

## Biblio File

**Eldon L. Ham's** *Broadcasting Baseball: A History of our National Pastime on Radio and Television* (McFarland, 2011) was a finalist in the ForeWord Magazine



Eldon L. Ham

book of the year awards for 2011, Sports Category. His next book (his fifth) will be released in March, 2013: *All the Babe's Men – Baseball's Greatest Home Run Seasons and How They Changed America* (Potomac).

Also, Eldon published a New York Times op-ed in March titled "Flagrant Sports Battery" in the wake of the New Orleans Saints bounty scandal, which led to a number of appearances (for Eldon, not the bounty crew), including a television segment on the NFL Network. ... **David Radavich** has been awarded the 2012 Zelda and Paul Gitlin Literary Prize. His essay, "A Stone, a Leaf, a Door": The Narrative Poetics of Thomas Wolfe," was honored as the best essay published in the past year on American novelist Thomas Wolfe (1900-38). He accepted the award at the Thomas Wolfe Society Conference in Asheville, N.C. in May. (He is a past president of the Wolfe society.) ...

**Rebecca Makkai** toured this summer to promote the paperback release of her novel *The Borrower* (Penguin). She read in Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine. ... A new edition of **Arthur Plotnik's** *The Elements of Expression: Putting Thoughts Into Words* appeared in June (Viva Editions, 2012), expanded and updated from the 1996 Henry Holt edition (a featured selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club). Praised by fellow SMA member **Carol Fisher Saller** for its "sincerity, humor, and the occasional precision-lobbed 'grenade,'" the book pro-

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## Middle East meets Midwest in Society's autumn lineup

BY ROBERT LOERZEL

It's just a coincidence of timing that both of the Society's public events this fall are focused on books about the Middle East — but given how important of a role that region continues to play in world affairs, it's as good a time as any to take a look at it from fresh perspectives.

Our speakers on Oct. 9 will be **Mahmoud Saeed** and his book translator, **Samuel (Allen) Salter**. They're regulars at our events, but now it'll be their well-deserved turn to speak instead of just listening. I had the pleasure of reading Mahmoud's newest novel, *The World Through the Eyes of Angels*, this summer, and it gave me a whole new way of seeing Iraq. This isn't the Iraq of recent years, the despotic regime ruled by Saddam Hussein or the country that emerged after the U.S. invasion. Rather, it's the Iraq where Mahmoud (who lives now in Chicago) grew up in the 1940s, seen through the eyes of a boy growing into manhood. Although this is a work of fiction, it's obviously written by someone whose life course was set by the events of his childhood in that land.

Transformed into English prose by Allen and two other translators, Mahmoud's writing is clear-eyed and poetic. He has written more than 20 novels and short story collections, and this book is so good that you'll hope the others will become more readily available to readers in the U.S.

On Nov. 13, **Gregory Harms** will discuss his latest book, *It's Not About Religion*. In this concise essay, Gregory examines how much religion actually has to do with the Middle East's conflicts. His book aims to move the conversation about the Middle East and U.S. foreign policy forward in a more grounded and precise direction.

One especially interesting thing about *It's Not About Religion* is the book's publisher: Perceval Press is a small independent press run by movie star Viggo Mortensen. As the New York Times explained in a 2006 article, Mortensen, who's also an artist, started Perceval to publish books he feels passionate about. "I go over all the books with a fine-tooth comb before they go out," Mortensen told the Times.

Both of these programs are on Tuesday evenings at the Cliff Dwellers Club, 200 S. Michigan Ave., 22nd floor, Chicago. The talks begin at 7 p.m., but we encourage people to show up early for the social hour, which starts at 6 p.m. There's a cash bar and complimentary snacks, but more importantly, this hour is a chance to mingle and meet people.

Reservations are not required. Admission is free, but the Society will accept donations to defray the cost of programs. The Society is also planning events for early 2013. Watch Literary License and our website, [www.midlandauthors.com](http://www.midlandauthors.com), for details.



Robert Loerzel

Literary Landscape  
with Allen Salter

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New  
Books

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Literary Legwork  
The speedy e-books

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notes “fissionable” expression of intensity. An audio version was issued in July by Sound Library of AudioGo. Also in July, Souvenir Press of London published Plotnik’s 2011 *Better Than Great: A Plenitudinous Compendium of Wallopingly Fresh Superlatives* (Viva Editions) for the UK, Australian, New Zealand and South African markets. ...

**Haki Madhubuti** has re-upped for another year as a director of the Independent Book Publishers Association. ... Here’s what’s new with **Linda Nemeč Foster**. She participated in the first Grand Rapids’ Poets Conference, held in April. She gave four presentations: a featured reading of her new poetry; two panel discussions on publication and local reading series; and a performance with Hungarian musician, Laszlo Slomovits, with whom she is collaborating on a new project (their CD, “Cry of Freedom,” will be released next year). On June 28, her first play “The Waiting Room” was premiered at the Soo Theatre Project in Sault Ste. Marie,

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## Literary License

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# Why e-books hit the market at same time as print editions

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Once upon a time, the publishing cycle was fairly standard. First came the hardcover (if the author was lucky). Then the paperback (if the author was luckier). If the author was exceptionally lucky, perhaps an audio book and foreign language editions.

But e-books have changed all that.

As reported earlier in *Literary License*, Forest Park, Ill.-based Allium Press publishes print and e-book editions simultaneously.

Now, North Star Press is doing the same for **Walter J. Roers’** new book, *Pathos Rising* (see New Books, Page 5). The press, based in St. Cloud, Minn., has published nearly 600 books in its 41-year history. (In the digital world, 236 people “like” the press on Facebook.)

In response to an inquiry by *Literary License* that Roers forwarded to North Star Press, here is the publisher’s philosophy:

“1. It doesn’t cost us much to make both, so we do, opening the way for people who want to use the technology.

“2. It makes our authors happy to know we’re keeping up with the times, and in fact we were one of the first publishers in the state to automatically do both versions. And we really like keeping our authors happy.

“3. It’s about access and perception. If a book is released only in one format, it can be frustrating for folks who need another, so we make it as available as possible, both print and electronic and on as many platforms as possible.

“4. The markets don’t actually overlap much. E-book buyers don’t seem to take away from print buyers, which means more sales, albeit not hugely more, but more is more and thus better.

“5. If people are going to buy the hard-copy, they will. But some buyers are much more willing to try, especially with an unknown or first-time author, the cheaper e-book, which helps our authors in the door.

“6. We don’t consider either version inferior or superior. This is just the way people want to read, and [we’d] rather they read than not. There was a time

when folks would only take a hardcover book seriously, but then about eight years ago, hardcover became just too expensive for us and for the consumer, so they disappeared from store shelves. This is a shift in buying practices. We need to keep up with the times.”

**Victor Volkman**, publisher of Ann Arbor, Mich.-based Loving Healing Press, says publishing hardcover, paperback and e-book editions simultaneously maximizes the return on publicity dollars.

“There is no ‘bonus’ for issuing [e-books] later, only disappointed readers who will grumble and fret and possibly forget by the time it comes out in their desired format,” Volkman e-mailed.

“Even the old hardcover-first paperback six months later makes no sense for anyone who is doing fewer than 20,000 print copies, which is, face it, most of

us. E-books sell the best as impulse purchases for instant gratification just like those lurid rags at the grocery checkout line. Consider also that Amazon ranks all the editions separately, and a rise in one edition could have carryover to other editions. A blog review of an e-book is just as likely to sell a printed edition.”



Victor Volkman

Since March 2012, e-books are now 55 percent of sales by volume of copies at Loving Healing Press and its imprint Modern History Press. “There is no

going back, I fear,” Volkman said.

**Rick Kaempfer**, co-publisher of the year-old Chicago-based Eckhartz Press, said the press’ first few books came out with “the hard copy” first, and then were released as e-books a few months later.

“But we’ve been reassessing that,” Kaempfer said. “We think that for our next two books we’ll release the e-book at the same time as the hard copy. There doesn’t seem to be a huge crossover of customers. The people who prefer e-books really seem to wait until it comes out anyway. Why wait?”

# Collaboration translates into novel of loss – and joy

**A**llen Salter, an author in his own right who publishes under the names Sam Reaves and Dominic Martell, also is a translator. Among his translations – for which he won a prize – is **Mahmoud Saeed's** novel *The World Through the Eyes of Angels*. Salter and Saeed will present the Society of Midland Authors' Oct. 9 program. Here's what Salter tells Literary License:

**Literary License:** *How did you and Mahmoud meet?*

**Allen Salter:** Through a network of mutual friends. Mahmoud's English teacher at Truman College put out the word that an exiled Iraqi writer was looking for someone to help him negotiate the shoals of the U.S. book business; a former colleague of my wife's

knew that I spoke Arabic and was a published writer, and she contacted me asking if I was interested in meeting him. We got together and hit it off immediately.

**Literary License:** *What challenges did you run into trying to translate The World Through the Eyes of Angels?*

**Allen Salter:** First of all, the language itself is simply very difficult. I read Arabic reasonably well, but it's heavier going than the other languages I've worked with, which are all Indo-European languages closer to English. Secondly, I had done technical and business translation but had never taken on literary translation. There was a learning curve.

**Literary License:** *Having spent so much time with this work, what do you think makes it a powerful novel?*

**Allen Salter:** It is a story of loss, both the loss of innocence and the very real loss of people who are gone forever. In many ways there is nothing more poignant than a child's confrontation with the cruelty of the world. But there is also a lot of joy in this book. Mahmoud is an extraordinarily resilient and positive person, and that comes through in the book as well.

**Literary License:** *There were three*

**Oct. 9, 2012, program**

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

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

**Free - donations accepted**

*translators on this work: yourself, Zahra Jishi and Rafah Abuinnab. How does that work?*

**Allen Salter:** Mahmoud faced the problem confronted by all foreign writers hoping for access to the huge English-language market: the translation barrier.

Translators don't work for free, and if you're not fortunate enough to gain a U.S. publisher's notice by selling a lot of copies in the original, nobody's going to pay for your translation. So he had hired a couple of translators to



*Literary  
Landscape*  
**Allen  
Salter**

do portions of the novel. They were native Arabic speakers, competent in English but not experienced literary translators, and while they did a creditable job, particularly Rafah, the text was not polished. So much of my job was actually editing, going through their work while referring to the original, buffing up the prose and doing some re-arranging for continuity. And about a third of the book was untranslated, and I did that from scratch.

**Literary License:** *Do you plan future collaborations?*

**Allen Salter:** I would certainly like to see more of Mahmoud's work translated, and I would not rule out doing it myself. But I am currently busy with a number of projects of my own, and I am hoping that Mahmoud can get noticed by a publisher who will put him in the hands of one of the top professional Arabic translators, such as William Hutchins. Mahmoud deserves the best, and I am still essentially an amateur.

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Mich., and will be published in a new play anthology from Northern Michigan University Press. The production was part of the U.P. Book Tour, which also included Foster giving a poetry reading and doing a book signing in Marquette, Mich. In August, she gave readings in Grand Rapids and Detroit. On Sept. 15, she will present a poetry workshop at the Detroit Working Writers Conference, and on Sept. 26 she will be the keynote speaker for the Grand Rapids Community Foundation annual luncheon. ... The Praeger division of ABC-CLIO has set a Sept. 2, 2013 date for the publication of **Ed Gordon's** next book, *Future Jobs*. Ed also has a white paper, "The Talent Hunters: The United States, China and India in the Battle over Skills and Jobs," available at no charge on the website [www.imperialcorp.com](http://www.imperialcorp.com). It documents how in the midst of the current unemployment crisis, executives at all levels are reporting increasing difficulties in recruiting skilled talent and filling scientific and technology positions in all three nations. ... **Donna McCreary** has two new books out. She is one of 14 authors of *The Mary Lincoln Enigma: Historians on America's Most Controversial First Lady* (June 29, Southern Illinois University Press) and is author of *The Kentucky Todds in Lexington County* (June 18, Lincoln Presentations). ... In July, **Tom Lichtenheld** was honored for long-term, significant contributions to the world of literature by the Wisconsin Library Association's annual literary awards. Among the winners of the 2012 Outstanding Achievement awards for 2011 publications were three authors also honored over the years by the Society of Midland Authors: **Paula McLain** for *The Paris Wife*; **Sam Savage** for *Glass*, and **Gerald Morris** for *The Adventures of Sir Gawain*



**Donna McCreary**

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*the True.* ... **Ann Durkin Keating** (see New Books, Page 5) will make a presentation at the Niles (Ill.) Historical Society on Sunday Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. and then at the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston, Ill., on Thursday Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. In an Aug. 15 Chicago Tribune story on Fort Dearborn, **Patrick Reardon** mentioned Ann's new book. ... **Rick Kaempfer** of Eckhartz Press and **Emily Clark Victorson** of Allium Press were among the small publishers who spoke Aug. 11 at the Elgin, Ill., Gail Borden Public Library on "The State of Publishing." Here's how Emily described the event to Biblio File: "We had a lively discussion about how small presses fit into the changing publishing landscape. The audience of writers was very receptive and asked great questions." Rick told Biblio File, "My takeaway from the event is that all of the publishers there had entered the business since the advent of digital publishing. With those old barriers to entry gone, the publishing business is evolving, and we think, evolving in a healthy way – the old gatekeepers are no longer choosing who gets published." ... **Michael Raleigh's** new book, *The Conjuror's Boy* (Harvard Square Editions) now has a pub date: Nov. 1. Also, his 2002 novel *In the Castle of the Flynns* is being reissued on Sept. 1 by Sourcebooks. It will be available as an ebook for the Nook. Michael will be speaking on writing at the Villa Park Community Library on Oct. 6, and will teach a one-day seminar on mystery writing at the Newberry Library on Oct. 13. ... **Luisa Buehler** has a new e-short story on Kindle and Nook: "Harry's Fall from Grace," the first in a trilogy that precedes her Grace Marsden Mysteries. Luisa e-mailed Biblio File to say, "This short story precedes the series, so you find out how Harry ended up in a South American prison. In the second short story you'll find out how Grace turned to Ric when she thought Harry was dead and the third story sets the stage for Harry's return and Ric's loss of Grace in his life. The second story should be out in the fall and the third in early 2013." ... Myron "Mike"

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## New Books

### AFTER THE FACT: THE SURPRISING FATES OF AMERICAN HISTORY'S HEROES, VILLAINS, AND SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

**Owen Hurd's** new book *After the Fact: The Surprising Fates of American History's Heroes, Villains, and Supporting Characters*, was published by Perigee/Penguin on Aug. 7.

What happened to Paul Revere after his midnight ride? To Harriet Tubman after the Underground Railroad shut down? To Frank James after he retired from robbing banks?

Beginning with the fates of American explorers, the book provides follow-up stories to the nation's most significant events, up to the Watergate scandal.

Owen says: "Who woulda thunk that one of the Salem judges who condemned witches to death would later champion the rights of Native Americans and African Americans? That Jackie Robinson would become an active behind-the-scenes civil rights agitator — as well as a pal to Richard Nixon? Or that Nixon would testify on behalf of Deep Throat, the government informant who helped orchestrate his political downfall?"

"Ironies and surprises abound in the lives lived 'after the fact.'" During the American Revolution, Paul Revere got kicked out of the militia for his role in the disastrous Penobscot Expedition.

"Harriet Tubman became a Union spy and even led a regiment into battle. Frank James became a shoe salesman."

On July 18, the History News Network said, "A good idea will take you a long way in the publishing business, and Owen J. Hurd has got one here: compiling a list of epilogues to some of the best-known stories in American history."



Owen Hurd

### 10 THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT NEARLY EVERYTHING

If you remember reading about **Mark Jacob** in the previous New Books column, you might think you're imagining things. But here he is again, with an e-book, *10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything*, that he has co-written with fellow Chicago Tribune editor Stephen Benkofer.



Mark Jacob

The book is a compilation of five years' worth of their every-two-weeks "10 Things" feature in the Sunday Tribune. It includes trivia on a wide variety of subjects – Chicago elections, Iran, divorce, underwear, you name it.

The e-book is part of a series that the Tribune is producing with Agate Publishing, mostly using material previously published in the newspaper.

### TEA PARTY FAIRY TALES

**James Finn Garner's** new Kindle Single is *Tea Party Fairy Tales*.

James e-mailed to say: "It's very exciting to have the book out during the presidential race, and to be partnered with Amazon, so good at getting books in readers' hands."

In *Tea Party Fairy Tales*, Red Riding Hood stands up for her Second Amendment rights, the Little Match Girl defends the magic of the free market to her grave, and Jack of "Beastalk" fame shows the moral decay of a life on the dole.



James Finn Garner

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## New Books

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### PATHOS RISING

**Walter J. Roers'** second novel, *Pathos Rising*, will be published by North Star Press on Sept 1.

The novel will be issued as both a print novel and an e-book simultaneously.

*Pathos Rising* is the story of a retired school teacher, Henry Blaine, struggling with a growing realization of his own mortality. Henry tries to cope with the aging process by denying his own health problems, engaging in a flirtation with a younger woman and generally making a series of missteps in his 40-year marriage.



Walter J. Roers

As he witnesses the lives of some of his friends reach tragic consequences, he finally comes to realize that he must honestly confront some of the most important decisions of his life.

Roers has served as the SMA's Vice President for Minnesota. His first novel, *The Pact*, was a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award in 2001.

### WOMEN LIGHTHOUSE KEEPERS OF LAKE MICHIGAN

**Kathy S. Mason** tells the stories of *Women Lighthouse Keepers of Lake Michigan: Heroic Tales of Courage and Resourcefulness* in her new book published by Edwin Mellen Press (July 15). She examines the women's careers and the challenges they had to overcome.

Professor M.J. Heisey of the State University of New York at Potsdam blurb-ed: "[The author]'s research shows us both what these uncommon women shared with other women of their times and how their determination and experiences turned them into remarkable characters."

### RISING UP FROM INDIAN COUNTRY: THE BATTLE OF FORT DEARBORN AND THE BIRTH OF CHICAGO

Here's part of what the Wall Street Journal wrote Aug. 10 about **Ann Durkin Keating's** new book from the University of Chicago Press: "It's a great story, and Ms. Keating's neutral, unemphatic prose makes it register all the more clearly."

Publishers Weekly called it "[an] informative, ambitious account. . . . On bookshelves in time to honor the bicentennial of the Fort Dearborn battle, Keating's well-researched book rights some misconceptions about the old conflicts, the strategies of the whites and Indians to keep their land, and how early Chicago came to exist."

In August 1812, under threat from the Potawatomi, Captain Nathan Heald began



Ann Durkin  
Keating

the evacuation of ninety-four people from the isolated outpost of Fort Dearborn to Fort Wayne, hundreds of miles away. The group included several dozen soldiers, as well as nine women and 18 children. After traveling only a mile and a half, they were attacked by 500 Potawatomi warriors. In under an hour, 52 members of Heald's party were killed, and the rest were taken prisoner; the Potawatomi then burned Fort Dearborn.

These events are now seen as a foundational moment in Chicago's past. Keating recounts the Battle of Fort Dearborn while situating it within the context of wider histories that span the nearly four decades between the 1795 Treaty of Greenville, in which Native Americans gave up a square mile at the mouth of the Chicago River, and the 1833 Treaty of Chicago, in which the U.S. government and the Potawatomi exchanged 5 million acres of land west of the Mississippi for a tract of the same size in northeast Illinois and southeast Wisconsin.

### COMPANY ORDERS

In this book (Allium Press), **David J. Walker** explores the idea that even a good man may feel driven to sign on with the devil.

Here's what the publisher says: Paul Clark is a Catholic priest who's been on the fast track to becoming a bishop. But he suddenly faces a heart-wrenching problem, when choices he made as a young man come roaring back into his life. A mysterious woman, who claims to be with "an agency of the federal government," offers to solve his problem. But there's a price to pay – Father Clark must undertake some very un-priestly actions.

An attack in a Chicago alley ... a daring escape from a Mexican jail ... and a fight to the death in a Guyanese jungle ... all these, and more, must be survived in order to protect someone he loves.

This priest is about to learn how much easier it is to preach love than to live it.

### DEATH AT WOODS HOLE

**Frances McNamara's** new book (Allium Press) resumes the story of Emily Cabot. Exhausted after the tumult of the Pullman Strike of 1894, she is looking forward to a restful summer visit to Cape Cod.

Here's what the publisher tells us: Emily has plans to collect "beasties" for the Marine Biological Laboratory, alongside other visiting scientists from the University of Chicago.

She also hopes to enjoy romantic clambakes with Dr. Stephen Chapman, although they must keep an important secret from their friends.

But her summer takes a dramatic turn when she finds a dead man floating in a fish tank.

In order to solve his murder she must first deal with dueling scientists, a testy local sheriff, the theft of a fortune, and uncooperative weather.

This is the fourth book in the Emily Cabot Mysteries series

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Marty, who did his first book review in 1967 as a favor for his brother **Martin Marty** (then book editor of *The Christian Century* magazine), is retiring as a book reviewer for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. ... Knowing whether it is possible to distinguish the DNA of identical twins plays a part in the new novel **Scott Turow** is writing. ... “The northern Michigan area – and particularly the Grand Traverse region – is abundantly blessed with an amazing amount of excellent authors,” Jill Beauchamp, floor manager at Horizon Books, told the *Grand Traverse (Mich.) Insider* on July 31. ... **Natalie Moore** reported on WBEZ-FM in July on racial divisions in the party/club scene around downtown Chicago. ... Educator William Churchill Houston’s early death hurt his place in history, **Joseph C. Morton** wrote Aug. 13 in the (*McHenry County, Ill.*) *Northwest Herald*. “He was potential greatness unfulfilled,” Morton told *Biblio File*. ... **Dominic Pacyga** was interviewed Aug. 14 in WBEZ-FM’s “Race: Out Loud” series. Also, Dominic tells *Biblio File* he is working on a new book looking at the changes that have taken place in the area where the Chicago Union Stock Yards were once located. The tentative title is *Chicago’s Union Stock Yards: 150 Years of Change*. ... **Taylor Pensoneau** and his wife were profiled in a *Springfield State Journal-Register* blog Aug. 7. “Taylor and his wife, **Elizabeth** – a former magazine editor – live in New Berlin, Ill., where together they operate their own publishing company, Downstate Publications,” the S J-R (as it calls itself online) reported. “A popular speaker in the area on issues relating to writing, Taylor Pensoneau is a man who takes his craft seriously. He is also very much a gentleman.” In the interview, Taylor admits the iconic, hard-boiled newspaper reporter Jake Brosky in Taylor’s novel *The Summer of ’50*, was his secret alter ego. ... **Margaret McMullan’s** *Sources of Light* (named Best 2011 Book of Indiana, young adult category) is out in paperback. ... *ChicagoSide’s* **Jonathan Eig** was sched-

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# Rule of Thumb: How to get instant feedback, opinions

If you want instant feedback and opinions, try Thumb, a free app.

Thumb, available for iPhone and Android, allows you to ask questions to the general public or a specific group. They respond with a thumbs-up, thumbs-down or “neutral” and can make comments about what you’ve posted.

You can post photos, links or your own text to an audience that you define, and can connect it to Facebook and Twitter. You can also post at the Thumb site for any Thumb user to respond to.

Because you can choose who can vote on your post, it’s a great way to get feedback from targeted audiences to help your book marketing. Also, it’s fun. It started out as a consumer tool, but now people are using it all over the Internet.



Here are some ways to work on your publicity plan and keep connected with your network:

**Book or article.** If you read a book – even if it is not related to your own books – you can post it on your blog because it might be interesting to your readers. It doesn’t have to be long: You can just write a paragraph or two about your impressions of the book or article, or you can post a couple of sentences on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn.

**Movie or TV.** You can share movies and TV shows – even something you see with your kids. It probably won’t be related to your books, but it will keep you connected and show your audience that there are other aspects of your life you enjoy and would like to share with them.

**Videos.** If you don’t have a video recorder, you can simply record something with your phone and post it online to your social networks. If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can use the app Viddy, which allows you to post videos that are 15 seconds long. Viddy also can link automatically to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Tumblr, so it’s a convenient

and quick way to share your content with your audience on various platforms.



Sometimes you want to promote yourself, but you think that there is no news value or you have information that seems unimportant. Here are a few tips to offer news when there doesn’t seem to be any:

**Transcend.** Ask yourself if there are any messages about your book or you that transcend the news. Step back from your current projects to find larger newsy themes, then look at current news topics and offer your insight as an expert in a certain area.

**Be Alert.** Find news trends online or set up Google alerts for your name and the topics of your books to see who is covering a topic so you can follow up. For developing stories, news organization will

do an initial report and then follow-ups if it is a larger story. Sometimes when there are new developments in a situation, producers and editors will scramble to get an expert to provide analysis.

Keep the media updated about developments, and they will not only cover your story, but also might use you on others in the future.

**Contact.** Stay in touch with the media, even if they don’t use you right away. Establish trust so that when a relevant story comes your way, they will know who you are and what you’re capable of speaking about. An example of an e-mail you can write is:

Dear [reporter’s name],  
*I saw your article about [topic] today in the [publication]. Here’s information from another point of view that can help you as the story progresses...*

If you contact them this way, you’re helping them while also letting them know that you’re available when they need an expert. Give relevant information and don’t be pushy.

*E-mail Tom Ciesielka at tc@tcpr.net or call (312) 422-1333.*

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*Literary  
Loudspeaker*  
Tom  
Ciesielka



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## Final Chapters

### *Nathan Kantrowitz, 1927-2012*

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

**N**athan Kantrowitz, a longtime member of the Society of Midland Authors and a regular attendee at the Society's monthly programs, died Aug. 27 in a hospice of heart failure at age 84.

A resident of Chicago's Edgewater neighborhood, Mr. Kantrowitz was author of *Close Control: Managing a Maximum Security Prison – The Story of Ragen's Stateville Penitentiary* (Harrow & Heston, September 1996) and *Ethnic and Racial Segregation in the New York Metropolis: Residential Patterns Among White Ethnic Groups, Blacks and Puerto Ricans* (Praeger Publishers, 1983).

He also wrote numerous articles for scholarly journals.

Former SMA President **Richard Lindberg** said Mr. Kantrowitz at the time of his death also had been working for many years on a biography of Jake "the Barber" Factor, a Prohibition-era gangster who later became a prominent Las Vegas casino proprietor and who was half-brother of Max Factor Sr., the founder of the Max Factor cosmetics firm.

Mr. Kantrowitz's wife, Joanne Kantrowitz, is working with Southern Illinois University Press to complete the final edits on the book.

"He was a kind and decent man," Lindberg said.

Former SMA President **Craig Sautter** said he always enjoyed his chats with Mr. Kantrowitz in the social hour that precedes each monthly program.

"He really loved going to the meetings and enjoyed them enormously," Joanne Kantrowitz said.

*Close Control* both argues that firm prison control is needed and tells the story of Warden Joseph Ragen, who ran the Stateville prison in Joliet from 1936 to 1961.

The original manuscript of the book was written by Kantrowitz when he was the resident sociologist in that prison.

But, Joanne Kantrowitz said, he couldn't get it published for years because in the era of "treatment and corrections" its theme of advocating firm discipline and control in a prison didn't adhere to the prevailing concepts.

To get it published, Mr. Kantrowitz revised the book to bring it into line with the latest writings on corrections – though the history and analysis itself was largely as it was written 30 years earlier, she said.

Mr. Kantrowitz was born in New York City in 1927 and served with the U.S. Army Occupation Forces in Japan after WWII. He was attached to the army photography unit, and he took photographs of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

His collection of 140 black-and-white photographs and negatives now resides at the Mudd Manuscript Library at Princeton University, Princeton N.J.

After his discharge, he earned a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago and was resident sociologist at Stateville penitentiary in the 1960s where he hired the state's first black prison professional, a man whom Joanne Kantrowitz said later was appointed to run the Cook County Jail.

Mr. Kantrowitz conducted demographic and criminological research both in academia and in government. He retired from the New York City Planning Department in 1998.

He also was a longtime member of Illinois Academy of Criminology.

Joanne Kantrowitz also recalled he was a colleague of former SMA member Andrew Greeley's.

"Both men were studying ethnicity at a time when the sociology establishment disapproved of the subject. Both were rejected by the University of Chicago around 1975 when the School of Social Work was interested in hiring them," she wrote in an online post.

As a sociologist whose ideas didn't always conform to prevailing notions, Mr. Kantrowitz also was known nationally for arguing in favor of a focus on racially integrated housing at a time when others were placing a priority on school busing, Joanne Kantrowitz said.

He also is survived by two sons, Alex Kantrowitz and Ted Kantrowitz.

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## Biblio File

Continued from Page 6

uled to lunch and host a group chat with sports nuts in July. ... CBS rebroadcast on July 29 "The Life and Death of Vincent van Gogh," which "explores firsthand" the research by **Steven Naifeh** and **Gregory White Smith** for their SMA-award-winning book, *Van Gogh: The Life*. ... On July 20, the Washington Times cited a book Barbara Oakley co-edited late last year, *Pathological Altruism*. ... **Claude Walker**, a longtime aide to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn, in August joined Quinn's communications staff in August as a senior policy writer and liaison to several government agencies. ... Dolores Foley, chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii, did an online interview Aug. 28 with **Jim Schwab** about traditional practices toward community resilience in American Samoa. ... In her book, *I Know I Saw What You Did: Social Networks and the Death of Privacy* (Free Press, January, 2011), **Lori Andrews** argues it may be time for a social network constitution.

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## SMA Support

Dues cover mailings and other organizational expenses, but the Society always needs additional money for programs such as the awards at the annual May banquet. Thanks to these members who made contributions since the last newsletter:

**Carol Madden Adorjan, Ted Anton, Bill Barnhart, Greg Borzo, Fern G. Brown, Arnie Bernstein, Steven Burgauer, Liane Clorfene Casten, Robert J. R. Follett, Marianne Forrest, Dennis Brindell Fradin, Judith Bloom Fradin, Thomas Frisbie, Frank Gonzalez-Crussi, Sue Harrison, Janet Hickman, Rick Kogan, Charles J. Masters, Katherine McCaughan, Robert McClory, Steve Monroe, Marcia Nelson, Beverly Offen, Harry Mark Petrakis, Carolyn Splear Pratt, Jamilla Ra, Michael Raleigh, James Reiss, Harriette Gillem Robinet, Jim Schwab and Dick Simpson**

## New Members

**Theresa Amato** was the national presidential campaign manager for Ralph Nader in 2000 and 2004, and she is author of *Grand Illusion: The Myth of Choice in a Two-Party Tyranny* (The New Press, 2009).



Theresa Amato

Theresa is a graduate of Harvard University and the New York University School of Law, and is founder of the 19-year-old Citizen Advocacy Center in Elmhurst, Ill.

She ran the Freedom of Information

Clearinghouse as a litigator at Public Citizen Litigation Group and currently runs Citizen Works, a national nonprofit organization. She has received both NYU's and Loyola University of Chicago Law School's public interest awards.

Her website that will go live soon is [theresaamato.com](http://theresaamato.com).

**Bruce Hatton Boyer** is author of two books: a novel, *Solstice Cipher* (Lippincott, 1979), and *The National History of the Field Museum: Exploring the Earth and Its People* (Field Museum, 1993).

He is co-author with **Connie Goddard** of *The Great Chicago Trivia and Fact Book* (Cumberland House, 1996), which the Chicago Sun-Times said "includes tons of fascinating Windy City factoids, including the revelation that Carter H. Harrison was the only Chicago mayor who wrote novels."

In addition, he collaborated with Fannia Weingartner on *Miniature Rooms: The Thorne Rooms at the Art Institute of Chicago* (Hudson Hills, 2005).

**Bill Yarrow** is author of *Pointed Sentences* (BlazeVOX, 2012), a volume of poems, and is a professor of English at Joliet Junior College, located in Joliet, Ill. He also is author of two chapbooks, *Wrench* (erbacce-press, 2009) and *Fourteen* (Naked Mannekin, 2011).

He is also one of the poetry editors at THIS Literary Magazine and is active in poetry readings in the Chicago area.

## Final Chapters

### *Carol D. Spelius, 1919-2012*

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

**Carol D. Spelius**, author of five books and a longtime member of the Society of Midland Authors, died peacefully Aug. 8 at her riverside home in Idaho at age 93.

"She was a very interesting woman," said **Marjorie Franco**, who together with Ms. Spelius was a member of the informal literary Monday Group, which also has included several other longtime SMA members from Chicago's north suburbs.

"Carol was an adventurous lady," recalled fellow SMA member **Richard Frisbie**. "Not only did she plunge into the jungle of publishing as proprietor of Lake Shore Publications while she lived in Deerfield, but she loved the outdoors, too. One of her more spectacular expeditions was a long river voyage in the family cabin cruiser. She wrote a lively book about it, *How We Got From Here to There*. I can't find my copy right now, but as I recall the plan was to cruise down the Missouri River from somewhere out West, turn left onto the Ohio River and meet her husband somewhere upstream, in Ohio maybe.

"Her crew consisted of a teenaged son, two younger daughters and a pet snake, harmless of course. The boy was especially useful when they occasionally ran aground on a sandbar and had to shove off. In the end, the voyage was a success and made a diverting story."

Ms. Spelius was born Carol Doherty on Jan. 26, 1919, in Hazen, N.D., and her family later moved to Great Falls, Mont.

In high school, she belonged to the Young Author's Club, studied journalism her junior and senior years, and became editorial editor for the school paper.

She also was Montana state diving champion, and met her future husband Arthur W. Zipperian in the pool. They were married in Great Falls in 1941.

Arthur, a World War II Air Force pilot, was killed over Burma in his first combat mission. After Art's death, Carol moved to California and got her teaching certificate in physical education. While in

California she was a member of the Aquacade that performed in the 1939 San Francisco's World Fair.

Carol met William "Bill" Joseph Spelius in a folk dance class at the University of California's Berkeley Campus early in 1947. He later proposed to Carol by mail from Wisconsin. They were married on Oct. 18, 1947, and remained married for 63 years until Bill's death in 2008. They lived 12 years in Cincinnati, and over 40 in Deerfield, Ill. They moved to Idaho a decade ago.

A few days after her 86th birthday, Carol wrote she had wanted in her life to do a lot of things "like be a champion diver, a swimmer, a boatman, a camper, a horsewoman, a great dancer, a creator and a teacher. Tried 'em all."

She also once wrote how she appreciated the support from her family for her "strange and consuming habit of writing."

Carol, with the help of her son Wayne Spelius, started her literary press and began publishing poetry and her own books, *Aqueus and Other Tales* (1990); *How We Got Here From There: One Family's Odyssey* (2000); *I, Mancha* (2000); *Gatherings: Six in One Poetry Collection* (1995) and *Soundings: A Poetry Anthology*. Lake Shore also published 25 books by other authors, and she also wrote many newspaper and magazine articles.

As an author, she had the ability to create characters with "uncanny accuracy," Wayne Spelius said. He said she used to get up at 2 a.m. so she could write while she was rearing four children. "She would use the night for her writing," he said.

For years, she wrote her books and numerous magazine articles in longhand and then transcribed them with a battered Royal typewriter, Wayne Spelius said.

When the digital age arrived, however, she started writing directly on a computer. Selections from her writing still are used by some states in reading tests, Wayne said.

"She and her husband Bill were dear friends of ours for many years, together in writing workshops, for evenings at Ravinia, luncheons, dinners and travels together," **Harry Mark Petrakis** wrote to Literary License. "They were remarkable people, athletic and creative."



Carol D. Spelius