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Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

June 2022

President's Message

Spring has finally arrived, walking down main street in her bathrobe, drinking out of a bottle of green wine. Oh, how I love metaphors and personification! I suppose we all do as writers.

The big news is the upcoming annual poetry contest sponsored by PSM. Thanks to our new Contest Chairperson, **Diana Hart**, we have the usual assortment of sponsored and inspiring categories, with some new twists. See details on page 9 of this *Newsletter* or check the website for submitting, rules, style, cost, etc. Note the new email address!

The Poetry Society of Michigan is looking for a site for the fall conference, 2022. It's generally in October. Please contact me at Jamesfam3@charter.net if you have any good suggestions.

The Traveling Trophy was won at this spring conference in Mt. Pleasant by **Al Basting**, new to PSM, for his poem "Ashes at the Baldwin Airport." [Editor's note: See p. 4] The conference truly was "pleasant" and we thank the Veteran's Memorial Library for hosting. Al's name is getting engraved on the trophy as you read this.

Some other good news: **Debra Belcher**, our tireless Membership Coordinator, has agreed to be the editor of the spring 2023 (members) issue of *Peninsula Poets*, and award-winning Michigan poet **Marc Sheehan** has agreed to be the editor of the fall contest issue! We owe these two a great debt of gratitude and look forward to some wonderful new issues...

For your summer reading pleasure, an abbreviated version of an essay I wrote, titled "Why Poetry Matters" (first published in *Superstition Review*), is included on page 2. I know all of you have your own reasons for writing and reading, so I offer this to you for comparison's sake.

With appreciation for your good poems and your work on behalf of poetry in Michigan, I wish you a restful and prolific summer. Stay safe and keep writing those poems!

—David James

Why Poetry Matters

David James

Many would argue that poems do not matter in today's world. Very few people read poems voluntarily, and even fewer buy books of poems. Most people see no practical value in these short, broken lines on the page.

Yet those same people turn to poetry at crucial times. For example, when we're in love, suddenly the words, sentiments, and emotions found in love poems matter to us. After 9-11, many people turned to poetry for the words they couldn't otherwise express. At a recent funeral I attended, three of the five people giving testimonies read poems. In moments of deep feeling, we often turn to poetry, trying to capture some human essence in words and images.

Poetry matters because poems focus our attention. Modern life is busy and complex. We hurry from one obligation to another, often confused by the idea that the busier we are, the more we live. The opposite is probably true. As we rush from project to person to responsibility, we ignore the here and now, the clouds forming in the sky, the heron flying overhead, the kids jumping in leaf piles. Sometimes we ignore the fact that the world is falling apart around us—climate change, world hunger, senseless wars—to name just a few, and poems can urge us to take action. Poems can focus our attention on what we need to do to survive in this world.

Poems require us to slow down and narrow our view on the particular, the specific. This focus hones our ability to perceive and pay attention in our own lives. James Tate, Pulitzer Prize winner, touches on this ability of poetry to capture life's essence: "While most prose is a kind of continuous chatter, describing, naming, explaining, poetry speaks against an essential backdrop of silence. It is almost reluctant to speak at all... there is a prayerful haunted silence between words, between phrases, between images, ideas, and lines. The reader, perhaps without knowing it, instinctively desires to peer between the cracks into the other world." Tate implies a sacredness, a holiness, here.

There is more to a poem than the words. Something exists between the words and phrases, inside the body of writing, that we sense when we read or write a good poem. In poems (as in stories, novels, and plays), we can vicariously experience the lives of other people. We can see the world from different perspectives and viewpoints. We can get a chance to live out experiences we might never have in our own lives.

Billy Collins, a former poet laureate of the United States, says, "When we read a poem, we enter the

consciousness of another. It requires that we loosen some of our fixed notions in order to accommodate another point of view." In this manner, we broaden our understanding of the world.

Poems touch each reader uniquely; they make us feel reassured about our humanity and remind us that we are part of the human family. Readers bring their own experiences, past, emotions, even dreams into the understanding of poems. In his Nobel prize speech, Pablo Neruda puts it so eloquently: "All paths lead to the same goal: to convey to others what we are." Every poem is an attempt to translate human experience, to explain the unexplainable. Every poem is an exercise in sharing—an image, a thought or idea, a loss, a hope, a memory. The more we share, the more we grow, understand, and are understood. And the more we share, as readers or writers, the more human we become—more compassionate, more humane, more real.

Poems stretch our minds beyond their normal limits, and that, of course, builds and strengthens our imaginations. We all know that original inventions and solutions to problems come from people who think creatively, who can imagine worlds beyond the one we live in. Novelist Tom Robbins puts our goal as writers so clearly: "To achieve the marvelous, it is precisely the unthinkable that must be thought." Writing involves risk-taking. Writing demands the lowering or eliminating of censors inside, and it allows the imagination to play wherever it wants to.

Finally, poetry matters because life matters. Gwendolyn Brooks says, "Poetry is life distilled." All art, in one way or another, shines a spotlight on the here and now, the routine, the miraculous, the mundane, pleading with us to see, to hear, to smell, to feel, to taste the world at our fingertips. Each day is a miracle, and that's what poems say in that "prayerful haunted silence between words," as James Tate writes. Every poem I've read or written has focused my imagination deeper into life. Each poem adds to the warehouse of my experience.

This is all we have in the end: this precious moment alive. We can plod blindly through each minute and hour and day, living a life of worry and dread and busyness, or we can realize, like poems do, that every experience and feeling, every event and moment, good or bad, conveys the seed of joy and wonder and the miraculous.

Those who live the best are alive the most. And poems help us to live, calling to us like mythical sirens on the ocean of life: *Stay awake. Look around. Take the world in. Be alive!*

Art Talks Back

Poems by several members of PSM were among the winners of The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** "Art Talks Back" annual ekphrastic poetry contest which took place between January 20 and March 24, 2022. Selections from the winning poems and images of the art can be found at the museum's website (muskegonartmuseum.org) under the Education tab. Congratulations to

1st Place: "From the Cotton Rows," **Robert Zandsrta**
Inspired by *Yellow Rows* by Winfred Rembert

2nd Place: "Infinity Flow," **Elizabeth Kerlikowske**
Inspired by *Infinity Flow* by Jason Quigno

3rd Place: "Woodland Renewal," **Justine Defever**
Inspired by *Overgrown #2* by Caterina Urrata Weintraub

Honorable Mention: "Yellow Rows," **Robin Church**
Inspired by *Yellow Rows* by Winfred Rembert

Honorable Mention: "Cartography," **Kelly Scott Franklin**
Inspired by *Yellow Rows* by Winfred Rembert

Honorable Mention: "Wish, Prayer," **CJ Giroux**
Inspired by *Overgrown #2* by Caterina Urrata Weintraub

Honorable Mention: "What If," **Laksmi Narayanam**
Inspired by *Infinity Flow* by Jason Quigno

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

Summer

Thunder and lightning
Powerful and dangerous
A wondrous display

—**Mary Ann Bozenski**

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 22 – Shutta Crum has poems published in *Typehouse*, *3rd Wednesday*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Acumen*, and a chapbook, *When You Get Here*, which won a gold Royal Palm Literary Award. Her newest book is *The Way to THE River*. Of her many books for young readers, *THUNDER-BOOMER!* was chosen by *Smithsonian Magazine* and *American Library Association* as a notable book.

June 22 – Mike Maggio, poet and fiction writer from DC Area, has had work published in *Potomac Review*, *Pleiades*, and *L.A. Weekly*. His newest book of poems is *Let's Call It Paradise*. His recent novel is *In the Valley of Granite and Steel*, and *Letters from Inside* is a collection of his stories.

July 27 – Jim Daniels' most recent of 30 poetry collections is *Gun/Shy*. Other recent books include *The Perp Walk* (fiction) and the anthology *RESPECT: The Poetry of Detroit Music* (2020), co-edited with M. L. Liebler. A native of Detroit, Daniels lives in Pittsburgh and teaches in the Alma College low-residency MFA program.

Westminster Art Festival

Poetry Society of Michigan members are well represented at the 10th annual **Westminster Art Festival, April 30–June 15**, 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 "A Certain Slant of Light," based on Emily Dickinson's well-known poem. Jurors **Mary Brodbeck** for visual art and **Susan Blackwell Ramsey** for poetry awarded cash prizes for outstanding entries. A full-color booklet of all the poems artwork can be obtained at the church for a \$4 donation. The festival runs until June 15. Visit westminsterartfestival.org for viewing hours and additional info..

Winners of Prizes in Visual Art:

1st Prize: *The Light of Our Lives*, by **Helen Neff and Lisa Lynch**

2nd Prize: *Frolic in the Moonlight*, by **Kay Severson**

3rd Prize: *Grandmother Moon*, by **Tracy Klinesteker**

HM: *Birch Light*, by **Martha Rosenfeld**

HM: *Gates of Dawn*, by **Shannon Dion**

HM: *Chasing that Fleeting Moment of Perfect Light*, by **Cathy Germay**

HM: *Conduit*, by **Karen French**

HM: *Light Moving Through Us*, by **Brooke B. Baylerian**

Committee Prize: *Moonlight on the Bay*, by **Norma G. Clack**

Winners of Prizes in Poetry:

1st Prize: "A Little Relief," by **David James**

2nd Prize: "Creation," by **Elizabeth Kerlikowske**

3rd Prize: "How to Survive Your Own Death," by **Deborah Gang**

3rd Prize [tie]: "Words Frequently Confused: *Destitute, Desuetude*," by **Phillip Sterling**.

HM: "Mercury Vapor Lights on Oversized Poles," by **Nancy Hoy Nott**

*Ashes at the Baldwin Airport**

Someone had a good idea. I saw the two of them at the far end of a grassy runway with their urn waving it in the wind above their heads. That could be me in a few years, disappearing into wild grasses and distant pines as an ashy little dust storm. Maybe it was the family dog, the "only child" of an aging couple. Here, because this is where he ran freely when they walked him. The space an invitation to emptying walks with animals. Deer and black bear occasionally cross the distant end of the runway, then disappear through invisible doors in scrub oak bordering the outstretched arm of black tarmac. Big sky everywhere, as big as I remember Dakota, riding cycle past miles of wheat. The peaceful quiet enormous, and welcoming as a family threshold. Tall stalks of nodding grasses wait for someone to say: I love how I feel in this place. Wide open. Free as dust.

—Alan Basting

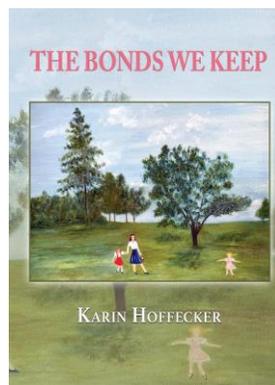
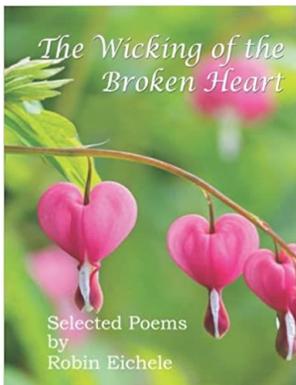
*Winner of the Traveling Trophy, Spring 2022. Collected in the chapbook *Home and Away*, available from Finishing Line Press (finishinglinepress.com)

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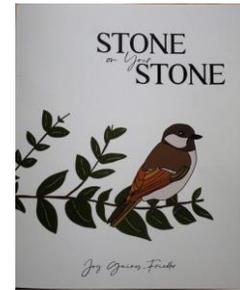
The editor would like to gratefully acknowledge the poets whose original work appears in this *Newsletter*. Copyright is retained by them. Permission to further reproduce or distribute these poems in any form, print or online, must be obtained from the authors.

The Printed Word

Robin Eichele's latest book, *The Wicking of the Broken Heart*, has recently been released, after what the poet himself calls "a lengthy hiatus from publishing." One of the original founders of the Detroit Artists Workshop Society in 1964, Eichele has been writing poetry for over 50 years, and his poems have been included in several anthologies, such as *RESPECT: The Poetry of Detroit Music* (MSU Press 2020), edited by Jim Daniels and M.L. Liebler. "Robin Eichele," writes Liebler, "is a Midwest literary treasure. His work takes his readers deep into the many dimensions of self and nature... Robin Eichele's poetry makes this world a better place, and it makes us more enlightened to be alive in it." *The Wicking of the Broken Heart* is available at Amazon, or you can order it directly from Robin at RobinEichele@comcast.net. You can also ask to be added to Robin's fee-free "poems among friends" subscription service by sending a request to that email address.



Karin Hoffecker's book, *The Bonds We Keep*, has been published by Blue Light Press and 1st World Publishing. The collection of poems examines the spaces between loss, grief and healing, with an appreciation of the relationships that bond us. Her collection, *The Nell Poems*, was published in 2018 by Blue Light Press. Both books are available on Amazon or can be ordered from the author at klhpoetlover@gmail.com.



The winning chapbooks of the **Friends of Poetry 2021 Chapbook Contest** have been released by Celery City publishing. The state-wide contest winners were PSM members **Diana Dinverno** and **Joy Gaines-Friedler**. **Beth Bullmer** and **Michelle Ringle-Barrett** were the Kalamazoo County winners. Information about ordering Dinverno's *When Truth Comes Home to Roost* is available at her website (dianadimverno.com), along with news about other recent awards and publications, as well as upcoming activities. To get information about the availability of Gaines-Friedler's *Stone on Your Stone* send her an email at caboti@yahoo.com or check out her website (joygainesfriedler.com) for updates and info about her other publications and activities.

Summer

Shadows on the lawn
deer prancing in the meadow
fields are greening.

—Inge Logenburg Kyler

News from River Junction Poets

Regular RPJ meetings will henceforth be held on the 4th Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Zauel Library (**June 25, August 27, September 24, October 22**), The exceptions are **July** (the annual picnic, location and time TBD) and the December Holiday Party, scheduled for **Saturday, Dec 3, at 1 p.m.**) Please mark your calendars for these changes.

Creative 360 in Midland is asking for poets, writers and artists 55 year of age and older to take part in its 13th Annual Artfest 55. Award ceremonies will be held on **Friday, June 24, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Contact Creative 360 soon if you are interested in participating. Phone: 989-837-1885, or email: creed@creative360.org.

Roethke House Events

Several Members of the **River Junction Poets** participated in the three-day celebration of Theodore Roethke on May 23-25, sponsored by the **Saginaw Art Museum** and **Roethke House**. A proclamation from the City Council made May 25 “Theodore Roethke Day,” in honor of his birthday. He would have been 114. Events during the celebration included a panel on “Cuttings: When Sprouts Break Out,” with **Jim Daniels, Thomas Lynch, Kathleen McGookey, Cindy Hunter Morgan, and Anita Skeen**; an online presentation by **David Wojahn** titled “Homegrown Cosmologies: Animism and Elegy in Roethke’s ‘Where Knock Is Wide Open’,” and an Open Mic in the Gardens of the Art Museum.

For more info about **Roethke House** activities, or to register for events, go to www.friendsofroethke.org.

& Other News

The **Booksweet Bookstore** in Ann Arbor (1729 Plymouth Rd) is hosting a **Belated Poetry Book B-day Party** and reading on **June 24, 2022, from 6-9 p.m.**, celebrating the work released by Washtenaw County poets since March 2020 (during the pandemic). Participating authors such as **Alison Swann, Keith Taylor, Ellen Stone, Christine Hume, Steve Leggett, and Zilka Joseph** (among others) will be reading from their recent books.

Nicola’s Books in Ann Arbor (2509 Jackson Ave) will host a celebration of new books by **Frances Kai-Hwa Wang** (*You Can’t Resist Me When My Hair is in Braids*) and **Zilka Joseph** (*In Our Beautiful Bones*). The authors will be reading on **Tuesday, July 26, at 7 p.m.**

A poem by **Mary Jo Stich**, titled “She Who Serves,” will be published in the **2023 Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets 2023 Calendar** under the name of Mary Jo Kinsey Stich.

PSM members **Ken Meisel** and **Joy Gaines-Friedler** did a poetry reading together in celebration of National Poetry Month for the **Royal Oak Library**. As friends and mutual admirers (Meisel dedicated a book to Gaines-Friedler and used a line from her *Capture Theory* as an epigraph), the poets decided that they would each read one poem from the other’s latest collection. The Zoom reading was recorded and is available on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) (search either poet’s name).

Summer

Impressive Redbud
Bare boned magenta display
Burst out from green frame

—Kathleen Puchala

The Season of Mary Oliver

by
Ron Weber

This is the time of the year I always feel compelled to label as “The season of Mary Oliver.” I’m referring here to spring and early summer, when the entire profile of nature comes exploding all around us in vivid colors and fragrant smells. And the poetry of Mary Oliver, the poet of the natural world, is once again our guide. Although she passed away on January 17, 2019, at the age of 83, she is still poetically with us in spirit, and I miss her dearly every year when her season rolls around.

Her verse is in plain unadorned language. She paid detailed attention to the natural world around her with imagery that is clear, accessible and warm, even when addressing the harshness of nature’s power. She received a Pulitzer Prize in 1984 for her collection *American Primitive*, one of my favorite books of poetry, and a National Book Award in 1992 for *New and Selected Poems*. Her poetry takes me by the hand as we go forward together through forests, over ponds, up dunes, into wondrous trails and around mysterious river bends. She writes with impeccable detail and intimacy of the land and its nonhuman tenants.

She often described her vocation as “the observation of life.” She gave numerous readings but very few interviews. She said she wanted her work to speak for itself. To say she was a prolific writer is perhaps one of the biggest understatements since Noah said, “It looks like rain.” Of her 20 volumes of verse, many frequently appear on the best-seller list of the Poetry Foundation. She was on a par with Billy Collins as one of the best-selling poets in the country. In her obituary, the *New York Times* wrote that she “seemed to possess the aura of a reluctant, bookish rock star.”

In her many writings Mary Oliver taught me how important solitude is to creative work. But I’d rather let her tell you in her own words. In her book *Upstream: Selected Essays*, Oliver writes:

“It is a silver morning like any other. I am at my desk. Then the phone rings, or someone raps at the door. I am deep in the machinery of my wits. Reluctantly I rise. I answer the phone or I open the door. And the thought I had in hand, or almost in hand, is gone. Creative work needs solitude. It needs concentration, without interruptions. It needs the whole sky to fly in, and no eye watching until it comes to that certainty which it aspires to, but does not necessarily have at once. Privacy, then. A place apart to pace, to chew pencils, to scribble and erase and scribble again.

“But just as often, if not more often, the interruption comes not from another but from the self itself, or some other self within the self, that whistles and pounds upon the door panels and tosses itself, splashing, into the pond of meditation. And what does it have to say? That you must phone the dentist, that you are out of mustard, that your uncle Stanley’s birthday is two weeks hence. You react, of course. Then you return to your work, only to find that theimps of ideas have fled back into the mist.”

But even in view of this curse of the self, she also says, “*The most regretful people are those who felt their own creative power restive and uprising, and gave to it neither power nor time.*”

Summer Days, Chai Times

6 A.M. The roiling liquid
in the steel dekchi hisses.
I throw in a few teaspoons

of Assam and Darjeeling,
bring it to boil three times.
Mum is up, I hear her shuffle

slowly to the bathroom. Then a loud,
long yawn from Dad, his classic
morning call to Mum--*Rubeeeee*,

where are you? His feet search
for slippers, hands reach
for his glasses on the nightstand.

Checking for insects, I rinse
the thermoses, the faded old
orange one and the new off-white

carafe. It was white once. Everything
grays quickly here. Even sugar changes
color. I add a teaspoon of damp grains

to my steaming mug, blow noisily
on it as it mists my glasses, balance
cup and a jar of Cracker Jack,

Time Pass, Monaco, sweet and cloying
Good-Days. Hunched on the deck chair
in the verandah, I sip hot chai. Close

my eyes. A cool morning wind brushes
my face and is gone. How soon
this will vanish. Already

I am a ghost watching the ants
pick up crumbs, grains of sugar.
Clinging tightly to my cup, I rub

my fingers over its chipped edge.
Savoring each drop of tea,
I drink it to the murky lees.

—Zilka Joseph

2022 Springfed Arts Writers Contest

Several PSM members are among the winners of the **2022 Springfed Arts annual contest** (open to active Springfed Arts members). A celebration and reading by winners will take place on **Monday, September 12, 7 p.m. at Royal Oak Public Library** (222 E. Eleven Mile Rd, Royal Oak, MI 48067). Coffee and cookie kiosk. Free and open to the public.

Poetry Finalists [Judged by **Dunya Mikhail**]

1st place: “February” by **Patricia Barnes**

2nd place: “*La Traviata* at the Vienna Opera House” by
Diana Dinverno

3rd place: “The Coldest Month” by **Derek Eugene Daniels**

Honorable Mention: “Family Snapshots” by **Kathleen M. Friedrichs**

Honorable Mention: “Of mines, and fingers and pies” by
Michelle Morouse

Prose Finalists [Judged by **Linda Sienkiewicz**]

1st Place: “Rings” by **John Jeffire**

2nd Place: “Weather Bad Enough to Keep You Indoors” by
Phillip Sterling

3rd Place: “Japanese Cemetery” by **Deborah Ann Percy**

Honorable Mention: “This Time” by **Elissa Driker**

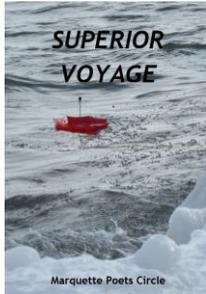
Honorable Mention: “Alone in the Woods” by **Michelle Morouse**

Lost Lake Writers Retreat

Scheduled for **October 6-9, 2022**, the **6th Annual Lost Lake Writers retreat** will feature author **Michael Zadoorian**, poet **Leila Chatti**, author/poet **Kelly Fordon**, and author/music-journalist/songwriter **Sylvie Simmons**. All of the poets and writers attending will be our special guests. Directed by **John D. Lamb** at the **Lost Lake Woods Club**, Lincoln, Michigan. Additional information and registration materials can be found at springfed.org.

Notes from UP North

Superior Voyage, the 10-year anthology of the **Marquette Poets Circle** will be released on **October 18, 2022 at the Peter White Public Library** in Marquette, Michigan. All profits from the sales at the book release will be donated to the library.



Marquette Poets Circle members participated in many events during the **Great Lakes Poetry Festival**. Members **Milton Bates**, **Lynn Domina** and **Kathleen Heideman** were featured readers with guest poets **Keith Taylor**, **Cindy Hunter Morgan** and **Thomas Lynch**. The reading by Keith Taylor and Milton Bates is available on [YouTube](#). **Martin Achatz** had readings, was featured in documentary films, and conducted workshops during the month. **Janeen Rastall** and **Amanda Blumer** created an Easter Egg Hunt and Poetry Party with eggs containing haiku poems and a poetry creation station.

During the City of **Marquette Art Week 2022** on **Wednesday, June 22**, two-time **U.P. Poet Laureate Martin Achatz** and **2021 City of Marquette Writer of the Year Janeen Rastall** will reprise last year's Stump the Poets with a water-themed twist. They will compose and give away poems on any subject matter requested. If they are stumped and can't write a poem in 10 minutes, they can be hit with a water balloon!

U.P. Poet Laureate Foundation News

The Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate Foundation has created a public art installation with Hancock-based graphic designer **Christopher Schmidt** and poetry by esteemed poets: **Kimberly Blaeser**, **Michelle Menting**, **Margaret Noodin**, **Keith Taylor** and the current Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate, **M. Bartley Seigel**. The foundation is providing poster files of these five signs with activities and resources on the themes of Water and the Great Lakes for your use.

A QR code on the five posters will link viewers to the webpage: [Words Like Water](#) with recordings of the poems and more information about the poets. The public is encouraged to participate in **Words Like Water** by sharing their poems and memories on the webpages and downloading the posters. The signs will be displayed during the City of Marquette Art Week 2022 on the city's lakeshore trail. They will be available for redisplay after Art Week in other U.P. communities. Please contact the foundation if you have any questions about the posters or materials.



This activity is supported by the Michigan Arts and Culture Council administered by Central Upper Peninsula Planning and Development with additional support by Superior Watershed Partnership and the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve, the Superiorland Library Cooperative and donations to the U. P. Poet Laureate Foundation.

The current laureate, past laureates and members of the foundation are available for readings and workshops. The foundation is looking for volunteers who are interested in promoting poetry. To learn more about the Upper Peninsula Poet Laureate Foundation and current laureate, **M. Bartley Seigel**, please visit uppoetlaureate.org.

MINUTES OF THE SPRING 2022 MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN*

The Meeting was called to order by President David James at 2:15 p.m., April 9, 2022

Treasurer's Report – Susan Anderson, PSM Treasurer, reviewed the report, which is attached to these meeting minutes. The balance as of 4/2/22 was \$9,524. Income has been consistent. A small amount of new income is received irregularly from Amazon sales of the anthology. Jerry Lang made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dave James seconded, and approval passed unanimously.

Membership Report – Deb Belcher reported that total PSM membership remains between 175-180 members. Membership runs from October to October. Members receive the *PSM Newsletter* either in print or by email. Postage is increasing for mailing, and members are encouraged to make their membership "green" by receiving their Newsletter by email. Membership dues of \$30 per year will remain unchanged; however, it was suggested to increase the PSM meeting fee from \$25 to \$30 to better cover costs. There was no vote of the membership on this change. Deb suggested that PSM explore setting up a Paypal account for member use. She is researching this possibility.

Newsletter Report: Editor Phillip Sterling announced the May 29th deadline for contributions to the summer issue of the newsletter. He's looking for news concerning conferences, general poetry news, new books, and short "summer in Michigan" poems by members. Phillip encouraged members to check out the activities of Ludington Writers (ludingtonwriters.org) and to submit to their revived annual publication *Making Waves: A West Michigan Review*.

Publications Report – Melanie Dunbar is "retiring" as editor of *Peninsula Poets* – a position she has so ably held for the past 4-5 years. Deb Belcher will act as editor for the spring 2023 Pen Poets. The Society is looking for two people to assume editorial responsibilities for the fall Pen Poets contest edition. Susan Anderson encouraged members to sponsor category prizes in the PSM contest. Most prizes range from \$75-100. Melanie recommended looking into separating contest responsibilities from

publication editorial responsibilities. The contest entries only require final editing and proofing prior to publication whereas spring member issues require not only editing but also determining suitability for publication. Approximate dates for the fall Pen Poets contest edition--call for entries in June, deadline by beginning of August, then a couple of weeks to design (the creative work will have already been done) prior to publication. Ed Morin mentioned that for the spring issue, the editor decides what goes into the publication and the editor can solicit poems from non-members with the hope of increasing membership and increasing the diversity of writers. Membership rosters from other state societies might be of help.

Miscellaneous – An online etiquette policy was passed by the PSM Executive Board at their meeting in March. These guidelines are available on the PSM website and on the society's Facebook page.

Submitted by Jerry Lang, Recording Secretary

***For membership approval at Fall Meeting 2022. Corrections or emendations should be sent to jerry.lang61@comcast.net prior to the meeting.**

The Poetry Society of Michigan (PSM) promotes the concept of **netiquette**, a code of good behavior on the internet. PSM subscribes to the following nine netiquette rules:

1. Keep your email message or post relevant to the Poetry Society of Michigan.
2. Avoid posting inflammatory or offensive comments online (a.k.a. **flaming**).
3. Respect others' privacy by not sharing personal information, photos, or videos that another person may not want published online.
4. Never **spam** others by sending large amounts of unsolicited email.
5. Don't **troll** people in web forums or website comments by repeatedly nagging or annoying them.
6. Don't swear or use offensive or overtly sexually graphic language.
7. Avoid replying to negative comments with more negative comments. Consider breaking the cycle with a positive post.
8. Thank others who help you online.
9. If anyone posts offensive remarks or harasses another PSM member online, they will be warned of their behavior. If the problem persists beyond the first warning, the president has the power, with the approval of the PSM Board, to withdraw the harasser's membership (without refund) and prevent the person from participating in any of PSM's activities.

PSM Peninsula Poets Contest Edition

- Call for Submissions opens **June 1, 2022**
- **Poems must be received by August 1, 2022 [no exceptions!]**

FORMAT (*read carefully*):

- Email poems, all in one file please, to 2022psmcontest@gmail.com. *NOTE: new email this year!
- No previously published poems, including on social media.
- Submit **only one** copy of each poem, **all in one file**, one poem per page. Include your contact information on each poem, and the category number. Word document, Times New Roman, size 12 type. **NO PDFs**
- If you do not have email, please mail hard copies to PSM Contest Edition, 5325 Chickadee Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. **Same format as email:** one poem per page, with contact information on each, Times New Roman, size 12 type. Include a SASE for notification.
- Please visit poetrysocietyofmichigan.com for membership details. *You do not have to be a member of PSM to enter.*
- Questions? Contact Diana Hart at 2022psmcontest@gmail.com.

Entry Fees and Submission Guidelines

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

Categories 1 and 8:

Members: \$4 per poem, per category

Non-Members: \$5 per poem, per category

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

Members: \$2 per poem, per category

Non-Members: \$3 per poem, per category

*Checks should be made out to and mailed to: Poetry Society of MI, PO Box 1035, Cadillac, MI 49601
Write "PSM Contest fees" in the "for" line.
Consolidate fees into one check.

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*

The Chancellor's Prize: A poem of fourteen lines or less, on any subject, by a poet who has not published a full-length book of poems (self-published books excepted). Sponsored by Honorary Chancellor Eric Torgersen.

Prizes: 1st - \$75, 2nd - \$50, 3rd - \$25

Category 3: *Founder's Prize*

The Founder's Prize is sponsored by Susan Anderson, in honor of her grandfather Clifford Allen, one of the founding members of the Poetry Society of Michigan, for a poem in any style about Michigan.

Prizes: 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 - \$35, 2nd - \$25, 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 of her father.

Prizes: 1st - \$50, 2nd - \$35, 3rd - \$25

Category 7: *Love*

A poem in any style about Love.

Prizes: 1st - \$50, 2nd - \$35, 3rd - \$15

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

This award is sponsored by the Detroit Writers' Guild (DWG) in honor of the great jazz saxophonist Faruq Z. Bey. Any form.

Prizes: 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: *Women and Science*

The **Lucille E. Thompson Decker Memorial Award** is sponsored by Dr. Kathleen P. Decker on behalf of her mother. Lucille was born in 1927 in Grand Rapids and had a distinguished academic and professional career before retiring as a Senior Associate Editor in the Biochemistry Department at Chemical Abstracts Services. Prizes: 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

Post-COVID Alert! Confirm with Organization before Attending!

The Lansing Poetry Club

generally meets at 3 p.m. of the 3rd Sunday of the month at Dublin Square Irish Pub & Restaurant (327 Abbot Rd., **East Lansing**, MI 48823). For more info or to confirm a meeting, visit Facebook or email LPC President Ruelaine Stokes (ruestokes@gmail.com).

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.

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.

Friends of Poetry – Kalamazoo.

For information about the many activities and gatherings of this group that has served the literary arts of the greater Kalamazoo area for nearly 40 years, 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 has suspended meetings until further notice. Typically *May through October* at 7:00 p.m. in the **Port Austin** Welcome Center. Call (989)738-7641 to confirm dates or for more information.

Marquette Poets Circle

meets on first Monday of the month in the Peter White Library Conference Room at 5:30 for workshop, 6:30 for Open Mic. For more info contact **Janeen Rastall** at janeenrastall@yahoo.com or 906-451-4473

For current activities of **3rd Thursday Poetry** which prior to COVID met each month at Horizon Books in **Cadillac** (with breaks in Dec. & June-Aug.) contact **Susan Anderson** at (231) 429-2443 (treasurer.psm@gmail.com) or Horizon Books Cadillac at (231) 775-9979.

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 **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.