



“
**There is
something
incredibly
nostalgic and
significant
about the
annual
cascade
of autumn
leaves.**

”

-Joe L. Wheeler

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The Written Word

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Participate in Spring Conference Future Directions Poll Today

This fall, we are running the first-ever Spring Conference Future Directions Poll from October 15 to October 31. The purpose is for you to inform the newly formed UPPAA Conference Committee of what options you'd like to explore for venues around the greater U.P. area. It is abundantly clear to the Board that we must have buy-in from the UPPAA rank-and-file members about the locations for each and every in-person UPPAA event. Our only goal is to maximize the participation from the entire membership AND to present compelling programming in a convivial and comfortable environment.

Each member-in-good-standing (meaning your 2025 dues are paid), will receive a unique voting link by email directly from ElectionRunner.com. If this sounds familiar, it is because it's the same service we use for our bi-annual UPPAA Board elections. The service is easy to use and guarantees that each person's voice is heard. We expect the polling process to take no more than 5 minutes for you to complete in full. When voting closes, the Conference Committee will mull the results and report back here in the Winter 2026 UPPAA Newsletter if significant findings result.

Please note that "future directions" applies only to events in 2027 or later timeframe. We are fully committed to great lineup of keynote speaker, breakout tracks, and concurrent Young Writers Storytelling Workshop on Saturday May 16th, 2026. We will be expanding pre-conference events into Friday May 15th as well!

There are just six questions on the ballot, which I will list below for your consideration. The order of answer choices for some questions will vary to avoid unconscious bias of choosing first or last items.

1. "Should the UPPAA Spring Conference change locations from Marquette?"
 - (a) No
 - (b) Yes, different permanent annual location
 - (c) Yes, rotate locations around the UP
2. "Which city would be ideal for the conference, in your opinion?"
Marquette, Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton/Hancock, or Escanaba?
3. If a "Casino and Resort" was the destination, would you attend?
Yes / No / I Don't Know
4. "Currently, your membership dues include conference costs. How much would you be willing to pay in addition to attend a conference?"
 - (a) Zero. My membership dues should include conference attendance
 - (b) \$25 extra
 - (c) \$50 extra
 - (d) \$75 extra
5. "Would you remain a UPPAA member if the conference wasn't included in the membership price?"
Yes / No / I Don't Know
6. A space is provided for "Other comments about the location of Spring Conference"

Winners of the 2025 State History Awards

UP authors made a sweep this year:

- "Ahoy & Farewell III," by Roger LeLievre
- "Raw Deal: The Indians of the Midwest and the Theft of Native Lands," by Robert Downes
- "Picnics and Porcupines: Eating in the Wilderness of Michigan's Upper Peninsula" by Candice Goucher

Special honors for Copper Country Historical Images Database and the Erwin Township Historical Society.

Less than 30 days left to Submit to U.P. Reader!

Submission deadline: **Nov. 10th, 2025**

See more details on **page 7**.



Science Fiction Writing: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

By Mary Frances Erler

The first and last time I read Isaac Asimov's *Foundation Trilogy*, I was in college, in the early 1970s. I loved it then, and now that I've just re-read it almost 50 years later, I still love and admire it.

This science fiction classic is older than I am, but it still holds a wealth of truth and meaning, even though many outward things have changed in my lifetime. When I was born, man hadn't been beyond our planet's atmosphere, there were no cordless phones, let alone cell phones. Scientists were just beginning to understand the mysteries of the atom. The stars were fuzzy shapes seen through earth's atmosphere. Computers were rooms full of tape reels, tubes, and wires. The whole control room at NASA's Johnson Space Center hadn't been developed yet, and when it was, it carried the same capacity that we can fit in our pockets now, or on our wrists.

So how can it be that books written before 1950 still have something to say to our modern age? Because I believe Asimov in this series has dealt with the fundamentals of human thought and behavior. And he's done it the way only a very skillful and well-educated scientist/author can.

For me it boils down to the truth that human nature doesn't really change. We can be in a setting far in the past, such as *The Clan of the Cave Bear* or Sue Harrison's great book

Mother Earth, Father Sky, the less-distant past of the European Middle Ages, the more contemporary settings of most modern fiction set in the twentieth century, or the far distant future that most sci-fi writers use. Human beings, no matter when they are living, all have the same mental processes, emotions, foibles, faults, and all.

As an author of fiction (a lot of science fiction, I confess), I am seeking in my own small way to emulate great thinkers and writers like Asimov, Frank Herbert, C.S. Lewis, H.G. Wells, and Ray Bradbury. Perhaps I'm hoping to catch a better glimpse of some far-off truth by attempting to stand on the shoulders of these giants who came before me. (I know there's a quote to that effect somewhere, but I can't remember who said it.) Those authors and others were part of the inspiration of my sci-fi/fantasy series *Peaks at the Edge of the World*. And I'll keep on looking for this "Great Beyond" until my dying day, I suppose, because I believe there is a lot of truth in fiction.



Michael Carrier Presents

“Just Who Does This Michael Carrier Guy Think He Is?”

Editor’s note: This is the second of a series of supplemental editorial material from UPPAA Spring 2025 keynote speaker Michael Carrier. As in any editorial, opinions are solely those of the contributing commentator.



When troubled by an issue I was having with a fellow author, a friend whom I hold in high esteem gave me these words of wisdom:

“Every author will be challenged at some point in their career as to why or how they are qualified to write. Tell the UPPAA members—‘this is my story and I invite you to see yourself in it because skeptics abound and it behooves you to prepare in advance.’”

First of all, I am not pretending to be an expert on the UP. I was born and raised in a farming community located just outside of South Haven, Michigan. South Haven is a small town that is located approximately midway between Midway Airport (in Chicago), and Grand Rapids Michigan—all of which are definitely located well south of the UP.

Yes, I do now own a home on Lake Superior—have for nearly eighteen years. It is located

by Whitefish Point about a half mile west of the Shipwreck Museum. My wife and I bought it after we sold our security company. But it is true that I did not grow up in the Upper Peninsula. What then is my connection to the UP? Or do I even have a connection?

I contend that the answer is “YES,” I do have roots in Michigan’s UP. My father, John Carrier, was born in the UP, and grew up in the UP. I learned all about his life through the stories he would share with me when I was a little kid. Hundreds of evenings I would crawl up on his lap and he would tell me about his interesting childhood, and I would always listen intently. His father was named Sherman Carrier, and his mother a Native American named Emma Pierce.

My dad told me that the only legitimate trade his father was good at was that as an Upper Peninsula lumberjack. But there was a problem with that, especially when it came to raising a family. Dad said that he and his brother(s) would have to continually move from lumber camp to lumber camp. Why? Because Sherman would get drunk, get in a fight with someone, get himself arrested, and then get fired. My dad counted thirty different UP schools he was forced to attend during those difficult years before his thirteenth birthday.

He told me all about how big a job it was to pack up the moonshine still when the camp moved. He described how that when his younger brother turned 13, he declared adulthood as well and joined up with my dad, and together they would cut timber. Of course, all the while they ran the whiskey business on the side.

Among his favorite stories was about the

time they got careless and boiled the mash down too far, pushing some of the solids through the coil. So, they had to run the whole batch through the mechanism a second time. He said it came out in the end at almost 200 proof—and that his customers nearly buzzed out with a single shot.

He continued to work in the camps even after he met and married my mom. He was 23 when they tied that knot. For several years they lived in “tarpaper shanties” in or near the lumber camps, and the two brothers continued to make the whiskey and cut the logs. His brother also got married and had his own one-room tarpaper house in the woods, and that the two of them were considered quite successful at boiling the hooch down and marketing it.

While still a teenager my dad became the enforcer at the camp. That came about largely because he was fair minded, didn’t drink, and he carried a long-barreled .45 everywhere he went—his description of the pistol made it sound a lot like the Buntline Special that Wyatt Earp was reputed to have carried. In addition to the oversized pistol, he also carried another interesting tool of the enforcement trade—a rust-proof set of brass knuckles.

Dad didn’t tell me this next part of the story—it was my mother who shared this with me. And she, like my dad, never lied to me. She explained it like this: Once, in the middle of the night, Dad came home covered with blood. He told my mom to “pack up—we gotta get out of here.” And that’s what they did. That very night!

Mom told me that my dad never explained to her what had happened that night in the woods, and she never asked. They, their two

kids, along with my dad’s brother (with the brother’s wife and kids) all immediately left and headed to Deadwood, South Dakota.

They stayed in South Dakota for an undetermined amount of time, and then they all moved back to Michigan—but this time to the Lower Peninsula. They temporarily settled in Muskegon before moving on to other parts of the state.

I never had the guts to ask my dad about what happened that last night in the UP. He was a very gentle man with me, but I knew not to push him.

It was my incredibly close relationship with my wonderful father and mother that formed the basis for my initial attraction to the UP. And that is in part what led me to buy the Lake Superior house overlooking the burial grounds of the Edmund Fitzgerald and the Ora En-dress. In fact, when the water level in Superior is down, parts of it can be seen peeking out at me from between the waves. I will be forever thanking my dad and mom for all the wonderful UP memories they shared with me.

Several years ago I was surprised to learn that a plaque in honor of my father and his family had been hung at the Tahquamenon Logging Museum in Newberry. I suspect it was my equally proud brother who initiated the effort that brought this honor about.

So, to tie a bow on this part of my history, while I do not claim to be an expert on the Upper Peninsula, I have relished the opportunity to introduce Jack (my main character Jack Handler) to some of the glorious heritage afforded to all of us who have been given the opportunity to experience it firsthand.

Next time: Part Three: The Educational Part of the Process that Led Michael Carrier to Produce His 18 Hardboiled Thrillers

Michael Carrier is the author of nineteen books in the Amazon Best-Selling Jack Handler Thriller Series. The two newest are *Liz* and *Black Swan – Part 1*, just released in 2025. For a longer version of this article, visit UPPAA: www.uppaa.org/?p=10328 5

Remembering Ida Mae Nord

UPPAA member Ida M. Nord, 89, of Iron Mountain, passed away peacefully on Saturday, August 2, 2025, at the Trillium House in Marquette, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in Iron Mountain on September 14, 1935, to the late Jacob and Cynthia (Gillespie) Postuchow, Ida graduated from Felch High School in 1953. She went on to dedicate 56 years to the field of dentistry, working primarily with Dr. G.G. Jacobs and Dr. Anthony Fornetti. On June 7, 1958, she married Ross Nord at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Northland, beginning a beautiful life together rooted in love and adventure.



Ida was a woman of remarkable spirit and strength. A longtime member and lector at St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, she was also a talented writer, publishing five novels and along with numerous short stories and articles. Her fifth and final novel *Deep Purple Lilacs* (2015) explores the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871. *Where the Wind Blows*, her fourth novel, is a YA book about a soldier wounded in the Afghanistan war who reflects back on his teenage years in the U.P. region. Earlier books include *The Bright Side of Ugly*, *The Mayfly*, and *Shards of War*.

It was the great outdoors where she felt most at home, especially at her beloved log cabin on the Ford River, a place filled with generations of laughter, storytelling, and memories. Her life was rich with experiences: skydiving in her later years, skiing, kayaking, hunting, fishing, swimming, tending her rose gardens, and preparing large family meals that brought everyone together. Her cooking was a centerpiece of every holiday and gathering, and she delighted in feeding her growing family with warmth and love.

Nothing brought her more joy than being "Grandma Ida." She poured her heart into her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attending every recital, ball game, and milestone she could. Her love and pride in them knew no bounds, and the stories she told, whether written or spoken, will live on in their hearts.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to UP Home Health and Hospice for their compassionate and attentive care during Ida's final days.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

Less than 30 Days Left to Submit to U.P. Reader!

U.P. Reader 2025 Submission Information



About the U.P. Reader:

Each year, the *U.P. Reader* showcases a cross-section of writers who belong to the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association. This annual anthology will be used as a vehicle to showcase and promote the writers of the Upper Peninsula. Each issue is released in paperback, hardcover, audiobook, and eBook editions. Copies of the *U.P. Reader* will be made available to booksellers, UPPAA members, libraries, and news services. The *U.P. Reader* has received more media coverage this year since the inclusion of the Dandelion Cottage Award. We hope the *U.P. Reader* will be a great place for you to showcase original short works too!

After reading ALL the instructions on this page, you may submit your work through our **submissions gateway**, which is:

uppaa.org/submit

If you email your submission, you may be asked to re-send it through the gateway.

Submission Guidelines:

- **Don't wait until the last minute!** In case of problems with your submission, it is better to submit at least 5 days before the deadline.
- **Email submissions are no longer allowed.** Period. Use the submissions gateway instead: uppaa.org/submit
- **Please read and follow** our U.P. Reader Style Sheet (upreader.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/UP-Reader-Style-Sheet-2022.pdf). In case of disagreements with the author, the Style Guide will prevail.
- 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 UPPAA** to submit.
- Submissions **must be original** with no prior appearance on the web or print. Submissions will be accepted for **up to 5,000 words**. Writers who submit work that 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 by 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.
- **Judging will be blind.** A number will be assigned to each submission. The contributor's name and bio, which should still be included in the submission, will be copy/pasted to a separate file for later identification. Jurors will only see the number and title.
- We prefer **Microsoft Word Document** (.DOC, .DOCX). An additional choice is .TXT files. PDF files will automatically be rejected from the submission site. Additional photos can be attached (up to 3 in .JPG format).
- **Please include a 50–75-word bio** at the end of your document. Bios longer than 75 words will be trimmed by the editor. Any web address 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.** 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.
 - Exception: a set of 5 Haiku can be sent as a SINGLE submission. If you have more than 5, each must be broken into a separate submission file.

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.

Publication Schedule for U.P. Reader Volume #10:

- Submission window opened **June 1st, 2025**
- Submission deadline: **Nov. 10th, 2025**
Jury / peer-review process begins
- **Jan 15th, 2026:** announcement to the media of selected submissions
- **April 15th, 2026:** official on-sale date

A Four-Letter Word?

By Ann Dallman

I've been thinking a lot lately about a certain four-letter word. No, not that one, the other one that's almost as prevalent: Fear. Four little letters to describe an emotion which seems to be everywhere during these uncertain times. Fear.

Sometimes it's elusive and lurking underneath the surface buried somewhere in our unconscious, other times it's staring us in the face. The fears lingering from the after-effects of the pandemic, fear of an economic downturn, fear of an ever-present technological presence. Fear seems to dominate the media. And, for me this past week, fear that my car wouldn't start—again.

I turn on the television for some escape from this constant bombardment of fears only to be presented with fears previously unknown to me. The cigarette commercials of my youth have been replaced with ones from drug manufacturers encouraging all us to use their products to either alleviate or prevent illness. The advertised products may be worthwhile but they play on our fears. So many things in the home to be fearful of—staircases, clogged gutters, outdated windows, slippery floors and rugs, spills and messes. Buy their product and rid yourself of the fear. The list goes on and on ending with a fear of not being able to afford end-of-life care and of that all-important funeral service. All are normal--and sometimes even justified--fears.

Each of us must find our own way to handle these new stresses and resultant fear. I count my blessings every day, visit with friends and take long walks. But, for me, the best way to overcome fear is by swimming. At our area's community pool, I have almost eliminated one fear—that of the pool's deep water. Once immersed, I relax and fear is banished.

As writers, we are no strangers to fear: the initial fear of the blank page, the fear of an unfinished manuscript, the fear of criticism followed by other fears. Foremost among them is the need, and resultant fear, of marketing that published manuscript. Do I have the skill set to promote my book? Do I have adequate knowledge to do so? If not, do I have the finances to hire someone to do this? So many fears—from work languishing unseen in an overcrowded marketplace to the fear of being good enough once that work is seen and recognized. And, then, there's the fear of public speaking. Speaking engagements must be obtained, topics chosen, and presentations prepared. Next, one has to overcome the fear of facing an audience and engaging with them. So many fears when all one wanted to do was write a good story.

But here is both the lesson and its reward. After conquering those fears, there is a momentary feeling of lightness. You've overcome the hurdles and fear has withdrawn (for now!) until the next book beckons to be written.

Ann Dallman has lifelong roots in Michigan's UP. She started out as a newspaper reporter/photographer and returned to journalism after retiring from teaching. Her first Middle Grade novel, Cady and the Bear Necklace, received a State History Award (Books/Youth) from the Historical Society of Michigan as well as a Midwest Book Award, New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, was a Next Generation Indie Book Award Finalist and a UP Notable Book. Her second book, Cady and the Birchbark Box, also received the Historical Society of Michigan State Award and a New Mexico-Arizona Book Award. It, too, is a UP Notable Book. The third book in the series, "Cady and the Search for Family," was released this past spring.

"I love being a member of UPPAA. The help I've received has gone a long way to overcome many of my fears!"

Writing Events

Sue Harrison to Discuss Her Writing Journey at Negaunee Library

Sue Harrison (Pickford, MI) will discuss her writing journey - from Yooper homemaker to international bestselling novelist, from frustration to joy to heartbreak and back to joy again. Her talk will include a question and answer period.

Cost: FREE

Date: October 14th, 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Location: Negaunee Public Library

WRITERS WORKSHOP:

Development of a Novel from the Fearless Standpoint

Only a few seats remain for this ONCE a year opportunity to learn with renowned writing educator Joe Haske. You can be at any point in your manuscript and still get 100% of the lessons applied. Put on by our friends at the EUP historic Hessel School House (30 minutes east of St Ignace).

Cost: \$300 per person. (Includes all materials, professional instruction, and lunch/refreshments all three days.)

Date: October 30th–November 1st, 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Location: Hessel School House

To Register: Call 906-484-1333 or register online at www.hesselschoolhouse.org/calendar

David Wogahn: Creating a Book Launch Timeline

In this session, Wogahn shares his proven Countdown to Book Launch® Timeline, designed to maximize visibility and sales during a book's critical launch window.

Cost: FREE

Date: October 14th, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting:

us02web.zoom.us/j/84496361124?pwd=WZbVWqLpRkaM2UKRawF4222C1qGkdi.1

Meeting ID: 844 9636 1124

Passcode: launcher

Publishing Your History Book

with Stephanie L. Williams, Wayne State University Press

Have you wanted to produce a history book, but don't know where to begin? Join this workshop presenter who will take you through all the steps of creating a book, including defining the scope, researching and writing, defining the market, pitching to publishers, printing, and marketing the volume to the public.

Cost: \$49 for Members, \$89 for Non-Members

Date: December 5th, 9:00 a.m.

Location: Virtual on Zoom

To Register: hsmichigan.org/publishing-your-history-book

Library Request

Breckenridge High School is a tiny rural school dead center in the lower mitten. There are about 320 students total, of which half are in grades 9 to 12. More than half of the students are from economically disadvantaged families.

As you might now, school library budgets are almost nothing in the current climate. Charla Nira has asked us to show them some love with donations of books by our UPPAA authors. Her original query was about non-fiction, but she has since expanded the topic list a bit.

She writes:

“Anything Michigan related would be amazing, I’m working on putting together a section of our library just about our beautiful state, and I don’t have much yet.

“From the BISAC topic list - I am interested in anything you are willing to donate but to answer your question specifically, Science, Social Science, Computer Related, and Graphic Novels, would probably be of highest interest for my kids.

“Because my students range from 11 -18 years old I can justify a wide range, from elementary level to adult.”

Naturally, hardcover is preferred if you can manage it

Please send all materials to:

Charla Nira, Librarian

Breckenridge Community Schools

700 Wright St.

Breckenridge, MI 48615

Praise for UPPAA

I became a member of UPPAA a couple of years ago. I am an author/ illustrator of 4 children’s books, and have found that UPPAA has been a great help.

I decided to try self-publishing and UPPAA has been able to answer many of my questions.

I also worked with Stacey at Globe Printing in Ishpeming who’s been very helpful. It’s been quite the challenge but definitely keeps my brain busy.

The conference in Marquette this last spring was the first one I could make it to, but certainly not the last. It was well run, had wonderful speakers, and was very informative.

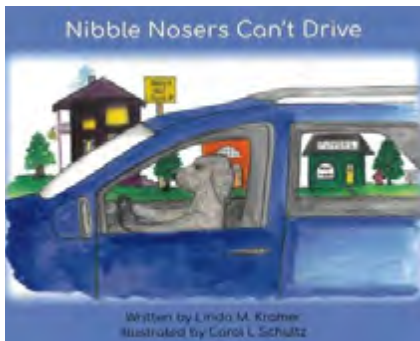
-Carol L. Schultz

Member News

The third novel in **Ann Miller's** *The Last Photograph Series*, entitled *Oblivious*, is out on Amazon. She will also be having a book signing at the Americinn in Iron River on Saturday, November 1st from 12–3 p.m.



Carol L. Schultz's latest book she illustrated, *Nibble Noses Can't Drive*, was with a new author (Linda M. Kramer).



It's about a family's dogs who think they should always be in the driver's seat!

Kathleen Carlton Johnson's work will be in the following publications and online productions:

- *Making Waves: A West Michigan Review*
- *Blood Orange Review*
- *Arboreal Literary Review*
- *Artemis Journal*
- *Santa Barbara Literary Review*
- *Rusty Truck* (Online)
- *Thimble* (Online)

Mary Frances Erler's newest book, *An Irish Odyssey*, has been selling very well. At her first book signing, she sold out. The bookstore cat even approved.



M. Kelly Peach is scheduled for a couple author events in October and November:

October 17th, 10:00a.m.–1:00p.m. he plans to be at the Book Fair at Krapohl Senior Center (5473 Bicentennial Dr. Mt. Morris, MI 48458).

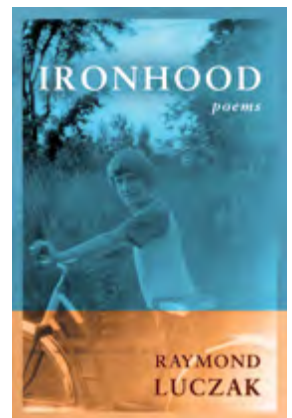
November 29th, 8:00a.m.–5:00p.m. CST he will be a vendor at Collectorabilia Con at the Resch Expo (840 Armed Forces Dr. Ashwaubenon, WI 54304).

In September, he was a vendor at the 7th Annual GeekU.P., and earlier in October he was at A Novel Event at the Fenton Community and Cultural Center and the Author Showcase at Brighton District Library.



The audiobook of *An Unlucky Companion*, written by **Nikki Mitchell** and narrated by **Brandy Thomas**, was released at the end of September. Nikki was also a vendor at GeekU.P. in September.

Raymond Luczak's latest book of poetry is now available. In *Ironhood*, Luczak recalls the neighbors and shopkeepers he once knew while growing up in Ironwood, Michigan during the 1970s and 1980s. They included a scruffy man who smoked cheap cigars while tending to his fragrant backyard garden, a cat-eyed woman who stood watch over a sea of typewriters, a bald jeweler whose dexterous fingers repaired a watch's miniscule innards,



and tired cashiers in red smocks who dreamed at the western edge of town.

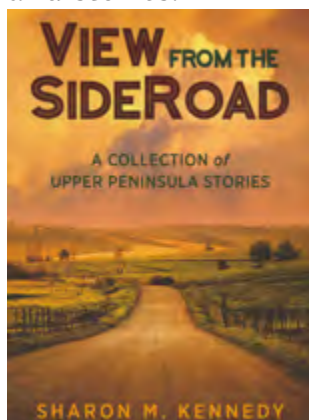
Richard P. Smith was featured on an episode of an outdoor TV show called *Discovering* on TV6 yesterday evening for being the first UP resident inducted into the Michigan Outdoor Hall of Fame.

His books were also mentioned and shown along with an award he won for *Nickel & Dime Your Way To Extra Dollars While Saving The Planet*. See the episode here:

<https://tinyurl.com/RichardPSmith>

Sara Maurer spoke with podcaster and mom-of-five Meagan Francis in August at the Bayliss. They talked about Meagan's book, *The Last Parenting Book You'll Ever Read: How We Let Our Kids Go and Embrace What's Next*, which explores the transition from parenting children to parenting adults and offers advice on how to do it well. Meagan grew up in the Sault and now lives downstate. She owns Paper Mill Books in Manistique with her sister, Kathreen.

Sharon Kennedy, author of *The SideRoad Kids* and *View from the SideRoad*, has joined the writers of the *UP Magazine* formerly known as the *Porcupine Press*. It's a glossy monthly that has a lot of interesting articles and stories.



She also continues to write for the *Petoskey News-Review*, a daily newspaper, occasionally for the monthly *Drummond Island Digest*, and posts stories, poems, and political commentary on her website:

www.authorsharonkennedy.com.

Thomas Ford Conlan recently published an essay in the *Charlevoix County News* (print only), and he writes a couple stories a week.

On October 1st, **Wade Walker** launched *Night of the Pumpkin Man*, a brand-new Halloween special from his *Code Name: Lone-Wolf* series. Wade blends horror, action, and folklore in this chilling short, which follows werewolf superspy Val West as he faces a terrifying new legend.



He also has a poetry book coming out October 13th, *Dead Love: Apocalyptic Pop Sonnets*. *Dead Love* is a sometimes quite haunting exploration of love, obsession, loss, and the macabre, blending gothic lyricism with modern edge, just in time for the Halloween season.



New from Modern History Press

If It Snows, Go Fishing! by
Clyde Wainio:

Synopsis: A lifetime on the streams of Michigan's Copper Country, one cast at a time. For more than sixty years, Clyde Wainio has waded the streams and rivers of Michigan's Copper Country, chasing Brook Trout, Rainbows / Steelhead, and Northern Pike through every season. In *If It Snows, Go Fishing!*, he shares a lifetime of fishing adventures—record catches, near-misses, family traditions, and unforgettable encounters with the wild. Rich with humor, local history, and the rhythms of nature, these stories honor the joys of patience, persistence, and respect for the outdoors. Complete with evocative illustrations by Joanna Walitalo, this memoir is a heartfelt tribute to both fishing and the timeless spirit of Michigan's Northwoods.



Building Kathy Ann: My Lake Superior Boat Project by **Robert Johnson:**

Synopsis: In *Building Kathy Ann*, Robert Johnson shares the deeply personal and technically detailed story of building his custom steel-hulled boat from scratch in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Drawing on his lifetime of construction experience, family heritage in craftsmanship, and a love of Lake Superior, Johnson walks readers through every stage—from childhood inspiration, selecting materials, and designing

the layout, to welding the hull and installing systems.

The project took several years and was guided by a commitment to quality, safety, and sharing adventure with family. The *Kathy Ann* was more than a boat; it was a legacy built with help from friends and lessons passed down from his father and grandfather. Blending memoir and technical manual, the book celebrates perseverance, problem-solving, and the rewards of doing something by hand and heart. It is both a tribute to Northern heritage and a practical guide for any aspiring boat builder.

Straw Horse by **Terri Martin:**

Synopsis: This witty and suspenseful romantic mystery is set in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where life for Kathryn "Kat" Wilde is anything but tranquil. Though only in her mid-twenties, Kat finds herself juggling the many demands of a struggling horse operation, Wildwood Stables, while navigating a perplexing romance with her "sort-of" boyfriend, DNR officer, Nikko Olsen. A pleasant trail ride begins a chain of events, starting with the discovery of two bodies deep in the wilderness. Kat's investigation circles back to something very rare and valuable on Wildwood land. Bad things happen and sabotage is suspected, but by whom or what? The arrival of dodgy characters intensifies Kat's suspicion that someone is targeting her beloved Wildwood Stables, and she needs to find out why. Rich in humor, heart, and intrigue, *Straw Horse*



blends romance and suspense with unforgettable characters and a setting as wild and unpredictable as the heroine herself.



Mackinac Island: Holidays, Tourists, and Trivia by **Tom Chambers**:

Synopsis: Lifelong island resident Tom Chambers shares heartfelt memories and quirky insights from over 70 summers and 50 winters on Michigan's most iconic island. The book

highlights how holidays—from Halloween to Christmas—are uniquely celebrated by locals, often without tourists. Chambers

recounts humorous encounters with visitors, the seasonal influx of fudge lovers, and offers practical tips for enjoying the island. Rich with local trivia, the book reveals little-known stories about island carpenters, forgotten roads, nicknames, weather events, and even marshes and fruit trees. A bonus section revisits events and anecdotes left out of his first book, including the blizzard of 1978 and the wreck of the Peshtigo. Chambers' warm, conversational style and deep affection for the island make this a delightful read for anyone who loves Mackinac Island or small-town Americana. It's both a personal memoir and a rich local history.

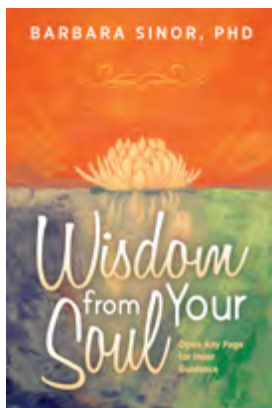
New from Loving Healing Press

Wisdom From Your Soul by **Barbara Sinor**:

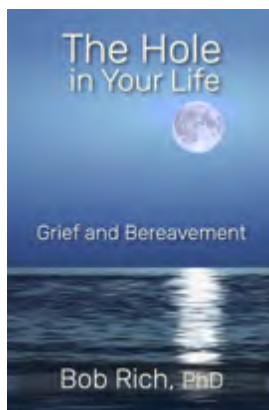
Synopsis: **Find Peace, Embrace Change, and Let Your Soul Lead The Way!**

Wisdom From Your Soul is a heartfelt guide to inner peace, healing, and spiritual renewal. Drawing on timeless insights, the book invites readers to pause, reflect, and rediscover the wisdom already within them. With gentle reminders, inspiring passages, and meditations on forgiveness, compassion, resilience, and love, it offers a steady compass for navigating life's challenges.

Whether you are wrestling with past wounds, seeking encouragement in the present, or yearning for direction in the future, this book provides practical yet soulful counsel.



The Hole in Your Life by **Bob Rich, PhD**:



Synopsis: *The Hole in Your Life* by Dr. Bob Rich is a heartfelt, practical guide to understanding grief and healing from it. Rooted in personal experience—most notably the loss of his daughter, Natalie—and decades of psychological

counseling, Dr. Rich offers readers compassionate tools for navigating bereavement. Drawing on real-life case studies, mindfulness techniques, and the “seven magic bullets” for wellbeing, he explores the complexities of grief. Blending storytelling, humor, and therapeutic insight, this book serves as both a comfort and a roadmap for anyone experiencing loss, emphasizing that while grief is unique and unpredictable, growth and peace are possible.

Writing Roundtable

By Terri Martin

Learning to be a good critiquer will help you become a better writer. You will learn to avoid pitfalls—and there are so many! You will learn what pleases you as a reader and a writer. You will make friends (hopefully no enemies). You will gain a support group who will feel your euphoria when you succeed and your pain when you flop. You will have someone who will be a groupie at your book signings!

One thing is true for all types of groups: comments should never be cruel or vicious. The well-worn phrase “constructive criticism” comes to mind. Leave the acerbic remarks for the celebrities. Demoralizing another person is mean-spirited and non-productive. Conversely, those on the receiving end must be thick-skinned enough to accept less than glowing reviews of their work. As with all advice, the person whose work is being critiqued need not take every suggestion and observation to heart. It is merely someone’s opinion and you can take it, reject it, or file it away for later consideration.

Being a Good Critiquer

You have listened to a chapter from one of your critique group’s members. How do you form your response? Start with something positive. If you can’t find anything positive, *you* may have a problem as well as the manuscript. Employ your skills and look for the good points that need to be built upon. This can be a brief comment such as “clever idea,” “strong start with action,” “I like this character,” or “this idea really has potential.”

Remember, this isn’t about you. You don’t have to like what the author is writing *about*—perhaps you loathe romance or how-to books—but you need to put aside your personal tastes and look at the *construction* of the piece that you’re critiquing. Listen to the author as

he or she reads. Jot down notes. If you’ve been provided with a hard copy, jot notes in the margin. Let the author read without interruption, then go around the group and offer your feedback.

Be systematic and specific in your critiquing. Try to balance the positives and negatives. The goal is to give suggestions that will improve the author’s manuscript, while being supportive and encouraging.

Start with a global reaction. Overall, how did this piece of writing work for you? Did it accomplish what the author was setting out to do? Perhaps you have now been educated on the hardships endured by the pioneers or maybe you have become drawn into the suspense that an author has created.

Move into the components of the work: dialogue, pace, characterization, research, voice, clarity—whatever is relevant. Ask questions about things that confuse you. Is the confusion because the author has not made it clear, or is it something that will be developed later.

Lastly, point out “nits.” These may seem inconsequential but addressing the small imperfections will be helpful to the author as it is often difficult to catch these things in one’s own work. Common nits may include the repetition of a favorite word, e.g., an article on cooking may use the word “tasty” too many times. Other nits include punctuation, sentence structure, or a poor word choice.

I positively LOVED this chapter! Though an elixir to the writer’s ego, a comment like this should be supported by the reason(s) why. *I really enjoyed the beautiful description of Lake Superior as a turquoise jewel* or *I howled with laughter when he literally handed the steering wheel to his wife.* You are telling the author what’s working.

The same goes when the critiquing is negative. “I don’t like the ending,” should be

followed with why. “I felt it was too abrupt because . . .”

End your critique with a positive comment.

Being Critiqued

Let those who are critiquing know what stage the manuscript is in (early draft, rewritten, etc.). If you are not comfortable reading your own manuscript, ask someone else to read for you. You may choose to provide hard copies to everyone so they can make notations at the appropriate place. The risk with this is that those who are critiquing might concentrate too much on reading and not really listen. Also, it produces a lot of extra paper that may go to waste.

Be a good listener. Don’t interrupt and try to justify or clarify. Focus on what you are being told and don’t break the critiquer’s train of thought. Jot down notes with questions or comments that pop into your mind. Sometimes there will be a need for clarification if the critiquer doesn’t have all the background. Also, It doesn’t hurt to let folks know what you were trying to accomplish even when your clearly missed the mark. *I was trying to be funny, not politically incorrect!* Your group can help you figure out why you didn’t pull it off. *It didn’t work for me because I got turned off by the use of that (word/action).*

The length of the material should be limited—perhaps six to eight pages, or a little more if it is important for the whole chapter or section to be read at once. There is nothing wrong with reading a partial chapter or other piece that is not finished. Perhaps you will get inspiration for that cliffhanger ending to your chapter just by reading it to your group!

When you read to your group, naturally you need to put a little effort into your presentation—don’t be deadpan—but it’s not a theatrical production either.

Remember that you are the author, not your critique group. Be true to yourself. Don’t get wishy washy trying to emulate someone else.

This is not to say that you can’t extract lessons from other’s good writing. You may not strive to be Dave Barry, but you can think about why he makes you laugh. On the same note, those giving the feedback should not encourage the author to rewrite a sentence in the critiquer’s words. For example, you may encourage the author to better bring across their character’s emotion. The manuscript might say something like: *She was embarrassed*. You could suggest that the writer show and not tell. But how the writer accomplishes that is their responsibility. *She felt the flush of embarrassment burn in her cheeks* might be one writer’s style. Another may use dialogue: *“Shut up Tom, you’re embarrassing me!”*

For Fiction

- Does the beginning hook the reader?
- Does the story flow?
- Are the characters engaging and real?

For Nonfiction

- If applicable, is the book well researched?
- Is the writing interesting, entertaining, and/or informative?
- Does the book accomplish its goal to inform, educate, entertain, etc?

Universal

- Is the style and word choice consistent for the target audience?
- Is there anything confusing or unclear?
- Is there a realistic market for this book?

For an extended version of this article, visit the UPPAA site: www.uppaa.org/?p=10330

Interested in participating in a Writing Roundtable?

Bring your latest WIP and join us the Friday before the 2026 Spring Conference! Details will be provided closer to the event.



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