



"Poetry is life distilled." —Gwendolyn Brooks

"Poetry at its best is the language your soul would speak if you could teach your soul to speak." —Jim Harrison

"When composing a verse let there not be a hair's breath separating your mind from what you write; composition of a poem must be done in an instant, like a woodcutter felling a huge tree or a swordsman leaping at a dangerous enemy." — *Matsuo Basho*

Please join the Poetry Society of Michigan at our Fall Conference as we celebrate 90 years of poetry!

PSM Fall 2026 Conference

Saturday, Oct. 17 | 10:00am - 4:00pm

Library of Michigan (Lake Michigan Room)

702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI

The Poetry Society of Michigan's Fall 2026 conference will be held on Saturday, October 17th at the Library of Michigan in the Lake Michigan Room (and Forum, if attendance warrants). The library's address and contact information: 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing, MI, 517-335-1477, <https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan>, librarian@michigan.gov.

Our guest presenters are the current Lansing Poet Laureate, Dr. Suban Nur Cooley (2026–2028) and Masaki Takahashi, Poet Laureate Emeritus of Lansing, Michigan (2022–2024), Founder and Host of the Poetry Room.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

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| 10am-10:30am | Registration (Ivy Qin and several Michigan high school students will attend as PSM volunteers) |
| 10:35am | Welcome: President Shonda Buchanan |
| 10:40am | Anthology: PSM Anthology Editor Melanie Dunbar Announces Launch & Fall Contest Edition |
| 10:45am-11:15am | Brief Business Meeting and Election (All members welcome)
Announcements: Treasurer; Membership; Newsletter; New Business; Election of new officers/editor for the <i>Peninsula Poets</i> fall contest issue 2027; Editor for the PSM newsletter: Publishing and webmaster (interns). |
| 11:15am-12:30pm | Presentation/Workshop I: Masaki Takahashi |
| 12:35pm-1:10pm | Lunch & Social Hour: (Lunch provided. Social hour/Purchase books!) |
| 1:10pm-2pm | Presentation/Workshop II: Dr. Suban Nur Cooley |
| 2pm-3pm | Traveling Trophy Reading: (Sign up to read a short poem)
(<i>Please</i> , read one page or less, no EXPLANATIONS of the poem or why you wrote it. State your name clearly. Audience, please keep notes because you will vote on the "best" poem at the end. The winner gets their name engraved on the State Trophy, plus bragger's rights.) |
| 3pm-3:45pm | Anthology/Open Reading: Member Reading (2-3 minutes or 1-2 page) |
| 4pm | Closing: President Shonda Buchanan |



Sign-up Sheets for either the Traveling Trophy or the Anthology and Open Reading will be at Registration Table. Please only read **once** during the conference for either the Traveling Trophy, or the Anthology/Open Reading. This helps us stay on schedule.

Registration can also be made online at www.poetrysocietyofmichigan.com and the \$35 conference fee paid easily through PayPal or credit card.

Or you can mail in your registration and check (or other arrangements made with Treasurer, Susan Herman) no later than **October 10**:

2026 Fall REGISTRATION

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ZIP _____
Email address: _____

Enclosed is my payment of **\$35 each** for me
and my guest(s).
Guest Names:

Mail to: Fall Meeting 2026
The Poetry Society of Michigan
PO Box 1035
Cadillac, MI 49601

We look forward to seeing you there! Please let us know if you have any questions, or email our current President, Shonda Buchanan (shondabuchanan@gmail.com).

Presenters Bios:

Dr. Suban Nur Cooley is the current Poet Laureate of Lansing, Michigan (2026–2028), and a writer whose work centers stories of migration, memory, identity, and belonging across generations and communities. She is an assistant professor at Michigan State University, where she teaches African American and African Studies and helps students explore how stories shape our understanding of the world. Her forthcoming book, *Carrying Culture: Somali Women and the Rhetorics of Blackness and Belonging in the Diaspora* (Columbia University Press), highlights the voices and experiences of Somali women navigating life across cultures and countries. Her work has received national recognition, including awards from the Conference on College Composition and Communication and the Rhetoric Society of America for excellence in research and writing. As Lansing's Poet Laureate, she brings poetry into everyday life—into



schools, neighborhoods, and public spaces—inviting communities to experience poetry as something living, shared, and deeply connected to place.

Masaki Takahashi is the Poet Laureate Emeritus of Lansing, Michigan (2022–2024) and a passionate advocate for the power of poetry to connect and inspire. As the founder and host of the *Poetry Room* open mic and nonprofit, Masaki has created a dynamic space where poets of all backgrounds can share their work and grow in their craft. Masaki has been featured on prominent platforms such as *Button Poetry*, *TEDx MSU*, and *Write About Now*. His work has appeared in literary journals like *Lunch Ticket* and *Rigorous*, and they have collaborated with esteemed organizations including the National Park Service, Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Michigan Council of Teachers of English, and numerous local universities, public schools, and nonprofit organizations. Above all, Masaki is deeply committed to education and finds great fulfillment in mentoring students, supporting their growth both as writers and individuals. A storyteller at heart, Masaki believes in poetry's transformative power to heal, challenge, and build community.

**Thank you for being a member of the Poetry Society of
Michigan and being with us today!**

Keep writing!

If not a PSM member, please consider joining our society
at <https://poetrysocietyofmichigan.com/about/>.

www.poetrysocietyofmichigan.com