

**Executive Board  
2021**

**President**

Elizabeth Kerlikowske  
mme642@aol.com

**Vice President**

Jennifer Clark  
jenengeman@aol.com

**Treasurer**

Susan Anderson  
(231) 429-2443  
Treasurer.PSM@  
gmail.com

**Recording Secretary**

Phillip Sterling  
sterlinp@ferris.edu

**Membership  
Coordinator**

Debra Belcher  
membership.psm@  
gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Phillip Sterling  
(616) 897-4258  
sterlinp@ferris.edu

**Webmaster**

David Jibson  
davidkjibson@gmail.com

**Peninsula Poets Editor**

Melanie Dunbar  
editor.psm@gmail.com

**Contest Chairperson**

Denise Sedman  
psmcontestentry21@gmail  
.com

**Historian**

Inge Logenburg Kyler  
(517) 646-9569  
ingekyler@gmail.com

**Parliamentarian**

Jerry Lang  
Jerry.lang61@comcast.net

Honorary Chancellor

Eric Torgersen

# Poetry Society of Michigan



*"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"*

*September 2021*

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

A teacher recently contacted me as President of PSM about finding a poet or poets around the Flint area who might come to her elementary school and talk about poetry with the students. I put this announcement on our Facebook page, and I think it was on the web page. Sadly, there were no takers. (If you become interested, contact me and I will give you her information.)

So I'm driving to Flint myself to meet with three fourth grade classes there. I may end up going a second time. Because I have lots of spare time? That's not it. I'm doing it because I think poetry is that important in people's lives, particularly young people. I know it's been important in mine. It may have even saved my life, which is something I realized after the fact. Perhaps If I had met a poet when I was a kid, I might have come to this much earlier.

So I will drive across the state for poetry, just as I will give four years of my life to the PSM. Just as I will give thirty years to Friends of Poetry. I will read and comment and teach because I believe that poetry is that important to people's lives.

And I won't even add, *especially at times like these*. Poetry has mattered to a lot of people for a long time, long before the current pandemic, mattered enough that some of them formed organizations—like The Poetry Society of Michigan—to share poetry's importance with others. To pay it forward (so to speak).

What about you? Can you give some of your time to sharing poetry's importance with others? As I come to the end of two terms as your president, I ask you to consider how important poetry is to you, and what you can do to pay it forward. Perhaps become more involved? Take on one of the leadership roles up for election in October? Believe me, it's gratifying and fun (even when it's not haha fun).

We will meet in-person (!) in Lowell in October, Delta-variant willing. [More about the meeting can be found on page 3] If we have to Zoom, we will, of course.. We will do whatever we need to do to keep us going. But after that? What will *you* do? Consider stepping up. Be the one who says, "I will. I will make this poetry community continue."

**Elizabeth Kerlikowske**

# WORDVIEW

## Art Inspiring Art

### CALL FOR ENTRIES

LowellArts seeks visual and literary artwork for a juried exhibition titled *WordView: Art Inspiring Art*. Entries should be original work consisting of both visual and textual components, and may be submitted by an individual artist or by artists and writers in collaboration. More about WordView—entry details, schedule of related events, registration info—can be found under the “Gallery” tab at the LowellArts website ([lowellartsmi.org](http://lowellartsmi.org)).

*WordView: Art Inspiring Art* is open to any individual 14 yrs. and older. Regional, national, and international artists are encouraged to submit entries. Six cash awards (totaling \$2000) will be given.

**Entries Accepted:** September 6 to November 5

**Artist Notification:** December 3

**Art Drop Off:** December 28, 29, 30

**Exhibit Dates:** January 8 to February 19, 2022

Thanks to a grant from the **Michigan Humanities Council**, with additional support from the **Poetry Society of Michigan (PSM)** and the **International Society for Experimental Artists (ISEA)**, a series of free public lectures/workshops are being presented in conjunction with *WordView: Art Inspiring Art*. All events will be held at the LowellArts Gallery, 223 W. Main St., Lowell, MI

[PSM Members should note in particular “Poem or Picture?” which will take place on October 16, following the Fall Meeting.]

Copyright © 2021 All rights reserved.

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 these poems in any form, print or online, must be obtained from the authors.

Upcoming WordView Events include:

### Writing Poetry Inspired by Art: A WordView Workshop

Sunday, Sept 12, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

**Instructor: Elizabeth Kerlikowske**

Join us for a workshop on Ekphrastic poetry. It will be a hands-on, collaborative class, in which participants will be encouraged to draft poems of their own. *\*Registration is required.*

### International Society of Experimental Artists: A WordView Panel Discussion

Sunday, Sept 26, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Host: Gary Eldridge**

ISEA's mission is to promote public interest in experimental art and encourage and support artists' creative journeys through exhibition, education and communication. Panelists will discuss how text can be used to create powerful, innovative, and impactful works of art. Limited space, registration is encouraged

### The Art of Collaboration: A WordView Panel Discussion

Sunday, Oct 3, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

**Hosts: Phillip Sterling and Gary Eldridge**

**Panelists: Ron and Miriam Pederson, Linda Nemece Foster, Jan Mordenski, Meridith Ridl**

Poets and visual artists who have a proven/published history of collaboration with other artists will discuss how such activity may inspire and generate original work. Registration is encouraged.

### The Nature of Book Art: A WordView Presentation

Sunday, Oct 10, 3:00-4:30pm

**Presenter: Chad Pastotnik**

Artist and printer Chad Pastotnik will present examples of the fine press books he designs and prints at **Deep Wood Press** ([deepwoodpress.com](http://deepwoodpress.com)), in Bellaire, Michigan, and will talk about the process and special considerations one must make in hand-crafting multiple-page works of illustration and text. Limited space, registration is encouraged.

### Poem or Picture? The Choice of Creative Expression: A WordView Presentation

Saturday, Oct 16, 3:00-4:30pm

**Host: Phillip Sterling**

**Panelists: Patricia Barnes, Joy Gaines-Friedler (& TBA)**

Many poets find their creative expression is not limited to the literary arts. Join us for a presentation by members of the Poetry Society of Michigan who are also accomplished painters, photographers, musicians, or multi-media artists as they discuss their choice of media in creating original work and share some examples. Limited space, registration is encouraged.

### Creating Artful Text: A WordView Workshop

Sunday, Oct 17, 3:00-5:00pm

**Instructor: Jennifer Helner**

Bring your short, original text to this hands-on workshop and bring home a piece of art. You will learn about the different types of hand-scripted lettering and how to enhance the lettering with illustrative designs. Supplies will be provided. *\*Registration is required.*

## News from Springfed Arts

Winners of the Springfed Arts 2021 writing contests in poetry and prose have been announced. Finalists will read their winning entries on **Tuesday, September 21**, at the **Birmingham Unitarian Church** (38651 Woodward Avenue, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304) beginning at **7 p.m.** Wine, coffee, and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

### Springfed Arts 2021 Poetry Finalists

1st place: "The Second Worst Thing" by **Linda Sienkiewicz**

2nd place: "Mediterranean" by **Nadia Ibrashi**

3rd place: "My mother listens to her kitchen radio in Detroit in 1955" by **Michelle Morouse**

Honorable Mention: "We Are Driving" by **Lonnie Hull DuPont**

Honorable Mention: "The Gutting" by **Jeremy Proehl**

Honorable Mention: "Petals (Haiku)" by **Derek Eugene Daniels**

### Springfed Arts 2021 Prose Finalists

1st Place: "Broke" by **John Jeffire**

2nd Place: "Daffodils Are Not Wildflowers" by **Deborah Ann Percy**

3rd Place: "Bearing the Standard: Reflections from a Wannabe Butter Thief" by **Anne Forgrave**

Honorable Mention: "My Patient, My Aunt" by **Nadia Ibrashi**

Honorable Mention: *NEXUS: A Novel* by **Kristin Bartley Lenz**



**Registration is open for the 5th annual Lost Lake Writers Retreat. October 7-10, 2021**, at the Lost Lake Woods Club lodge just north of Lincoln, MI, on Michigan's Sunrise Coast near Lake Huron. Co-sponsored by **Springfed Arts** and **Inspiration Alcona**, the retreat will feature poet **Leila Chatti**, songwriter/memoirist **Amy Rigby**, author **Michael Zadoorian** and author/poet **Kelly Fordon**. Directed by **John D. Lamb**. More info can be found at [springfed.org](http://springfed.org)

## PSM Fall 2021 Meeting

The Fall Meeting of the Poetry Society of Michigan will be hosted by LowellArts and held *in-person* in the **LowellArts Gallery** (223 W. Main St., Lowell) on **OCTOBER 16**. [All Kent County health and safety regulations will be observed.] The morning business will consist of updating members on the activities of the PSM Board during COVID, the Traveling Trophy reading contest, distribution of the 2021 Awards issue of *Peninsula Poets*, and **election of new officers**. The afternoon will include an open mic and meet-and-greet, followed by a WordView panel, open to the public, with a reading (and presentation) by selected poets/artists who create in both literary and visual media. Your \$25 registration should be sent no later than October 9 (or arrangements made with Susan Anderson) to:

**FALL MEETING 2021**  
**The Poetry Society of Michigan**  
 PO Box 1035  
 Cadillac, MI. 49601

### Clip and mail:

#### YES! We'd love to attend the 2021 Fall Meeting in Lowell!

I've enclosed my registration fee of \$25/each in the form of a check made out to *The Poetry Society of Michigan*.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch preferences (circle):

Herbivore    Carnivore    Vegan    Non-gluten

Bring my own    No preference

## ***Michigan Roots: A PSM Anthology***

The Poetry Society of Michigan's five-year anthology, titled *Michigan Roots*, is almost here and it is stunning!



We're grateful to **Pat Barnes** for allowing her artwork, "Green Tree, Gold Moon," to grace the cover. And Cheers to the eighty-five PSM members who contributed poems and made this anthology worth the wait. The Anthology Committee—consisting of **Melanie Dunbar**, **David Fitch**, **Elizabeth Kerlikowske**, and myself—can hardly wait for you to hold *Michigan Roots* in your hands and dig into some fabulous poems.

We will be distributing *Michigan Roots* to the attendees of the Fall 2021 PSM Meeting in Lowell. Following the meeting, we will mail out copies to all those contributors who were unable to attend.

Interested in purchasing additional copies? **David Jibson** is currently working hard behind the scenes to help us make the anthology available through Amazon/Kindle. Once that has been finalized, we will provide you with more details.

**Jennifer Clark**, Editor

## **READ ME!**

October is PSM membership renewal month. Membership dues are \$30 per person per year. Just a few of your membership benefits are; 4 copies of our *PSM Newsletter*, 4 copies of the *Strophes* newsletter, membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, as well as copies of our own publication *Peninsula Poets* printed twice a year. That's quite a bargain! You can mail us a check to the address below or pay us in person at the meeting in Lowell.

2022 Dues  
c/o PSM Treasurer  
PO Box 1035  
Cadillac, MI 49601

Thank you in advance for helping us keep our roster up to date!

**Deb Belcher**, Membership Coordinator

## **Autumn**

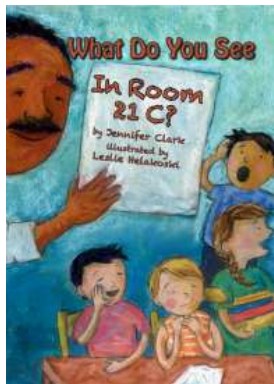
Awesome collage of color  
Unending beauty of nature  
Transitional stage to witness  
Understand Cycle of Life  
Manage and adapt  
No time for regrets

**Mary Ann Bozenski**



## The Printed Word

**Zilka Joseph's** new book *In Our Beautiful Bones* has just been released (September 2021). The book has been nominated for a PEN America Award and a Pushcart prize. Books can be ordered from **Mayapple Press** ([mayapplepress.com/in-our-beautiful-bones-zilka-joseph](http://mayapplepress.com/in-our-beautiful-bones-zilka-joseph)). "In this rich collection of poems," writes Diane Seuss, "Zilka Joseph takes us on a voyage from her birthplace in India to her immigration to and life in the United States. Her poems remember their way back through India's colonial history and the losses of culture, religion, and language which throb into her present tense. Joseph makes use of a number of approaches to form in this collection, ending with a collage of mythic, literary, musical, and historical influences which bring her worlds together into a vision of 'dancing in the sun / in our own shining skin / in our beautiful bones.' These are brave and beautiful poems." Info about upcoming readings and Joseph's other books can be found at [www.zilkajoseph.com](http://www.zilkajoseph.com).



*What Do You See in Room 21 C?*, a new children's book written by **Jennifer Clark** has just been released by **Celery City Books** (the publishing arm of Friends of Poetry). About the picture book, Sue Warner, retired librarian and former head of youth services for Kalamazoo Public Library, writes: "Jennifer Clark has created a terrific school story about a creative class of second graders. I love their imagination! **Leslie Helakoski's** illustrations extend the story so beautifully, showing their warm and nurturing classroom. This book is an amazing resource for families and teachers."

## News from Locals

Twelve of the members of **Downriver Poets & Playwrights** (DPP) were able to gather in-person in August, after sixteen months of Zoom meetings run by co-leaders **Dennis White** and **George Wylie**. Dennis arranged with the Downriver Council For The Arts to have a professional videotaper record many of the members reading their poems, and it went very well. (Dennis, George, and **Pat Barnes** also took part in the online 2021 NFSPS convention in June, with Pat scoring many wins in the NFSPS contests.) Due to its popularity, DPP will be holding a monthly **Third Tuesday Zoom Open Mic** hosted by George, which will include featured readers and short poetic form presentations, *in addition to* their **in-person** meetings on **First Tuesdays at Bishop Memorial Library in Wyandotte**. Contact Dennis ([denniswhite@mail.com](mailto:denniswhite@mail.com)) or George ([ghwylie@gmail.com](mailto:ghwylie@gmail.com)) for more information.

Because of the Zauel Library Fall Book Sale, **River Junction Poets** will meet on the **fifth Wednesday in September (the 29th)** at the regular time (7 p.m.) rather than the usual fourth. Interested poets should watch for the September RJP Newsletter for updates or contact Betty Van Ochten ([bjvanochten@att.net](mailto:bjvanochten@att.net)) for more info.

### The First Day of Autumn

Deer roam freely along abandoned two-tracks  
 Leading to boarded up cottages and docks.  
 Yellow flags of sassafras wave goodbye  
 To tail lights of the last fifth wheelers  
 Caravanning back to the 'real world'.  
 Warmth rises from the summer-mellowed lake  
 As fog blends horizon and sky into eternity.  
 Solitary crow calls echo across the woods  
 Accompanied by woodpecker drumming  
 With a slowing tempo and more minor chords.  
 Wild asters bow dew-soaked heads  
 As solemnity permeates the mind's wilderness.  
 A sacredness of this place replaces  
 The ephemeral profanity of summer.

**Jerry Lang**

## 2021 PSM Poetry Contest WINNERS

### Category 1: Margo LaGattuta Memorial Award

Judge: **Joy Gaines-Friedler**

1st: "I'd Have Painted Him in Altenburg..." by **Lynn Pattison**, Kalamazoo, MI

2nd: "Antinomy" by **Thom Porter**, Woodhaven, MI

3rd: "Reverie at Slack Time" by **Dr. Emory Jones**, Iuka MS

HM: "Premonition" by **Lori Zurvalec**, Grosse Pointe, MI

### Category 2: Chancellor's Prize

Judge: **Eric Torgersen**

1st: "How Will I Find Absolution" by **Diana Hart**, Kalamazoo, MI

2nd: "Current Resume" by **Art Curtis**, Bellaire, MI

3rd: "You Don't Know" by **Colleen Alles**, Grand Rapids, MI

HM: "The Girl with a Green and a Brown Eye" by **Nadia Ibrashi**, Troy, MI

### Category 3: Founder's Prize

Judge: **Russell Thorburn**

1st: "Michigan State Fair 1960's" by **Roberta Brown**, Royal Oak, MI

2nd: "Skinny Dipping at Cranbrook" by **Janice Zervas**, Eau Claire, MI

3rd: "Leaving Tawas, July 3rd" by **Christian Belz**, Pontiac, MI

HM: "New Buffalo" by **Cassandra Caverhill**, Ann Arbor, MI

### Category 4: Barbara Sykes Memorial Humor Poem

Judge: **Elizabeth Kerlikowske**

1st: "You Probably Are One Too" by **Laura Sweeney**, Bloomington, IL

2nd: "Learning to Sit" by **Ann Weil**, Ann Arbor, MI

3rd: "Shifting Gears" by **Milton Bates**, Marquette, MI

HM: "Not Yet Robotic" by **Robert Erlandson**, Birmingham, MI

### Category 5: George Dila Memorial Prose Poem

Judge: **Robert Fanning**

1st: "Toad" by **Dawn McDuffie**, Detroit, MI

2nd: "Home Visit" by **Patricia Barnes**, Wyandotte, MI

3rd: "Churned" by **Terry Jude Miller**, Richmond, TX

HM: "Sea of Stars" by **Simon A. Thalmann**, Kalamazoo, MI

### Category 6: Nature

Judge: **Alinda Wasner**

1st: "Wingbound II: Elegy Shy of Lamentation" by **Barbara Saunier**, Marne, MI

2nd: "Call Winter Home" by **Patricia Barnes**, Wyandotte, MI

3rd: "Swarm Warning" by **Iris Underwood**, Leonard, MI

HM: "Japanese Maple" by **Diana Dinverno**, Troy, MI

### Category 7: Love

Judge: **Sue William Silverman**

1st: "The World Will Always Welcome Lovers" by **Barbara Saunier**, Marne, MI

2nd: "What Her Eyes Did" by **Randy K. Schwartz**, Ann Arbor, MI

3rd: "Bringing Late" by **Lorraine Jeffery**, Orem, UT

HM: "A Sort of Love Poem" by **John Jeffire**, Macomb, MI

### Category 8: Music

Judge: **M. L. Liebler**

1st: "Song and Dance" by **Nadia Ibrashi**, Troy, MI

2nd: "Music" by **Ellen Lord**, Charlevoix, MI

3rd: "The House That Jack Built Sold On Jazz" by **Diana Cornell**, Spring Lake, MI

HM: "Player of Player Pianos, a Love Poem" by **Sophia Rivkin**, Southfield, MI

### Category 9: Loss

Judge: **Zilka Joseph**

1st: "New Widow" by **Ellen Lord**, Charlevoix, MI

2nd: "Mothers" by **Claire Scott**, Oakland, CA

3rd: "Noise Trek" by **Janice Zervas**, Eau Claire, MI

HM: "there, then" by **David Fitch**, Lathrup Village, MI

### Category 10: Women and Science

Judge: **Diane DeCillis**

1st: "Fluids Leak Like Rivers" by **Nadia Ibrashi**, Troy, MI

2nd: "I Am a Standard Candle" by **Janice Zervas**, Eau Claire, MI

3rd: "Brushstrokes and Stars" by **Carla Dodd**, Waterford Township, MI

HM: "Peggy Whitson" by **Patricia Barnes**, Wyandotte, MI

## Looking Up into a Summer Sky

clots of lions, tigers  
brandishing green branches  
knit pale blue faces  
flickered images, a dappled bowl,  
a shadow bird . . .

we were sitting on the back porch  
discussing Buddhism,  
transmigration of souls,  
passages of selfhood,

summer flash and flesh in firefly light  
The Hebrew word is 'gilgul' a word related to 'galgal'  
the wheel rolled special delivery  
to another generation

and this aching  
to reunite with someone, something  
this tender flickering light

a gasp of *Oh, take me, take me*  
between tree and sky

**Sophia Rivkin**

## 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](mailto:cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

**Second Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m.:** Poetry Workshop. 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.

### Featured Readers Fall 2021

#### September 22: Laurence W. Thomas & Ed Werstein

Former PSM Chancellor **Thomas** has taught English on four continents, writes poetry covering the gamut from childhood games through love, mutability, and mortality. Founding editor of *Third Wednesday Magazine*, he has published many books. He'll read from his latest: *The Cottage*, *A Little of This*, and *Spindrift: New and Selected Poems*. **Werstein** received the Lorine Niedecker Prize from the Council for Wisconsin Writers and is regional VP of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. His poems have appeared in *Rosebud*, *Blue Collar Review*, *Stoneboat*, and several anthologies. His books of poetry include *A Tar Pit to Dye In* and *Communique: Poems From the Headlines*.

#### October 27: Michael Zadoorian

Author of four published novels, *The Narcissism of Small Differences*, *Beautiful Music*, *The Leisure Seeker* and *Second Hand*, and a story collection, *The Lost Tiki Palaces of Detroit*. His fiction has appeared in *NAR*, *Literary Review*, and *Witness*. *The Leisure Seeker* was made into a film starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland.

#### December 1: Judith McCombs & Molly Spencer

**McCombs** grew up nomadic in a geodetic surveyor's family. Her poems appear in *Poetry*, *Shenandoah*, *Nimrod*, and in five books including *The Habit of Fire: Poems Selected & New*. She has taught at Wayne State U. and in the Washington, D.C. area. She received awards from Michigan and Maryland State Arts Councils. **Spencer** has recent poems published in *Blackbird*, *Los Angeles Review*, and *Prairie Schooner*. She is the author of the poetry collections *If the House*, winner of the Brittingham Prize, and *Hinge*, winner of the Crab Orchard Open Competition. She teaches writing at the University of Michigan.

## And other news from Ann Arbor:

A review of **David Jibson's** *Protective Coloration*, and an interview with David, can be found on PULP, the digital voice of the **Ann Arbor District Library**. Conducted by **Martha Stuit**, the interview appeared on April 6, 2021, and can be accessed at <https://pulp.aadl.org/node/577692>. Stuit also interviewed **Ed Morin** about his latest collection, *The Bold News of Birdcalls*, which took place on April 15, 2021, and can be accessed here: <https://pulp.aadl.org/node/577805>.

### Renewal

There are days  
when I see  
my world in grey and  
I'm feeling  
older than my years.

It's then I know  
it's time to leave  
the city for the trees  
and trout streams  
camper in tow.

I wake before the sun  
so I can toast the dawn  
and white pines  
and Petoskey stones.

Thank you  
Mother Nature  
for renewing my soul.

**Deb Belcher**

## One Poet's Pandemic Ponderings

by Ron Weber

Ever notice how serious fears or concerns never really vacate our thoughts despite our best efforts? You know, things like an injury to your child, a deteriorating marriage, the unexpected terminal illness of a loved one, uncertainties of job or income, or this thing called a pandemic?

They seem to persist like an elephant in the room or a shadow in the corner, even when you're talking about a subject entirely unrelated. When there's a significant pause in the committee discussion or your neighborly visit stalls, there they are again, popping up to remind us—those little anxieties that are a part of everyone's lives, annoying concerns that are never really alleviated or eliminated.

And because you are, as a result, more sensitive to things in general, such anxieties can tend to drag even more things into thoughtful awareness, more often than you might otherwise think. For example: life, happiness, success, long-standing principles, prejudices, etc. At least that's my experience, especially in terms of the various pandemic ponderings that have stumbled unexpectedly into my mind. I'm never certain just what the moment's anxiety is going to be until it comes knocking on my cerebral door. I'm referring to things like the following:

No matter what age we might be at, life is like playing a violin in public and learning the instrument as we go along, making mistakes and correcting them. Yet, if you've never learned to play any instrument, like me, you might think life just a series of mistakes. So be it. I believe that a life spent making mistakes is not only honorable but more useful than a life spent fearing to do anything challenging because one might make mistakes.

(Allow me to add here that, if I had my life to live over, I'd still not learn an instrument. Instead, I'd live over a delicatessen. Hey, what can I tell ya, I love deli food!)

One thing I have learned and truly believe is that you have to live life to love life, and you have to love life to live life. It's not a vicious circle but a circle of seeking, reaching and achieving. It is a circle of finding and fulfilling. Meaningful reality is much more than a collective hunch.

Principles are paramount in life as we attempt to navigate the landscape of hypocrisy with some semblance of character. But considering recent events, it seems to me that many people find it easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them. Just look at the menagerie of protests that are populated by too many without the slightest concern for human decency in the behavior they exhibit. Talk about anxiety! The political class appears to believe that the most useful thing about a principle is that it always can be sacrificed for expediency.

Maybe it's just me, but it seems clear that a great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices. Consider this: Immigration has always been a problem in the United States. Ask any Native American.

Sad to say, but life always has been, is, and always will be a crap shoot. The greatest single variable is the person throwing the dice. On the other hand, if at first you don't succeed, find out if the loser gets anything. We all know that success is not guaranteed and, if achieved, it isn't necessarily permanent. Nor is there anything fatal about a failure. It depends on that all important variable, the person throwing the dice.

What all this has to do with poetry, I'm not sure. Perhaps my anxieties and concerns will find their ways into poems, or perhaps a poem will help me to deal with them. Either way, I feel better having shared them, and that's what matters. May your own pandemic ponderings and random thoughts find their expression, whether in poetry or some other form, as we go forward through these uncertain, and anxious, times. Who knows, you may reach a sympathetic ear. Cheers!

# # #

**from *Braided Creek***

If you can awaken  
inside the familiar  
and discover it strange  
you need never leave home.

**Jim Harrison and Ted Kooser**



## POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Business Address:

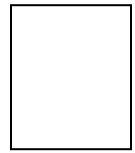
**PSM Treasurer**  
**PO Box 1035**  
**Cadillac, MI 49601**

Email: [Treasurer.PSM@gmail.com](mailto:Treasurer.PSM@gmail.com)

Website:  
[poetrysocietyofmichigan.com](http://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com)  
& FACEBOOK

an affiliate of

The National Federation of  
State Poetry Societies  
[www.nfsps.com](http://www.nfsps.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](mailto:ruestokes@gmail.com)).

The **Detroit Poetry 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](mailto:shattucknj@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](mailto:denniswhite@mail.com) for more information.

### 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](mailto:mme642@yahoo.com)) or visit their Facebook page.

### 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](mailto:writings80@yahoo.com).

**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.

### 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](mailto:janeenrastall@yahoo.com) or 906-451-4473

**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](mailto:treasurer.psm@gmail.com)) or Horizon Books Cadillac at (231) 775-9979.

**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.

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.