



Minnesota Historical Society Press

NEW TITLES

Spring 2025



The Minnesota Historical Society Press is a leading publisher of the history and culture of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. The Press advances research, supports education, serves the local community, and expands the reputation of the MNHS through the publication of books and e-products, the *Minnesota History* journal, and the free, digital encyclopedia MNopedia.

PUSHING THE RIVER

An Epic Battle, a Lost History, a Near Death, and Other True Canoeing Stories

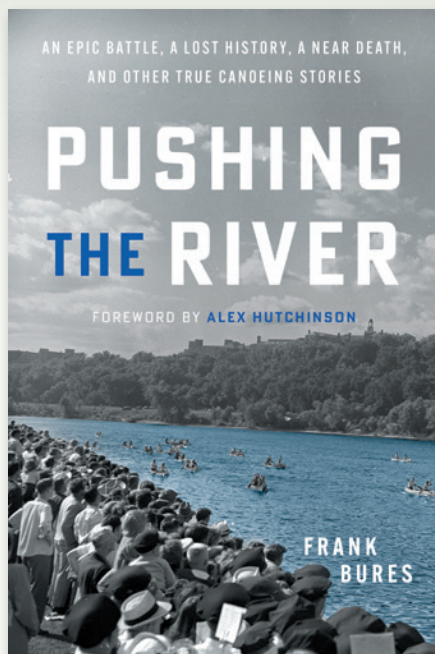
FRANK BURES

Foreword by Alex Hutchinson

In this thrilling collection, award-winning writer Frank Bures tells true stories as varied as the waters, weather, and rhythms of a canoe trip. From the terror of two kayakers who barely escaped from the 2011 Pagami Creek Fire in the Boundary Waters to two young campers who had a supernatural scare in Canada's Quetico Provincial Park in the 1970s to the author's own incredible rescue, Bures narrates the full range of what it means to push the river.

The heart of the book is the battle for the Mississippi River paddling record, in which Bures recounts the lost history of the Paul Bunyan Canoe Derby, an annual 450-mile race run on the Upper Mississippi in the 1940s and 1950s that gave canoe-racing legend Gene Jensen his start—and which changed the course of modern canoeing. The tale includes the dominance of racers from the Leech Lake Indian Reservation, including many members of the Tibbetts family, and the unacknowledged contributions of Ojibwe

Frank Bures is an award-winning writer whose work has appeared in *Harper's*, *Outside*, *The Atlantic*, and *The Best American Travel Writing* anthologies. He lives in Minneapolis. Toronto-based journalist **Alex Hutchinson** writes about fitness, endurance sports, and the outdoors.



AVAILABLE APRIL

SPORTS & RECREATION / WATER SPORTS, 224 PAGES,
6 × 9 INCHES, 18 B&W IMAGES, APPENDIXES
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-312-9
E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-313-6

canoe builders Jim and Bernie Smith, whose design features are now part of contemporary canoe racing.

Pushing the River is essential reading for anyone who loves what legendary canoeist Bob O'Hara called "the sense of perpetual adventure" that comes in the seat of a canoe, where you never quite know what you will encounter around the river's next bend.



Tales of ambition, adventure, rivalry, friendship, and love on the waters of the Mississippi River and beyond.

Above: The start of the Paul Bunyan Canoe Derby on Lake Bemidji, 1940

Right: At the start of the 1951 Derby. Tom and Phil Estes of Minneapolis, in the canoe at right, would finish in third place.



Benny and Frank Tonce of Cass Lake finished in tenth place in the 1960 Derby. Benny used the prize money to attend college and then taught at Leech Lake Tribal College for many years.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

From “A Race for Redemption,” the story of an attempt to break the speed record for paddling down the Mississippi.

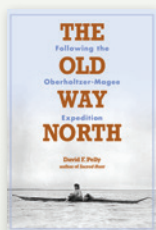
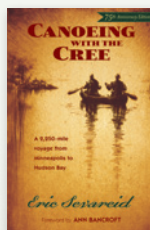
Daylight filtered through the trees. The support crew wheeled the canoe down to the water. The four men got in and paddled across Lake Itasca to the row of large stones where the lake spills over, and the Mississippi River officially begins. Once there, they got out and took some photos. Then at 6:00 AM, the paddlers walked the canoe over the rocks and past a small footbridge, got in, and—they were off.

The water was high and fast. The canoe wound through the marshes, following the river. Almost immediately, they started picking up time. After the first morning, they were ahead of the 2021 record pace by an hour. By evening they arrived in the city of Bemidji, where the support crew put on the spray skirts and switched out the battery powering the electronics and lights.

Around 5:00 PM, they started across Lake Bemidji. The ice had just gone out there too, and the water temperature was 46 degrees—deadly cold if the canoe flipped and they couldn’t get back in.

By 1:30 AM, they arrived at Lake Winnibigoshish. The ice was gone. They were able to cut straight across the sixteen miles. At first, the water was smooth and glassy. But as they rounded the last corner, with several miles to go, the wind kicked up. The waves got bigger and bigger and pounded the canoe. Still, when they reached the other side, they were four hours and twenty minutes ahead of the record pace.

ALSO OF INTEREST

**Canoeing with the Cree**

Eric Sevareid, Foreword by Ann Bancroft

PAPERBACK, \$16.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-533-7

E-BOOK, \$13.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-798-0**The Old Way North: Following the Oberholtzer-Magee Expedition**

David F. Pelly

PAPERBACK, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-616-7

E-BOOK, \$17.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-748-5

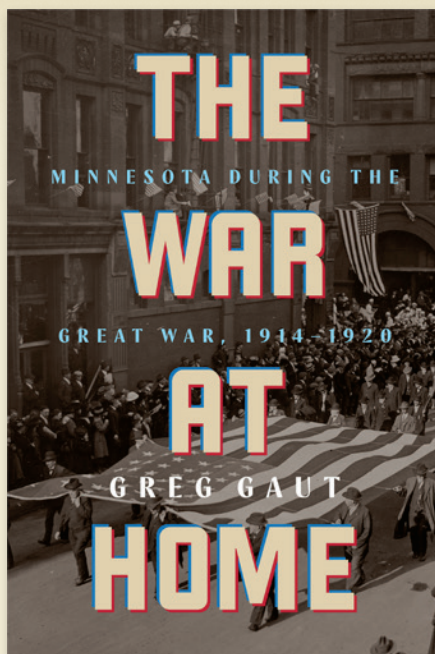
THE WAR AT HOME

Minnesota during the
Great War, 1914-1920

GREG GAUT

Americans went to war in 1917 literally against Germany but also figuratively against each other. The US decision to send an army to France came during a generally contentious time when, among other social tensions, farmers and workers challenged the wealthy, African Americans struggled against Jim Crow, women campaigned for suffrage, and the temperance movement crusaded against alcohol. In *The War at Home*, Greg Gaut focuses on the lives of individual Minnesotans to portray the dramatic story of a period when the North Star State witnessed bitter polarization, nativism, flagrant disregard for democratic norms, and intense, occasionally violent, confrontations.

A looming influence during this period, the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety ruled the state with an iron fist. Led by John F. McGee, the commission pursued a "loyalty" campaign against trade unions, the Nonpartisan League, the Socialist Party, and the Industrial Workers of the World. McGee's most prominent adversary was Charles A. Lindbergh Sr.,



AVAILABLE MARCH

HISTORY / WARS & CONFLICTS, 400 PAGES,
6 × 9, 41 B&W ILLUSTRATIONS, 3 MAPS, NOTES,
BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$34.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-307-5
E-BOOK, \$15.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-315-0

whom the Nonpartisan League nominated to challenge the governor in the fiercely contested 1918 primary.

Although Minnesota's home front experience was the product of a particular confluence of events and personalities, it spotlights general issues of how democracy can give way to authoritarianism when economic inequality, anti-immigrant nationalism, and racism rule the day.

Historian and historic preservation consultant **Greg Gaut** is the author of *Laird's Legacy: A History of the Winona Public Library* and *Reinventing the People's Library*, about the Carnegie library building that is now home to the East Side Freedom Library in St. Paul. He lives in Minneapolis.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

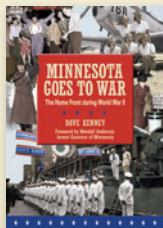
In the Twin Cities, business leaders met at the St. Paul Hotel in early October 1917 to plan a huge convention to “stand as a final, crushing, cleansing answer to the polluting Nonpartisan League gathering in this city.” The attendees agreed that the league was a pro-German organization, and more to the point, was endangering “the commercial life of Minnesota.” One participant suggested shooting organizer Arthur Townley and featured speaker Robert La Follette, but the group settled on a two-day loyalty rally, with the first day in St. Paul and the second in Minneapolis. . . .

A new organization, the America First Association, emerged from the loyalty rallies, and in the following weeks meetings were held around the state to create county-level affiliates. The organization sought to foster a spirit of “Americanism,” grounded in the belief, as one speaker put it, that “the spirit of Prussianism and the spirit of Americanism cannot live in the same world.” The goal was to win every Minnesotan over to the belief that the conflict was “not a rich man’s war, or a poor man’s war, or a politician’s war, but a war of every man, woman, and child in America.”



African American men depart Duluth’s Union Station for St. Paul to join Twin Cities draftees for the journey to the segregated Camp Dodge. (MNHS COLLECTIONS)

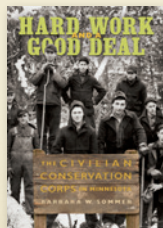
ALSO OF INTEREST



Minnesota Goes to War: The Home Front during World War II

Dave Kenney

PAPERBACK, \$22.95, ISBN: 978-0-87351-651-8



Hard Work and a Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps in Minnesota

Barbara W. Sommer

PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-234-4

E-BOOK, \$16.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-735-5

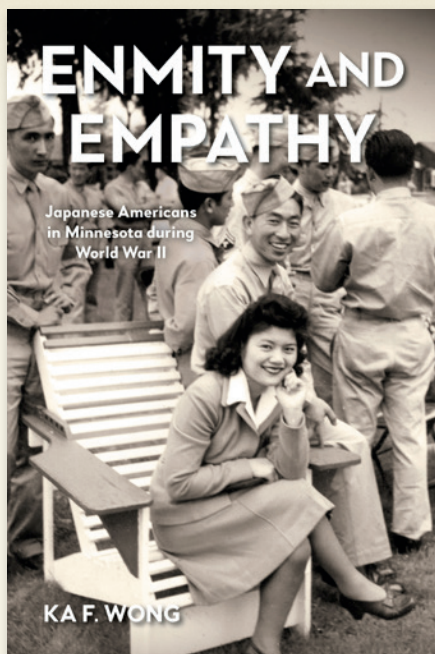
ENMITY AND EMPATHY

Japanese Americans in Minnesota during World War II

KA F. WONG

The forced eviction and confinement of Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor in 1941 was one of the worst civil rights violations of the twentieth century, and the repercussions were numerous. Resettlement efforts included college education and military service, leading Japanese Americans from western states to the upper Midwest and elsewhere, and markedly increased their numbers in Minnesota.

Drawing on personal interviews, archival sources, and historical literature, scholar and professor Ka Wong explores the courageous struggles of trailblazers who left the incarceration camps and rebuilt their lives in the North Star State, overcoming hostility and hardship along the way. Despite the enmity ignited by war hysteria, bonds of empathy developed between the resettlers and allies who advocated for them personally and professionally. Japanese Americans who transformed both wartime Minnesota and their own lives included college students pursuing higher education, young men and women training at the Military Intel-



AVAILABLE MAY

SOCIAL SCIENCE / CULTURAL & ETHNIC STUDIES,
400 PAGES, 6 × 9, 30 B&W IMAGES, NOTES,
BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$34.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-310-5
E-BOOK, \$15.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-311-2

ligence Service Language School at Camp Savage and then Fort Snelling, the US Cadet Nurse Corps serving in Rochester hospitals, and entrepreneurial families and individuals living in the Twin Cities and beyond. Presenting the inspiring stories of Japanese Americans in Minnesota during World War II, *Enmity and Empathy* spotlights a hidden chapter in the state's history.

Ka F. Wong is a professor of Asian Studies at St. Olaf College. He is the producer, director, and writer of the film *Beyond the Barbed Wire: Japanese Americans in Minnesota*. Wong lives near Northfield, Minnesota.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

The search for a place to live in the Twin Cities proved to be a challenge for this new Japanese American family. Lucy Torii Kirihara's two older sisters, Esther Torii Suzuki and Eunice Torii Okuma, both came to Minnesota for college during the war. . . .

The two Macalester students walked door to door, day after day, looking for housing, yet with no success. "My sister Esther sometimes exaggerated a little bit. But she said they went to ninety-nine places for rent, and every one of them said it was full," Kirihara noted. "My sister would call when she got home, and those places would still be available."

Finally, they came across a barbershop with living quarters above. "Do you have a place to rent?" the sisters asked. "Are you Japanese?" the Caucasian owner replied with a question. "One sister was going to lie, and say no," Kirihara noted. However, the sisters instead answered: "Yes, we are." Another failed attempt, they thought.

Just when the two young women started to step out of the door, they heard the owner call out "Wait!" The sisters turned around, and the man began to speak: "My son was in the service, and this Nisei [second-generation Japanese American] girl helped nurse him back to health. This is one way I could pay you back. You may rent the place." . . .

Experience changed perception. This was unbelievable to the two sisters. . . . War tore people apart, but it could also bring people together.

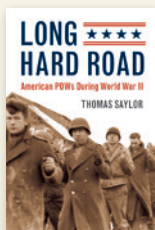


Esther Torii Suzuki (left) with two friends, 1944.
(THE MAC YEARBOOK)



A Woman's War, Too: Women at Work During World War II

Virginia M. Wright-Peterson
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-151-4
E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-152-1



Long Hard Road: American POWs During World War II

Thomas Saylor
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-057-9
E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-0-87351-681-5

PERPICH

A Minnesota Original

BEN SCHIERER

with **Lori Sturdevant**

Foreword by **Governor Mark Dayton**

Rudy Perpich was one of a kind. As Minnesota's longest-serving governor, he built bridges where others saw impassible divides: between rural and urban life, labor and business interests, local politics and international trade.

Perpich: A Minnesota Original explores the life and legacy of one of the state's most consequential political figures. Crafted from oral histories of influential leaders—including Paul Wellstone, Marlene Johnson, Jim Oberstar, Joan Growe, Sandra Gardebring Ogren, Roger Moe, and Arne Carlson, it reveals how Perpich's political fortunes mirrored those of the state. It follows Perpich from his youth on the Iron Range to his political forays on the school board and in the statehouse, and to his decade-spanning stints in the governor's mansion.

A tale of globe-trotting economic tours, major construction projects, and support for education and the arts, it is also the story of bocce ball, proposed chopstick factories, and even a visit from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. Schierer and Sturdevant examine the qualities and

PERPICH

A Minnesota Original



Ben Schierer with **Lori Sturdevant**

FOREWORD BY **GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON**

AVAILABLE APRIL

BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / POLITICAL,
232 PAGES, 6 × 9, 24 B&W PHOTOS, NOTES,
BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-308-2
E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-309-9

quirks that allowed Perpich to develop policies that crossed geographic and partisan boundaries. *Perpich* is a portrait of a unique civic leader who left an indelible mark on the state.

Ben Schierer is the two-term mayor of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. A former Bush Fellow and NewDEAL Leader, he received his master's of public administration degree from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute. **Lori Sturdevant** is a retired Minneapolis *Star Tribune* editorial writer and columnist, author, and three-time winner of the Minnesota Book Award. She lives in St. Paul.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

On June 3, an overcast and unseasonably cold and rainy day in the Twin Cities, thousands of Minnesotans lined the motorcade route to catch a glimpse of the man who gave them renewed “hope in a dusky world.” Road signs were translated into Russian welcoming Gorbachev and his wife to Minnesota, and thousands of petunias and marigolds had been planted along the route.

While the motorcade made its way past cheering throngs, Mrs. Gorbachev asked the driver to make stops at Pepitos Deli and a Snyder’s Drug Store on the corner of Forty-Sixth Street and Nicollet Avenue, where she chatted with the clerk and bought Nintendo gum dispensers for her grandchildren.

Rudy and Lola Perpich were with Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev throughout their frenzied seven hours in Minnesota. The trip included a lunch of walleye and wild rice corn compote during a reception at the governor’s residence, followed by tours of the Capitol and St. Paul Cathedral. . . .

And the whirlwind day was an unqualified success. A *New York Times* headline read, “Savoring the Afterglow of a World-Class Visit.” In England, the *Guardian* ran a story about Perpich titled “The Man Who Put Minnesota on the Map.”

The story of Minnesota’s longest-serving—and perhaps most colorful—governor and his role in propelling the state to the global stage, woven together from interviews with many of the era’s most influential civic leaders.



Rudy Perpich showing off his bocce skills at the Minnesota State Fair.

ALSO OF INTEREST



Mrs. Ambassador: The Life and Politics of Eugenie Anderson

Mary Dupont
PAPERBACK, \$22.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-127-9
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-128-6

Turnout: Making Minnesota the State That Votes

Joan Anderson Grove, with Lori Sturdevant
PAPERBACK, \$19.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-163-7
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-164-4

HOME CLUB

Up-and-Comers and Comebacks at Acme Comedy Company

PATRICK STRAIT

The inside story of how a soft-spoken Chinese immigrant survived staggering failures and achieved hard-won successes in turning a small, struggling Minneapolis comedy club into a landmark that has launched careers and made headlines.

Before the sold-out crowds, world-famous performers, and national prestige, Acme Comedy Company was in trouble. Too much debt and too few customers. A product no one wanted in an economy where everyone struggled. Then it all changed.

Home Club is the tale of Acme and Louis Lee, who came from China to Minnesota as a teenager and worked his way from busboy to club owner—only to watch it all come crashing down. Acme Comedy Company was his chance to redeem himself, and he spent years hustling, negotiating, and sometimes cutting corners just to keep it afloat.

Today, Acme is an iconic comedy venue in Minnesota, and one of the most respected in the country. It has launched the careers of some of Minnesota's biggest comedians, including Mitch Hedberg,



AVAILABLE MARCH

HUMOR / REGIONAL & CULTURAL, 208 PAGES,
5.5 × 8.5, 41 B&W PHOTOS, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-316-7
E-BOOK, \$12.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-317-4

Maria Bamford, and Nick Swardson. But it has also courted controversy by unapologetically booking comics who weren't always considered "safe."

Home Club is about failure and redemption, the tension between art and business, and the incredible story of how a three-hundred-seat club in a Minneapolis basement became a home for a new generation of comics and fans.

Patrick Strait has been a comedy beat reporter for *City Pages*, *The Growler*, and *Thrillist*. He is the author of *Funny Thing About Minnesota . . . : The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of the Twin Cities Comedy Scene*. He lives in Minneapolis.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

At one table, Chad Daniels is holding court with Greg Coleman and Tim Slagle. At another, Ryan Stout is chatting with Mike Earley. Just outside the bar, Jackie Kashian is laughing with Brandi Brown. And by the bathrooms, J. Elvis Weinstein is locked into a deep conversation with David Crowe. It's a who's who of Minnesota and Minnesota-adjacent comedy, cutting loose on familiar turf. The reason for this rare Sunday-night gathering is to celebrate the club's thirty-year anniversary. Since 1991, Acme has been a staple of Minneapolis's North Loop neighborhood, entertaining hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of comedy fans throughout its illustrious history.

To commemorate the occasion, the club has hosted a week's worth of all-star-caliber lineups, bringing together various generations of comics for something of a quasi-comedy festival. Aside from being hilarious (and at this particular party, good and drunk), all of these comics share a common bond: they all consider Acme their home club. In the comedy world, a home club is a sacred space where comedians first cut their teeth and find a sense of belonging in an art form that can be isolating and lonely. It's a place where comics of all levels of experience can work on new material, where wide-eyed up-and-comers and established headliners look to each other for inspiration and camaraderie. For the past three decades, countless homegrown comedians, along with comedy vagabonds, have called Acme their home club.



Left: Jim Meyer and Louis Lee prepare for the opening of Acme Comedy Company. (COURTESY JEN BRYCE)



Right: Night one of the anniversary week included Acme favorites Tim Harmston, Pete Lee, Mary Mack, and Chad Daniels. (COURTESY ACME COMEDY COMPANY)

ALSO OF INTEREST



Funny Thing About Minnesota . . . : The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of the Twin Cities Comedy Scene

Patrick Strait
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-186-6
E-BOOK, \$16.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-187-3



Complicated Fun: The Birth of Minneapolis Punk and Indie Rock, 1974-1984—An Oral History

Cyn Collins
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-032-6
E-BOOK, \$14.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-033-3

REWIND

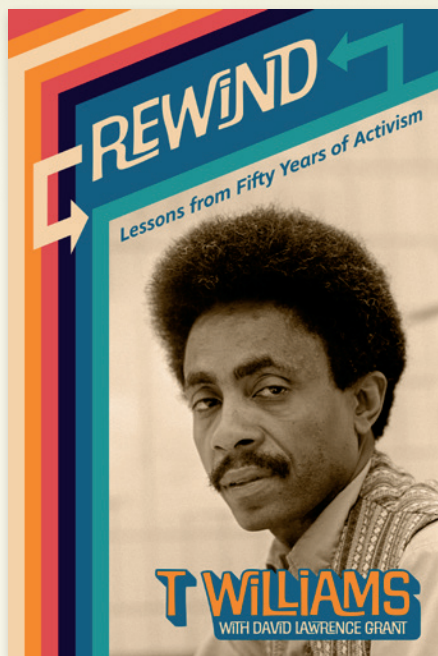
Lessons from Fifty Years of Activism

T WILLIAMS

with David Lawrence Grant

"I was there in north Minneapolis when the national protests of the 'long, hot summer' swept through my new home town too, mostly along Plymouth Avenue. And I was part of the solution cobbled together to develop and begin to implement some Minneapolis-centered answers to some of that national discontent." —T Williams

Theartrice ("T") Williams and his family moved to Minneapolis in 1965. Shaped by his Mississippi boyhood, his military service, and his master's degree in social work, Williams quickly became a leader in the Minneapolis Black community. Within months, he became executive director of the Phyllis Wheatley Community Center. After the violence on Plymouth Avenue in 1968, he helped form the Minneapolis Urban Coalition, a remarkable collaboration among community, corporate, and political leaders to address issues of race and poverty. A year after the 1971 rebellion at Attica prison, Minnesota's governor appointed him to be the first corrections ombudsman in the country. In his first year, Williams created the office, mediated the release of a hostage at Stillwater



AVAILABLE MAY

ACTIVISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE, 240 PAGES,
6 × 9, 20 B&W IMAGES, NOTES, INDEX
PAPERBACK, \$24.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-292-4
E-BOOK, \$9.99, ISBN: 978-1-68134-293-1

prison, and demonstrated the value of and need for the program. In this stirring and instructive memoir, Williams reflects on his life now in the era of George Floyd, drawing on his long experience as a public servant, teacher, consultant, and school board member. *Rewind* is the capstone of a remarkable fifty years of activism.

T Williams is an independent consultant specializing in questions of social and distributive justice, with particular emphasis on issues affecting minority populations. **David Lawrence Grant** has written drama for the stage, film, and television, as well as fiction and memoir. They both live in Minneapolis.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

I was having breakfast when my phone rang and a frantic Bruce McManus, Stillwater prison warden, wanted to know how quickly I could get to the prison. “Why?” I asked. He told me that the three escapees who were confined in segregation were holding a correctional officer hostage. They were threatening to kill the officer and set the segregation unit on fire unless their unspecified demands were met; the prisoners had asked to see the ombudsman. I told him I would come right away, but it could take me up to forty-five minutes to get there.

I made the twenty-six-mile trip in thirty minutes, continually asking myself the question, *What am I supposed to do when I get there?* This was not Hollywood—this was for real, and I had no plans to become a hero. . . .

Finally, I arrived at the prison and rushed into the warden’s office. There with the warden was the deputy commissioner of corrections. We decided that the warden would not be in the group that went back to talk with the prisoners because he was too volatile, and his mere presence could escalate the situation. As we proceeded through the prison gates, I was startled by what I saw: dozens of correctional officers, armed with double action shotguns, tear gas canisters, and gas masks, who were anxious to go into action. I could feel the tension in the air, and the place was ripe for disaster.



ALSO OF INTEREST



Sights, Sounds, Soul: The Twin Cities Through the Lens of Charles Chamblis
Photography by Charles Chamblis,
Text by Davu Seru
HARDCOVER, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-064-7

The Scott Collection: Minnesota's Black Community in the '50s, '60s, and '70s
Walter R. Scott Sr.,
Foreword by William D. Green
PAPERBACK, \$29.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-060-9

RINGS OF HEARTWOOD

Poems on Growing

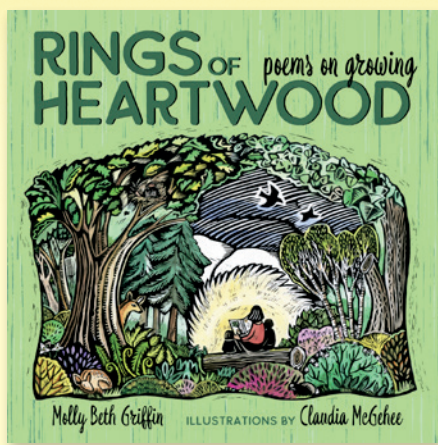
MOLLY BETH GRIFFIN

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY
CLAUDIA MCGEEHEE**

Although childhood may be a happy time, sometimes the process of growing up is confusing. Change, no matter what kind, can be unsettling. From bugs to bats to bears, the natural world shows readers young and old how to embrace transformation as part of life.

Growth is the excitement of something new, like a two-wheeled bicycle or a bigger pair of shiny shoes. In nature, growth shows up in new rings on a tree trunk, or a snake shedding its skin. Growing means a kid's first day in a new school, and a baby bird's first bounds out of its nest. We all grow, change, and adapt, and sometimes it can be scary, confusing, or just plain hard.

In *Rings of Heartwood*, twelve poems about woodland, wetland, and prairie dwellers explore different kinds of growth, taking away some of the worry by helping children understand it as a natural process. A tadpole grows legs and lungs and



AVAILABLE MARCH

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOKS, 32 PAGES, 10 × 10,
FULLY ILLUSTRATED
HARDCOVER, \$18.95, ISBN: 978-1-68134-232-0

transforms into a frog. A fern unfurls from fiddlehead to frond. A fawn's coat loses its spots as winter approaches.

Molly Beth Griffin's playful yet meditative lines paired with scientific facts invite readers into the life cycles of plants, amphibians, crustaceans, birds, reptiles, and insects as they mature. Claudia McGehee's vivid scratchboard and watercolor illustrations entice viewers to pause over each page and study whimsically detailed naturescapes. In words and art, *Rings of Heartwood* encourages readers of all ages to appreciate the challenge of change and the seasons of life, and to feel a deep kinship with the natural world.

Molly Beth Griffin is the author of *Ten Beautiful Things* and *Rhoda's Rock Hunt*, among many other books for young readers. She lives in Minneapolis. **Claudia McGehee** is the illustrator and sometimes author of many picture books, including *Begin with a Bee*, *Creekfinding*, and *My Wilderness*. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa.



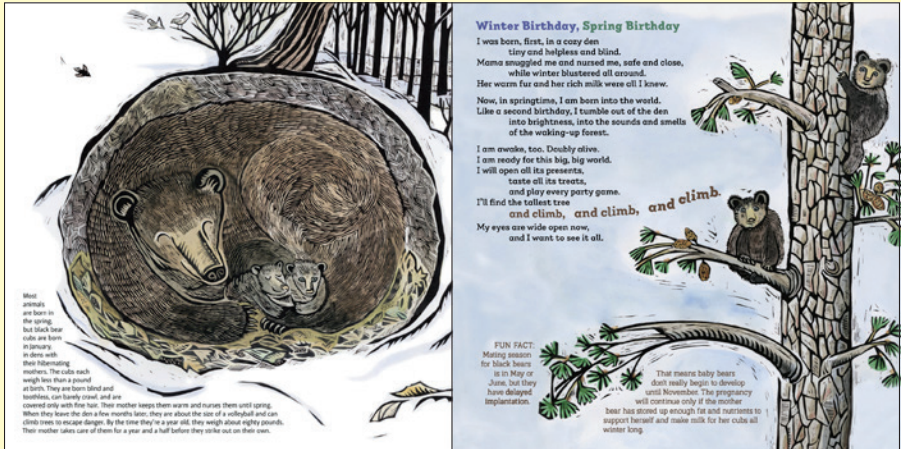
A Disappearing Trick

When Mama goes to forage for food
she leaves me here
tucked into a grassy bed.
Now you see me, now you don't.
My spotted fur is my invisibility cloak
my scentless body like a magic spell.
Just focus! Nothing tasty here.
Now you see me, now you don't.

Inside myself, I hide from the sharp eyes
and keen noses of predators.
I'm in the forest, and the forest is me.
I am here, and (in)visible! I'm gone.
Mama will be back. I can see! Till then,
curled up quietly, vanished into
the dappled shade of my own body.

White-tailed
deer farms are
born in the spring
with ruddy brown
fur and white spots that
fade after three to four months. This
temporary coloring helps camouflage
them in the patches of light that filter
through the leaves. This is especially
important because their mother leaves
them on their own within the grass. She
comes back to nurse several times a day,
but while they wait, their job is to rest
and gain strength and hide from predators.
Because the scent glands on their feet
and legs don't develop right away, farms
don't attract danger. If they can stay
hidden from both the eyes and the noses
of predators, they have a good chance
of surviving to adulthood. They begin
to venture out and forage for their own
food after the first two to four weeks,
and slowly at first come their coats
grow thicker and the spots disappear.

FUN FACT: Lots of
baby animals all over
the world have special
kinds of camouflage
to keep them safe
when they're small.



Winter Birthday, Spring Birthday

I was born, first, in a cozy den
tiny and hairless and blind.
Mama snuggled me and nursed me, safe and close,
while winter blustered all around.
Her warm fur and her rich milk were all I knew.

Now, in springtime, I am born into the world.
Like a second birthday, I tumble out of the den
into brightness, into the sounds and smells
of the waking-up forest.

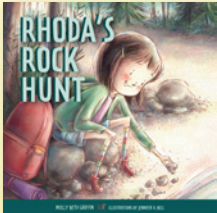
I am awake, too. Doubly alive.
I am ready for this big, big world.
I will open all its presents,
taste all its treats,
and play every party game.
I'll find the tallest tree
and climb, and climb, and climb,
and I want to see it all.

FUN FACT:
Mating season
for black bears
is in May or
June, but their
have delayed
implantation.

That means baby bears
don't really begin to develop
until November. The pregnancy
will continue only if the mother
bear has stored up enough fat and nutrients to
support herself and make milk for her cubs all
winter long.

Most
animals
are born in
the spring,
but black bear
cubs are born
in January.
It does not
mean that
their hibernating
mothers can barely crawl, and are
covered only with fine hair. Their mother keeps them warm and nurses them until spring.
When they leave the den a few months later, they are about the size of a volleyball and can
climb trees to escape danger. By the time they're a year old, they weigh about eighty pounds.
Their mother takes care of them for a year and a half before they venture out on their own.

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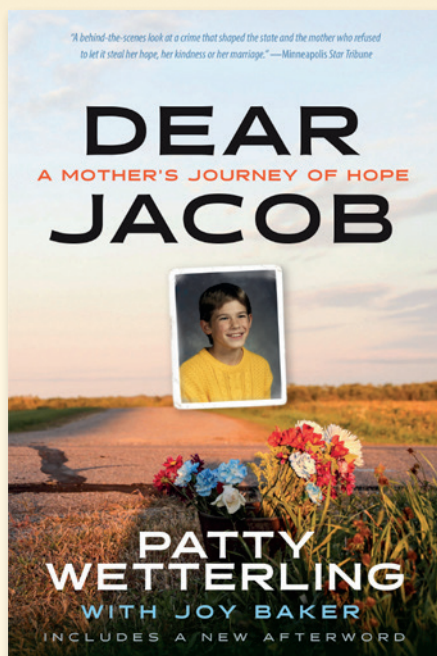
PATTY WETTERLING

with Joy Baker

In 1989, eleven-year-old Jacob Wetterling was kidnapped not far from his home in St. Joseph, Minnesota. The community quickly rallied around the family, and Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother, stepped into the spotlight. Within days, the call to find Jacob traveled far and wide, with hundreds of stories in local and national media, including coverage in the *New York Times*. Minnesota's governor sent National Guard troops to aid in the search. Around the country, people posted flyers, sent letters of support, and turned on porch lights in solidarity.

As the criminal investigation stretched from weeks to months to years, Patty devoted herself to advocating for children. She successfully lobbied for the passage of the 1994 Jacob Wetterling Act, which established sex offender registries. She served on the board of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for over twenty years and became a nationally respected authority on child protection.

Punctuated by Patty's letters to her missing son, *Dear Jacob* brings readers into the heartbreak of a parent's worst nightmare. It also describes the development of an unexpected friendship with an inquisitive blogger, Joy Baker, whose deft



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research uncovered clues that ultimately led to the conclusion of the twenty-seven-year-long missing persons case.

Cowritten with Baker, this memoir chronicles both a personal and a collective story of contemporary history, one that permanently changed public policy and the way we parent our children. It also shows that communities can heal after tragedy, and that families can still experience love, happiness, joy, and hope.

Patty Wetterling is a national advocate, visionary, and educator on the prevention of child abduction and exploitation. **Joy Baker** works as an independent marketing consultant, writer, and blogger.

FROM THE BOOK . . .

Joy's blog article about the Paynesville attacks was published on October 22, 2013—the twenty-fourth anniversary of Jacob's abduction. Over the past few months, Jared had been calling to give Jerry and me updates on what he and Joy were doing, but there were so many names and details, it was often confusing and hard to follow. Now as I read the 1987 *Paynesville Press* article for myself, plus all the added details Joy had provided, I realized the full scope and magnitude of what they had uncovered. I was left feeling shocked and exasperated. Didn't these law enforcement people ever talk to each other? Paynesville, Cold Spring, and St. Joseph were all in Stearns County. What was going on?

As word began to spread, more victims of similar attacks in Paynesville came forward to share their stories with Jared and Joy. It was a lot to keep track of, so in January of 2014, Joy put together a Google map that pinpointed the location of each of the six attacks they had discovered so far, along with a detailed description of what had taken place at each site. Just seeing the number of blue pins on that map—along with their proximity to one another—was astounding. If Stearns County hadn't been paying attention earlier, I got the sense they certainly were paying attention now.

Left: Patty speaking at a news conference outside the US Capitol to announce the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, May 17, 2005.



Right: Patty reviewing letters collected over twenty-seven years, 2017. (SHELLEY PAULSON PHOTOGRAPHY)



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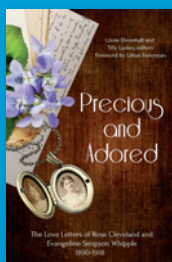
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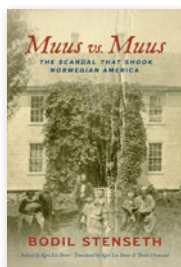
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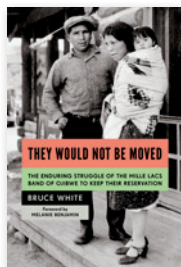


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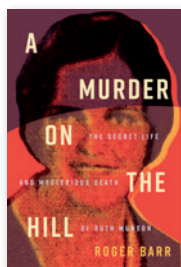
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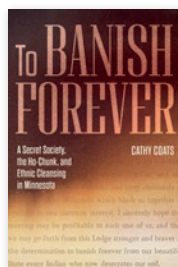
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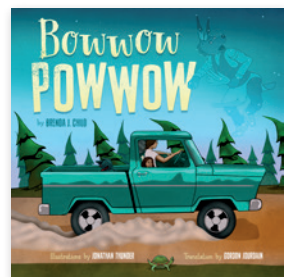


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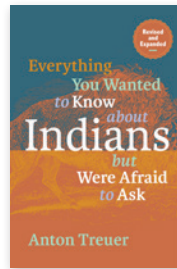
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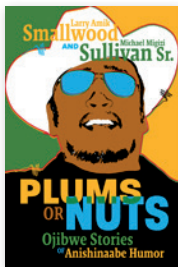
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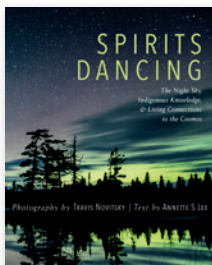
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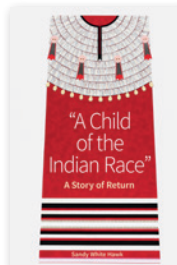


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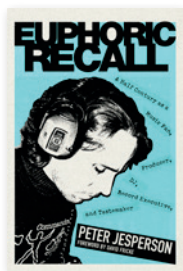
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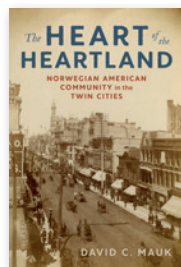
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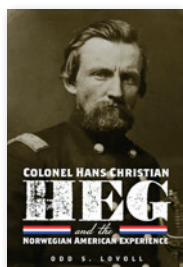
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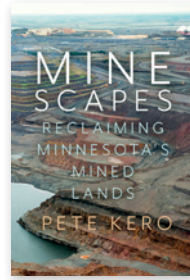
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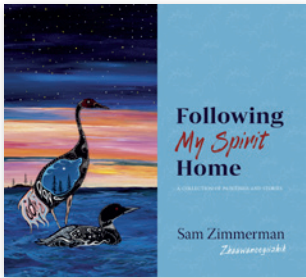
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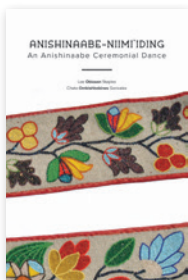
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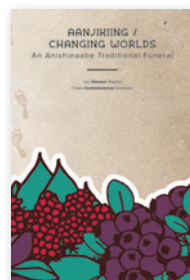
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