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2025

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Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

March 2026

President's Message

Poetry Lovers:

This is my final message as president of Poetry Society of Michigan. I feel honored to have served you and the state; I hope the organization is stronger, more inclusive and service-oriented after the last four years.

I have wonderful people to thank for their work and dedication. First, thanks to **Elizabeth Kerlikowske** for talking me into taking this position and for her wise support; **Phillip Sterling** for his advice and for editing our amazing newsletter; **Jerry Lang** for being our reliable and patient parliamentarian; **Tasha Webber** for stepping in as our membership coordinator. I thank **Robin Church** for her years of steady support as vice-president; **David Jibson** for his computer and publication expertise; **Diana Hart** for championing our contest issue of *Peninsula Poets*; **Melanie Dunbar** (my hero) for volunteering to be editor of our spring magazine and five-year anthology; **Pat Barnes** for being our honorary chancellor and for her long history of service. A huge thanks goes to **Susan Herman**, our treasurer and historian, a person who perhaps cares more for PSM than anyone. And I thank all of you, our members, for your belief in poetry and its power to transform.

Now, on to business!

Our spring 2026 conference is going to be great. I hope you can attend! It will take place on **Saturday, May 2, in the Morley Room of the Castle Museum in Saginaw.** [See page 2 for all the details.]

The big news is that during the business meeting of the Spring Conference we will have elections for a new the Executive Board. Positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. In addition, the incoming Executive Board will be seeking nominations (or volunteers) to fill additional Executive Board positions: Contest Coordinator, Peninsula Poets editor, and Newsletter Editor among them. [See page 3 for additional information.]

Also, we're looking for volunteers to help with and learn about our PSM publication process and work on our website. This is a valuable opportunity to acquire or share some useful skills and contribute to the literary life in Michigan.

May the muse breathe life into your ideas and creative work and show you the path to happiness. I thank you all for this opportunity to serve, and I look forward to promoting poetry in the future!

Yours,
David James

PSM Spring 2026 Meeting

Saturday, May 2
Castle Museum (Morley Room)
500 Federal Ave., Saginaw
 989-752-2861, castlemuseum.org

The cost is only **\$35** each for regular members and guests, which includes lunch and a drink. Students can attend for the \$20 student rate!

Register and pay online at
poetrysocietyofmichigan.com

Or complete and mail this form:

<p>2026 Spring REGISTRATION</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Email address: _____</p> <p>Enclosed is my payment of \$35 each for me and my guest(s). [\$20 for students]</p> <p>Guest Names: _____ _____</p> <p>Registration should be sent (or other arrangements made with Treasurer Susan Herman) no later than April 25:</p> <p>SPRING MEETING 2026 The Poetry Society of Michigan PO Box 1035 Cadillac, MI. 49601</p>
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- 10-10:30 Registration/coffee and donuts
- 10:35 Welcome
- 10:45 Traveling Trophy Reading (bring a short poem to read)
- 11:40 Writing Workshop (*Jan Worth*)
- 12:35 Lunch provided (talk, eat, smile)
- 1:10 Writing Workshop (*M.L. Liebler*)
- 2:05 Brief Business Meeting and Election

We look forward to seeing you there! Here are brief bios for our presenters:

Jan Worth is a poet, novelist and non-fiction writer from Flint, Michigan. For decades she has been delivering poems, essays, short stories, and the novel *Night Blind* to the world, writing about her life experiences as a preacher’s daughter, a newspaper reporter, Peace Corps volunteer, social worker, and longtime writing teacher at the University of Michigan – Flint. She spent years as a columnist for Flint’s venerable *East Village Magazine* before becoming editor from 2015 to 2020. Her book of non-fiction is *That’s My Moon Over Court Street: Dispatches from a life in Flint* and her new book of poems is *Elegies from the Last*

M.L. Liebler is an internationally known and widely published Detroit poet, university professor, literary arts activist and arts organizer. He was named the 2017-2018 Murray E. Jackson Scholar in the Arts Award at Wayne State University. Liebler is the author of fifteen books and chapbooks including *Wide Awake in Someone Else’s Dream* (Wayne State University, 2008) which won both the Paterson Poetry Prize for Literary Excellence and the American Indie Book Award in 2009. In 2005, he was named St. Clair Shores (his hometown) first Poet Laureate. Since 1980, Liebler has taught English, Creative Writing, American Studies, Labor Studies and World Literature at Wayne State University.

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PSM Elections

It's that time again!

Since the nominees for President, Vice President, and Treasurer are running unopposed, election will be by acclamation of the Members present in Saginaw.

Nominations are still open for **Recording Secretary** and other positions. We are seeking volunteers for **Peninsula Poets Editor, Contest Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor**, among others.

Bios of current nominees for President and Vice President:

Shonda Buchanan, author of *The Lost Songs of Nina Simone* and *Black Indian*, is an Assistant Professor in English at Western Michigan University and a faculty member Alma College's MFA program in Creative Writing. Board member-at-large and writer-at-large for Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center, Shonda is on the boards of the Kalamazoo Poetry Festival and the Kalamazoo Arts Council.

Deb Belcher went to an open mic night with some friends. After hearing a particularly bad poem, she turned to her friend and said, "I can do better than that." To which the friend replied, "Well, why don't you?" So she did! Shortly after that, she joined PSM and served as the Membership Coordinator for four years and editor of the spring issue of *Peninsula Poets* for two years. Like all writers, she hopes to see her own book in print someday.

PSM Five-Year Anthology: *Power of Place*

Deadline for submissions: March 15, 2026

The Poetry Society of Michigan is seeking poems for a five-year anthology to be published in 2026. PSM members (current and past) are known to be passionate about Michigan environments both thriving and abandoned. To that end, we are seeking poems that convey the **Power of Place**.

If you have been a dues-paying member in at least one of the past five years (2021 through 2025) we invite you to submit. Send your submission to PSM's Anthology Editor **Melanie Dunbar** at editor.psm@gmail.com.

GUIDELINES:

In the body of an email with the subject

PSM ANTHOLOGY SUBMISSION include:

- ~Author name and contact information (address, phone and email)
- ~Three to five poems (*within the body of the email—no attachments please*).
- ~Acknowledgement for any submitted poems that were previously published.

Note: While broad representation will be the editors' primary intent, the sheer number of submissions, page limits, and applicability to the theme dictate that acceptance will be selective. Membership alone does not guarantee inclusion.

The anthology will be launched at our Fall 2026 Conference in Lansing and will be distributed to libraries state-wide. Readings will be held in multiple cities throughout 2027 to celebrate over 90 years of the Poetry Society of Michigan. Contributors accepted will receive one copy of the anthology. Additional copies will be available for purchase.

2026 Westminster Art Festival

2026 marks the 14th year of the **Westminster Art Festival**, which will take place **April 25–June 11** 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 "WHOSE BACKYARD?"

This year's theme deals with **environmental justice**. Poems of any form that speak to that issue are welcome. As in previous years, accepted poems will be collected in book form, along with images of the displayed art, and cash prizes will be awarded to works selected by a distinguished juror. This year's juror for poetry is **Alison Swan**.

Poetry submissions will be received March 1 through Monday, April 13.

The opening event/reception will be Saturday, April 25, and the festival closing event will be June 11. There will also be an open mic poetry night (date tba) and possibly a poetry workshop as well. More info, along with entry requirements, entry forms and updates about event, can be found at westminsterartfestival.org. Or on Facebook at [WestminsterArtFestival](https://www.facebook.com/WestminsterArtFestival).

For PSM members in the Portage area, Art Festival Posters are available, so if you have somewhere you'd like to hang one, call the church office or stop by and pick one up. (Office hours are MWTh 9-4, but may be shortened some of these winter days, so it's best to call first: 269-344-3966).

If you have questions, please let us know!
Artfestival@wpcportage.org.

"WHOSE BACKYARD?"

2026 Westminster Art Festival Theme

We all share "one planet" but we don't *share* it very well. Its beauty and bounty don't benefit all equally. Nor are the harmful results of environmental damage experienced equally.

Consider: Who has access to nature, green space, and land? Who is able to say to a landfill or polluting industry, "Not in my backyard"? Whose "backyard" is protected and whose can be damaged or destroyed? Who has a right to clean water and clean air? Who acknowledges ownership of public parks and land and who feels unwelcome in those places? What happens to communities displaced from their land due to "progress" or "development"? Who gets a voice in decisions? How do we take better care of our own "backyards" and also take care of communities both nearby and farther afield?

Who does any land really belong to? What is our responsibility to those who lived there in the past, or to future generations?

How can art help us see these sometimes-hidden inequities or envision creative alternatives?

These are the issues we want to explore with this theme.

The 2026 Westminster Art Festival Committee is looking forward to another wonderful and meaningful event bringing together art, poetry, faith, and care for the earth and hope you will add your poetic voice to "Whose Backyard?"

2026 Art Talks Back Ekphrastic Poetry Contest

The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** annual ekphrastic poetry contest is in full swing. Between January 29 and **March 12, 2026**, poets are invited to submit an original ekphrastic poem based on one of five works of art selected from Museum's permanent collection, including Gertrude Ambercrombie's *Woman and Owl in the Shattered Tree* 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) will also be awarded. Honorable Mentions in both categories will receive a **\$25** Museum Store Gift Card and, in the Adult category, 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 Museum in person before the **March 12 deadline!**

Winners will be notified by Thursday, April 2, and be invited to participate in the **Awards Ceremony**, with readings and reception, on **Wednesday, April 15, 6-7 PM.**

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

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

Ludington Writers Seeks Submissions!

Making Waves: A West Michigan Review

Submission Period: January 1 - April 30, 2026

Theme: **Temples & Prisons**

Writers and artists are encouraged to explore the idea of the sacred, sanctuary, subjugation and suffering that can be found in places, ideas, and our own bodies. Poetry, visual art, and short pieces of fiction and non-fiction are welcome, including sequential art, speculative fiction, and short scripts. Submissions can be made through WavesReview.Submittable.com. There are no fees for submitting.

Carol Bennett Memorial Scholarship

This \$1500 scholarship, in memory of Ludington Writers' original board member Carol Bennett, supports aspiring writers in their pursuit of higher education. This scholarship is open to individuals of all ages, but especially encourages high school seniors in Mason, Oceana, Manistee, and Lake counties to apply. Application Period: January 1 - April 1, 2026. Send inquiries about the application to Linda Sandow at lsandow@hotmail.com. Results announced by May 1, 2026.

Barry Matthews Continuing Education Scholarship

Established by Ludington Writers Past President Barry Matthews, this scholarship is meant to encourage adults to continue their education. For 2026, the total value of the scholarship will be \$500.00. It is not limited to residents of Mason County; however, winners may be required to read their winning submissions at a Ludington Writers meeting. Applications will close by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2026. Applicants will be notified of the results by May 1, 2026. Interested individuals should email bennett.dila@gmail.com.

Ludington Writers Meetings

Regular meetings of Ludington Writers occur every Tuesday in the Judith Minty room on the second floor of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts. Second and Fourth Tuesday critiques may be joined virtually, via Zoom. Email MakingWavesReview@gmail.com to register to attend either in-person or virtually.

Learn more about these and other Ludington Writers at opportunities at LudingtonWriters.org.

The Printed Word

Seven Kitchens Press is pleased to announce the publication of **Jan Wiezorek's** *Forests of Woundedness*, Number 32 in their Robin Becker Series, selected by series editor **Steve Bellin-Oka**. The book can be sampled at and ordered from sevenkitchenspress.com. Recently, Wiezorek received a Pushcart Prize nomination for his poem "Kindness" that appeared in *Braided Way*.



Inner Life*

Inside a notebook of lung pulp,
 father diagrams, with a wood pencil,
 how bronchi might branch—
 like trees breathing on a wood
 plant stand—healing a bentwood
 chair—or, balancing and tilting,
 as a limb, an artist's easel—he closes
 the notebook, with no discovery
 of what he might do with horizontal
 scraps hanging above a basement
 workbench—where so much of the feel
 of wood goes into polishing and forgetting
 its inner life—how it hides a crotch,
 exposes a hole, offers a ring—I believe
 a tree's exterior rasp grows from inside
 and fights on out, where it rubs skin,
 peeling it against bark, how we battle
 the negative natures we face—years later,
 mother told me father had made for me
 a worktable, and with his gift came a note
 of assembly, inside, in his own hand,
 describing how to place the top, legs,
 lip, fasteners—his own notebook page
 that still tears away at my insides.

Jan Wiezorek

*from *Forests of Woundedness*

Springfed Arts Contest 2026

**Submissions accepted by email from
 February 15, 2026, through April 15, 2026**

Prizes in both Poetry & Prose

**1st Prize \$150
 2nd Prize \$100
 3rd Prize \$75**

Prose will be judged by **Jane Hamilton**.
 Poetry judge is **Joy Gaines-Friedler**.

Jane Hamilton, beloved author of *The Book of Ruth* and *A Map of the World*, joins us as this year's Springfed Arts Writing Contest prose judge. Her forthcoming novel, *The Phoebe Variations*, set in the 1970s, follows seventeen-year-old Phoebe through a surprising journey of identity and self-discovery.

Joy Gaines-Friedler, award-winning poet and author of *Capture Theory*, *The Geography of Absence*, and the recent collection *Stone on Your Stone*, is known for poetry of emotional clarity, lyrical precision, and deep attention to the human and natural worlds.

Complete details about membership eligibility, manuscript preparation, and upcoming events and workshops presented by Springfed Arts can be found at springfed.org.

POETS meet MUSICIANS

**in TRAVERSE CITY
 at Middle Coast Brewery
 329 E. State St.**

Open Mic Last Monday of the Month, 7 p.m.
 (in case of holiday a week earlier)

For more info or confirmation call or text

Tom, 231-392-6121

traversemedia@yahoo.com

& Other News

Steven Veatch is pleased to announce that his latest poem, "A Small Flag," has been selected for publication in the upcoming *2025 Veteran's Writing Circle Anthology*. Published by the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University, this anthology serves as a powerful platform for veterans and their families to share their unique perspectives, bridging the gap between military and civilian experiences through the art of storytelling and verse. "A Small Flag" will be featured alongside a curated selection of voices from the veteran community. The poem explores themes of service and memory, contributing to the rich tapestry of contemporary veteran literature.

Poetry Events Grand Rapids, a Facebook group, announces and tracks open mic and other literary opportunities in West Michigan (www.facebook.com/groups/249228558420579).

Select open mics include:

~Black Dog Books/Gabby's Poetry, March 11, 7pm.

~The Lit/Grand River Poetry Collective, March 12, 5:30pm

~Bates Place, March 14, 7pm

~106 Gallery, Crockpot Poetry, March 19, 7pm (and they feed you from the Crockpot - feel free to bring food to share and or donations) Theme: Spring Equinox

~Scorpion Hearts, March 24, gather at 5:30pm, reading starts at 6pm.

Other events:

~Poet's Parlor: Poetry Book Club at Cellar Bird Books, March 9, 7pm, featuring a book by Halsey

~Scorpion Hearts Poetry Workshop, March 10, 5:30pm

~The Lit/ Grand River Poetry Collective, March 26, 5:30-7pm. Conversation with poets.

If you are not a Facebook follower, poet Diane Baum also provides a monthly email list which you can sign up for: dianelawkessler@gmail.com

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle Monthly Poetry Workshop

Monthly Workshops: On the second Wednesday of the month, CWPC holds an informal poetry workshop on Zoom. All are welcome to present a poem for positive, constructive peer feedback. Please write us at cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com or use the Event Registration menu on the Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle blog to receive the link a few days prior to the workshop.

Focused Workshops: On some fourth Wednesdays of the month, we hold a meeting on Zoom related to each of the Focused Workshop Exercise pages in the drop-down menu on our blog site. They are designed so the material can be read and worked on at one's own pace, even if one does not plan to attend the workshop. Visit the Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle blog to get upcoming dates. Registration is required.

You Only Fail if You Do Not Try

Another winter season I have survived
So grateful to be alive
Spring, a time of rebirth and regeneration
Is finally here for your due consideration

New beginnings are possible for everyone
Do not give up hope, you are not done
Start over, make a change
Look to explore and expand your range

Whatever you may do this year
Do not let yourself be controlled by fear
You only fail if you do not try
Advice I give not meaning to pry

Hoping you take my cue
Wishing you well in all you do
Do not worry about passing a test
Just know you did your very best

Mary Ann Bozenski

Executive Orders, DEI, and the Poetic Rebellion Against Newspeak (2025)

by
Robert Erlandson

In 2025, a sequence of executive orders reshaped the federal government's relationship to language in ways that recall one of the most enduring warnings of George Orwell's *1984*. The shift began with Executive Order 14149, issued by President Donald Trump and titled "*Restoring Freedom of Speech and Ending Federal Censorship*." Declaring government censorship "intolerable in a free society," the order positioned itself as a principled defense of liberty.

Yet the orders that followed revealed a deep and immediate contradiction. Executive Orders 14168 and 14151 directed federal agencies to dismantle Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and to remove or avoid language associated with those efforts—terms such as *gender*, *diversity*, *inclusion*, and *environmental justice*—from official documents and programs. These actions were framed as bureaucratic neutrality and efficiency, not censorship. In practice, they narrowed the vocabulary through which federal institutions could describe social conditions.

Reports soon indicated that staff at agencies such as the National Science Foundation were instructed to flag or scrutinize proposals containing words like *women*, *female*, *minority*, *disability*, *historically underrepresented*, and *socioeconomic*.

Supporters argue that internal language rules do not silence the public. Yet critics respond that when the state cannot speak plainly, democratic deliberation erodes. Speech is not merely expression; it is the means by which harms are named, grievances articulated, and rights claimed. When words disappear from official use, so too does the shared framework needed for public accountability.

It is here that poets, satirists, and artists enter the story—not as commentators on policy, but as counter-architects of meaning. If bureaucratic power

narrows language, poetry can widen it again. The very lists of discouraged or "banned" words become raw material: prompts rather than prohibitions. Poets can retrieve these words, place them back into the full spectrum of human life—birth, illness, love, labor, history, humor—and show what is lost when language is stripped of its descriptive range.

Satire, especially, exposes the absurdity of claiming freedom while policing vocabulary. A limerick that names *socioeconomic* hardship, a haibun that quietly centers *disability*, a haiga pairing *women* and *history* in image and text, all reassert the stubborn presence of lived reality. Where Newspeak compresses meaning, poetry proliferates it.

We, as poets, should offer a different practice: abundance. By reclaiming banned words and restoring them to human and environmental concerns, poetry resists not with slogans, but with attention. In doing so, it reminds us that language, once released into human experience, is far harder to contain than any executive order.

The River

The river once sang to the Elders, its voice pure and strong. Now, oil slicks drift where salmon once leapt. Water flows *at risk* in mercury levels. Federal officials promise action, while budgets favor industry over *indigenous people*. Children, stripped of their *entitlement* to clean water, watch fish float belly-up. An Elder whispers, "Water is our first medicine. If it dies, we follow." They gather at dawn, drumming for the river, their song carrying a warning: without respect for *water quality*, a Nation might not survive.

evidence buried deep
in wordless files
still the water speaks loudly
with its belly-up fish

Robert Erlandson

PSM celebrates 90 years!



One of the founding members of the Poetry Society of Michigan back in 1935 was **Dr. Clifford L. Allen** (1900-1976) who served as PSM President in 1937. A celebrated poet in his own right, Allen fostered a love of poetry in many Michiganders, not the least of which is PSM's current Treasurer and Historian **Susan Herman**. In honor of Dr. Allen's generous contribution to the spirit of poetry in our state we offer this poem, from his 1931 volume *Swift Water*:

Omen

February's blue horizons
 Bring a hopeful air:
 Freshened senses move the spirit;
 Hush the moment's care.

Soon the light will be more cheery;
 Send a melting heat:
 What is left of winter's blowing,
 Spring will surely cheat!

Soul is moved to feel the season
 Which the signs foretell.
 February's hazy skyline
 Weaves a subtle spell.

Clifford Allen

Old Lilacs

Through early April cold,
 these thin gray horses
 have come near the house
 as to a fence, and lean there
 hungry for summer,
 nodding their heads
 with a nickering of twigs.

Their long legs are dusty
 from standing for months
 in winter's stall, and their eyes
 are like a cloudy sky
 seen through bare branches.

They are waiting for May
 to come up from the barn
 with her overalls pockets
 stuffed with the fodder
 of green. In a month
 they will be slow and heavy,
 their little snorts so sweet
 you'll want to stand
 among them, breathing.

Ted Kooser

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

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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** at 6:00 p.m. Contact **Dennis White** at 734-755-5988 or dennis68white@aol.com for more information.

The Grand River Poetry Collective meets regularly at The Lit (61 Sheldon Blvd) in Grand Rapids. For info and monthly activities visit grandriverpoetrycollective.com or their online literary platform theriverlit.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.

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** 248-303-2613 or email writings80@yahoo.com.

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.

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

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.

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 Spring Fed or PSM member to join. Interested poets should contact Nancy for more info at shattucknj@gmail.com.

For information about the many activities and gatherings of **Friends of Poetry—Kalamazoo**, contact **Elizabeth Kerlikowske** (mme642@yahoo.com) or visit their Facebook page.

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.

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.

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** (caesar@msu.edu).