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PRESS RELEASE

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***Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun*; 8 Pittsburgh Authors On Hand to Launch Book**

PITTSBURGH, PA — Eight Pittsburgh authors were on hand to sign books and talk with approximately 100 people at a book launch event for *Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun*, a collection of 12 totally new, totally true stories (www.DammitBook.com). The event was held at Hough's Taproom and Brewpub (563 Greenfield Avenue, Pittsburgh) on Tuesday evening, May 27.

Mike Connell, whose story "Honor" leads off the collection, learned about sons-of-guns early on in life. "When kids get punished, they usually know, deep down in their bones, that they got exactly what they deserved," said Mike. "But sometimes it takes half a lifetime to really see the big picture."

Brandt Street Press, a Squirrel Hill publisher that specializes in making history fun, released *Dammit, I Learned a Lot from That Son-of-a-Gun* just this week. The editors solicited personal stories from authors who come from a wide variety of vocations—musicians, health care professionals, teachers, editors, IT managers, university administrators. Most are from Pittsburgh, but others hail from the Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Boston areas.

"A seventy-something former vaudeville dancer imparts her wisdom to an awkward, rotund girl," said **Judi Resick-Csokai**, Greenfield, talking about her story, "Steel Town Dancing Queen." "The moonwalk, an appreciation for Barry Manilow and Tchaikovsky, and the art of self-discipline—Dammit, I learned a lot from that son-of-a-gun!"

"Sons-of-guns, despite their often harsh ways, can motivate and inspire us," said **Laura Lind**, Squirrel Hill, a performer with the improvisational comedy group The Amish Monkeys. "The son-of-a-gun in my story cultivated a performer from the seeds of a wallflower."

Brandt Street Press publisher **Anita Kulina** recognizes the enormous power stories can have on people. "Story is how we process everything that happens in our lives," said Kulina.

"Something happens to you at work, on the bus, in the car on the way home. What's the first thing you do? You call a friend and tell them about it. You tell them a story."

Authors who attended the Book Launch Event were: Mike Connell, Katherine Gross, Douglas Gwilym, Anita Kulina, Laura Lind, Cindy McKay, Judi Resick-Csokai and Scott Bradley Smith.

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

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

SUE STAUFFACHER, CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR

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

DREY SAMUELSON, U.S. SENATE CHIEF OF STAFF

"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.