

**Executive Board
2025**

President

David James
jamesfam3@charter.net

Vice President

Robin Church
rrchurch123@yahoo.com

Treasurer

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

Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Kerlikowske
mme642@aol.com

**Membership
Coordinator**

Debra Belcher
membership.psm@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

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

Webmaster

David Jibson
davidkjibson@gmail.com

Peninsula Poets Editor

Debra Belcher
[2025 Member's Issue]
springeditor.psm@gmail.com

Contest Chairperson

Diana Hart
psmppcontest@gmail.com

Historian

Susan Herman
Treasurer.psm@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Jerry Lang
jerry.lang61@comcast.net

Honorary Chancellor

Patricia Barnes

Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

March 2025

President's Message

Dear Poet Friends:

Though winter is here, we're already leaning toward spring, at least in our hearts. We have many developments to announce, including new payment methods and the spring Poetry Society of Michigan conference on April 5th.

First, we must give credit to **Susan Herman** and **David Jibson** for their hard work in adding online payment methods—PayPal, Venmo and credit card—to the PSM website! At long last, we can pay online for our membership fee, our spring and fall conferences, and, hopefully, for our fall *Peninsula Poets* poetry contest edition! We can even donate money to PSM. Please spread the word. We have joined the 21st century!

Secondly, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to **Inge Kyler** for her years of service to PSM, most recently as our historian. She has held nearly every leadership position over her long career. The Board has tapped **Susan Herman** to take her place, along with her current treasurer position, and I am SO grateful for Susan's dedication to the society.

Also of note, **Debra Belcher** has decided to give up her membership coordinator position after years of wonderful service. I thank her for all she's done and wish her well. We now are looking for someone to take her place; if you're interested in the position, are well organized and adept at using Excel, please contact me at jamesfam3@charter.net. We also are looking for an editor for the spring *Peninsula Poets* journal starting in 2026 and beyond. Contact me if you're excited about doing this!

Thirdly, I'm excited to announce our spring conference on **Saturday, April 5, 2025:**

Kalamazoo Public Library

315 S. Rose Street, Kalamazoo
(269) 533-7800

10:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m.

Conference fee: \$30 (includes drinks and lunch)

You can simply go to our website at <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com> and click on Membership to find three online payment methods for paying your conference fee. You can still send in a \$30 check to Spring Meeting 2025, PSM, PO Box 1035, Cadillac, MI 49601

[Continued, page 2]

PSM Spring 2025 Meeting

The Spring Meeting of the Poetry Society of Michigan will be held in-person on **April 5, 2025**, at the **Kalamazoo Public Library** (315 S. Rose) in **Kalamazoo**.

Go to <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com/> and click on **Membership** to find three online payment methods for paying your conference fee, or mail the form below.

10:00 Registration/coffee and donuts
10:30 Welcome
10:45 Traveling Trophy Reading
11:45 Workshop with Susan Blackwell Ramsey
(Bring 2 old poems for revision)
12:40 LUNCH
1:15 Workshop with Shonda Buchanan
2:15 Business Meeting

2025 Spring REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Email address: _____

Enclosed is my payment of **\$30 each** for me and my guest(s).

Guest Names: _____

Registration should be sent (or other arrangements made with Treasurer Susan Herman) no later than **March 29**:

SPRING MEETING 2025
The Poetry Society of Michigan
PO Box 1035
Cadillac, MI. 49601

President's Message (continued from Page 1):

For the Spring Conference, we have **Susan Blackwell Ramsey** presenting on revising poems. (*Attendees should bring at least two poems—earlier versions or drafts—that you'd like to work on during the workshop.*) Susan earned her MFA from the University of Notre Dame, has taught writing in high school, at Kalamazoo College and at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, among other places.

Our other presenter is **Shonda Buchanan**. Shonda earned her MFA at Antioch University, has published numerous books of poetry and essays, and currently teaches at WMU and in Alma College's low-residency MFA program. (Be sure to bring paper and pen to write with during her presentation!) More biographical information on both women is available at the PSM website under *Events*.

I'm excited about our spring conference and hope you can be there. I guarantee it will get your creative juices flowing. And it's just plain fun.

I'll end with two quotes from Albert Camus's essay "Create Dangerously" that resonate with me in these chaotic times. First, as a reminder, he says, "No work of genius has ever been based on hate and contempt." Secondly, and most importantly, he says, "Every great work [of art] makes the human face more admirable and richer, and this is its whole secret." Let's continue to search for this secret.

Yours,
David James

Copyright © 2025 All rights reserved.

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

Art Talks Back 2025

The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** annual ekphrastic poetry contest is in full swing. Between January 30 and **March 20, 2025**, poets are invited to submit an original ekphrastic poem based on one of five works of art selected from Museum's permanent collection, including Jonathan Thunder's *Supernaut and the Pollinators Return to the Sky* pictured here:



The contest is free to enter and open to all Michigan residents 18 and older, as well as to Muskegon County High School students. Cash prizes of **\$200** (1st), **\$100** (2nd), **\$75** (3rd), each with 1-year MMA and PSM memberships, will be awarded in the 18 & up age category. Student cash prizes of **\$100** (1st), **\$75** (2nd), and **\$50** (3rd), with a 1-year MMA membership, will also be awarded. Honorable Mentions in both categories will receive a **\$25** Museum Store Gift Card and 1-year Museum membership.

The contest guidelines, images of all five of the selected artworks, and the required entry form can be found at muskegonartmuseum.org (click on the Education/ *Art Talks Back* tab). Better yet, visit the *newly remodeled and expanded* Museum in person before the **March 20 deadline!**

Entries *must be digital submissions via Google Forms* (as explained in the guidelines).

PSM is a contributing sponsor of *Art Talks Back*.

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Series

Second & Fourth Wednesdays of the Month

hosted by

Edward Morin, David Jibson, and Lissa Perrin

Second Wednesdays, 7-8:45 p.m.: Poetry Workshop. All writers welcome to share and discuss their poetry and short fiction. Sign-up for new participants begins at 6:45 p.m.

Fourth Wednesdays, 7-8:45 p.m.: Featured Reader(s) for 50 minutes, followed by Open Mic. All writers welcome to share their own or other favorite poetry. Sign-up begins at 6:45 p.m.

All sessions virtual and accessible through Zoom. Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

2025 Upcoming Featured Readers:

March 26 - M.B. McLatchey

Recipient of the American Poet Prize from the *American Poetry Journal* and author of six books, including award-winning poetry collections, *The Lame God* and *Smiling at the Executioner*, **McLatchey** is Poet Laureate for Volusia County, Florida, and Professor of Classics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. www.mbmclatchey.com

April 23 - Shonda Buchanan

Author of the memoir *Black Indian*, and of forthcoming *The Lost Songs of Nina Simone* and *Children of the Mixed Blood Trail*, **Buchanan** is a California Arts Council Established Artist Fellow, a PEN Emerging Voices Fellow, and Oxfam Ambassador. A member of the PSM, she teaches English at Western Michigan University. www.shondabuchanan.com

News from your Treasurer

Hello PSM Members! We have some very good news to share: PSM is now able to accept payment online for our membership dues, conference fees and donations! This has been a project that we have been trying to accomplish for some time and we are excited that it is finally a reality. Please visit our website at <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com/> to learn more.

Also of note: as our Membership Coordinator, **Debra Belcher**, steps down from her post, I will resume maintaining our Membership and Meeting Rosters for the time being. Please address any questions pertaining PSM Membership or attendance of our Spring Meeting to me, at : treasurer.psm@gmail.com . We owe Debra a standing ovation for the work she has done in her role as Membership Coordinator and as Editor of our Spring (Members) edition of *Peninsula Poets* over the past few years. She has truly been a blessing to PSM!

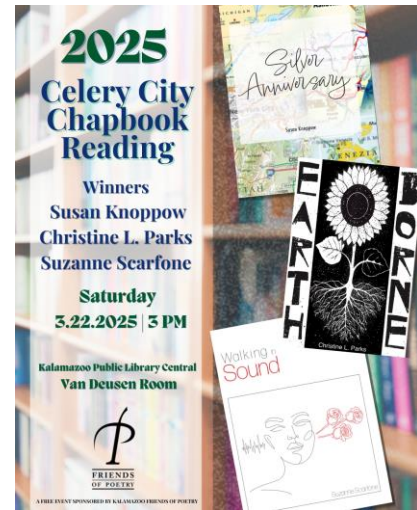
And be alert! Many members have recently received “phishing emails”--an email that appears to come from a PSM Board Member but is actually spam. Because our Board Member email addresses are displayed on our website and in our newsletter they easily appropriated by cyber thieves who present emails that appear to have come from the PSM President or Treasurer or other Board Member. These phishing emails will often be requesting that funds be sent to cover some expense. **Please don't fall for it.** *PSM will never request funds from its membership directly in such a manner.* Be sure the sender's address is correct and, if not, use the “report phishing” option that is available within your email options. (This might be found within the 3 little dots in the upper right area of the email.) We at PSM might send out an email or a postcard to remind you that dues are due or that it is the last call for conference fees, but any payments should always go to our PO Box 1035 Cadillac MI 49601 address, or now, as mentioned, may be paid online through our website. Be safe out there in the digital world!

Thank you for your support of PSM through your membership dues and conference attendance! I hope to see you at our Spring Meeting in Kalamazoo on April 5th. It is always a day well spent!

Wishing you all the best,

Susan Herman, PSM Treasurer

Friends of Poetry - Kalamazoo would like to announce that the winners of the annual chapbook contest are **Susan Knoppow**, **Christine L. Parks**, and **Suzanne Scarfone**. A reading to celebrate the chapbooks will be held at the **Kalamazoo Public Library on Saturday, March 22, at 3 p.m.** All are welcome!



Third place | noun: a place outside your home or work where you can relax and hang out

Third Place Poets started as a desire for a women's only space to share the love of poetry. We are a supportive group of women inspiring and empowering each other through poetry. We aim to evolve in our writing together by reading, sharing, and critiquing. We discuss our own writing, as well as that of other women poets (Diane Seuss, Sylvia Plath, Kim Addonizio, Emily Dickinson, etc.). We meet the **second Sunday** of every month, **1:00-4:00 p.m., in the Dodge Room of the Commerce Township Public Library** (180 Commerce Road). We welcome all women 18+ who have any interest in poetry. For your first meeting, just show up! We're very excited to meet you.

Further questions can be directed to:
thirdplacepoets@gmail.com

Notes from UP North

Milton Bates's new poetry collection, *Undivided Attention*, will be available in March from the publisher, Kelsay Books (kelsaybooks.com), or Amazon.



Christine Saari's new poetry collection, *A Stitched Life*, will be published in March, available from Harvard Square Press and on Amazon.

Kathleen M. Heideman's new poetry collection, *The Caving Grounds*, was recently published by Modern History Press and is also available on Amazon.

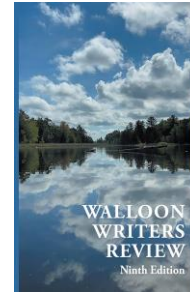
Gala Malherbe's new poetry collection, *Growth Rings*, was released by Harvard Square Press in February 2025 and is available also on Amazon.



Peter White Public Library will be hosting the fourth annual **Great Lakes Poetry Festival, April 21 -27, 2025**, in **Marquette**, Michigan. The Headline Poet for this year's festival will be **Kimberly Blaeser**, former Poet Laureate of the State of Wisconsin. **Jeff Kass**, author of *Teacher/Pizza Guy* and the recently released *True Believer*, will be a Keynote Poet. For information about other GLPF events, please visit www/pwpl.info.

Walloon Writers Review

The 9th Edition of *Walloon Writers Review* has been released and is on its way to bookstores. Order online at Bookshop, Barnes & Noble, and other retailers. Questions about Walloon Writers? Visit walloonwriters.com or email Jennifer (editor@walloonwriters.com).



Daylight Savings

When you sigh above an ashtray
don't be surprised at the ashes freed
to feed unpasteurized skies.

Gray rain squeezed from winter's sponge
drips on the yearlings. Fawns
begin turning inside does.

February calendar art perfect for the room,
between the gray and purple of '50's
grandmother hair, but the year trudges on.

A trapped squirrel curves his tail over
his head like an awning against the rain.
In the mud, violets, gnarled but optimistic.

The deliberate mismeasure of time
occurs Saturday. A month from today,
a solar eclipse. One of these is real.

Our eclipse glasses wait on the mantel
next to an old clock I'm unwilling
to reset. The forecast: more future.

Elizabeth Kerlikowske

& Other News

Denise Sedman was host to an Open Mic night at the Westland Library on Feb. 19. Guest reader was award-winning fiction writer **Dorene O'Brien**. Other participants read their poetry. This is a regular series, but the dates are according to the library's schedule. If you'd like to read at an upcoming event, please contact Denise at dasedman@yahoo.com.

Jack Ridl's poem "It's Often Time to Feed the Birds" was selected to close out 2024 by **Best American Poetry**. The concert of poetry and song presented by **Carrie Newcomer** and Jack was recorded and is now available on YouTube.

David James's one-act play, "Boss of the World," is being produced with seven other one-acts by Michigan playwrights at the **Ludington Area Center for the Arts** on **April 11** (7:30 p.m.), **12** (7:30) and **13** (2:00). David and Deb will be attending the April 11 and 12 performances (staying at the Best Western) and invite everyone to join the audience. If you're feeling like an early spring outing, this may be the one! It should be an interesting evening of entertainment and a possible respite from the ensuing political chaos.

Michigan Writers Cooperative Press (MWCP) is proud to announce the winners of our annual chapbook competition in the genres of fiction, creative nonfiction and poetry. **Helen Raica-Klotz's** *Superior Stories* is the fiction winner (**Bryan Gruley, judge**), **Wendy Gilbert Gronbeck's** *Gifts from the Edge of Life: Reflections of a grateful nurse* is the winner in creative nonfiction (**Phillip Sterling, judge**), and PSM Member **Jan Wiezorek's** *Prayer's Prairie* is the winner in poetry (**Tanya Muzumdar, judge**). MWCP received a number of excellent manuscripts, and we're thrilled to publish these winning authors.

The 2025 winning MWCP chapbooks will be released at a celebratory reading and reception on **Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 7 p.m.** This event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the **Writing House** on the campus of the **Interlochen Center for the Arts**, and kicks off the annual Writers Retreat. So please, mark your calendars! And join us to celebrate the work of these fine writers.

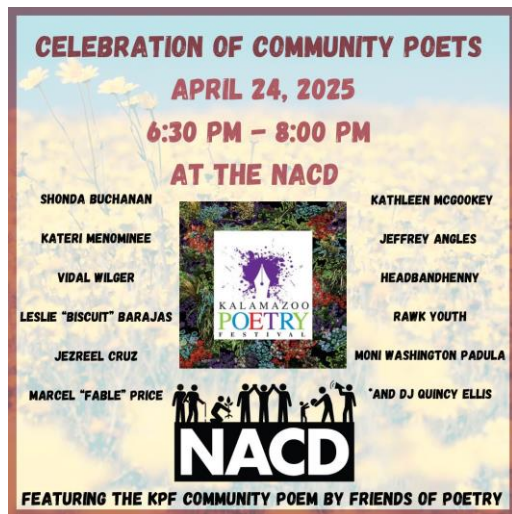
Did you see the most recent issue of *Strophes*, the newsletter of **National Federation of State Poetry Societies**? Two of the three top poems in the first members-only quarterly NFSPS contest are by Michigan poets. Congratulations to **Jennifer Patino**, whose poem "Blood in Winter" won **First Place** and **Carrie Cantalupo Sharp**, whose poem "ode to the elusive aurora borealis" won **Third**. The poems are printed in *Strophes*.

Greg Rappleye's fifth collection of poetry, *Barley Child*, winner of the **2025 Miller Williams Poetry Prize**, has been released from The University of Arkansas Press. Of the book, **David Kirby** writes: "Like the characters in all the best poetry collections—and this is one of those—the people who inhabit the 'blown-gasket town' depicted here are utterly different from you and me and also exactly like us. How is this possible? Through Greg Rappleye's unfailing artistry." Available from the Press and many online booksellers.

A new song by **Edward Morin**, "Bibi Speaks," has been performed by professional musicians and is available online in a three-minute video with illustrative photos, at <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/v14liluwqrj7rd77h18wk/Bibi-Speaks-Video.mp4?rlkey=if9e43k9loere33bzkwybvkem&st=zgnkerpa&dl=0>. The song is modeled after Eugene Field's once popular lullaby "Wynken, Blynken and Nod."

NPM at NACD

The **Northside Association for Community Development** (612 N. Park St., Kalamazoo) and the **Friends of Poetry Kalamazoo** invite you to celebrate **National Poetry Month** with them on **April 24, from 6:30-8 p.m.**, as part of the **Kalamazoo Poetry Festival**. For more info and to check out other Festival events, visit kalamazoopoetryfestival.com.



* * *

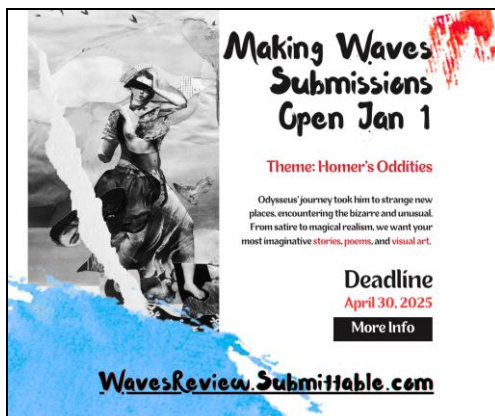
Call for Submissions!

Making Waves Fall 2025 Issue

Submission Period: January 1st - April 30th, 2025

Theme: "Homer's Oddities"

Guidelines & more info: wavesreview.submittable.com
or visit www.ludingtonwriters.org



Springfed Arts

Springfed Arts announces its annual Writing Contest in Poetry and Prose. Details can be found at springfed.org. This year's judges are **Linda Nemec Foster** for poetry and **Stephanie Steinberg** for prose.

2025 SPRINGFED ARTS WRITING CONTEST

Accepting submissions from February 15 — April 15.



Our poetry judge is
Linda Nemec Foster.



Our prose judge is
Stephanie Steinberg.

1st PRIZE \$150, 2nd PRIZE \$100, 3rd PRIZE \$75

Contest Rules

Eligibility: Open to current and new Springfed Arts members.
Membership is \$50 to join or renew.

Submission Guidelines:

- Prose (fiction, nonfiction, memoir): Double-spaced, 10 pages max. Excerpts allowed.
- Poetry: Up to 3 poems, no more than 5 pages total.
- Do not include your name on submission pages.
- Cover sheet (for both categories): Include name, address, phone, email, and titles.
- All entries must be unpublished, typewritten, and submitted as a Word document.

Submission:

Email entries to info@springfed.org by midnight, April 15, 2025.

Additional Info:

No application form is required—membership suffices. Winners will be announced in May and will be invited to a reading (details TBA). Join or renew membership online @ springfed.org

Spring 2025

Sun shines, moods brighten
Winter has left arena
New act to follow

Mary Ann Bozenski

2025 Westminster Art Festival



2025 marks the 13th year of the **Westminster Art Festival**, which will take place **April 26–June 12** 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 “**ONE PLANET**.” Jurors will be **Leslie Sobel** for visual art, and **Phillip Sterling** for poetry. Artists or poets sixteen years of age or older are eligible to submit. Poetry awards will range from \$100-\$300; visual art awards from \$50 (Honorable Mentions) to \$800 (First Prize). Visit westminsterartfestival.org for guidelines and entry fees.

About the theme (from the website):

Complex webs of interdependent systems keep us all alive; destruction or disruption in any part of those systems can have far-reaching and devastating consequences. To name just a few examples: Deforestation means poorer air quality. Human-caused climate change leads to drought, fires, and floods in countries whose contribution to the problem is minimal; plastic trash ends up far from where it is produced; habitat destruction threatens the very existence of many species.

What happens locally has global implications; what is happening on a global scale affects us wherever we happen to live.

We invite you to **CONSIDER** some of the many ways distant and disparate environments are connected; the need to protect air, water, and land everywhere; the disproportionate impact of environmental catastrophe on the most vulnerable; the common humanity that unites us, despite differences.

Poetry submissions are limited to one or two 8 ½ x 11 page (with minimum .5 inch margins). **Limit of two poems** per poet for 2025. Entry fee: \$15 for one poem; \$25 for two.

Poems accepted for inclusion in the festival will be presented in book form, accompanied by images of many of the visual art entries. Winning poems will be read at the awards presentation on **May 9**.

Poetry Workshop

Among the events scheduled as part of the **Westminster Art Festival** is a **poetry workshop on Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m. to noon**. Led by local poet and retired PNHS English teacher **Nancy Nott**, the workshop will take place at the church and is limited to 15 participants. Cost: \$20, and snacks will be provided. Call or email Janet or Jerry Duggins for registration info (address below).

The Westminster Art Festival is sponsored by **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Portage, with support from the **Beim Foundation** and the **Presbytery of Lake Michigan**. The Festival aims to attend to and celebrate the connections between “art, care for the earth, and faith,” yet participation is open to all artists and poets regardless of faith.

Questions? Email: jerryorjanet@wpcportage.org

Spring

When a robin arrived one spring day
He discovered to his dismay
The ground frozen too firm
To be pecked for a worm.
Next year he'll come back in May.

Betty j. Van Ochten

We Poets Have Lost a Good Friend

By Ron Weber

I want to ask your indulgence while I memorialize the passing of a very special friend.

He was my beloved mentor and role model for many years, and I know that he was the same for many people who came before me. During his life, he was referred to by many names and within a broad spectrum of circumstances but most of us knew him as Common Sense (CS).

I don't know how old he was (nor did he, for that matter). He told me once that his birth records were lost long ago in the bureaucratic quagmire of red tape and the regulatory maze of too many inconsequential requirements of Big Government, a situation that was layering so much responsibility onto smaller governments that no entity was small anymore. (Consequently, no one knows where the birth records of CS actually are.)

Nevertheless, CS received the gratitude of all who respected him for fostering and cultivating a great number of valuable lessons that served as the building blocks to adult wisdom. Basic things like 'look before you leap,' 'the early bird gets the worm,' 'a penny saved is a penny earned,' 'life isn't always fair,' 'don't grow dependent on anyone but yourself,' and 'some things may be your fault.'

CS lived humbly, frugally, and with a sound financial policy of 'don't spend more than you can earn.' He adhered to reliable, time-tested strategies (—like adults, not children, should be in charge).

Rapid deterioration in the health of CS became noticeable when well-intentioned yet overbearing rules and regulations began popping up all over the place. In some of our last few discussions, he would simply shake his head in disbelief as we talked about them: a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate on the cheek because that's how his family shows appreciation; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and parents attacking teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their children.

The health of Common Sense began to seem irreversible in its steady decline when schools were required to get parental consent to administer an aspirin or sun lotion, but were strictly forbidden to inform parents when a student wanted condoms, or when a student became pregnant, or when a student wanted to have an abortion.

It was sad indeed when it became apparent that CS was losing the will to carry on. This occurred as he realized how often criminals were receiving better treatment than their victims. I think it was the case of the "Affluenza" kid that did it (as in *affluence*; i.e., rich kid). You may have seen this story from last year. The court bought the defense argument that the poor little rich kid was so affluent that no one ever taught him right from wrong. Therefore, he wasn't responsible for his actions when he drove drunk one night and killed four innocent people. How much prison time did he get? Zip, nada, none!

CS finally called it quits when he heard about the homeowner who defended himself, his family, and his home from a burglar, but it was the burglar who was allowed to sue for assault.

I think it's safe to say that Common Sense passed away somewhat less than peacefully.

CS was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust, his wife Discretion, his son Reason, and his daughter Responsibility.

In better days, he did have a subtle sense of humor. He used to quip that there was only one of him but a thousand varieties of Dumb and Dumber.

A number of us will miss him dearly. In lieu of flowers, friends of CS ask that donations be made for a monument in his name, with an epitaph to read: "It's a thousand times better to have common sense without education than to have education without common sense."

Rest in peace, my friend. Cheers!

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 & 4th Wednesdays of each month. All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom. Additional info: <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.

Ludington Writers meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Judith Minty Room (second floor) of the **Ludington Area Center for the Arts**, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington. All are welcome. Second and Fourth Tuesdays are critiques. For info visit ludingtonwriters.org or call **Nicole Birkett** (231) 742-8550.

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** hosts free workshops on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. at **Panera Bread**, 30955 Woodward Ave., in **Royal Oak**, MI. Bring hard copies of your poem to share. RSVP at meetup.com. For more information, call **Carla Dodd** at 248-961-3636.

River Junction Poets of Saginaw meet regularly throughout the year. For dates and times and other info, visit their Facebook page or email **Christine Rohr** at docxrohr@aol.com

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** (ruelastokes@gmail.com) or Board member **Cheryl Caesar** (caesar@msu.edu).

Women are welcome to join **Third Place Poets** the second Sunday of every month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., in the **Dodge Room of the Commerce Township Public Library** (180 Commerce Road). Email thirdplacepoets@gmail.com for more info.