

## ***Time-Argus***

Between the Lines

What's up for Vermont book lovers

June 15, 2008

### **Siren call for writers**

Chris Bohjalian knows a thing or two about crafting dramatic fiction. So he's just the person to judge a short-story contest in which the entries must relate in some way to emergency medical services.

The newly formed EMS squad in the southern Vermont town of Halifax is putting on the contest as a fundraiser. Half the proceeds will be split among the authors of the top three stories, with a minimum of \$1,000 guaranteed to the winner. The other half of the haul will help the squad pay for medical equipment, tools and other expenses.

Christina Moore, the chief of the Halifax EMS, hopes to attract entries from all over the country. Authors don't need to have any experience as a first responder, and they are encouraged to write for a general audience.

She says Bohjalian, the Lincoln-based author of such best-sellers as "Midwives" and "The Double Bind," has agreed to help pick the winners.

The EMS squad also plans to publish a collection of selected stories submitted during the contest.

The fee for each entry is \$35, and stories must be submitted as a PDF or Word document to [www.HalifaxEMS.org](http://www.HalifaxEMS.org) before Sept. 1. See the Web site for further details.

Oh, and take note of this from the guidelines: "Our lives all have enough real horror. Please do not submit stories to this competition that would be better suited to the genres of horror, fantasy, or erotica."

*Do you have a tip for Between the Lines? Send it to [ruth.hare@timesargus.com](mailto:ruth.hare@timesargus.com).*

Note: This is an excerpt of a longer article.