

## Biblio File

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Nami Mun

out the form from our website. Or go to our website to renew via PayPal.) ... **Nami Mun** won the 21st Century Award given Oct. 17 at the Carl Sandburg Awards dinner by the Chicago Public Library Foundation. The award honors

“significant recent achievement in writing by a Chicago-based author.” ... **John Green’s** *The Fault in Our Stars* won the 2012 Silver Inky Award in Australia last month, given to the best foreign young adult novel. Also, Time magazine called it the best 2012 fiction book ... **Edward Gordon** on Dec. 5 finished writing the last chapter of his 18th book, *Future Jobs: Solving the Employment and Skills Crisis*, which will be published next Labor Day by Praeger. (As of this writing, he still had to do the foreword.) “The book will be highly controversial,” Ed told Biblio File. “I think it is going to help change the public conversation so people understand the grim reality.” ... **Nicholas Kokonis** e-mails to say a few professors, including Mary Adams of Lincoln College, have decided to adopt his new book, *Out of Arcadia*, in their classes. “I wrote it to praise, among other things, the indomitable immigrant spirit and the struggles and triumphs of all of us immigrants or sons and daughters of immigrants,” Nicholas says. ... John Grisham wrote in the Oct. 28 New York Times Book Review: “When *Presumed Innocent* was published in 1987, I was struggling to finish my first novel. **Scott Turow** re-energized the legal suspense genre with that book, and it inspired me

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## How’s this for a bar exam? Ten years of author’s work

BY THOMAS FRISBIE

After doing an interview with **Rick Kogan** on Chicago’s WGN-AM, **Gregory Harms** headed to a bar with SMA Board Member **Mark Eleveld** to chat about the event.

“The bartender came up and said, ‘What have you been doing?’ and Greg took out his three books and put them on the bar and said, ‘That’s what I’ve been doing for the last 10 years,’” Eleveld recalled.

Eleveld told that story Nov. 13 while he was introducing Harms as the speaker at the regular Society of Midland Authors monthly program at the Cliff Dwellers club in Chicago.

Harms’ most recent book is *It’s Not About Religion*, in which he argues that tensions in the Mideast can’t be traced strictly to a struggle between religions.

He also says the United States has adhered to a steady “sub-surface” foreign policy even as presidents came and went, from Harry Truman through Barack Obama.

That policy favors stability and access to markets over democracy, he said. To achieve that, America keeps its ally, Israel, in a “mode of militancy,” he said.

Not everyone wants to hear that. But, “You can’t study history honestly without coming up against unflattering realities,”

“You can’t study history honestly without coming up against unflattering realities.”

Harms told the assembled authors.

The public doesn’t understand the intricacies of the Mideast partly because academia and the news media have been reluctant to lay them out, Harms said.

Academia has “a strong nationalist impulse” and professors also worry about their careers, he said.

“It behooves one to finesse the history of it, take off the rough edges, make

things a little more palatable,” he said. “[That way], you don’t make what they call in the corporate world a career-limiting move.”

Journalists suffer from similar constraints, he said.

“Journalists are self-editing because they

know what will and what won’t pass muster with their editors back in New York or Washington, D.C.,” he said.

After World War I, the Western powers, namely Great Britain and France, divided up the Ottoman Empire into geopolitical designations that became nation states,

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Gregory Harms



Mark Eleveld

Literary Loudspeaker  
with Tom Ciesielka

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to keep plugging along. Scott is still the best lawyer-novelist." ... **Sherill Bodine** wrote an essay in the Oct. 30 Chicago Sun-Times about the power of a word to wound. ... In October, **Linda Nemec Foster** was the poet-in-residence for Pine Ridge School in western Michigan, teaching poetry workshops for fourth-graders. On the other side of the educational world, she was a guest lecturer for an advanced poetry course at Aquinas College. Yes, she tells Biblio File, it can be done: "sharing the joys of haiku with elementary school kids and teaching the complex nuances of the sonnet and sestina to their college-aged counterparts!" ... You can track **Billy McCarthy's** effort to document Michael Shrieve playing one of the best drum solos at Woodstock, as well as many other drummers onstage slamming alongside their legendary artists and bands at [www.ferociousdrummers.com](http://www.ferociousdrummers.com). Billy has been working since 2007 on *Ferocious Drummers the Documentary*, which has the goal of tracking the most

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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](http://www.midlandauthors.com) and click on the "Donate" button in the upper right corner.

## Bar exam Continued from Page 1

such as Iraq, Syria and Jordan, Harms said.

"Autocratic dictatorial figures were installed in these countries by the Western powers, and their responsibilities were to ensure stability and security in their respective countries," he said. "The interests on the part of the population, and the interests of Western Europe were at total variance and therefore one had to be suppressed for the sake of the other."

While less radical than Israel's GOP supporters in Congress, President Barack Obama has adhered to orthodox Mideast policy, Harms said.

"America continues the tradition of treating Iran like a regional monster – a regional monster, it should be mentioned, that has never once in the entirety of the modern era attacked one of its neighbors."

Part of the story is that overseas weapons sales by the United States for 2011 were more than three-quarters of the global arms market, and "an extraordinary increase over 2010, the largest single year sales total in the history of United States arms exports up to that point. The previous high was in fiscal year 2009.

"Whatever the administration has in store for the second term, it is likely regional management will continue, according to these long-established doctrines," he said. "Those who create an educated American opinion will continue with their self-assigned task of ... refining the history and current events record and making it more palatable. This overall system is extremely eloquent and fragile, and it requires the population remaining

in the dark about these subjects. Whether it will be remains up to us."



### Upcoming Society of Midland Authors programs are:

*Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6 p.m.:* **A discussion on Harold Washington, Chicago's first black mayor.** The panel discussion will feature **Peter Nolan**, author of *Campaign! The 1983 Election that Rocked Chicago*; **Timuel Black**, author of *Bridges of Memory*; **Salim Muwakkil**, author of *Harold!*; and **Robert Starks**, director of the Harold Washington Institute for Research and Policy Studies at

Illinois University.

This program will be at the Harold Washington Library in Chicago.

*Wednesday, Feb. 13, 6 p.m.:* **Gillian Flynn**, author of the No. 1 New York Times fiction best-seller "*Gone Girl*." At the Harold Washington Library. Note: Because of a scheduling conflict, this is a Wednesday, not our normal Tuesday night program.

*Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m.:* **Gerry Souter**, author of "*American Shooter*." At the Harold Washington Library.

*Tuesday, April 16 (6 p.m. social hour and 7 p.m. talk):* **Edward Hirsch**, poet, critic and president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. This program will be at the Cliff Dwellers Club.

*The Society of Midland Authors' 2012-2013 programs may be heard in their entirety at [www.chicagopublicradio.org](http://www.chicagopublicradio.org) amplified.*

### January 8, 2013, program

**Harold Washington Library**  
**400 S. State Street,**  
**Chicago, Ill.**

**6 p.m. - Program**

**Free - donations accepted**

## Program location changes

Our normal venue for our monthly programs will change from January through March because the Cliff Dwellers is shutting down for remodeling.

So we will hold our programs instead at the Harold Washington Library.

Because the library is closed on Lincoln's Birthday, the February program will be held on a Wednesday instead of the normal Tuesday. And while at the library, the talks will begin at 6 p.m. instead of the usual 7 p.m.

Normally, we have a social hour at 6 and the program at 7.

# Enhance your reputation by becoming an expert online

There are various ways to become an expert through speaking, media appearances, and writing. Here are a few ways that you can become an expert online, which will enhance your reputation even more:

**Use LinkedIn.** Join a LinkedIn group in the area in which you specialize and get involved in discussions and answer group members' questions. And here's something that will make you really stand out: Start a discussion where you offer some proprietary information to the members. For instance, if you've published an article or white paper, then share that with the group.

An even more effective way to connect with group members and to raise your LinkedIn profile is to make a Top 10 list of something that will help them. After you've created your list, let the group know by starting a discussion thread, and tell them to email you if they want a copy.

**Use Pinterest.** In addition to sharing a list on LinkedIn, you can also create a

short list with an interesting image, or create an infographic, to post on Pinterest. The list should include tips that relate to your area of expertise. If people find your information helpful, they will repin it. Also remember to offer a way for people to pin something from your blog by including a "Pin it" icon at the bottom of your post.

**Create Videos.** Many people post videos on YouTube or Vimeo and gain a following if their content is helpful. Think of tips or insights that you think people need to hear. First look at other videos and see what people are searching for and watching, and come up with effective search terms and content that will make your video attractive.



Thanksgiving and Christmas are behind us (hope you had good ones!), but of

“ Give yourself the gift of good PR on the holidays. ”

course, there are holidays throughout the year that can give you great opportunities for promoting yourself. This can be done through articles, media appearances, blog posts, social media, photos, and more. Here are a couple tips to get you started:

**Create a holiday calendar.** Take a look at the official holidays listed on the U.S. government website, and decide which ones you would like to connect to. There are also numerous unofficial, or "odd" holidays that you can also participate in, though some of those are corpo-

rate sponsored and others that may not be totally legitimate. There is one website that has been listing those holidays for several years, and they try to substantiate each holiday by linking to the source, so that's a good place

to start.

**Go general.** If you don't want to discuss specific issues related to your profession or business, you can connect yourself generally to various holidays by posting pictures that show how holidays are celebrated. For instance, you can post pictures of interesting Halloween and Christmas decorations you've seen around town. Or if you cook something special for St. Patrick's Day, you can share a recipe that you use to make delicious corned beef and cabbage. Another thing you can do is to give tips for fun New Year's celebrations.

There are so many ways to promote yourself; all you have to do is take the time to brainstorm for ideas to think of what works best for you and your schedule. Happy future holidays!

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



Literary  
Loudspeaker  
Tom  
Ciesielka

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legendary, influential and controversial drummers of past, present and future, in jazz, rock, heavy metal and alternative music. "Currently we are resuming filming and securing licensing rights that will help shape our story," Billy reports. ...

**Bill Yarrow** was the featured reader Oct. 19 at the Sweet & Sour Poetry Hour at Let Them Eat Cake in Chicago. On Jan. 16, he will be the featured reader at the Gallery Cabaret, 2020 N. Oakley, Chicago. Open mike at 7. ... **Arnie Bernstein** says production is moving forward on his *Hollywood on Lake Michigan, 2nd Edition*, "which I co-wrote (this time) with the great Chicago historian/tour guide Michael Corcoran. The original was published in 1998, so it'll be nice to see the book come back in late spring/early summer 2013 from Chicago Review Press." Also, Arnie was quoted Dec. 14 in the Press & Guide on the parallels between the Sandy Hook, Conn., school shooting and the Bath School bombing in Michigan, which was the subject of his book *Bath Massacre*. (The Press & Guide serves Dearborn and Dearborn Heights in Michigan.) He also was scheduled to be interviewed about the Bath/Newtown murders by Australian radio in Sydney on Dec. 20. ... Next March 28, **Rich Kaempfer's** Eckhardt Press will publish *Records Truly Is My Middle Name* by Kaempfer and Chicago radio legend John Landecker. "I worked with the guy every single day for 10 years, and never heard some of these stories he tells in this book," Kaempfer says. ... **Tom Ciesielka's** public relations firm celebrated its 11th birthday in November. ... **Owen Hurd** was profiled in the Nov. 19 (suburban Chicago) Daily Herald. He said he is now working on his third book. "I get concerned as I look around now because of all the technological changes," he told the newspaper. "It seems like publishers are looking for shorter and shorter



Arnie Bernstein

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works, the kind of stuff that can be read on cellphones. I just have to hope that there will continue to be readers who appreciate spending time with book-length works.” ... **Richard Frisbie** completed a personal challenge for 2012: riding his bicycle from Chicago to Wisconsin (in separate stages, of course). ... It’s been 10 years since **Laura Caldwell** published her first novel, *Burning the Map*. Since then, she’s written 13 more. But she now is saying goodbye temporarily to her character Izzy



Laura Caldwell

McNeil and turning to contemporary fiction. “For the first time in years, I am creating characters from scratch, going back and back into someone’s past to discover what made them who they are today,” Laura wrote in her e-newsletter in November. ...

**Louise Erdrich’s** *The Round House* won the National Book Award in November, and was named one of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch’s 50 favorite books of 2012. ...

**John Green’s** *The Fault in Our Stars* and **Rebecca Makkai’s** *The Borrower* were among the 2012 favorites at The Learned Own Book Shop in Hudson, Ohio. ...

**Achy Obejas** has a new translation out: *Amazon Crossing* (Nov. 27, 2012) by Wendy Guerra. ... The Wall Street Journal’s Nov. 19 Notable & Quotable excerpt was from **Stephen Asma’s** new book *Against Fairness*, in which Asma laments that today’s fairness lessons in school “ill-equip kids for the realities of later life.” Asma argues, “The focus on equality of outcome may produce a generation that is burdened with an indignant sense of entitlement.” ... **Lori Andrews**, author of *I Know Who You Are and I Saw What You Did*, was scheduled to talk Nov. 11 about her unnerving findings at Miami Book Fair International. The Miami Herald wrote, “Among [her] alarming revelations: Data aggregators not only sell your information to advertisers but also make it available to other parties,

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## New Books

### THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE: CONGRESSMAN JIM JONTZ OF INDIANA

**Ray E. Boomhower’s** new book (Oct 5, 2012, Indiana Historical Society Press) tells the story of Jim Jontz, who first ran for the Indiana House of Representatives in 1974. Jontz, then a 22-year-old Indiana University graduate with an unpaid job as a caretaker for a local nature preserve,



Ray E. Boomhower

defeated his heavily favored Republican opponent, Indiana House Majority Leader John M. Jack Guy, by two votes.

This first biography of Jontz examines his remarkable political career and lifetime involvement in local, state and national environmental issues. A liberal Democrat usually running in conservative districts, Jontz had political pundits predicting his defeat in every election, but he won five terms as state representative, served two years in the Indiana Senate, and captured three terms in the U.S. Congress, representing the sprawling Fifth Congressional District in northwestern Indiana.

### THE PROXY ASSASSIN

*The Proxy Assassin: Book Three of the American Spy Trilogy* (Sept. 1, Blue Steel Press) is **John Knoerle’s** new Kindle Edition title.

The story starts in 1948. Former OSS agent Hal Schroeder gets an invitation to Washington, D.C., from Frank Wisner, who heads the CIA’s new covert ops division. Hal is whisked off to Wisner’s Maryland shore retreat and introduced to a brace of Romanian royals, including the scarily beautiful Princess Stela Varadja, a direct descendant of Vlad Tepes Dracula. Then Frank Wisner pops the

question. Would Hal consider parachuting into a remote mountain camp to meet with the leader of a group of Romanian anti-Communist guerrillas? Hal had already survived two previous suicide missions and a third did not appeal.

But he told Frank Wisner he would need a few days to think it over and had some sightseeing to do. As it turns out, Hal gets to do a lot more sightseeing than he bargained for.



John Knoerle

### ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?

**Richard Babcock’s** new novel (Nov. 6, Amazon Publishing) tells the story of John Lincoln, a book editor miserably ensconced at Pistakee, a dinky Chicago publisher.

Lincoln’s overwhelming ambition is to flee the bland, over polite Midwest and land in New York – where, he imagines, he’ll work with real writers; brandish success at his skeptical, patrician East Coast parents; and experience again the glories of a city where, with “every block, every step,” he will find something interesting and exciting.

What he needs is a hot bestseller, and he finds his vehicle in Amy O’Malley, a recent University of Chicago grad who’s worked on the school’s famous sex survey. With Lincoln’s prodding and guidance, Amy writes a sex-filled novel that draws on her experience. Her book indeed opens doors for Lincoln – but not in the way he imagined. Meanwhile, a professor of happiness studies at a local college blackmails him into publishing his fantastically mundane poetry.

Publishers Weekly said the book has “a smooth, winning plot.”

SMA member **James McManus** wrote, “The headlong, grimly uncomfortable ride John Lincoln endures across Chicago’s literary, sexual and baseball divides is a sweet comic blast onto West Waveland Avenue. Gone.”

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## New Books

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### 23 SKIDOO! 23 FORM-FITTING POEMS

**Eckhard Gerdes'** new poetry chapbook will be published by Finishing Line Press in January.

Larry Smith, author of *Each Moment All*, wrote: "With wit and a sly wisdom, Eckhard Gerdes turns the poetic forms upon their heads. His jazz voice rings the changes – hot and cool."

Nathan Penlington, a London-based poet, writer, and performer, wrote: "A wry and playful reimagining of traditional poetic forms – Gerdes dances and stamps on the verse structures used by Chaucer and Dante, with light feet and heavy boots he kicks the 13th century rondeau where it hurts, the result is *23 Skidoo* – a collection of witty deconstructions with a love of poetry at its heart."

Poet Kevin Cantwell wrote: "Under the great pressure of play, the line, the thought, the phrase, and the fickle word find the shadowy reaches in these puzzling experiments that Eckhard Gerdes spins. Sometimes the pantoum, sometimes the terza rima, and once the acrostic's dream of the marginal seek the surprises of these traditional lyric schemes. Gerdes reminds us that there's a lot of joy in what wit – in it's oldest sense – will make for us."

William Allegrezza wrote: "Take any combination of these sentences.

- Witty, playful, and irreverent – this collection tries on a host of poetic forms, twisting them so that they look new.

- Pantoum, Acrostic, Rondeau, Terza Rima – wait, am I reading a book of the experimental writer Eckhard Gerdes? Yes,

- Gerdes pushes the reader to re-examine the use of traditional techniques and shows us his intellect and sense of humor in lively action.

- Gerdes re-energizes traditional techniques with sarcasm and wit, showing us poetry aware of itself as poetry.

- These pieces are filled with an energy that makes me want to join in.

### COMPANY MAN: MY JESUIT LIFE, 1950-1968

Former SMA President **Jim Bowman's** new book was intended at first for his children, a sort of family history as told by the father, and it retains the flavor of that.

"But," Bowman writes, "it moved inevitably into the general-population arena, such is my habit from years of writing for the general population.

"It includes a good deal of self-explanation, always a tricky matter. A straight description of the matter might have done nicely, a going easier on the first personal pronoun.

"But it is my story and not primarily anyone else's.

"At the same time, it is also a story of Jesuit life, at least of the '50s and '60s, and of the church of those years."

### THE OPPOSITE OF ABSOLUTE

**Robert Collins'** new fantasy novel, *The Opposite of Absolute*, tells the story of John Ewert, one of a handful of survivors of a mysterious plague that kills off most of humanity. Strangely, the plague leaves those survivors with magical powers.

One group of survivors gathers around a man named Gabe in Ames, Iowa. They believe The End Times are at hand, and they will be the heroes of Revelations. Others follow a woman named Lucy to Dallas. She tells them they're going to fight and win the final battle of the haves against the have-nots.



Robert  
Collins

As what seems to be the last of humanity goes to war, John wonders, "Is this the apocalypse, or just an incredible simulation?"

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where it can be used against you by a prospective employer, a credit card company, a stalker or in a court of law. ...

**Elaine Soloway** started a blog this fall about life after the recent death of her husband. ... Jordan Zaslow, daughter of the late SMA member **Jeffrey Zaslow** of West Bloomfield, Mich., was scheduled to give a tribute to her father Nov. 7 at the 61st annual Jewish Book Fair. ... The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame on Nov. 30 inducted Jane Addams, (1860-1935); Sherwood Anderson (1876-1941); James T. Farrell (1904-1979); Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961); Langston Hughes (1902-1967); and Carolyn Rodgers (1940-2010) into its Chicago Hall of Fame. The ceremonies were emceed by **Rick Kogan**. ... A few weeks before the election, **Rick Perlstein** published a lengthy article in *The Baffler* titled "The Long Con," about how conservative entrepreneurs have been separating the right-wing rank and file from their money over the past few decades. ...

In the Dec. 5 Chicago Tribune, **Arthur Plotnik** was quoted in an article about a proposed dictionary purge. He said we should get rid of "liposuction" and "metastasisize." "Few words get under my skin, but 'liposuction' and its ilk do so in every way," Arthur said. " 'Metastasisize,' with its hissing bad news about a spreading tumor, is hateful enough in the doctor's office. Broader applications – as in the headline 'Middle East myths metastasize' – are fear-mongering and loathsome." ... **Dominique Racciah** said in November at FutureBook 2012 that collaboration will be the key to the future, saying: "We are going to work with the partner that delivers the best experience for the product we are working on." ... Dave Wood wrote Dec. 20 on abcnews.com of **Walter Roers'** *Pathos Rising*: "Without a doubt it's one of the most touching domestic dramas I've read in a long time. ... This is a winner, as was his first novel, *The Pact*, which was a finalist for the 2001 Minnesota Book Award. I hope he wins this time around."

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# SMA's cameo role in new biography

BY ROBERT LOERZEL

The Society of Midland Authors makes a cameo appearance in John A. Farrell's 2011 biography *Clarence Darrow: Attorney for the Damned*, which came out in paperback this year. The book includes a description of the legendary lawyer's work as a novelist and nonfiction author, noting that he was a founding member of the SMA in 1915, along with **Hamlin Garland**.

"But neither of Darrow's novels was commercially successful," Farrell writes. "They were imperfect, written in nooks of his life – dashed off as afterthoughts, almost. He was discouraged at the public

reaction, and abandoned the art. Had Darrow found the means and the dedication, he may have emerged as another Dreiser. Garland certainly thought so."

Farrell quotes some comments that Garland had written earlier in his copy of



Clarence Darrow

Darrow's 1904 novel *Farmington*, which was inspired by the author's childhood in rural Ohio. "This is very true, very sad, and very beautiful," Garland wrote.

Farrell urged Darrow to continue writing fiction – and to revise the fragmentary *Farmington*, "which has something rich and noble in its music." Darrow said he didn't have enough time to devote to writing. Garland later noted in his diary: "I did not tell him what I really felt, which was that to rewrite *Farmington* would be worth more than all his work in defense of criminals and fools."

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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 DeChant and Gary W. Moore**

# Judges, rules for book awards

The Society of Midland Authors awards competition for books published in 2012 is now open.

In 1957, the Society of Midland Authors created annual awards for the best books by Midwestern writers. Ever since then, it has been the Society's great honor to recognize this region's literary excellence. Our competition is now open for books published in 2012. The winners will receive recognition plaques and \$500 each at an awards banquet on May 14, 2013, in Chicago.

The contest rules and the list of judges are below. Feel free to forward this email to eligible authors and publishers.

## CONTEST RULES

An entry form must accompany each book to each judge for a total of three forms per title (three judges, three forms, three books). Books unaccompanied by completed entry forms will not be considered.

The deadline for submission is February 1, 2013. We strongly encourage early submissions.

There is no entry fee and the author need not be a member of the SMA. The book must have been published in 2012 by a recognized publishing house and the author must reside in, be born in, or have strong ties to one of the 12 Midland states listed below.

To enter this year's competition, for books published in 2012, fill out the entry form on next page, which is also posted at:

[www.midlandauthors.com/contest\\_form.html](http://www.midlandauthors.com/contest_form.html)

and mail it with a copy of the nominated book to each of the three judges in the proper category (three judges, three forms, three books). Books may be nominated by the author or publisher. Make sure that you enter the book in the proper category. Failure to do so will result in the book being disallowed.

## CATEGORIES

Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, Biography, Children's Fiction, Children's Nonfiction and Poetry

## THE 12 MIDLAND STATES

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin

## JUDGES

### ADULT FICTION

**Mark Eleveld**, 305 Brooks Ave., Joliet IL 60435 (eleveld\_2000@yahoo.com)

**Patricia Ann McNair**, Fiction Writing Department, Columbia College Chicago, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60605 (templeofair@gmail.com)

**Tony Romano**, 23W279 St. James Court, Glen Ellyn IL 60137 (aromano211@gmail.com)

### ADULT NONFICTION

**Richard Bales**, c/o Chicago Title Insurance, 1725 S. Naperville Road, Wheaton IL 60189 (balesd@ctt.com)

**James Merriner**, 530 Michigan Ave. #3E, Evanston IL 60202 (jlmerriner@yahoo.com)

**Dr. Richard Prince**, 808 53rd Ave. E, #164 J St., Bradenton FL 34203 (princer@gmail.com)

### BIOGRAPHY

**Robert Remer**, 5840 N. Kenmore, Chicago IL 60660 (chibooks@aol.com)

**Gerry Souter**, 905 E. Frederick St., Arlington Heights IL 60004-5737 (avril1grp2@comcast.net)

**Judith Testa**, 115 Oakhill Court, St. Charles IL 60174 (judithtesta@comcast.net)

### CHILDREN'S FICTION

**Mary Frueh**, 3511 N. Kolmar, Chicago IL 60641 (mefrueh@comcast.net)

**Harriette Gillem Robinet**, 214 S. Elmwood, Oak Park IL 60302 (mrobinet@ameritech.net)

**Charlotte Herman**, 6623 N. Monticello, Lincolnwood IL 60712 (charlotteherman@earthlink.net)

### CHILDREN'S NONFICTION

**Patricia Kummer**, 2671 Normandy Place, Lisle IL 60532 (patriciakummer@comcast.net)

**Andrew Medlar**, Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., 10-S, Chicago IL 60605 (amedlar@chipublib.org)

**Marlene Targ Brill**, 314 Lawndale, Wilmette IL 60091 (marlenetbrill@comcast.net)

### POETRY

**Mark Arendt**, 8641 Beech St., Munster IN 46321 (mnarendt@comcast.net)

**Anthony Burton**, University of Chicago Press, 1427 E. 60th St., Chicago IL 60637 (aburton@press.uchicago.edu)

**Richard Jones**, 913 Lois Lane, Glenview IL 60025 (rjones1@depaul.edu)

# AWARDS ENTRY FORM

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: February 1, 2013

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions, email or call Society President Robert Loerzel: [loerzel@comcast.net](mailto:loerzel@comcast.net), 773-572-2402. Authors who wish to confirm that the judges have received their books may email [loerzel@comcast.net](mailto:loerzel@comcast.net) after Feb. 11.

## New Members

**Kathie Giorgio's** first novel, *The Home For Wayward Clocks*, was released in 2011 by the Main Street Rag Publishing Co. It has received the Outstanding Achievement award by the Wisconsin Library Association Literary Awards Committee and has been nominated for the Paterson Fiction Award.

Her short story collection, *Enlarged Hearts*, was released in April 2012 by the Main Street Rag Publishing Co. as well. The sequel to *The Home For Wayward Clocks* is titled *Learning to Tell (A Life)Time* and is due out in 2013. The release date will be revealed soon.

Giorgio has been nominated twice for the Million Writer Award and for the Best of the Net anthology, with the most recent being for the 2012 Best of the Net anthology for her story, "Lucky."

She also is the director and founder of the creative writing studio AllWriters' Workplace & Workshop in Waukesha, Wis., and teaches for Writers' Digest and serves on its advisory board.

**Richard P. Bessette** is author of *Rods Down and Dropped Fires: Illinois Central and the Steam Age in Perspective* (RTN Press, 2004); *Centennial Remembrance*



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*100 Years – And Counting: Saint Rita of Cascia High School* (RTN Press, 2005); *Southside Canadians: A Family Journey* (RTN Press, 2007) and *Circle of Service: Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne & the Family Business* (RTN Press, 2011).

Bessette was born and raised in Chicago. He worked for the Illinois Central Railroad from 1970 through 1990, was employed at Roman Adhesives from 1991 to 1998, and has been writing since.

**Daniel Nelson** is emeritus professor of history at the University of Akron and former director of the University of Akron Press. He has written many books, including *Northern Landscapes: The Struggle for Wilderness Alaska* and *American*

*Rubber Workers & Organized Labor, 1900-1941*, as well as several articles and book reviews in national publications such as *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Policy History*, *Ohio History* and *Alaska History*.

His most recent book is *A Passion for the Land: John F. Seiberling and the Environmental Movement*.

**Artie Knapp** is the author of many published works for young readers, including *Stuttering Stan Takes a Stand* and *Living Green: A Turtle's Quest for a Cleaner Planet*, a shortlist finalist for the 2012 Green Earth Book Award.

His children's literature has been featured in more than 100 publications across the world, and he is a frequent contributor to the Detroit Free Press' Yak's Corner.

He was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, and graduated from Ohio University. He lives in Cincinnati with his wife, Priya, and his daughter.

**Linda Leedy Schneider** has written six collections of poetry including *Some Days: Poetry of a Psychotherapist* (Plain View Press 2011) and has edited two collections of poetry written by poets whom she has mentored: *Mentor's Bouquet* (Finishing Line Press 2010) and *Poems From 84th Street* (Pudding House Publications 2010).

Her work also has been published in hundreds of literary magazines including *The Pedestal Magazine*, *Rattle* and *The Sow's Ear*.

She received the 2012 Contemporary American Poetry Prize, a Readers' Choice Award from *The Pedestal Magazine*, and was honored by the Dyer-Ives Poetry Competition. Her work was nominated for a Pushcart Prize.

Schneider is a poetry and writing mentor and psychotherapist in private practice and she has been a faculty member at Aquinas College and Kendall College of Art and Design.

She lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

*Any Society of Midland Authors member may nominate an author for membership. Nominated authors should be associated with one of the 12 Midland states through birth or residence.*

# SMA authors at Publishing Cocktails

The SMA took part in a different sort of event on Dec. 5 – Publishing Cocktails, a social gathering for writers, booksellers, editors, reviewers and publicists that takes place every other month or so in Chicago.

SMA board member **Keir Graff** organizes Publishing Cocktails together with Javier Ramirez, who works at the Book Stall at Chestnut Court in Winnetka. So it seemed like a natural idea for the Society to show some presence at one of these fun and casual events.

The evening started with a "cash mob" at The Book Cellar, an independent bookstore in Chicago's Lincoln Square neighborhood. The idea was that everyone should spend \$20 buying books at this local shop. At 7 p.m., folks headed across the street to The Huettenbar, where steins of German beer and other beverages were filled and drained. Rose Laws, author of the memoir *Gold Coast Madam*, made an appearance, along with her publisher, **Sharon Woodhouse** of Lake Claremont Press and co-author Dianna Harris.

SMA President **Robert Loerzel** was on hand to chat about the Society with current and prospective members. Board members **Gerry Souter** and **Tom Frisbie** attended, too, along with SMA members **Daniel Kraus**, **Allen Salter** (Sam Reaves), **Mahmoud Saeed**, **Greg Borzo**, **Janet Souter**, **Owen Hurd**, **Michael Raleigh**, **Joey Korom**, **Lynda O'Connor** and **James V. O'Connor**. Also in the house were some representatives of national publishing companies as well as other noteworthy authors, including Rebecca Skloot and Anne Elizabeth Moore.

The Shelf Awareness website carried a report about the event, including a comment from the Book Cellar's owner, Suzy Takacs, who called it "a social delight, a lovely mix and mingle of friends and acquaintances all in one space that I would not typically have had a chance to see in this crazy holiday season."