Midwestern author Stuart Dybek will be keynote speaker at the second annual Voices of the Middle West festival on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the University of Michigan Residential College, 701 E. University Ave. in Ann Arbor.

The free festival begins at 10 a.m. and features panel discussions by authors and publishers, an open mic event, and an all-day bookfair showcasing literary journals and independent presses from all over the Midwest, with issues and books for sale.

Stuart Dybek, a lifelong Midwesterner and author of The Coast of Chicago, Childhood and Other Neighborhoods, and Paper Lantern, will give a keynote address at 5 pm. A reception and book signing will follow.

The festival will bring together U-M students and faculty with writers and presses from all over the Midwest to showcase the rich, magnificent work being produced here in the Midwest, the stories that need to be told, the voices that need to be heard.

More information, including photos and contact information, available at sites.lsa.umich.edu/rcwriters/voices.

Food service will be available (cafeteria). Light refreshments served in the afternoon.

There is no cost to attend the festival. Stop by and see what it’s all about!
Preliminary Schedule (subject to change)

**Bookfair**
(10 am – 5 pm)
Showcases Midwestern literary journals and independent presses, selling latest issues and books.

**Student / Faculty Panel**
(10-11 am)
U-M students and faculty (from The Residential College and the Department of English Language and Literature) discuss creative writing in the university and the community.

**Author Panel: The Midwest as Place**
(11:15 am – 12:15 pm)
Writers discuss and debate the elements of the Midwestern landscape in literature and their own work.

**Lunch Break**
(12:15 – 1 pm)

**Publishing Panel: Gender Parity**
(1:15 -2:15 pm)
Publishing experts in the publishing discuss the role of gender in publishing. Do differences exist between genders regarding equity and access to publication?

**Author Panel: Midwestern Fabulism**
(2:30-3:30 pm)
Writers discuss the recent trend of using fables and myth in Midwestern storytelling and literature.

**Open Mic**
(3:45-4:45 pm)
Students and community writers are invited to share their work with an audience.

**Keynote** (5-6 pm)
**Stuart Dybek**, author of *The Coast of Chicago, Childhood and Other Neighborhoods, and Paper Lantern.*

**Reception and Book Signing**
for Stuart Dybek (6-7 pm)

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**About The Organizers**

**Jeff Pfaller** is a novelist and short story writer, and co-founding editor of *Midwestern Gothic*. A lifetime Midwesterner, Jeff has transplanted his wife, two children, dog and cat from Michigan to Des Plaines, Illinois. His short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Jupiter, North Chicago Review*, and *Fiction on the Web*. More information at [jeffpfaller.com](http://jeffpfaller.com).

**Robert James Russell** is a three-time Pushcart Prize-nominated author, co-founding editor of *Midwestern Gothic* and founding editor of the online journal *Cheap Pop*. He is the author of *Sea of Trees* (Winter Goose Publishing, 2012) and *Don't Ask Me to Spell It Out* (A Fifth of WhiskeyPaper Press, 2015). His work has appeared in a range of journals, both print and online. More information at [robertjamesrussell.com](http://robertjamesrussell.com).

**Laura Hulthen Thomas** heads the undergraduate creative writing program at the University of Michigan’s Residential College. Her short fiction has appeared in a number of journals, including *The Cimarron Review, Nimrod International Journal, Epiphany* and *Witness*. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and received an honorable mention in the 2009 *Nimrod* Literary Awards. She is a contributor to *Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them*, an award-winning collection of ghost stories by noted Michigan authors published by Wayne State University Press.