



# Literary License

April, 2007

## BANQUET AND 92<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING TO CELEBRATE BEST BOOKS OF 2006

The best Midland books published during 2006 will be honored by the Society of Midland Authors at our 92<sup>nd</sup> annual banquet meeting May 8 in the Chicago Athletic Association, 12 S. Michigan Ave.

Awards will be given in six categories: Adult and children's fiction and non-fiction, biography and poetry.

**(Cash bar 6 pm, dinner and program 7 pm. Dinner tickets will cost \$60 each, but there's a discount for a table of eight, \$400 instead of \$480. Get your company to sponsor a table or round up friends who might not otherwise come. See**

## enclosed invitation for other details.)

Award winners tell how and why they write. Their stories are sometimes touching, sometimes hilarious.

Keeping the program moving as master of ceremonies will be Paul Green, director of the Institute for Politics at Roosevelt University and co-author of several books about Chicago politics.

Entertaining and quotable, he's a familiar voice on local broadcasting stations.

On a nostalgic note, this will be SMA's last gathering in the historic Chicago Athletic Association.

The C. A. A. was founded in 1890. Its 11-story building at 12 S. Michigan Ave. was designed by the noted

architect Henry Ives Cobb and filled with fine woodwork executed by Old World craftsmen who stayed on after the Columbian Exposition.

Shortly after the SMA dinner, the club will close for conversion into a hotel.

## "PRODUCTION ERROR"

In the major media, when someone screws up, a later edition admits to a "production error." Now *Literary License* is in that position.

The March, 2007, issue was dated "2006" at the top of the front page. Readers who save back issues may want to write-in the correction to avoid future confusion.

How did it happen? Don't ask.

### SELL YOUR OWN BOOKS AT PRINTERS ROW BOOK FAIR

SMA will once again participate in the *Chicago Tribune* Printers Row Book Fair, billed as the largest free literary event in the Midwest. This year it's scheduled for Saturday, June 9, and Sunday, June 10. SMA authors will be able to showcase and sell their books.

SMA members can reserve space for \$30 to help defray the costs. The exact times and location will be forthcoming. Reservations are being accepted for space on a first-come, first-served basis. Authors will be responsible for bringing their own books, selling them, collecting the money and taking away any unsold copies afterwards. Participants must remain in the booth for the duration of their assigned times.

SMA will schedule times based on the number of responses received. Please fill out and mail the accompanying form with a \$30 check payable to the Society of Midland Authors to Society of Midland Authors, P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL 60610.

*Please register me to sell my books at the Fair. I enclose my check for \$30.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title(s) you wish to promote:

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time slot on Saturday,  
June 9 \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred time slot on Sunday,  
June 10 \_\_\_\_\_

## LITERARY LICENSE

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information, contact the editor.

[www.midlandauthors.com](http://www.midlandauthors.com)

## NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2007-2008

The nominating committee has  
named the following officers to serve  
for the year beginning July 1:

### *President*

James L. Merriner

### *Vice President*

Robert Loerzel

### *Corresponding Secretary*

Phyllis Choyke

### *Membership and Publications*

Thomas Frisbie

(Immediate Past President)

### *Recording Secretary*

Stella Pevsner

### *Treasurer*

Richard Frisbie

### *Directors through 2010*

Arnie Bernstein, Carol Jean Carlson,

Richard C. Lindberg

### *Directors through 2009*

David Hernandez Rosina Neginsky,

Robert Remer

### *Directors through 2008*

Mark Eleveld, Cheryl L. Reed,

James C. Schwab

### *Endowment Committee*

Robert Remer

### *Programs*

James C. Schwab

### *Webmaster*

Mary Claire Hersh

## POETRY NIGHT ENTERTAINS AS A VARIETY SHOW

BY RICHARD FRISBIE

Literary styles have changed since  
William Wordsworth defined poetry  
as "the spontaneous overflow of  
powerful feelings from emotions  
recollected in tranquility."

But there was no shortage of  
emotion displayed at SMA's Poetry  
Night on April 10 in the Chicago  
Athletic Association.

Carolyn S. Aguila read a poem  
about holding her son at his baptism.  
Richard Prince meditated on helping an  
elderly father to bed. Michael Kadela  
explored the mysteries of love in  
poems about Guenevere and Sampson  
and Delilah.

The program was introduced by  
Mark Eleveld, whose EM Press has  
published the works of Aguila (*Flirting  
with Rhyme and Reason*) and Kadela (*I  
Hundred Hiccups*).

He set up the evening with Aguila as  
soloist. Her opening piece was a poem  
delivering an unexpected image of  
Chicago. "My town is a woman...a  
trickster and sprite..."

So much for the city of big  
shoulders.

Jones (*Apropos of Nothing* and five  
other volumes from Copper Canyon  
Press) and Kadela performed a duet,  
billed as "Page vs. Stage."

The idea was to highlight different  
poetic styles. Like most poets, Jones  
read from the page, letting his work  
speak for itself.

Kadela, gifted with an actor's voice  
as well as a lyrical style, represented  
the new category of performance poets.

Calling attention to a long-time  
friendship, each read a poem by the  
other, along with his own poems.

Aguila found material for poetry in  
"February 2000," a poem about  
surviving winter in Chicago and a  
basketball season, concluding "let the  
kid have some hope with his cereal."

Kadela paired a Valentine poem  
with a wedding poem, saying love is

"the great remaining of our ready  
lives."

Jones's poems also meditated on  
such universals as the sorrows of the  
last days of a dog and suffering,  
inspired by a root canal.

He also found poetic material in a  
source unknown to Wordsworth: an  
answering machine, whose saved  
messages offered "no wisdom, no  
sweet epiphanies," and couldn't even  
bring itself to say, "do not kill  
yourself."

## PR TIP: HOW TO GET A BIG BANG FROM YOUR HIRED GUN

BY TOM CIESIELKA

TC PUBLIC RELATIONS

I talk to authors all the time who  
aren't sure how to work with public  
relations professionals. They want the  
media exposure for their book, but they  
worry about whether a public relations  
professional will do justice to their  
ideas. Others wonder if they couldn't  
do just as well without the help.  
However, these concerns can be  
addressed with a little knowledge and  
open communication.

When deciding whether or not to  
work with an outside public relations  
professional, research the following  
topics:

**References:** Ask the professionals if  
you can contact authors that they have  
worked with in the past. Develop a list  
of specific questions regarding how  
they communicate, what results they  
got, and how they could help you.

**Set expectations:** Make sure your  
expectations are clear from the  
beginning. If they assumed you  
belonged in scholarly archaeological  
publications and you were thinking  
MTV, you would inevitably be  
dissatisfied with their work.

**Read the Proposal:** If you are  
paying a professional to spread your  
message, ask for a proposal and read  
through it carefully. Work with her or  
him to develop a proposal that reflects  
your vision. Also make sure that the

proposal includes ongoing communication about results and direction.

If you follow these steps, you will set a relationship up for success. For the best possible results, know with whom you are working, do your homework and make your ideas and expectations clear.

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## OTHER MEMBER NEWS

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### “Fast-paced Adventure”

“The harrowing tale of four women lost at sea and pitted against nature and a cohort of contemporary pirates.”

That’s *Publisher Weekly’s* description of Jacquelyn Mitchard’s “fast-paced” new novel, *Still Summer*, due in August from Warner.

A storm washes overboard the two-man crew of a chartered yacht, leaving the women to cope on their own without sails or a functioning engine.

“Mitchard’s fans will appreciate this high-stakes adventure,” says *PW*.

### “Epic for Our Times”

David Radavich’s book, *America Bound: An Epic for Our Times*, is just out from Plain View Press. It provides a literary narrative of American history and culture from the end of World War II to the present, spoken by three generations of average Americans, reacting to events around them.

A wide range of voices, male and female, black and white, old and young, rich and poor, discuss their experiences living through World War II, the Vietnam War, civil rights movement, feminism and AIDS, all the way to the current war in Iraq.

“Together, they offer a multi-faceted, colorful portrait of American life for the past half-century.”

### “More Than One School’s History”

George William McDaniel has written another book, *A Great and Lasting Beginning: The First 125 Years of St. Ambrose University*. It

chronicles the history of St. Ambrose University since its founding in 1882.

Father McDaniel – a St. Ambrose alumnus, priest and history professor – tells “more than a single school’s history.”

He “situates St. Ambrose within the broader social contexts in which it grew.” It began as St. Ambrose Seminary in two rooms of St. Marguerite’s Parish School in Davenport, Iowa.

A previous book, *Smith Wildman Brookhart: Iowa’s Renegade Republican*, earned the Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award from the State Historical Society of Iowa.

He has served on the board of trustees of the State Historical Society of Iowa, including a term as president of the board. He currently serves on the board of trustees of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association.

### “Golden Oldie” Mysteries

The Chicago chapter of Sisters in Crime will meet at Centuries & Sleuths bookstore (7419 W. Madison, Forest Park, Ill.) on Saturday May 5, to hear Alzina Stone Dale, Chicago’s “mystery maven,” continue her series on Golden Oldie mysteries by discussing the contribution of H. R. F. Keating’s contribution.

He has been president of the Crime Writers’ Association and holds the Cartier Diamond Dagger and other awards. He’s a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and creator of India’s Inspector Ghote.

Keating was recently honored on his 80th birthday by a festschrift with short stories by several well-known UK mystery writers, including P. D. James and Robert Barnard.

### World Premiere

The world premiere of *Contemplating the Heavens*--both full musical ensemble and poetry--will take place on Friday, April 20, at Aquinas

College’s Kretchmer Recital Hall in Grand Rapids, Mich.

As previously reported, poet Linda Nemecek Foster collaborated with acclaimed jazz musician Steve Talaga. Inspired by Linda’s chapbook of the same title (Ridgeway Press, 2001), Talaga has composed an original score for nine musicians that reflects a wide range of musical styles: jazz, classical, blues, contemporary and third stream. Both the score and recently recorded CD were nominated for this year’s Pulitzer Prize in Music.

Info at [www.lindanemecfoster.com](http://www.lindanemecfoster.com) or <http://cdbaby.com/cd/talaga2>.

### “Sensuous Bittersweet Stories”

Gladys Swan’s new book, *A Garden Amid Fires* (BkMk Press), is her sixth story collection. She has also written two novels, *Carnival for the Gods* and *Ghost Dance: a Play of Voices*.

*Publishers Weekly* praised how the new book “skillfully track(s) time’s toll on the ability to live and love fully.”

Other review comments: “Enchantment worth the price of admission,” *The New York Times*; “Swan keeps the men and women in her sensuous bittersweet stories dreaming and reaching, in the very best traditions of American storytelling,” *Kirkus Reviews*.

A resident of Columbia, Mo., she has taught creative writing at the University of Missouri and Vermont College.

BkMk Press is now part of the University of Missouri/Kansas City.

### New Boss at Spoon River

Bruce Guernsey is the new editor of the *Spoon River Poetry Review*. He is distinguished professor emeritus at Eastern Illinois University, where he taught for 25 years.

His books of poetry include *January Thaw* from the University of Pittsburgh Press and, most recently, *The Lost Brigade* from Water Press and Media.

A new collection, *New England Primer*, is forthcoming in August,

2008, from WordTech Communications under their Cherry Grove imprint for lyric poetry.

### Lecture to Become Book

Jean Bethke Elshaint's Gifford lecture, "Sovereign God, Sovereign State, Sovereign Self" has been revised and will be published as a book by Basic Books.

The Gifford Lectures in Edinburgh have previously featured such speakers as Hannah Arendt, Iris Murdoch, Reinhold Niebuhr and William James.

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### RECENT NEW MEMBERS

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

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**Josh Karp** is author of *A Futile and Stupid Gesture: How Doug Kenney and National Lampoon Changed Comedy Forever*.

*Publishers Weekly* said: "Journalist Karp . . . delivers an iridescent polished portrait." *Booklist* said: "Karp's well-researched analysis of why NL succeeded, shuddered and ultimately crashed, and his biography of Kenney are compelling."

Karp is a freelance journalist who writes for a variety of national publications, including *The Atlantic Monthly Online*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Playboy*, *Premiere* and *Salon.com*.

**Gerald Wozek** is a full-time English and humanities instructor at Robert Morris College. He is author of *Postcards from Heartthrob Town*, a collection of short stories. His verse play, *The Changeling's Exile*, which premiered in Chicago in 1992 at Lionheart Theatre, was later published as a limited edition chapbook (Deep Wood Press, 1996).

His manuscript, *Dervish* won first place in the Second Annual Gival Press Poetry Award Competition and was published in October, 2001. The book received a Violet Crown Special Citation from the Writer's League of Texas and Barnes and Noble Booksellers.

His poems and prose have appeared in such magazines as *Blithe House Quarterly*, *The Harrington Gay Men's Fiction Review*, *Chiron Review*, *Ulreict*, *Bay Windows*, *Amethyst*, *Prairie Street Companion*, *White Crane Journal* and the *River Oak Review*.

**Andrew Kantar** is professor of languages and literature at Ferris State University. He is the author of *29 Missing*, a book about the loss of the great lakes freighter *Edmund Fitzgerald* and *Black November: The Carl D. Bradley Tragedy*. (On Nov. 18, 1958, the limestone carrier *Carl D. Bradley* broke up during a raging storm on Lake Michigan, and 33 crew members perished.)

Thomas Farnquist, executive director of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, said Kantar wrote "a story of tragedy and triumph detailed through meticulous research and personal interviews that makes your heart ache."

**Lynn Voedisch** is a longtime Chicago journalist and fiction writer. She spent 17 years as a reporter and arts reviewer for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. She's also written for the *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Industry Standard* and *Dance* magazine, and has appeared on television and radio talk shows, discussing arts topics that affect Chicago. She is author of *Excited*

*Light*, a tale of magic and second chances. She lives just outside Chicago with her husband and three cats.

**Thomas J. Keevers**, a Chicago trial lawyer, is a former homicide detective with the Chicago Police Department. His short stories have appeared in literary magazines and anthologies. One of them, "Thanksgiving Day in Homicide," was featured on National Public Radio's *Stories on Stage*. He is author of *What the Hyena Knows* and *Music Across the Wall*.

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### FINAL CHAPTERS

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**Dorothy Haas**, a long-time part of the SMA leadership as an officer, active committee chairman and board member, died recently in a Chicago nursing home at age 82.

As an editor at Whitman Publishing and children's book editor for Rand McNally, she supervised publication of more than 600 books.

She went on to forge a successful career as author of more than 50 popular children's books of her own.

She received a Children's Reading Round Table Award for distinguished service in children's literature.

Other awards included the Don T. McNeill Award from her alma mater, Marquette University, in recognition of her professional success, and a lifetime literary achievement award from SMA.

Her first novel, *The Bears Upstairs*, won the Mark Twain Award from the Missouri Library Association and the Missouri Association of School Librarians.