Greg Borzo's** new book (New Books, Page 4) was used as a premium for new members on Chicago's WTTW-TV's "Biking the Boulevards" program. ... For a while last fall, **Keir Graff's** *The Price of Liberty* was hard to find at any price — the first hardcover printing sold out. A second printing is now out and the paperback has gone on sale, too. ... On Feb. 16, **Arnie Bernstein** spoke to a luncheon at the Fortnightly Club on with Rich Moskal, head of the Chicago Film Office, on the history of movies in Chicago. A second edition of Arnie's first book, *Hollywood on Lake Michigan* (1999) is due out later this year. ... A lot is going on for former SMA board member **June Sawyers**. She has two books scheduled for publication this year. One is *Bob Dylan: New York* to be published by the Berkeley-based indie press, Roaring Forties Press, to coincide with Dylan's 70th birthday in May. The



Greg Borzo



Martha Miller

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## Authors offer insights into Chicago street gangs

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Gangs in Chicago share many similarities with gangs in the Third World, a panel of authors said Feb. 11 at a Society of Midland Authors program at the Cliff Dwellers Club in Chicago.

"The idea is real simple," said **John Hagedorn**, author of *A World of Gangs: Armed Young Men and Gangsta Culture*.

"The Blackstone Rangers have been around since the '50s and '60s. They are still here. That's not the case in all cities. In New York, the gangs that started in the '50s and the '60s went away.

And new gangs came and whatever. But that same phenomenon isn't here.

"And it is very similar to Rio de Janeiro or Cape Town. ... The gangs that started there at the same time didn't go away, either."

The other members of the panel were **Natalie Y. Moore** and **Lance Williams**, co-authors of the new book *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall, and Resurgence of an American Gang*. Moore is a reporter for Chicago Public Radio and Williams is an associate professor at Northeastern Illinois University.

"In 2007, I was looking for a book on contemporary black street gangs in Chicago. And I couldn't find any, so I called Lance and said ... can you recommend any books? Lance writes back with a very long e-mail that basically said:

There are none."

So Moore and Williams set out to write one.

"Originally, we thought about doing a sweeping book on black street gangs in Chicago, and that obviously became a bit too unwieldy," Moore said. "So he said, well, let's focus on the Blackstone Rangers."

Williams said his own experiences helped him to understand there was more to the story of gangs in Chicago than is generally portrayed on evening news programs.

"I grew up kind of tagging along with my dad, who was one of the members of a small West Side street organization called the Cobras," Williams said.

"And a lot of those little street organizations kind of morphed into larger ... street gangs. But as a kid hanging out with him as a reformed street gang member ... who was out doing work with

guys like Jeff [Fort] and David Barksdale, helping them work with young people to resolve their conflicts, I got a chance to see the more human side of young men and young women who were affiliated with street organizations."

Hagedorn, who also is a professor of criminal justice at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said it's important to keep in mind that gang members have multiple identities, some of which are in

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Natalie Y. Moore

March 8 Program: Audrey Niffenegger	New Books	Literary Loudspeaker with Tom Ciesielka
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## Biblio File

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other is a revised edition of *Chicago Portraits*, which consists of short biographies of prominent, including deceased, Chicagoans to be published later this year



June Sawyers

by Northwestern University Press. June also has signed a contract with Cape Breton University Press in Nova Scotia to publish *Bearing the People Away: The Portable Highland Clearances Companion*, a history book about a pivotal

moment in Scottish history. In addition, she will be teaching two classes this winter/spring: "The Music of New Orleans: Before and After Katrina" at the Newberry Library (Feb. 24-April 7) and "Introduction to Celtic Spirituality" at Loyola University Chicago (March 16-April 13). And on top of that, the Italian edition of *Read the Beatles: Classic and New Writings on the Beatles, Their Legacy, and Why They Still Matter* (Penguin, 2006) was published last year. June also will be contributing an essay titled "Celtic Music in America" for the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of American Music and Culture* for the reference publisher, ABC-CLIO. ... **Ingrid Wendt's** fifth book of poems, *Evensong*, will be issued in August by Truman State University Press (Kirksville, Mo.). Also, her essay "New Doors: Lessons from

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## Literary License

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# Gangs

### Continued from Page 1

conflict with each other.

"Gang members, like all of us, are more than one thing," he said. "They are fathers, they are religious, they ... may be a husband. Some have a long-term relationships. ...

"Let's get rid of this criminology, let's look at people a little more multi-facetly, because even if someone does something that is evil – I do a lot of work in courts and they kill – it doesn't mean they are an evil person."

Moore said she and Williams tried to capture the human side of gang members, much as David Simon did in his TV series "The Wire."

"In this book we are not doing character studies, but we are showing that at some point you are not just one thing whether you are a Blackstone Ranger or a you are member of P. Stone Nation or you are an El Rukn at that time," Moore said. "That said, we are empathetic, but we are not apologists."

Williams said he and Moore needed a careful approach as they sought to tell the story of a gang.

"Being the son of a father who was affiliated with a street organization and hanging out with him and his friends, they were always hypercritical of individuals from outside of their set, or outside of their experience, but attempting to tell their story," Williams said. "But they wouldn't tell the story. ... So I was always completely with that. So as a young person who then began to work with street organizations myself, I would always try to encourage them to get organized and tell their stories."

Much like **Jonathan Eig**, who at the Society's Nov. 9 program told how he stumbled across a treasure trove of historical documents while researching *Get Capone: The Secret Plot that Captured America's Most Wanted Gangster*, Moore said she, too, unexpectedly got her hands on valuable records.

Moore said she had unsuccessfully been using "all of my lawyer connections" to get the 5,000-page transcript of a trial at which gang members were tried for domestic terrorism.

"I think just red tape, no one knew where they were," Moore said.

But then a sister of one of the El Rukn generals who had been on trial turned out to have a copy.

"I happened to be at this woman's house ... and she had boxes in her closet," Moore said.

The boxes contained wiretap records, transcripts of jury selection and the rest of the entire case.

"I mean, it was just like a researcher's dream," Moore said. "... Really, there is a moment when you are writing, and you are researching and you have ... an "aha" moment. For me, it was

... getting that entire trial."

Hagedorn said authorities have become too fixated on what amounts to a war on gangs instead of looking for other solutions.

"As a D.A. told me from L.A. long ago, once you are in a gang you are lost forever," Hagedorn said. "Yeah, well tell that to Richard J. Daley [a member at age 17 of the onetime Hamburg Athletic Club, whose activities have been compared to those of gangs]."

As long ago as 1962, then-Chicago Police Supt. O.W. Wilson went to Congress and talked about the threat of young black men in gangs, he said.

"What happens in Chicago, we have a war on gangs while the outfit is taking over Las Vegas," Hagedorn said.

More recently, current Police Supt. Jody Weis met with gang leaders to try to negotiate a reduction in violence, he said.

"The meeting was to threaten people. ... The problem in the police policy is that they have been at war for 40 years. ... The fundamental problem was that it is another tactic of war, do what I say or we are going to throw you in jail."

The problems caused by that philoso-

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Lance Williams



John Hagedorn

# March program to feature author Audrey Niffenegger

**A**udrey Niffenegger, author of *Her Fearful Symmetry* (2009) and the best-selling novel *The Time Traveler's Wife*, will be the speaker at the Society of Midland Authors' March 8 program. *The Time Traveler's Wife* was released as a movie in 2009.

Niffenegger is also a visual artist, and she teaches classes at Columbia College that explore the relationship between text and images.

Her latest book (2010) is the graphic novel *The Night Bookmobile*. In it, the main character, a young woman, discovers a bookmobile containing everything she's ever read.

She is working on a new novel, *The Chinchilla Girl in Exile*.

Niffenegger was born in 1963 in South Haven, Mich. Early in her life, her family moved to Evanston, Ill.

According to her website, she trained as a visual artist at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and received her MFA from

Northwestern University's Department of Art Theory and Practice in 1991. She has exhibited her books, prints, paintings, drawings and comics at Printworks Gallery in Chicago since 1987.

Her first books were printed and bound by hand in editions of 10. Two of these have since been commercially published by Harry N. Abrams: *The Adventuress* and *The Three Incestuous Sisters*.

In 1997 Miss Niffenegger had an idea



## Literary Lineup

### Audrey Niffenegger

**March 8, 2011, program**

**Cliff Dwellers  
200 S. Michigan Avenue  
22nd floor**

**6 p.m. - Social Hour  
7 p.m. - Program**

**Free - donations accepted**

for a book about a time traveler and his wife. She originally imagined making it as a graphic novel, but realized it is difficult to represent sudden time shifts with still images. She began to work on the project as a novel, and published *The*

*Time Traveler's Wife* in 2003 with the independent publisher MacAdam/Cage. It was an international best seller.

In 1994 a group of book artists, papermakers and designers founded a book arts center, the Columbia College

Chicago Center for Book and Paper Arts. Niffenegger was part of this group and taught book arts for many years as a professor in Columbia College's MFA program in Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Arts.

She is on the faculty of the Columbia College Fiction Writing Department and has also taught for the Newberry Library, Penland School of Craft and other institutions of higher learning.

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

*The April 12 SMA program will be poetry and prose by a married couple: Reginald Gibbons, author of Slow Trains Overhead: Chicago Poems And Stories, and Cornelia Maude Spelman, author of Missing: A Memoir.*

## Book Signings

**Paul McComas** has scheduled free publication parties with readings, refreshments and signings to promote his new book, *Unforgettable: Harrowing Futures, Horrors, & (Dark) Humor*.

The 490-page book retails at \$29.99, but Paul will be selling it for \$21.99 at these events:

– Friday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago;

– Saturday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Susan's Salon, 2741 Woodbine Ave., Evanston, Ill.

– Saturday, March 5, 5 p.m., reading/Q&A/signing, Comix Revolution, 606 Davis, Evanston, Ill.;

Also, on Wednesday, March 9, 11 p.m., he will be headlining for "Elizabeth's Crazy Little Thing" variety show at Phyllis' Musical Inn, 1800 W. Division St., Chicago.

(You can also get a discounted price if you order by mail: Send a check for \$21.99 plus \$3 for postage to: Paul McComas, 1572 Maple Ave. #306, Evanston, IL 60201.)



**Paul McComas**

## Biblio File

**Continued from Page 2**

"Bill" appears in *Kansas Poems of William Stafford: Poems, Essays & Interviews*, edited by Denise Low and published by Woodley Memorial Press. And her poem "Armistice" appears in *Poetry from Paradise Valley: The First*

*Decade of Valparaiso Poetry Review*, edited by Edward Byrne and published by Pecan Grove Press. ... The Friends of the Weston

(Conn.) Library hosted a Jan. 26 book discussion on **Kent Meyers' *The Work of Wolves***. ... "If we were all subjected to



**Kent Meyers**

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## GANGS

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phy are obvious: New York's violence is a third of Chicago's, Hagedorn said.

"There is a deep depression that has existed in black communities for as long we can remember. The factors why gangs continue over time has to be found by looking at the city," he said.

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## Biblio File

Continued from Page 3

less newscast hype,” **Merv Block** writes, “maybe we’d be less hyper.” (You can read his latest newsletter at [www.mervin-block.com](http://www.mervin-block.com) ... Stuart Meck wrote a Feb. 15 op-ed in the Times of Trenton titled “A



Achy Obejas

simpler, more workable fair housing solution.” ... **Achy Obejas** has a blog on Chicago’s WBEZ website. A recent posting (Feb. 18): “Why Gery Chico is the white candidate for mayor.” ... **Richard Powers** wrote a Feb. 6 op-ed in the New York Times about Watson, IBM’s question-answering system. It was headlined “What Is Artificial Intelligence?” Powers wrote: “The real showdown is between us and our own future.” ... **Ruth Spiro** donated an author visit to the Max Schewitz Foundation’s silent auction and a school nurse from one of the foundation’s test schools bought it and gave it to a family friend to use for his second-grade class at the W.C. Petty Elementary School in Antioch, Ill. Spiro was scheduled to visit the school on Feb. 11. ... **Gerry and Janet Souter’s** book, *Chicago Air and Water Show – History of Wings Above the Waves*, published last year, has earned them a call from the Mayor’s Office of Special Events this year. Their opening chapter featuring the 1911 International Aviation Meet held at Grant Park for nine days and drawing millions of spectators will be the basis of information for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of that world record-breaking event during this year’s Air & Water Show. ... The Eugene B. Redmond Writers Club in East St. Louis, Ill., was scheduled to celebrate its 25th anniversary Feb. 15 with an appearance by **Haki R. Madhubuti**. ... **Glennette Tilley Turner’s** *Fort Mose and the Story of the Man Who Built the First Free Black Settlement in Colonial America* was listed Feb. 20 as a “must-have for Black History Month” by the Winston-Salem (N.C.) Journal. ... **Allison Platt** was quoted in the Feb. 17 Chicago Sun-

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# How to promote your book using new electronic tools

**W**ant to manage all your social media accounts? Do it with HootSuite.

Go to HootSuite.com to see how you can manage your social networks on your computer, browser, or on the go with your BlackBerry, iPhone, iPad or Android.

Send out messages about events, news, links, or anything you want to publicize. You can control your various social networks including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, PingFM, Wordpress, Foursquare, Mixi, Ning, and MySpace.

You can schedule your messages for whatever time or day you want, on one or several networks simultaneously. You can also create drafts and save them right on the dashboard for later use.

It’s also easy to add a link, image, or file to your messages. HootSuite gives you the option of shrinking your link in two different ways to redirect your audience to the longer URL: one way simply redirects people to the longer website location.

The other way causes a social media sharing bar to pop up when it redirects to the longer link, so that your audience can share the link on their own social networks.

HootSuite is easy to navigate because it has a clear dashboard with columns that represent each social network.

It also allows you to work in teams, so various people on the same project can communicate with each other and send out messages to your audience.

The free version has lots of features, but the paid pro account allows you to track and analyze statistics.

HootSuite is just one of the new social media tools use can use as part of your book promotion.

Recently, Chicago and other parts of the country got a lot of snow, and until even more recently there were still some cars buried beneath the white stuff, waiting for

a plow to come by to clear the streets and free them up.

Do you feel the same way about your overwhelming schedule, responsibilities, and workload?

Well, here are three more things that you can do right now to help publicize your book so you don’t feel like you’re still stuck. In fact, you don’t even need to leave your desk to get these done because they can all be done online.

1) Post photos online. Choose a couple of photos from a recent event or of something that interesting you’ve seen around town. Then post them on your Flickr, Facebook, blog, or other online account where you share photos. Even busy people will take the time to look at a photo. Just make sure it’s not too big so that the

photo will easily load. You can use Picnik.com to edit your photo for free.

2) Share a helpful article online. Tell your clients and associates about it through your Twitter account, Facebook, email, blog, or what-

ever you like to use online. If the link is too long, you can shorten it at [Ow.ly](http://Ow.ly), [Bit.ly](http://Bit.ly) or [Tinyurl.com](http://Tinyurl.com).

3) Congratulate someone.

If you’ve seen some good news about someone’s promotion, deal, article, speaking engagement, or other accomplishments, write him or her a short congratulatory email. This is simple publicity that helps keep your name out there by connecting with other people in a positive way.

As you can see, these are all simple things that you can do, plus they cost nothing and don’t take much time. By taking even these small steps, you’ll feel like your publicity plan is easier to manage, and you’ll be able to relax while waiting for spring.

E-mail Tom Ciesielka at [tc@tcpr.net](mailto:tc@tcpr.net) or call (312) 422-1333.

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Literary  
Loudspeaker  
Tom  
Ciesielka



## New Members

**Barbara Barnett**, author of *Chasing Zebra: The Unofficial Guide to House, M.D.*, is a columnist and co-executive editor and TV/Film editor for Blogcritics magazine. She writes primarily on television, film, politics and pop culture.

Barnett's regular column, "Welcome to the End of the Thought Process: An Introspective Look at 'House, M.D.," features episode commentaries and interviews with the House cast and creative team. She also writes about technology, movies, politics and all things Jewish. She is married with two children and a dog and lives in Chicago's North Shore suburbs.

She attended Niles (Ill.) North High School and the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**Elizabeth Cook-Lynn**, author of nine books, is a Crow Creek Santee Dakotah Sioux editor, essayist, poet, novelist, and academic.

She is co-founder of Wicazo Sa Review ("Red Pencil"), an academic journal devoted to the development of Native American studies as an academic discipline.

Born and raised at Fort Thompson, S.D., she has been a high school and university teacher, a journalist, a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow at Stanford University, a writer in residence at Evergreen College in Olympia, Wash., in 1990, also at West Virginia University in 1992, and at Atlantic Center for the Arts in New Smyrna Beach.

Cook-Lynn is professor emerita from Eastern Washington University, Cheney, Wa., where she taught English and Indian Studies for 20 years. Since she returned to her home in Rapid City, S.D., she has held several visiting professorships. In 2009, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers' Circle of the Americas.

Cook-Lynn's book *Why I Can't Read Wallace Stegner and Other Essays* (1996-U of Ill. Press), was awarded the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America in 1997. Her forthcoming book *Postcoloniality in Indian Territory* will be available from Texas Tech Press this year.

**Patrick Hicks** is author of several poet-

ry collections, most recently, *This London* (2010) and *Finding the Gossamer* (2008), both published by Ireland's Salmon Poetry. He also is writer-in-residence at Augustana (S.D.) College and is an advisory editor for New Hibernia Review.

A native of Stillwater, Minn., he has been nominated several times for the Pushcart Prize and has been a visiting fellow at Oxford. He has M.A. degrees from DePaul University and Queen's University of Belfast and has lived in Northern Ireland, England, Germany and Spain, but has returned to his Midwestern roots.

The Chicago Sun-Times calls **Julie Hyzy**, former president of the Mystery Writers Society's Midwest chapter, "an author worth watching" and says "her writing strikes just the right tone."

Hyzy, born and raised in Chicago, is a 2009 Anthony Award winner and 2009 Barry Award winner. Her mystery series include one about news researcher Alex St James; one about Olivia Paras, assistant chef at the White House; and one on amateur sleuth Grace Wheaton, curator of palatial Marshfield Manor. She also has written a book using the pen name N.C. Hyzy.

**Joseph J. Korom Jr.**, author of *The American Skyscraper 1850-1940: A Celebration of Height*, holds a master of architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a painter, author, architectural critic and photographer. He also is author of *Look Up, Milwaukee* (1979) and *Milwaukee Architecture: A Guide to Notable Buildings* (1995).

**Tom Swift**, author of *Chief Bender's Burden* (winner of the 2009 Seymour Medal), is a journalist and a freelance writer whose work has appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines. *Chief Bender's Burden* also was named one of ten noteworthy books of 2008 by Kansas City Star history writer Brian Burnes. Swift and his wife live in Minnesota.



Julie Hyzy

## Biblio File

Continued from Page 4

Times, saying that when Borders opened in the mid-'90s on Chicago's 95th Street, it may have hurt business at her new-and-used bookstore on

103rd Street, The Bookies, but that Borders' closure now "is terrible for the neighborhood." ...

Among the mystery authors, readers, publishers and agents at the 13th Love is Murder conference

Feb. 4-6 at the InterContinental Chicago O'Hare Hotel in Rosemont were **Luisa Buehler**, the president of the Love is Murder Board of Directors, and **Harriette Gillem Robinet, Kathleen Ernst, Francis McNamara, Julie Hyzy, Libby Fischer Hellmann, Keir Graff, Deborah Brod, Shane Gericke and Marcus Sakey. Michael Allen**

**Dymnoch** was Love is Murder's local guest of honor. **Laura Caldwell** won a Lovey Award for best romantic suspense, *Red, White and Dead*.

Buehler's first six books were published by Echelon, which is releasing the seventh in May. She also is also launching a middle grade adventure series. ... **Marc Smith** will perform his poetry at Alamosa Books March 25 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 8810 Holly Ave. NE,

Ste. D, Albuquerque, N.M. ... **Scott Turow**, Paul Aiken and James Shapiro wrote a Feb. 15 op-ed in the New York Times headlined, "Would the Bard have survived the Web?" ... **Charles Wheelan**

was quoted in the Feb. 7 Wall Street Journal, saying that the marketplace might be a better judge than the government of whether a barber or a yoga instructor is competent. ... The Cleveland Plain Dealer wrote on Jan. 26, "Detroit,

that city of lost dreams and comeback hopes, is the perfect setting for *See What I See*, **Gloria Whelan's** affecting new young-adult novel. ... Whelan, who is 87,

writes with the same straightforward economy that propels all her work, including *Homeless Bird*, winner of the 2000 National Book Award for Young People's Literature."



Allison Platt

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## New Books

### MIDDLE-EAST MEZZE

**David Radavich's** new collection (Plain View Press, February) focuses on Iraq, Palestine and Egypt. Based on family connections and travel to the region, these verses offer a mezze, or smorgasbord, of experiences in the Near East — from the enchantments of myth and legend to the all-too-real hardships of war and occupation. The poems move through suffering and pain toward tentative healing and reconciliation.

Mike Maggio, author of *deMOCKracy*, wrote, “Radavich takes us to Iraq, Palestine and Egypt and, during our journey, forces us to question how such rich ancient cultures could have fallen into such desperation. A poignant reminder of splendid heritage, these poems [deal with] the tragedy of war and injustice while at the same time delighting us with the wonderfully ornate complexities that make up the Middle East.”

Jean Grant, author of *The Burning Veil: A Novel of Arabia*, wrote: “David Radavich’s poems transported me to the Orient, to its ‘dry and teeming sands’ and feasts of ‘dates and skewered meats.’ He captures the dignity and suffering of the Palestinian and Iraqi peoples. . . . In this collection, every poem is alive with energy and drama.”

### WHERE TO BIKE CHICAGO: BEST BIKING IN CITY AND SUBURBS

*Where to Bike Chicago* (BA Press, Jan. 4) by **Greg Borzo** describes 72 bike rides in the city and suburbs, with riding options for both novices and seasoned riders.

The rides (45 for adults and 27 for kids) take cyclists through Chicago’s parks, streets and paths as well as through suburban forest preserves and trails.

The hardcover, spiral-bound book features color images of the city and suburbs and easy-to-use maps generated by the author using precise, up-to-date GPS mapping. It also includes the author’s recommendations for exploring the city and

suburbs by bike, along with a section on the best rides for kids.

Readers can learn about a particular ride from advice in the “At a Glance” section, which breaks down the distance, terrain and traffic patterns as well as the best way to get to the starting point by car or public transportation.

The “Ride Log” guides the cyclist on how to navigate with ease what could otherwise be a difficult path. Other sections, such as “Before You Go,” “What to Take” and “How to Ride,” offer practical suggestions. And, a richly illustrated chapter on the “History, Culture and Leaders” of biking in Chicago give readers a better understanding of the city’s century-long love affair with biking.

“Where to Bike Chicago is a tour de force,” says WTTW-Channel 11’s Geoffrey Baer. “The scope of Greg Borzo’s book is astonishing. From the serene and scenic to urban grit, there’s something for every cyclist. It’s impossible to thumb through these pages, pictures, maps and narratives without wanting to hop on your bike and take a ride. This one book offers years of riding pleasure.

“I’m sure many people will want to try every single ride.”

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