



“
**Every leaf
speaks
bliss to me,
fluttering
from the
autumn tree.**

”
—Emily Brontë

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The Written Word

NO. 4 • VOL. XXXII • 4TH QUARTER 2026

Programs Funded by UPPAA Grants

Earlier this year, UPPAA launched a grant program to expand our activities and reach. Below are a couple of the programs we’re pleased to support.

Pen Pal Club at Spies Public Library

Spies Public Library in Menominee is one of approximately 90 libraries across the country participating in a coordinated pen pal exchange. A partner library organizes the matches, connecting participants with pen pals from other participating libraries.

“We loved the idea of the Pen Pal Club when we introduced it this spring, but we wanted to find a way to make it more of a community experience,” said Library Director Tarra Bourgeois. “There’s something special about getting an actual letter in the mail, and now we’re able to bring people together at the library to write those letters while also providing the supplies and postage they need.”

The goal of the Pen Pal Club is to create meaningful connections while encouraging reading, writing, and communication across all ages. For younger participants, exchanging letters offers a fun way to practice writing and communication skills outside of the classroom. For teens and adults, the program provides an opportunity to meet someone new, learn about life in another part of the country, and build a connection through regular correspondence.

The library also hopes the monthly gatherings will create connections closer to home. By bringing participants together to write, the Pen Pal Club offers a relaxed social activity where community members of different ages can spend time together while working on

their own letters. Ultimately, the library hopes participants will not only gain a pen pal somewhere across the country, but also feel a little more connected to their own community.

The expansion of the Pen Pal Club is made possible through funding from UPPAA. A special thank you goes to local author Ann Dallman, who is both a member of UPPAA and a member of the Friends of Spies Public Library.

Participation is flexible. Pen pals are welcome to write to one another as often as they would like and are not required to attend every monthly gathering. Those who attend the library's monthly meetings will have access to complimentary stationery and postage provided through the program.

All ages are encouraged to participate, and the program is free.

Those interested should register at the Spies Public Library front desk. For more information or questions about the Pen Pal Club, contact Spies Public Library at 906-863-3911.



Spies Library features the cozy “fireplace room” for gatherings

Nature Journaling Workshop

On September 17, 2026, UPPAA grantee Aimée Bissonette (in conjunction with Lloyd Wescoat, the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, and the Copper Country ISD) conducted a Nature Journaling workshop in Hancock for Upper Peninsula K–12 educators.

Lunch was provided to all attendees and each attendee was given their choice of a nature-related book by an Upper Peninsula author.

Aimée conducted a 3-hour educational, interactive presentation that included a guided, hands-on outdoor nature journaling experience for which participants earned continuing education credits. She also presented later that evening during the LSSI Kickoff meeting.

Participants contributed greatly to the discussion during the workshop and kickoff meeting, sharing their own classroom experiences and ideas relating to nature journaling and place-based education.

When asked what was the most valuable aspect in terms of their own learning, participants said the following:

Freedom with taking the outdoors into the learning.

I was able to see how inquiry-based teaching could be started through nature journaling and each unit could be tied to something in nature.

When asked if there was any aspect of the workshop they planned on incorporating into their own instruction, participants said the following:

All of it. Especially the zine packets. They are easy to use and keep in their journals.

YES! I want to do nature journaling with my students starting tomorrow!

“UPPAA’s contribution to the workshop is greatly appreciated,” Aimée said. “It was a pleasure to be able to share the work of fellow UP authors with the participants.”



Participants at the Nature Journaling Workshop

Writing Opportunities

Not sponsored by UPPAA

***Story Monsters Ink®* Short Story Submissions**

Children's author Linda Harkey is inviting students to submit original animal stories and memories for possible publication in her new "Great-Grandma's Animal Adventures" column in *Story Monsters Ink®* magazine.

Selected submissions will be featured in *Story Monsters Ink®*. Each selected child will receive an autographed copy of one of Linda Harkey's books and their school library will also receive a signed copy.

Who: Children of all ages (parents, teachers, or librarians may assist with submissions)

What: An original animal story or memory (up to 400 words), plus an optional photo or drawing of the animal

Email: LindaHarkey@sbcglobal.net

Deadline: None; this is a year-round opportunity

About *Story Monsters Ink®*

Story Monsters Ink® is a free digital literacy magazine that reaches educators, librarians, parents, and young readers with book recommendations, literacy resources, author interviews, classroom activities, and educational content designed to foster a lifelong love of reading.

You can sign up for a free membership here: storymonstersink.com/membership



Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards

First awarded in 1967, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards recognize and reward excellence in literature for children and young adults.

1. Books must be published in the United States between June 1, 2026, and May 31, 2027. First U.S. editions of books previously published elsewhere are eligible, but reissued editions, textbooks, ebooks, and audiobooks will not be considered, nor will manuscripts.
2. Judges will select one winner and may designate up to two honor books in each of the following categories:
 - Fiction and Poetry
 - Nonfiction
 - Picture Book
3. Books should be submitted by publishers, although the judges reserve the right to honor any eligible book. While we do not limit the number of titles a publisher may submit, we urge publishers to use their best judgment and send only those titles that they believe are distinguished enough to warrant consideration.
4. For 2026–2027: This year's committee requires physical book submissions. Please send copies to the three addresses below. In addition to mailing your books, make sure to email chair Susan Polos at suz.polos@gmail.com and bghb@hbook.com a list of your submissions. Please include both email addresses, clearly indicate BGHB Award submissions in the subject line, and include a complete list of all submitted titles with their publication dates.

Susan Polos (chair) 2 Ashby Place Katonah, NY 10536	Marva Hinton 1483 SE 25th Ave. Homestead, FL 33035	Rachel Kerns 43 Whittier Rd. Needham, MA 02492
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5. Publishers are urged to send their submissions as soon as possible after publication. No books will be accepted after May 15, 2027. There will be no extensions to this deadline.
6. Winners and Honor Books will be announced in June 2027. The awards ceremony will be held in the fall of 2027.

For more information, visit www.hbook.com/story/bghb-submission-guidelines or contact the Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards administrator at bghb@hbook.com.

This issue of *Northwords* (lakesuperiorwriters.org/october-2026-northwords) has lots of UPPAA-related news. Why is that? It's very simple; you can fill out the forms to get your events and successes reported. Submit your own news here: forms.gle/SEUq6Ld73f6nVjNu7

- Book Reading: *Dead Moose on Isle Royale – Off Trail with the Citizen Scientists of the Wolf-Moose Project*
- Letters Across the World
- Write Across Generations: A Prose & Poetry Workshop Rooted in Memory with Ellen Lord & Helen Raica-Klotz
- *U.P. Reader #11* Submissions Now Open
- Liz Minette has two poems published in the anthology *Feet in the Waves – Poems of Lake Superior*, edited by Raymond Luczak

Remembering Lucy J. LaFaive

Lucy was an active member of UPPAA for many years and was the publisher of most of her husband's (Richard P. Smith's) books. She passed away a month short of their 50th wedding anniversary. Richard says, "Lucy was an important part of my everyday life in so many ways. She took care of so many things, so I could concentrate on writing! My wife played a major role in my success as a writer and photographer and becoming the person I am today."

She was known for her welcoming smile and kind heart. She said she lived a "wonderful full life." She was fiercely protective of those she loved and was a tireless caregiver.

Lucy was adventurous, traveling throughout North America and to Hawaii and Belize, sharing some of those adventures with her husband Richard. Some of the adventures she went on include para-sailing, snorkeling, solo camping, and horseback riding.

Lucy spent time volunteering with social organizations including the Women's Center and Planned Parenthood and political campaigns, and later designing workshops and presentations. Lucy worked on Dukakis' presidential campaign as Peace and Environmental coordinator for the UP. She was also an activist, marching on Washington for women's choice.

She met her husband, Richard P. Smith, when they were both working at the Holiday Inn in Marquette during 1971. They married on May 15, 1976. Lucy worked at the Marquette County Youth Home, starting in 1975, and then became a juvenile probation officer until 1983 when she started working with her husband after earning her Masters in Counseling Degree at Northern Michigan University the same year. They became business partners working on numerous projects together including publishing books and DVDs.

Lucy found great joy in life through her hobbies and interests, including dancing. Before she passed she wrote, "I feel so Grateful, Loved, and Blessed!"

Lucy will be remembered for her compassionate spirit, dedication to her community, and the love she shared with her family and friends.

UPPAA sends its condolences to all who knew and loved Lucy.



Writing Events

Not sponsored by UPPAA unless otherwise noted

Write Across Generations: A Prose & Poetry Workshop Rooted in Memory

Set in the quiet beauty of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Write Across Generations invites participants to explore memory as a source of inspiration. Workshop leaders **Helen Raica-Klotz** and **Ellen Lord** will guide writers through a day of prose and poetry focused on the stories we inherit, the places that shape us, and the moments that stay with us.

Through guided exercises in narrative, emotional truth, and sensory recall, participants will explore ways to transform lived experience into meaningful writing. Whether you are an experienced writer or have never attended a writing workshop, come ready to remember, reflect, and create.

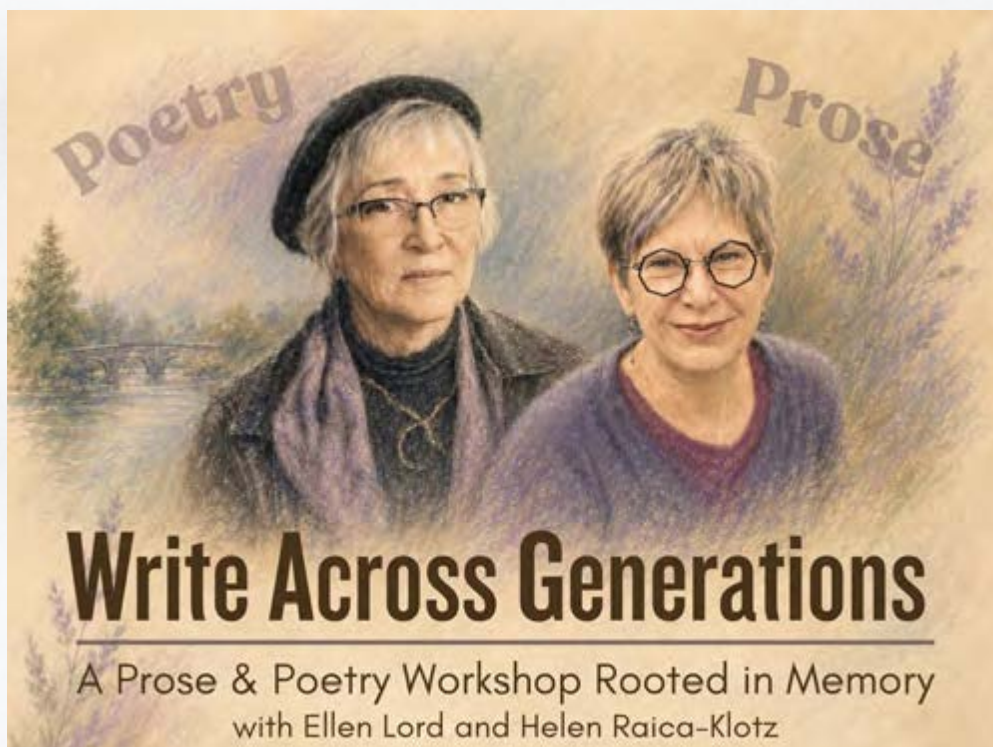
Cost: \$60, including lunch

Date: October 24, 10:00am–3:00pm

Location: Hessel School House, Hessel, MI

To Register: Call 906-484-1333 or register online at <https://tinyurl.com/HSW-Workshop>

Registration Deadline: October 20



In-Person Writing Sessions

A one-hour-long drop-in writing session once a month at the Bayliss Public Library. We envision the sessions being broken into three 20-minute sections:

First section: 20 minutes for greetings, news, connection, etc.

Second section: 20-minute writing sprint

Third section: 20-minute writer's choice (writing or revising sprint)

Note: The sessions will not include workshop, critique, feedback, craft talks, or lessons. The goal is simply to meet other writers and get words on pages.

Cost: FREE

Date: First Thursday of each month at 5:30pm

Location: The Bayliss Public Library, 541 Library Drive, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Poetry & Prose Group

Please don't forget the Poetry & Prose group, when you're ready to share what you've written! Hope to see all you folks in the future!

Note: We don't critique!

Cost: FREE

Date: Third Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm

Location: St. Ignace Library, 110 W Spruce St, St Ignace, MI 49781

Ask the Book Coach & Editor

During this Q & A session, Julie Covert, Author Accelerator certified book coach and editor at HJWords, will answer your questions about how you can benefit from working with a book coach or editor. We'll discuss these topics and more to get you excited and motivated to achieve your dream of turning your ideas from your notebooks into a publishable manuscript.

Cost: FREE

Dates: November 11, 7:00pm

December 10, 7:00pm

Location: Zoom

To Register: Contact Julie at words@hjwords.com or at 906-430-5854 for the Zoom link

Journaling with Purpose: Preparing to Write a Book with Rehema Clarken

We all need encouragement to be creative—especially when working on long-term writing projects. This ninety-minute workshop will be a moment to write and think about writing; it is for both new and experienced writers. As a gift, each participant will receive a journaling workbook with writing strategies and prompts to keep the inspiration flowing for months to come.

Cost: \$55 or \$45 for CCCAC members

Date: November 17, 6:00pm–7:30pm

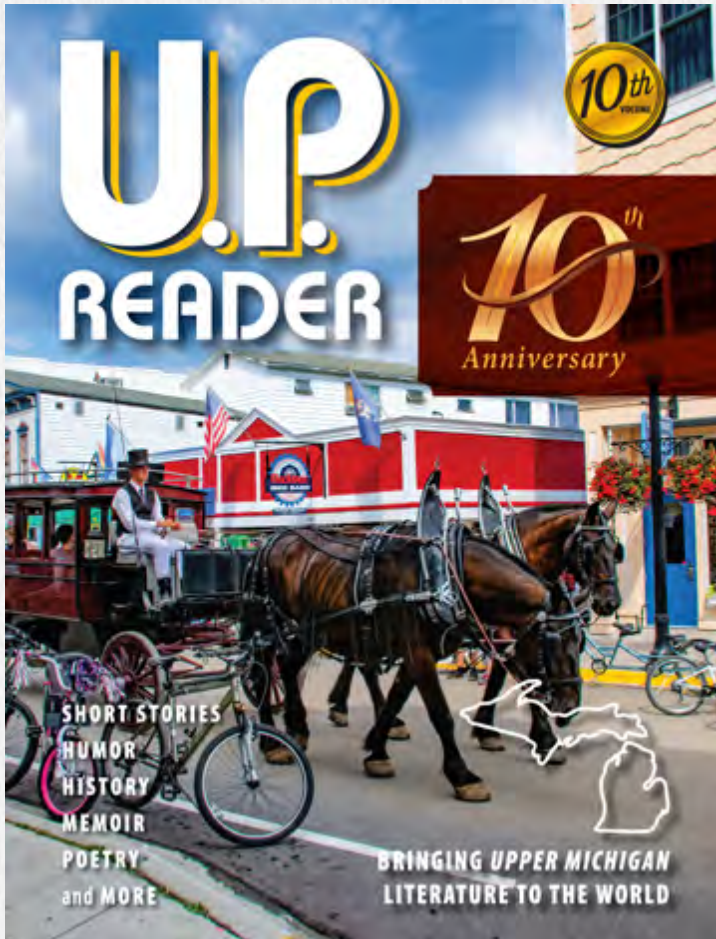
Location: Copper Country Community Arts Center, 126 E Quincy St, Hancock, MI 49930

To Register: Stop by, call us at 906-482-2333, or pay online by the deadline.

Registration Deadline: November 12

U.P. Reader Submission – Last Call!

U.P. Reader 2027 Submission Information



What is the *U.P. Reader*?

The *U.P. Reader* is an annual publication that represents the cross-section of writers who are members of the Upper Peninsula Publishers and Authors Association. This annual anthology showcases and promotes the writers of the Upper Peninsula. Each issue is released in paperback, hardcover, ebook, and audiobook editions in April every year. Copies of the *U.P. Reader* will be made available to booksellers, UPPAA members, libraries, and news services. The *U.P. Reader* also showcases the winners of the Dandelion Cottage Short Story Contest. We hope the *U.P. Reader* will be a great place for you to showcase original short works, too!

The submissions window is rapidly closing; you have less than a month as of this writing. The deadline is **midnight on November 10, 2026**, to submit your poems, fiction, memoir, humor, essays, or whatever genre you write in.

Submission Guidelines:

After reading ALL the instructions at upreader.org/submission-guidelines, you may submit your work through our submissions gateway, which is www.uppaa.org/submit.

An abridged version of the guidelines is below:

- **No AI-written stories will be accepted.**
- **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.
- **Submissions must be original**, meaning no prior appearance on the web or print.
- Submissions will be accepted for **up to 5,000 words**.
- **Judging will be blind.** Your personal information is hidden from the jury.
- **Only submit Word DOC or DOCX files.** PDFs are rejected by the gateway.
- **Do not embed photos in the document.** You can add them as attachments in the gateway. If you need additional photo uploads, let us know.
- **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 up to 5 Haiku can be sent as a SINGLE submission. If you have more than 5, each set of 5 or fewer counts as its own submission.

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 #11:

- Submission window opened **June 1, 2026**
- Submission deadline: **November 10, 2026**
Jury / peer-review process begins
- **January 15, 2027:** announcement to the media of selected submissions
- **April 15, 2027:** official on-sale date

UPPAA in the News

In September, librarians took over the NMU Conference Center with breakouts for training, sharing best practices, engaging with patrons, and more.

Our own Mikel Classen was stationed in the ballroom with a huge selection of books that UPPAA members generously donated to fill the shelves of 45 member libraries from Alpena to Calumet. Each librarian took 4 or 5 books from the table to bring home to their libraries. A large number of local area volunteers showed up to help Mikel do the load-out, and we are appreciative to all, especially Larry Buege who lent his dolly for the boxes.

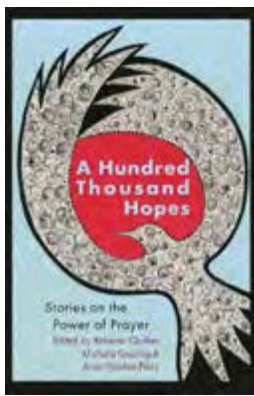
There was a MyUpNews video news report on UPPAA's participation in the event:
tinyurl.com/NMU-UPRLC



Member News

UPPAA congratulates the following members for their New Releases since the last installment of *The Written Word*. If you'd like to see your newly released book (within the last twelve months and hasn't been featured in a previous newsletter) added to Member News, please send a Sell Sheet or Press Release to editor@uppaa.org

Kathleen Carlton Johnson had a poem published in *Brush Fire Literature and Arts* (MFA program University of Nevada, Reno), "In Favor of Justice."



A Hundred Thousand Hopes: Stories on the Power of Prayer

edited by **Rehema Marie Clarken**, Michelle Goering, and Anne Gordon Perry

She will be giving a book talk at the Friends of the Michigan Tech Library (FMTL) annual meeting on Thursday, October 29, 4:30pm at Tech Library East Reading Room.

Ann Dallman will be speaking at the launch of the Pen Pal Club program on October 20.

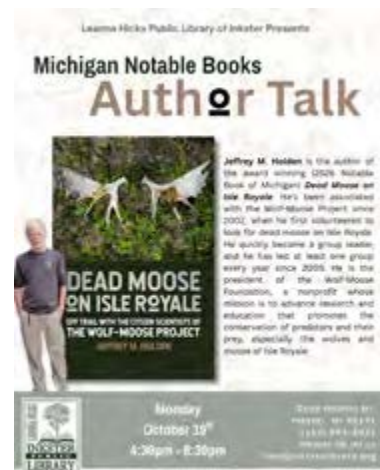
Spies Librarian, Tarra Gamelin, and Ann were interviewed by local radio personality, Melissa Ebsch, on September 25 on her *Talk of the Town* program. Our topic was the pen pal program and we invited community members to take part in it.

She will also be speaking on October 19 at the Peshtigo Public Library in Peshtigo, WI about the *Cady Whirlwind Thunder* award-winning mystery series.

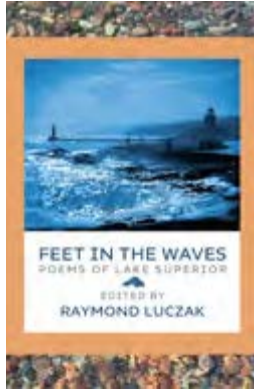


M. F. Erler is in Oregon at the Florence Festival of Books, featuring her new historical fiction books, plus her women's fiction, *Lauren's Dark Passage*, and her fantasy, *Peaks at the Edge of the World*.

Donald M Hassler published "Generation of Genre Ideas from Science Fiction," in *Reimagining Science Fiction: Essays on 21st Century Ideas and Authors*, edited by Gary Westfahl (McFarland and Company, Jefferson North Carolina), pp 91–97.



The Leanna Hicks Public Library of Inkster will be hosting a Michigan Notable Author Talk on Monday, October 19 from 4:30pm–6:30pm with author **Jeffrey M. Holden**.

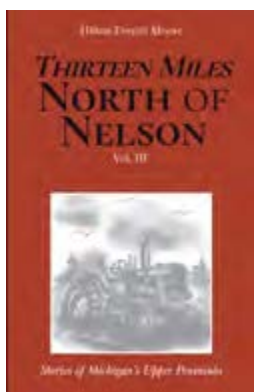


Feet in the Waves: Poems of Lake Superior
edited by **Raymond Luczak**
(Some of the authors in this anthology are
also UPPAA members.)



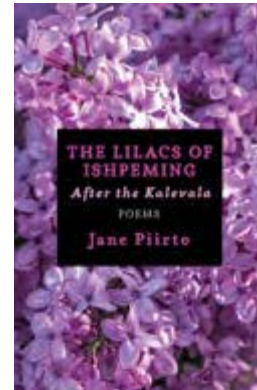
River of Reticence
by **Geri Miller**

Geri had a book signing at Northern Nook Bookstore in Newberry in September and has an Author talk and book signing on Thursday, October 22 at 6:00pm at the Bayliss Public Library in Sault Ste. Marie.



*Thirteen Miles North of Nelson: Stories of
Michigan's Upper Peninsula - Volume 3*
by **Hilton Everett Moore**

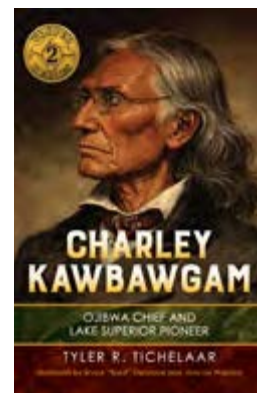
M Kelly Peach's poem "The Old Apple Tree" will be appearing in Issue #50 of *Shot Glass Journal*.



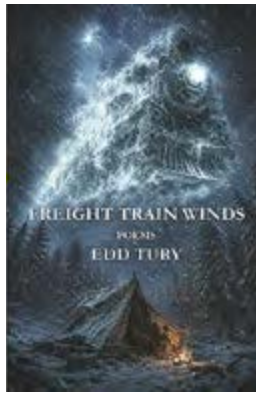
*The Lilacs of Ishpeming:
After the Kalevala (Poems)*
by **Jane Piirto**

Dana D. Saugstad will have her second picture book coming out November 12, 2026, titled *The Yooper ABCs: An A-to-Z Adventure through Michigan's Upper Peninsula*

After selling the 5,000 copies of Book 3 of *Great MI Deer Tales*, printed in 2001, **Richard P. Smith** is in the process of reprinting the book.



*Charley Kawbawgam:
Ojibwa Chief and Lake Superior Pioneer*
by **Tyler Tichelaar**



Freight Train Winds

by **Edd Tury**

(Revised, expanded, and reimagined.)



Chasing Waves by **Pat Winton** was featured in the “New Michigan Books” section of the Historical Society of Michigan’s *Chronicle* Summer 2026 issue.

Praise for UPPAA

I attended a Writer’s Symposium in June of 2025 at the Hessel Schoolhouse in Hessel, MI. I met so many wonderful people (especially my idol, Sue Harrison) that I joined UPPAA soon after and came away with an editor lined up. This past June, I attended the Writers Symposium for the second time and found that Victor Volkman was the go-to guy for getting my book set up for printing. If it hadn’t been for the UPPAA members who have helped me along the way, I’d still be trying to figure it all out.

I also enjoy listening to other authors talk about how their books came to be during their zoom meetings, and the emails are very informative, educational, and concise. The big take-away for me is not to be afraid to ask for help. Every person that helped me in some way has been where I was at some point too, and they are all willing to share their knowledge.

—Geri Miller



On July 1, Thomas Pelissero donated \$500 to the Wakefield Michigan Public Library. That put him over his \$10,000 goal to support literacy and other school or senior programs from sales of his book, *Bring One Home*. It took 9 months. “Giving it all away has made me very happy.”



12 *The Well-Read Raccoon bookstore in Houghton displays U.P. Notable Books prominently!*



**Upper Peninsula Publishers
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