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Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

December 2022

President's Message

Happy winter, poets. There may be a few more days to get those autumn poems written—the colors, the leaves, the cold, the obvious metaphors—but winter will soon be upon us. One reason I love living in Michigan is that each season inspires its own poems. Every year.

Our fall PSM conference at West Bloomfield Public library was a success. **Jerry Lang** won the Traveling Trophy for his poem "Hallway Altar." [Editor's note: See page 7.] We had great sessions by **David Jibson** on self-publishing and by vice-president **Robin Church** on ekphrastic writing, and a brief memorial for **Sophia Rivkin**. I thank everyone who attended and contributed.

Our spring conference is in the planning stages, probably located near the Lansing area, middle of the state. We will let people know when the arrangements have been confirmed.

I am still looking for brief remarks about "favorite poems" for the website. If you have a favorite poem (not your own, however) that inspires and amazes you, consider sending me your comments in 120 words or less at jamesfam3@charter.net. It's best to also send an internet link to the poem so others can read it after your brief discussion. We will share it on the PSM website.

Here's a writing prompt to help you get through the holiday season. Make a list of THREE things you dislike, hate or despise about the holidays. Then write a poem in which you praise and revel in delight on those very three things! Show us the immense love you have for those three items you actually hate. Or you could also go in the opposite direction—make a list of three things you love about the holidays; write a poem on why you hate those things!

Here's wishing you all a wonderful holiday and end of the year. May the new year be filled with happiness and peace.

Be well and be creative.
David James

Call for Submissions *Peninsula Poets Spring 2023* (Members Edition)

Members only! You must be a member in good standing with your dues paid thru 2023. Visit poetrysocietyofmichigan.com for full membership details. If you are unsure of your standing, you can contact membership.psm@gmail.com

Submissions accepted between December 15 and February 1. By email (preferred), send up to 3 unpublished poems in a single attachment, with one poem per page, your contact info on each page, in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect format, to editor23.psm@gmail.com.

If you don't have email, send up to three poems, one poem per page, with contact info on each page, to PSM Spring Edition, PO Box 1035, Cadillac, MI 49601 (Must be postmarked by midnight February 1, 2023)

If you have any questions send email Debra Belcher at editor23.psm@gmail.com. We are looking forward to reading your work!

We are also seeking cover photo submissions.

We have become aware of the wealth of artistic talent beyond poetry among our membership. We would love to include your artwork, painting, drawing, pottery, quilting, stained glass, even doodles or simple line drawings for chapter pages! Please send jpg photos of your work so we can make a collage or quilt style cover and headings for chapters. Email to editor23.psm@gmail.com

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

READ ME!

October was PSM annual membership renewal month. BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE. Members who renew (or join) by the end of December 2022 will be included on the 2023 roster submitted to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS), which allows PSM Members participation in and/or discounts on all the national contests. Membership dues are only \$30 per person per year. In addition to membership in the NFSPS and quarterly copies of its *Strophes* Newsletter, PSM membership provides quarterly copies of our *PSM Newsletter*, as well as copies of our distinguished poetry journal *Peninsula Poets* printed twice a year. That's quite a bargain! Mail your check today to the address below.

2023 Dues
c/o PSM Treasurer
Box 1035
Cadillac, MI 49601

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

Deb Belcher, Membership Coordinator

My Kind of Snow

It snowed last night and when I woke,
a world of white I found.
The fluffy stuff clung to the trees
and blanketed the ground.

But by the time I had to leave,
what joy! It made my day.
The snow upon the drive and street
had melted all away.

Betty J. Van Ochten

NOTES from UP North

Superior Voyage, the 10-year anthology of the **Marquette Poets Circle** held a book launch on October 18, 2022, at the Peter White Public Library in Marquette. Profits from book sales were donated to the library. Readings from the launch can be viewed on the library's YouTube channel at: <https://youtu.be/MTnHJAxSp3Q>. Books can be ordered at the Gordon Publications website: <https://gordonpublications.org/>

The **Marquette Poets Circle** decorated a POETREE in the **Peter White Library Winter Wonderland Walk** with images of *Superior Voyage*, QR links to Gordon Publications, and lots of tinsel.



The December **Open Mic and Potluck** will be on **Dec. 14th** in the **Marquette Regional History Center**. Contact **Janeen Rastall** (janeenpergrin@gmail.com) for details.

Congratulations to **Beverly Matherne** on the following publications and readings: "Fusion," "The Gift," "Dear Greta Thunberg," "Dear Karen," and "Were-coon," in *Superior Voyage* (Gordon Publications, 2022). "From Mighty Muddy to Big-Sea-Water," a prose poem, on the Dylan Thomas Day website (dylanday2022.jimdofree.com/) and "The Gift," in *Verbal Art: A Global Journal Devoted to Poets and Poetry* (2021) Vol.5, Issue 1. Matherne's readings included Bethany Lutheran Church, November 8, 2022; participation in the launch of *Superior Voyage*, at Peter White Public Library, Oct. 18, 2022; and participation in the Judith Minty Yellow Dog Journal Celebration, in Presque Isle Park, sponsored by Peter White Public Library and the Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate Foundation, August 15, 2022. Matherne read Minty's poem "Fall."

U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation News

Applications are currently being accepted for the next U.P. Poet Laureate. The required application form and additional information are available on the U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation website: <https://uppoetlaureate.org/>. The submission deadline is January 15, 2023.

The **Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate Foundation** embraces the diversity of human experience and identity. All applications are welcome, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural heritage, socio-economic background, or physical ability. A review panel has been established of librarians, poets, and academics from across the U.P. to evaluate the applications and choose the U.P. Poet Laureate based on the candidate's qualifications, sample work, and references.

Give the Gift of Poetry through the U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation

Send your loved ones a unique and custom poem. For a \$7 donation, two-time **U.P. Poet Laureate Martin Achatz** will write a poem based on your prompts and send you a printed copy suitable for framing (Shipping costs included). To receive your personalized poem before the holidays, please donate and submit your request by December 15, 2022. Just fill out the form at the U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation website, uppoetlaureate.org/gift-of-poetry. The Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes poetry and the spoken word through public readings, workshops, virtual events, and digital platforms. For more information about the U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation, please go to <https://uppoetlaureate.org/>.

Donations to the foundation can be sent to **U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation**, c/o **Janeen Pergrin Rastall**, 2100 M-28 E, Marquette MI 49855. As an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax deductible. The foundation is also looking for volunteers from all 15 counties of the U.P. who are interested in participating in promoting U.P. poetry. For more information, contact **Janeen Rastall**: janeenpergrin@gmail.com.

Lansing Poetry Club “Makes New Friends, Keeps the Old”

If you were ever a Girl Scout, you’ll remember that chant which ends, “One is silver and the other gold”—reminding us how friendships are the wealth of community. This fall, led by tireless president **Ruelaine Stokes** and a small but stalwart Board, the **Lansing Poetry Club** has been finding innovative ways to add to the treasure.

In **August**, we hooked up with the new bookshop in town, **Hooked**, (East Michigan Avenue) for a reading of our 2021 joint anthology with the **Poets’ Club of Chicago**, *Words Across the Water*. To keep our Chicago friends present in spirit, each Lansing poet chose one of their own poems and one Chicago poem to read. Turnout was overwhelming, and we ended up moving furniture to accommodate everyone.

In **September**, we found a new partner, the nonprofit **Citizens for Prison Reform**, and co-hosted a reading, “Just Poetry,” at the **Robin Theatre** in Reo Town, Lansing. But we did not neglect our old collaborator, **The Refugee Development Center**: we held a poetry and music fundraiser at the **University United Methodist Church**, which yielded not just generous donations, but a request to take the show on the road and perform at the **Haslett Community Church** in January. Would your church or community organization be interested in such an event? Just let us know.

November was **Indigenous People’s Month**, and we celebrated with readings by poets **Gordon Henry**, **Mark Turcotte**, **Zoe Johnson** and event organizer **Rosalie Petrouske**, who obtained a generous grant from the **Greater Lansing Arts Council**. The Gordon Henry poetry workshop scheduled at the Nokomis Center (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos) had to be postponed due to weather conditions, but look for it on December 10, 4-6 PM.

December will be rich in poetic gifts, with a **Poetry Potluck** led by former **Lansing Poet Laureate Laura Apol** and **Ritzenhein Emerging Poet Connor Beeman**. It will include an open mic, so please join us at **UUMC** (1120 S. Harrison, East Lansing) on **Sunday, December 11, from 4-6 p.m.**, bringing a poem and a dish to share! And for those literary types still looking for unique and

meaningful holiday gifts, books and poetry-themed cards will be available for purchase.

In **January**, we’ll launch **volume II of *Words Across the Water*** at **Everybody Reads!** (2019 East Michigan Avenue) on **January 14 from 2-4 p.m.** Join us to hear the poems, buy a signed copy and/or check out the unique offerings of **Scott Harris’s** community bookstore. Our yearly **Zoomed reading and open mic to benefit the Lansing homeless shelter Loaves and Fishes** will take place on **January 29, 4-6 p.m.** featuring local poet and MSU professor **Dr. Joyce Meier**.

More events will follow in the spring, so if you’re not already on our mailing list, just let me know and I’ll see to it that you’re kept informed. Thanks to all poets who take the time from their own creative work to be, as Ruelaine phrases it, “architects of reality.” The folks at the Lansing Poetry Club wish you all a joyful holiday season!

—Cheryl Caesar (caesar@msu.edu)

Snow is our word for snow

Undisturbed fields of snow, black piles of it
in parking lots, we love/hate our snow

but individual flakes, rococo doilies, float like blessings,
obscuring vision, whitewashing landscapes,

and mesmerize us into winter’s thrall.
No destination but this moment, no plan

but swinging from isobars.
Here at last a dusting on tabby cats,

flakes propped up by mitten hairs.
Drifts stand at dawn, revealing deer,

hide houses framed to hold a roof of snow.
Not caring where they fall, flakes descend

at different speeds or it could be velocity.
I don’t need to know the difference.

Elizabeth Kerlikowske

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Series

hosted by **Edward Morin, David Jibson, and Lissa Perrin**

Second and Fourth Wednesday of each month, 7-9 p.m.

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 at 6:45 p.m.

All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom.

Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

More info at: <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>
734.665.2757 crazywisdom.net

Featured Readers Winter-Spring 2023

January 25—Thomas Lynch's most recent of twelve books are *The Depositions—New & Selected Essays* (W.W. Norton, 2020) and *Bone Rosary—New & Selected Poems* (David R. Godine, 2021). He is finishing a novel which he fears might finish him. He keeps homes in Michigan and West Clare, Ireland.

February 22—Linda K. Sienkiewicz is the author of an award-winning novel, *In the Context of Love*, a children's picture book, and five poetry chapbooks—the latest being *Sleepwalker*. Her poems have appeared in *Prairie Schooner*, *Rattle*, and *The McGuffin*. She holds an MFA from The University of Southern Maine. LindaKSienkiewicz.com.

February 22—Hiram Larew is an accomplished food scientist whose poems find in twigs, leaves, seeds, and the night sky surprising wisdom and cause for gratitude. His poems have appeared in *Rhino*, *Ars Poetica*, *Innisfree*, and six collections including the forthcoming *Patchy Way* from CyberWit Press. HiramLarewPoetry.com and PoetryXHunger.com.

March 22 – Linda Nemec Foster is author of twelve poetry collections including *The Blue Divide* and *The Lake Michigan Mermaid* (a Michigan Notable Book). *Bone Country* is her forthcoming collection of prose poems and flash fiction. Linda was the first Poet Laureate of Grand Rapids and founder of the Contemporary Writers Series at Aquinas College.

April 26—Dan Bellm (Berkeley, CA) has published five books of poems, including *Counting* (2023), *Deep Well* (2017), and *Practice* (2008). His recent translations include *Central American Book of the Dead*, by Balam Rodrigo (2023), *Speaking in Song*, by Pura López Colomé (2017), and *The Song of the Dead*, by Pierre Reverdy (2016).

Participants Who Talk with All 5 Characters Will Get a Prize

—Local Ad

Charlie's Farm Market runs a live nativity—Joseph, Mary, a shepherd (with three sheep), one king (who speaks of the storied star), and a haloed angel singing *Away in a Manger*—each marking my receipt as proof we spoke, and so I receive a donut I then divide with the donkey, its muzzle soft as baby's skin against my hand.

Jane Wheeler

Springfed Arts Winter Workshops

Poetry Workshop with Kelly Fordon:

Online Zoom Workshops, Wednesdays, February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15 & 22, 3–5 p.m. This poetry class is for poets who are primarily interested in workshopping their own work and is geared towards those who have works-in-progress. Each class will include a short craft lecture, a prompt, and time for workshops. Register now at Springfed.org

Prose with Maureen Dunphy (Day Class):

Online Zoom Workshops, Wednesdays 3-5 p.m., February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15 & 22, Register now at Springfed.org

Prose with Maureen Dunphy (Night Class):

Online Zoom Workshops, Wednesdays 7-9 p.m., February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15 & 22,

The prose workshops encourage you to begin—or return to—that writing project of your dreams, be it short or long fiction, memoir, or creative nonfiction. Learn how to set writing goals that work for you and then discover the techniques that can help you achieve them. Share works in progress with a supportive group while you practice using the paths employed by successful writers. Workshops are limited to 8 participants. Register now at Springfed.org

Poetry Gives Meaning to Life

by **Ron Weber**

There are those who think I live in my own little world, but that's ok. They know me here. And here's something most of you probably don't know. This past April was the 25th anniversary of National Poetry Month. So, in that regard, I lift a tankard of ale in honor of poetry and the wonderfulness of the words that give it life. Confucius had it right back in 500 B.C., "Without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know human beings."

Poetry can be both tangible in terms of its literal definition and amorphous relative to its figurative capabilities and qualities. The figurative is the stuff of the truly creative writer in general, and the poet in particular. Poetry is figurative language focused in a way that is both expressive and evocative. Poetry is the crafting of words within the context of a message, the goal being to evoke the feeling of an experience for others, whether or not they were actually present at the time.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the words of verse. They were here long before the first marks were put on papyrus or the first symbols were put on parchment and the dawn of written communication began. The bard, the minstrel, and the storyteller preserved in verse man's history, culture, and heroes. They passed them on through memory and word-of-mouth to each succeeding generation.

It never ceases to amaze me that words can be arranged on a piece of paper so as to lay a soothing hand on the pulse of someone's sorrow and grief. Or words arranged in such a way so as to highlight someone's great joy and happiness. Poetry and literature convey man's stories of joy, heartache, hope, and despair and are one of the leading ways mankind turns knowledge into wisdom. Poetry helps us appreciate. Poetry helps us express. Poetry helps us grieve. It gives voice to our feelings and helps preserve elements of our humanity. Prose is knowledge; poetry is wisdom. What's the difference you ask? Knowledge is knowing that the true classification of the tomato is that it's a fruit. Wisdom is knowing that you don't put a tomato in a fruit basket.

Poetry is relevant and is not just sitting there on the literary mantel as an urn of ashes waiting to be spread on the sea of obsolescence. History shows that poetry matters and is braided to the hearts and expressed needs of people. Poetry meets our needs as they arise, no matter what the age.

As long as we hear poems at funerals, and we do, and share them in times of duress and great sadness, poetry is doing its work. As long as we hear poems as part of wedding ceremonies, and we do, poetry is on the job. The need within the family of man to share our emotional kinship prevails, and poetry is often our tool of choice.

The importance of poetry and the arts is a proven fact of mankind's history. I have yet to read of a culture that did not develop verse, music, dance, and the visual arts. Poetry and the arts matter because they are, quite simply, a self-evident truth of man's heritage. Poetry matters the way lovemaking matters beyond procreation. Poetry matters the way tears and deep human empathy matter beyond the sympathy card. Poetry matters the way cuisine matters beyond nutrition and the way wisdom matters beyond knowledge.

Poetry is the sovereign, free-spirited emissary for the conscience. It needs no passport or official papers to cross borders and traverse nations. It needs no more than a stone and the blank wall of a concentration camp to etch its message. It is a patriot to the human activism of the ages; a cornerstone to man's need to feel and share. Poetry remains a unique and vigilant confidant. Whether it's the incredible elation of childbirth or the suffocating grief of a tragic loss, poetry is there. Poetry stands with us!

Here's to poetry! Cheers!

(Note: First published by The Herald-Palladium in April 2022 honoring 25 years of National Poetry Month. The Herald-Palladium is the leading daily paper in the southwest corner of Michigan. Reprinted by permission.)

Art Talks Back at the Muskegon Museum of Art

Art Talks Back Prizes

Michigan writers are invited to write an original ekphrastic poem based on a work of art in the **Muskegon Museum of Art**'s permanent collection. Writers may choose between five pre-selected works of art. New this year, students in high school are also invited to participate and submit.

The contest opens on **Thursday, January 19**, and ends **Thursday, March 23, 2023**. It is free to enter and open to all Michigan residents' high school age and up. The contest guidelines, selected artwork, and the required entry form can be found on the museum's website:

<https://muskegonartmuseum.org/education/art-talks-back-poetry-contest/>

The MMA will host a **Writing Salon** to celebrate the opening of the Art Talks Back Poetry Contest on **Thursday, January 19**, from **5:30-6:30 p.m.**

Entries are due virtually no later than 11:59 PM on Thursday, March 23, 2023

Adult [ages 18+]
1st | \$200 + One Year MMA Membership
2nd | \$100 + One Year MMA Membership
3rd | \$75 + One Year MMA Membership
Honorable Mentions | \$25 Museum Store Gift Card + One Year MMA Membership

High School [attending High School]
1st | \$100 + One Year MMA Household Membership
2nd | \$75 + One Year MMA Household Membership
3rd | \$50 + One Year MMA Household Membership
Honorable Mentions | \$25 Museum Store Gift Card + One Year MMA Household Membership

Winning writers will be notified via email Tuesday, April 4 by 5 p.m. A **reading, awards ceremony, and reception** will take place on **Thursday, April 13, 6-7 p.m.** Prizes will be mailed if a winning writer is not present.

Questions? Contact **Heather Placko**, Curator of Education at hplacko@muskegonartmuseum.org

Hallway Altar*

**The old house where I grew up had a hallway telephone nook
With a wooden shelf recessed into the wall.
The nook once held the one-and-only house phone—
A candlestick phone with a mouthpiece at the top
And a receiver that hung off of a switch hook.
When you lifted the receiver, the operator answered
To place your call, discuss the weather, or ask how you were.
Eventually a dial phone replaced the old phone.
The dial phone was later placed on the end of the piano
Leaving the hallway nook empty until
My parents placed a statue of the Virgin Mary in it.
As you passed by you could, without lifting the receiver,
Have Mary place a call to heaven or discuss your day with her.
Of course, you always realized you were still on a party line.**

Jerry Lang

*Winner of the Travelling Trophy Spring 2022

In Other News . . .

Friends of Poetry (Kalamazoo) is pleased to announce the winners of the **Celery City Chapbook Contest**. State winners were **Greg Mahr** for his chapbook *Open Heart* and PSM member **Jane Wheeler** for her chapbook *The Pine Knoll Motel*. The local prize was not awarded this year. There will be a book launch and reading in the late winter; watch for an announcement on the PSM website and Facebook.

Mary Alice Williams' poem "Preventing the World from Being Blown to Smithereens" has been published in the anthology *Sunflowers: Ukrainian Poetry on War, Resistance, Hope and Peace*, edited by **Kalpna Singh-Chitnis** and published by River Paw Press. Available from <http://riverpawpress.com/index.php/projects/sunflowers/>

Several PSM members will be reading on **December 11, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.**, as part of **The Living Room Literary Series of the Detroit Writer's Guild**. The reading is a celebration of *The Art of Days*, **Jan Mordenski's** and **Sophia Rivkin's** 2023 Quadra Project Calendar, in tribute to Sophia. Michigan poets who contributed poems to accompany Sophia's original artwork for the calendar include **Jan Mordenski, Cindy Frenkel, Diane DeCillis, Ken Meisel, M.L. Liebler, Linda Nemec Foster, Miriam Pederson, Phillip Sterling, Alinda Wasner, Robert Fanning, Mindy LePere** and **Mary Jo Firth Gillet**. The reading will be held **live on Zoom and Facebook**. (Meeting ID: 857 6482 7076; Passcode 762245.) There will be a link available to download a free pdf of the calendar. For more information or to follow other activities of the Detroit Writer's Guild: www.facebook.com/mlleibler.

Members of the **River Junction Poets** are reminded that dues for 2023 (still only \$20!) are due by the end of the month. If you weren't able to pay at the Holiday Meeting, you can mail your check to RJP treasurer **Celeste Gerard**, at 492 Wilson, Hemlock, MI 48626. The first RJP meeting of 2023 will be **Saturday, January 28**, at 1 p.m. in the Zael Library Meeting Room.

An **Open Mic Poetry Reading** will be held at the **Saginaw Art Museum on Tuesday, December 7, starting at 5:30** with a Q&A with **Bonnie Lalley** about the *Circumference of a Garden* exhibition. For more info: www.saginawartmuseum.org.

Edward Morin's essay "'Lurk Late': A Reader's Response to 'We Real Cool'" was published in *Midwestern Miscellany L* (Spring 2022), a collection of essays on the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks. His "Say It with Irises" (memoir) appeared in *Making Waves: A West Michigan Review* (9/11/2022). His poem "Poetry Man" (a tribute to the late Larry Pike) was reprinted in *Ridgeway Arts Collective News* (22/16/2022).

Jack Ridl has poems coming in *Colorado Review*, *Poetry East*, *Good River Review*, and was featured on *Poetry Passages*. You can find out about working with Jack or sign up for his weekly blog by going to his website at www.ridl.com. Jack wishes everyone as jolly a holiday as possible.

Winter

Icicles forming
Huge fluffy snowflakes falling
Pond frozen over

Mary Ann Bozenski

Minutes of the Fall Business Meeting 2022* October 15, 2022 (West Bloomfield Library)

President David James called the meeting to order at 1:55 PM

Treasurer Susan Anderson presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of 10/10/22 was \$11,495. It was moved and seconded to accept the report. Reported income included \$600 in donations, and there was a brief discussion about how undesignated donations should be handled. It was moved and seconded to deposit donations into the society's savings account.

Membership Chair Deb Belcher reported that they are 195 total members with 13 permanent members. There are 114 members receiving all PSM correspondence and information electronically. As of October 15, 32 members had paid their 2023 dues and 148 still needed to pay. Dues are to be paid each fall and can be sent to Susan Anderson, Treasurer.

Deb Belcher, Spring 2023 editor, announced that entries for the spring member edition of Peninsula Poets will be accepted from 12/15/22 through 2/1/23. Since many members are talented artists in visual media, she hoped to collect some of this art to create a collage for the front cover of the spring edition.

Newsletter Editor Phillip Sterling reminded attendees that the deadline for submitting information for inclusion in the winter newsletter is November 27. He is also interested in receiving some short poems with winter themes for possible use in the issue.

Under New Business, President David James mentioned that he would like to possibly look at Interlochen as a meeting site for the fall of 2023. Several possible sites for the 2023 spring meeting were also discussed with a general consensus that the location should be in south-central Michigan.

David indicated he would work with Susan (Treasurer) to get PayPal set up to use for payment of PSM dues, meeting fees, etc.

Member Announcements:

Susan Anderson cautioned members to be aware of spoofing and spam that appears to come from PSM board members. Apparently, this is a problem with many nonprofits that list board members on their websites.

David again asked members to contribute to "Favorites" (favorite poems), which are posted on the PSM website. Past examples can be found online: poetrysocietyofmichigan.com

Polly Opsahl mentioned that the Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest deadline is November 15. She encouraged members to promote the contest by contacting teachers and getting students to submit their poems.

Pat Barnes confirmed that the next annual meeting of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies will be in Des Moines, Iowa and will be available via Zoom. She attended this year's conference and highly recommends it.

Ed Morin invited PSM Members to participate and support the work of Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle and Third Coast Writers Project, both of which can be accessed online and have meetings available through Zoom. Third Coast Writers is just one of ten National Writing Project groups within the State of Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.

Submitted by *Jerry Lang*, Recording Secretary

*Corrections and/or additions to these minutes should be submitted to Jerry Lang before approval at the Spring 2023 meeting.

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

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PO Box 1035
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Email: Treasurer.PSM@gmail.com

Website:
poetrysocietyofmichigan.com
& FACEBOOK

an affiliate of

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

Literary Locals: Writers Welcome

Coronavirus Alert! Confirm with Organization before Attending!

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.

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.

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle of **Ann Arbor** meets on 2nd Wednesdays of each month, 7-9 p.m., for writers' workshop, and on 4th Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. with featured reader(s) and open mic. All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom. Listing of featured readers: <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>
Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

For information about the many activities, gatherings, and publications of **Friends of Poetry – Kalamazoo** contact **Elizabeth Kerlikowske** (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.

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.

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

The **Lansing Poetry Club** generally meets once a month at different members' houses. For more info or to confirm a meeting, visit Facebook or email LPC President **Ruelaine Stokes** (ruestokes@gmail.com) or Board member **Cheryl Caesar** (caesarc@msu.edu).

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.