

***Jon Hassler – Voice of the Heartland:
A Critical Appraisal of his Work***

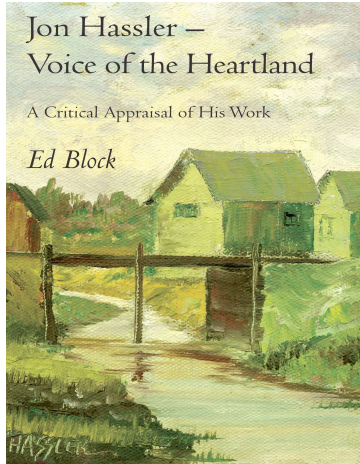
**Boswell Book Release Reading
2559 N. Downer Avenue
Wednesday, July 10
7 p.m.**



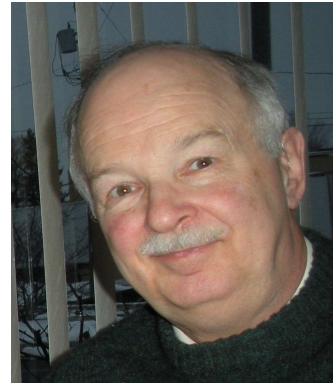
NODIN PRESS

By Ed Block

An introduction to the life and work of the late Minnesota novelist, *Jon Hassler – Voice of the Heartland: A Critical Appraisal of his Work*, is the first book-length study of one of the most beloved



Ed Block, Emeritus Professor of English at Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, retired from teaching in 2012. He and his family have lived in Greendale, Wisconsin for twenty-eight years. There he tends a garden, does watercolors, leads book discussions at the local library, and continues to read and write about literature and compose poems. His interviews, essays, reviews and short stories have appeared in *AMERICA*, *IMAGE*, *LOGOS*, *U.S. CATHOLIC*, *ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER*, and a variety of other journals. He has published two books of poems, *Anno Domini*, and *Seasons of Change*. Visit him at www.greendalebrushandquill.com.



from the “Introduction”

Jon Hassler celebrates the (un)common woman and man. That fanfare -- sometimes a gently satiric raspberry -- nevertheless reverences all it touches. Not the sensationally marginal, odd, or deviant, but the uncommon in every one of us. Not Flannery O’Connor’s redneck or fundamentalist, but the greatness of America’s vast and often struggling middle classes. He does this by focusing his sustained attention on them, for more than a caricaturist’s moment of fiendish glee. Hassler’s attention paid to detail is both a way to temper satire and avoid sentimentality. That sustained attention can be like the attention that the French philosopher and writer, Simone Weil, said that we all should devote to one another: *caring* attention.

Praise for Jon Hassler – Voice of the Heartland

. . . a perceptive, thoroughly readable study that should go a long way toward bringing Hassler’s fiction the attention and respect it deserves. Block seasons his critical analyses, presented without critical jargon or intellectual pretense, with references to Hassler’s life and his cultural milieu. This insightful survey will please longtime fans and students of Hassler’s work as well as those seeking an introduction to the man and his work. It is an indispensable guide.

-- Larry Watson, author of *Montana: 1948* and *Good As Gone*