

Biblio File

Leslie Stella's recent YA novel, *Permanent Record*, was chosen as the teen title for the Suburban Mosaic Book of the Year program 2014-15. Similar to Chicago's One Book program, Suburban Mosaic serves a consortium of suburban school districts and libraries in northern Illinois. The reading list selects books that highlight issues of racial and social justice and that strive to break down the barriers between people. Leslie will be doing events and programs over the next year with the participating organizations, which include about 14 libraries, 10 school districts and two colleges, starting with a reading at Mount Prospect Public Library on Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. ... **Ed Gordon** reports his book *Future Jobs: Solving the Employment and Skills Crisis* is now in its third printing. ... **Joseph Gustaitis** was scheduled to appear April 10 in downtown Lockport,



Patricia Kummer

Ill., to make the case that Chicago peaked in 1893. ... Last August, **Patricia Kummer's** *Working Horses* in Cavendish Square Publishing's series "Horses!" came out. Horses that work on farms and ranches, in cities as mounted patrols or pulling carriages, in military units, as athletes and entertainers on racetracks and in movies, and circuses are included. In February, the seven books in the Cavendish Square series "Climates and Continents" came out. Each book deals with how the interaction of climate, geography, wildlife, plant life, and people affect that continent's environment. On April 10, Patricia was scheduled to take part in the Maria Saucedo Scholastic Academy's Young Authors Conference – participating in a panel with three other children's/young

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Get your tickets now for SMA's 2014 book awards

Once a year, the Society of Midland Authors holds a special event to honor the best books by the region's authors. The prestigious literary prize has been a tradition since 1957, honoring authors from **Saul Bellow** and **Gwendolyn Brooks** to **Jane Smiley** and **Roger Ebert**.

The Society recently announced our judges' choices for the best 2013 books by Midwest authors.

This year's banquet and awards presentation will be on Tuesday, May 13, at the Cliff Dwellers Club, Chicago, which features a lovely view of the city.

A reception with cash bar begins at 6 p.m., followed by the dinner and awards ceremony at 7 p.m.

The master of ceremonies will be **Paul Durica**.

Many of the award-winning authors and finalists are attending, and will give short acceptance speeches.

The banquet offers a great opportunity to meet members of the Society of Midland Authors and the distinguished writers we're honoring this year. Free copies of award-winning and finalist books will be available for banquet attendees to take home.

The cost to attend the banquet is \$75. Reservations can be made online with a PayPal payment at: midlandauthors.com/online_banquet_form.html (plus a \$1 fee to help defray

May 13, 2014

Cliff Dwellers Club
200 S. Michigan, 22nd floor,
Chicago

6 p.m. - Social Hour
7 p.m. - Dinner

Tickets \$75

PayPal's processing costs).

You may also print out the reservation form at: midlandauthors.com/dinner_reservation_form.html. Or use the reservation form that was mailed recently to all of the Society's members.

Send the completed form with a check to us at: Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610
We hope you can join us.

Here are this year's winners:

Adult
Fiction

Winner: **Christine Sneed** —
Little Known Facts —

Bloomsbury

Finalist: **Chinelo Okparanta** —
Happiness, Like Water — Mariner

Finalist: **Bryan Furuness** — *The Lost Episodes of Revie Bryson* — Black
Lawrence

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Literary Landscape
with Mark Eleveld

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adult authors and then leading a discussion with a small group of young authors. ... **Richard Cahan** and **Michael**



One of **Craig Sautter's** poems made into a Miami street sign.

committee assignments. He also was a judge for the Tigertail "Speakout" poetry slam semi-finals to choose a team of Miami high school students to go to the national finals. And one of his poems was made into 20 street signs, and hung (along with nine other poets' poems) across Miami-Dade County (including at

Williams are bringing out a second volume about photographer Vivian Maier. ... **Craig Sautter** spent that miserable winter we had in Miami Beach, ostensibly teaching philosophy for the eighth winter at Miami Dade College, but really just ducking SMA

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Twitter@midlandauthors

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 (there is a \$1 fee to help cover PayPal's fee). To make a donation, visit our home page at www.midlandauthors.com and click on the "Donate" button in the upper right corner.

Awards

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The judges for Adult Fiction were **Patricia Ann McNair**, **Billy Lombardo** and **Bayo Ojikutu**.

Adult Nonfiction

Winner: **Rick Atkinson** — *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945* — Henry Holt and Co.

Finalist: **Ted Anton** — *The Longevity Seekers: Science, Business, and the Fountain of Youth* — The University of Chicago Press

Finalist: **Larry Haeg** — *Harriman vs. Hill: Wall Street's Great Railroad War* — University of Minnesota Press

The judges for Adult Nonfiction were **James Merriner**, **John Hallwas** and **Re'Lynn Hansen**.

Biography and Memoir

Winner: **James Tobin** — *The Man He Became: How FDR Defied Polio to Win the Presidency* — Simon & Schuster

Finalist: **Michael Shelden** — *Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill* — Simon & Schuster

The judges for Biography & Memoir were **Gerry Souter**, **Ray Boomhower** and **Diane Diekman**.

Children's Fiction

Winner: **Amy Timberlake** — *One Came Home* — Knopf Books for Young Readers

Finalist: **Clare Vanderpool** — *Navigating Early* — Delacorte Press

Finalist: **Patricia Polacco** — *The Blessing Cup* — Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

The judges for Children's Fiction were **Charlotte Herman**, **Gary Schmidt** and **Marianne Malone**.

Children's Nonfiction

Winner: **Neal Bascomb** — *The Nazi Hunter: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most*

Notorious Nazi — Arthur A. Levine Books

No finalists in this category. The judges for Children's Nonfiction were **Marlene Targ Brill**, **Ann Bausum** and **Andrew Medlar**.

Poetry

Winner: **Roger Bonair-Agard** — *Bury My Clothes* — Haymarket Books

Finalist: **Carl Phillips** — *Silverchest* — Farrar, Straus & Giroux

Finalist: **Averill Curdy** — *Song and Error* — Farrar, Straus & Giroux

The judges for Poetry were **Mark Eleveld**, **Haki R. Madhubuti** and **Donna Seaman**.

James Friend Memorial Award for Literary and Dramatic Criticism

Winner: **Chris Jones**, Chicago Tribune theater critic, arts columnist and reporter

The Society, founded in 1915 by a group of authors including Hamlin Garland, Harriet Monroe and Vachel Lindsay, has given out annual awards since 1957.

The juried competition is open to authors who live in, were born in, or have strong ties to Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota or Wisconsin.

Notable winners have included Saul Bellow, Kurt Vonnegut, Studs Terkel, Gwendolyn Brooks, Mike Royko, Jane Smiley, Dempsey Travis, Leon Forrest, William Maxwell, Louise Erdrich, Scott Turow, Alex Kotlowitz, Aleksandar Hemon, Stuart Dybek and Roger Ebert.

This year's winners will receive a cash award and a recognition plaque. Since 2002, the Society has also hosted the presentation of the James Friend Memorial Award for Literary and Dramatic Criticism at its banquet.

The room at the Cliff Dwellers where the annual awards dinner will take place features a beautiful view of Lake Michigan and Millennium Park.

Poetry in the city

To celebrate National Poetry Month, the Society continued its tradition of featuring poets in April. Past readers included poetry slam founder **Marc Kelly Smith**, Illinois Poet Laureate **Kevin Stein**, Lambda Literary Book Award finalist Marty McConnell, and last year's reader, Guggenheim Memorial Foundation President and best-selling poet/critic, **Edward Hirsch**.

At this year's event were Chicago poets **J.W. Basilo** and **Daniel "Sully" Sullivan**. Both have roots firmly planted in the slam poetry world – Basilo is a co-host at the famous Uptown Poetry Slam at the Green Mill Jazz Lounge as well as Chicago Slam Works executive director, and Sully is a member of the Speak'Easy Poetry Ensemble whose first book, *The Blue Line Home*, comes out at Printers Row Lit Fest.

Surrounded by some board members, a bus full of Joliet West High School students, and poetry enthusiasts, Baz and Sully started by performing group poetry pieces from their two-man poetry show, "Beard Fight." A take on young men and their fascination with facial hair, they quickly commanded the room and then broke up the evening by alternating solo readings. Sully had a homage to his Oak Park/Forest Park eating retreat, Parky's Hot Dogs. "I'd hate to go by there one day and see a mega-mall or grocery store. It would break my heart."

Parky's

*Order a foot-long at Parkys'
You'll get fresh cut French fries
Anointed with so much oil
The bag looks like a sack-lunch x-ray.
Ya won't find fish markets
And newsy caps in its photo albums,
Won't feel September roll
From Lake Michigan
Across your shoulders ...*

Sullivan referenced his multi-ethnic (Polish and Irish) Chicago family. "My brother is off in France, he calls collect on occasion, and my sister is traveling the world and an executive of a corporation. We are very close. I miss them when they aren't here."

Song for My Brother and Sister

*I'm here in Empty Pocket Village
typewriting by the radiator.*

*My parents still live an el train away.
The equator tells us we don't even exist
at the same time of day
but we've tied ourselves to the same post
because we can't fight the bulldozer
alone.*

Sully offered a warm, young Chicago voice who read about his family, skate boarding, and the different areas of Chicago. And Sully was upbeat, it was J.W. Basilo's energy that continued to build throughout the night. Basilo was recently featured on Rick Kogan's WGN After Hours talking about the LitMash show that he curates at the Haymarket Pub. In addition, he was briefly featured in "Chicagoland's" fourth episode with the opening line of his poem about Mayor Rahm Emmanuel, "Tiny Dancer." Basilo's opinion of the current mayor is fairly critical, and he expressed being misrepresent-

Literary Landscape

Mark Eleveld



ed in the cut of the TV show. After an audience request, he performed the entire piece that night, cutting into Rahm and his widespread educational cuts.

The Ballad of Tiny Dancer

*When Rahm Emanuel was a boy all he
wanted to do
was dance, think Billy Elliot but without
the parts
that make you feel good about yourself*

*Little Rahm Emanuel would prance to
school with glee
like a butterfly made of eskimo kisses
the other boys stole his lunch
the other boys flicked him in the ears
and made fun*

*of his velveteen suit jackets
the other boys called him Tiny Dancer*
Basilo and Sullivan ended with a duet piece they have performed "all over the world – Germany ...".

After sticking around to talk to students, and take some pictures, Sully and Baz left the building. One student later asked, "Do they do this a lot, and in Chicago?" And another student answered, "Yes. And they gave me some info on how to get into some writing classes and workshops this summer." "Cool," was the reply.

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the Ultra Music Festival) as part of the O, Miami Poetry Festival. ... **Achy Obejas** served as a judge this year for the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award. ... **Taylor Penseau's** memoir, *Reporting on Life and People Along the Way*, is scheduled for publication in June. His eighth book is a memoir of his ups and downs (some humorous) while growing up in Belleville, Ill., covering Illinois politics for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, heading the Illinois Coal Association and, lastly, writing the biographies of Illinois Governors Richard Ogilvie and Dan Walker, as well as the life stories of major Downstate Illinois gangsters. In addition, he documents the lives of a number of persons important in his life who, for the most part, came from very modest starts and accomplished great things. Several will be familiar to Chicago readers. ...

Dennis Byrne participated in a panel on historical fiction at the Virginia Festival of the Book, a five-day extravaganza celebrating book culture and promoting literacy. The panel was composed of authors of books detailing critical times in American history. The March 19 event, held annually in Charlottesville, Va., was sponsored by the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. ... On April 29, **Robert Loerzel** quoted **Dominic Pacyga** and **Carl Smith** in a discussion on Haymarket Square and its effect on Chicago on WBEZ's Curious City blog. ... **Ruth Spiro** was among about 120 children's book authors who sent a letter this month calling on President Barack Obama to oppose "testing overuse and abuse." ... **Jim Schwab** will be a speaker at the "MPC Roundtable – Smart Systems, Resilient Regions" May 20 at the Metropolitan Planning Council in Chicago. ... **Joseph Peterson** did a Rick Kogan interview for April 27 for his new book *Gideon's Confession* (See New Books, Page 5). ... **David Radavich** read from his works April 27 at Malaprop's Bookstore/Café in Asheville, N.C. ... **Jonathan Eig** talked on WGN news April 22 about Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's plan to put air conditioning in

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all Chicago Public Schools. Also, Ken Burns called Jonathan's *The Birth of the Pill*, "a page-turning, suspense-filled, beautifully written narrative...irresistible." ... **James Ballowe** is one of two people to whom Robert Coover dedicated *The Brunist Day of Wrath*. ... **Scott Turow's** *Presumed Innocent* was one of 37 titles to be given away across the United States this month on World Book Night. ... Chicago Life's spring issue said **Neil Steinberg** is "an engagingly articulate man." ... **Richard Lindberg** discussed "Journey Through White Sox History" April 21 at the Homer Twp Public Library. ... TheByliner published a **Sam Weller** short story last month. ... **Arnie Bernstein** discussed *Swastika Nation* at the Riverside Public Library on April 3. ... On his The Barbershop blog, **Dennis Byne** bestowed a new title on **Carol Felsenthal**: "ace Chicago writer." ... The April 11 Po Matters website quoted **Steven A. Riess**. ... **Davis Schneiderman's** April 8 post was headlined "Won't You Please Come to Chicago?: A Conversation With Thomas Dyja on The Third Coast." ... **Robert Starks** was quoted in the April 30 Austin (Chicago) Talks newsletter on the political candidacy of Amara Enyia, who is running against Mayor Rahm Emanuel. ... **David Von Drehle** was scheduled to discuss the next election April 9 on KCUR's (Kansas City) Up to Date program. ... **Theresa Amato** was quoted in the April 22 New York Times. ... **Blue Balliett** was among the authors at Downers Grove, Ill., School District 58's April 9-11 Author Fest. ... **Barbara Shoup** will give the keynote address at the Indiana Writers' Consortium half-day writers' conference on Oct. 11. ... **Stan "Tex" Banash** was scheduled to present the third installment of the McHenry County Historical Society's Sampler lecture series April 7 at the historical society museum in Union, Ill. ... NBC News quoted **Deborah Blum** April 29 on which was the most likely poison used on the latest episode of "Game of Thrones." (Deborah said cyanide.) ... The Chicago Reader on April 14 said **Stuart Dybek** is "one man who knows how to utilize the power of a secret."

Final Chapters

Margaret S. Herguth

Margaret Herguth, a longtime member of the Society of Midland Authors and author of a history of North Dakota and the children's book *How Do You Hug a Giraffe*, died April 11 at age 79.

A journalist and a longtime resident of Wilmette, Ill., Mrs. Herguth, together with her husband, Bob Herguth, in 1998 were the first husband-and-wife team to be named Press Vets of the Year by the Chicago Press Veterans Association. As Literary License reported at the time, "The couple met when both reported for the dear, dead Chicago Daily News in the 1950s. She went on to the Pioneer Press, while he continued at the Chicago Sun-Times. The much-admired couple will get their just desserts at a dinner in Oakbrook Terrace."

Her 1990 book, *America the Beautiful, North Dakota*, was part of an educational series for kids and more than 28,000 copies ended up in libraries and classrooms around the country, her husband told the Chicago Sun-Times. She had a lot of relatives who lived in North Dakota along the Montana border.

Mrs. Herguth was born in Michigan and grew up in Maryland and New York before her father, an engineer and officer

Louise Hullinger

Louise Hullinger, a longtime member of the Society of Midland Authors and author of three books, died on March 26 at age 90.

Her most recent book, *Next Year Country* (2000, Lake Shore Publishing), included 12 stories, most of which were awarded prizes by the Chicago Branch of the National League of American Penwomen. The stories are about growing up in South Dakota in the 1930s.

Her earlier books were *A Time to Cry* and *Special Children*.

Mrs. Hullinger grew up in western South Dakota during the Depression and Dust Bowl.

She taught in one-room school houses when she was 18 years old, teaching a semester to earn enough to attend a semester in college.

“She kept writing while raising her family. She wrote a lot of short stories, kids stories that she would try to get published or just read to her grandkids.”

in the Naval Reserve, settled in Winnetka, Ill. She graduated from New Trier High School and Mount Mary University in Milwaukee and attended Northwestern University, where she earned a master's in journalism.

She worked for what is now the Pioneer Press chain of newspapers as a feature writer, then at the Chicago Daily News, where Bob was a reporter and columnist.

She lived in Wilmette for more than 40 years, until she moved to a retirement home in Glenview after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year. While raising her two daughters and a son and after, she continued to write, sometimes travel articles for newspapers, sometimes short stories. She was active in the Off Campus Writers' Workshop.

"She kept writing while raising her family," her son, Robert C. Herguth, told the Sun-Times. "She wrote a lot of short stories, kids stories that she would try to get published or just read to her grandkids."

She married college classmate Clifford Hullinger after World War II and graduated from South Dakota State in 1947.

Her second son, Neil, was learning disabled. Mrs. Hullinger helped start the Chicago and Illinois Association for Children with Learning Disabilities and was president of both organizations. They lobbied to get the State of Illinois to pass the laws requiring an appropriate education for every child.

She also helped to organize the Learning Disabilities Association of America.

Mrs. Hullinger raised four children and also earned a Masters Degree in Special Education from Northeastern Illinois University.

Besides her books, she wrote numerous poems, stories, and newsletters.

New Books

GIDEON'S CONFESSION

In his fourth novel (April 15, Switchgrass Books), **Joseph G. Peterson** tells the story of a young man living an empty life, alienated from his family, who finally finds redemption.

Bookslut wrote, "Peterson shows us the sadness that textures a life lived for 'fun.'"

MUSIC: INVESTIGATE THE EVOLUTION OF AMERICAN SOUND

Donna Latham's new book invites kids 12 and up to explore the roots of American music genres. She writes about colonial Americans, who integrated European traditions with new cultural

influences to compose a unique musical identity; how African tradition influenced hymns and folk songs that connected people to religion and to the trials and tribulations of everyday life; how patriotic tunes created unity in wartime, and how jazz, blues, rock, and hip-hop continue to evolve from African-American origins.

THE ART OF SECRETS

Jealousy and suspicion run through **James Klise's** new book (April 22, Algonquin Books), that starts with a possible arson hate crime and goes on to involve a donated piece of art that turns out to be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In a starred review, Booklist wrote, "This art mystery is that rare book that will be passed around by teens as well as teachers in the faculty lounge, discussed and dissected and immediately reread to scour for hidden clues and motivations."

PLUS ONE

In **Elizabeth Fama's** new book (April 8, Farrar, Straus and Giroux), star-crossed young lovers on the run from authorities unearth a sinister conspiracy.

Seventeen-year-old Soleil Le Coeur is a Smudge – a night dweller prohibited by law from going out during the day. When she fakes an injury in order to get access to and kidnap her newborn niece—a day dweller, or Ray – she sets in motion a fast-paced adventure.

THE MYTHOLOGY OF EDEN

This interdisciplinary book by **Arthur George** and **Elena George** (July 16, Hamilton Books) uses new discoveries to explain the symbolism and the mythological storytelling in the story of the Garden of Eden.

It also illuminates the story's role and

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Society of Midland Authors Annual Dinner Registration Form

The Society of Midland Authors annual awards banquet will be held May 13 at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 22nd floor, 200 S. Michigan, Chicago.

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

Paul Durica is the emcee.

Name: _____

Number of medallions of pork tenderloin dinners at \$75 each. _____

Number of vegetarian (wild mushroom ravioli) dinners at \$75 each. _____

Number of grilled filet of salmon dinners at \$75 each. _____

Donation. _____

Total _____

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

New Books

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meaning in the modern world.

William G. Doty, professor emeritus and chair of religious studies at the University of Alabama, wrote: "A rich and well-illustrated work viewing the Eden story in its own natural genre as myth, against the background of ancient Near Eastern mythology from which the mythological symbols in the story came."

THE CONVENTION

Robert Collins' new book (Amazon Digital Services) tells the story of a man who is attending a science fiction convention in Kansas City. He's there because a national Doctor Who group has big plans for the future. During the con he meets fellow fan Lila Woodson and the members of another fan group, the Space Rats.

New Members

Chris Abani is a Nigerian novelist, poet, essayist, screenwriter and playwright who teaches at Northwestern University in Illinois.

His fiction includes *The Secret History of Las Vegas* (Penguin 2014), *Song For Night* (Akashic, 2007), *The Virgin of Flames* (Penguin, 2007), *Becoming Abigail* (Akashic, 2006), *Graceland* (FSG, 2004), and *Masters of the Board* (Delta, 1985). His poetry collections are *Sanctificum* (Copper Canyon Press, 2010), *There Are No Names for Red* (Red Hen Press, 2010), *Feed Me the Sun - Collected Long Poems* (Peepal Tree Press, 2010), *Hands Washing Water* (Copper Canyon, 2006), *Dog Woman* (Red Hen, 2004), *Daphne's Lot* (Red Hen, 2003) and *Kalakuta Republic* (Saqi, 2001).

He is the recipient of the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, the Prince Claus Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a California Book Award, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, a PEN Beyond the Margins Award, the PEN Hemingway

Book Prize and a Guggenheim Award.

Author Dave Eggers wrote: "Chris Abani might be the most courageous writer working right now. There is no subject matter he finds daunting, no challenge he fears."

E.N. "Ned" Brandt Brandt is the author of four books: *The Papers of Herbert H. Dow*; *Growth Company: Dow Chemical's First Century*; *Chairman of the Board: A Biography of Carl A. Gerstacker* and his latest book, *They Called it MAG-nificent*," about Dow's role in the magnesium industry.

Brandt has been a trustee of the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation for more than 30 years and now is vice president and secretary of the foundation.

As a journalist, Brandt worked for United Press International, was a literary critic for the French Broadcasting System in Paris, was editor of the Export and Import Journal and was a press attaché for the U.S. Embassy in Paris.

He served in the U.S. Army for four years, from 1943 to 1946. He lives in Midland, Mich., with his wife, Jeannette Brandt.

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