Caversham invites you to join in celebrating the release of Michael Ungar's book

The Social Worker: A Novel

published by Pottersfield Press

Wednesday, May 11th, 2011
at Caversham Booksellers, 98 Harbord St, Toronto

Wine & Cheese Reception 6:30 to 8:30 pm
RSVP to Caversham Booksellers: (416) 944-0962
1-800-361-6120 or events@cavershambooksellers.com

Joey is not your typical social worker. He burns down houses to solve bureaucratic deadlocks, steals to get his clients bigger welfare cheques, and lies if it will help prevent his supervisor from intruding in the lives of his young clients.

Joey knows all too well what it feels like to be a client. In and out of foster homes, his father dead, his mother an abusive emotional wreck, Joey puts his talents as a juvenile delinquent to good use, even when he's locked up in a secure detention centre. Fortunately for Joey, there's one youth worker, a former boxer with his own secrets to hide, who inspires Joey to finish his education.

Still the delinquent at heart, Joey sets out to get revenge on the system that he believes failed him and his family. Joey's plan for revenge may have worked, except buried in old agency files he learns that his family has many secrets yet untold and that the lives of social workers are more complicated than they seem to the children in their care.

The Social Worker is a controversial and provocative story of what it means to reach out to the most vulnerable, set amid the hidden world of those whose motivations to help can be as difficult to understand as the systems for which they work.

Michael Ungar, PhD is a prize-winning fiction writer and among the most influential social work authors and speakers on parenting issues in North America. His nine non-fiction books include The We Generation and Too Safe for Their Own Good. The Social Worker is his first novel. His work has been the subject of cover stories in magazines and he is a regular contributor to radio and television. His blog can be read on Psychology Today's website. In 2010, he was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Social Workers Distinguished Service Award for Nova Scotia.

Currently, he is a Professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University in Halifax where he directs the Resilience Research Centre. His website is michaelungar.com

Michael Ungar is also the author of Playing at Being Bad and Nurturing Hidden Resilience of Troubled Teens.
Social-problem novels (also known as industrial, social, or condition-of-England novels) are a group of mid-19th-century fictions concerned with the condition of the working classes in the new industrial age. The condition of England was a phrase used by Thomas Carlyle in his essay Chartism (1839) about the condition and disposition of working people; it combined sympathy for deprivation with fear of the madness of Chartism. Largely written by middle-class writers, the novels highlight poverty, dirt, disease, and industrial abuses such as sweated labor, child workers, and factory