31st ANNUAL

MIPA MIDWEST BOOK AWARDS

Gala Program

Introduction

Thank you for joining us for the 31st Annual Midwest Book Awards Gala! This year saw 241 titles published in 2020 from 74 independent publishers in 11 Midwestern states. Entries were judged by a panel of librarians throughout the Midwest.

Live Program on Zoom June 26, 2021 with virtual after party
MiPA will announce the Midwest Book Awards gold winners on a live Zoom webinar on **Saturday, June 26 at 7pm (CT)**, with a Zoom "after party" to follow.

Book giveaways on social media July 6–9, 2021
The live event will be recorded and packaged into a social media premiere with bonus video content on July 6. Book bundle prize boxes will be posted as social media giveaways between July 6–9 with instructions on how to enter. Make sure to follow the Midwest Book Awards on Twitter **@MIPABookAwards**, Instagram **@MidwestBookAwards**, and Facebook **@MIPAMidwestBookAwards** to participate.

Shop for all finalist titles
MiPA maintains an affiliate shop at **Bookshop.org**, the online bookstore that supports local, independent bookstores. Most finalist titles are available for purchase directly at **bookshop.org/shop/MiPA**, as well as directly from the publishers.

Hear more from Midwestern authors
Gold and silver winners are encouraged to participate in MiPA's YouTube literary series highlighting authors from the Midwest. The Virtual Reading Series will return this fall for season two, and we're working on a longer-format literary show highlighting winners of the Midwest Book Awards. Winners will be contacted directly with an invitation to participate, and episodes are archived on **MiPA's YouTube channel**.

Finalists & Winners
We'll be emailing all judges' feedback to the email address listed with each entry and mailing out award certificates following the ceremony. New this year, gold winners receive a beautiful art glass award indicating they are a Midwest Book Awards winner.

Gold and silver award seals are available for purchase. Email **bookawards@mipa.org**.

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Thank You Volunteers!

Midwest Book Awards Committee
Chair: Jennifer Baum, Publisher, Scribe Publishing Company
Production Assistant: Allison Janicki
Social media & PR coordinators: Ellie White and Madylen Zweng

Midwest Independent Publishers Association Board
President: Suzzanne Kelley, Publisher, North Dakota State University Press
Vice President: Paul Nylander, Illustrada Design
Secretary: Ron Peterson, Author & Publisher, PTB Books
Treasurer: Nayt Rundquist, Managing Editor, New Rivers Press
Past President: Sybil Smith, Smith House Press

Non-Fiction: Anthologies

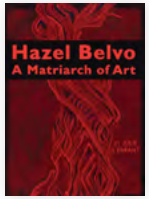


Country Views
Ice Cube Press, LLC
by Zachary Michael Jack



Education for Democracy: Renewing the Wisconsin Idea
University of Wisconsin Press
by Chad Allen Goldberg

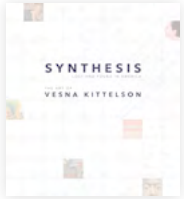
Non-Fiction: Arts/Photography/Coffee Table Books



Hazel Belvo: A Matriarch of Art
Afton Press
by Julie L'Enfant



Our Gay History
Wise Ink
by Zaylore Stout



Synthesis: Lost and Found in America: Art by Vesna Kittelson
Afton Press
by Lyndel King, Heather Carroll, Wendy Fernstrum, Camille LeFevre, Susannah Schouweiler, Joanna Inglot, John Lyon, Kerry Morgan and Marcia Reed

Non-Fiction: Autobiography/Memoir



Griefs Country: A Memoir in Pieces
Wayne State University Press
by Gail Griffin

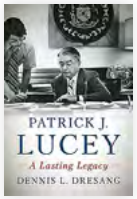


Sign Here if You Exist and Other Essays
Mad Creek Books, an imprint of The Ohio State University Press
by Jill Sisson Quinn



Tending the Valley: A Prairie Restoration Odyssey
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
by Alice D'Alessio

Non-Fiction: Biography

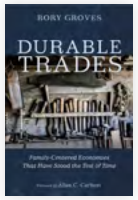


Patrick J. Lucey: A Lasting Legacy
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
by Dennis Dresang

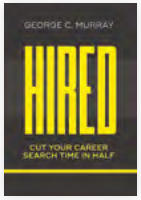
Non-Fiction: Business



The Confidence to Speak
Kirk House Publishers
by Sara Krisher

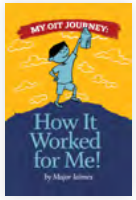


Durable Trades: Family-Centered Economies That Have Stood the Test of Time
Front Porch Republic Books
by Rory Groves



HIRED: Cut Your Career Search Time in Half
Kirk House Publishers
by George C. Murray

Non-Fiction: Children's & Young Adult



My OIT Journey: How It Worked for Me!
Beaver's Pond Press
by Major Jaimes

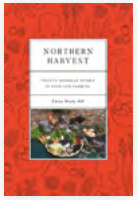


You Can Change the World
Andrews McMeel Publishing
by Lucy Bell

Non-Fiction: Cookbooks/Crafts/Hobbies



Hungry for Harbor Country: Recipes and Stories from the Coast of Southwest Michigan
Agate Publishing, Inc.
by Lindsay Navama



Northern Harvest: Twenty Michigan Women in Food and Farming
Wayne State University Press
by Emita Brady Hill



The Tahini Table: Go Beyond Hummus with 100 Recipes for Every Meal
Agate Publishing, Inc.
by Amy Zitelman

Non-Fiction: Education/Learning

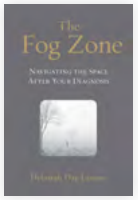


Our Gay History
Wise Ink
by Zaylore Stout

Non-Fiction: Family/Parenting

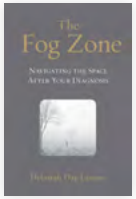


Family Redefined
Little Creek Press
by Kimberly Ewertz



The Fog Zone
Beaver's Pond Press
by Deborah Day Laxson

Non-Fiction: Health



The Fog Zone
Beaver's Pond Press
by Deborah Day Laxson



My New Kidney & Me
Beaver's Pond Press
by Greg Baldauf

Non-Fiction: History (Regional)



Letters to the Chief: A Minnesota Childhood
Wisdom Editions, an imprint of Calumet Editions
by Judi Lifton



Midwest Futures
Belt Publishing
by Phil Christman

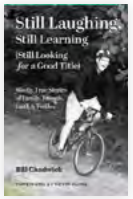


No Place Like Murder: True Crime in the Midwest
Indiana University Press
by Janis Thornton

Non-Fiction: Humor



The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com
Elva Resa Publishing
by Lisa Smith Molinari



Still Laughing, Still Learning, Still Looking for a Good Title: Mostly True Stories of Family, Friends, Faith & Foibles
Beaver's Pond Press
by Bill Chadwick

Non-Fiction: Inspiration



Like a Shadow: The Life and Training of a Guardian Warrior
Snow Wolf Publishing
by Tamarack Song



My New Kidney & Me
Beaver's Pond Press
by Greg Baldauf

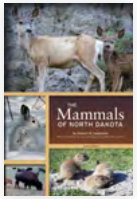


The Seasons of Divorce
Kirk House Publishers
by Barb Greenberg

Non-Fiction: Nature



Afield
Little Creek Press
by Sumner Matteson

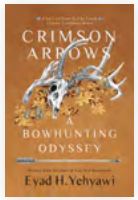


Mammals of North Dakota
North Dakota State University Press
by Robert Seabloom



Sign Here if You Exist and Other Essays
Mad Creek Books, an imprint of The Ohio State University Press
by Jill Sisson Quinn

Non-Fiction: Recreation/Sports/Travel



Crimson Arrows: A Bowhunting Odyssey
by Eyad H. Yehyawi

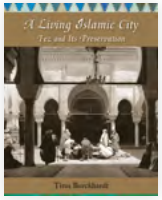


More Minnesota Gold
with Joel Rippel
by Patrick Mader



When do the Lions Eat?
FuzionPress
by George Heiring

Non-Fiction: Religion/Philosophy



A Living Islamic City: Fez and Its Preservation
World Wisdom
by Titus Burckhardt



Journey to the Ancestral Self: Remembering What It Is to Be Human
Snow Wolf Publishing
by Tamarack Song



Native
Brazos Press
by Kaitlin B. Curtice

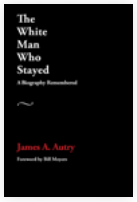
Non-Fiction: Social Science/Political Science/Culture



Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin's Recent Gay History
Wisconsin Historical Society Press
by R. Richard Wagner



From Inspiration to Activism: A Personal Journey through Obama's Presidential Campaign
Little Creek Press
by Mary Lang Sollinger



The White Man Who Stayed
Ice Cube Press, LLC
by James Autry

Cover Design



Pouf
FuzionPress
by Monica Vierling Hall, designed by Ann Aubitz



Spider Lake: A Northern Lakes Mystery
Little Creek Press
by Jeff Nania, designed by Chris Nania and Kristin Mitchell



Story of the Mongolian Tent House
Wisdom Tales Press
by Dashdondog Jamba and Anne Pellowski, designed by Clinton Minnaar

Illustration



The Generous Fish
Wisdom Tales Press
by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Clinton Minnaar



Shelter
Nodin Press
by Margaret Hasse, illustrated by Sharon deMark



Ya Herd!
Beaver's Pond Press
by Van Horgen, illustrated by Sandy Meirovitz

Interior Design



FOR NOW: Poems
Mill Studio Press
by Taiju Geri Wilimek, Paintings by Marley Kaul by Taiju Geri Wilimek and Marley Kaul, designed by Lynn Phelps

Total Book Design



Afield
Little Creek Press
by Sumner Matteson, designed by Kristin Mitchell

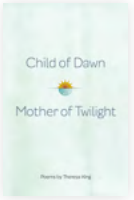


Our Gay History
Wise Ink
by Zaylore Stout, designed by Ryan Scheife of Mayfly Design

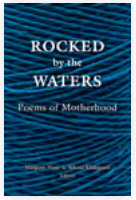


My Heart Grows
Andrews McMeel Publishing
by Michael Arndt, designed by Michael Arndt with Julie Barnes as art director

Poetry: Anthology



Child of Dawn Mother of Twilight
Yes International Publishers
by Theresa King



Rocked by the Waters
Nodin Press
by Margaret Hasse and Athena Kildegaard

Poetry: Debut



Ain't Never Not Been Black
Button Poetry
by Javon Johnson



The Miraculous, Sometimes
Conduit Books & Ephemera
by Meg Shevenock



The Willies
Button Poetry
by Adam Falkner

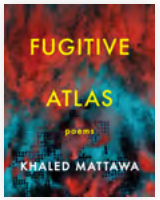
Poetry: General



Gut Botany
Wayne State University Press
by Petra Kuppers



Fractures
University of Wisconsin Press
by Carlos Andrés Gómez

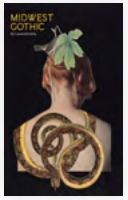


Fugitive Atlas
Graywolf Press
by Khaled Mattawa

Poetry: Regional



His Feathers Were Chains
North Dakota State University Press
by Denise Lajimodiere



Midwest Gothic
Ashland Poetry Press
by Laura Donnelly



Words like Thunder: New and Used Anishinaabe Prayers
Wayne State University Press
by Lois Beardslee

Fiction: Children's



Cat Ninja
Andrews McMeel Publishing
by Matthew Cody



The Girl Who Moved to the Town That Wasn't There
Siouxland Heritage Museum
by Suzanne Hovik Fuller



Life in the Neck Squirrel Trouble
Beaver's Pond Press
by Diane Davies

Fiction: Children's Picture Books



The Generous Fish
Wisdom Tales Press
by Jacqueline Jules



Monica the Muskie
Beaver's Pond Press
by Bob Allen

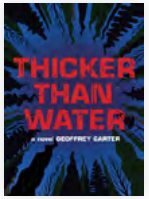


My Heart Grows
Andrews McMeel Publishing
by Michael Arndt

Fiction: Fantasy/SciFi/Horror/Paranormal



Lord's Dome
Atthis Arts
by E.D.E. Bell



Thicker than Water
HenschelHAUS
by Geoffrey Carter



Twisted Light
by K.A. Patterson

Fiction: Graphic novels



Cat Ninja
Andrews McMeel Publishing
by Matthew Cody

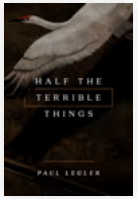


Icarus
Atthis Arts
by Gregory A. Wilson

Fiction: Literary/Contemporary/Historical



The Distance Between Stars
Water's Edge Press LLC
by Jeff Elzinga



Half the Terrible Things
North Dakota State University Press
by Paul Legler

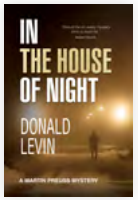


They Shot Kennedy
Last Kid Books
by David Benjamin

Fiction: Mystery/Thriller



All Hallows' Shadows
Meadowlark Press, LLC
by Michael D. Graves



In the House of Night
Poison Toe Press
by Donald Levin



Lost Little Sister
North Star Press of St. Cloud
by Michael Prelee

Fiction: Romance



He Lands in Palm Springs
by John F Shekleton



The Project
Hadleigh House Publishing
by Stacey Potter



Tearza
Calumet Editions
by Pete Carlson

Fiction: Short Story/Anthology



Girl on a Float
North Dakota State University Press
by Brian Bedard



I Have the Answer
Wayne State University Press
by Kelly Fordon



You're in the Wrong Place
Wayne State University Press
by Joseph Harris

Fiction: Young Adult



A Time for Tears
Meadowlark Press, LLC
by Jerilynn Jones Henrikson



Gray Horse at Oak Lane Stable
Three Towers Press, an imprint of HenschelHAUS Publishing
by Kerri Lukasavitz



Opulence, Kansas
Meadowlark Press, LLC
by Julie Stielstra

Thank You to this year's Judges

We want to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our 105 volunteer judges from across the Midwest for the 30th Annual Midwest Book Awards. Their time, energy, and commitment to the works of independent publishers truly makes these awards possible.

Kate Adams, Hamilton Public Library, Hamilton, MO; Elizabeth Ahrens, Waukee Public Library, Des Moines, IA; Megan Alabaugh, Rocky River Public Library, Rocky River, OH; Jennifer Alexander, St Louis County Library, St. Louis, MO; Heather Bente, Waterville Public Library, Postville, IA; Elena Bonjour, Kansas City Kansas Public Library, Kansas City, KS; Barbara Brattin, Kenosha Public Library, Racine, WI; Rebecca Byrne, Kenmore Branch Library, Akron, OH; Stephanie Callan, Lone Tree Community School, Lone Tree, IA; Katherine Clymer, Aurora's Book Boutique, Fairmont, MN; Alex Coggeshell, Waukee Public Library, Waukee, IA; Kat Cook, Keokuk Public Library, Keokuk, IA; Emmalee Coontz, Maple Valley Branch Library, Akron, OH; Tracee Dembinski, Truro Public Library, Truro, IA; Brenda Dembraski, Louisville Public Library, Louisville, OH; Katie Denoyer, Saturn Booksellers, Gaylord, MI; Megan Dial-Lapcewich, Oxford Public Library, Oxford, IA; Kelly Easton, Southwest Kansas Library System, Dodge City, KS; Nicole Ellis, Waukee Public Library, Des Moines, IA; Mindy Enderle, Defiance Public Library, Archbold, OH; Miranda Ericsson, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Topeka, KS; Kellee Forkenbrock, North Liberty Community Library, North Liberty, IA; Roman Gheesling, Wichita Public Library, Wichita, KS; Abby Glann, Webb Shadle Memorial Library, Swan, IA; Amy Golly, North Liberty Community Library, Cedar Rapids, IA; Colleen Gordon, Livingston Lord Library, Moorhead, MN; Connie Gray, Mercer County Library, Celina, OH; Taleah Greve, Embrace Books, Montague, MI; Mandy Grimm, Columbus Junction, IA; Michaela Haberkern, Aurora Public Library, Aurora, IL; Katie Hale, Louisville Public Library, Canton, OH; Steve Hammel, Valley City Barnes County Public Library, Valley City, ND; Jackie Hawes, Morton Mandan Public Library, ND; Stacey Hayman, Rocky River Public Library, Rocky River, OH; Cherayla Haynes, Kansas City, MO; Joanna Hazelden, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL; Sam Helmick, Burlington Public Library, Burlington, IA; Kristin Henry, Akron Public Library, Mogadore, OH; James Hill, Chillicothe and Ross County Public Library, Chillicothe, OH; Jodi Hillesheim, Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI; Sarah Hunkele, Lacona Public Library, Chariton, IA; Gillian Izor, Germantown Public Library, Germantown, OH; Lisa Johnson, Orange City Library, Orange City, IA; Rachel Kercher, Leach Public Library, Wahpeton, ND; Julie Kinney, Marathon County Public Library, Wausau, WI; Abby Kintzle, Swea City Public Library, Swea City, IA; Riley Kintzle, Estherville Public Library, Swea City, IA; Hannah Komasinski, St. Louis County Library, St. Louis, MO; Pamela Kranenburg, Defiance Public Library System, Holgate, OH; Jon Lauck, Midwest History Association, Sioux Falls, SD; Mary Leffler, Logan-Hocking County District Library , Logan, OH; Lisa Leuck, Elgin Public Library, Elgin, IA; Karen Lucas, Madison Public Library, Madison, WI; Dr. Martina Malvasi-Haines, Livingston Lord Library, West Fargo, ND; Kirsten Malzahn, Novi Public Library, Walled Lake, MI; Diana Marthey, Mobile Services, Akron Library, Akron, OH; Nicole Lee Martin, Rocky River Public Library, Lakewood, OH; Caitlin Meyer, Dickinson Area Public Library, Dickinson, ND; Kathleen Mockensturm, Highland Square Branch Library, Akron, OH; Kristina Moore, Clarion, IA; Angie Moore, Swea City Public Library, Swea City, IA; Riley Moreland, Sidney Public Library, Sidney, IA; Mandie Muehlhausen, Spencer Public Library, Spencer, IA; Tracee Murphy, Wellsville Carnegie Public Library, Wellsville, OH; Bethany Nelson, Waverly Public Library, Waverly, IA; Erica Nelson, Cedar Falls, IA; Matthew Nojonen, Leavenworth Public Library, Leavenworth, KS; David Noller, Traverse City, MI; Meghan Odegard, Neenah Public Library, Neenah, WI; Dori Olivos, Rocky River Public Library, Rocky River, OH; Rebecca O'Shesky Hermen, Dearborn Public Library, Dearborn, MI; Sue Owens, Western Iowa Tech Community College Library, Sioux City, IA; Julie Pacino, Wichita Public Library, Wichita, KS; Luellen Phelps, Sioux Rapids Memorial Library, Sioux Rapids, IA; Barbara Pietron, Southfield Public Library, Royal Oak, MI; Kelly Pingleton, Caldwell County Library, Hamilton, MO; Andrea Placher, Williston Community Library, Williston, ND; Caleb Platt, Hamilton County Library, Syracuse, KS; Patricia Presby, Lapeer District Library, Lum, MI; Marian Rafal, Bloomfield Township Public Library, Southfield, MI; Hilary Redman, Akron Library, Akron, OH; Jamie Ruppert, Council Bluffs Public Library, Plattsmouth, NE; Cathy Russ, Troy Public Library, Royal Oak, MI; Jillian Rutledge, Waterloo Public Library, Waterloo, IA; Dee Schrodt, Alexander Public Library, Alexander, IA; Larry Schwartz, Livingston Lord Library, Moorhead, MN; Tom Scott, Minnetonka, MN; Carolyn Seaver, Albertson Memorial Library, Albany, WI; Sky Seery, North Platte High School Library, North Platte, NE; Mary Severson, Hennepin County Librarian, Eagan, MN; Patricia Alleluia Spencer, German Town, OH; Elizabeth Stefanov, Akron-Summit County Public Library, Streetsboro, OH; Amber Sternitzke, Martin County Library, Fairmont, MN; Kaite Stover, Kansas City Public Library, Kansas City, MO; Megan Telligman, Indiana Humanities, Indianapolis, IN; Catherine Walters Brick, Columbus Public Library, Columbus, WI; Harold Way, Roseville, MN; Rebecca Wearmouth, Winthrop Public Library, Winthrop, IA; Barbara Weeg, University of Northern Iowa—Rod Library, Cedar Falls, IA; Wendy Wendt, Grand Forks Public Library, Grand Forks, ND; Theresa Westbrock, Rod Library, Waverly, IA; Anna Westermeyer, Keokuk, IA; Cole Williams, Saint Paul, MN; Wendy Woodfill, Hennepin County Library, Hopkins, MN; Rena Wright, Orrville Library, Orrville, OH. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You. Thank You!

Thank You to our sponsors

PUBLISHING EDUCATION

MiPA

Serving the Midwest publishing community with collaborative sharing of publishing, production, promotion, and marketing information.

NEXT SEASON

MiPA's free monthly virtual meetings continue September 14, 2021 with guest speaker Ingram Spark.

Sign up for our email list to receive meeting notices: **www.mipa.org**

BOOK DESIGN

Illustrada Design

Inspired Design for Intriguing Books.

Collaborative designer focused on small and independent publishers—covers, interior layout & typesetting, print/ebook design, and production assistance.

www.illustrada.com

WEBSITE CONCIERGE/VIRTUAL IT

Nate Hoffelder

Shy and geeky stay-at-home web developer, founder of The Digital Reader, and virtual IT service provider.

www.natehoffelder.com

PUBLISHER

Kirk House Publishers

Hybrid publisher with in-house printing and manufacturing capabilities.

www.kirkhousepublishers.com