UPPAA

The Written Word

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> **“The writer is an explorer. Every step is an advance into a new land.”**
>
> ***– Ralph Waldo Emerson***

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UPPAA Spring Conference Breaks All Prior Records

Brandy Thomas reports that we had 112 attendees at the 2024 Spring Conference, which is an all-time record! Twenty-three were non-member registrations, largely from our Facebook advertising campagn, and four of those converted to UPPAA members. Our previous record attendance was just over one hundred. We don’t have to look that far back in time to see a much different UPPAA Spring Conference; a little more than a decade ago we considered forty attendees to be a pretty successful event.

The addition of a **Friday Night Open Mic and Networking** evening was much appreciated by all attendees and will definitely be coming back in 2025. Nearly forty of you took advantage of the event with more than two dozen speakers. We have heard your feedback on improving the experience and will make adjustments going forward. Mack Hassler has a writeup on that elsewhere in this issue of *The Written Word*.

Photo credit Brian Bosley
(from the Spring Conference main stage)

This year saw the first-ever concurrent events, with the **Young Writers Storytelling Workshop** running side-by-side just a few feet away from the Community Room in the MACC Center Studio #2. You can read more about presenters and students from U.P. schools (including home schools) grades 5 to 12 that participated elsewhere in this issue. In attendance were nineteen youth and two adults, along with four presenters and Rehema Clarken as overall director.

Last, I'd like to share with you a brief smattering of some of the comments that attendees shared following the event:

What did you like best about this conference?

- The spirit and enthusiasm of the group. Some really excellent presenters. The amazing thought and care and hard work that went into the organizing and planning of this event.
- It was informative and very moving. The presenters were approachable and two of them were fun. Victor was present, available and things were run in a professional manner as a result of his guidance. All the volunteers were extremely friendly. I thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of the conference and did not want it to end.
- Meeting face-to-face with other writers whom I had only known "digitally."
- The speaker presentations were informative - I particularly like Tyler's no-nonsense coverage of self-publishing.
- I also really enjoyed Friday night's gathering. The locale, format, etc. gave an opportunity to meet and talk with people I haven't seen in months. It was casual and great fun. Also, those pasties were amazing.
- The chance to interact with others that are on the same path I am and to learn.
- I liked the opportunity we had to network and interact with other UPPAA members. We always learn a lot from one another.
- The enthusiasm and participation of UPPAA members.
- I loved the get together at the Crib. I thought that way better than a dinner just for the board and speakers. It allowed much more interaction and gave us the chance to share our work. I also thought Sylvia Hubbard and the panel on book selling were also well done. Lunch was good. The afterglow was also good. Impressed by everything UPPAA is doing.
- I liked the open mic at the coffeehouse because it gave some of us a chance to read our stories. I liked the guy playing the bass while we all read. I thought the keynote speaker at the conference was great and very motivating. I thought the subs at lunch were very good.
- I only attended the youth workshops as a speaker, but the atmosphere of the conference and bit of networking I was able to do was great. And the young writers workshop was so inspiring to see a good group of kids writing.

Any Additional Comments?

- Keep up the great work! Focus on uplifting and empowering people in both practical and inspirational ways.
- Victor, it is obvious that your heart in the UPPAA. It shows. Thanks for being the president.
- The sessions moved along on time.
- Looking forward to next year.
- The officers and committee did an outstanding job. The sessions and networking were invigorating--Bravo! Well done!

- It was inspirational being in the sphere of these creative individuals. Great job by all those involved in putting the conference together. Thank you, all, so much, for your efforts. Great job by all!
- It was a great time and well worth attending!!
- I think the book giveaway table works well. Much better than drawing names now that we have so many members.
- I love the PWPL! It must be the most beautiful public library in the U.P.
- UPPAA is a vibrant, robust organization that gets shit done. I think credit should go to Victor's leadership along with a strong board and excellent volunteers.

Open Mic Night

By Mack Hassler

Since I am very interested in the many books I have reviewed for UPPAA and have had some experience working with creative writing in higher education, I agreed to be the master of ceremonies for the experiment in an open mic reading that Jodi Perras had planned. I was nervous because I am pretty new to the community. But I found the Crib as an old Victorian house is an ideal site with its small second floor apartment. It has a front-of-the-house living room area and a smaller study with a fireplace to the west. A base player, Dave Falls, stood and plucked resonant thumbs on his instrument as background to our voices. Luckily, the space is small so despite the missing microphone, everyone was able to project their voices. Deb Frontiera, who read several of her poems early, helped me keep order when people wanted to chat with a loud clap of her hands. She taught elementary!

I introduced myself and told some stories of how scary it is to read in front of your peers but that it helps you develop your voice as a writer. We had nineteen readers sign up. Most of the work read was short poems. Some described their prose and read from it. Some came with new books that they wanted to pitch and so just talked about their work. I was disappointed that more of the poets in the new book *Yooper Poetry*, which I had reviewed, were not there. I had hoped to hear them. Among the readers were several of the officers, Marian Volkman, wife of Victor, and Brandy Thomas. Brandy reminded us that we should take a break for food since they were about to close downstairs around 7:30 pm. Everyone swallowed their nervousness and read well. I enjoyed a solid poem by Thomas Conlan, a UP prose writer whose book I know. Several of my little writing group from Baraga County also read. Mark Nelson, a retired academic who entertains in a musical group and is, also, working on his writing voice. Joanne Besonen, who lost her husband a couple years ago, described her memoir that his death allowed her to write. Hilton Moore surprised us—he has two books on a fictional UP town that he names Nelson, and I expected him to read about some of his imaginary characters in Nelson. Instead he read an "on the road" sort of beat journey piece that is a new direction for him. He was followed by a reader named Christie Wagner.

Ellen Lord

So we ended with some new directions in writing and all that was read was interesting and well-articulated. I saw many of the readers the next day at the conference and talked with them. I venture to say that the experiment with the open mic was an innovation for UPPAA that those who participated in learned from and enjoyed. Many thanks to Jodi Perras, Terri Martin, Brandy Thomas, and everyone else who helped make it happen!

Young Writers Storytelling Workshop

After Action Report

Introduction

The purpose of the 2024 Young Writers Storytelling Workshop was to engage young writers in grades 5–12 in the fundamentals of fiction through a highly interactive environment. Although everyone knows a good story when they read it, understanding the underlying framework of such a story is crucial to successful writing. Thus, the committee chose to focus on conflict, character development, and setting in our first day-long workshop. Our presenters emphasized practical applications through writing exercises, activities, and minimal lecturing with PowerPoint slides.

The UPPAA Board chose to run the youth workshop concurrently with the 2024 Spring Conference since adjacent meeting room space was available, and we could consolidate services such as food, beverages, registration, and so on—two conferences for almost the price of one. An unexpected benefit was that the synergy that was created between these two groups. The energy that was almost palpable as adults and youth worked side-by-side to improve their writing.

About the Workshop

The first Young Writers Storytelling Workshop was an overwhelming success with many of the youth commenting that they look forward to coming back next year. In particular, they appreciated the feeling of being part of the writing community of the larger UPPAA conference. Every effort was made by the planning committee to ensure that the youth did not feel like students. Instead, they felt like young writers on their path to becoming professional authors.

Nearly two dozen individuals registered, and nineteen participants attended. They enjoyed the hands-on writing activities as well as the practical guidance about how to write well and what other writers do to get better. They liked working in small groups and making new friends that have the same passion for writing as they do. Though, there is always room for improvement next year, the inaugural Young Writers Storytelling Workshop was an enjoyable experience for all.

Rundown of Workshop Sessions

Session #1: Why do you write? Getting to know you.

Cyndi Perkins led an interactive warm-up session that engaged participants in writing. First, she talked about the importance of getting into the mindset of a professional writer with mantras and stretches. Then, she passed out one item to each person (rocks, toys, and knick-knacks) and gave each a slip of paper with a verb and another with an emotion. Everyone became immersed in writing inspired stories with these prompts.

Session #2: What's the problem? Conflict builds stories.

John Hagen introduced conflict to encourage participants to create a compelling plot that becomes a page turner. Throughout his presentation, he gave scaffolded instruction with fill-in-the-blank prompts to push everyone to hone their stories down to the essential elements to make it clear and concise for the audience.

Session #3: Who is this about? Creating cool characters.

Nikki Mitchell taught participants how to create vibrant characters that jump off the page into the reader's imagination. She demonstrated how she creates character profiles for her novels and worked with the youth to create new characters that could possibly be the basis for their own future writing.

Session #4: Where are they? Setting for success.

Ann Dallman presented on how to create a suitable setting that encourages the right atmosphere and mood. She used photos to push students to write descriptive passages about places that are near and far. She encouraged each person to work the description of setting into a storyline in a way that foreshadowed the events.

Reaction of the Participants

The attendees had great feedback about their experience. Here are some of the comments from their reflection notes.

- This was super fun! :)
- I also loved how [the workshop] was run.
- I felt encouraged as someone who has never really written anything before.
- I like how we got to do more individual activities and how we got motivated.
- I loved all the great advice and tips.
- Got to hear stories from real authors
- I developed thoughts about aspects of a novel
- Engaging presentations.

The youth also had some constructive criticism which the committee will take to heart to improve the planning for next year. For example, they want to see a variety of sessions on topics such as poetry, script writing, graphic novels as well as grammar, formatting, and editing.

Conclusion

It must be emphasized that this is a first-of-its-kind event to be sponsored by UPPAA in its 27-year history. It builds on the achievements of the Dandelion Cottage (DC) Short Story Contest by encouraging U.P. young writers. It is sincerely hoped that a bonus outcome of the workshop will be to prime middle and high schoolers to submit more and better entries for the coming contest year.

Larry Buege, the founder of DC, has often opined that by encouraging young writers "We are creating our replacements!" It is the workshop committee's most fervent hope that this will come to fruition in a few years and that participants of the Young Writers Storytelling Workshop will transition to full UPPAA members as adults.

If you would like to join the Young Writers Storytelling Workshop committee and help plan for future programming, volunteer at the events, sponsor purchase of supplies, or contribute in any other way, please contact storytelling@uppaa.org. In September, we will have a call for presentation proposals. Applications that incorporate more activities and writing exercises while limiting lecture time will be preferred since this most engages the young participants.

Last, the UPPAA Board would like to recognize Rehema Clarken for providing the inspiration, management, and leadership to fulfill our vision of service to young writers from across the entire U.P.

Photos courtesy of Rehema Clarken

Upper Peninsula Writer's Symposium

Feedback & Photos

Saturday, June 22, the Hessel School House was abuzz with creativity and enthusiasm as the first ever Upper Peninsula Writers Symposium brought together writers of all levels and genres for a day of inspiration, education, and connection. The sold-out event featured a keynote address by New York Times #1 bestselling author Angeline Boulley, as well as a range of informative breakout sessions designed to help writers improve their craft and navigate the ever-changing publishing landscape.

Hessel School House
Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center

Boulley's keynote address, which kicked off the day's festivities, was a highlight of the event. Her inspiring words and personal anecdotes left attendees feeling motivated and energized, with many taking to social media to express their gratitude and admiration for the acclaimed author.

The breakout sessions, which ran concurrently throughout the day, covered a range of topics that were carefully curated to meet the diverse needs and interests of the attendees. "Getting Started with Audiobooks" by Brandy Thomas provided a comprehensive introduction to the world of audio publishing, while "Self-Publishing 101" by Victor Volkman offered practical advice and insights for writers looking to take control of their own publishing journey. "Marketing Your Poetry" with author Kathy Johnson explored the unique challenges and opportunities of promoting poetry, while "Advanced Writing Tools" presented by author John Hagen delved into the latest software and technology available to help writers streamline their workflow and improve their productivity. Nikki Mitchell lead a session on "Character Development" which offered tips and techniques for crafting believable, relatable characters with mental health, ADHD, and neurodivergence while Terri Martin offered advice on using humor in your writing. Led by experienced writers and industry professionals, each session was designed to provide attendees with actionable advice and takeaways that they could apply to their own writing projects.

Throughout the day, attendees had the opportunity to network with fellow writers, ask questions, and share their own experiences and insights. The

event's sold-out status was a testament to the growing demand for writing events and resources in the region. Event coordinator and program director for Hessel School House, Kristy Beyer stated, "The Writers Symposium as an amazing event and really fills a need in the community. We are already starting to plan next year's symposium."

"While a majority of the attendees were from the U.P., a handful came from as far away as Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids to attend the Symposium."

As one attendee summed up, "The Writers Symposium at Hessel School House was an incredible experience. I left feeling inspired, motivated, and equipped with the tools and knowledge I need to take my writing to the next level. Can't wait to come back next year!"

For information on upcoming events at the Hessel School House, visit www.hesselschoolhouse.net

Robert H. Williams (Bob) with Angeline Boulley. Image courtesy of Bob Williams, author of A Yooper's Tale: Death by Wendigo.

Images and text courtesy of the Hessel School House.

"Angeline is an incredible lady with an fascinating story (both with her books, her life story, and her journey to becoming a published, best selling author). I found Angeline to be very personable and generous with her experiences and discussions. Angeline Boulley is truly an Upper Peninsula living treasure! Hopefully we can get Angeline back in the future to share more of her journey in writing and beyond!

"I found J.L. Hagen's presentation as very informative, and little overwhelming . . . a lot of info crammed into a short hour. I believe he could do a whole seminar on what he covered. Great information!

"Thank you to UPPAA and HSH for sponsoring and organizing this event!" -Bob Williams

No Novel in You?

By Sharon M. Kennedy

Discouraged because you can't write a novel? Angry because you have good ideas but can't find the right words or characters to express them? Ready to quit because you think your writing stinks and you'll never pen the Great American Novel? Well, my friend, you're not alone. Welcome to the "I'm Not A Great American Novelist As Yet Club." Membership is free and open to all writers who feel the pinch of defeatism creeping into their creative bones.

This is a new club and I'm the only member. I couldn't write a novel if you put a loaded ink pen to my temple. I'd surrender without a moment's hesitation. Write a novel? Me? Are you kidding? I write political opinions, greeting card verses, grocery lists . . . but a novel? No way. Too many people in a novel. Too many plots. Too much going on. Characters coming right and left, each clamoring to be heard. How would I keep track of them? I don't outline. I don't use sticky notes or pieces of string stuck to pins stuck to corkboard the size of my north wall as a means of keeping characters and plots connected in some disconnected way.

Yet, somewhere deep within me, I hear a voice. It has a mantra. *You can do it*, the voice tells me until I could scream. It never shuts up. It never goes away. It awakens me during thunderstorms and plants plots in my brain. It says hidden within the thunder is a blackness that matches your soul, a soul that was stolen from a long-dead ancestor whose name you carry, whose blood you spilled in a life lived before you were born. I command the voice to be quiet, but it shouts all the louder.

Then it sends visions. In my mind's eye I see men, women, children, animals, homes, foliage from another age, another century but I'm not sure whether they're from the past or the future. Thunder shrieks across the sky, shakes my living quarters, and drives the wind through my closed windows. A vision appears at the foot of my bed. A ball of red glows in the corner of my room. Fear grips my heart. My breathing comes faster. Sweat rolls from my forehead. My body trembles as it's lifted above the storm. Who's holding me, enfolding me in an aura of warmth and scents sweeter than lilacs?

See what I mean? How would I know what to say after that opening? Where would I go? Could I write a novel introducing a realm as yet unknown to our universe? No, that's science fiction. I don't do science fiction. If I'm going to be killed, could I write a novel based on some unsolved murder I read about in an old newspaper? No, that's a murder mystery. I don't do murder mysteries. Maybe the apparition lifting me is a lover. Maybe I could write a novel about lust, but that would be a romance novel. I don't do romance.

But, wait a minute, the little voice reasons. You couldn't write a column until you became a columnist. You couldn't write a book of short stories until you had four published. You couldn't write poems until you submitted a poetry manuscript.

You get my drift. Write the novel within you that's screaming to be written. Get busy. No excuses. Just do it.

"*You can do it,* the voice tells me."

Writing Events

Lakenenland Book Launch

Join some of the most talented U.P. artists and authors for various delights!

All vendors must be registered. No fee. No food trucks; bring lunch. Set up anytime from daylight to 10:30 AM Sunday morning. 10'x10' tent spaces will be marked. Limited space in event area, please offload tent & merchandise, then park vehicle in 2nd lot. No WIFI.

Cost: FREE
Date: July 21st, 11:00am–6:00pm
Location: Lakenenland Sculpture Park, 2800 M-28 East, Marquette, MI 49855
To Register: tjlironart@yahoo.com
https://lakenenland.com/

An Evening of Storytelling with the Luce County U.P. Poet Laureate

Peter Wurdock, an Upper Peninsula Notable Book Award winner and U.P. Poet Laureate of Luce County, will present an evening of storytelling and discussion. Wurdock's six books showcase his versatility as a writer, blending fiction, poetry, and non-fiction along with his beautiful photography.

The focus of the evening will be on his three Upper Peninsula-inspired books, which are a captivating blend of artistic endeavors and deep connections to the landscapes of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. From his roots in Royal Oak to his studies in creative writing and music at Albion College and Berklee College of Music respectively, Wurdock's path has been rich with diverse experiences.

Peter Wurdock, U.P. Poet Laureate of Luce County

Cost: FREE
Date: July 30th, 7:00pm–8:30pm
Location: Upper Level of the Erickson Center for the Arts at N9224 Saw-Wa-Quato Street, Curtis, MI
Learn More: tinyurl.com/wurdock24

Drink the Wild

Join Culinary Mixologist Angie Jackson as she shares recipes from her book *Drink the Wild: Recipes from a Kitchen Witch for the Spirited and Sober Soul*. Sample zero-proof elixirs and learn how to make your own delicious and healthy drinks using botanicals.

Cost: FREE
Date: August 27th, 5:30pm
Location: Escanaba Public Library

Whether you're just starting out, stuck in the middle, or a seasoned novelist seeking inspiration, this workshop is for you.

Development of a Novel
From the Fearless Standpoint
3-Day Writer's Workshop

Joseph D Haske
Nationally Recognized Literary Writer and Educator

Haske was awarded the Boulevard Emerging Fiction Writer Award in 2011, and his debut novel, *North Dixie Highway*, was released in October of 2013. His fiction has appeared in prestigious journals such as Boulevard, Fiction International, The Texas Review, the Four-Way Review, Pleiades, and in the Chicago Tribune 39's literary supplement, Printers Row. His poetry and fiction are also featured in various anthologies as well as in French, Romanian, and Canadian publications.

For a list of lodging options, visit the Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce website at ***lescheneaux.net***

MICHIGAN ARTS & CULTURE COUNCIL

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS arts.gov

October 3-5, 2024
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Hessel School House, Hessel, MI

Have you considered writing a novel, memoir, or a collection of stories, but don't know where to start? Gain confidence and improve your writing skills during this three-day workshop hosted by award-winning author and educator, Joseph D Haske.

The workshop will cover the following:

Dialogue • Attention to Detail
Aphorism • Organization and Plot
Descriptive Detail • Writing Routines
Revision • Publication Concerns

This workshop offers helpful information for all manuscripts in various stages of development, even new projects!

Workshop Fee: $300
Includes 3 full days of professional instruction and lunch each day.

Register early! Seating is limited to provide the best possible experience for each attendee.

Hessel School House
Avery Arts and Nature Learning Center
3206 W. Cedar St., Hessel
906-484-1333

Register online www.hesselschoolhouse.org/calendar

Call 906-484-1333 or register online here: https://www.hesselschoolhouse.org/event/writers-workshop-development-of-a-novel-from-the-fearless-standpoint/

Get Your Book in Front of Dozens of UP Librarians!

The U.P. Regional Library Conference (UPRLC) is a once-a-year gathering of librarians from the 45 member libraries from Northern Michigan and Upper Michigan. From Traverse City to Copper Harbor, and from Alpena to Ironwood, each library sends 1 or 2 librarians and about 85 librarians total will be in attendance.

Over the years UPPAA has worked hard to build our alliance with UPRLC and this year our authors at UPPAA have been offered the opportunity to contribute giveaway books to be distributed to the librarians in attendance. What's in it for you?

- A fair chance for librarians to evaluate your books for shelving and acquisition to their collections.
- You save the headache of trying to chase down the correct librarian's name address from dozens of libraries
- You save the costs of shipping 10 to 20 of your books individually, which would cost you $50 to $100 easily by MediaMail, plus the costs of individual mailers.

How does it work?

- Each librarian will receive a bag of randomly selected books from UPPAA authors when they check in at the registration desk at Bay College conference center in Escanaba, Michigan on September 26th 2024.
- Each bag will contain 3 to 4 books, depending on the level of UPPAA author participation. Maybe more!
- Librarians are free to trade or compare books with each other!

What do you have to do to participate?

- Contribute at least 10 books that you have written or published to the giveaway. We recommend about 20 books, but you can enter with as few as 10 copies or as many as 25 copies.
- The books can be mix-and-match, they do NOT all have to be the same title, edition, or binding. For example, 5 copies of one book and 15 copies of a different book, etc.
- Pay a nominal $20 participation fee which goes towards purchasing high quality UPPAA canvas totes that will carry the books, high-quality posters, and possibly other swag

How do I participate?

- Hurry, you must order up your participation at the UPPAA site by August 31st 2024 to join the program: https://www.uppaa.org/up-lib/
- Box up your books (any year, any edition, any binding) and send them via US Mail using the MediaMail service (estimated cost: $10) to

  UPRLC Event c/o
  MIKEL CLASSEN
  2727 E 7 MILE RD
  SAULT SAINTE MARIE MI 49783-9003
- You must mail your books by August 31st 2024. The UPPAA is not responsible for books mailed after that date
- You must be a UPPAA member in good standing (your membership is paid up for this year)

What if I have questions?

- Please contact president@uppaa.org for all questions and concerns

More details OR if you want to share this with other UPPAA members use this link:
https://www.uppaa.org/up-lib/

Waterproof White #6: Self Publishing and the Poet

By Kathleen Carlton Johnson

I attended our last Conference in Marquette and was so pleased to see the growth of our association. Writing seems to attract people from all over, but what was so heartening is that most participants were from the UP. Our organization seems to fill a need and a place for their voices to be heard and mentored. Many have been members and written wonderful books, fiction, historical, and poetry. Other newer participants are anxious to gain some information and guidance on writing. Even poetry seems to be coming alive because of the growing resources and opportunities for publication and venue. In short, we are growing.

Many of us in this organization are self-publishers; I thought I would highlight this venture with a bit of history that may give all self-publishers something to think about. I was amazed by the many famous names I found when researching this article. Perhaps the most well-known would be Walt Whitman. He started at twelve in a printer shop and fell in love with words. Walt was a journalist and finally decided to write poetry. His now famous *Leaves of Grass* (1855) was published by himself. He sold the book door to door. It was not until 1891 that David McKay, the publisher, brought the book out. There are others like Walt. Stephen King, of horror genre fame, founded his own publishing house at the beginning of his career. He came to fame with the paperback copy of *Carrie*, published by the *New American Library* in 1975. Margaret Atwood started her writing career in a self-published poetry book called *Double Persephone* (1961). Margaret would go on to become a prolific writer in several genres. Perhaps her most famous well-known work is the novel *The Handmaid's Tale* (1985).

There are other reasons why some people self-published, such as Beatrix Potter, for instance, who faced gender discrimination as a female author. She wanted to publish her now classic children's book, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. She could not find a publisher; in 1901, she printed 250 copies. It was so well received that one of the publishers who had rejected the book was happy to see how well it sold and published it in 1902. They would go on to publish 20 titles of Potter's books. Potter's works became the mainstay of this publisher, Warne and Company, for generations.

"Self-publishing has been the beginning of many famous writers."

We always think that if a writer becomes famous, they have dealt with a publishing house, yet often, the material, be it a novel or poem, is so new to the cultural arena that publishers promptly reject it. I think you know the poetry of E.E. Cummings. His first book of poems, *No Thanks* (1935), his mother gave him money to self-publish. On the inside of the book, he listed all 15 publishers that had rejected his book.

Willa Cather's first publishing venture was not prose but poetry. Her book was called *April Twilight* (1903). She had paid to have it printed by a vanity press. T.S. Eliot is now famous as one of the heralds of Modernism. His import-

ant *Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* was first published in *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* (1915) and later in a chapbook he published called *Prufrock and Other Observations* (1917). If you want to own a copy of this rare booklet, it will cost you 25,000.00 dollars. Charles Bukowski published his poetry as a chapbook, *Flowering, Fist, and Bestial Wail* (1959). One of these 200 copies printed would cost you 6,500.00 dollars to collect today. He wrote thousands of poems, hundreds of short stories, and six novels. In the end, he would publish 60 books in his career. His unique human voice shared his humanity long after he died in 1994.

Self-publishing has been the beginning of many famous writers. It often is the first step to a publishing career. It can also be the primary venture to express your creative self. Every writer and poet must start somewhere. It is how we enter the community of ideas, stories, memories, and poems to a reading public.

Publishing is getting your writing out of the notebook and into circulation. It may take a bit of gumption and determination to say nothing of the dollars to self-publish. After the book or poem is published, it may take a thick skin to wade through critical comments. Continue resisting the voices inside and outside you that lessen your dedication and determination to write. Think of Walt Whitman, selling his book, *Leaves of Grass*, door to door in 1855. Believe in your talent and the ideas you wish to share. Your voice is worthy of your effort, time, and dedication.

I would happily help, render guidance, or hear your writing. Please feel free to contact me, and perhaps we can get a poetry group going in our UPPAA. I don't bite! My email: kcarltonjohnson70@yahoo.com

Member News

David Edwards' novel, *Sing for the Lonesome Messenger,* is an epic tapestry of stories, set primarily in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which lead to a "messenger's" quest to unlock the voices of children lost in the Holocaust. The reader will assemble deceivingly random acts—bits and pieces of the past's rubbish and treasure—that stubbornly bind to build a nest of fate.

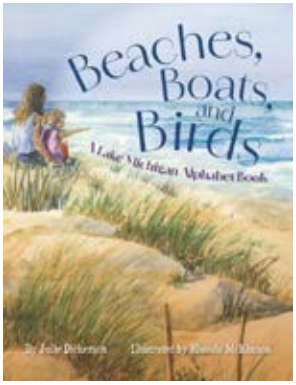
"Sing for the Lonesome Messenger" brings the reader along with a reluctant Maggie toward the light of fulfilling the sole purpose for her existence. In a world that desperately needs to listen to the lost voices of innocence, those voices must first sing for the messenger.

Reviews of *The Unsolved Mysteries of Father Marquette's Many Graves* by **Jennifer S. McGraw** and *Yooper Poetry*, edited by **Raymond Luczak**, were recently featured in Tom Powers' Michigan in Books blog:

https://tinyurl.com/michiganinbooks

John Hagen's flash memoir, *Two Truths*, won a writing contest:

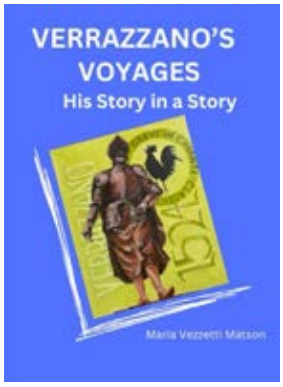
writeradvice.com/the-contest-winners-are/



Immerse yourself in **Julie Dickerson's** latest book, *Beaches, Boats, and Birds: A Lake Michigan Alphabet Book*. With vivid watercolor illustrations, this book captures the essence of the Great Lakes, from serene beaches to graceful birds in flight. Each page invites children and families to appreciate and explore nature's beauty. Ideal for both visitors and homebound readers, this keepsake encourages everyone to reconnect with the natural world, making it a perfect addition to any collection celebrating the wonders of Lake Michigan.

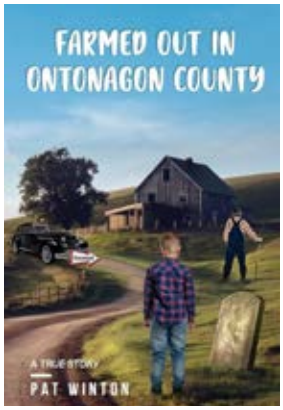
Off The Hook Too!, a collection of humor columns from **Nancy Besonen's** 30-year career at the Sentinel, is now in print and on sale at area businesses and on Amazon's website. She noted it is a shameless follow-up to her first book, *Off The Hook*, because "There were still a few silly things left unsaid."

Subject matter includes but is not limited to: fishing, fashion (both Northwoods men's and women's), weather, aging gracelessly, the bugs that bug us, Barbie, and children, especially grand ones.



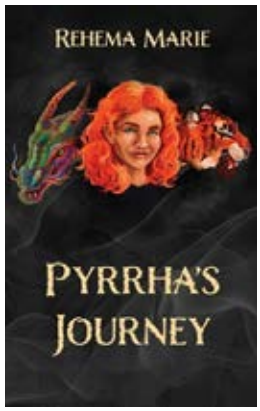
Maria V. Matson was under the vendor's tent at a few locations, including the UP Michigan Historical Society event, Fourth of July in South Range, Pasty Fest, and Eagle Harbor, sharing her latest children's activity book, *Verrazzano's Voyages-His Story in a Story*.

M. Kelly Peach has signed a contract with Translucent Eyes Press to publish his novella *The Death of Tintagiles Death*. It is still early in development, so additional details yet to come.

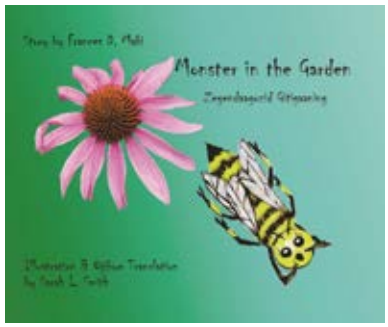


Pat Winton published, in May, a true story of the author's early life in 1940s and 1950s in the upper peninsula of Michigan: *Farmed Out in Ontonagon County*.

www.patwinton.com



Rehema Marie's first young-adult-fantasy novel, *Pyrrha's Journey*, was published in June. The quest takes place in a mythical U.P. where tigers and dragons exist among the cedar and birch trees, waterfalls and mountains. Pyrrha explores how meditation and prayer are superpowers to overcome anxiety and uncertainty while navigating the way between fate and free will. Pyrrha must choose what she wants to do while facing her destiny as she grows out of childhood into adulthood. Bahá'í prayers are used within the text as they would be used in real life to move through difficulties.



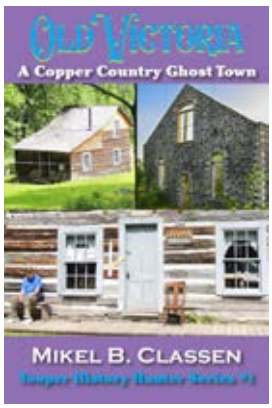
Sarah Smith published *Monster in the Garden: Zegendaagozid Gitigaaning* in April. Something has frightened the bees in the garden. Baby Bee is the first to discover it. Join her and her friend Julian while they investigate what has entered their garden. "Monster in the Garden" is beautifully illustrated and written in a Dual-Language Format. Both English & Ojibwe languages are located together for easy reference. This hardcover book captivates the reader through rhymes and illustrations about bees in a format that stimulates brain activity and helps preserve the language.

New from Modern History Press

Make It Go in the Snow by **Larry Jorgensen**:

Synopsis: Through the years, the challenge of powered transportation in the snow has been met with ideas from explorers, creative inventors and small companies, all with new ideas - often unique and sometimes successful. The name "snowmobile" was trademarked in 1917, but there were snow travel ideas before that date and certainly thousands more since.

Make It Go In The Snow provides a fun look at the history of a few of the many thousands of snow travel ideas and those enthusiasts who gave them birth.

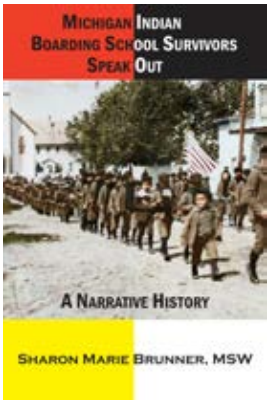


Old Victoria by **Mikel B. Classen**:

Synopsis: Old Victoria, a ghost town from the copper boom, shows what life was like homesteading in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Over the years, some of the site has been destroyed

or has collapsed; still, many of Old Victoria's original homesteads remain standing. Unlike Fayette, the U.P.'s best-known ghost town and a small shipping port on Lake Michigan, Victoria is a remote, rugged mining town, buried in the Ontonagon wilderness.

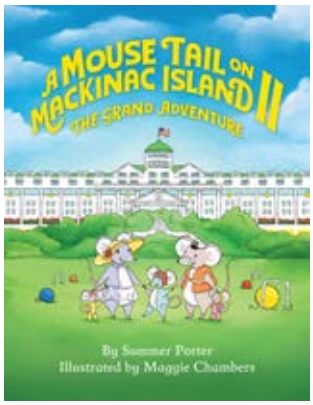
Join Mikel B. Classen, the *Yooper History Hunter*, on a romp through time with two dozen photographs that portray more than a century of Old Victoria!



Michigan Indian Boarding School Survivors Speak Out by **Sharon Marie Brunner**:

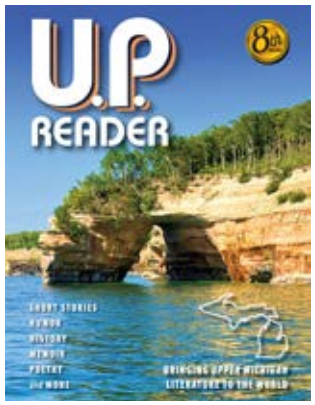
Synopsis: The impact of Indian boarding schools has been devastating for generations of Native Americans, and the aftershocks continue to affect their descendants today. Michigan was home to three: in Baraga, Harbor Springs, and Mt. Pleasant. The last to close was Holy Childhood School of Jesus, in Harbor Springs, in 1983. Sharon Marie Brunner set out to intensively study the family history and boarding school experience of nine Native American survivors who attended either the Mt. Pleasant or Harbor Springs institutions. Each faced problems linked to the scars of this experience, although their recollections included positive and negative reports. A woman whose mother attended one of these institutions, and a member of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Brunner is uniquely positioned to understand the cultural background.

Whether or not you have any Native American heritage, this book is crucial to understanding the lived experience of our fellow human beings and how we can do better. Social workers, educators and those in human services must read this book to develop policies that address the unique challenges and strengths of Native American people.



A Mouse Tail On Mackinac Island II by **Summer Porter**:

Synopsis: **Welcome back to Mackinac Island**, home of our favorite Mouse family. Join Father Mouse, Mother Mouse, Max, and the twins as they take a break from work for a summer vacation at the historic Grand Hotel. Where will they sleep? What mischief will Max get into this time? Will the amazing hotel staff be able to provide lifelong memories for a family of mice? With vibrant illustrations that bring this "Squeak-quel" to life, *A Mouse Tail on Mackinac Island II* promises to be a GRAND addition to any child's library.



U.P. Reader edited by **Mikel B. Classen** and **Deborah K. Frontiera**:

Synopsis: Michigan's Upper Peninsula is blessed with a treasure trove of storytellers, poets, and historians, all seeking to capture a sense of Yooper Life from settler's days to the far-flung future. Since 2017, the U.P. Reader offers a rich collection of their voices that embraces the U.P.'s natural beauty and way of life, along with a few surprises.

The sixty short works in this 8th annual volume take readers on U.P. road and boat trips from the Keweenaw to the Soo. Every page is rich with descriptions of the characters and culture that make the Upper Peninsula worth living in and writing about.

U.P. Reader Volume #9 Now Open for Submissions!

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 and Authors Association
140 YOUNGS RD
GWINN, MI 49841

www.uppaa.org

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President: Victor Volkman ..... president@uppaa.org
Vice President: Terri Martin ..... vice.president@uppaa.org
Treasurer: Larry Buege ..... treasurer@uppaa.org
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