



Literary License

January, 2007

SMA LITERARY AWARDS ENTRY DEADLINE FEB. 15 *See Entry Form Inside*

The Society of Midland Authors Literary Competition for books published in 2006 is now underway. From its inception in 1915, the Society has honored outstanding authors and poets.



Currently the Society presents awards of cash and recognition plaques to winners in the categories of adult fiction and nonfiction, biography, poetry and children's fiction and nonfiction published in the previous year. The juried competition is open to authors and poets who reside in, were born in, or have strong ties to the Midwestern heartland.

Beginning in 2002, the James Friend Memorial Award for Literary

Criticism is also presented under our aegis. In addition, at the discretion of the Society's officers and board of directors, lifetime achievement awards are presented to individuals who have donated their time and energies to assist the Society over a period of years and authors recognized for their contributions to Midwestern letters.

States covered include Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Awards chairman is Carol Jean Carlson.

SEND ONE ENTRY DIRECTLY TO EACH JUDGE

ADULT FICTION

Jessa Crispin, 1421 W. Chicago Ave., Apt. #3R, Chicago 60622.

Mark Eleveld, 305 Brooks Ave., Joliet, IL 60435 (815-723-3184).

Jonathan Messinger, 247 S. State St., 17th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604 (312-924-9360).

ADULT NONFICTION

Carol Jean Carlson, 1420 W. Farragut St., Chicago, IL 60640 (773-506-7578).

Bill Cleveland, 1560 N. Sandburg Terrace, Apt. 3209, Chicago, IL 60610 (312-943-7124).

Richard Prince, 1406 East 55th St., Chicago, IL 60615 (773-324-2643 or 815-836-5287).

BIOGRAPHY

Richard Lindberg, 5915 N. Navarre Ave., Chicago, IL 60631 (773-631-3023).

Bob Remer, 5840 N. Kenmore St., Chicago, IL 60660 (773-561-6280).

Jim Schwab, 1755 N. Campbell Ave., Chicago, IL 60647 (312-786-6364).

“Young Adult Biography: The Back Door to History”

Judy Fradin will discuss how she and her husband, Dennis Fradin, collaborate. They are co-authors of more than two dozen non-fiction children's and young adult books and winners of numerous awards. The most recent Fradin/Fradin books are *Five Thousand Miles to Freedom* (National Geographic Children's Books) and *Jane Addams: Champion of Democracy* (Clarion).

Where: Chicago Athletic Assn., 12 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago

When: 6 p.m. social hour, 7 p.m. program, Tuesday, Feb. 13

Reservations NOT needed. Public invited. Reception and presentation \$5 for nonmembers. SMA members and teachers and students with ID free. Snacks and cash bar.

Other Coming Events

March 13—“Researching and Writing Biographies of Dead Artists.” Speaker: Gerry Souter, president of the Midwest Writers Assn., and co-author with his wife, Janet, of 34 books, including adult biographies on artists including Frida Kahlo, Alexander Calder, Edward Hopper, Diego Rivera and Mark Rothko.

April 10—Poetry, details to come.
May 8—92th Annual Banquet and Awards Presentation

Board Meetings

Usually on the third Wednesday of each month: September through June, except December.

LITERARY LICENSE

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P.O. Box 10419, Chicago, IL
60610

Editor: Richard Frisbie, Suite 104,
445 W. Erie St., Chicago, IL 60610
Phone: 312/397-0992
Fax: 312/255-9865
richardfrisbie@sbcglobal.net

Associate Editor: Carol Jean
Carlson

www.midlandauthors.com

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Jennifer Bartoli, 3839 W. Addison
St., Chicago, IL 60618
(773-583-8030).

Charlotte Herman, 6623 N.
Monticello, Lincolnwood, IL 60712
(847-673-5597).

Stella Pevsner, 655 Irving Park
Rd., Apt. 3801, Chicago, IL 60613
(773-697-7609).

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

Marilyn Daleo, 195 N. Harbor Dr.,
#3605, Chicago, IL 60601
(312-946-0150).

Betsy Gray, 3625 Thayer,
Evanston, IL 60201 (847-869-0545).

Nancy Volkman, 3240 N. Lake
Shore Dr., #9D, Chicago, IL 60657
(773-534-1196 or 773-327-1475).

POETRY

Mark Arendt, 8641 Beech St.,
Munster, IN 46321 (219-923-8712 or
708-259-5810).

Anthony Burton, University of
Chicago Press, 1427 E. 60th St.,
Chicago, IL 60637 (773-702-9768 or
773-645-9973).

Richard Jones, 913 Lois Lane,
Glenview, IL 60025 (847-657-9525).

BRADBURY BIOGRAPHER SHARES MASTER'S LESSONS

BY RICHARD FRISBIE

Author of more than 500 published
works, winner of the National Book
Award, the National Medal of Arts
and the National Book Foundation

Medal for Distinguished Contribution
to American Letters, Ray Bradbury
obviously knows how to do what he
does.

At the Jan. 9 SMA meeting in the
Chicago Athletic Association, his
biographer, Sam Weller, shared some
of the literary "pearls of wisdom" he
picked up during four years of
interviews with the master:

- Write about what you love. Such
childhood fascinations as the night
sky, rocket ships, circuses and
Bradbury's home town, Waukegan,
keep emerging in his writing.

- Work hard. After a slow start,
Bradbury disciplined himself to write
a story a week. The first year, he sold
three out of 52. Then six the second
year and 12 out of 52 the third year.

By that time, his stories were being
anthologized. Despite Bradbury's
literary stature, Weller said, the
publishing establishment has been
confused by Bradbury's work.

Bookstores tend to shelve his books
with science fiction, but sci-fi writers
complain about his loose approach to
science.

Actually, Weller said, Bradbury
"writes about the human condition,"
and it doesn't matter if he "gives Mars
two moons."

- Be "tenacious." Bradbury kept
giving his books, unsolicited, to John
Huston. At first, Huston ignored him,
but eventually Huston asked Bradbury
to write the screen play for *Moby
Dick*.

What Bradbury can't do is write
nonfiction. He's too disorganized to
keep track of his notes. Weller told of
helping Bradbury find a royalty check
that had gone missing in a huge pile
of papers and documents on his dining
room table.

It was for \$200,000.

Weller's own tip, which he
followed in writing *The Bradbury
Chronicles* (winner of last year's SMA
nonfiction award): become a fanatic
filer.

His first step in beginning his
145,000-word Bradbury biography
was to buy a filing cabinet.

TO PUBLICIZE YOUR NEW BOOK UNLEASH YOUR INNER EXPERT

BY TOM CIESIELKA

TC PUBLIC RELATIONS

Book review sections are
disappearing from the pages of
today's newspapers. While your
chances of getting a write-up about
your book decrease, reporters
continually need expert interviews
and quotes to beef up their stories.

Your input might be a perfect way
to put your name in front of readers
interested in your topic.

However, many authors wonder if
they are really qualified to speak as
experts. They worry that their
credentials aren't strong enough, or
that they will fail to answer all the
questions asked in an interview. Ask
yourself the following questions to
help overcome your reservations and
let your inner expert shine:

What do I care about? Define
exactly what you are passionate about
and why. Even the shyest people
speak well when they feel strongly
about a viewpoint or topic.

What experience do I have?
Write down what you have
accomplished, researched and
understood in regards to your area of
expertise. Until you put it on paper,
you probably don't realize how
qualified you really are.

What do I need to know? Instead
of worrying that you don't know
enough, find the gaps in your
expertise and read up on them. This is
a great way to learn about something
that matters to you while preparing to
give informed views.

Whether your book is fiction or
nonfiction, the best way to get it in
newspapers is to present yourself as
an expert. Define your passion,
catalogue your experience and study
your topic so that you can confidently
spread the word about your ideas and
book.

AWARDS ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: February 15, 2007

Duplicate this page. Make three copies for each book entered. Send one book and one copy of this completed form to each of the three judges in the book's category. Please type or print clearly.

Name of book: _____

Publisher: _____

Publication date: _____

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

Author: _____

Author's address: _____

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

ADULT FICTION

POETRY

CHILDREN'S FICTION

ADULT NONFICTION

BIOGRAPHY

CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

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

Your name: _____

Signature: _____

Company and business title: _____

Telephone and/or email address: _____

Address: _____

Comments:

OTHER MEMBER NEWS

Tell Yourself a Story About You

Everyone has a story to tell, but how do you tell your own story? As part of its ongoing author series, Northwestern University's Center for the Writing Arts features Michele Weldon, NU assistant professor and author of the memoir, *I Closed My Eyes*, in the lecture, "So you Want to Write a Memoir" Thursday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. at the Pick-Laudati Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

No Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

When Joel Greenberg saw a mockingbird in December near Lake Michigan, local newspapers and radio stations reported the news.

As author of *A Natural History of the Chicago Region*, he is a respected expert. Although mockingbirds live in the south, if he said he saw a mockingbird, no one doubted that one somehow had found its way north.

Love and Murder

Alzina Stone Dale will appear on a panel with Max Allan Collins and Gary Niebuhr at the Love is Murder/Of Dark and Stormy Nights annual mystery conference at the Wyndham O'Hare hotel near Chicago on Feb. 4. They'll discuss the "History of Mystery."

Automotive Journalistic Excellence

Michael Argetsinger's biography, *Walt Hansgen, His Life and the*

History of Post-War American Road Racing, has drawn praise from critics since it was published in March.

On Dec. 18, Argetsinger was awarded "Best of Books" and a gold medal in the biography category during the 16th International Automotive Media Awards Competition in Tucson.

Earlier in the month at ceremonies in Los Angeles he was one of three finalists for the Motor Press Guild's Dean Batchelor Award, recognizing automotive journalistic excellence.

Tales Out of School

As part of the spring reading series of the Poetry Center of Chicago, Billy Lombardo will appear on a panel "sharing war stories from education's front lines. Their work will focus on their experiences with their students and stories from a child's perspective."

Other panelists will be Daniel Ferri and Taylor Mali. They'll appear April 11 in the ballroom at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 112 S. Michigan Ave.

Reservations Have Roads Too

Three SMA members associated with the American Planning Association – James C. Schwab, Stuart Meck and Rebecca C. Retzlaff – recently combined to produce *Tribal Transportation Programs: a Synthesis of Highway Practice*.

It's an aid to the larger Native American reservations, which have problems in common with county governments.

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

Andrea Cheng is the author of several books for children and young adults. Her first novel, *Marika*, was selected by the city of Cincinnati for "On the Same page," a citywide reading program. *Honeysuckle House*, *Anna the Bookbinder* and *Shanghai Messenger* received Parent's Choice Awards. *Grandfather Counts* was recently featured on Reading Rainbow. Her books draw on her background as the child of Hungarian immigrants as well as the background of her husband, the son of immigrants from China.

She studied Chinese at Cornell University, where she received a master's degree in linguistics. She and her family have traveled to both Budapest and Shanghai to get to know their extended families. In addition to writing books for children, She teaches English as a Second Language at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. She lives with her husband and their three children in Cincinnati.

FINAL CHAPTERS

David Miller, longtime companion of Beverly Friend, sponsor of the James Friend Memorial Award for Literary Criticism, died Dec. 23 of complications from Alzheimer's disease. He was 77.