Wayne State University Press
Award-winning Titles

NEW BOOK AWARDS ANNOUNCED!

We are happy to announce that many of our books have recently been chosen for some very prestigious publishing awards:

2015 Michigan Notable Book Award Winners
Strange Love
Making Calabozo in Detroit
The Art of Memory: Historic Cemeteries of Grand Rapids, Michigan
Strings Attached
2015 Midwest Book Awards
Canvas Detroit, Winner in the Arts category
2014 ForeWord INDIEFAB Book of the Year Award
The Art of Memory: Historic Cemeteries of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Gold Medal winner for Architecture
Canvas Detroit, Bronze Medal winner for Art
2015 Next Generation Indie Book Award
Canvas Detroit, Winner in the Coffee Table/Photography category
Strings Attached, Winner in the Poetry category
2015 Patrons Fiction Prize
Strange Love, Finalist
2015 IndieSendent Publisher Book Award
Canvas Detroit, Tied for Gold Medal in Great Lakes Best Regional Non-Fiction

We have some exciting additions coming this fall to the Press Club, WSU Press’s donor society.

Those who join or renew their membership this fall will receive these three complimentary books as part of the new Press Club Book Club initiative:

Living Together by Gloria Whelan, The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit by Michael Zadoorian, and Making Callaloo in Detroit by Lolita Hernandez. The Book Club will host meetups for Press Club members periodically throughout the year to discuss these titles, with a surprise visit from an author or two. In addition, the Press Club has now reduced the cost of individual membership to $300 (couples are still $500).

This past summer, the Press Club hosted a party with Sook Wilkinson, editor of Asian Americans of Michigan: Voices from the Midwest, on the glorious rooftop of the Park Shelton in Midtown. Attendees munched on fabulous dim sum from Shangri-La and rubbed elbows with some of the book contributors on a perfect summer afternoon. The Press Club is lining up more great events like this one for 2016.

Won’t you join us in support of one of Detroit’s most valued cultural institutions? Visit wsupress.wayne.edu/support or contact pressclub@wayne.edu for more information on how to join today.

Wayne State University Press Newsletter
Summer 2015

In this Issue:

Frank Kelley, The People’s Lawyer – Q&A with Author Jack Lessenberry

Yamasaki in Detroit: A Search for Serenity

Upcoming Year of Anniversaries at the Press

Press Club Update
What are some of your earliest memories of Kelley growing up? How did your view of him change throughout his incredible tenure as Attorney General?

He was always there. He became attorney general when I was nine and stayed in the job until I was almost 48. When I was a younger I thought he was your basic Irish politician—charming, full of blarney, telling stories. But gradually I started to realize the great service he performed for consumers and how many careers he had mentored and helped to start. But I had no idea of the complexity and depth of what he did, or how fascinating a life he had until I got involved in this project.

What is the best lesson current political leaders can learn from Kelley’s life and career? How does this relate to his legacy?

There are many, one of which is that many dateline terms are bad ideas. There never could have been a career like Frank Kelley’s if he’d had to leave office, say, in 1970. But most of all, the lesson is that a life spent in public service is a life worth living. Frank told me that if just one kid reads this book, it will have made it worthwhile.

Is this your first full-length published book? Did you enjoy the process, and do you have any other book projects on the way?

Some years ago, I ghostwrote the life story of Patricia Hill Burnett, the feminist painter and beauty queen who won on to find the National Organization for Women in this state. Writing a book is like having a baby, in a sense: it takes a long time and involves some agony, but is well worth it. I do plan to write another, and I’m looking at various prospects, but first I need to recharge my intellectual batteries.

This fall, WSU Press will add to its growing catalogue of regional architecture books with a title that explores the man behind some of Detroit’s greatest modern gems. Yamasaki in Detroit by John Gallagher is a beautiful, full-color book celebrating one of the 20th century’s greatest architects in his adopted hometown. Detailing Minoru Yamasaki’s lifelong drive to create tranquil spaces amid bustling cities, the book features prominent works like the Michigan Consolidated Gas Building in downtown Detroit, Temple Beth-El in Bloomfield Township, and the landmark buildings on Wayne State University’s campus.

Although his best-known project was the World Trade Center in New York City, Japanese architect Minoru Yamasaki (1912–1986) worked to create moments of surprise, serenity, and delight in distinctive buildings around the world. In Detroit, where he lived and worked for the last half of his life, Yamasaki produced many important designs that range from public buildings to offices and homes. In a talk by Gallagher, a dedicated of the National Historic Landmarks by WSU President M. Roy Wilson, light appetizers, and a cash bar.

If you’re interested in attending events like this in the future, visit wsupress.wayne.edu to sign up for our e-newsletter and stay up-to-date on Press events. Hope to see you at the next book launch!