



## Mission Statement: The Ernest

Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park fosters understanding of the life and work of Ernest Hemingway, with emphasis on his Oak Park origins and his impact on world literature. Its mission reflects the Foundation's belief in the importance of the written word and the value of thoughtful reading and writing.

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To join the EHFOP, go to [www.ehfop.org](http://www.ehfop.org) and click "Become a Member" to join!

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# Hemingway Despatch

P.O. Box 2222, Oak Park, Illinois,  
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2011 Hemingway Birthday Lecture

## Steve Paul on “I am trying to make speed”: On Hemingway, Journalism and the Path to Writing

by *Maryanne Rusinak*

“This typing is a little woosy. But the light is bad and I am trying to make speed.” ~ Ernest Hemingway, in a letter to his parents from Kansas City (17 December 1917)

Steve Paul, Senior Writer and Arts Editor of *The Kansas City Star*, will present the EHFOP Birthday Lecture on July 21: “I am trying to make speed’: On Hemingway, Journalism and the Path to Writing.” It is a special

The Hemingway Birthday Lecture will be held Thursday, July 21, at the Museum, 200 N. Oak Park Ave, Oak Park, IL

A reception at 6:30 p.m. precedes the lecture at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$10 for EHFOP members and \$15 for non-members.

and Hemingway scholarship.

Paul will include his recent research on Ernest Hemingway’s *Kansas City Star* period

(October 1917 through April 1918) in which he explores the influence of Hemingway’s early reporting at *The Kansas City Star* on his later writing. He will include research from the book he is co-editing, *War + Ink*, a collection of essays. from the 13th Biennial International Ernest Hemingway Society Conference in Kansas City in 2008, forthcoming from Kent State University Press.

Paul writes in *War + Ink*:

... Hemingway’s attraction to the darker aspects of human behavior, the world of violence, grit, crime and moral weakness, which he got to know up close during his Kansas City apprenticeship. In a sense, Hemingway’s writing radar got tuned in the newsroom, police stations and hospital wards of Kansas City when he was an 18-year-old journalist.

and

It is not a leap of faith to assume that every day the young apprentice learned about life, writing and the world by reading the publication for which he worked. *The Star* had



a reputation for attracting writers with literary aspirations.

Paul has been a staff writer and editor at *The Kansas City Star* since 1975. In his current position of Senior Writer and Arts Editor he manages staff and freelance critics and also writes about books, music, architecture, the arts, the city and restaurants. In 1999, the year of the Hemingway centennial, he edited a special commemorative section at *The Star*, which was Hemingway’s first employer. That began Steve’s immersion into the Hemingway world. His conference papers appear in *The Hemingway Review*, in *Key West Hemingway* (University of Florida Press) and in two forthcoming books. In 2003 he gave a conference paper at a

*Continued on Page 2*



Hemingway Colloquium in Havana, Cuba, and was the site director of the Hemingway Conference in Kansas City in 2008.

He also serves as the international Hemingway Foundation’s liaison to the Hemingway/PEN Award for first fiction, administered by New England PEN and celebrated annually at the JFK Library and Museum. A native of Boston, Steve is a graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In 2002 he was a fellow to a Salzburg Seminar in American Studies in Salzburg, Austria. He has taught as an adjunct instructor at UMKC and Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois.

Paul is the recipient of an impressive list of awards, including the Kansas Press Association (2010), the American

Association of Sunday and Features Editors (2009), the American Institute of Architects/Kansas City (2009), the Stanley Hanks Memorial Contest for Missouri Poets (2009), Kansas City Association of Black Journalists (2009, 1998), the Heart of America Press Awards (2003), the Missouri Associated Press Managing Editors (2003), and the Missouri Press Association (2003, 2002), Kansas City Press Club (2002), and the Missouri Mental Health Award (1999).

Steve Paul currently has two more book projects in the works: *Architecture A-Z*, a compilation of columns on Kansas City’s built environment (Kansas City Star Books), and *Kansas City Noir*, a collection of short fiction, which he will edit for Akashic Books.

## Redd Griffin Speaks on “Twain and Hemingway: Humor from the Heartland”

Earlier this year board member Redd Griffin represented the Foundation at Du Page County’s English/Language Arts Institute Day at Wheaton North High School, attended annually by hundreds of educators from Du Page County and beyond. The Day’s theme was “Getting Serious About Humor.” Griffin spoke on “Twain and Hemingway: Humor from the Heartland.” His presentation explored how the authors’ lives in the heartland influenced their comedic vision, through lecture, discussion and readers theater.

Our Foundation representing Hemingway’s hometown of Oak Park was complemented by the Mark Twain Museum representing its author’s hometown of Hannibal, Missouri.

Proving how serious the Institute Day was about humor, its final plenary program was a series of comedic sketches by Chicago Second City’s ad lib “Improv All-Stars Show.”

For the last few years Griffin has been presenting sessions of lectures, Readers Theater and discussion exploring facets of Ernest Hemingway’s life and work relating to annual themes of the Institute Day. Presenters come from around Illinois and neighboring states. In the past they have included the poet laureate of Illinois, the founder of poetry slams and a variety of well-known authors.

Ron Piro of the Wheaton North English faculty, organizer of the Day, and his colleagues read and teach Hemingway. Piro at Griffin’s invitation recently visited our Foundation’s sites with his son and reported having “enjoyed the museum” and being “really ... impressed with the house tour.”

## Foundation Board Member Nancy Sindelar to Speak at Colloquium in Cuba



Foundation Board Member Nancy Sindelar, PhD, has been invited to speak at the 13th International Colloquium on Ernest Hemingway in Cuba in June. One of the conference topics is the subject of death in Ernest Hemingway’s work. Sindelar’s presentation will focus on “The Early Influences Impacting Hemingway’s Attitude toward Death (1899-1917).”

She also has been asked to meet with other Hemingway institutions, organizations and people that promote and preserve Hemingway’s legacy around the world. Because travel to Cuba by U. S. citizens is restricted, Sindelar was required to have a license from the U. S. Department of Treasury to attend the Colloquium.

Future issues of the *Despatch* will contain notes and pictures from her trip.

# Message from John W. Berry, Chairman

Here are several updates for the winter and spring seasons for The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park.

## Dominican Declines Purchase of Boyhood Home

Dominican University recently determined to give up property management of the Hemingway Boyhood (Family) Home, on Kenilworth Avenue after two years of fundraising efforts failed to raise enough money to purchase and renovate the Oak Park property.

Beginning July 1, management of the home, now a three-flat, reverts to the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park which will evaluate options for the future of the property.

## Dispatch Wins Illinois State Historical Society Award

The Illinois State Historical Society honored the *Dispatch* at the Society's annual awards program on April 15. The award was presented at the 2011 Illinois History Symposium at Morris Library on the campus of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. The award was accepted by past chairman and founding Board Member Redd Griffin by Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon. Special thanks to Editorial Director Maryanne Rusinak, Associate Editor Barbara Ballinger and designer Allison Sansone for their excellent and dedicated work.

## EHFOP Annual Meeting

At its annual meeting on March 28, the Board voted to approve Jill Bremer and Yves Hughes, Jr. to the Board. See story in this issue.

Board Member Dr. David Krause, Dominican University, gave a rousing presentation on the Hemingways in Oak Park during the years in the family home at 600 N. Kenilworth, Oak Park.

With gratitude for fine work and dedication, the Board accepted the resignations of Board Members John Hubbuch and Jean Radford, both of Oak Park, in spring 2011. Both will continue involvement with the work of the Foundation in other capacities.

## Board and Staff News

EHFOP Chairman John W. Berry, professor of the Practice of Library and Information Science, was named an Illinois Library Luminary by the Illinois Library Association in February, 2011, joining nineteen other distinguished colleagues for significant contributions to Illinois, national and international librarianship.

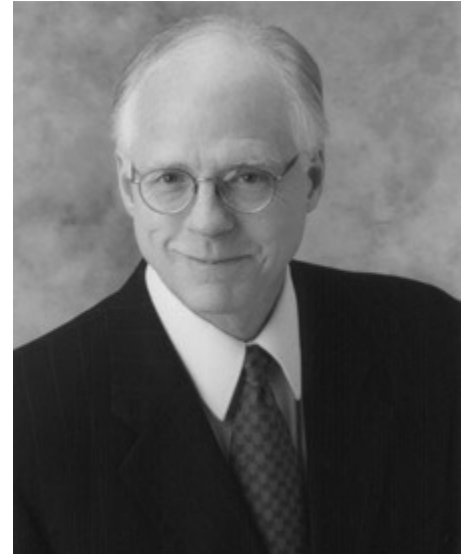
EHFOP Board Member Dr. Nancy Sindelar will present a paper at the Hemingway colloquium in Cuba (see previous page).

EHFOP Board Member Stan West won an award from the Illinois State Historical Society for his co-authored book, *Suburban Promised Land: The Emerging Black Community in Oak Park, Illinois, 1880-1980* in 2011.

EHFOP Administrative Director Allison Hantschel (Sansone) is co-author, with Mike Danahey, of *Chicago's Historic Irish Pubs*, part of Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series. The book, released in late February 2011, has been well-received and is in its 3rd printing.

Virginia Cassin and Redd Griffin continued the Foundation's outreach by organizing a Memorial Day celebration with a wreath-laying recalling Ernest Hemingway during the 50th anniversary of his death. They have also been offering tours to a Dominican University class.

Redd has been presenting his program "Hemingway in the Heartland" to area public libraries, retirement communities, and adult educational organizations. He also wrote the Readers Theater piece "Giants of the Valleys" presented at the Oak Park Arms on April 1, 2011.



## Hemingway and EHFOP Calendar

**June 16 - 19, 2011.** 13th International Colloquium Ernest Hemingway, Havana, Cuba. Presented by The Ernest Hemingway Museum at Finca Vigia in coordination with The Hemingway Chair of the International Institute of Journalism "Jose Marti." Contact [mushem@cubarte.cult.cu](mailto:mushem@cubarte.cult.cu)

**July 21, 2011. 8 p.m.** Hemingway Museum, 200 N. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, Illinois Annual Birthday Lecture of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park. "I am trying to make speed": Hemingway, Journalism and the Path to Writing by Steve Paul, Senior Writer and Arts Editor at *The Kansas City Star*. See [www.ehfop.org](http://www.ehfop.org)

**October 14 - 16, 2011.** Annual Hemingway Weekend of The Michigan Hemingway Society. "Hemingway Waters: Exploring the Depths." Petoskey, Michigan. See the Michigan Hemingway Society on Facebook.

**June 17 - 22, 2012.** The 15th International Conference of The Hemingway Society. Petoskey - Bay View, Michigan. See [www.mhs2012.com](http://www.mhs2012.com)

## From the Archives



An open house at the Hemingway Archives, located in the Oak Park Public Library, was held for volunteers of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park on the evening of Thursday, April 14. Donna Flesch of the Archives and Leigh Gavin of the Library hosted the event.

Items shown included rare first editions of *The Sun Also Rises* and *Three Stories and Ten Poems* as well as two letters from Agnes von Kurowsky to Ernest Hemingway and letters to Hemingway from both his father and mother. All materials shown were from special collections of the Library and the Archives.

## EHFOP Reaches Out to the Cuban-American Community during Hispanic Heritage Month

by Stan West and Redd Griffin

The influence of Cuba on Ernest Hemingway, as well as his impact on Cuban culture and communities, is a major focus in the Foundation's "Great Places for Learning" project this September during Hispanic Heritage Month. Cuban-Americans, Spanish and English speaking journalists, and the public are welcome to celebrate the month with the Foundation this year.

This outreach builds on the Hemingway Museum's images and words from Hemingway's writings about Cuba. Prominent in its "Eye of the Writer" exhibit is a picture of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre. This image of the patron saint of Cuba includes two Indians and a black slave, representing two of the island's most significant ethnic strains. The hero of *The Old Man and the Sea*, Santiago, had "a picture in color" of it on the wall of his shack. It is to this Virgin of Cobre that he

vows "to make a pilgrimage ... if I catch [this fish]."

Ernest Hemingway donated his 1954 Nobel Prize medal to the shrine. Others have adopted the shrine as important to their cause, including many followers of Santeria, a Yoruba-based West African religion brought to the Western Hemisphere and practiced in Cuba's Southeast section of Santiago, the province of the old mining town of Cobre associated with the statue. The mother of Fidel and Raul Castro left a small golden guerrilla fighter at the feet of the Virgin as her sons battled the government of Fulgencio Batista ahead of the Cuban Revolution.

EHFOP reaches out during Hispanic Heritage Month from its own presentation of Hemingway's relation to Cuba by encouraging the public to visit a smaller version of this shrine at St. Ita Catholic Church in Chicago, home to many Cuban-

Americans. It can be viewed before, during, and after the Masses held there throughout the week. On September 8, St. Ita holds an annual celebration of celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Charity, with a special service before the shrine.

In May Dominican University, which has been working on some projects with EHFOP, sent a group of students and faculty to Cuba, including to the mostly black region of Santiago as well as to Hemingway's Havana home, according to sociology Professor Christina Perez, who led the delegation.

The Foundation is working on plans to present a Readers Theater version of *The Old Man and the Sea* in September, which is also the month in which the novella is set.

Contact St. Ita at 773.561.5343, office@saintita.org, or visit at 1220 W. Catalpa. Chicago.IL 60640.

# Olivier Barrot Visits Oak Park for French Radio Program

by Kirsten Rusinak

Tuesday, May 24, French radio producer Olivier Barrot, arrives at the Ernest Hemingway Foundation in Oak Park to tape translated footage for a series on Ernest Hemingway called *Les Grandes Traverses* to appear on the French Culture radio station this summer. Barrot has an impressive list of credentials as a journalist, writer, professor, producer, and television host. He has been, among other things, a journalist for *Le Monde*, and an artistic advisor for the Cannes Film Festival.

As a recent college graduate who just spent a year teaching in France, I found it a pleasure to meet him. Here's how my Tuesday morning visit to EHFOP went:

*Scene. Late morning. A room full of EHFOP board members, Barrot, and his two man taping crew, Guillaume and George.*

Everyone stopped and listened. Barrot is engaging in his journalistic, personal interview approach. He has traveled the world, is at home everywhere. He came to Oak Park after traveling through Spain, learning about Hemingway in the context of the Spanish Civil War, and plans to go to Petoskey, Michigan, then loop back east to Key West – all Hemingway haunts. As a European, he had been influenced by Hemingway's international reputation. As an intellectual, he has a wide knowledge of Hemingway through his extensive reading.

Still, Barrot admits his knowledge of Hemingway's early life is hardly complete. As he commented, "Everyone [in France] knows about Spain and Paris, but nothing about Oak Park."

Board member Redd Griffin asked the leading question about Barrot's venture: "How is Oak Park most helpful?" "We have a lot of material," answers Barrot, "but it needs to be alive. Oak Park is where he started writing. He spent the first 18 years of his life here."

In other words, to learn about Hemingway in the context of his Oak Park years is to bring life to the author and, likewise, to the



Olivier Barrot and his sound engineer George Vassiliou taping in Oak Park.

new meanings from which international readers can approach his work.

Barrot, however, wasn't the only one to respond to Griffin's Oak Park centered question. Those present found many examples of Hemingway's historical survival or "aliveness."

Griffin, for instance, regards the Hemingway Birthplace as Hemingway's point of "continuity from [Oak Park] to the rest of the world." Fellow board member Virginia Cassin views Oak Park as a foundational part of Hemingway's character, believing that "by the time you are six, you are going to be who you're ever going to be." Barbara Ballinger, former Hemingway archivist, showed Barrot drawings, letters, and musical scores from the collection of Hemingway materials in the EHFOP Hemingway Archives, housed at the Oak Park Public Library.

The day of taping began at the Archives, and then moved to the Hemingway Birthplace, culminating at the Museum.

The following day, Barrot conducted private interviews with board members Stan West and Redd Griffin. He also paid visits to sites along the Des Plaines River, which Ernest frequented as a boy, and viewed the Hemingway Boyhood Home in Oak

Park. Whatever Barrot was searching for, he appears to have found in Oak Park. He said the challenge will be to bring all of the material down to the time available in the 15 hour radio series.

In some ways, observing the tapings was just as special as what may eventually become of them. Barrot's translations of the Hemingway tour sounded, as Griffin said, "so much better when you say it in French." Those present took pleasure in Barrot's calling Grace Hemingway a "très jolie femme" while admiring her portrait in the Archives.

Hemingway's reputation is certainly the result of an international effort. One might say that Ernest Hemingway board members keep the Hemingway legacy alive through the act of teaching and sharing their knowledge.

Barrot, in his work, is clearly helping to keep the Hemingway legacy alive in France

*Kirsten Rusinak, a native Oak Parker, graduated from Oak Park River Forest High School (2006) as did Ernest Hemingway before her. She was recipient of the Ernest Hemingway Poetry Award. She is a 2010 graduate of Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, and just returned from a year of teaching English in Vence, France.*

# Sylvia Christmas, Outstanding Foundation Docent

by Virginia Cassin

Fortunate indeed are those visitors to the Hemingway Birthplace who are warmly greeted by Sylvia Christmas, Hemingway docent for 15 years, whose guided tours of the house are always crisply accurate and fashioned to the interest of each guest.



Sylvia was born in Latvia and spent her early years in post-WWII Germany before coming as a child to a farm in Indiana, school days in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and college at the University of Wisconsin. She has traveled a good deal and frequently visits Latvia from which she sometimes considers herself a transplant and where family and friends remain close to her heart. Her own origins may explain how easily she connects with the many foreign visitors she meets at

the Hemingway Birthplace.

Sylvia shares weekly docent duties at the Birthplace with her husband, Larry, who is a former EHFOP board member, her world travel companion and past president of the Village of Oak Park. Both are busily involved in community activities. Sylvia is a Realtor at Gloor Realty in Oak Park and currently serves on the board of the League of Women Voters.

In Sylvia's own words: "In addition to being a Hemingway docent, I enjoy tennis, dancing, reading, travel, grandchildren and gardening.

"Oak Park certainly proved to be a welcoming place when we moved here in 1970. Like the Hemingways, our children flourished in the Oak Park public schools from K-12, spent summers in Michigan, and after graduation left home to see the world. Our daughter, Kiki, lived and worked in Athens, Hong Kong, London, Singapore and Tokyo. She and her family now live less than a mile away in River Forest. Our son, John, returned to Latvia but now lives in Malta with his family. My husband and I have enjoyed visiting all of these places with the special advantage of having our own family guide.

"My other adventure in life was writing a novel—unlike any of Hemingway's novels in that the leading character is a woman. Her adventures take her to Russia where she searches for some lost artworks by Marc Chagall. In *One Way Journey to Moscow* my fictional counterpart has allowed me to experience even more adventures than I have in real life."

Many thanks to Sylvia for contributing her talents as a long-term and talented docent.

# EHFOP Board Member Is Former Head of Two Historically Black Colleges and Universities

by Stan West

In boardrooms, he's quietly effective. In classrooms, he's dynamic. His name is Dr. Wendell Rayburn. He's been a board member of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park for more than three years. Prior to that, he was president



of Savannah State College (now University) 1980-1988, and president of Lincoln University (Jefferson City, MO) 1988 - 1998, two

historically black colleges and universities. According to Wendell, no less than 118 of the 1,700 public and private colleges and universities in the United States were black by the twentieth century. It was in these colleges that 85% of all black undergraduates from the south were educated.

When queried about his Hemingway connection, he said: "I was asked by Ginie Cassin if I would consider joining the Hemingway Foundation board. I recalled that Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* was the first book I read as a freshman college student in an American literature course. I greatly enjoyed the book, and Hemingway became one of my favorite authors. Also, some years later, I had the opportunity to visit one of his favorite bars in Key West, Florida, which once again kindled my interest in Hemingway. So, I accepted Ginie's invitation to join the Foundation. As a member of the board, I have learned so much more about this world renowned writer and adventurer. I'm hooked on Hemingway!"

# March 10: *The Paris Wife* Author Paula McLain Visits the Hemingway Museum

by Maryanne Rusinak

Paula McLain read from her novel *The Paris Wife* at the Ernest Hemingway Museum on March 10. The novel chronicles the relationship and marriage of Hadley Richardson and Ernest Hemingway.

McLain has a Master of Fine Arts degree in poetry from the University of Michigan, is a recipient of fellowships from the Ohio Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, and has previously published two collections of poetry and a memoir.

McLain discussed her research methods in writing *The Paris Wife*, basing it on earlier biographies of Hadley as well as over 2,000 pages of love letter at the JFK Library in Boston. She became especially intrigued by Hadley's motivations and the ways she is mirrored in later Hemingway writings.

Those who attended the reading were captivated by McLain's depiction of Hemingway's first marriage. Especially enjoyable was the author's reading of the historically accurate event of Hadley's losing



Ernest's manuscripts in a suitcase while traveling to meet him in Austria.

*Publishers Weekly* wrote, "McLain offers a vivid addition to the complex-woman-behind-the-legendary-man genre, bringing Ernest Hemingway and his first wife, Hadley Richardson, to life ... The heart of the story – Ernest and Hadley's relationship – gets an

honest reckoning, most notably the waves of elation and despair that pull them apart."

McLain's editor also edited Nancy Horan's best seller about Frank Lloyd Wright, *Loving Frank*. The release of *The Paris Wife* has happily resulted in an increased number of visitors, especially book groups, to the Hemingway Museum in Oak Park.

## New Members Add Expertise to Foundation Board

by Virginia Cassin

The board of The Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park is pleased to

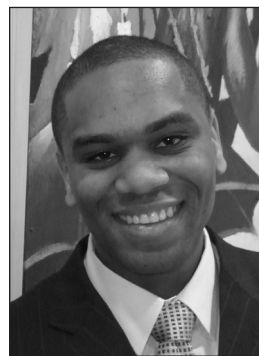


announce the election of two new members, effective as of the March 2011 Annual Meeting. Jill Bremer and Yves Hughes, Jr. are community residents and

professional entrepreneurs.

Jill Bremer has been helping organizations and individuals achieve success since

1986. She has appeared as a trainer and speaker for corporations and organizations throughout the country, designing image and communications strategies.



She will bring significant expertise to enhance the Foundation's productivity, public relations and docent training programs.

Yves Hughes is a technology consultant and managing partner of Next Door Multimedia, located in Oak Park. He is also

business accounts manager for AT&T in Chicago. Starting as a consultant for small businesses, he has expanded his role to interface design and software development, which will be of value to the Foundation.

Sadly, the board has received the resignation of two recent and valued members, Jean Radford and John Hubbuch.

Jean and her husband have sold their longtime Oak Park home and are establishing a residence and a new business – raising alpacas – in McHenry County. Her strong organization skills and enthusiasm will be missed.

John will continue to contribute his talents to EHFOP as a docent.