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# Poetry Society of Michigan



*"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"*

*June 2023*

## President's Message

I want to thank everyone who came to our spring conference in St. Johns. It was a great success. We were privileged to have **Alison Swan** and **Anita Skeen** as presenters, and to have a first-time attendee **Shane Ingan** win the Traveling Trophy Award.

I do have to make an apology. As it turns out, it's much more complicated to implement a PayPal or online credit card payment system than we imagined. We are a non-profit organization and exist based upon the energy of volunteers who donate their time, talent, and treasure to keep the Poetry Society of Michigan going. To implement an online payment system requires either a serious time commitment from non-paid volunteers or an expensive monetary commitment that we can't afford. I know I vowed in the last newsletter to move PSM to online payment, but, at this point, I have to retract that statement. I apologize for my naiveté.

We are looking at other possibilities.

Plans for the fall conference are in the works and will be publicized as soon as possible. Our hope is to host the event in the Interlochen or Traverse City area in October.

May you enjoy summer! May you enter the fall PSM poetry contest and submit good poems worthy of contention. May you live and write and experience life in its fullest.

Yours,  
David

PS: Given both the formal and informal discussions I've shared with PSM members during the last couple conferences (after the Self-publishing Panel from Fall 2022 that stirred a lot of interest), I'm offering on page 2 some thoughts I've had about literary recognition—what might loosely be called "fame." "The Benefits of Not Being Famous" was first published as a blog entry for Vines Leaves Press, posted in June 2017.

## The Benefits of Not Being Famous

by  
David James

Some nights, when I'm lamenting my "place" in the literary world, I begin to think about the benefits of not being famous. And then I begin to feel sorry for those writers of great notoriety. They have no idea what they're missing.

I can go to the grocery store, buy my six-pack of Miller Lite, eggs and milk, and no one recognizes me, no one asks for an autograph, no one stares at me and points.

I can write or I can refuse to write. No one cares either way. The pressure to "out perform" or "out do" whatever I did in a previous book disappears. Life trudges on without my insight. The world continues without my literary vision.

I don't have the hassle of flying first-class to Prague or Paris or London to take part in some international writing conference. I'm not ravaged by jet lag and different time zones.

I can wallow in obscurity and live a normal life, free from money and awards, free from accolades and invitations, free from throngs of crazed followers, free from that messy paperwork involved in book publication, royalties, speaker fees, and publicists.

I'm not called away to plush parties where people eat delicious food and drink good wine, gossip, tell jokes and stories about famous authors. I'm not obliged to attend lunches or dinners at expensive restaurants with other writers and critics and publishers who listen to every word I say, trying to interpret the subtext of my conversation. I can sit in my pajamas and watch the Stanley Cup play-offs with a bag of chips and some of that yummy French onion dip.

By not being famous, I have the humble experience of figuring out how to pay all of my bills each month without completely depleting my checking account.

Since I am not a famous writer, I receive no invitations to speak or read at conferences or residencies. No one wants me to teach at a low-residency MFA program. I'm not weighed down by my own huge ego, expecting people to love everything and anything I write or say or think. Instead, I am able to live quietly and write in fear and extreme doubt.

There are minor perks that follow those of us who have eluded fame and fortune. We try to take some satisfaction from those writers who walked this road before us, good people like Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. But the question remains: would I want to be a famous writer? After fifty years on the force, I don't think about it anymore. I join the millions of people who keep at it, writing without fame, without money, without accolades.

Like real writers, it's what we do to stay alive.

### Please Go Green!

Once again the USPS is raising the price of stamps. In August of 2021 a first-class stamp went from \$.55 to \$.58; in January of 2023 the cost went from \$.58 to \$.63; in July it will go from \$.63 to \$.66. Please consider "**Going Green**" and receive your newsletter via email rather than postal mail. Annually, we mail 4 issues each of *Strophes* and PSM *Newsletters*. At the upcoming raised price of \$.66 for first class mail, PSM would save approximately \$5.28 for each member who goes green.

If you currently receive newsletters via postal mail and would like to "**Go Green**" let me know in an email to [membership.psm@gmail.com](mailto:membership.psm@gmail.com).

Already a "**Green**" member? **Thank You!**

## Art Talks Back

Poems by several members of PSM were among the winners of The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** "Art Talks Back" annual ekphrastic poetry contest which took place between January 19 and March 16, 2023. A pdf booklet of the winning poems and the works that inspired them can be found at the museum's website ([muskegonartmuseum.org](http://muskegonartmuseum.org)) under the Education tab. PSM is a contributing sponsor of *Art Talks Back*.

### Winners in the Adult Category

**1st Place:** "A Grouse's Heritage Song," by **Samuel Vega**

**2nd Place:** "Mesostic (Landscape 1977-1979)" by **Chester Winowiecki**

**3rd Place:** "Spirit of the Spruce Hen" by **Robert Zandstra**

### Honorable Mentions (Adult):

"Bombs During English Class" by **Maria Rooks**

"Your Invention of Blue" by **Linda Nemec Foster**

"Stilled Life With Monkey" by **Amy Beth Edwards**

"The Hymn of the Village Church" [Sung to the melody of the 1867 hymn *Immortal, Invisible*] by **Victoria Everitt**

"Month of the Grouse" by **Jennifer Clark**

### Muskegon County High School Winners:

**1st Place:** "The Church of Memories" by **Landyn Kuberski**

**2nd Place:** "Charcoal Nights" by **Frances Kendziera**

**3rd Place:** "breaking up isn't embarrassing" by **Kendall Hibbard**

### Honorable Mentions (High School):

"Finding Security" by **Mahlie Miller**

"The Village Church" by **Bella Brown**

## 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 begins at 6:45 p.m.

**All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom.**  
Email [cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com](mailto:cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

### Upcoming Featured Readers

**June 28--Terry Bohnhorst Blackhawk** founded and for twenty years directed the InsideOut Literary Arts Project for Detroit students. Her poetry has won the John Ciardi Prize (for *Escape Artist*), the 2010 Pablo Neruda Prize, and a Kresge fellowship. Her fifth book, *One Less River*, was a Top 2019 Indie Poetry title. Her latest chapbook is *Maumee, Maumee*.

**June 28--Derek Pollard** is Editor of the Poets on Poetry Series at University of Michigan Press. A widely published poet, book critic, longtime educator, and workshop leader, he founded Constellar Creative, a creative agency that specializes in content marketing and copywriting. His most recent poetry collection is *On the Verge of Something Bright and Good*.

**July 26--Jack Driscoll.** Driscoll's *Twenty Stories: New and Selected*, won the 2022 Pushcart Editors Prize. His novels or story collections received the PEN/Nelson Algren Award, AWP Grace Paley Short Fiction Prize, Society of Midland Authors Award, and Michigan Notable Book Awards. He founded the creative writing department at Interlochen Center for the Arts.

**No reader event in August.** Workshop only on 8/9/2023.

## 2023 Westminster Art Festival

Poetry Society of Michigan members are well represented at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **Westminster Art Festival, April 29–June 15, 2023**, at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Portage. This annual event is a juried exhibition of art and poetry with an environmental theme, which changes every year. This year’s theme is “EcoWisdom.” Jurors **Karen Bondarchuk** for visual art and **Marion Starling Boyer** for poetry awarded cash prizes for outstanding entries. A full-color booklet of all the poems and artwork can be obtained at the church for a \$5 donation. The Festival’s **Closing Ceremony** will be held on **Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m.**, featuring readings by participating poets. Visit [westminsterartfestival.org](http://westminsterartfestival.org) for viewing hours and additional info..

### Awards in Visual Arts:

**1st Prize:** *Clouds Over the Big Lake* by **Martha Rosenfeld**

**2nd Prize:** *After the Storm* by **Dawn Edwards**

**3rd Prize:** *Restoring the Web* by **Karen French**

### Honorable Mentions (Visual Arts):

*Shattered Ecosystems: How We Broke the World*  
by **Cathy Germay**

*Michigan Harvest* by **Ann Marcelletti-Muray**

*Cellular Seasons* by **Lorrie Grainger Abdo**

*Our Mother* by **Aerick Burton**

**Committee Prize:** *The Wisdom of Trees* by **Tracy Klinesteker**

### Awards in Poetry:

**1st Prize:** “Settling into the Hush of a December Evening” by **Marsha Meyer**

**2nd Prize:** “Earth Borne” by **Christine Parks**

**3rd Prize:** “In the Woods” by **Kenneth Arthur**

### Honorable Mentions (Poetry):

“The Lass and the Locusts” by **Mary Doud**

“And I Feel Lighter Afterwards” by **Kathleen McGookey**

“Of Lemonade and Whiskey Sour” by **Jane Wheeler**

### *from Unsolicited Advice\**

But don't take my word  
For it—the whole thing  
Now has been written

(The scientists suspect)  
In the axons tingling,  
Myelin thickening, fat

Matter of your brain:  
Now (we've handled  
Then, so), what's next?

Oh yes, the whirlwind:  
Don't forget to cancel  
That appointment and

Remember to remember  
Your friend's birthday and  
Brush your teeth, pay your

Bills, work, don't  
Stop working, but do  
Get some fresh air now

And then, god-  
Dammit, you're gonna  
Die someday.

—Shane Ingan

\*Winner of the Traveling Trophy, Spring 2023.

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## The Printed Word

**Schuler Books** in Grand Rapids will be presenting *Body of Work: An Evening of Poetry with Emily Stoddard, Colleen Alles, and Kristin Brace* on Wednesday, **June 7**, beginning at **6:30 p.m.**, in celebration of their prize-winning books: *Divination with a Human Heart Attached*, *After the 8-Ball*, and *Toward the Wild Abundance*. More information about the event, the poets, and their books can be found at [schulerbooks.com](http://schulerbooks.com), under the events tab. Free and open to the public (though Eventbrite registration is encouraged for venue planning: <https://schulerbooks-bodyofwork.eventbrite.com>.)

**Phillip Sterling's** forthcoming collection, *Local Congregation: Poems Uncollected 1985-2005* is available for a limited time at a pre-publication discount when ordered from the Main Street Rag website ([mainstreetragbookstore.com](http://mainstreetragbookstore.com)). Of the book, award-winning poet Jim Daniels writes: "Phillip Sterling's poems have always blended a mastery of craft and precision with a deep, reflective awareness and insight and *Local Congregation* is certainly no exception. With humor, humility, and grace earned through years of paying attention, he shines light on the small moments until they glow with insight and discovery."

### One Speaks of Love\*

*for Jane*

Like soup, it is better the second time,  
having aged some nights or more  
in the dark refrigerator,  
contemplating cheese  
or the lack of an expiration date on eggs.

Reheated, it takes to air above the stove  
like a tennis ball thrown  
for an unrelenting dog, that doesn't think  
to lick itself, nor has learned the words  
for *leftover* or *gourmet* . . .

—Phillip Sterling

\*from *Local Congregation: Poems Uncollected 1985-2015*

## U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation News

The U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of **Beverly Matherne** to serve as the **2023/2024 U.P. Poet Laureate**. Matherne is professor emerita of English at Northern Michigan University, where she served as director of the Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing and poetry editor for *Passages North* literary magazine. The author of seven books of poetry, she lives in Ishpeming, far from Grand Point, her birthplace on the Mississippi near New Orleans. The recipient of seven first-place prizes, including the Hackney Literary Award for Poetry, she has done more than 350 poetry readings across the United States, Canada, and France, as well as in Belgium, Germany, Spain, and Wales. She holds a Ph.D. in Drama from Saint Louis University and M.A. and B.A. degrees in English from University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

As part of her duties as 2023/2024 U.P. Poet Laureate, Matherne will implement her U.P. Poet Laureate project, which will include visits to libraries and secondary school classrooms throughout the Upper Peninsula, promoting the art of poetry through interactive lessons and writing activities. Matherne will also be available for readings and workshops. Anyone wishing to schedule an in-person or virtual reading or visit with Matherne can do so by sending a message to the U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation on their website: <https://uppoetlaureate.org/>.

Since her appointment, Matherne has been done multiple interviews and readings on Upper Peninsula radio and television stations. She read her poem "Good Friday" at the Good Friday service of Bethany Lutheran Church, on April 7<sup>th</sup> and did a Fibonacci workshop and taught a class at Northern Michigan University on April 17<sup>th</sup>. As one of four poets, Beverly read in the "Kick Off" to the Great Lakes Poetry Festival at Drifa Brewing Co., in Marquette, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Beverly has several summer readings and workshops scheduled, to attend see details at *Coming Events – The Poet Laureate of Michigan's Upper Peninsula* ([uppoetlaureate.org](http://uppoetlaureate.org)).

## & Other News

The **Library of Michigan** announced the appointment of **Nandi Corner** as the **Michigan Poet Laureate**. Author of *Tapping Out* (TriQuarterly Books) and *American Family: A Syndrome* (Finishing Line), Corner, a native of Detroit, has won a number of awards for her writing and teaching in the Metro Detroit area, particularly for her work with youth as writer-in-residence for Detroit Public School and community centers. A complete bio of Corner and description of the Laureate program can be found at [michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/poet-laureate](http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/public/poet-laureate).

The **Downriver Poets & Playwrights** have a twice-daily TV show on Wyandotte Cable Channel 15 called POETRY FROM THE DOTTE. New Episodes air each month from almost twenty DP&P members. The show is hosted by **George Wylie** and **Dennis White**. Each episode is also shown on the YouTube channel *Downriver Poets & Playwrights Michigan*.

**Jack Ridl** would love to see you this summer! Among his activities: On **June 24**, from 10am-4:30pm at the **Ox-Bow School of the Arts in Saugatuck**, he's hosting an informal workshop titled "Here's What Matters." Any form of writing, from epic poetry to notes on scraps of cardboard, are welcomed. Lunch provided. Go to the Ox-Bow site, click on Art on the Meadow, then click on Writing to register.

On **July 26**, **Ridl** will be participating the **Michigan Authors Conference**, to be held at the **Grace Dow Library**, in Midland, **July 24-28**. The five day event features workshops and readings by **Jerry Dennis**, **John Mauk**, **Ann Marie Ooman**, and **Desiree Cooper**, among others. **Ridl** will lead a poetry workshop on July 26 from 1-4, and will be reading that evening at 7. The readings are open to the public. You need to register for the workshops. More info can be found at [gadmi.org/miaauthors](http://gadmi.org/miaauthors).

On **July 27, at 7 p.m.**, Jack will be reading as part of the UU Detroit "Vespers" series, via Zoom. Poetry and recorded music by **Ralph McTell**, **Carrie Newcomer**, **Kate Wolf**, **John Denver**, **Judy Collins** & more. For link info contact **Nancy Owens Nelson** at [nelnan@aol.com](mailto:nelnan@aol.com).

**Jane Mayes** has announced the post-pandemic iteration of "Bards of Bird Creek," a round-robin poetry-sharing at the **Port Austin Welcome Center** at the very tip of the Thumb of Michigan. Scheduled for **6:30 p.m. on the last Wednesdays** of June, July, August and September, everyone is welcome. In the area? Come and read a few of your original poems!

### Beach Man Lament

Once I *got around* in my woody and  
Danced  
To the *rock and roll music*.  
I shut down  
Everybody in *my little deuce coupe*, then  
Went down  
To *Kokomo* where

I felt  
Those *good vibrations* fading  
As I stayed  
*In my room* for a while.  
Then sailing  
Back home on the *Sloop John B.*  
I discovered

Daddy had *taken her T-bird* away,  
Being  
*True to your school*  
Was  
An anachronism, *Barbara Ann*  
Had married  
Along with most of the *California girls*.

And *Rhonda* had moved  
Leaving  
No forwarding address.  
Then I realized I had  
*Grown up to be a man*, but  
*Wouldn't it be nice* once more to  
*Dance, dance, dance?*

Now I can't even  
Hear the music  
Let alone go on a *surfin safari*.  
I just don't *Get around*  
Much anymore, and *God only*  
*Knows*  
Where the *fun, fun, fun* went.

—Jerry Lang

## Ode to a Metaphor

by  
Ron Weber

Remember freshman English when we all learned what a metaphor was and how it enhanced writing and contributed to the figurative language of literature? Me neither. I tended to be the one foolin' around in the back of the room.

But somewhere along the line, it did sink in. It's when a word for one idea or thing is used in place of another to suggest a likeness between them. For example, "the ship plows the sea," or "the lapping tongues of the lake ate away the shoreline." And it strikes me—as a card carrying member of the Lead Pencil Society—that a thin stalk of yellow-painted wood encasing a vein of graphite and topped with pink plug of rubbery eraser is a perfect metaphor for our current culture.

Ah, the lowly lead pencil! It never skipped, was always ready when you were to jot down the latest nudge from the Muse, and never stopped writing in the middle of taking frantic notes from the Prof in Creative Writing 101. Which you could easily determine by simply looking at the point to see how much ammo (i.e. lead and length) you had left. Not to mention how its companion—the little plastic pocket sharpener—provided piece of mind.

Ever notice the pencils they have now? They're made of plastic and are at least a third shorter than the original. They're still yellow but you have to rotate the precast pointed writing end in order to get the lead to peek out, and you never do know how much lead is left to twist out and use until it's too late and the last nub of lead comes tumbling out. Now what? You're sunk, unless you happen to have another modern "pencil wannabe" with you. Oh, and that plastic clip for attaching it to your pocket or a pad, if the material is thicker than a Kleenex, it breaks right off.

The good old wooden lead pencil. It was honest. It was forthright. It was unpretentious in warning of its own demise as the shrinking nub snuck closer and closer to the pink eraser, or your hand just couldn't grasp what remained as it softly whispered "Good-

bye." One simply grabbed another sturdy wooden soldier or two and off you went—confident, secure and fully loaded for the next challenge.

When was the last time a ballpoint pen was that reliable? More often the ballpoint would all-of-a-sudden (Aghast!!) stop writing at a most critical time! It just couldn't be, right? Impossible! After all, the clear ink tube in the pen showed it wasn't empty yet. To me, the ballpoint pen was one of the first confirmed warnings of the blatant dishonesty of technological convenience. A precursor to the woes of our computer age and on-line word-processing.

I hereby submit to all of today's writers—schoolboys and girls, family and friends, in-laws and outlaws, ladies and gentleman of the jury—that, metaphorically speaking, the lead pencil stands as a reliable and responsible example of what "the good old days" used to stand for in our culture. The ballpoint pen? A shallow trinket of early technology.

And now? Smart phones, driverless cars (Is a driver's license going to be obsolete?) and microchips tinier than a cell of my epidermal tissue, with each chip an intelligence quotient 80 points higher than my own... Not to mention AI! Oh, the humiliation! My car already locks the doors on me for no apparent reason. I bathe, I practice regular oral hygiene, I use deodorant, I wear clean socks and undies, but it still won't always let me in!

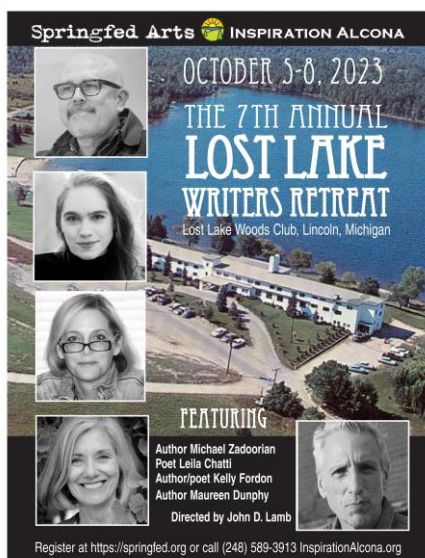
And don't get me started on iPads, Nooks, Kindles, etc. Reading "books" on these devices is tantamount to making love to a mannequin. They're hard, they're cold, and it's nowhere near as enjoyable. About the only benefit a Nook offers is that it will never complain about the bedroom ceiling needing to be painted.

A pencil is an honest tool, the perfect tool for writing poetry; it doesn't allow you to write in (deceptively) fine print. Sure I feel nostalgic. I have a hard time imagining the world without pencils. It's a world overrun with old people clinging to their plastic ideals, a world where indecipherable rap music will be the Golden Oldies. Egad, man!!



## News from Springfed Arts

Springfed Arts announces the 7th annual **Lost Lake Writers Retreat, October 5-8, 2023**, featuring author **Michael Zadoorian**, poet **Leila Chatti**, author/poet **Kelly Fordon**, and author **Maureen Dunphy**. All of the poets and writers attending will be our special guests. Directed by **John D. Lamb** at the **Lost Lake Woods Club**, Lincoln, Michigan. For more information and registration materials, visit [springfed.org](https://springfed.org).



### Springfed Arts 2023 Writing Contest

#### Poetry Winners

Judged by Eric Torgersen

1st Place: *If We Look* by **Melinda LePere**

2nd Place: *Love Enough for Now* by **Alexander Payne Morgan**

3rd Place: *Like Learning a New Language* by **Linda Sienkiewicz**

HM: *Lake Qarun* by **Nadia Ibrashi**

HM: *When We Talk About the Movie Casablanca, My Father Remembers Every Line* by **Linda Nemec Foster**

#### Prose Winners

Judged by John Jeffire

1st Place: *My Father's Hat* by **Nadia Ibrashi**

2nd Place: *The Way I See It* by **Lauryn Hugener**

3rd Place: *Erstwhile* by **Brian Drumm**

HM: *Learning to Ride* by **Mary Minock**

HM: *Cinderella Swing* by **Paul L. Bancel**

Winners will read their winning entries, **Monday, September 11, 7 pm at Royal Oak Public Library** (222 E. Eleven Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48067). Coffee and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

Rain pours through the roof of a silver camper,

two sleepers, their mattress, and into the earth below. It carries bits of their tissue downhill into Lake Superior where they become fish. The sun returns next morning. Silver scales glint into the eye of an eagle who glides across the water to catch a steelhead in its claws. He carries it to the top of a pine, tears off small pieces. Digested, they land on the windshield of a rusted F-250 heading down Highway 41 to the Odawa Casino. When the driver wins, silver coins pour out of the machine like fish scales.

—Robin Church



## Notes from UP North

Hundreds turned out for the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Great Lakes Poetry Festival**, April 23<sup>rd</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> at **Peter White Public Library**. There was a reading by Pulitzer Prize winner, **Diane Suess**; a reading and workshop by poet **Jonathan Johnson** and an art show and readings by **Marquette Poets Circle** members in conjunction with the **Prison Creative Arts Project and Nation Outside**. During the festival **Beverly Matherne**, the recently named 2023-24 U.P. Poet Laureate launched her new book, *The book, a bilingual edition inspired by the work of ten Cajun and Creole painters, celebrates Louisiana's rich heritage.* **Matthew Frank** calls the it "A brilliant collision of poetry, lyric essay, dramatic monologue, and 're-legending.'" According to **Cindy Hunter Morgan**, Matherne's "explorations of myths and legends are darkly luminous. Step into the bayou, and stumble out shaken ..." *Love Potions, Teas, Incantations* is available for \$12.00 from Harvard Square Press and Amazon.com. Signed copies can be ordered directly from Matherne ([bmatherne@nmu.edu](mailto:bmatherne@nmu.edu)) with an additional \$5.00 for packaging and postage.

**Russ Thornburn**, recipient of a National Endowment Fellowship and the first Poet Laureate of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, will be performing with **Dylan Trost** and **Gary Schils** during the City of Marquette Art Week. *Poetry on the Pier: A Concert of Original Songs and Poetry* will take place on **June 23** at 5:30 p.m. on the pier behind the **Hampton Inn-Lakeshore** (451 S. Lakeshore Dr., Marquette). Congratulations to Thornburn on the publication of "Something about Eighteen and Goose Lake Festival Where I Saw the Flying Burrito Brothers Play" in *Plainsongs* (Spring/Summer 2023, Corpus Callosum Press) and on his forthcoming collection: *Let It Be Told in a Single Breath* to be published by Cornerstone Press (Stevens Point, Wisconsin) in January 2024.

*Using Art to Make Art*, a series of workshops with **Cindy Hunter Morgan**, will take place **June 26-June 30** at **Hessel School House**, an arts and nature learning center (3206 Cedar St., Hessel, MI). Workshops include erasure poetry, history and word play, letter writing, and compression (flash). For more info visit [hesselschoolhouse.org](http://hesselschoolhouse.org).

## A CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS for a POETRY ANTHOLOGY that CELEBRATES the U.P.

**Raymond Luczak**, a Yooper native (from Ironwood and Houghton) and author/editor of 30 books, is seeking work for a new poetry anthology about experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.), which Modern History Press (MHP) will publish in the summer of 2024. Since 2017, MHP has published 28 books in multiple genres about the U.P. and is becoming known as a powerhouse press in the region. **Luczak's** own canon includes *Compassion*, *Michigan: The Ironwood Stories*, *Chlorophyll: Poems about Michigan's Upper Peninsula* and autobiographical works about growing up in the U.P., with titles such as *Assembly Required* and *once upon a twin*.

### Submission guidelines:

- Submit new poems of any length up to 12 pages. Reprints may be considered with proper credits noted, but new work is preferred.
- The submission should be in an MS Word-compatible file (.rtf, .doc, or .docx). No PDFs, please.
- In two to three sentences, please summarize your relationship to the U.P., including when and where you lived.
- In some discernible way, your poems should primarily focus on the experience of being a Yooper, whether in the past or currently. A goal of the anthology is to look beyond the well-recognized natural beauty of the U.P. and include the experience of rural and town life.
- Members of marginalized communities are \*highly encouraged\* to share work about their own Yooper experiences!
- Include a bio of up to 100 words, mentioning something about growing up Yooper and/or living currently in the U.P.
- Deadline is **December 31, 2023**. Early submissions are encouraged.

Accepted poets will receive two contributor's copies in paperback with the option to purchase unlimited copies at half-off suggested retail price. A pro forma contributor's agreement must be completed by all accepted poets.

Accepted works will be made available in paperback, hardcover, eBook and audiobook editions worldwide. The publisher will provide copies to the U.P. library system as well.

Submissions and questions should be addressed directly to the collection's editor, **Raymond Luczak**, at [yooperpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:yooperpoetry@gmail.com).

**BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN HELD AT THE AGROLIQUID CONFERENCE CENTER, ST. JOHNS, MICHIGAN, APRIL 22, 2023\***

President David James called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM

Meeting Minutes from the October 15, 2022, PSM Meeting were distributed to attendees in their meeting packets. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Susan Anderson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. The balance as of 4/14/2023 was \$11,722. A \$600 donation was moved into the savings account as approved at the October 2022 meeting. It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

Jerry Lang thanked the PSM for its continuing support of the Muskegon Museum of Art's Art Talks Back ekphrastic poetry contest now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year.

Membership Chair, Deb Belcher reported that there are 163 total members with 13 permanent members. There are 97 members receiving all PSM correspondence and information electronically and 66 members receiving Society information by mail. Dues are to be paid each fall and can be sent to Susan Anderson, Treasurer. Member names must be sent to NFSPS by March 1 of each year. Deb said that she receives many inquiries about using PayPal and she felt that membership could grow substantially (50%) if PSM started having PayPal as a payment option.

Deb was editor of the Spring Peninsula Poets, and she enjoyed it very much. Sixty-one members sent in 174 poems in the competition. Sixty-three poems were published in Pen Poets. Seventeen members also submitted photographs for the front and back cover collage used on the publication.

Susan Anderson mentioned that PayPal charges 2% of the total charge of a purchase, plus a small transaction fee. Deb Belcher suggested that rather than raising membership rates (currently \$30/yr and book rates of \$6/yr) across the board, the additional PayPal charge could be offset by charging non-members higher rates than members, particularly the contest fees. David James said this would be taken up by the Board.

Phillip Sterling reminded attendees that the deadline for submitting information for inclusion in the June newsletter May 28.

Diana Hart, who was not present at the meeting, will be the editor of the fall Peninsula Poetry collection. Specifics concerning judges, copyediting, etc. were not available. Members are encouraged to send fall-related photos for

inclusion in the cover of the fall Pen Poets. Eric Torgersen said he had some input for Diane concerning the Chancellor's Prize. Diana has created a separate email for submissions to the fall publication: [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com)

Former PSM member Li Tien died March 10, 2023 of Parkinson's. David James read one of his poems in commemoration – "No Rain, No Rainbow."

Inge Kyler, PSM Historian, also read a poem from a book by Don Henkel. Don died last year. He always read his poems by heart.

Ed Morin and Inge mentioned that a copy of any poetry books/chapbooks published by members should be sent to Central Michigan University Library (Clarke?) for archiving. The library has a fairly comprehensive collection of PSM-related published material. The Library of Michigan would also like to have copies of similar material.

Jerry Lang mentioned that Julie George was critically ill.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Submitted by *Jerry Lang*, Recording Secretary

*\*For membership approval at Fall Meeting 2023. Corrections or emendations should be sent to [jerry.lang61@comcast.net](mailto:jerry.lang61@comcast.net) prior to the meeting.*

July Prayer

May our souls burn with love  
greeting all comers,  
like fireflies sparking up,  
joyful in the dusk,  
faith-filled through the night.

—Lissa Perrin

## PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition

Summarized guidelines. For complete guidelines visit [poetrysocietyofmichigan.org](http://poetrysocietyofmichigan.org), PSM on Facebook, or email [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com)

- Call for Submissions opens **June 1, 2023**
- **Poems and fees must be received by August 1, 2023 [no exceptions!]**

### FORMAT (read carefully):

- Email poems, all in one file please, to [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com). **NOTE: new email this year!**
- No previously published poems, including on social media.
- Submit **only one** copy of each poem, **all in one file**, one poem per page. Include your contact information on each poem, and the category number. Word document, Times New Roman, size 12 type. **\*\*NO PDFs\*\***
- If you do not have email, please mail hard copies to PSM Contest Edition, 5325 Chickadee Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. **Same format as email:** one poem per page, with contact information on each, Times New Roman, size 12 type. Include a SASE for notification.
- Please visit [poetrysocietyofmichigan.com](http://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com) for membership details. *You do not have to be a member of PSM to enter.*
- Questions? Contact Diana Hart at [psmppcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psmppcontest@gmail.com).

### Entry Fees and Submission Guidelines

Submit only 1 poem per category. You may submit to multiple categories.

#### Categories 1 and 8:

Members: \$4 per poem, per category  
Non-Members: \$6 per poem, per category

#### Categories 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10:

Members: \$2 per poem, per category  
Non-Members: \$4 per poem, per category

**Checks** must be made out to: **Poetry Society of Michigan** and mailed to:

PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition  
c/o Diana Hart  
5325 Chickadee Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

#### Category 1: Margo LaGattuta Memorial Award

In 2011 **Margo LaGattuta** was posthumously named the first Honorary Chancellor for PSM. The category is sponsored by Polly Opsahl and Friends of Margo. Any subject, any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25

#### Category 2: Chancellor's Prize

**The Chancellor's Prize:** A poem of fourteen lines or less, on any subject, by a poet who has not published a full-length book of poems (self-published books excepted). Sponsored by Honorary Chancellor Eric Torgersen.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$75, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25

#### Category 3: Founder's Prize

**The Founder's Prize** is sponsored by Susan Anderson, in honor of her grandfather Clifford Allen, one of the founding members of the Poetry Society of Michigan, for a poem in any style about Michigan.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

#### Category 4: The Barbara Sykes Memorial Humorous Poem

**Barbara Sykes** loved to write humorous poems. The award is sponsored by her niece, Patricia Barnes, for a humorous poem in any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

#### Category 5: George Dila Memorial Prose Poem

**George Dila** was a beloved award-winning writer of fiction and poetry and the founder of Ludington Visiting Writers. The award is sponsored by Phillip Sterling for a prose poem, any subject.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

#### Category 6: Nature – The Jude P. Dunbar Memorial Prize

A poem in any style about Nature. The award is sponsored by Melanie Dunbar, in honor of her father.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25

#### Category 7: Love

A poem in any style about Love.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

#### Category 8: Music - The Faruq Z. Bey Award for Writing or Poetry related to Music

This award is sponsored by the Detroit Writers' Guild (DWG) in honor of the great jazz saxophonist Faruq Z. Bey. Any form.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$50, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$25

#### Category 9: Loss

This award is sponsored by George Wylie. A poem in any style about Loss.  
Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$35, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

#### Category 10: Women and Science

The **Lucille E. Thompson Decker Memorial Award** is sponsored by Dr. Kathleen P. Decker on behalf of her mother. Lucille was born in 1927 in Grand Rapids and had a distinguished academic and professional career before retiring as a Senior Associate Editor in the Biochemistry Department at Chemical Abstracts Services. Prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> - \$50, 2<sup>nd</sup> - \$35, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$15

## 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

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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 with featured reader(s) and open mic. All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom. Listing of featured readers: <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>. Email [cwcircle@gmail.com](mailto:cwcircle@gmail.com) for Zoom link

For information about the many activities and gatherings of **Friends of Poetry—Kalamazoo**, 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 host a round-robin poetry reading at the **Port Austin Welcome Center** at 6:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month, June through September. Everyone welcome. 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

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.

**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 **Lansing Poetry Club** generally meets once a month at a different member’s house. For more info or to confirm a meeting, visit Facebook or email LPC President Ruelaine Stokes ([ruestokes@gmail.com](mailto:ruestokes@gmail.com)) or Board member Cheryl Caesar ([caesarc@msu.edu](mailto:caesarc@msu.edu)).