

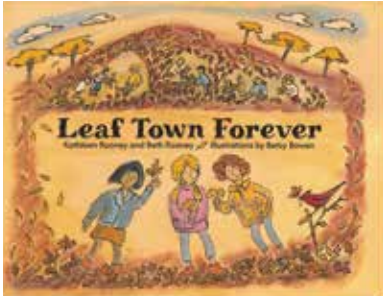
REVIEWS

Leaf Town Forever

By Beth Rooney & Kathleen Rooney
Illustrated by Betsy Bowen

University of Minnesota Press,
2025, \$17.95

Leaf Town Forever is a children's book that tells the true story of kids who build an entire imaginary town from leaves, twigs, and found treasures, only to see it threatened and rebuilt through teamwork. Written in haiku by Kathleen and Beth Rooney and illustrated by local artist Betsy Bowen, it's a celebration of creativity and nature—perfect for readers who cherish the outdoors and childlike imagination. —Breana Johnson

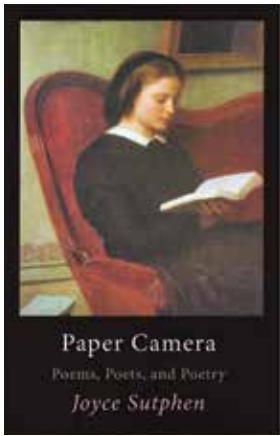


Paper Camera

Poems, Poets, and Poetry
By Joyce Sutphen

Nodin Press, 2025, \$17

In *Paper Camera*, former Minnesota poet laureate Joyce Sutphen reflects on the mysteries of writing—why poems appear, how we revise them, and what they leave behind. Blending craft talk with personal memories, she moves easily between humor and tenderness. It's the kind of collection that makes you want to slow down, listen closely, and maybe pick up a pen yourself. —Breana Johnson

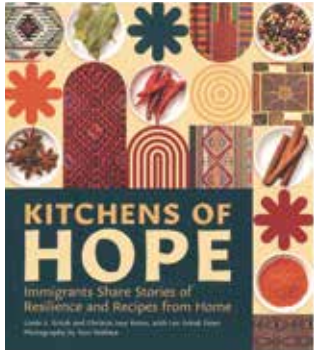


Kitchens of Hope

By Linda S. Svitak, Christin Jaye Eaton,
& Lee Svitak Dean

University of Minnesota Press, 2025,
\$29.95

Kitchens of Hope highlights immigrants who arrived in the United States from more than 30 countries across the globe—some fleeing conflict, others seeking opportunity—and the dishes that carry their histories. With more than 50 recipes, the book pairs vibrant flavors with intimate reflections on home, community, resilience, and hope. It's a moving reminder of how food helps people stay grounded while starting anew. —Breana Johnson



NORTHERN SKY

DECEMBER 2025 By Deane Morrison, MN STARWATCH



As 2025 draws to a close, the bright winter stars are assembling in the east earlier and earlier, along with Jupiter, which outshines all of them.

Jupiter appears over the northeastern horizon a couple of hours after nightfall. Meanwhile, Saturn shines in the south. In late December 2020, Saturn and Jupiter passed so close to each other they looked like one object. Five years later, thanks to Jupiter's greater orbital speed, the two planets are now approximately 90 degrees apart.

Jupiter is below the Gemini twin stars Pollux—the brighter—and Castor. The hourglass form of Orion, the hunter, with the three closely spaced stars of his belt, rises to the right of Jupiter. Above Orion, look for bright Aldebaran, the eye of Taurus, the bull, and the Hyades star cluster, which marks the bull's face. Above the Hyades is the Pleiades star cluster, marking the bull's shoulder.

In the west, the Summer Triangle of bright stars is tilted clockwise from its summer position. Deneb, the highest of the three stars, marks the head of the Northern Cross, which stands nearly upright over the horizon in early evening.

In the predawn sky, brilliant Arcturus, in the constellation Bootes, the herdsman, shines over the eastern to southeastern horizon. To its lower right is Spica, in Virgo, the maiden; and to its lower left is Vega, the brightest star in the Summer Triangle.

December's full moon arrives on Thursday, the 4th, at 5:14 p.m. This will be another large supermoon, and the second closest full moon of the year. It will be lovely as it rises that afternoon, about as round as we'll ever see it.

Winter begins with the solstice, at 9:03 a.m. Sunday, the 21st. At that moment the sun reaches its turning point over the Tropic of Capricorn and begins its next journey north.

The University of Minnesota offers public viewings of the night sky at its Duluth and Twin Cities campuses. For more information on Duluth, visit: d.umn.edu/planet.



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