



PO Box 8243
Pittsburgh, PA 15217-0243
info@brandtstreetpress.com
412-600-3806

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Anita Kulina, Publisher, Brandt Street Press
(412) 600-3806, anita@brandtstreetpress.com

Elizabethtown Native Scott Bradley Smith Captivates Audience with Memoir of Car Crash

ELIZABETHTOWN, PA — When Scott Bradley Smith was nine, his family was involved in a car crash that changed his life forever. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the crash, but the lessons Smith learned about road rage, heroism and the difficulty of judging other people have stuck with him to this day.

Smith wrote of the event, which occurred on Front Street in Harrisburg in 1969, in his memoir "Motor Men," published this year in *Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun* (Brandt Street Press). Smith read the memoir on Sunday, September 21 at the Lynden Gallery of Art in his hometown of Elizabethtown. The story captivated an audience of about 30, and afterwards Smith answered questions about the power of story.

"We're always trying to make sense of things that happened to us in the past," says Smith. "Stories help us remember who we were and where we came from. They mark the signposts of our lives."

A graduate of Penn State and The University of Arizona, Smith has been writing for more than 40 years. He's the author of five produced plays. His short story "Caught" won the Pittsburgh City Paper Short Fiction Contest. Most recently, his short story "Box Boy," set in the old Market Basket grocery store in Elizabethtown, was published in the University of Florida's literary magazine *Subtropics*. He has completed a "novel-in-stories" titled *Growing Up Dutch*, and is currently at work on a novel set in a fictional State College. He now lives in Pittsburgh.

"Elizabethtown and the areas surrounding it—Harrisburg, Lancaster, Hershey, State College—were my stomping grounds," says Smith. "Many of my stories are set there. But even when they're not, I'm always aware that these places are ingrained deep inside me. The landscape, the people, the dialects, the notions of fairness and responsibility and hard work—all of these form the backdrop for the stories I tell."

Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun (www.DammitBook.com) is a collection of totally new, totally true stories by 12 different authors. It was released in May of this year by Brandt Street Press.

What people are saying about *Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun*

"[A] fascination with history shines through even in these 12 deeply personal stories.... [I]t's compulsively readable, full of history, and clever without being didactic."

DAN WILLIS, PITTSBURGH CITY PAPER

"A quick and riveting read, one with which you'll be happy to have spent time."

DREY SAMUELSON, U.S. SENATE CHIEF OF STAFF

"These stories are as compulsively readable as popcorn in a scary movie!"

SUE STAUFFACHER, CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

"You'll find yourself turning around, perhaps glancing over your shoulder."

PATRICIA MENICK, SCULPTOR & INSTALLATION ARTIST

"Read one, you'll come back for more."

RON STEFFENS, EDUCATOR/AUTHOR/FOREST FIREFIGHTER

About Brandt Street Press

Established in Pittsburgh in 2003, Brandt Street Press publishes books that make history fun. Brandt Street Press previously published *Millhunks and Renegades*, a history of Pittsburgh centered on the neighborhoods of Greenfield and Squirrel Hill, by Anita Kulina. The next book in the "Dammit" series, *Dammit, I Love You*, is scheduled for publication in Spring 2015.