

The Written Word

NO. 2 • VOL. XXI • 2ND QUARTER 2024

“
**Keep your
head in the
clouds and
your hands on
the keyboard.**

”

-Marissa Meyer

IN THIS ISSUE

Conference Schedule	1-2
Library Floor Plan	3
Friday Night Live	4
Ride & Room Sharing	5
Awards	5
Writer's Symposium	6
Books that Nourish	7
Remembering Bob Hruska ...	8
Writing Events	9-10
Yooper Poetry Series	10-11
Member News	12-14
U.P. Reader Submissions	15

Saturday, May 18th, 2024 –
Spring Conference Day
Schedule Revealed!

Please note this year's schedule starts **before the library opens so you must enter through the library parking lot.**

When: May 18th, 2024, from 9:00am to 4:30pm

Where: Peter White Public Library

217 N. Front St, Marquette, MI

While it is true that Spring Conference is always **FREE** for members, that doesn't mean you are **automatically registered to attend**. Please fill out the form at:

<https://www.uppaa.org/meeting-registration/>

so that we know your preferences for breakout sessions, food, and attendance at the Friday Pre-Conference Networking/Social Mixer. We respectfully ask that you commit to your choices by May 1st 2024.

Please note: break areas will be shared with the Young Writers Storytelling Conference and refreshments for both groups will be served in MACC Studio #1 (directly to your left as you enter the basement).



Victor R. Volkman and Terri Martin at the 2023 Conference

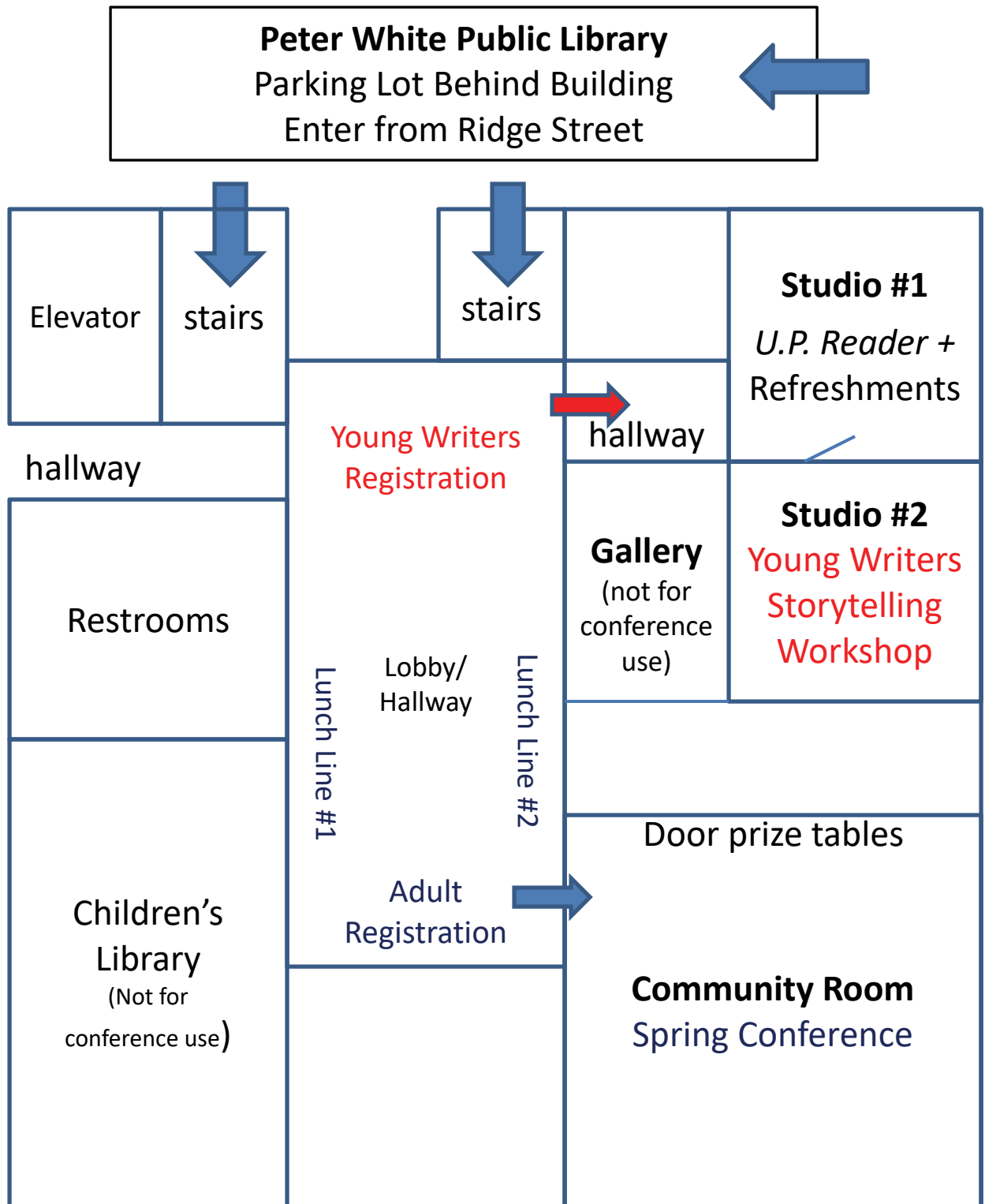
Schedule of Events

- 9:00 – 9:30 – Registration: complimentary coffee, baked goods, fruit
- 9:30 – 9:45 – Opening remarks, **Victor R. Volkman**, UPPAA President
- 9:45 – 10:45 – Keynote, **Brian Bosley** – Finding and keeping your True Purpose
- 10:45 – 11:00 – Morning Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 – Morning Session (**pick only 1**)
 - ♦ **Carrie Pearson** – “Navigating the Journey: Preparing for Traditionally Publishing Your Children’s Book in the NonFiction Market”
 - ♦ **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 – UPPAA Town Hall moderated by **Victor R. Volkman**
- 1:45 – 2:45 – Afternoon Session #1 (**pick only 1**)
 - ♦ **Sylvia Hubbard** – “Weaving Romance Around Suspense with Intro to Plot Twisting”
 - ♦ **Marian Volkman** – “Getting Started, Staying Motivated: How to Make Writing Fun”
- 2:45 – 3:00 – Afternoon Break
- 3:00 – 4:00 – Afternoon Session #2 (**pick only 1**)
 - ♦ **Tabatha Hines** – “Finding Your Writer’s Voice”
 - ♦ **Mikel B. Classen, Deborah Frontiera, Michael Carrier** – “Sell Your Books More Effectively in Person – Roundtable”
- 4:00 – 4:15 – Door Prize Giveaways/Concluding Remarks by **Victor R. Volkman**
- 5:00 – Afterglow at **The Crow’s Nest Cocktail Bar**, an informal gathering to take place (top floor of the Landmark Inn, directly across the street)

Since 2022, we have been holding a very popular Afterglow event at The Crow’s Nest Cocktail Bar (<https://www.thelandmarkinn.com/dining/crows-nest>), which starts as soon as doors open at this amazing full-service rooftop bar with glorious view over Marquette Harbor. No registration is needed, just show up ready to have fun after closing remarks on Saturday afternoon in the Community Room of the Peter White Public Library. Cash bar and food on your own: The Crow’s Nest also features a variety of tasty appetizers for snacking. The pictures show the bar seating area, but we hope to unlock the event space across the hall to have more elbow room for all our attendees and their guests.



**UPPAA Spring Conference 2024 +
Young Writers Storytelling Workshop**
Basement Combined Floor Pan
NOT TO SCALE



Front Street – No access to basement level!

Friday Night Live

UPPAA Pre-Conference Networking, Social Mixer, and Open Mic Night



Join us for the brand-new UPPAA Pre-Conference experience from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm Friday, May 17th, at **The Crib**, a cozy and comfortable coffeehouse with lots of seating located at 401 N. 3rd St. just steps from the Peter White Public Library. Members are requested to pre-register for this event although you can also pay at the door.

Downstairs: Appetizers, Drinks, and Networking

Light appetizers will be served, and a cash bar will be available. There will be a \$10 cover charge at the door to help defray the costs of appetizers and rental of The Crib. Appetizers include Mini-Pasties from Irontown Pasties in Negaunee as well as other standard offerings such as dip, meat & cheeses, veggies, and crackers, all catered by the Northwoods Test Kitchen of Marquette.

In the downstairs, coffee, tea, and other non-alcoholic drinks are available as well as a wide variety of local and imported beers and ciders. White wines are also available. The downstairs area will be for casual networking—meeting new friends and old! The downstairs is handicapped accessible.

Upstairs: An Open Mic Night

The Open Mic night will be running on the 2nd floor starting at 6:30pm until we run out of speakers. Jodi Perras will be taking down names at the door, so please check in with her to participate. Open mics allow poets and storytellers—both seasoned and emerging—to share their work in a safe and welcoming space. Bring something you've already published or something you're still working on. We'll provide a podium, lapel mic, and a friendly audience. You'll provide your best Yooper creativity.

All performance styles and genres are welcome including poetry, monologue, essay, short story, humor, singers/songwriters, and more. Please limit your piece or writing sample to 3–5 minutes (approximately 450–750 words).

(We will have a timer!)

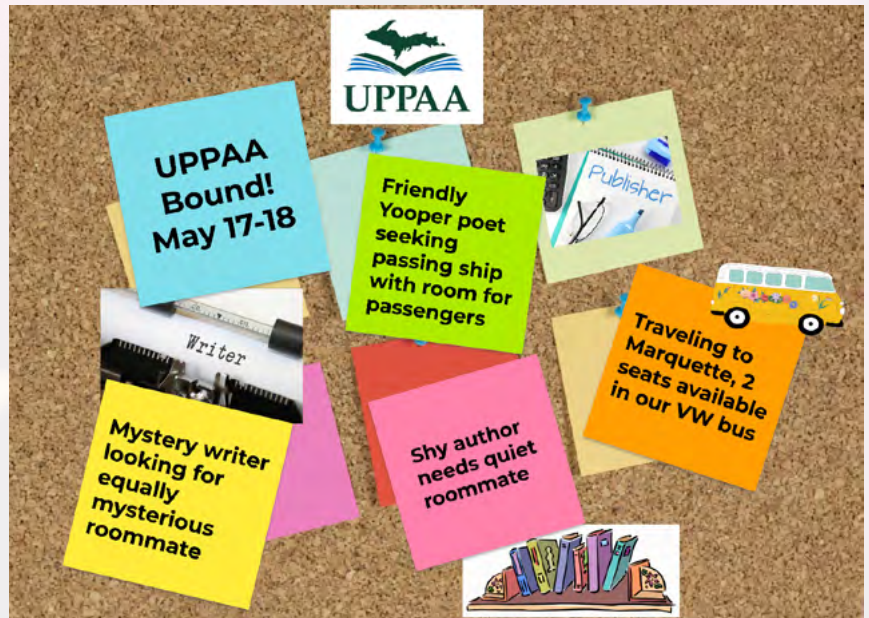
Amplified sound is provided for those who might be hearing impaired. **Note:** the upstairs is not handicapped accessible.



Ride and Room Sharing

By Jodi Perras

Remember those bulletin boards where you could find a roommate or a ride home during your school's holiday breaks? With our new Friday night social hour, the UPPAA Board realized that some attendees might want to share hotel rooms or rides to the 2024 UPPAA Spring Conference. Using a Google Spreadsheet, we've created an online Ride-Sharing and Room-Sharing Bulletin Board for that purpose. If you need a ride/room or are willing to share one, you can use this optional spreadsheet to organize yourselves and find a match. We encourage you to reach out and talk to each other to make sure it's a good fit and everyone feels safe.



<https://tinyurl.com/uppaa-rides>

SMA Announces Semifinalists in 2024 Awards Competition

By Robert Loerzel | March 20, 2024



The Midland Authors is pleased to announce that the books in the categories listed below have been selected as semifinalist entries for our awards competition, which honors books by Midwestern authors published in 2023. Two of them were written by UPPAA members: Carrie Pearson and Sue Harrison

Finalists will be announced in two weeks, with the announcement of winners and honorees to follow in mid-April.

Congratulations to all semifinalists and their publishers!

Children's Reading Roundtable Award for Children's Nonfiction

- *Virginia Wouldn't Slow Down! The Unstoppable Dr. Apgar and Her Life-Saving Invention* by Carrie Pearson (Norton Young Readers)

Adult Fiction

- *The Midwife's Touch* by Sue Harrison (Shanty Cove Books)

Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium

A Day of Inspiration for Writers of All Skill Levels

Calling all aspiring and established writers! Hessel School House - Avery Arts & Nature Learning Center will host an Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium set to take place on Saturday, June 22, 2024. This full day event promises to deliver a series of educational workshops that will ignite creativity and enhance writing skills. This event is hosted in partnership with the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association and is made possible thanks to generous support from ArtsMidwest, Michigan Arts & Culture Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium is designed to provide a platform for writers of all skill levels to learn, grow, and connect with fellow wordsmiths. Whether you're a budding novelist, a seasoned poet, or simply someone who loves the written word, this event is catered to your creative needs.

One of the highlights of the symposium will be the keynote address by #1 New York Bestselling author, Angeline Boulley. Angeline is an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, known for her captivating storytelling and profound cultural insights. *Firekeepers Daughter* was her debut novel. Her second book, *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, was released in summer 2023. Boulley will share her journey as a writer and offer valuable advice to inspire and motivate attendees on their own writing paths.

Workshops to be presented:

- Self-Publishing 101: Why you should self-publish and how to do it with Victor Volkman
- Tickle Your Reader's Funny Bone: Using Humor in Your Writing with Terri Martin
- Character Development for Magical and Fantastical Characters with in YA and MG Fiction with Nikki Mitchell
- Getting Started with Audibooks with Brandy Thomas
- Advanced Writing Tools -- Beyond Microsoft Word with J.L. Hagen
- Marketing Your Poetry with Kathleen Carlton Johnson

In addition to the enriching workshops and an engaging keynote address, participants will also be provided with a delicious catered lunch, fostering networking opportunities and the chance to connect with fellow writers.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary event that aims to elevate the Upper Peninsula's literary scene. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, 2024, and reserve your spot at the Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium. Registration is slated to open in March.



Registration details and further information can be found at www.hesselschoolhouse.org.

Cost: \$55

Date: June 22, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Hessel School House, 3206 W. Cedar Street, Hessel, MI 49745

To Register: <https://tinyurl.com/eup-2024>

Write Books that Nourish

By Sharon M. Kennedy

I write books that suffer from malnutrition. I don't do it on purpose. It just happens. My books aren't interesting or exciting or gory or remotely entertaining, and this makes them difficult to market. Writing isn't like raising a pig. When a kid raises a pig and takes it to the county fair, he knows somebody will purchase the labor of his hands and slaughter it. They'll enjoy Piggy because he'll nourish their tummies. Writing a book that nourishes someone's soul is why we write. Nourishment could be in the form of nostalgia or humor or science fiction or history or one of a hundred other areas.

Unfortunately, my books do not nourish readers. They starve them. Reading my *SideRoad Kids* books is like panning for gold in an area that hasn't seen nuggets since the California gold rush ended in 1855. I don't starve readers on purpose and force them to pay attention to what they're reading. As I said somewhere above—it just happens. My characters push me out of the way so they can talk, and talk they do. On and on and on and nobody knows who's talking to whom, and readers hate this. So I'm cautioning writers. Don't do as I do.

Don't make your readers work because very few are up to the task. They work all day. When they read, they want to relax. Entertain them. Scare them. Enlighten them. Enrage them, but for gawd's sake, don't bore them. Leave that up to me.

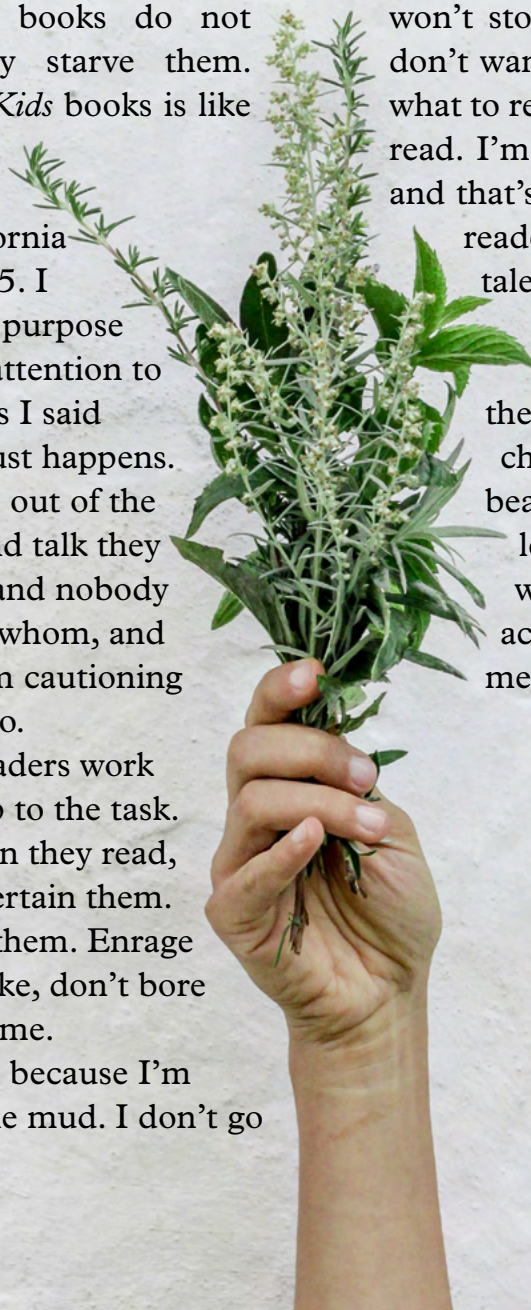
I write boring books because I'm boring. I'm a stick in the mud. I don't go

anywhere and I don't do anything. I've had the same routine for the past umpteen years. I don't like research. It's too hard on my eyes. I don't know any interesting people so I make them up. In doing so, they're only interesting to me. I've never been an exciting person. I've always tried to be invisible. As a kid, I hid whenever company came to our house. Sometimes I hide when a friend knocks on my door. I've carried childhood habits into old age.

I'm easily bored so wouldn't you think I'd stop writing boring stories? Yes, of course you'd think that because it makes sense, but I won't stop because I don't know how, and I don't want to learn. There's no use telling me what to read to become a writer people want to read. I'm way past that point, but you're not, and that's why I'm telling you to nourish your readers. Fatten them up with tantalizing tales. Gorge them with pages stuffed full of horror or intrigue or romance.

Nourish your readers until they're too obese to move from their chairs. They'll thank you for all those beautiful calories packed into black letters and pixels. You'll thank them when they plump up your bank account. You can do it, writers. Make me proud!

*“I'm cautioning
writers. Don't do
as I do.”*



Remembering Bob Hruska (1936–2024)

By Victor R. Volkman

Longtime UPPAA members will remember Bob Hruska as one of the original Board members where he served as Treasurer. Those in UPPAA who met him have all said that he was a friendly presence at every event he was a part of. Hruska died peacefully on January 28, 2024 at 87 years old in a Green Bay hospital surrounded by family and friends. He was born May 19, 1936 in Menominee, Michigan. Bob grew up in Menominee where he graduated high school with the class of 1954. He went on to attend teacher's college at Marinette, UW-Oshkosh, Northern Michigan and Superior eventually receiving his Master's in education.



On August 20, 1960 he married Barbara Bonji at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Iron Mountain. Shortly after their first anniversary, Bob entered the US Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. The couple eventually settled in Gillett where Bob was employed at CESA and the Gillett Public Schools for 35 years, serving as elementary school principal for 26 of those years. Following retirement, he continued to supervise student teachers for the State of Wisconsin for 10 years. He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church and the Gillett Civic Club.

As an avid outdoorsman, Hruska authored 8 books under the penname The UP Rabbit, about humorous hunting and fishing stories. His series called *Humor in Hunting, Fishing, Camping, & Living in the U.P. of Michigan* eventually expanded to eight volumes. His final work was *Planned Danger: True and Humorous Stories of Our Annual Hunting, Fishing, and Wilderness Camping Trips*.

Writing Events

Michigan Writers and Authors Fair

47 Authors and Writers have been invited to sell their books. There will be speakers all day, book crafts, and activities.

Cost: FREE

Date: April 13th, 10:00am–3:00pm

Location: North End Market 1550 N. Mitchell St, Cadillac MI

The Bards of Northern Michigan

In recognition of National Poetry Month, join us for a celebration of spoken word. Join our Master of Ceremonies—poet Art Curtis—and others, including Ellen Lord, Thomas Ford Conlan, Susan Griffin, Michael Hughes, Paul Maxbauer, Andrew Riutta, Carol Sanford, Yvonne Stevens, Edd Tury, Katherine Roth, Terry Wooten, and Glenn Young. Glenn will also discuss the art and craft of submitting poems for publication.

Cost: FREE

Date: April 16th, 6:00pm–8:00pm

Location: Community Room A+B at the Charlevoix Public Library

Author & Educator Valerie Hemingway to Lead

3rd Annual Walloon Lake Writer's Retreat

The quaint northern Michigan village of Walloon Lake provides an idyllic backdrop for writers to discover and hone their skills and this retreat offers an inspiring, intimate and collaborative setting for those seeking stimulation and ideas for their literary works. The price includes three nights' accommodations at the award-winning Hotel Walloon (including three breakfasts), writing leadership sessions lead by published writers, including Valerie Hemingway, an autographed copy of Valerie Hemingway's memoir, *Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways*, and more.

Cost: Starts at \$1,135 per person (based on room type/occupancy/availability)

Date: April 18–21

Location: Hotel Walloon in Walloon Lake, MI

To Register: Call Hotel Walloon at (231) 535-5000

Great Lakes Poetry Festival: "Yooper Poetry" Anthology

Book Launch Reading In-Person

In celebration of the release of *Yooper Poetry: On Experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula* edited by Raymond Luczak, several of the award-winning poets included in the anthology gather for a special reading and book-signing event.

Cost: FREE

Date: April 23rd, 7:00pm–8:00pm

Location: Peter White Public Library Community Room

More Info: Contact Marty at 226-4322, machatz@pwpl.info, or visit pwpl.info

Upcoming Poetry Retreat Highlights Works of Saginaw Native Theodore Roethke

The 2024 Roethke Poetry Retreat emphasizes conversations with professional poets, editors, and scholars; writing and revision guidance from experienced instructors; a network of language lovers; and an array of inspiring writing spaces.

Cost: \$425 (includes 2 nights accommodation) or \$225 for local authors

Date: May 3–5

Location: Montague Inn in Saginaw; hosted by the Friends of Roethke Foundation

To Register: www.friendsofroethke.org/2024-poetry-retreat

L'Anse American Legion Craft/Vendor Sale

Terri says: I've attended this venue's events a few times and usually do fairly well. This is a Mother's Day initiative, so you can try to work that into your sales pitch: "Hey, your mother doesn't need any more potholders and dish towels! How about a steamy romance!"

Cost: \$20 for an 8' table, plus a product donation for the raffle

Date: May 4th, 10:00am–2:00pm (setup starts at 8:00am)

Location: 115 N. Front Street in L'Anse (**Note:** there are stairs going in and only a chairlift for accessibility.)

To Register: Mail a check to Kathleen "Kat" Daley, 225 E. Broad Street, L'Anse, MI 49946 and notate what you are selling and include contact info (there is no application). For more info, message Kat on Facebook.

A New Call for Submissions for the Yooper Poetry Series

By Raymond Luczak

If you're a Yooper poet or a poet with a strong connection to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, this CFS may be just for you.

Raymond Luczak, the editor of *Yooper Poetry: On Experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula* and the author of *Chlorophyll: Poems about Michigan's Upper Peninsula*, will be in charge of the brand-new Yooper Poetry Series (YPS). Modern History Press, an imprint of Loving Healing Press, will publish.

What is YPS?

Inspired by the overwhelmingly positive reaction to his recent anthology *Yooper Poetry*, Raymond thought it'd be even better if he could help publish full-length single-author collections by poets with a strong U.P. connection.

How should you submit your new book of poetry?

In your email, please share your connection to the U.P. How long have you been living there? If you no longer live there, tell us about your connection to the U.P. along with a brief bio. Explaining

your U.P. connection upfront in your email is an absolute requirement for consideration. You can add a quick line or two about what your book is about, but this is not required.

- If you are a current U.P. resident, your poetry collection doesn't have to focus solely on the U.P. experience.
- If you are a former resident of the U.P., your poetry collection **must** focus solely on the U.P. experience.

How should your manuscript be formatted?

- Your manuscript must be a minimum of 60 pages and a maximum of 100 pages in a Word file. (PDFs are acceptable but if you are accepted, you will need to provide a Word file.)
- List the book's title and your contact info on the cover and your poem titles in a table of contents. Make sure that your book is paginated throughout. Use a 12-point standard font.
- Your acknowledgments page must list each previously published poem and where it first appeared. No reprints from your previous poetry collections.
- Each poem must start on a new page. Single-spaced lines are preferred, but if some of your poems are double-spaced for a specific reason, it's fine.
- Oddly-formatted poems are acceptable, but please be aware that such poems may need to be restructured to accommodate the ebook's formatting limitations.

When should you submit your manuscript?

Anytime in the month of May 2024 at this email address ONLY: yooperpoetry@gmail.com. Please add "YPS" and your book's title to your email's subject field. Raymond will take a month or two to read everyone's submissions before he narrows down to maybe three or four strong contenders. (A word of advice: Some of you may already have Raymond's personal email address. Please do NOT use that address ever for YPS-related questions and submissions. Thank you.)

Just what is Raymond looking for?

He is wide open in terms of subject, style, and structure, but he does not particularly like religious or sing-song poems. (Yes, spiritual poems and lyrical poetry are great.) Ableism, homophobia, racism, antisemitism, transphobia, and misogyny are total turn-offs. A manuscript that is somehow unified in theme and/or subject matter from beginning to end always stands a better chance of getting accepted.

What will happen if your book gets accepted?

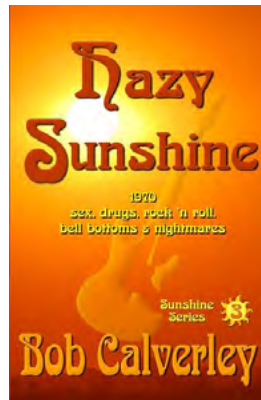
Modern History Press will offer you a standard contract. By then Raymond will have sequenced the accepted titles and tentative publication dates. He wants to focus fully on each poet and their book sequentially, so the more quickly you work with Raymond in making your book stronger, the sooner your pub date can be determined, most likely three to four months after your book is finalized for print. At that point you will work directly with the publisher to get the word out about your new book. Once your book is sent out to be published, Raymond will move on to the next poet on his list. It is his expectation that May 2025 will have rolled around by then, and the next YPS submission period can begin.

What if you have more questions about YPS?

You can email Raymond directly at yooperpoetry@gmail.com. Yes, you may forward this email to others you think who might be interested.

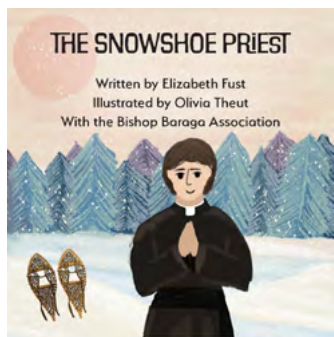
Member News

Bob Calverley just published his fourth novel, *Hazy Sunshine*. Strictly speaking, this is historical fiction as it takes place in 1970. It's mostly a fast-paced thriller with a touch of romance. Except for the opening chapter, it is set entirely in Michigan, including some scenes in the Upper Peninsula.



Here's a view from the back of the room where a packed house (at least 175 people) attended.

Gregory Lusk discusses Great Fire of Seney



The Snowshoe Priest was written by **Elizabeth Fust** with the Bishop Baraga Association, illustrated by Olivia Theut. Baraga is a name familiar across the Upper Peninsula—

but who was he? *The Snowshoe Priest* picture book follows the life of Bishop Frederic Baraga from his childhood in Slovenia to his work in the Upper Peninsula and through to the work of the Bishop Baraga Association, now a museum dedicated to Bishop Baraga. Set across the midwest and especially the Upper Peninsula, *The Snowshoe Priest* follows in Bishop Baraga's snowshoe footprints and mission of charity.

Greg Lusk appeared at the Marquette Regional History Center to discuss his book *The Great Seney Fire: A History of the Walsh Ditch Fire of 1976*. Lusk discussed how he helped fight the fire from July of 1976 until winter snow finally extinguished it, and he took questions from the audience.

<https://tinyurl.com/greglusk>

The audiobook of *Season of Dragons*, written by **Nikki Mitchell** and narrated by **Brandy Thomas**, was named a finalist in the Wishing Shelf Book Awards, a multi-genre, international award highlighting books by authors all over the world. *Season of Dragons* is the first book in the Magic Shoebox Adventure series. The book follows Ichabod as he finds a dragon egg at his bus stop and is transported to a magical land where dragons are disrupting the seasons, leaving the town of Hasir in panic. The Magic Shoebox Adventures have ADHD representation and short chapters to engage even the most reluctant reader.



Carrie Pearson announces a book sold to Lerner Publishing/Millbrook. The non-fiction middle-grade, *Watch Them Grow: Animals Before Birth*, explores how animals develop in utero and develop specialized adaptations including an elephant's trunk and a bat's wing. The book is slated to publish fall 2025.

Carrie Pearson presented and signed books at the Michigan Reading Association Annual Conference in March, and she will do the same at the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) Marvelous Midwest 2024 Conference on April 13th in Davenport, Iowa. (Registration is open.)

The editor of the Indiana Historical Society's Traces magazine recently named his top 10 stories over 25 years of editing the magazine, and **Jodi Perras'** story from 2022 was one of them!

<https://tinyurl.com/jperras>

New from Modern History Press

The Last Huck by **J.D. Austin**:

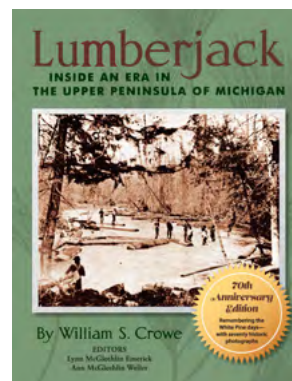
Synopsis: Jakob, Niklas and Peter Kinnunen grew up playing together on their family's berry farm on the Keweenaw Peninsula in Michigan's U.P. The three of them inherit the land when their beloved uncle passes away, but Jakob goes to prison and Peter, who goes broke during the 2008 financial crash, calls Niklas and suggests they sell the land for fast cash. Niklas fights back against Peter, but Peter convinces Niklas to take a trip up north, from their homes in Milwaukee, to visit the place and get closure. Haunted by their childhoods and the absence of their beloved Jakob, they spend the weekend drinking, fighting, reminiscing and trying to figure out whether or not to sell. Woven together with moments going back four generations, *The Last Huck* is the saga of a family ravaged by time and modernity, yet holding on to one another for dear life.

The Last Huck recently received a glowing review in the *Daily Mining Gazette*.



Lumberjack by **William S. Crowe**:

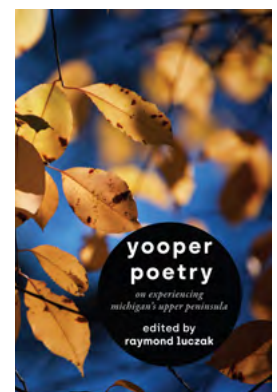
Synopsis: *Lumberjack* is a firsthand account of the lumbering era during the white pine boom years of the late 1800s–early 1900s in the northern U.S. Millions of board feet of logs were cut in deep woods camps, driven down the rivers to the sawmills and shipped by schooner and barge to build a nation.



This *70th Anniversary Edition* of the original book has been redesigned and expanded, with 78 historic photographs and illustrations, glossary, editors' notes, maps and much more.

Yooper Poetry: On Experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula edited by **Raymond Luczak**:

The poems in this collection convey varied profiles of the U.P. experience, from its natural charm to history of industrial power in ore mining and its cultural diversity. Each poet in the book enjoys literary



space to share multiple pieces of their work. As Luczak notes in the foreword to the book, this enables readers to savor the work of these poets more intimately as one might with making a new friend.

Many of the poets are members of UPPAA, including but not limited to: Deborah K. Frontier, Kathleen Carlton Johnson, Ellen Lord, R. H. Miller, Jane Piirto, and T. Kilgore Splake.

New from Loving Healing Press



The Healing Power of Running by **Jennifer Bonn**:

Synopsis: In her book, *The Healing Power of Running*, Jennifer Bonn describes how running saved her mentally, physically and spiritually, and she has put together stories of other

runners as a testament to how running heals. Jennifer also wants readers to realize how accessible running is, and that everyone can adjust it to fit different goals and needs. Running can make you feel powerful, peaceful and hopeful, and the running community makes everyone feel accepted. The book also includes instructions on how to start a healing journey through running.

The Main Line Mutt by **Nancy M. Schwartz**:

Synopsis: *The Main Line Mutt* is a Heartwarming Tale of a Mixed Breed Dog Named Maggie.

“*The Main Line Mutt* is a delightful story with a heartwarming message. Children will enjoy the storyline and the



illustrations and adults will enjoy the humor and the lesson of the story. Talented writers, Nancy and Michael Schwartz, bring their love of dogs, combined with their compassion, to create an inspiring tale.” — Susie Garber, writer and literacy coach, grades 1–12

The Loss That Binds Us by **Sweta Vikram**:



Synopsis: **Follow a Trail Blazed Through Grief's Landscape.**

The Loss That Binds Us is a beautifully written grief manual from the heart. When the agony of losing a beloved one strikes, you will find solace, comfort,

and even inspiration within it. The 108 practical tips help navigate the multitude of emotions brought on by loss. Let Sweta's guidance help begin your own healing and move on or support someone who is grieving.

Following her own journey through grief of losing her parents, the author helps you acknowledge, understand, and accept what you may be experiencing. An intentional, insightful, deep, raw, sometimes funny, and always real book, this is one you will turn to if you are experiencing loss. You'll want to keep this book by your side as a trusted ally.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute!

U.P. Reader 2024 Submission Information

Submission Guidelines:

- Email submissions are no longer allowed. Please submit your work through our submissions gateway which is <https://www.uppaa.org/submit/> If you email your submission, you may be asked to re-send it through the gateway.
- Submissions will receive a receipt that the submission has been received. If a receipt is not received within three business days of submission either resubmit or contact: editor@UPReader.org
- Must be a **current member of the UPPAA** to submit.
- Submissions **must be original** with no prior appearance in web or print. We want to keep each edition new and fresh. Submissions will be accepted for **up to 5,000 words**. Writers who submit work which has previously appeared in blog posts, web pages, eBooks, or in print will be disqualified.
- Submissions **can be any genre**: fiction, nonfiction (memoirs, history, essays, feature articles, interviews, opinions), and poetry.
- All submissions will be **reviewed through a jury** and the submissions will be chosen through this process. Writers will be notified as to acceptance or rejection, but reasons for rejection will not be discussed.
- We prefer **Microsoft Word Document** (.DOC) files only or plain text files (.TXT). Do not submit PDF files. If you have some other type of text file, please inquire.
- **Please include a 50–75-word bio** at the end of the submission. Bios longer than 75 words will be trimmed by the editor. Any web addresses or email address in bios must be the most simplified form possible. (Do not include the <http://>)
- **Authors may only submit photos as part of a written submission** with the understanding that they will be converted to black-and-white. We reserve the right to limit the number of photos per story that will be used. Photos should be at least 300 DPI and no smaller than 2 inches on a side (i.e. 600px minimum). If the Author is not the photographer, we may ask for a simple one-page “Photo Release” form to be sent in. Contact us in advance if you think you need more than 3 photos for your story. Author headshots are neither required nor used.
- **No more than 3 submissions will be accepted** from one person. If more than 3 are received, the jury may choose to disregard all of them. We are looking for quality, not quantity.
- **Poetry submissions count as one submission per poem**. If a poem cycle is submitted, it needs to be formatted either as one poem with multiple sections or as separate poems not numbering more than three.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** Submissions are accepted **AFTER June 1. The final deadline is NOVEMBER 10**, which is a change from previous years.

The U.P. Reader will require **FIRST** time rights in all formats, including but not limited to print, eBook, and audiobook for 12 months after publication. After 12 months, the author may use the work in any form they desire, including on the internet, print, and digital media. UPPAA retains the right to use it in perpetuity. For Example, we anticipate a “Best of U.P. Reader” to be issued for the 10th anniversary.



**Upper Peninsula Publishers
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