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2024**

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Patricia Barnes

Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

June 2024

President's Message

Dear Poetry Lovers:

I want to begin by thanking all those who attended the spring conference in Muskegon and especially those who helped to make the day a success.

The Poetry Society of Michigan works because really good people give their time and energy to the organization. I, for one, am so grateful for that. And congratulations go out to **Jan Wieszorek** for winning the spring conference **Traveling Trophy Award!**

Our new Honorary Chancellor is **Patricia Barnes**, a long-time member and prize-winning poet and visual artist. Pat's first book, *Cup of Home*, was published by Kelsay Books. We are excited to have Pat in this position; she will officially begin her two-year term at the fall conference, taking over for **Eric Torgersen** who we thank for his years of service.

We have a richness of opportunities for poets coming up! We have the **Julia George Memorial Poetry Contest**, honoring our colleague and friend who passed away last year. The prize money comes from donations given in her memory. We also have the PSM Contests opening June 1st with ten categories. Be sure to read the guidelines in this newsletter and get those poems submitted!

Over my career, I have found inspiration in philosophical writings, using quotes as epigrams for poems.

Here is a prompt about making a poem from something fairly mundane. Soren Kierkegaard wrote...

"Above all, do not lose your desire to walk. Every day, I walk myself into a state of well-being and walk away from every illness. I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. But by sitting still, and the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill. Thus, if one just keeps on walking, everything will be all right."

~from *The Essential Kierkegaard*

Write about a habit or routine or superstition you enjoy/love and describe what it provides to you. How does it help you? How does it save your life?

Enjoy the blossoming summer. May your poems grow like wildflowers.

Poetically yours,
David James

Calls for Submissions

Submit your poems by postmark **June 30** to the **NAOMI CHERKFSKY MEMORIAL CONTEST**
 Subject & Form: Poet's Choice. Line Limit: 40.
 Prizes: **\$50 for 1st, \$30 for 2nd, \$20 for 3rd place.**
 Entries must **not** have **won any previous contest nor** have been **published**. Entry fee: **\$3/entry (one poem)**. Check payable to **M.S.P.S., Inc.**
 Mail **2 copies of each entry** (one with name, address, email; one with no ID) and check to Contest Chair. **Roberta Hung, 22 Salisbury Rd. Wakefield, MA 01880** Enclose SASE for a Winners' List.

The **2024 One Page Poetry** contest is now open and accepting entries. One Page Poetry is dedicated to the art of expressing a poetic theme on a single page, whether your poem is four lines or forty, whether yours is a love poem, inspirational poem, philosophical poem, or just one that is fun or whimsical. We welcome any and all poetic forms, as long as they fit on a single page. The **One Page Poetry Anthology 2023**, featuring the top 100 poems, reached #1 on Amazon's poetry anthology list. All proceeds from entry fees and the sale of our anthology go to our charities: in 2023, \$4,500 in prizes were awarded to the winning poets, with \$6,500 going to the World Wildlife Fund and Oceania. Submission guidelines and additional information can be found at www.OnePagePoetry.com.

In celebration of leap year, the theme of the 20th Annual **Voices of Lincoln Poetry Contest**, sponsored by the Poets Club of Lincoln, CA, is "Leap into Poetry." At least three winners will be selected from each of these five categories and published in a commemorative booklet: "Leap into Love," "Leap into Action," "Leap into the Unknown," "Leap for Joy," "Look Before You Leap." Open to all ages. You do not have to live in Lincoln. There is no entry fee. Deadline: July 18. More info and the required entry form can be downloaded from slolowe44.blogspot.com/2024/03/2024-voices-of-lincoln-poetry-contest.html or contact coordinator **Alan Lowe** at slolowe@icloud.com

Julia George Memorial Poetry Contest

Eligibility: **PSM Members**
 Theme: **Water** (lake, river, weather)—a prominent Michigan element
 Entry fee: **None**
 Deadline: **July 15, 2024**



To honor longtime PSM member, former president, and poetry enthusiast **Julia George**, PSM is hosting a contest, members only. The deadline is **July 15, 2024**. Because Julia loved lakes (especially) and other manifestations of water, the poems ought to consider those in some manner. One original, previously unpublished poem/entry per person. Judge **Margaret DeRitter**. Winning poems will appear in *PSM Newsletter* (September) and Fall 2024 *Peninsula Poets*.

First Place: \$150 Second: \$100 Third: \$50
 HM: \$20

Send entries by email with 'Julia George Poem' in the subject line to mme642@aol.com. Or by snail mail (postmarked by July 10), to Julia George Contest, 2423 Russet Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Art Talks Back

Poems by several members of PSM were among the winners of The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** 2024 "Art Talks Back" annual ekphrastic poetry contest which took place between January 18 and March 14, 2024. A printable pdf booklet of the winning poems and the works that inspired them can be found at the museum's website (muskegonartmuseum.org) under the Education tab. PSM is a contributing sponsor of *Art Talks Back*.

Winners in the Adult Category

1st Place: "Framed," by **Maria Rooks**

2nd Place: "Vessel" by **Deborah Hochberg**

3rd Place: "Maybe, Mabel!" by **Victoria Everitt**

Honorable Mentions (Adult):

"Haibun of a Land I Have and Have Not Seen on a Drive I've Taken a Thousand Times Before"
by **Jenna Hoinke**

"Afternoon at the Shore" by **Phillip Sterling**

"Before the Big Lake" by **Jennifer Clark**

"avant-après" by **Kate Giffin**

"Where We Are" by **Kathleen Kennedy**

Muskegon County High School Winners:

1st Place: "Unfiltered Humanity" by **Melia Medendorp**

2nd Place: "Reflections from 30,000 Feet" by **Steven Sower**

3rd Place: "What I See" by **Levi Brown**

Honorable Mentions (High School):

"Generation Z" by **Teresa Enders**

"How to Live" by **Maya VandenBosch**

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 for Zoom link.

Upcoming Featured Readers

June 26 - Hedy Habra, poet and artist, will give an illustrated reading from a new ekphrastic collection—*Or Did You Ever See The Other Side?* Habra's collection *The Taste of the Earth* won the Silver Nautilus Award; *Tea in Heliopolis* won the Best Book Award, and *Under Brushstrokes* was a finalist for the International Book Award.

July 24 – Robert Fanning is the author of five poetry collections: *Severance*, *Our Sudden Museum*, *American Prophet*, *The Seed Thieves*, and *Cage* (forthcoming this year). His poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, and many other journals. He facilitates The Wellspring Literary Series and teaches creative writing at Central Michigan U. www.robertfanning.wordpress.com

No Reader event in August. The workshop will be held as usual.

2024 Westminster Art Festival

Poetry Society of Michigan members are well represented at the 12th annual **Westminster Art Festival, April 27–June 13, 2024**, 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 “Grounded.” Jurors **Conrad Kaufman** for visual art and **Anita Skeen** 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 13, at 6 p.m.** Visit westminsterartfestival.org for viewing hours and additional info..

Awards in Visual Arts:

1st Prize: *Our House* by **Dawn Edwards**
2nd Prize: *Chaco Canyon* by **Vicki Nelson**
3rd Prize: *I Will Carry You* by **Karen French**

Honorable Mentions (Visual Arts):

The Things We Bury, The Land Remembers by
Cathy Gerмай
Rooted in Nature by **Susan Teague**
Perseverance (or the Sidewalk Marigold) by
Shannon M. Dion

Committee Prize: *5th Year No Mow* by **Elizabeth A. Henderson**

Awards in Poetry:

1st Prize: “FYI” by **Janice Zerfas**
2nd Prize: “Phenology” by **Phillip Sterling**
3rd Prize: “Those Who Stay” by **Elizabeth Kerlikowske**

Honorable Mentions (Poetry):

“Pond” by **Gail Martin**
 “Worms and Dandelions” by **Nancy Nott**
 “Stalking the Holy” by **Christine Parks**
 “Decorating the Trees” by **Penelope Campbell**

My Father’s Cabin*

The cabin of my dreams is a love poem to my father, who often stood still, w/ his right leg far forward, as if stepping on the site, naming it w/ a footprint on high ground, choosing it to be a vista like Oxbow, its strata in the approach as horizontal, embedded, how its reaches across cultures & draws us into its family table, setting out salt & hard tack; & after a cold night, w/ stars thru the roof, my father rises early, spreads the kindling, & crackles warmth in us—so that if we could float love, we would choose to do it here in North Dakota, w/ clouds covering our imperfections, blurring our failures, color itself seen thru a filter that presses us close to father—absent that, a poem provides us love in miniature, so I cushion this overlook onto my palm, where dense-hair bison walk, & breathe onto trails as rough as marbled hair—we all rise in the love of a warm cabin to hear father say, *I was born a hundred years too late.*

Jan Wieszorek

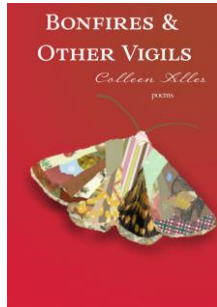
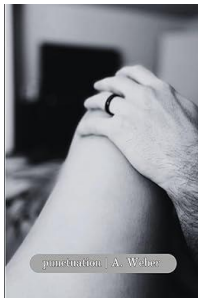
*Winner of the PSM Traveling Trophy, Spring 2024, the poem also appears in the summer 2024 issue of *Broadkill Review*. Reprinted with permission..

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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.

The Printed Word

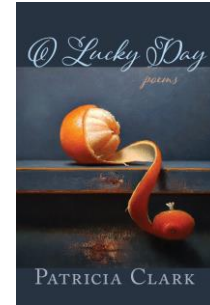
Anna Weber announces the publication of *Punctuation*, her first collection of poems. “Weber revels in her role as the leading lady in a real life rom-com in real time,” writes a reviewer on Amazon, “bringing readers along. This collection of poems gives insight into modern romance, marriage, and relationships.” Available on Amazon.



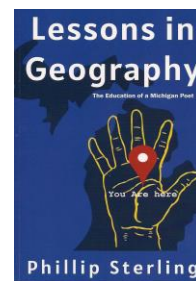
Colleen Alles’s new poetry collection, *Bonfires and Other Vigils*, was released by Red Rook Press in April. “Colleen’s poems take care of you,” claims Garrett Stack, author of *Yeoman’s Work*, “like any good Mother...They tuck you in at night, hold you against the faithless hours, tell you they’re glad you’re safe, how grateful they are that you’re still here. I can say that I’m grateful, too, for these beautiful poems.” The book is available from redrookpress.org. Info about Colleen’s other books and literary activities can be found at colleenalles.com.

Jack Ridl’s ardently anticipated new book, *All at Once*, is scheduled for release by Cavankerry Press on October 1. James Crews writes: “Jack Ridl is one of the most clear-eyed, open-hearted poets working today. His poems always exhibit what Dacher Keltner has called ‘moral beauty,’ that quality which keeps us in constant awe of human goodness. His latest collection, *All at Once*, is no exception....These timely poems remind us: ‘Here we must waken, roll away the stone,’ and stay open to each other and our world.”

Pre-order Ridl’s *All at Once* by July 15 and receive a 20% discount at www.cavankerrypress.org/product/all-at-once, with the code word “WITH.” (The cover is a painting by daughter Meredith, which Jack says is worth the price alone.)



Patricia Clark announces the forthcoming publication by Madville Press of *O Lucky Day*, her seventh collection (January 2025). The book “explores her concerns about family and mortality, silence and loneliness, widening to include losses in the natural world...” which “emerge along with an exuberance found in the sensual pleasures of taste and touch....These lyric poems of intensity and acute detail render the physical world in its tattered glory.” More information and preorder possibilities can be found at madvillepublishing.com.



Watch for **Phillip Sterling**’s new book, *Lessons in Geography: The Education of A Michigan Poet*, a collection of essays and memoir, scheduled for publication by **Cornerstone Press** in **August**. (With pre-order availability in July.) “Diverse in form, the essays are nonetheless unified in theme: how the geography of a place—the forests, shores, and lakes of Michigan—plays a role in one’s education, imparting knowledge of the wider, human world.”

News from Saginaw

The **Public Libraries of Saginaw** announced the winners of their **Online Poetry Contest**, celebrating **National Poetry Month**. Judges **Colleen Alles** and **Maureen Hart**, from the Friends of Roethke, selected “To the ‘Mute Swan’ As I Await My Test Results,” by **Jenifer DeBellis** as the winner in the Adult Category, and “Rebirth of Saginaw,” by **Harmon Signh**, as winner in the Young Adult Category. Two Honorable Mentions in each category were also named: “Empty Spaces,” by **Autumn Marcus**, and “Morning Catches Us Unaware,” by **Phillip Sterling**, in the Adult category; “Sometimes I Feel Like the Villain,” by **Emily Irene McGlynn**, and “See Me Be” by **LaShonda Green**, in Young Adult. Winning poems will appear in the library newsletter.

The June meeting of the **River Junction Poets (RJP)**—*who are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year!*—will be held on **Saturday, June 22**, at Zael Library. [Whether or not it will be a summer picnic was not determined at the time of this writing. Watch for the RJP Newsletter or contact Betty J. VanOchten for updated info: bjvanochten@att.net.]

Among the summer events sponsored by The **Friends of Roethke** are Open Mic opportunities, Book Club meetings (June 26 will discuss the poetry of Mary Oliver), lectures, and other activities, both in-person and online. Check friendsofroethke.org for a complete listing and additional information.

The bird bath surface
mirrors black and yellow image
of sipping Goldfinch

Betty J. Van Ochten

What Would You Give?

I would give my left nut for more time
as long as my brain cells still worked,
and I could walk, drive, eat by myself.

There’s too much beauty to see down here—
the lakes, mountains, birds, babies, sunsets
and thunderstorms, clouds, roses, lemon thyme.

Every morning when I wake and open my eyes,
a miracle walks into view, waving
or dancing, sometimes both. I want to be

that person, greeting the day with my arms
wide, a smile on my face, a rhyme
on my tongue. When I was young, I ran and jumped,

flipped through the days like a gymnast. Now, at my age,
time is the new currency, each minute, pure gold,
each week, a treasure. For as long as I’m allowed

to be here,
I hope to stare at the mundane
and see something divine.

David James

Please Go Green!

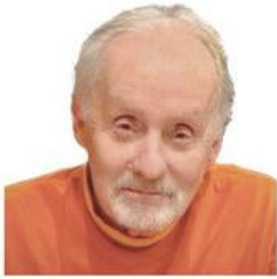
Once again the USPS is raising the price of stamps. *Please consider "Going Green" and receive your newsletter via email rather than postal mail.* Annually, we mail 4 issues each of *Strophes* and *PSM Newsletters*. Every member who “goes green” is essentially making an additional donation to PSM to support other programs and activities. 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.

Already a “**Green**” member? **Thank You!**

Deb Belcher

In Memoriam David A. Fitch

1947-2024



The Poetry Society of Michigan mourns the death of longtime PSM member **David Fitch**, of Lathrop Village. David was a retired civil servant for the State of Michigan and a prolific poet and writer, writing with warmth, sharpness and both gentle and startling insight.

Fitch was co-coordinator of the Southeast Michigan Poetry Meetup, a published award winner for the Poetry Society of Michigan, had a series of short personal memoirs on *The Good Men Project*, and has been published in a variety of poetry publications including *Peninsula Poets* and *Stick Figure Poetry*. [From the obituary]

May David's poetry live on as starflowers.

Starflowers

When spring starlight still pierces through
 The squirrel-ear-sized oak leaves
 We begin looking for star flowers
 Among the mosses and new fiddleheads
 Pushing through the dead oak leaf carpet
 Little clumps of tiny pure white flowers
 Peep through the detritus of leaves
 Once we see one, others come into view
 All in their completeness with seven petals
 Having been touched by the lights of heaven

Jerry Lang

& Other News

For the third year in a row, **Linda Nemeć Foster's** work was selected as a top ten winner in an international competition sponsored by *Fish Publishing*, a literary organization in Ireland. Her poem "June Wedding in the West of Ireland: North of Connemara, East of the Ocean's Waves" was selected by Billy Collins out of 2,160 submissions in the 2024 Poetry Contest. In the prior two years, Foster placed in the flash fiction category (in 2022, winning 2nd prize). An editor at *Fish* intimated that this "threepeat" was a record. "June Wedding" will be included in an anthology launched during a reading and awards ceremony at the West Cork Literary Festival in July. In other news, Foster's latest book, *Bone Country*, was nominated for the 2024 Pulitzer Prize in Poetry, and in February, she was honored at The Poetry Center in Paterson, NJ as the first prize winner in the 2023 Allen Ginsberg Poetry Contest. Two new books are forthcoming: *The Lake Huron Mermaid* (Wayne State University Press), in collaboration with Anne-Marie Oomen and artist Meridith Ridl, and *The Blue Divide* (a second edition released by Cornerstone Press). Foster's interview recorded in March for a major poetry project can be viewed at <https://www.lindanemecfoster.com/2024/03/linda-nemec-foster-interview-an-oral-history-of-poetry-in-grand-rapids/>

Zilka Joseph's book *Sweet Malida* has been recommended as a 2024 Summer Book Club selection by the Jewish Women's Archive. More information can be found at <https://jwa.org/programs/bookclub/bookshelf>.

Phillip Sterling's *Local Congregation: Poems Uncollected, 1985-2015* was a semi-finalist for the **North American Poetry Book Award**, sponsored by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The book is available from Main Street Rag Publishing (mainstreetragbookstore.com).

News from Springfed Arts

Save the date! **Springfed Arts** will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Lamb's Retreat for Songwriters with a **Backyard Bash** to be held at director **John D. Lamb's** backyard in Royal Oak, MI (627 Lloyd Ave) on **Saturday, September 14**, 6 p.m. For more info: info@springfed.org

Upstream*

If I say *think of a river*
and your mind
sparks alive
with the image of water

tightening a hairpin turn
so rough the waves cap
furious white at the top
it might be time

to take yourself
away from these worries
find a quiet square of land
take a long walk alone

as best you can. Listen
to the evening train
study all the weathervanes
any harbinger

of the burgeoning fall.
Step until the waters
are smooth. I know
you've heard you'll get over

this soon, that there are plenty
of fish in the sea. Speaking
of rivers, speaking of fish
it's unlikely they feel heartbreak

but I like to think
there are certain parts of any river
even the most stoic of salmon
refuse to ever cross again.

Colleen Alles

Springfed Arts 2024 Writing Contest

Finalists

Poetry (judged by **Dorianne Laux**)

1st place: "Like a Sheet in the Wind" by **alinda dickinson wasner**

2nd place: "Chosen" by **Rhonda Sider Edgington**

3rd place: "Sometimes" by **Jeremy Proehl**

HM: "Reunion" by **Jane Bridges**

HM: "Two Hours" by **Kathleen Fulgenzi**

Prose (judged by **Jacquelyn Mitchard**)

1st place: "Why I Set Fire to the Cabin" by **Hugh Culik**

2nd Place: "Real" by **John Jeffire**

3rd Place: "Uncle Greg's Camp" by **Edward Morin**

HM: "Blind Justice" by **Liza Young**

HM: "The Limits" by **Nancy Shattuck**

Winners read their winning entries, **Tuesday, September 17, 2024**, 7 p.m. at **Unity of Royal Oak**, 2500 Crooks Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073. Coffee and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

*From *Bonfires & Other Vigils* (Red Rook Press, 2024). Reprinted with permission.

Notes from UP North

The Peter White Public Library has announced the dates for the 2024 3-Day International Chapbook Contest, judged by **Diana Glancy**, who highlighted the 2024 Great Lakes Poetry Festival. The Contest will take place between 6 p.m. EST, August 31, and 6 p.m. EST September 2 (with final submission deadline of 6 p.m. September 3). Registration for the contest opens July 1 (pwpl.info) and is limited to 100 participants. Registration is free. The theme for 2024 is “Room for Love.”

Winners will receive:

1st Prize: \$500, soft-cover publication (perfect bound), 50 free copies

2nd Prize: Gift Card, soft-cover publication (perfect bound) 25 free copies

3rd Prize: Gift Card, soft-cover publication (perfect bound) 25 free copies

For updates on the contest and other info, check <https://pwpl.info/3-day-international-chapbook-competition/>.



Winners from the 2023 3-Day International Chapbook Contest, judged by **Diane Seuss**, include **Erika Kielsingard**, whose chapbook *Lamprey* was awarded first place; **Sam Moe**, whose *Animal Heart* took 2nd place; and **Kathleen M. Heideman**, the 3rd place winner with *A Brief Report On The Human Animal*. Winners participated in a reading from their chapbooks, as part of the Great Lakes Poetry Festival, in April, and their chapbooks were published by **Harvard Square Press**.

Harvard Square Press “exists to support the creative momentum of fresh and exciting voices in the literary world.” Additional recent releases from the press include *On Natural Things* by **Beth Roberts**, *When I Was a Fire* by **Ronnie Ferguson**, and *Jazzing with Bigfoot* by **Marty Achatz** and **STREAKING IN TONGUES**. For ordering and/or additional information visit (<https://www.harvardsquarepress.com>).

Begin the Dance

Summer days and nights
Together with a flourish
Their dance has begun

Mary Ann Bozenski

One Speaks of Dusk*

We should have known how light
beyond backyard trees would waste
to imprecision. We should have guessed.
Fathers, in particular, should have guessed.

We wash the baby’s summer neck
and remark how like white birch
the untanned part should be, how light
beyond our darker indistinctions.

Phillip Sterling

*From *Local Congregation* (Main Street Rag, 2023).
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2024 Call for Submissions PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition

READ CAREFULLY AND THOROUGHLY

- Call for Submissions opens June 1, 2024.
DEADLINE: August 1.
- Simultaneous submissions and previously published poems are not accepted, including on any social media.
- Indicate in your cover sheet exactly how you wish your name to appear in the publication if you win.
- While you may submit a single poem to each category (up to ten separate poems), no poem may be submitted to more than one category.
- Line limits: Category 2 has a line limit of 18 lines. Other categories have no line limit.
- Page limits: A page length limit of one page per poem is preferred, but poems may extend a bit beyond if necessary.
- Artwork is not accepted.
- Please read the requirements of individual categories and adhere to them. They are not all the same.
- Please check our Facebook page periodically for important updates. They will not appear on our website.
- Overseas entries are welcome; however, your poem(s) and fee(s) must arrive within the time frame described above. Payment must be in USD in the form of a personal check. No Western Union or other forms of payment are accepted.
- You do not have to reside in Michigan or be a member of PSM to enter. Please visit: <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com> for full membership details and a membership form to fill out and return with payment (to the Kalamazoo address), if you wish to join.
- Questions? Contact Diana Hart at psmppcontest@gmail.com.

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS (Strongly preferred):

- **Email subject line** must include your last name followed by 2024 PSM Peninsula Poets Contest.
- **In the body of your email**, include all the following, and only the following:
 - author's full name and current PSM membership status (PSM Member: Yes/No)
 - mailing address, phone number, and email address
 - a list of category(ies) and poem title(s) being submitted

- **Submit poems in a single attachment:** Microsoft Word file, Times New Roman, size 12 font, single-spaced with one-inch margins, and left-justified. No headers, footers, or formatted/inserted page breaks. Poems should appear in numerical order by category number, each poem on its own page within the attachment. Your name and contact information should not appear anywhere in or on the attachment. NO PDFs accepted. Each poem in the attachment should include only: Category#, poem title, poem, in that order.
- Send your email submission to: psmppcontest@gmail.com.
- **ENTRY FEES should be submitted according to the instructions (below).**

***NOTE: Even if your poems are submitted via email, your payment must be RECEIVED us no later than Aug. 1. Postmark mailed checks by July 25, to ensure their arrival by August 1. Late submissions (poems and/or payment) will be disqualified.**

HARD COPY SUBMISSIONS:

- Mail hard copies entries to **PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition, 5325 Chickadee Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009**. Same format as email: one poem per page (if a poem is longer than one page, print that poem double-sided, no staples), with only the category#, poem title, and poem, in that order, on each poem. Times New Roman, size 12 font, single-spaced, one-inch margins, and left-justified. Your name and contact information should not appear anywhere on any poem.
- **Include a separate sheet** with all the following, and only the following, on it:
 - author's full name and current PSM membership status (PSM Member: Yes/No)
 - mailing address, phone number, and email address (**phone and/or email required** – plus mailing address)
 - a list of category(ies) and poem title(s) submitted
 - SASE for notification of receipt of materials (if you do not include an email address).
- Include your check for payment of entry fee(s).

***NOTE: Your hard copy poems AND payment must be RECEIVED by Aug. 1. Postmark your submission with check by July 25, to ensure arrival by August 1. Late submissions (poems and/or payment) will be disqualified. Plan accordingly.**

ENTRY FEES and Payment Guidelines:**Categories 1 and 8:**

- Members: \$4 each
- Non-Members: \$6each

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

- Members: \$2 each
- Non-Members: \$4each

***All 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

***Payment in the form of checks in USD only are accepted.** Residents of AK and HI, and countries outside of the contiguous United States, should postmark submissions with payment no later than July 18. Moneygram, Western Union and the like are not accepted.

***If you are not a member and wish to join or renew your membership:** please include with your submission a **separate check** in the amount of \$30 for the annual membership fee, designated as such in the 'for' line of your check. Mail with completed form to the Kalamazoo address listed above. **If you are in doubt as to your membership status**, please inquire in advance of submission so that your contest entry fee is calculated correctly and postmarked by July 25. Failure to correctly calculate your fees based on membership status may result in disqualification. **Email Deb Belcher with questions about your membership status:** membership.psm@gmail.com

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: 1st--\$100, 2nd--\$50, 3rd--\$25

Category 2: Chancellor's Prize

A poem of eighteen lines or less, any subject. **Open to poets who have not yet published a full-length book of poems** (chapbook and self-published full-length books excepted). Sponsored by Former Chancellor Eric Torgersen. Prizes: 1st--\$75, 2nd--\$50, 3rd--\$25

Category 3: Founder's Prize

Sponsored by Susan Herman, in honor and memory 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: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$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: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$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: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$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 and memory of her father. Prizes: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$25

Category 7: Love

A poem in any style about Love. The award is sponsored by the Poetry Society of Michigan. Prizes: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$15

Category 8: 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: 1st--\$100, 2nd--\$50, 3rd--\$25

Category 9: Loss

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

Category 10: Dr. Lucille E. Thompson Decker Memorial Award

For a poem on Women and Science. Sponsored by Dr. Kathleen P. Decker in memory 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: 1st--\$50, 2nd--\$35, 3rd--\$15

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

Business Address:

PSM Treasurer
PO Box 1035
Cadillac, MI 49601

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

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 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 for Zoom link

For information about the many activities and gatherings 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.

Bards of Bird Creek hosts 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 **Marty Achatz** at machatz@pwpl.info or 906-226-4322.

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) or Board member Cheryl Caesar (caesarc@msu.edu).