

www.uppaa.org

I have great faith in fools;
self-confidence, my friends call it.
EDGAR ALLAN POE



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2019 Conference News

Mark Your Calendars for the 22nd Annual UPPAA Conference, which will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at Peter White Public Library in Marquette, Michigan, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

We are excited this year to have Karen Dionne as our keynote speaker. Karen is the international bestselling author of several novels, most notably *The Marsh King's Daughter*, set in the Seney area and currently being optioned for a major motion picture. She will share her writing and publishing adventures with us.

Six other sessions are being planned on the topics of children's books, audiobooks, self-publishing 101, hawking books at fairs and craft shows; and two panels, one of novel writing that will cover setting, plot, and voice; and one on book marketing that will cover media kits, author platforms, using Amazon keywords, and selling e-books.

A business meeting, election of new UPPAA officers, book drawing, catered lunch, and opportunities to network with friends old and new will also be part of the festivities.

Watch the spring newsletter, membership email renewals this spring, and the UPPAA website www.uppaa.org for more details as they become available.

U.P. Reader 2018 Contributors Nominated for Pushcart Prize

Big congratulations to our UPPAA members who were nominated for the 44th Annual Pushcart Prize for their work in U.P. Reader #2. This is the only award that honors the best of American small presses each year with an anthology that spans our great country. The nominees were: **Leslie Askwith**, essay..... "A Geology Geek Finds God" **Katie McEachern**, short story..... "The Attack"

Pushcart winners will be announced in April 2019 at the time of the release of next year's anthology. However, being nominated is an honor in itself that many writers treasure.

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The only way to be nominated for the Pushcart Prize for a contribution to the U.P. Reader is for you to submit your original previously unpublished works.

Contributors to the 2019 UP Reader

Larry Buege *"The Purloined Pasty"*
"The Amorous Spotted Slug"

Mikel Classen *"Grand Island for a Grand Time"*

Deborah K. Frontiera..... *"# 2 Pencils"*

Jan Kellis..... *"The Rolls K'Nardly"*

Amy Klco *"Seeds of Change"*
"The Lovers, the Dreamers, and Me"

Dave Lehto..... *"The Best Trout I Never Ate"*
"Pirates, Gypsies, and Lumberjacks"

Sharon Kennedy *"Cut Me"*
"The Demise of Christian Vicar"

Bobby Mack *"Warmth"*

Becky Ross Michael *"Welcome to Texas"*
Heikki Lunta!"

T. Sanders: *"Aiding and Abetting"*

Donna Searight Simons
and Frank Searight..... *"Three Roads"*

T. Kilgore Splake *"Becoming Zen"*
"Good Life"

Aric Sundquist *"Catching Flies"*

Ninie G. Syarikin: *"You are Beautiful"*
"The Snake Charmer"

Tyler R. Tichelaar *"Summer of the
Yellow Jackets"*

WANTED: Webmaster for UPPAA

If you have basic skills in HTML and managing menus, posts, and pages on a WordPress site, you may be just the person the UPPAA is looking for! Starting on June 1st, 2019 we'll need a new Webmaster for UPPAA.org and all related social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram). Managing the website encompasses several related activities:

- New book announcements for members
- Maintaining the online catalog of books (organized by BISAC group)
- Updating the conference registration and membership renewal pages
- Posting information about in-person upcoming author events
- Posting about various arts & culture events around the U.P.
- Archiving copies of our newsletter ("The Written Word") and other resources
- Making sure information put on the UPPAA website is propagated to all the social media channels
- Ongoing investigation into how we might improve our Google rank (Search Engine Optimization)

The Webmaster serves at the pleasure of the UPPAA President and is a voting member on the UPPAA Board. Interested parties should contact webmaster@uppaa.org with a brief description of their experience and a small portfolio of websites they have worked on and social media feeds.



Membership to Join UPPAA Monthly Board Meetings

If you have ideas to contribute, we'd love to have you join us at any of the upcoming UPPAA Monthly Board Meetings. This is your opportunity to find out how speakers are chosen for the Spring Meeting and how public outreach initiatives like the Dandelion Cottage Award for young writers and the U.P. Reader annual anthology work in practice. Maybe you'd like to volunteer to serve on a committee to set the future direction of a UPPAA project. Meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Dandelion Cottage room at the Peter White library in Marquette. Free parking is available for library events behind the library. If you live outside the Marquette area, or you just want to avoid bad roads, you're welcome to dial-in by telephone or watch the live video telecast via www.zoom.us platform.

How to join by video chat

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/call-uppaa>. If this is your first time on Zoom, you'll be prompted to create an account and then to download

the video chat software. It might say "New to Zoom? Sign Up Free" at the very bottom of the page. You don't have to turn on your webcam to watch and listen.

How to join by telephone call

Dial 408-638-0968 and enter the Meeting ID 450-290-7750 (I know this looks like a phone number, but it's not actually, it's just a 10 digit number).

How to join from iPad

Go to the App Store and search for "Zoom Cloud Meeting" app.

In the past, you may have seen notices about TotallyFreeConferenceCalls.com. We are no longer using this service. These instructions will be posted on the sidebar of the www.UPPAA.org website a few days before each call and we'll announce the meeting on the UPPAA listserve as well. Any questions about Zoom, contact victor@LHPress.com.

Member Tips and Announcements

FOR A GREAT START TO 2019

BY CHARLI MILLS

Visioning Tip for a New Year: Use the fresh start vibe of the New Year to write down your vision. Everyone has a vision for success, including writers, authors, and editors. If your book, blog, or business were successful how would that look? Go ahead—dream big, dream outrageously, dream what life will be like in five or ten years. And write it down. From that vision, extrapolate a North Star by which you can navigate your annual goals. Set goals that connect your activities to your future success. Check in with your goals once every three months and at the year's end, make a list of your proudest moments. Then revisit your vision, adjust your goals, and keep going.

Wrangling Words Workshop Every Second Saturday (Houghton), A free writing workshop based on the literary art of "flash fiction" meets at the Portage Lake District Library in Houghton every second Saturday of the month from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Discover the power of constraints in a safe and creative space. Charli Mills leads a global writing community at CarrotRanch.com, making literary art accessible 99 words at a time. Her professional background includes marketing communications, freelancing, and story-telling. She lives on the Keweenaw Peninsula where she writes historical and women's fiction. Contact her at: Charli Mills, PO Box 306, Hancock, MI 49930, Cell: 208.627.6056

MEMBER NEWS

Mikel Classen has a new book, *Lake Superior Tales*, published by the Modern History Press (November 2018). The book includes ten stories that span the nineteenth century through present day. Each tale is packed with action, adventure, humor, and suspense. Written for the general adult audience, these stories have something of interest to offer every reader. For those who know or have a fondness for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, this is perhaps the perfect winter read. *Lake Superior Tales* is mostly adventure and part humor.

To learn more about Mikel B. Classen and to see more of his work, go to his website at www.mikelclassen.com.

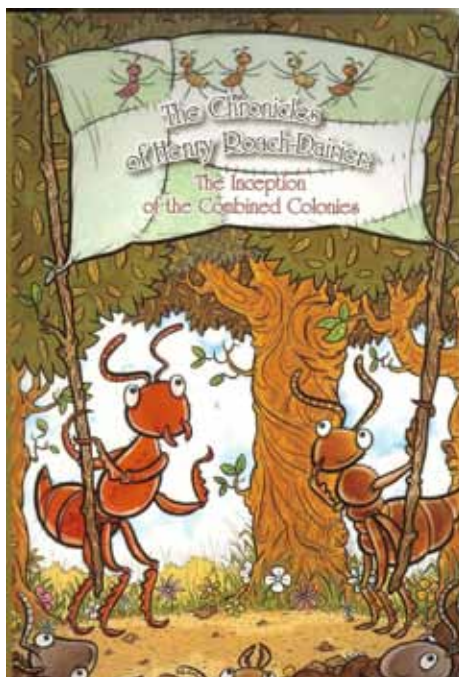
Deborah K. Frontiera announces her new book: *The Chronicles of Henry Roach-Dairier: The Inception of the Combined Colonies*. This turns her YA/A SF/F trilogy into a series. Her title character's grandson haunted her into writing it once he "grew up" in that future world she created. He decides to take up the job of being the chronicler in his grandfather's place. Think "Planet of the Ants" instead of "Planet of the Apes." Deborah has also released "15th Anniversary Editions" of the first three. Visit her website: www.authorsden.com/deborahkfrontiera

Richard Smith and his wife Lucy took the time and expense to update and improve their website during 2018, with the help of 906 Technologies in Marquette, to increase its effectiveness as a tool for selling their books and DVDs. The main reason they decided to make the web site changes was that sales were declining and they found out that the books offered on their old website were not visible on handheld devices such as Smartphones and iPads. A high percentage of people were using these handheld devices to make internet purchases, reducing the Smith's potential to sell. Lucy did a lot of the work in updating and upgrading the website with 906's website designer to get the product they wanted. The time, effort, and money that went into the redesign started paying

off last fall with increased sales. The website can be viewed at richardpsmith.com. Contact him at: rpsoutdoors@chartermi.net

Michael Carrier will introduce two new books in 2019: one around the middle of May, and the second sometime in June or early July. The first book is *From Deadwood to Deep State—Jack's Oft-Derailed Journey Back to Newberry*. This book (which is set primarily in Michigan's Upper Peninsula) will be the sixth volume of his *Jack's Justice* hardboiled thriller series. Michael's first hardboiled thriller series, *Getting to Know Jack*, consisted of seven books, making this latest offering his thirteenth Jack Handler book overall. Michael's second book for this spring is called *TRAX—Revealed: Deepest Secrets of the World's Most Interesting Couple - Vol. I, New York*. This book is the first in a seven-volume set of his memoirs.

Terri Martin is a regular contributor to *UP Magazine* (Porcupine Press), where she has two humorous columns, "Church Lady Chronicles" and "Tami & Evi," and an occasional feature article. *UP Magazine*, which will soon be celebrating its thirtieth year, focuses largely on our beloved Yooper culture.



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It has recently reorganized and upgraded its publication whose mission is to “produce a low budget spectacular issue, that hides from bad news.”

Submissions are welcome, though compensation tends to be in exchange for advertising. Subscription and submission info can be obtained by

e-mailing mike@upmag.net. Phone is 906-439-5111, Corporate Headquarters: Porcupine Press, PO Box 200, Chatham, MI 49816.

The New “Poet Tree”

BY T. KILGORE SPLAKE

Fourteen years ago I moved from Munising to live above the Omphale Art Gallery in Calumet, Michigan. One morning while drinking coffee at John's Cafe and Family Restaurant in Calumet I met Bruce Nordin. While chatting with Bruce, I learned about his growing up in Clifton, the village for the Cliffs Mining operation, and I decided to drive out and investigate the old Cliffs mining location.

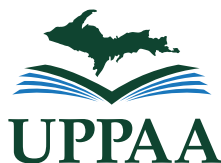
I hiked the North American trail to the cliffs summit where I found an old cobblestone smokestack, a huge poor-rock pile, and the foundation for the major Cliffs mineshaft. From the top of the cliffs, a visitor can view a vast panorama of the entire Keweenaw Peninsula. After my first hiking experience in the cliffs, I developed a spiritual association with this wilderness area. During brief moments trekking in the cliffs, I felt entirely relaxed and able to explore my writing ideas more easily.

Musing one day, I decided to create a poet tree on the edge of the cliffs escarpment. From ice out to the first snowfall, I regularly added new things: poems, postcards, photographs, artwork, etc. to keep the poet tree fresh. On one morning hike, I found that someone had torched the poet tree. Then sadly one spring visit three years ago, I discovered that someone else had cut the poet tree down and unsuccessfully tried to burn its remains.



So now I have established a new poet tree close to the banks of Brautigan Creek at the base of the cliffs. The new poet tree has a birch bark poem written by Paul Bach, Jr., plus artwork drawings of Norbert Blei and Henry Denander. In addition, different colored Tibetan prayer flags are attached to the tree. There are also poems, artistic postcards, and some of my recent photographs. Presently, I am using the ‘new’ poet tree as the source of inspiration.

Editor's Note: The idea of a “poet tree” has been used in many areas of the country as a way for local poets to gain an audience. Usually, such a tree is in a public place where many people will see and read the works posted on it. For even better access, interested people might approach their local library and obtain permission to have a Poet Tree—even an artificial one indoors. Other good places for one would be in a bank lobby, county courthouse, village or town hall, coffee shop, or other public place that people frequent.



**Upper Peninsula Publishers
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