

PROFILE

Barbara Mahany, a former pediatric oncology nurse, became a newspaper writer after earning an internship at her hometown paper, the *Chicago Tribune*, upon graduation from the Medill Graduate School of Journalism at Northwestern University. She has always been drawn to deeply human stories, where she has displayed a nurse's knack for tapping into the hearts of those whose story she is telling. She counts among her life's treasures the hundreds of letters she's received from readers who tell her they've clipped one of her stories and tucked it in a wallet, a bedroom drawer, or slipped it in a plastic sleeve and carried it wherever they've gone. One such fellow, the Pigeon Man of Lincoln Square who was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver, died clutching a laminated copy of the story she had written about him three years earlier. She is currently a freelance journalist, and author of the award-winning collections of prayerful essays, *Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door* (2014); *Motherprayer: Lessons in Loving* (2017); and *The Blessings of Motherprayer: Sacred Whispers of Mothering* (2018).

EXPERIENCE

AUTHOR 2014 - 2018
Slowing Time: Seeing the Sacred Outside Your Kitchen Door (Abingdon Press, 2014), a collection of prayerful essays; *Motherprayer: Lessons in Loving* (Abingdon Press, 2017); *The Blessings of Motherprayer: Sacred Whispers of Mothering* (Abingdon Press, 2018).

FREELANCE JOURNALIST

Chicago, IL and Cambridge, MA 2012 - present
 Articles and essays published in *The New York Times*, *Chicago* magazine, *Northwestern* magazine, *Marquette* magazine, and the *Chicago Tribune Sunday* magazine, and *Printers Row Journal*, the Tribune's literary supplement.

Essays published *OnBeing*, *Nieman Storyboard*, *On Faith*, *beliefnet*, *High Calling*.

STAFF WRITER

Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL. 1982-2012
 During nearly 30 years at the Tribune, Mahany spent her first five years as a news reporter, covering everything from breaking news to regional trend stories. Highlights included the 10-part "Hunger in America" series, the Jeanine Nicarico murder trial and re-trial, the journey of Mother Theresa's nuns to a desperately poor parish on the West Side of Chicago, and a stint in Washington, D.C., working on the Iran-Contra investigations. For the next 25 years, she was a feature writer. Her assignments included the Tempo section, the Overnight page, the Chicago Tribune Magazine, the Family, and Q, and Home & Garden sections, and the National Content/Lifestyle team, for which she wrote family, health, garden, nature, food, books and home stories for the eight Tribune newspapers and websites around the country. Besides the Tribune, her work has been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Seattle Times*, *The Orlando Sentinel*, and dozens of other newspapers in the U.S. and Canada.

STAFF NURSE

Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL 1979-1982
 Assigned to a special medical/school-age and adolescent unit, she worked primarily with pediatric oncology and hematology patients, as well as children with various chronic and terminal illnesses including diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, cystic fibrosis, kidney transplants, sickle cell anemia and hemophilia. While there, she started a support group for parents, and another one for siblings of terminally-ill children.

EDUCATION

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, MEDILL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Evanston, IL — M.S.J., 1982

Harrington Award, highest honor for outstanding graduate student (newspaper); graduated first in her class

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF NURSING

Milwaukee, WI — B.S.N., 1979

Beren's Key Award, highest honor for outstanding undergraduate nursing student; Valedictorian; Alpha Sigma Nu, National Jesuit Honor Society

AWARDS

2017 *Motherprayer* named Spirituality & Practice Best Spiritual Books of 2017, "a classic in everyday spirituality."

2014 *Slowing Time* named Foreword Reviews' 2014 INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award Finalist.

2014 *Slowing Time* named Best Book of Wonder, Spirituality & Practice Best Books of 2014.

2009 Publisher's Team Award, Chicago Tribune.

2009 Excellence in Environmental Reporting, Chicago Audubon Society.

2008 Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism, finalist. Chicago Headline Club.

2007 Media Orthopaedic Reporting Excellence (MORE) Award, winner. American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

2007 AASFE 2007 Writing Competition, short feature, honorable mention. American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors. Category IV, circulation over 300,000.

2006 AASFE 2006 Writing Competition, short feature, third place. American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors. Category IV, circulation over 300,000.

1989 Betsy Ross West Award, outstanding public service. Social Service Communicators.

1984 Livingston Awards for Young Journalists, finalist.

ETCETERA

2012-2103 Affiliate, Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. As spouse of Arts & Culture Fellow, Blair Kamin, participated fully in fellowship, taking full load of courses (not for credit) at Harvard College, and Harvard Divinity School, and partaking in full Nieman calendar of professional journalism workshops, seminars, masterclasses.

1990 Librettist, "Polly and the Dinosaurs," a children's orchestral fairy tale. World premiere, conducted by Yuri Falik, with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus. Orchestra Hall, Symphony Center. Chicago. March 4, 1990.