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Honorary Chancellor

Eric Torgersen

Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

March 2021

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Alas, we will still be apart on **April 10** for our **Spring Conference**. Zoom is a somewhat satisfying alternative to not seeing people at all, but I will surely welcome the next opportunity to hug people. I grew up in a non-hugging family in a non-touching city (Grand Rapids) during a non-public-display-of-affection time. But now, all I want to do is hug people. People who mean a lot to me and people who are just nice and do their jobs. I want to be able to touch a shoulder, a hand, a sleeve, to make the kind of contact that is not remote, to affirm that we are both here at this place in this time.

And especially PSM members.

Through participating in PSM's publications and events, you affirm your intention to write, to think, to be involved in the life of the mind and the music of the ear. We will write our way through this, and we can share what we have learned when we are together again. Meanwhile, **Jennifer Clark** works on the anthology, **Melanie Dunbar** produces the fabulous *Peninsula Poets*, **David Jibson** minds the web, **Susan Anderson** collects our money, **Deb Belcher** mails correspondence, **Phillip Sterling** edits the newsletter, and I do what I can. Without these people—and all our good members—PSM would not exist. So thanks to everyone for a *Job Well Done*, which I will always think of as a huge virtual hug!

And speaking of a job well done, I would remind PSM members at-large that all the volunteer positions of the Executive Board will be up for election (or reappointment) come fall, and I encourage every member to consider stepping up and assuming a more active role. Some of the hard-working people listed in the side bar to the left will be moving on to other things, either by choice or term limit. Please consider taking their place!

It is my pleasure to announce that long-time PSM member **Eric Torgersen** has been selected by the Executive Board to be PSM's third Honorary Chancellor. He will serve a two year term as PSM's advisor and promoter of poetry in Michigan. [See more about Eric on page 4]. HUGE VIRTUAL HUG to the ever-gracious **Larry Thomas** for his distinguished service as Eric's predecessor. (Eric surely has some significant shoes to fill, especially considering that **Jack Ridl** was PSM's first Honorary Chancellor . . .) Some members will remember the entertaining workshop on the ghazal Eric did at one of our meetings. A long-time professor (now Emeritus) at Central Michigan, Eric was one of my first poetry teachers. I'm happy that at long last I can reward him for putting up with me all those years ago. He has a lot to say about poetry, and we should listen.

Eric's first official duty as Honorary Chancellor will be speaking at the Spring Conference on April 10. Be sure to check the PSM website or Facebook for Zoom information.

"See" you then.

—Elizabeth

Spring Meeting 2021

The Spring Meeting of the Poetry Society of Michigan will be held on **April 10**, at **9 a.m.** EDT (Yes, Daylight Savings begins March 14). The meeting is open for PSM dues-paying members only. Similar to the Fall Meeting, we will share “coffee and donuts” virtually in our own homes as we tune into Zoom. Among the presentations will be a workshop by **Jennifer Clark**, readings by selected members, and an introduction to our new Honorary Chancellor **Eric Torgersen**, who will speak and read. Join us!

spring

night pulled glass over day's puddles
a thin film of ice over air

we toed it at the bus stop slowly
deliberately until it splintered

such satisfaction to have broken
something so completely

that belonged to no one

Elizabeth Kerlikowske

PSM Website

The PSM website (poetrysocietyofmichigan.com) has expanded and undergone many dynamic changes in the past year. In addition to basic information about the society, the site is regularly updated with frequent blog posts that include PSM member book releases, published poems, writing prompts, and publishing opportunities. The focus of the site's redesign is on building community. It's now possible to follow the site's posts via email so that you receive notices of each informational post and every update automatically. Check it out. And contribute.

—David Jibson, Webmaster

Call for Poems

If you've written a poem in response to any of the prompts posted on Facebook or the PSM web page, perhaps you could read it at the April 10 Zoom Meeting. Please email no more than three examples by March 26 to Elizabeth (mme642@yahoo.com) for consideration. If selected, you will read the poem yourself on zoom.

Fickle Spring

Eventually, Spring will come,
taking its own sweet time.
It likes to tease,
give that brief thaw
when sunshine melts snow into puddles.
It happens mostly in February
before Spring's official start in March.
But there was no respite this year.
The cold persists day after day,

The cold persists day after day.
There was no respite this year.
Before its official start in March,
happening mostly in February,
sunshine melts snow into puddles,
gives that brief thaw.
Spring likes to tease,
take its own sweet time.
But, eventually, Spring will come.

Betty J. Van Ochten

News from the Treasurer

Hello PSM Members!

It is the last day of February as I write this and we are inching our way towards Spring here in the north! I made it out to the big water in the East Bay of Grand Traverse for the 1st time this year just today to hunt for Petoskey Stones & other treasures. I hope you are each beginning to feel a little bit of emergence too.

I brought our roster up to the minute again yesterday & I am pleased to share that we continue to grow! We are currently at 159 members. Twenty new & renewing since our last reporting. Ninety-two of our members are "Green," meaning they are receiving all newsletters via email. Doing so saves our group postage, printing & time and we appreciate it! If you would like to transition from snail mail to email just email me at: treasurer.psm@gmail.com

The Spring *Peninsula Poets* is coming out soon & I just can't wait to read our members' contributions! I'm also looking forward to our Spring Meeting, via Zoom like we did in the fall. I would encourage you to attend. Guaranteed it will be time well spent!

Thank you for your membership & stay safe out there!

Susan Anderson
Treasurer

Alma College MFA in Creative Writing

The first non-residential creative writing program in Michigan has been established by Alma College. The two-year degree program consists of five ten-day on-campus conferences during four terms of one-on-one study with a faculty mentor. While focused on each student's creative writing—whether poetry, fiction, or nonfiction—the curriculum maintains a strong literature base, in line with the College's distinguished liberal arts history, and is designed for writers who wish to make a serious commitment to their writing but who may have employment or family obligations that prevent traditional residential attendance. Among the faculty are **Sophfronia Scott** (Program Director), **Matthew Gavin Frank** (nonfiction), **Anna Clark** (nonfiction), **Karen Bender** (fiction), **Dhonielle Clayton** (fiction), and, in poetry, **Leslie Contreras Schwartz**, **Benjamin Garcia**, and Michigan native **Jim Daniels**, an Alma alum (not to mention PSM friend and former member), whose new book *Gun/Shy* will be published this summer by Wayne State University Press, in the Made in Michigan Series. [The book can be pre-ordered at wsupress.wayne.edu/books/detail/gunshy; watch for additional info in the next newsletter.] Deadline to apply to the program is May 1. More information and application guidelines can be found at: alma.edu/academics/mfa-creative-writing/our-program.

Update on PSM's Five-Year Anthology

As I write this, it is the eve of the anthology deadline (Feb. 25). So far, we have 58 confirmed contributors representing 36 Michigan cities. And I'm sure I'll get some more submissions tomorrow. My goal is to connect with every contributor by March 15th. If you have submitted and don't hear from me by then, please contact me at psmanthology@gmail.com and let me know.

I've enjoyed reading your poems. Some of you have included notes and well-wishes. One contributor wrote, "I hope that reading the various offerings brings you a bit of cheer amid these harsh winter months." She's right. They have. And I can't wait for readers to have the chance for that warmth to spread when this anthology is published in the fall.

I know that putting your work out into the world can be scary, tedious, and exciting. To all of you who have submitted to the anthology, thank you for trusting us with your work.

—**Jennifer Clark**, Editor

Meet Eric Torgersen, PSM Honorary Chancellor

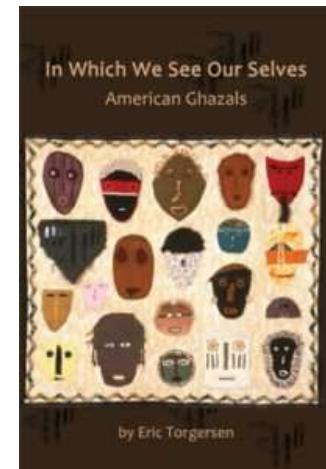
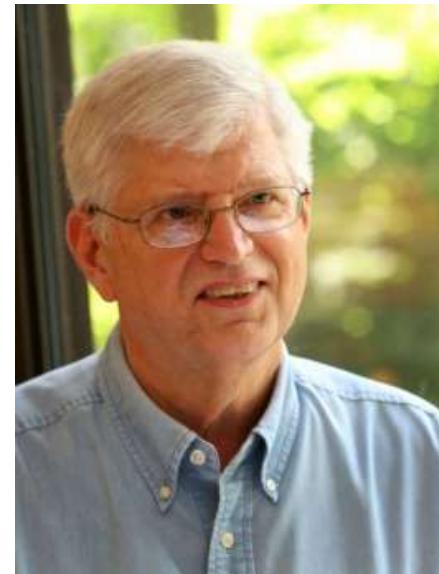
Eric Torgersen has published eight books and chapbooks of poetry, two of fiction, and a full-length study of Rainer Maria Rilke and Paula Modersohn-Becker. He also translates German poetry, especially that of Rainer Maria Rilke and Nicolas Born. He was born in Melville, New York. He has a BA in German Literature from Cornell University; after two years in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia, he earned an MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa. He retired in the spring of 2008 after 38 years of teaching writing at Central Michigan University. He lives in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan with his wife, the quilt artist Ann Kowaleski. More information about his books and activities, along with a poetry archive, can be found at erictorgersenpoet.com (from which the above biographical info has been reprinted by permission).

I Will Die in Lake Superior*

I will die in Lake Superior on an August night,
naked because it is dark
and I ran out of the sauna, all rosy and wrinkly
in the candlelight of the cabin,
though in the dark outside no one will see,
not even I in my last moments;
thin moon, stars all blazing and boiling
like I'm Vincent van Gogh,
but I will have left my glasses in the bathroom.

I'll feel that first chill grip as I hit the water,
and think, "My heart is pounding,
as it should be"; then I'll dive in and go under,
once, again, and a third time
as the pounding grows, as if something really
large means to be let in.
I'll turn to go back, but the dim light of the cabin
will get farther and farther away,
as if I were carried off by some huge wave.

Eric Torgersen



*Reprinted with permission from *And Here: 100 Years of Upper Peninsula Writing, 1017-2017*. Michigan State University Press, 2017.

WordView: Art Inspiring Art

The Poetry Society of Michigan will be partnering with LowellArts on a celebration of original works of art—2-D, 3-D, and (possibly) video art—that encompass both visual and literary components. Co-directed and juried by **Phillip Sterling and Gary Eldridge** the WordView Exhibition will take place at the LowellArts gallery from January 8 to February 19, 2022. Entries for the exhibition may be submitted by an individual artist or artists and writers in collaboration, and may include visual art with accompanying poems/texts (ekphrastic), illustrated texts (poetry broadsides or book art), 2-D or 3-D works that incorporate personal written documents, 3-D work with engraved text, video-poems, and other possibilities. In addition to the exhibit itself, a series of workshops, lectures, and panel discussions are planned, both for during the show itself and leading up to it, with topics ranging from introductions to ekphrastic poetry and illustration, to the art of collaboration. Several workshops will be geared to student-aged artists and writers. PSM members who have an interest or background in creating original works that include both visual and literary components—either individually or in collaboration—and who would be willing to share their experience, should send a brief email indicating their interest and background to **Phillip Sterling** (sterlinp@ferris.edu). The Call for Entries to the WordView Exhibition is scheduled to be announced in May. Educational programs for “WordView: Art Inspiring Art” are expected to begin in July 2021.

Lessons Learned from Jack Ridl

The professor who prefers
the slow, hesitant two-step dance of herons
if pushed, would fly with raucous crows
or wade in to weed the backyard pond

Which helps to make you understand
the why of a lumpy couch
or how a lonely rocking chair abides its
time
and that dust on the sill
asks only to be left in peace

How the forlorn vase yearns for lilacs in
spring
a dog is in no hurry to go anywhere
a fly, though annoying, only longs for
freedom
beyond the glass window
and the cat's indecision is cautious

And you come to understand
how a scrap of paper on the desk or lap
can beckon a pencil to share
to illuminate

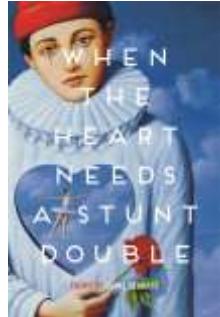
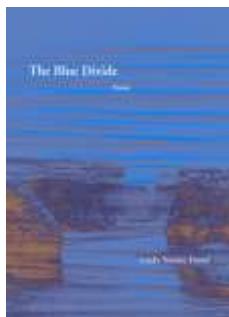
Julie George

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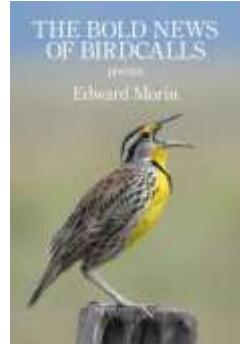
The editor would like to gratefully acknowledge the poets whose original work appears in this *Newsletter*. Copyright is retained by them. Permission to further reproduce or distribute individual poems in any form, print or online, must be obtained from the authors.

The Printed Word

Linda Nemec Foster's twelfth book of poetry, *The Blue Divide*, will be released from New Issues on April 15. About the book Robert Fanning writes: "Testimonial to human endurance and love song to the human spirit, this gem of a book, retrieved from the deep by a poet at the height of her prowess, is as wide as a 'cavalcade of blue sky' and as deep as 'the blue damask of morning.'" A review in *Publishers Weekly* claims "Rich with closely observed detail, narrative depth, and poignant historical reflections, this is a generous and beautiful collection." *The Blue Divide* is available for pre-order from Amazon (\$16) or New Issues. More information about the book—and Linda's other books—can be found on her website: lindanemecfoster.com.



Also set for an April release, from the Made in Michigan Series of Wayne State University Press, is Diane DeCillis's *When the Heart Needs a Stunt Double*. "DeCillis's latest collection," writes Cal Freeman, "is that rare book that is both funny and momentous. Her lyrical evocations of people and places in Southeast Michigan are full of empathy, tenderness, and whimsical irony." *When the Heart Needs a Stunt Double* is available for pre-order from Wayne State (\$16.99). More info about Diane, her other books, activities, and artwork, can be found on her website: dianedecillis.com.



Special offer! For a limited time **Patricia Clark** will send you a copy of her new book *Self-Portrait with a Million Dollars* (Terrapin Books, 2020) with a signed book plate PLUS a free copy of her chapbook *Given the Trees*. All for just \$16.00 on PayPal. Of *Self-Portrait with a Million Dollars*, Garrett Hongo writes "There is an unmistakable ardor for sentience in the gentle, exactingly poised voice of this book, its lyrically charged strophes demanding attention not only to its graceful syntax, but also to its halting apprehension of tiny bits of this world . . . This is an astonishing book." Through PayPal send \$16 to "patriciapoet@gmail.com" and put your name & address into the message box. She'd love for you to have both, just in time for spring!

Ed Morin's new book, *The Bold News of Birdcalls*, was released from Kelsay Books in January 2021. Richard Tillinghast writes: "Publication of Ed Morin's *The Bold News of Birdcalls* is good news not just for birders and other celebrants of the natural world, but for all poetry lovers . . . [Morin] is a real Michigan bard, and his evocation of many familiar Michigan places amounts to a North American version of what the Irish call 'place lore'." The book can be ordered from Kelsay Books (kelsaybooks.com), \$18.50.

And More

Zilka Joseph's new chapbook *Sparrows and Dust* will be published by Ridgeway Press in March 2021 (any day now!). Additional information will be available soon on Zilka's website: <http://www.zilkajoseph.com/books.html>, where you can also find out about Zilka's other prize-winning books and literary activities.

Speaking of prize-winning (not to mention birds), **Colleen Alles**'s *So What to Say to a Bird*, was the State of Michigan winner of the Friends of Poetry annual Celery City Chapbook competition. In honor of the release, Colleen is donating 50% of the profits from the sale of *So What to Say to a Bird* to the Literacy Center of West Michigan, what she calls "an amazing and worthy non-profit organization" (while supplies last). The chapbook is selling for \$10 (plus \$3 S&H), and can be ordered through PayPal or Venmo or by sending Colleen an email for other options (colleenalles13@gmail.com).

A reading by all three winners of this year's Celery City Chapbook Contest is scheduled for Thursday, March 25th, at 7 p.m. It will be virtual. Information about the reading—and registration information—can be found at the Friends of Poetry Facebook or Instagram pages, or by emailing Colleen.



The Geese Who Came to Nest

soon after we moved in, were in their prime.
 They nipped at grass, tweaked half-frozen
 blades, fussed and shaped their home on the bank
 of the pond outside our window. Loudly, they honked
 their stories, conversing with each other
 sometimes even at night. She laid
 five eggs, and we watched the nest almost as fiercely
 as she, wild as hawks peering from our perch
 inside our walls, alert for predators, interlopers, ill-
 wishers. Through hail and storm they endured. Once
 a blizzard blew in, turned them into snow
 sculptures by the foot of a bare-
 branched maple. Pre-dawn squawks
 woke us. There in the darkness striped orange
 by street lights, they darted about, flapped,
 confused. First light, we saw the eggs
 were gone. For weeks after, they scuffed and nuzzled
 the flattened grasses the empty nest. Two weeks more, ah,
 the goslings would have pecked their way out
 into the light, skimmed the waters of the thawing
 pond. Bereft we were, and sick of heart, as if
 our very own young were stolen. *Coyote*
perhaps? The rumor spread. I shook my head.
No? Raccoons then? But where were the shattered
 egg-shells, distressed grass? Was it a goose-cleanse
 my panicked heart asked?— an ambush by wily
 lawn-and-pond-proud humans? Should I flee or fight
 this twisted kingdom, its spies, its terminators?

—Zilka Joseph

*from *Sparrows and Dust* (Ridgeway Press 2021)
 First published in *Third Wednesday*

Springtime Invocation: White Baneberry

Wandering through these dense
deciduous forests –
now that the springtime

has massaged the winter cold
and opened up the bronzed chalice
of heat and sunlight

that's glazing to gold these field openings
of reeds and swamp,
of glade and forest –

I stop, bend low, find in my finger and thumb
this wondrous white
baneberry,

its ovular berries spotted with small,
black doll's eyes
wandering column-like

up a green stalk,
and gazing straight up,
at me.

Such hope it instills in me
to discover it –
this magic wand.

Such faith it brings
back to me,
when I least expected it,

so dense with introspection
and with disquieted sorrow,
and with last winter's

snow cave of memories
not yet figured out,
and heavy with these thoughts

of people I've lost
to death's
long sleep.

Such innocence! these
one million eyes,
gazing right back at me –

and looking right into me again –
like I'm this sweet blindness,
trying with light, to see.

2021 Springfed Arts Writers Contest

RULES: This Members Only contest is funded and sponsored by Springfed Arts. Submissions accepted by email from February 15, 2021 through April 15, 2021. Prizes in both poetry and prose: 1st Prize \$150, 2nd Prize \$100, 3rd Prize \$75

Our poetry judge is Kathleen McGookey. Our prose judge is Jacquelyn Mitchard.

Submission Guidelines: Free submission for current or new Springfed Arts members only. No name on poetry or prose submission pages. Prose (prose includes fiction, nonfiction & memoir) must be double-spaced 10 pages or less. (An excerpt of a longer piece may be used.) A cover page should include your name, address, phone, email, and title of piece. Poetry should include 3 poems no more than 5 total pages, with name, address, phone, email, and titles of poems on cover sheet. All submissions must be typewritten and previously unpublished. Submissions must be emailed as a Word attachment to info@springfed.org.

Join or renew a membership online. There is no contest application form. Your membership will suffice. For more information about membership, the contest, or Springfed Arts classes and retreats visit Springfed.org.

Contest Deadline: must be emailed by midnight of April 15, 2021. Manuscripts that do not follow the above rules will be discarded. Your manuscript is non-returnable.

PSM welcomes the **Detroit Poetry Salon**, a new "Literary Local" affiliate. Initiated by **Kelly Fordon**, the salon is a bi-weekly ZOOM meeting of poets who have, according to liaison **Nancy Shattuck**, "bonded in Spring Fed [Arts] poetry classes." You do not need to be a Springfed or PSM member to join. Interested poets should contact Nancy for more info at shattucknj@gmail.com.

Ken Meisel

The Geese Who Came to Nest

soon after we moved in, were in their prime.
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blades, fussed and shaped their home on the bank
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wishers. Through hail and storm they endured. Once
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—Zilka Joseph

*from *Sparrows and Dust* [see Printed Word, page 6]
First published in *Third Wednesday*

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Series

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main St., Ann Arbor

<https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>

Hosted by

Ed Morin, David Jibson, and Rainey Lamey

Until further notice, all sessions are virtual.
Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

Second Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.: Poetry Workshop at Crazy Wisdom Tearoom. All writers welcome to share and discuss their poetry and short fiction. Sign-up for new participants begins 6:45 p.m.

Fourth Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.: Featured Reader(s) for 50 minutes. Open Mic reading for 1 hour. All writers welcome to share their own or other favorite poetry. Sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m.

Upcoming Featured Readers:

March 24 - Ken Meisel & Jeff Vande Zande

Ken Meisel is a psychotherapist and author of eight books of poetry. With tender, grave empathy, *Our Common Souls: New & Selected Poems of Detroit* traces the conflicted searches for hope, sense of connection to place, and material and social problems embedded in the landscape of his deindustrialized city.

Jeff Vande Zande has published four novels including *American Poet*, which won a Michigan Notable Book Award from the Library of Michigan. His story collections are *Emergency Stopping*, *Threatened Species*, and *The Neighborhood Division*. He is also a film maker, teaches at Delta College, and has a blog at www.authorjeffvandezande.blogspot.com

April 28 – Celebrate National Poetry Month! The writers workshop of the Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month, will read selections of their work. They are: Joseph Kelty, David Jibson, Edward Morin, Loraine Lamey, Lissa Perrin, Gregory Mahr, Dana Dever, and others.

Poetry, the Arts, and an Actor

by
Ron Weber

As I typically do at the end of a year, or at the beginning of a new one, I have been purging my files in order to chuck the clutter. I found myself pausing to reflect on one in particular and realized how it still resonates with me in terms of the value of poetry and the arts.

Many years ago I had the privilege of meeting and talking with the actor James Earl Jones. At the time he was the keynote speaker at a conference in Detroit on business and arts partnerships. You'll be interested in what I want to share with you from that experience. I believe it is still relevant today.

Michigan was home to James Earl Jones for many years. While a student at Dickson High School in Brethren, a very small rural community, he encountered Donald Crouch. Crouch was a full college professor, and a like-minded compatriot of Robert Frost, the farmer. But when he realized there were kids in this agricultural community trying to learn Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Emerson, Crouch parked the plow and went to teach literature and Latin.

By James' own admission, he was such a severe stutterer that he was practically mute. But I'll let him tell you the rest: "I loved poetry so much I was composing my own. Professor Crouch couldn't accept the idea that a kid who loved poetry couldn't sound it out loud the way it was meant. One day he said, 'Jim, this poem is good, so good I think you didn't write it. I think you plagiarized it. To prove you wrote it, get up in front of the class and recite it from memory.' I did, and didn't stutter. He encouraged me to write more, recite more, both my poetry and everybody else's. I forsook my flatfooted attempts at athletic pursuits and used my extracurricular time to regain the power of speech. With his help I found myself on the path that led me to my career today."

I find this a fascinating story. A tribute not only to Mr. Crouch and Mr. Jones but, in my opinion, to poetry as well. I think we know what James Earl Jones would answer to the perennial question: Does Poetry Matter? James himself feels this serves as evidence that a focus on the arts enhances a student's ability to communicate and solve problems. Regarding his experience in the theater department at the University of Michigan, he feels that

"Studying a great play gives a student a larger perspective, even if he or she chooses not to pursue a career in the theater."

James feels that artists are sometimes dreamers, sometimes visionaries. Artists are also stubborn. An artist who has a genuine calling will paint, compose, sculpt, perform and write whether he has support or not, which is a condition often initiated by parents and peers along the lines of "You expect to make a living writing poems?" He believes artists learn early on to be the sole judge of whether they have talent or whether they have it in themselves to nourish that talent. He agrees that imagination is more important than knowledge. In other words, the seeds of knowledge are rooted in the imagination.

And speaking of imagination, allow me to present you with a scenario that popped up in my cerebral cortex just now. (Its relevance will be obvious, I hope.)

The scene: an overflow meeting room at a major university. The Board of Regents and administration are there to consider a policy for the university based upon the following: "Be it resolved, free speech is hate speech and must be cancelled." Among those representing the faculty and the literary public at large are the following poets: Charles Bukowski, Yusef Komunyakaa, Dylan Thomas, Langston Hughes, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Jim Harrison, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

The back of the room has chanting protesters carrying signs denigrating free speech. The meeting is gaveled to order and 15 minutes later three squad cars and campus security are required to quell the mayhem. All of the poets are taken into custody. In the process, Gertrude Stein reportedly decks a protester three times her size, and Jim Harrison is seen giving the Dutch rub to a protest leader and refusing orders to stop. Ezra Pound is caught on tape openly mooning the board president . . . Film at eleven . . .

"Theater, literature, film, dance, and the visual arts," says Jones, "can document the vitality of the human spirit in an increasingly mechanized and technological world. The arts help plant and nurture the seeds of human creativity. For only in our imagination does every truth find an effective existence. For imagination, not invention, is the supreme master of art and life."

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Business Address:

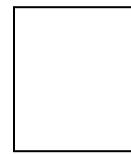
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poetrysocietyofmichigan.com
& FACEBOOK

an affiliate of

The National Federation of
State Poetry Societies
www.nfspa.com



Literary Locals: Writers Welcome

Coronavirus Alert! Confirm with Organization before Attending!

The Lansing Poetry Club

generally meets at 3 p.m. of the 3rd Sunday of the month at Dublin Square Irish Pub & Restaurant (327 Abbot Rd., **East Lansing, MI 48823**). For more info or to confirm a meeting, visit Facebook or email LPC President Ruelaine Stokes (ruestokes@gmail.com).

Downriver Poets & Playwrights

meets regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at Bacon Memorial Library in **Wyandotte** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact **Dennis White** at 734-755-5988 or denniswhite@mail.com for more information.

Rochester Poets' Society

meets at the Rochester Hills Public Library, in **Rochester**, from 1-3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. For more info Contact **Nancy Stevens** 248-217-4034 or email writings80@yahoo.com.

Marquette Poets Circle

meets on first Monday of the month in the Peter White Library Conference Room at 5:30 for workshop, 6:30 for Open Mic. For more info contact **Janeen Rastall** at janeenrastall@yahoo.com or 906-451-4473

River Junction Poets of Saginaw meet regularly throughout the year. For dates and times and other info, visit their Facebook page or call RJP President **Jim Fobear** at 989-714-5124.

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle

meets on second Wednesdays of each month, 7-9 p.m., for workshop and on fourth Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. with a featured reader and open mic. Crazy Wisdom Book Store & Tea Room, 114 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor, MI**. See blog for details: <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>

Friends of Poetry – Kalamazoo.

For information about the many activities and gatherings of this group that has served the literary arts of the greater Kalamazoo area for nearly 40 years, contact **Elizabeth Kerlikowske** (mme642@yahoo.com) or visit their Facebook page.

Bards of Bird Creek *will suspend meetings until further notice.* Typically *May through October* at 7:00 p.m. in the **Port Austin** Welcome Center. Call (989)738-7641 to confirm dates or for more information.

3rd Thursday Poetry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at Horizon Books in **Cadillac** (with breaks in Dec. & June-Aug.). For info contact **Susan Anderson** at (231) 429-2443 (treasurer.psm@gmail.com) or Horizon Books Cadillac at (231) 775-9979.

The Southeast Michigan Poetry Meet-up meets from 7-9 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Panera Bread, 27651 Southfield Road in **Lathrup Village, MI**. For more information, call **Carla Dodd** at 248-861-3636.