



“
**You can’t use
up creativity.
The more you
use, the more
you have.**

”

– Maya Angelou

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The Written Word

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Young Writers Storytelling Workshop – After Action Report

Introduction

The purpose of the 2025 Young Writers Storytelling Workshop was to nurture young authors in middle and high school through an immersive, interactive day of creative exploration. This year’s theme continued the focus on core storytelling elements—conflict, character, and setting—while expanding to include new sessions on nonfiction, editing, and sensory writing.

Now in its second year, the workshop was once again held in conjunction with the UPPAA Spring Conference at Peter White Public Library in Marquette, allowing youth to share in the energy and resources of the wider Upper Peninsula writing community. Snack-fueled conversations and cross-generational learning added to the dynamic atmosphere. It was an engaging and affirming experience for all involved.

About the Workshop

Building on the success of last year’s inaugural event, this year’s Young Writers Storytelling Workshop offered both returning and new participants a chance to dive deeper into their writing. From guided freewrites to breakout sessions tailored to different interests, the event was designed to help young writers strengthen their voices and see themselves as part of a larger creative community.

Thirty-four youth attended, with more than a third returning for the second time. Participants worked individually, in pairs, and in small groups, creating characters, storylines, and even outlines

for future projects. The supportive tone set by presenters and volunteers created a safe space for expression, learning, and connection.



Rundown of Workshop Sessions

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

Cyndi Perkins kicked off the day with a creative warm-up session aimed at breaking the ice and easing participants into the writing mindset. Using interactive activities, she helped writers explore their motivations and voices, creating a fun and energetic start to the day.

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

John Hagen returned with an expanded session focused on crafting compelling conflict. With fill-in-the-blank prompts and a step-by-step breakdown of plot escalation, he guided participants in transforming vague ideas into solid story foundations. Extra writing time allowed students to begin building their own dramatic arcs.

Lunch Q&A with Authors

All presenters participated in a casual Q&A. Youth asked thoughtful questions about writing as a career, publishing paths, and college majors that support literary goals. The author panel's responses were honest, encouraging, and inspiring.

Breakout Session #1a: Creating vibrant heroes

Nikki Mitchell led a lively session on developing memorable protagonists and side characters. Participants designed their own character profiles and began scenes that showcased their characters' personalities and goals.

Breakout Session #1b: Writing for the real world

Ann Dallman introduced students to nonfiction storytelling, covering the basics of structure, voice, and clarity. With examples from her own work and guided exercises, she encouraged students to see the power of real-world narratives.

Breakout Session #2a: Writing with all five senses

Rehema Clarcken's session focused on vivid descriptive writing. Rehema helped participants practice incorporating touch, taste, smell, sight, and sound into their prose to strengthen mood and atmosphere.

Breakout Session #2b: Editing to Excellence

Brandy Thomas' editing session demystified the revision process. She emphasized that editing is more than just grammar—it's about shaping clarity, tone, and polish. She introduced tools and techniques that students could take home and use immediately.

Reaction of the Participants

The feedback from students this year was once again overwhelmingly positive. Participants responded with enthusiasm and gratitude, and many offered thoughtful suggestions for future sessions. Here are a few of their top comments:

- “I loved this year!”
- “Thank you for being accepting + encouraging.”
- “Helpful! Helped us get out of our writer’s block :)”
- “I absolutely loved this! My two suggestions are to add a session on publishing books and to make the Q&A session longer.”
- “More time to write the first short story/poem. Please keep having sessions talking about conflict—I really appreciate it.”



*Young Writers Participating in the Workshop
Photo by Jodi Perras*

Constructive suggestions included more genre variety (poetry, scriptwriting, graphic novels), learning about practical writing concerns (dialogue, grammar, editing, publishing), and requesting that sessions be tailored to neurodivergent writers. These ideas will guide planning for next year.

On a lighter note, the participants wanted more snacks, warmer pizza, and more drink options—including a resounding request for Crush and Dr. Pepper.

Conclusion

The 2025 Young Writers Storytelling Workshop continued its mission to uplift young voices and provide real tools to empower storytelling. For the second year in a row, participants left feeling connected, inspired, and more confident in their writing abilities.

The workshop builds on the momentum of the Dandelion Cottage Short Story Contest and serves as a stepping stone for future submissions. It also represents UPPAA’s growing commitment to cultivating a new generation of authors from the Upper Peninsula.

As DC founder Larry Buege once said, “We are creating our replacements!” We look forward to watching these young writers bloom into published authors and UPPAA members in the years to come.

If you would like to help shape the future of this program—whether by joining the planning committee, volunteering at events, sponsoring materials, or proposing a session—please reach out to us at storytelling@uppaa.org. A call for presenters will go out in September. We prefer sessions that allow students to actively participate rather than listening to a lecture.

Finally, the UPPAA Board extends sincere thanks to **Rehema Clarken** for her continued leadership and vision in making this event possible.

Moments from the Spring Conference

Photos by Jodi Perras unless otherwise noted.



Nikki Mitchell and Brandy Thomas checking in attendees.



Mikel Classen sharing about the U.P. Reader.



Attendees listening to one of the speakers.



Victor R. Volkman at the UPPAA Town Hall.



Sue Harrison, "Creating Compelling Characters"



Michael Carrier giving the keynote speech.



Sharon Brunner sharing Native American artifacts with the attendees during her presentation on writing about Indigenous people.

A cornucopia of the U.P.'s best literature appeared on the door prize tables at the 2025 UPPAA Spring Conference. Lots of U.P. Notable books in evidence, such as Carol Schultz's Journey the Owl on the front corner.

Photo by Victor R. Volkman.

Moments from the Open Mic Night



Ellen Lord

*Photo by
Victor R. Volkman*



*Nancy Besonen,
Terri Martin,
Mikel Classen, and
Victor R. Volkman*

*Photo by
Victor R. Volkman*



*Brandy Thomas and Jodi Perras
Photo by Victor R. Volkman*



*Thomas Ford Conlan
Photo by Ellen Lord*

Michael Carrier Presents

The Story Behind the Story About My James Patterson “Rumor”

Editor’s note: This is the first 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 it comes to delivering a message on most any subject, I have learned that there are some guidelines that can be beneficial for a speaker not only to be aware of, but to seek to follow. And this is one of them: Never, never, never, under *any* circumstance, fall prey to the notion that you will build yourself up by tearing another person down. This, I think, is particularly true when it involves authors.

Writers should always try to build the other writer up . . . If, however, you are convinced that it would be impossible for you to say something nice (beneficial?) about that other author, then just plead ignorance, or simply remain silent. Potential readers of your books do not want to hear you speak ill about another author, particularly if the other writer is one they like.

Of course, the same goes for any speaker delivering a message on any topic—*always* be positive and speak in an uplifting fashion (unless you’re striving to be a comedian).

If you run into me at one of my shows or signings, then you’ve probably seen my sign: “Ask Michael about James Patterson.” I have displayed that sign all over the country—from Marquette to South Florida. I believe that sign accomplishes more than one thing for me:

First, it nearly always provides me with the opportunity to speak to a potential reader—it immediately becomes a point of connection and conversation. Hardboiled thriller readers see it and ask me if I know Patterson personally (if they’re not into my type of writing, they will simply walk on by [which saves my time]). If they do engage me, I tell them that “I’ve never met the man, but I do know something about him that not everyone is aware of.” And then I will ask them: “Would you like to hear what that is?” If they even like that genre in general, they will *always* say that they would like to hear what I had to say about it . . . Connection made.

Second, if these potential readers do wish to hear me out, in almost every case I can see that they are about to bristle up—some a little, others a lot. I’m sure they’re expecting me to rip on Patterson. But, that’s not what I do. Instead, I explain to them that “when Covid hit, Patterson sent checks for \$400 to 250 small, privately owned book stores. (Some of the details of this story might be slightly incorrect,

but to the best of my knowledge they are substantially accurate.) While his generosity was clearly demonstrated by this act, the manner in which he handled it speaks even more distinctly about the nature of his character . . . Because he never used this magnanimous act for marketing purposes—he never used it to sell his own books. I researched it as best I could and proved it to be true . . . I am thoroughly convinced that he did it to help small bookstores stay in business. I’ve even heard that he did this twice, but I cannot document the second gifting.”

“That,” I go on to say, “is a very classy, unselfish thing to do . . . I think we would agree that not only can this man write a great murder mystery, he has a good heart. He’s a genuinely good man . . . That would mean, I think, if you like Patterson, *you’ve* got good taste.”

I then smile at them and shut up.

Not only have I honestly built Patterson up in the eyes of the reader, it is amazing how many times my act will attract that reader to buy my books. I don’t have to claim to that reader that I write as well as Patterson. But the good feelings I have generated still help me win over his heart.

Now, had I tried to build myself up by diminishing Patterson, all I would have accomplished would have been to have left that potential reader thinking poorly of me, and perhaps a little less of Patterson. But you can be pretty sure I would not have gained a new, dedicated reader—my loss. It is a simple fact that nobody wants to listen to any kind of depreciating negativity.

How do I handle a negative issue that I might have with another author? If it is significant enough, I take my gripe directly to that writer and allow him to explain himself. That is, if the other writer wishes to personally engage at all . . . But I never use negativity to drive that author down in the eyes of others . . . Were I to practice like that, it would only bear evidence of my own insecurities and weaknesses.

At this point you might wonder: “Why would Carrier include such a somber admonition in a presentation like this?”

I do this for at least two reasons. First, I am trying to give good advice to my friends and fellow writers. Good advice builds up the body. Any author who reads or hears this must never think that he is somehow helping his own cause by putting another author down. That is *never* the case. The only thing that such behavior accomplishes is the diminishment of both in the eyes of all involved.

But I do have a secondary purpose. And this is it: If I can encourage you to build up all the other members of the body, then I will get built up as well. That will help me sell books. Simply put, exuberant positivity reflects on each of us—it will truly help each of us to sell our books . . . And nobody gets hurt.

That is why I will continue to tell my James Patterson story. And it is why the only comments about you that will ever be heard flowing past my graying mustache will be words of commendation . . . If I possess one good habit, this just might be it.

Next time: Part Two: What is Michael’s special (unique?) connection to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula?

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.

New UPPAA Committees Need You

In May, UPPAA's board of directors took steps to improve our long-term sustainability by increasing member involvement in several programs.

The board met on May 16 with a goal of both celebrating our past accomplishments and identifying future challenges. Those challenges included the need to involve more members in our work and how to accommodate membership growth, which may soon require us to find a different annual conference venue.

During the meeting, the board agreed to form the following committees:

- A **UP Notable Books committee**, led by Mikel Classen, to improve UPPAA's annual book awards process by involving more avid readers and considering more book candidates;
- A **conference committee**, chaired by Victor Volkman, to develop the annual conference program and review potential locations if we outgrow the Peter White Public Library; and
- A **communications committee**, led by Jansina Grossman, to oversee the

UPPAA website, newsletter, social media, press releases and other communications activities.

In addition, Nikki Mitchell agreed to assist Larry Buege, who has been running the Dandelion Cottage contest for young writers since its inception. UPPAA Treasurer Jodi Peras leads a newly formed finance committee; Deborah Frontiera will continue to lead the UP Reader selection and editing process; and Rehema Clarken continues to organize the annual Youth Writing Workshop.

UPPAA is a 501(c)(6) business trade organization, a member-driven association similar to a chamber of commerce. Our mission is to support and encourage better writing and publishing practices among Upper Peninsula publishers and authors.

UPPAA needs active members who work together to improve and promote UP literature. Do you see a place where you could get involved? We need all kinds of skills, including yours! Contact UPPAA President Victor Volkman at president@uppaa.org to volunteer.



UPPAA Board Members 2025 (l. to r.):

*Notable Books Chair **Mikel Classen**, Board Member At Large **Evelyn Gathu**, Vice President **Terri Martin**, Publications Chair **Deborah K. Frontiera**, Membership Chair **Brandy Thomas**, Recording Secretary **Nikki Mitchell**, Newsletter Editor **Jansina Grossman**, Treasurer **Jodi Perras**, and President **Victor R. Volkman***

UPPAA Fall Gathering

Save the Date! A UPPAA Fall gathering will be happening on **Saturday, September 6, 2025** from 12:00–4:00pm Eastern / 11:00am–3:00pm Central.

Due to member feedback for floating the event around the U.P., we will be hosting it near beautiful Crystal Falls, Michigan. Just 90 minutes from Escanaba, Houghton, Marquette, and Ironwood, our hope is to make the event available to more members than ever.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (4 miles West of C.F.) is easily accessible from US-2 and there are several area campgrounds surrounding if you want to plan a weekend of outdoor recreation around it.

The event will begin with a potluck lunch. All activities will take place in the spacious Dining Hall, which is large enough that small group activities such as readings, writing roundtables, and casual networking can all take place within.

In early August 2025, we will ask for RSVPs to finalize details.

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp
138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920



BUSINESS OF BEING AN Artist

MONDAY, JULY 14TH, 12PM - 5PM
FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Join us for a day of insight, inspiration, and connection designed for **emerging visual artists, writers, and performers** who want to grow their creative careers.

Hear directly from practicing artists as they share their experiences navigating the behind-the-scenes realities of the art world – building a brand, networking, finding opportunities, and starting a creative business.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Amy Peterman • Dave Berg • Scott Laursen
Katie Eberts • Steve Seeborn • Katie Eberts
Victoria Hussey • Sarah Tule • Libbey Brown

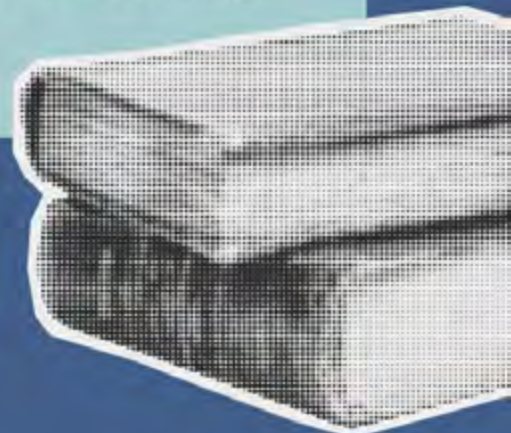
Mike Peach • Thelma Godin • Katie Buchholtz
Sue Harrison

Mark Bowen - Soo Theater/Opera Representatives

KENNETH J. SHOULDICE LIBRARY
906 RYAN AVE, SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

Sault Area
ART CENTER
A Gathering Place

PRE-REGISTER HERE



The Business of Being an Artist

This event is not sponsored by UPPAA.

Sault Area Art Center has an exciting opportunity for writers in UPPAA!

Join Sault Area Art Center for The Business of Being an Artist, a free one-day conference, on Monday, July 14th at Lake Superior State University's Shouldice Library for visual artists, performers, and writers! Hear from working artists as they share real-life experiences, tips, and practical advice on building a creative career. From branding and business structure to finding opportunities and staying inspired, this event will help you take the next big step in your artistic journey.

Please pre-register to help us plan for snacks, seating, and other accommodations. We can't wait!

More information: calendar.boomte.ch/single/oJ7H9qubuwU1vH9tK0rotU1O4

To pre-register: forms.wix.com/f/7330295130152239787

Announcing Yooper Poetry Series 2025–2026 Writers

The Yooper Poetry Series (YPS) is Modern History Press' (MHP) attempt to spotlight poets whose lives have been shaped and transformed by living in the U.P. at some point in their lives. MHP is most pleased to announce the two writers chosen for this year's *Yooper Poetry Series 2025–2026*.



Suzanne Sunshower's book *Still Wild* will appear sometime in the fall of 2025. **Suzanne Sunshower** is a writer/artist and ardent adventurer originally from Detroit. When not exploring, she has worked with over 6,000 kids while engaged in outreach education and social service work. She is the author of three chapbooks, *Elements*, *Aura*, and *It's Where You Find It*; co-author of the poetry collection *From the Lonely Cold* (Scurfpea Publishing, 2009); and she edited the poetry anthology *How Can You Say We Are Not Related* (Scurfpea Publishing, 2012). She is listed in *Who's Who of American Women* (25th Anniversary edition) as a journalist/poet/artist.

Chad Faries's book *Amasa Speaker Factory* will appear sometime in the spring of 2026. **Chad Faries** is a Yooper with a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he was editor of *The Cream City Review* and a Fulbright Fellow in Budapest, Hungary. He has published two poetry collections and a memoir, *Drive Me Out of My Mind*, which won the Emergency Press Open Book Prize in 2011. He divides his time between Iron River, Michigan, and Thunderbolt, Georgia, where he teaches at Savannah State University. Beyond writing, he crafts stories through repurposed wood and found objects. His whimsical treehouse, Diamond Oaks, has been featured in *This Old House Magazine* and others. When not teaching or petting cats, he's likely motorcycling or practicing yoga handstands with his son, León Karlo del Rocío Faries Leal.



Raymond Luczak is the Acquisitions Editor for YPS. For more information, please look here: modernhistorypress.com/yps.



Meet Your Board Members:

Nikki Mitchell (Recording Secretary)

The UPPAA board is passionate about UP literature and dedicated to helping UPPAA members succeed. But who are they and how did they get involved? Over the next several issues, we'll learn more about each member of the board.



How long have you been involved in UPPAA and how did you find out about the organization?

I believe I've been a member since 2020, when Evelyn Gathu told me about the organization. If it wasn't 2020, it was early 2021.

What is your favorite part of the role you have as a board member?

I really enjoy seeing all of the pieces being put together behind the curtain, like the spring conference.

What do you think is the most important UPPAA program and why?

Definitely the networking. It's so important for regional authors to have a chance to network and UPPAA helps with that.

What do you want people to know about volunteering for UPPAA?

We always love to have members become more involved in the organization. It's a great way to share ideas and voice concerns as a member while helping the organization succeed.

What do you enjoy most about UPPAA?

The way local authors are brought together and supported.

What part of the U.P. do you claim as your own and how long did you live/have you lived there?

Currently, I live in Ishpeming and Marquette has felt like home since I was an NMU student, but I'm originally from Iron River and lived there most of my life.

When did you know you were a writer and how long have you been writing?

I wanted to be a writer when I was in high school, maybe even middle school. My dreams shifted a bit when I was in college, and I pursued a degree in English writing with a focus in journalism. The funny thing is that I was convinced I would never use what I learned in my creative writing classes because I never planned on writing books like younger me had thought. I wrote for my local newspaper in Iron River for several years before deciding to start writing and publishing my books.

But I've been writing creatively since I was little. I was always making up stories.

What kind of books do you write? Tell us about your favorite book you have written.

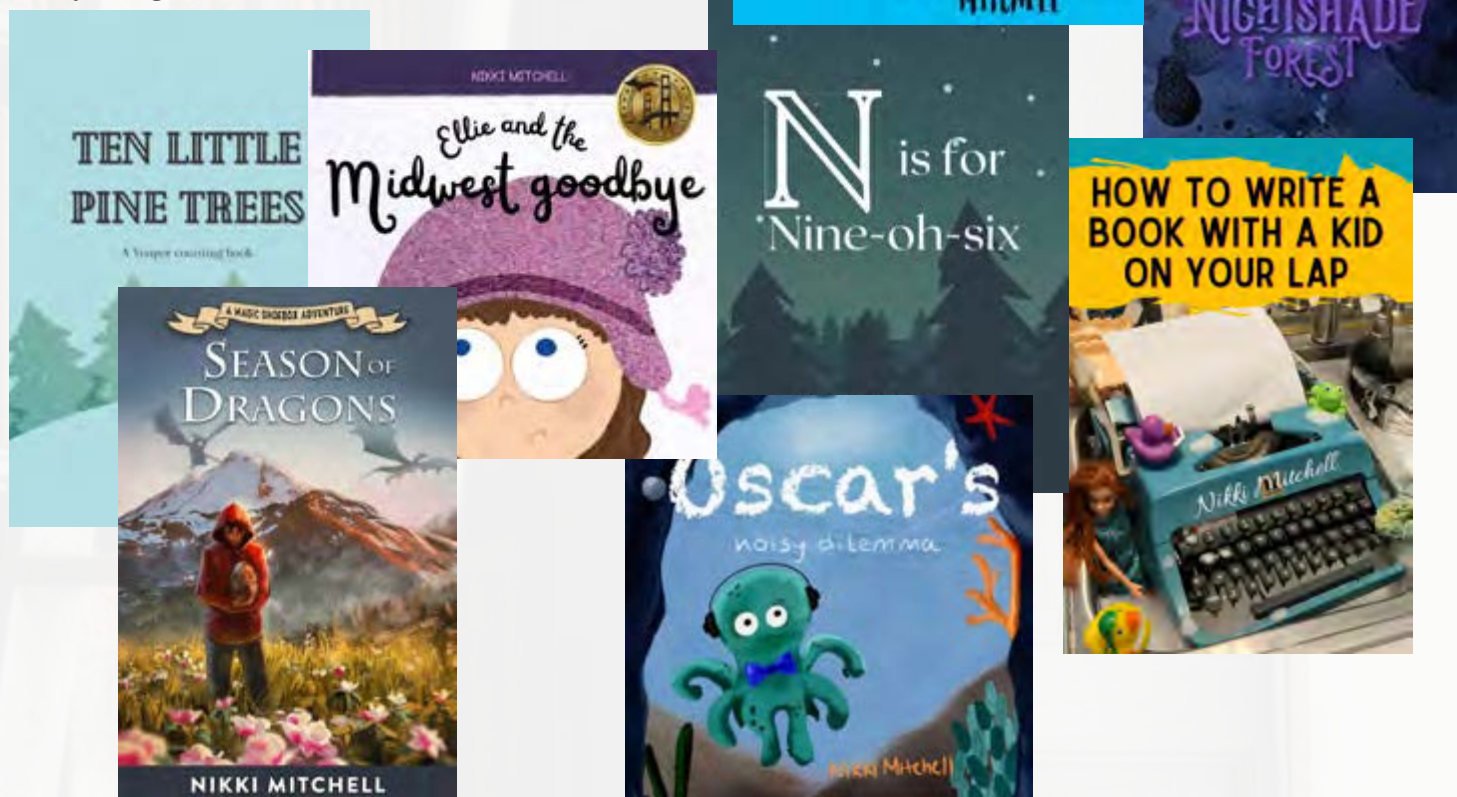
I write both middle-grade portal fantasy and children's picture books. My favorite middle-grade book that I have written is my newest, *An Unlucky Companion*. It has ADHD representation and a pirate chicken! My favorite picture book that I have written is *Ellie and the Midwest Goodbye*.

Do you work with other arts organizations in your local community or the UP in general? If so, which?

Not currently.

How can we find more info about you and your books?

My website is www.poison-apple-press.com and my social media handle for just about everything is [nikkimitchell_writes](#).



Praise for UPPAA

I learned of UPPAA when working as a Reading Interventionist in 2016 at a local middle school. I was paging through the IBPA magazine and learned of UPPAA's annual conference set for June of that year in Marquette. I immediately joined UPPAA and later attended that summer's conference. It offered wonderful (and practical) workshop sessions and new friendships. I've been an enthusiastic member of UPPAA ever since.

The dedication of the group's former and current officers is impressive. Are there words capable of expressing our thanks and appreciation for their tireless efforts? I don't think so.

Victor [who she met through UPPAA] and his publishing company Modern History Press have been great partners in publishing my *Cady Whirlwind Thunder mysteries*.

Especially appreciated are the regular Zoom sessions with UP Notable Authors. This was a lifeline to many of us during the confining days of Covid. Thank you, Evelyn Gathu, Crystal Falls Librarian Extraordinaire, Mikel, and Victor. These sessions continue to provide an opportunity to interact with many of the UP's talented authors.

—Ann Dallman

Member News

Larry Buege's book of short stories, *Amorous Spotted Slug For State Slug*, was recently reviewed in Tom Powers' Michigan in Books blog:

tinyurl.com/MIinBooks



Mack Hassler read a paper, titled "The Influence of Wolfe on Cormac McCarthy," at the Thomas Wolfe Society in Chicago. He was also recently interviewed about his years as Acting Dean of the Honors College at Kent State University (this will be the 60th anniversary of the college), and he continues to review a lot of books for UP Book Review:

upbookreview.com

A podcast was just released about **Jane Kopecky's** book, *WWII Conscientious Objectors: Germfask MI the Alcatraz Camp*:

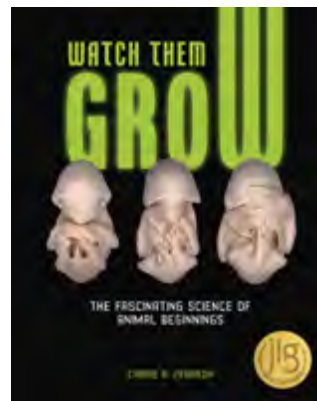
tinyurl.com/JaneKopecky

Cris Mazza appeared in a national podcast called "Private Parts Unknown"

tinyurl.com/CrisMazza

In early June she appeared at the Calumet Public Library and did a reading at the Non-FictionNow Festival in South Bend, Indiana.

M. Kelly Peach had some new publications recently: three poems in *Blood+Honey* webzine appearing June 18 and a poem in *Harrow House Journal* in June.



Carrie Pearson is excited to share the recently released cover of an upcoming photographic nonfiction book she authored, *Watch Them Grow: The Fascinating Science of Animal Beginnings*, published by Lerner Publishing/

Millbrook Press. This is Carrie's debut middle grade, and pre-orders are available now wherever good books are sold. The book launches September 9, 2025. Peter White Public Library



Secret Conversations, Reflections in Nature, a poetry collection by **Thomas Ford Conlan**, is now available. For signed copies, visit:

thomasfordconlan.com

Ann Dallman has upcoming Zoom interviews with the Wisconsin chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators and the Blackbird Writers. She's also been asked to speak during Women's Day at the Menominee County Fair (Shakey Lakes, Michigan) and will be reading from her latest book, *Cady and the Search for Family*, at a Farmer's Market in the Chicago area, under the sponsorship of New Book Joy bookstore of that city. The wonderful folks at Maplewood Avenue Candles will be offering a special candle made to accompany the book. Recently, she was interviewed for *The Mitten*, an online newsletter for the Michigan chapter of SCBWI. She also participated in an interview for the news source, *New Blaze*.



is hosting the launch during their Storytime at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 13. The book has received a Junior Library Guild distinction.

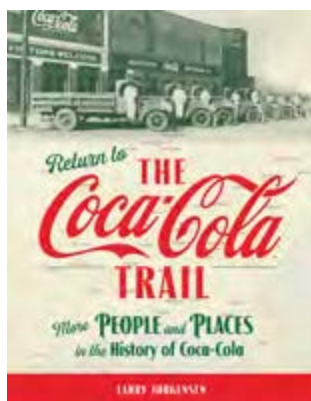
Richard P. Smith was recently inducted into the Michigan Outdoor Hall of Fame administered by the Michigan Outdoor Writers Association (MOWA). He was the first resident of the UP to be inducted. He also received 3rd place



for his book *Nickel & Dime Your Way To Extra Dollars While Saving The Planet*. These photos were taken by his wife, Lucy La Faive.



New from Modern History Press



Return to the Coca-Cola Trail: More People and Places in the History of Coca-Cola by **Larry Jorgensen**:

Synopsis: Return to the Coca-Cola Trail is a second visit with more people and to more places where bottling Coca-Cola was born. It's not just a book; it's a collection of memories. It's another journey to be enjoyed by Coca-Cola fans, memorabilia collectors, and anyone who enjoys history and visiting historic places. It's a tribute to those pioneer bottlers who saw an opportunity and played an important role in creating the world's best-known product.

A Mouse Tail on Mackinac Island – The Coloring Book by **Summer Porter**:

Synopsis: Enjoy Mackinac Island, Michigan, in a whole new way! Inspired by the

charming book series *A Mouse Tail on Mackinac Island*, this coloring book is packed with fun for Mackinac fans of all ages.

Get creative with over 30 activities including doodle prompts, mouse jokes, mazes, word searches, coloring pages, Mackinac facts, and more! Perfect for a rainy day afternoon to brighten your day.



matwân ci wondering about now and then and everything by **Nia To Go There**:

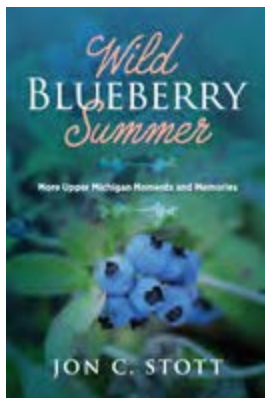
Synopsis: The overall theme for this collection is a deeply felt sense of wonder about everything everywhere. This is the Cree sense of

matwân cî. Nia's poetry is at times mystical, playful and humorous, poignant and painful, and inspiring. Her poetic observations are a philosophical critique of an increasingly mechanized world with its digitized heartbeat. Above all, her poems are an invitation to be aware of the expanse and beauty of knowing we are inseparable and permeable, birthed, and rooted in an ancient past and integral to a life that arcs toward connection and wholeness.

Wild Blueberry Summer

by **Jon C. Stott**:

Synopsis: The excitement of arriving at the Little Cabin in the Big Woods in late spring . . . the joy of greeting old friends--people, birds, and forest animals . . . listening to bird calls to tell the time of day and spotting different flowers to mark the progress of the seasons . . . visits to favorite out-of-the-way spots . . . the first harvest of blueberries and the aroma of the first batch of fresh-out-of-the-oven muffins. *Wild Blueberry Summer* celebrates these memories and moments. Every summer is both wonderfully new and comfortingly familiar.



The prose poems in this collection paint word pictures of treasured experiences, from the gentle awakening of ever-returning spring to the first signs of winter's deep sleep.



Enduring Legacies: People of the 1926 Barnes-Hecker Mine Disaster by **Mary V. Tippet**:

Synopsis: On November 3, 1926, catastrophe struck the Barnes-Hecker mine near the small town of Ishpeming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. In less than fifteen minutes, the mine caved in when a torrent of mud, water and debris collapsed, taking the lives of fifty-one men. Forty-one men were never recovered. The accident was the worst iron ore mine disaster in the history of the State of Michigan, and indeed, the entire United States. *Enduring Legacies* gives voice to descendants, family members and others connected with the tragedy--and provides salient facts sourced from mine records, contemporaneous news stories, and rare documents and photographs. People from seventeen states and five countries (including the U.S.) participated in this enduring gift to posterity.

(More) Praise for UPPAA

Through UPPAA (and Grandpa's Barn Bookstore), I met a new writing buddy: Nancy Besonen. By the time you read this, we'll probably have gone fishing together.

-Cris Mazza

Get Your Book in Front of Dozens of UP Librarians!

OK, I hope that title got your attention! The U.P. Regional Library Conference (UPRLC) is a once-a-year gathering of librarians from the forty-five member libraries from Northern Michigan and Upper Michigan. From Traverse City to Copper Harbor, and from Alpena to Ironwood, each library sends one or two librarians and about eighty-five librarians total will be in attendance.

This year's event happens September 17 to 18, 2025 in Iron Mountain. UPPAA will have a representative in the booth all day long on both days. Over the years, UPPAA has worked hard to build our alliance with UPLRC. This year, UPPAA authors again have an opportunity to contribute giveaway books for librarians who attend.

What's in it for you?

- A fair chance for librarians to evaluate your books for acquisition and shelving to their collections. Librarians learn the importance and scope of our local Michigan authors.
- You save the headache of trying to chase down the correct librarian's name and address from dozens of libraries and write a cover letter. Many libraries only receive mail from their P.O. Box and books sent to a street address will be returned!
- 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 at the Bay College conference center in Iron Mountain, Michigan.
- 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 \$25 participation fee which goes towards purchasing high quality UPPAA canvas totes that will carry the books, conference booth rental, and travel expenses.

How do I participate?

- You must sign up at UPPAA's website by **August 20** to join the program:
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: \$15) to the below address:
UPRLC Event, c/o Crystal Falls Public Library
237 Superior Ave, Crystal Falls, MI 49920
- Members are advised to put a slip of paper inside the box that says "For UPRLC Event" in large letters
- You must mail your books by August 20, 2025. 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).

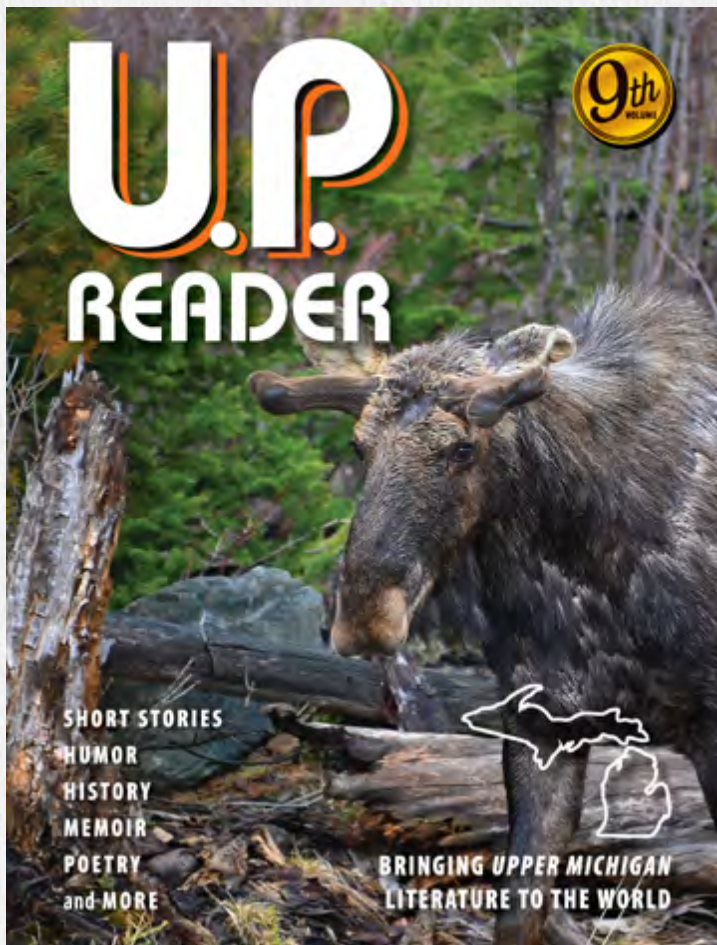
What if I have questions?

- 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: www.uppaa.org/up-lib 17

U.P. Reader Volume #10 Opens for Submissions!

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:

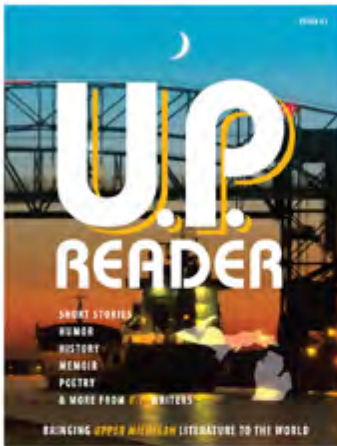
- **Don't wait until the last minute!** In case of problems with your submission, it is better to submit at least 5 days before the deadline.
- **Email submissions are no longer allowed.** Period. Use the submissions gateway instead: uppaa.org/submit
- **Please read and follow** our U.P. Reader Style 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** 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.
 - 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.

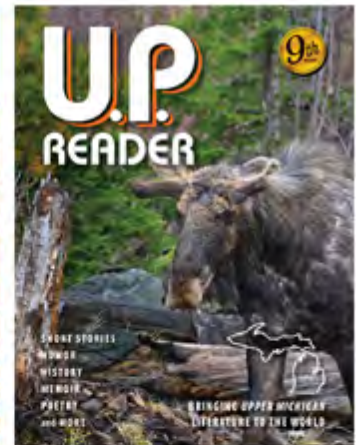
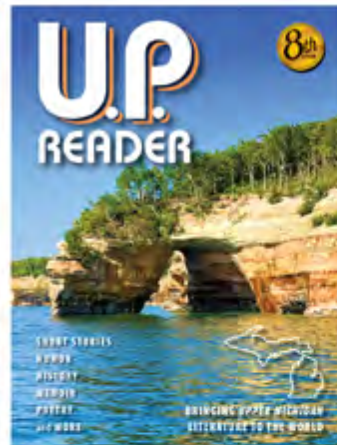
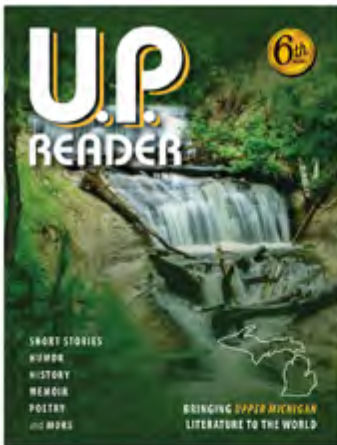
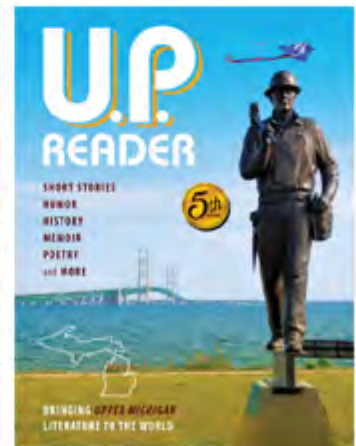
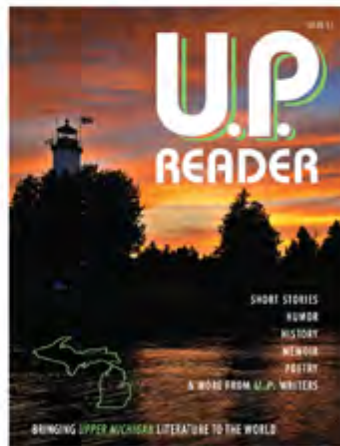
The *U.P. Reader* will require **FIRST-time** rights in all formats, including but not limited to print, eBook, and audiobook for 12 months after publication. After 12 months, the author may use the work in any form they desire, including on the internet, print, and digital media. UPPAA retains the right 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



Collect All Nine Volumes of **U.P. READER**





**Upper Peninsula Publishers
and Authors Association**

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