



Nodin Press

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# SEASONS OF THE URBAN COYOTE

HOWLINGS ON FAMILY, COMMUNITY  
AND THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

**James P. Lenfestey**

Back in 1976, Jim Lenfestey and his wife, Susan, were part of the founding of a community newspaper, the *Hill and Lake Press*. Jim later took up the task of writing a monthly column, and kept at it for thirteen years. A selection of those columns was published in 2000 as *The Urban Coyote: Howlings on Family, Community and the Search for Peace and Quiet*. A decade later, Jim returned to the columnists desk at *Hill and Lake*, producing a delightful new series of stories and observations as the world rambled by. The best of these occasional pieces have once again been collected and published by Nodin Press. Catholic and curious, local and grandiose, personal and communal, they range in subject from professional sports to tree identification, from holiday celebrations to environmental activism, from cemetery wanderings to spindal painting, all of it liberally spiced with extravagant rhetorical flourishes and sincere *joie de vivre*.

But in the midst of all the fun and games, Lenfestey succeeds in raising plenty of meaty issues. Patricia Hampl praises the collection's "super-local, even civic, commitment," while Eric Utne describes it as a "field guide for living and creating vital communities."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: After a career in academia, marketing communications, and journalism, on the editorial board of the *StarTribune*, (where he won several Page One awards for excellence) James P. Lenfestey has gone on to publish seven collections of poems, edit three poetry anthologies, and co-edit *Robert Bly in This World* (University of Minnesota Press). His haibun memoir, *Seeking the Cave: A Pilgrimage to Cold Mountain*, was a finalist for the 2014 Minnesota Book Award. In 2020 he received the Kay Sexton Award for significant contributions to the Minnesota literary community. For fifteen years he chaired the Literary Witnesses poetry program in Minneapolis and led a summer poetry series on Mackinac Island, Michigan. He lives in Minneapolis' Lowry Hill neighborhood with his wife, the political activist Susan Lenfestey. They have four children and eight grandchildren.

ISBN: 978-1-947237-37-7 / 192 pages / \$19.95

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