

“
**An original
writer is not
one who
imitates
nobody, but
one whom
nobody can
imitate.**

”

**–François-René de
Chateaubriand**

IN THIS ISSUE

Conference Schedule	2
Speakers	3–4
Remembering Allan Koski	5
Waterproof White	6
Learning to Cut the Fat	7
Back to Basics	8–9
Member News	10–14
Letter from the Editor	15

The Written Word

NO. 2 • VOL. XVII • 2ND QUARTER 2023

U.P. Publishers & Authors Association Holds 25th Annual Conference

Writing, Publishing, Book Marketing, and
Book Design to Be Explored

When: June 10th, 2023, from 9:30am to 4:30pm

Where: Peter White Public Library, 217 N. Front St,
Marquette, MI

All UPPAA Members are invited to participate in the 25th Annual Conference on Saturday, June 10th, 2023 in downtown Marquette at the Peter White Public Library from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This year's conference includes a variety of topics relevant to writing, publishing, and marketing. It will be open to all writers, beginning and seasoned, as well as anyone who is interested in writing. Whether published or not, this conference is for you. As always, there is no cost for active UPPAA members to attend, but **you MUST pre-register at** www.uppaa.org/meeting-registration/ so that the Board can arrange the correct number of hot lunch entrees as well as apportion the breakout tracks for the best seating. The catering committee headed by Gretchen Preston has pulled out all the stops to ensure everyone will have a memorable lunch experience and refreshments throughout the day.

The conference provides networking opportunities for anyone wishing to learn more about writing, publishing, and book marketing. Informal networking is programmed into the schedule around the lunch break period. An exhibition area will showcase the works of authors around the U.P. and all books displayed will be given away as door prizes at the conclusion of the conference. Members whose work is in print are encouraged to **bring 1 to 2 copies of the latest books they have written** to give away in the Door Prize segment which happens at 4:00 p.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Marty Achatz lives in Ishpeming, Michigan, with his wife and children. He has taught writing, literature, mythology, film, and composition at Northern Michigan University since 1998. He holds a Master's Degree in Fiction and an MFA in Poetry. His work has appeared in *Kennesaw Review*, *The Paterson Literary Review*, and *The MacGuffin*, among others, as well as several poetry anthologies. Today, Achatz presents a unique performance entitled **Chasing Bigfoot: The Mythology and Truth of Being a Poet / Writer**. He will discuss his journey from plumber's son to U.P. Poet Laureate, following his footprints in the elusive pursuit of converting his dreams and passions into a successful writing career.

Schedule of Events

Please note this year's schedule starts **30 minutes earlier** than some of our past conferences.

- 9:00–9:30 – Registration: Coffee and Cookies, Vendor Area Live
- 9:30–9:45 – Opening Remarks, Victor R. Volkman, UPPAA President
- 9:45–10:45 – Keynote, **Marty Achatz** – “Chasing Bigfoot: The Mythology and Truth of Being a Poet / Writer”
- 10:45–11:00 – Morning Break
- 11:00–12:00 – Morning Post-Keynote Speakers (pick only 1)
 - **Terri Martin** – “Tickle Your Reader's Funny Bone: Using Humor in Your Writing”
 - **Tyler Tichelaar** – “Self-Publishing 101: Why You Should Self-Publish and How to Do It”
- 12:00–1:15 – Lunch / Networking Hour
- 1:15–1:45 – Business Meeting / UPPAA Q&A Moderated by Victor
- 1:45–2:45 – Afternoon Session #1 (pick only 1)
 - **Brandy Thomas** – “Getting Started with Audiobooks”
 - **Carrie A. Pearson** – “Illustrative Collaboration in Traditional Children's Book Publishing: Working Together but Actually Apart”
- 2:45–3:00 – Afternoon Break
- 3:00–4:00 – Afternoon Session #2 (pick only 1)
 - **Laura Smyth** – “Actually, We Do Judge a Book by Its Cover”
 - **Amy McKay, Jessica Bays, Ann Newcombe** – “Working with Bookstores: Panel Discussion”
- 4:00–4:30 – Concluding Remarks / Door Prize Giveaways
- 5:00 – Afterglow at the **Crow's Nest Pub** on the top floor of the Landmark Inn, located directly across the street from the Peter White Library (230 N Front St). Doors open at 5:00pm.

Morning / Post-Keynote Speakers

(Choose Only ONE)

Terri Martin – “Tickle Your Reader’s Funny Bone: Using Humor in Your Writing”

We all like a good laugh, right? Did you know that laughing releases a happy hormone that gives the laugh-ee health benefits? Therefore, we should never go through a day without laughing or at least being amused by something. And neither should your characters if you want them to be real and believable. Plus, your reader needs some comic relief from all the tension and suspense you’ve been building! *Hey, the car broke down out here in Death Valley, but at least the check engine light finally went off!* There are so many types of humor in writing—dozens. We’ll discuss some, and ways to use them.

Tyler Tichelaar – “Self-Publishing 101: Why You Should Self-Publish and How to Do It”

“Self-Publishing 101” will walk authors through the process of self-publishing a book from writing and self-editing to publication. Attendees will learn the basics of:

- The Pros and Cons of Self-Publishing vs. Traditional Publishing
- Best writing practices to prepare your book for publication
- How to find and work with an editor
- The layout and cover design process
- How to get your book printed
- Different types of publication, including ebooks and audiobooks
- Book marketing tips
- Basic tips for running your own publishing business

Afternoon Session #1 Speakers

(Choose Only ONE)

Brandy Thomas – “Getting Started with Audiobooks”

Audiobooks continue to be a popular and ever-growing way to consume books. Authors often want to make their book available to their readers in an audiobook format but have no idea where to start. I will walk attendees through the process of audiobook creation, answering questions such as:

- Why should I make an audiobook?
 - How do I find a narrator?
 - What if I want to narrate my own book?
 - How long does it take to produce an audiobook?
 - Where and how can I make my audiobook available for sale?
 - What is the cost?
-

Carrie A. Pearson – “Illustrative Collaboration in Traditional Children’s Book Publishing: Working Together but Actually Apart”

There are many myths around creating a picture book as the author in the traditional publishing model, especially related to the illustrations. In fact, the first and second questions Carrie receives upon hearing she is a children’s book author are: 1. “Do you do the pictures?” and 2. “Oh, you don’t? Well, who do you get to do the pictures?” Illustrators bring words to life on the page and can make or break the book. How do effective writers create story with space for illustrations in mind? What are the author’s and illustrator’s roles in the development of a finished book? This session will dispel myths and help writers and illustrators understand:

- What does “leave room for the illustrator” really mean (examples provided) and why does it matter
- The editorial role and art program: who does what and why
- The traditional timeline: when the players do what they do (typically, not during a pandemic)
- Terms: to help you look like you know what you’re doing when you might not yet

Carrie will provide case studies and lessons learned the hard way, including what publishers want you to know and do. For our illustrator partners, Carrie will offer tips on how to get found, how to be ready when you are, and how to be invited to illustrate many more books.

Afternoon Session #2 Speakers

(Choose Only ONE)

Laura Smyth – “Actually, We Do Judge a Book by Its Cover”

If you thought writing your book was the hard part, get ready for the development of the cover. Always exciting, and rarely straightforward, the cover design is one of the first and most important ways you advertise your book to a potential reader. In this session I’ll talk about:

- What makes an effective cover design?
- How to avoid having an amateur look on a self-published book, even if you can’t afford to hire a graphic artist. Tips and tricks for keeping it simple and attractive on the DIY route.
- How to work with a designer if you are self-publishing.
- How to navigate the design process if you are not self-publishing.

- Important things to consider at the beginning of the design process (print vs. ebook vs. both platforms, for instance).
- We’ll try our hand as a group at analyzing some cover designs together to better understand how they work or don’t work to entice a reader and stand out on the bookshelf.

Amy McKay, Jessica Bays, Ann Newcombe – “Working with Bookstores: Panel Discussion”

- **Amy McKay — Michigan Fair**
(114 W Washington St, Marquette)
- **Jessica Bays — Marquette Regional History Center**
(145 W. Spring St., Marquette)
- **Ann Newcombe — The Well Read Raccoon Books & Curiosities**
(501 W Memorial Dr, Houghton)

If you could sit down with your local bookstore owner over a nice cup of coffee, what would you most want to ask them? Here’s a list of questions that the audience might wish to pose:

- How can I get my book on your shelves?
- What are the keys to a successful in-person author event?
- Should I represent my book through a wholesaler or directly to you?
- What discounts do you expect?
- What are the pros and cons of consignment sales?
- What do you need to know about my book to successfully sell it?
- What is “hand selling” and how can I help?

Remembering Allan Koski (1951–2023)

By Victor R. Volkman



The passing of UPPAA member Allan Koski in February this year left me with a heavy heart. Allan took on a lot in his life but I knew him as a mining engineer who was extremely eloquent and could write history, poetry, and fiction with equal ease and sophistication. His two masterworks, one about the World War II “PB” flying-boat career of his father (*Another Time, Another Place*) and *Empire Mine - Cascade Range* are each a tour de force that will never be equaled. The latter book was a winner of this year’s U.P. Notable Books. Although we had spoken on the phone, I was thrilled to meet him in person for the first time at the 2022 Spring Conference in Marquette last year.

Allan was a long-time member of the board of directors of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum, grew giant, award-winning pumpkins, volunteered with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette, enjoyed hunting, and feeding the deer, birds, and other wildlife in his backyard.

I leave you with a few paragraphs from his unpublished short story “Eagle Watcher” that he shared with me only six weeks ago. Allan, wherever you are now, I’m sure you are making just as a big of an impression.

The wind reassuringly soured in the pines above me. Instantly, I knew that all was well in my world. My spirit and Eagle Watcher’s were intertwined forever. Certain of his presence, I felt his spirit watching over me. I silently mouthed a prayer of thankfulness.

Then as if the Creator heard my prayer, the northern lights flared up and green curtains of shimmering light began to dance between Andromeda and the Big Dipper. Watching the sparkling green and violet draperies sway back and forth in the dark polar sky, one could only sense the presence of a Creator who was in complete command of this beautiful, but fragile universe.

I stood spellbound as the colorful profusion of mystifying auroral light spread across the heavens. The fluttering draperies began swiftly changing colors and the entire sky was ablaze with brilliant purples, oranges, reds, and blues. Like a frozen bonfire in the crackling cold sky the flickering flames leaped ever higher.

Then just as suddenly as they appeared, the dancing spirits, unpredictable and ostentatious, began to disappear. In a few moments all was gone and I found myself staring once again at the dark winter sky sprinkled with star people, spirits in the sky, each one holding a special place in the universe. Knowing that I had just witnessed a show staged by the Creator, an inner warmth and unsurpassed contentment overcame me, driving away the night chill.

Waterproof White #2

By Kathleen Carlton Johnson

Our first edition of this column looked at words. Words are the building blocks of all written communication. We also asked the poet to read as much as possible to experience what others have created for written communication, poetry, prose, and newspaper.

After they master an enriched vocabulary, the new poet wants to produce a perfect poem. This is often a dilemma because the young poet has not yet understood the difference between analytical and creative processes. The analytical is the brain, doing its duty and being critical, perhaps on the structure or the word choice. The conscious is editing what you are thinking, putting it into a logical pattern or ordinary meaning. In other words, the brain controls what we put on the page, and creativity is second to the logical pattern of words and structure. The conscious controls the meaning. This seldom produces a dynamic poem. Why? Because writing poetry is revelatory. It is an organic process coming from our creativity. Creativity is opposed to the critical part of our brain. You must not be afraid of going there. I want you to wallow in your creative brain's chaos, lack of structure, and logic. The random should not frighten us but will often reveal a pool of new thoughts, ideas, and images that the logical brain cannot see or eliminates as a critic. The poem constructed now can reach into the deep well of the self to dictate its communication.

I suggest a simple exercise for you to experience this. Get a notebook. On the first page, write the date, and now write whatever comes into your head. Do not punctuate. Just write. Do not censor or allow your critical brain to limit anything you are writing. Don't let your pen or pencil off the page. Just write. This is

called autonomic writing. It can be very revealing in time, but it will allow you to see the difference between the conscious mind, the critic, and the creative mind. Experiencing your subconscious raw may reveal parts of yourself you may not know. Do this for ten minutes at a time for two weeks. Look over what you have on the page at the end of two weeks. What do you see? Perhaps you have a kernel of a new poem there. At least you now know the power of the critical brain and the excitement of the creative brain.

Now that you are ready to write your poem, these simple understandings and tools will serve your voice and make your poems memorable.

Listed below are some poets I would suggest you read. The public library can special order any of these poets' books for you, or you can see if their poems are online. I direct you to Poets.org, where you can look up the poets, and I ask you to read or sign up for Poem-A-Day.

I suggest you look at "The Fish" by Elizabeth Bishop. She catches a fish but look how she recalls it. Next, I would like you to look up Mary Oliver. She uses a simple vocabulary but with profound meaning. Mary Oliver says, "Poetry isn't a profession. It's a way of life. It's an empty basket: you put your life into it and make something out of that." Read any of her poetry books. All are equally revealing of the more significant meaning poetry can produce. Finally, find "How Pleasant to Know Mr. Lear" online by Edward Lear. Could you write a poem about yourself as a portrait? These are just a few poets I love and recommend.

If you have questions, email me, and I will answer: kcarltonjohnson70@yahoo.com.

Learning to Cut the Fat

By Sharon M. Kennedy

In 2001 I took a technical writing course at Northern Michigan University. I'm not sure why, but I'm glad I did because I learned to cut the fat from my work. Adjectives and adverbs are lethal for tech writers. It's my belief that a dab of Joe Friday's mantra should be in the quiver of every writer: "Just the facts, Ma'am. Just the facts."

I know authors are wringing their hands and cringing at the thought of such starkness. They're saying we need those descriptive words and phrases to make the settings and characters real. We can't give readers a skeleton. We need more than mere bones. We need the scent of a beautiful woman, the aroma of steaks on a grill, and the smell of fresh manure. The tinkle of Christmas bells, the crinkle of birthday presents being unwrapped, and the clop of horses' hooves on cobblestones put readers in the scenes. As novelists, it's our duty to engage readers' senses as we move from chapter to chapter. What kind of writers would we be if we failed to describe azure waves lapping a sandy shore, the warmth of a fire crackling in the grate, the taste of a Godiva chocolate as it melted on our tongue, or the feel of a beautiful velvet gown?

Okay, as much as I dislike adverbs and adjectives, I concede they're important, but my point is we don't need to go overboard. Why say, "The day was very, very hot" when one "very" would suffice? Does repeating the word

make the day hotter? If word count is an issue, we could eliminate "very" altogether and simply say, "The day was hot." It's the same when using adjectives. "She wore a yellow, low-cut, short-sleeved, barely there mini-dress" could be shortened to: "She wore a sexy dress." Let the reader's imagination decide the color, style, and cut of the garment unless it's absolutely crucial to the movement of the story.

Readers are sophisticated. They don't need every little detail to grasp a scene and feel part of it. There's no reason to clutter a scene just because we want to show how proficient we are at description. Even this bare-bones writer will ignore her own advice and veer into the murky world of modifiers because some are essential. I'm not talking about phrases or clauses, but about the overuse of common adjectives and adverbs. The temptation to use them is often overwhelming for new writers.

All I'm saying is if your novel becomes like Topsy and grows with no end in sight, take a class or learn about tech writing from an online source. Sharpen your skills. Then read your story as if you hadn't written it. You'll notice scenes weakened by an over-abundance of descriptive words and learn to cut the fat. Rein in all those beautiful adjectives and adverbs and save them for the sequel. We all want sequels, don't we?

*"Readers
are sophisticated.
They don't need every
little detail to grasp a
scene and feel part
of it."*



BACK TO BASICS: Code Your Book So People Can Find It

By Victor R. Volkman

Each installment of BACK TO BASICS will give members a chance to take a fresh look at something they may already be doing in a new way. Brand new writers and authors can also be guided by advice from the guests who contribute to this column. If you have something to share, contact editor@uppaa.org

Remember when your teacher took you to the school library for the first time? If you are old enough, you may remember the card catalog... But either way, the library files books on the shelves according to a certain coding system which is almost always Dewey Decimal in the USA. Mrs. Maki the librarian explained that similar books could all be found that way for browsing, for example if you were into baseball, you would head to “796.3” and spend an afternoon reading about Babe Ruth or Ty Cobb. Dewey Decimal was created in 1873 and is landlocked in many ways – unable to address modern needs. The alternative Library of Congress system is only used by universities, difficult for a layperson to navigate, and can only be coded by those with a graduate degree in Library Science.

Bookstores, publishers, and libraries need a contemporary coding system that is geared to the retail experience and a consortium of publishers and retailers formed the Book Industry Standards Group (BISG) of which the Book Industry Standards & Communications (BISAC) is their main product and has been in constant revision since being introduced in 1995. BISAC codes are a hierarchical system, with the broadest categories at the top of the hierarchy and the most specific categories at the bottom. There are over 5,000 BISAC codes, covering a wide range of subjects from science fiction to cooking to sports.

Each BISAC code consists of a three-letter code followed by a series of numbers that represent the subject matter of the book. For example, the BISAC code for “Fiction /

Romance / Contemporary” is FIC027020, where “FIC” represents Fiction, “027” represents Romance, and “020” represents Contemporary. Although you can suggest new categories to the BISAC committee, you must NEVER try to make up your own codes. This makes you appear like an amateur and is completely useless for bookstore use.

I’m Not a Librarian, How Do I Code My Books?

Ingram, one of the world’s largest distributors of books has two very simple rules to get you started:

1. Always try to use THREE different major subject headings
2. Look for the most specific code that you can find in any subject heading.

If you use Spark or Lightning Source, they have an online searchable database of BISAC codes but if you don’t know where to start it can make the job harder than it has to be. Start off by familiarizing yourself with the 20 major subject headings at <https://www.bisg.org/complete-bisac-subject-headings-list> and then drill down to your areas of interest.

For example, if you are writing a **U.P. themed book about the history of snowmobile racing**, you might choose TRAVEL, HISTORY, and SPORTS & RECREATION, TRV025020 TRAVEL / United States / Midwest / East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH, WI)

HIS036090 HISTORY / United States / State & Local / Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI, MN...) SPO052000 SPORTS & RECREATION / Winter Sports / General

Remember, you often won't get a direct hit, but you try to get as close as possible. Whatever you do, DON'T waste money on buying the complete file of codes. Firstly, they change

every year and in 5 years it will be worthless. Additionally, many eBook wholesalers will give you a list of their codes for free on an Excel file (does not include Amazon).

WOW, This Seems Really Hard, How About a Little Help?

Below is my "cheat sheet" for newbie publishers who are interested in many of the topics often related to U.P. culture and history. Feel free to use them; that's what they're there for!

BIO026000	BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Personal Memoirs
BIO023000	BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Adventurers & Explorers
FIC066000	FICTION / Small Town & Rural
FIC029000	FICTION / Short Stories (single author)
HIS036090 MN...)	HISTORY / United States / State & Local / Midwest (IA, IL, IN, KS, MI,
HUM021000	HUMOR / Topic / Cultural, Ethnic & Regional
JUV016150	JUVENILE FICTION / Historical / United States / 20th Century
NAT018000	NATURE / Ecosystems & Habitats / Lakes, Ponds & Swamps
POE023030	POETRY / Subjects & Themes / Nature
SPO022000	SPORTS & RECREATION / Hunting
TRV025020 WI)	TRAVEL / United States / Midwest / East North Central (IL, IN, MI, OH,
YAF014000	YOUNG ADULT FICTION / Diversity & Multicultural

What Else Are These Codes Good For?

You should feature your BISAC codes prominently on your Sell Sheet. This is a concise listing of your book's vital signs including ISBNs, publication date, prices, trim size, number of pages, authors and illustrators, age range, and of course the BISAC codes. We'll get into the mechanics of a Sell Sheet in a future installment. If you'd like to see one, email me victor@LHPress.com.

Member News

Laura Barens will be signing copies of her book, *Boats Can't Jump: The Story of The Soo Locks* at Island Books and Crafts in Sault Ste. Marie, on June 30, 2023. This event is part of the Soo Locks Engineers Day celebration that is held on the last Friday in June every year, allowing visitors to cross over the MacArthur Lock and get up close as possible to the freighters.

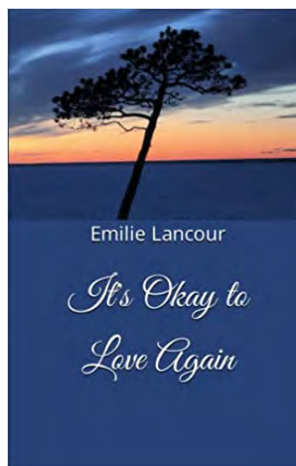


Nikki Mitchell's book *Nightshade Forest* was recently a red ribbon winner in the Wishing Shelf Book Awards. The awards are based in the UK, but are open to self-published books everywhere. Juvenile books are read and scored by kids in the schools over there.



The feedback on the book showed that 15 kids ranging age 10-13 read and scored the book.

Here's what the wishing shelf book awards said: "A wonderfully fun, fantasy adventure full of twists, turns, and mystical monsters! A RED RIBBON WINNER and highly recommended!"



Emilie Lancour recently published her third book through KDP, titled *It's Okay to Love Again*, a memoir of her journey of learning about herself so she could move forward in grief to find new love. It is available on Amazon in paperback and ebook.

John Hagen's short story, "Punked," and an article, "Beyond MS Word," were published in the RC Alumni Journal #6 in November 2022, a literary magazine open to submission by alumni of the University of Michigan's Residential College in Ann Arbor. In "Punked," Jamey Barlow settles a score with bully Moose McGarrigle, but Moose's girlfriend Molly Richards one-ups them both.

"Beyond MS Word" is an article surveying current software to automate the planning, writing, editing, and publishing process. It's based on a presentation John made last summer at the UPPAA annual conference.



His poem “Northwest of the Skillagalee” was recognized as one of top three submissions to “Thrills and Chills: Florida Writers Association Collection 14,” an anthology published in October 2022 and available on Amazon. The phantasmagorical poem is about a mysterious island in Lake Michigan where his grandfather used to fish.

In October, John traveled to the Florida Writers Association annual conference in Orlando where he received a Gold Medal for his novella *Runtley Goes Rogue* in the Royal Palm Literary Awards.

Tyler Tichelaar recently published his second book about Gothic literature, *Vampire Grooms and Spectre Brides*.

Synopsis: Many British and French Gothic novels are being rediscovered today that are part of the second Gothic Golden Age, an age too often overlooked, but integral to the evolution of the Gothic. While nationalism influences these works, they are a melting pot of ideas and styles from both nations. Consequently, the only way to truly understand the Gothic tradition in British literature is to understand that tradition in French literature and vice-versa.

In *Vampire Grooms and Spectre Brides*, Tyler R. Tichelaar, PhD, argues there is, in fact, no such thing as French Gothic or British Gothic literature, or even British or French literature during the nineteenth century. Works like *The Count of Monte Cristo*, *Dracula*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* can be better understood when placed within the context of the blended tradition since novels in both languages and in translation continu-

ally crisscrossed the English Channel, only to return in new iterations throughout the century. From John Polidori to Paul Féval and Bram Stoker, and from Mrs. Radcliffe to Eugène Sue and Charles Dickens, the Gothic produced some of the strangest, most fascinating, and most significant novels ever written.

In bringing together these works, some only recently translated or not fully translated at all, *Vampire Grooms and Spectre Brides* provides a missing context that will help redefine Gothic literature for future generations and serve as a blood transfusion to some works long thought dead.

Sharon Kennedy's latest book published by Modern History Press has just been released and is available on Amazon or from the author direct. The title is *The SideRoad Columnist: Observations from an Upper Peninsula Author*.

Synopsis: *The SideRoad Columnist* is a selection of previously published newspaper columns penned by the author over the past few years. Each column is a microcosm of a short story with a beginning, a middle, and an end. The author includes a mixture of nostalgia, humor, shared experiences, and sundry observations. The stories are complete in two pages which make the book ideal for readers who have limited time or are traveling by rail or plane where interruptions are likely to occur.



Readers will smile as they recall a time when boys used lots of greasy hair cream, a cologne in a blue bottle was popular, and barnyards were a common sight. Preparing a lemon curd that turned green tells of her inexperience as a cook. She writes about muddy

April roads, the thrill of a simple Fourth of July sparkler, choosing Christmas wrapping paper, and the folly of New Year's resolutions. She tells of her Grandfather Clock and the memories it brings, her first encounter with a divided sink, her love of ironing, and the minefield of words she has encountered. *The SideRoad Columnist* is sure to delight and amuse mature folks as they remember the old days. Younger readers will laugh as the author describes the way things were, her struggle to understand technology, and the green dot following everyone on Facebook. Kennedy's ability to entertain while simultaneously writing terse columns is undeniable. She's a writer for our times.

New from **Carrie Pearson**, *Real Princesses Change the World* is an inspirational and diverse picture book profiling 11 contemporary real-life princesses and 4 heirs apparent from all around the world.

There are so many ideas of what princesses are: Princesses are sweet, beautiful, and gracious. Princesses wear poofy dresses and strut about their castle. Princesses are just missing a handsome prince. But what message does that send to the children who look up to them?



This picture book compiles biographies of 11 different princesses, highlighting who they truly are: diplomats, engineers, activists, athletes, and so much more. It focuses on their achievements and contributions, situating them as

active members in the global and local community. From Nigeria to Japan, Saudi Arabia to Sweden, and Thailand to Tonga. This picture book takes readers on a trip that spans the whole world.

With stunning portraits done by bestselling illustrator Dung Ho (*Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*), Carrie A. Pearson's *Real Princesses Change the World* showcases princesses in an empowering, feminist light that is both accessible and engaging for young readers.

Tom Conlan's newest novel will be released May 17.

A story of generations, *Gentle Spirits* follows Samuel and Angelique through the splendor of nature, as they navigate the challenges of growing into an adult world full of uncertainty. With each step, they search for meaning in the great circle of life, finally understanding that as long as a soul remains in memory, a spirit never dies.



Journey with Samuel and Angelique and experience the grace of dolphins and wild horses on Cumberland Island; birds, dogs, butterflies, brook trout, and grapevines in Northern Michigan; trout-fishing in Spearfish Canyon; dogs and sheep on a Montana ranch; breathtaking duck migrations in the Canadian Provinces - and majestic hawks and a mountain bluebird on Bear Butte.

Local writer **Mick Gayan** recently published thriller fiction novel *Bite of the Wolf*, under the pen name Wade Walker.

The Daily News serialized a special edition of the first four chapters, presented every day the week of April 17.

Bite of the Wolf is a spy thriller novel with horror and science fiction elements, featuring the exploits of secret agent Val West, known as Code Name: LoneWolf. The novel also weaves historical fiction into the mix, creating a globe-hopping adventure which will appeal to action-lovers, as well as those interested in mythology surrounding World War II.

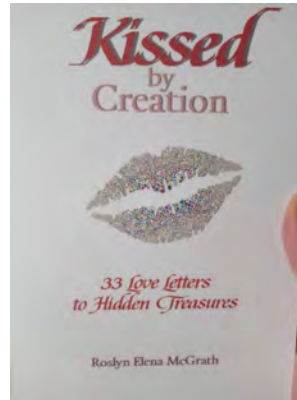


The peril-packed supercharged adventure takes readers on a ride as a veteran secret agent is bitten by a werewolf. He then finds himself in a race to stop this mysterious monster's diabolical plans and find a cure for himself.

Bite of the Wolf is available to order online at Amazon in Kindle, paperback, and hardcover

formats. For more information, visit the official website at www.codenamelonewolf.com.

Dickinson County Library's Book Breakdowns series will feature Mick Gayan on Saturday, April 29 at 1:00 pm.



Just released - *Kissed by Creation: 33 Love Letters to Hidden Treasures* by **Roslyn Elena McGrath!**

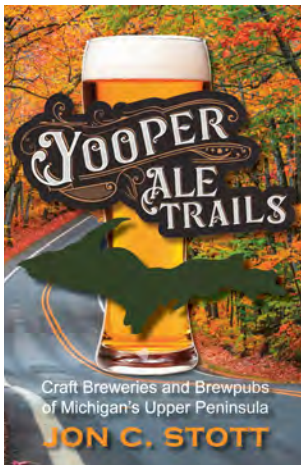
Awaken and inspire your own gratitude with this heartfelt homage to the wonders within and around us, from the universal to the personal.

Autographed copies may be purchased at

<https://www.empoweringlightworks.com/store>.

New from Modern History Press

Yooper Ale Trails: Craft Breweries and Brewpubs of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by **Jon C. Stott**:



Synopsis: Follow *Yooper Ale Trails* to visit the 29 unique craft breweries and brewpubs of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Choose from among eight different Ale Trails for your personal journey. Explore the backstories of the breweries, brewers and owners, along with tasting notes on each

brewery's most popular beers. Jon C. Stott, award-winning author of five beer travel books,

provides expert guidance for both craft beer aficionados and tourists to enjoy one of 170 locally-brewed lagers or ales after visiting the many scenic wonders of the U.P. Inside this book:

- Tours are arranged geographically from the shores of Lake Huron, across the north of the peninsula close to Lake Superior and then east from the Wisconsin border to the shores of Lake Michigan.
- Short essays on each brewery introduce you to the brewer's, the places their beers are served and the flavors of the beers themselves.

- Complete contact details about each brewery and their available services (food, off-sales, accessibility, etc.), descriptions of beer styles with examples from UP breweries and a glossary of brewing terms.
- Roadmaps for each ale trail and photographs of each establishment, making the breweries easy to find

Voodoo Shack: A Michigan Mystery by **Terri Martin**:

Synopsis: Join Iris and the Voodoo Shack gang as they investigate a mysterious death and an unsolved crime!

When 11-year-old Iris Weston discovers a ramshackle hunting cabin deep in Hazard Swamp, she and her friends decide it's perfect for a secret clubhouse. The gang dubs it the Voodoo Shack and meets there to swap stories and play card games. Ol' Man Hazard, the former owner, died under mysterious circumstances, and the kids speculate whether it was an accident, suicide or maybe even murder! The gang believes that cash from an unsolved crime may have been stashed within feet of the cabin. Even as things go badly awry, feisty Iris learns how to use her wit and independence to put things right, discovering what family really means in



this adventurous and often humorous coming-of-age story set in rural Michigan in 1962.

Faces, Places, and Days Gone By - Volume 1: A Pictorial History of Michigan's Upper Peninsula by **Mikel B. Classen**:



Synopsis: Enjoy a Visual Trip to See How People Lived and Worked in the U.P. in Centuries Past!

Classen's pictorial history is the next best thing to a time machine, as we get a front-row seat in the worlds of shipping and shipwrecks, iron and copper mining, timber cutting, hunting and fishing and the everyday lives of ordinary folks of Michigan's Upper Peninsula across more than 100 years. *Faces, Places, and Days Gone By* peers into our past through the lenses of those that lived and explored it. See what they saw as time passed and how the U.P. evolved into the wondrous place we know today.

From the author's unique collection, witness newly restored images from long lost stereoviews, cabinet cards, postcards and lithograph engravings. Join us on a visual journey to relive some of those moments, and discover a unique heritage through those faces and places. From the Soo to Ironwood, from Copper Harbor to Mackinaw Island—you'll never see the U.P. in quite the same way!



Letter from the Editor



I feel a little sad that my board member duties are over. I wanted to say thanks for all the work and fun we've had over the years, whether it was brainstorming what to do

about providing value long distance during a pandemic or joking about having enough forks.

My introduction to this group began some 10 years ago when I was selling my books at the Iron Mountain Bay College Christmas fair. There was another author selling UP-related books just outside my room, and as I passed his booth for every bathroom and water fountain break, I became more and more curious about his books. Upon learning I was an author, he immediately handed me his business card along with a UPPAA brochure.

Of course the author was Tyler! And since his books were great and professional in every way, I decided to give the group a try. I introduced myself in the group email list, and a friendly lady named Donna Winters replied almost immediately. Then many others replied to welcome me to the group. It didn't take long to realize the value of the group and that many of its members had a lot they could teach me!

By the first meeting, the current recording secretary had resigned. Tyler asked if I would consider filling in, and I said yes right away, as I wanted to be in-the-know with all the most dedicated members. The best way to learn is to surround yourself with people who know more than you do. So I showed up to my first meeting with a title already.

I met Gretchen, who always gave me extra Valley Cats fun freebies upon learning my kids loved the series. Whenever I had a question about publishing, whoever I asked would refer me to this mysterious Victor-the-Webmaster guy. The referrers were right; he always knew

the answer to my questions.

After two terms as recording secretary, the membership secretary resigned. Tyler and Donna (as president and treasurer at the time asked if I would consider swapping jobs because as we all know now "recording secretary" is a gateway UPPAA position to other titles. I agreed, and in my "meeting" new joining members I shared several messages with Brandy. I felt like she would be a great addition to the group, so after consulting with Donna and Tyler, I pounced, selling her on the idea of being recording secretary before she'd even been to a meeting (hey, that's how I thought the group worked, based on my experience!).

I've enjoyed many chats with Brandy over the years about the challenges of being a writing parent. At some point, my life (as a writing parent) got too crazy to handle the work that comes with the membership secretary position, so Brandy and I ended up swapping jobs.

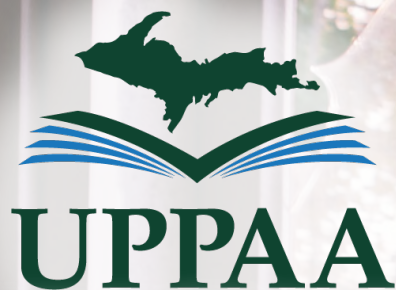
Then, again, at some point, I think when Tyler resigned as president and Victor stepped up, we were in need of a webmaster, so I swapped jobs again to be webmaster, then newsletter editor (thank you for the great mentoring and help, Debbie!). It has been fun getting to be a board member and trying out so many different roles!

I will miss being a board member, but I will continue to be very involved in UPPAA. I don't even know what it's like to be a non-board member, so I'm looking forward to experiencing this group in yet another way at the next conference.

Thanks to those board members who were already members who welcomed me so wholeheartedly 10+ years ago and to those who came along afterwards who also taught me about writing and became friends I value. I wish this board good luck and sufficient forks in the future.

-Jenifer Brady

*Thank you, Jenifer, for all your time and your many roles throughout the years!
UPPAA would not be the same without you.*



**Upper Peninsula Publishers
and Authors Association**
140 YOUNGS RD
GWINN, MI 49841

www.uppaa.org

***The Written Word is a publication of the
Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association***

President: Victor Volkman president@uppaa.org
Vice President: Gretchen Preston vice.president@uppaa.org
Treasurer: Larry Buege treasurer@uppaa.org
Recording Secretary: Bethany Leonard secretary@uppaa.org
Membership Chair: Brandy Thomas membership@uppaa.org
Publications Chair: Debbie K. Frontiera publications@uppaa.org
Webmaster: Jansina Grossman webmaster@uppaa.org
Newsletter Editor: Jenifer Brady editor@uppaa.org
Notable Books Chair: Mikel B. Classen

Beginning June 2023, the Board Member roles will be as follows:

President: Victor Volkman president@uppaa.org
Vice President: **Terri Martin** vice.president@uppaa.org
Treasurer: Larry Buege treasurer@uppaa.org
Recording Secretary: **Sharon Kennedy** secretary@uppaa.org
Membership Chair: Brandy Thomas membership@uppaa.org
Publications Chair: Debbie K. Frontiera publications@uppaa.org
Webmaster: **Mike Boro** webmaster@uppaa.org
Newsletter Editor: **Jansina Grossman** editor@uppaa.org
Notable Books Chair: Mikel B. Classen

KEEP YOUR NEWS COMING

Send announcements, news, and marketing ideas to your new editor, Jansina Grossman, with “UPPAA News” in the subject line:
editor@uppaa.org

Photos by Masaaki Komori and
Ioann-Mark Kuznetsov
on Unsplash

Newsletter design and layout by



www.rivershorebooks.com