

**Executive Board
2024**

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
[2024 Member's Issue]
springeditor.psm@gmail.com

Contest Chairperson

Diana Hart
psmppcontest@gmail.com

Historian

Inge Logenburg Kyler
(517) 646-9569
ingekyler@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Jerry Lang
jerry.lang61@comcast.net

Honorary Chancellor

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Poetry Society of Michigan



"Encouraging Poets Since 1935"

March 2024

President's Message

Fellow Poets:

Spring is just around the corner!

If you're like me, this means we have a new season of inspiration—poems about new buds and flowers and thunderstorms, about rebirth and love and robins. One of the reasons I will never move out of Michigan is its distinct seasons, each one fodder for new material.

Spring also means our PSM Spring Conference is approaching. Mark your calendars:

Saturday, April 13
Hackley Library
316 W. Webster Ave.
Muskegon, MI
10:30 - 3:00

We have two wonderful writers lined up to present—**Linda Nemeč Foster** and **Cindy Hunter Morgan**. Fill out the application in this newsletter (or on the website) and send in your \$30 check to reserve your spot (lunch included). The conference is a great opportunity to meet fellow writers and to kick start your creative juices. I hope to see you there. Why not bring a friend?

Speaking of Muskegon, sharpen up your pencils and poetic sensibility for the **Art Talks Back** ekphrastic contest through the Muskegon Museum of Art. It's free to enter and open to all Michigan residents ages 18+. (As well as Muskegon County high school students.)

Also the **Westminster Art Festival** in Portage is seeking poems and visual art around the theme of "GROUNDED." One or two poems may be entered between March 1 and April 8. More information about both these contests can be found in the next few pages of this newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank the members of PSM for having faith in me as the president. It has been a sincere pleasure to serve the fine poets of this great state. In gratitude, here is a writing prompt taken from the writings of **Maya Angelou**, who wrote: "Each person deserves a day away in which no problems are confronted, no solutions searched for. Each of us needs to withdraw from the cares which will not withdraw from us."

Write a poem imagining a day where EVERYTHING goes right for you. What would that day look like? What would happen? Be specific.

See you in April,
David James

PSM Spring 2024 Meeting

The Spring Meeting of the Poetry Society of Michigan will be held in-person on **April 13, 2024**, at the **Hackley Library** (316 W. Webster) in **Muskegon**.

- 10:00 Registration/coffee and donuts
- 10:30 Welcome
- 10:45 Traveling Trophy Reading
- 11:45 Workshop with Linda Nemece Foster
- 12:40 Lunch
- 1:15 Workshop with Cindy Hunter Morgan
- 2:15 Business Meeting

2024 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 **April 1**:

SPRING MEETING 2024
The Poetry Society of Michigan
PO Box 1035
Cadillac, MI. 49601

PSM Elections

The following candidates are running unopposed for two-year terms as officers of the **PSM Executive Board**, beginning January 2024. Election will take place during the Business Meeting in Muskegon, where a motion will be made to endorse these candidates by a vote of those members in attendance.

President: David James

Vice President: Robin Church

Treasurer: Susan Herman

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Kerlikowske

Confirmation of appointed positions (Webmaster, Parliamentarian, Newsletter Editor, Membership Coordinator, *Peninsula Poets* Editor, Contest Chairperson, Historian) will also take place. Members interested in assuming any of these positions should communicate their interest to **David James** prior to the meeting.

* * *

Enter Spring

Seasonal sadness
Makes its dramatic exit
New hope is welcomed

Mary Ann Bozenski

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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.

Art Talks Back 2024

The **Muskegon Museum of Art's** annual ekphrastic poetry contest is in full swing. Between January 18 and **March 14, 2024**, Michigan writers are invited to submit an original ekphrastic poem based on one of five works of art selected from Museum's permanent collection, including Hughie Lee-Smith's *Après-midi* 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 a 1-year MMA membership, will be awarded in the 18 & up age category. Student cash prizes of **\$100** (1st), **\$75** (2nd), and **\$50** (3rd), each 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, the required entry form, and selections from the 2023 winners can be found at muskegonartmuseum.org (click on the Education/*Art Talks Back* tab). Better yet, visit the Museum in person before the **March 24 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, 7-9 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, 7-9 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 virtual and accessible through Zoom. Email cwpoetrycircle@gmail.com for Zoom link.

2024 Upcoming Featured Readers:

March 27: Ken Meisel and Russell Thorburn

Ken Meisel, a Detroit area psychotherapist whose poems dramatize personal and social conflict and recovery, is author of nine poetry collections, including *Mortal Lullabies*, *The Drunken Sweetheart at My Door* and—released just this year—*The Light Most Glad of All*. He was featured poet in the movie *Detroit: Tough Luck Stories*.

Russell Thorburn has authored five books of poems, including *Somewhere We'll Leave the World* and *Let It Be Told in a Single Breath* due for publication in 2024. Among his awards is a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. He wrote the play *Gimme Shelter*. In 2013 he was the Upper Peninsula's first Poet Laureate.

April 24: Zack Rogow

Zack Rogow is author, editor, or translator of twenty books or plays. His memoir, *Hugging My Father's Ghost*, will be published in April 2024. His dad was also a writer, and in the memoir, Rogow attempts to solve the mystery of the father he never knew. Zack's ninth poetry collection is *Irreverent Litanies*. www.zackrogow.com

The Printed Word

Jim Daniels' new chapbook *Comment Card* has just been published by Carnegie Mellon University Press, as part of the Cox Family Poetry Chapbook Series. Described as "A poetry collection that hunts for meaning in the ordinary and astonishing," *Comment Card* is available from the publisher or through many online booksellers. Daniels reminds PSM members that he is available for readings or class visits to talk about poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or screenwriting, either in person or remotely. He can be reached at jrdetroit56@gmail.com.



Ritual

She cranks the windows open
the first warm day. Spiders have
sewn them shut. When the sash breaks
free, white fuzz pops apart with
an audible crack. Inside
the screens, webs like lungs billow,
ghost sails expanding with air.

Elizabeth Kerlikowske

CELERY CITY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Celery City is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 chapbook contest. The state winners are **Kathleen McGookey** of Middleville and **Kevin Griffin** from the Detroit area. The Kalamazoo area winner is **Allison "Sonny" Kennedy**. A reading celebrating the publication of the books will be held **Saturday, March 16, at 3 pm** at the **Kalamazoo Public Library** on Rose Street (downtown). It's free. Books will be for sale. Celery City is an arm of Friends of Poetry. Please come and mingle and hear some really good poets.

The Montreal International Poetry Prize 2024

is now open for submissions. Enter your poem of **40 lines or fewer** for a chance to win a cash prize of **\$20,000**.

The Montreal Prize celebrates the craft of the stand-alone poem as a work of art. The biennial competition, open to poets from around the world, is a not-for-profit initiative hosted by the Department of English at McGill University. All entries must be previously unpublished and simultaneous submissions are permitted. An international jury will select sixty finalists and the winner will be chosen by the final judge **A.E. Stallings**, Oxford Professor of Poetry. All finalists will be published online and included in *The Montreal Poetry Prize Anthology 2024*.

Submission fees for first entries are \$20 until the **early bird deadline 1 May**, and \$25 after that until submissions close. Every additional poem is \$17 at any time (all prices in Canadian dollars).

The **final deadline is 15 May**. Submit your work to the Montreal Prize to join a major poetry event this year. We are looking forward to reading your work!

Submit at <https://montrealpoetryprize.awardsplatform.com>

For more information on the jury, past winners, and more, visit www.montrealpoetryprize.com

Notes from UP North

Peter White Public Library in Marquette, MI, will be hosting the 3rd annual **Great Lakes Poetry Festival** the week of **April 21 – 28, 2024**. The Headline Poet this year for the GLPF is **Diane Glancy**, winner of the American Book Award and Pushcart Prize, who has published 35 collections of poetry. Other events scheduled for the week include readings by poets featured in the new poetry anthology *Yooper Poetry*; a night of poetry by local Indigenous poets; a dual reading by current U.P. Poet Laureate **Beverly Matherne** and 1st U.P. Poet Laureate **Russell Thorburn**; a poetry workshop led by award-winning poet **Lynn Domina**; and readings by the winners of the 2023 3-Day Chapbook Contest judged by Pulitzer Prize winning poet **Diane Seuss**.

GLPF keynote poet **Raymond Luczak**, editor of the *Yooper Poetry* anthology, will be reading from his recently published collection *Far from Atlantis* on **Thursday, April 4, 2024**. For a complete list of events or to find out more information, please visit pwpl.info.

U.P. poet and artist **Kathleen M. Heideman**'s work is included in *Yooper Poetry: On Experiencing Michigan's Upper Peninsula* (Modern History Press, 2024), edited by Raymond Luczak. Her manuscript, *A Brief Report on The Human Animal*, won third place in the International 3-Day Poetry Chapbook Contest, judged by **Diane Seuss**; it will be published in 2024.

U.P. Poet Laureate **Beverly Matherne** has done over 35 poetry workshops and readings since her tenure began on March 27, 2023. In keeping with her poet laureate mission to take poetry to middle and high school students across the U.P., she has done a poetry workshop for Three Lakes Academy in Curtis, three workshops for homeschoolers at the Old Bank Building in Negaunee, and two workshops for the Write On program at Peter White Public Library (PWPL).

Matherne launched her new book *Potions d'amour, thés, incantations /Love Potions, Teas, Incantations*, a collection of ekphrastic poetry (Harvard Square Press, 2023), during the 2023 Great Lakes Poetry Festival at PWPL, where she had access to the latest technology for projecting onto a large screen the paintings that inspired the poems. She has also read for the Curtis Public Library, the Westwood Carnegie Library, and (in Marquette) for the American Association of University Women, the Marquette Reading Group, the Norlite Senior Center, the Northern Michigan University Choir and Arts Choral, and the Northwords and Music Show, among others. Additional publications include four poems in *Yooper Poetry*; one poem in *World Poetry Anthology* (Darklight Publishing, 2023); and one poem in the summer issue of *Feux Follets* (University of Louisiana, 2023). Dedicated, energetic, she looks forward to many more readings and workshops slated for 2024.

U.P. Poet **Lisa Fosom** received a Pushcart Prize nomination from Golden Dragonfly Press for the poem "Returning" from her recently published collection *Mercy Is a Bright Darkness*.

Spring at Asylum Lake

The ant queen flies a scent trail
to a mate. Afterwards, tears off
her wings to start a new colony.
She lays tiny oval eggs, jewels, which the soil
holds tenderly. Worker ants turn the larva,
tend the pupa until the translucent adults
emerge. Soundless worms wriggle by,
beetles tunnel around with millipedes.
Above, a furrow spider mends its broken web,
jeweled with dew. She secrets herself in a corner,
waits for the tremble in her feet.
Snakes begin their long ascent towards the sun
near the bank of a small choppy lake.

Robin Church

News from River Junction Poets

The next regular meeting of RJP will be **March 23 at 1 p.m. at the Zauel Library meeting room.**

The **Friends of Roethke Foundation** is continuing its **Four Temperaments Workshop Series** through April. Begun on February 29, the series is offered via Zoom on Thursdays at 7 p.m. For more information send an email to info@friendsofroethke.org or check the website: friendsofroethke.org.

2024 Friends of Roethke Speaker Series

A series of talks based on essays in the 2021 book *A Field Guide to the Poetry of Theodore Roethke*, edited by **William Barillas**, will take place on Tuesdays, starting March 19. The series includes:

March 19: “‘Moss Gathering’ and Roethke’s Romantic Child of Nature” by **Marc Malandra**, Professor of English at Biola University.

March 26: “‘Otto’: An insight into Roethke’s Poetic Vision” by **Jeff Vande Zande**, writer and teacher at Delta College.

April 30: “Roethke’s ‘The Abyss’: Finding the Next Life in This One” by **Trenton Hickman**, associate professor at Brigham Young University.

May 7: “‘First Meditation’ and Roethke’s Career” by **Don Bogen**, professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati.

National Poetry Month /Roethke Festival Reading Series (7 p.m. Tuesdays) hosted by SVSU will feature:

April 2: Anita Skeen

April 9: Rick Mulkey

April 16: Leila Chatti

April 23: Guillermo Delgado

More info about these and other events can be found at svsu.edu/roethke/roethkefestivalevents.

News from Ludington Writers

Call for Submissions!

Making Waves Fall 2024 Issue

Submission Period: January 1st - April 30th, 2024

Theme: "Feral space"

Ludington Writers is thrilled to open submissions for the fourth issue of *Making Waves: A West Michigan Review*. Writers and artists are encouraged to explore the wild and transformative aspects of untouched spaces, from the natural world to the depths of human experience.

Electronic submissions can be made through WavesReview.Submittable.com, with a \$3 fee per attachment. Submissions may also be mailed (free of fees) to **Making Waves** c/o LACA, 107. S. Harrison St., Ludington, MI 49431

Full guidelines are available at

LudingtonWriters.org/submissions. Questions can be sent to MakingWavesReview@gmail.com

\$1,500 Scholarship Available

The **Carol Bennett Memorial Scholarship**, established in memory of Ludington Writers' founding board member, supports aspiring writers in their pursuit of higher education. This scholarship is open to individuals of all ages, but especially encourages HS seniors in Mason, Lake, Oceana, and Manistee counties to apply.

Application Period: February 1st - April 1st, 2024.

Send inquiries about the application to **Linda Sandow** at lsandow@hotmail.com

Results announced by May 1st, 2024

Ludington Writers meets for critique on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 7-9 p.m., in the Judith Minty room on the second floor of the Ludington Area Center for the Arts, 107 S. Harrison St., Ludington, MI 49431. Email us at LudingtonWriters@gmail.com for more information.

2024 Springfed Arts Writers Contest

RULES: Funded and sponsored by Springfed Arts, this annual contest is open for submissions between **February 15 and April 15**. A donation of \$50 (or more) enters your submission into the contest and for one year thereafter you are a member of Springfed Arts--a small community of about 200 active writers, poets, songwriters and supporters. As a member, you can take advantage of writing retreats discounts, or you can register for one of our online writing workshops. If your contest submission makes it to the finals, you could win a modest amount of prize money, and you will be invited to read at our early fall annual Springfed Writers Contest Reading at the Royal Oak Public Library. Your donation helps us to administrate the contest, fund the prize money and produce the reading event (not to mention procure good coffee and cookies). Prizes in both poetry and prose: 1st Prize \$150, 2nd Prize \$100, 3rd Prize \$75.

The poetry judge for 2024 is **Dorianne Laux**. The prose judge is **Jacquelyn Mitchard**.

Submission Guidelines: No name on poetry or prose submission pages. Prose (fiction, nonfiction or memoir) must be double-spaced, 10 pages or less. (An excerpt of a longer piece may be used.) A cover page should include your name, address, phone, email, and title of piece. Poetry should include 3 poems no more than 5 total pages, with name, address, phone, email, and titles of poems on cover sheet. All submissions must be typewritten and previously unpublished. Submissions must be emailed as a Word attachment to info@springfed.org.

Bigfoot Tries to Fix His Daughter's Broken Heart

Since he only knows how to pray with fingers thick as squirrels, he fills her cave with spider webs, traps her sobs, cocoons them, and,

since the ground is still too frozen to dig a grave, takes them down to the lake to drown.

Since he wants to remind her she's alive, he takes her to the valley where she was born, where he first baptized her frog body in great, salty gulps.

Since he doesn't know the word "love," he paints her face with clay. Tenderly, with his tongue.

Since heartbreak isn't a porcupine he can crush with a rock.

Since she feels abandoned, he gives her ribs of a deer bleached by sun. To hug herself. They splinter after one day, become dander and crumb.

Since she feels unimportant, he brings a skunk to her, places it on her head like a crown.

Since love doesn't blossom like mushrooms in mud and rot, moves faster than flea or shadow.

Since she won't eat, he collects fistfuls of spring peepers, scoops them between her lips. They sing in her mouth.

—**Martin Achatz**

2024 Westminster Art Festival

2024 marks the 12th year of the **Westminster Art Festival**, which will take place **April 27–June 13** at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Portage. This annual event is a juried exhibition of art and poetry with an environmental theme, which changes every year. This year’s theme is “**GROUNDED**.” Jurors will be **Conrad Kaufman** for visual art, and **Anita Skeen** 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 \$25 (Honorable Mentions) to \$800 (First Prize). Visit westminsterartfestival.org for guidelines and entry fees.

About the theme “GROUNDED” (from the website):

Our words for ourselves and for the earth’s soil (“human” & “humus”) derive from the same root, indicating just how fundamental is our connection to the ground beneath our feet, the land we live on. We depend on the land, and we also change it as we live on it, farm it, use its resources, and dispute over it.

The 2024 Westminster Art Festival invites artists & poets to consider the nature of the relationship between human beings & land.

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 2024. Entry fee: \$10 for one poem; \$15 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.

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

Comment Card

Below zero—the hotel lost power—
frozen lines, broken sprinklers, just when
guests like us had flicked our lights off
to slog our way toward sleep. Alarms
blazed their grim fiery order: *evacuate*.
The laminated Emergency Plan instructed
us to gather in the parking lot and wait.
Half-dressed, half-awake, we bristled
at the dark betrayal. One gaunt guy
in sweats and shorts jogged in place,
turned zombie blue.

Someone aimed a flashlight at our frozen feet
till the cleaning lady invited us to squeeze
into her tiny car, then started it up. Shoulders
rubbed. We did not sing songs. We shared
scraps and fragments of what brought us
to our lonely rooms. Bianca from house-
keeping shared cookies she'd stolen
for her two kids. Her English: *Take*.

None of us were meeting-cute.
No coincidental links or sit-com jokes.
The situation: I sat between an older
businessman and a younger saleswoman.
Bianca's old car smelled of Jesus air freshener.
Good heater, I said, and everyone agreed.
Our bodies, forced together,
grudged up extra heat.

The lights came on—you know that.
We fled the car in a mad frigid flurry.
The hotel offered us coffee and tea
in the lobby. We spread out over
stuffed couches. Bianca served us.
The manager chatted us up.
What can you do, he asked,
in weather like this?

Jim Daniels
from *Comment Card*

The Challenge for Poets

By **Ron Weber**

The initial and ever present challenge that poets and all serious writers must face is writer's block. But there's an even larger and more compelling challenge that must be met by poets once they've subdued that nemesis. It's the fascinating world of words. Many centuries ago, Confucius offered the belief that, without knowing the force of words, it is impossible to know human beings. Since then, poets have felt a compelling need to be the most proficient wordsmiths they can be.

Words are both tangible in terms of their literal definition and amorphous in terms of their figurative capabilities and qualities. In fact, it is the figurative that is the stuff of the truly creative writer in general, and the poet in particular. As you know—those of you who are afflicted with this cursed need to find the right words in verse—poetry is essentially figurative language. It is words focused in a way that is both expressive and evocative.

Figurative language is the literary tool box from which we as poets extract the tools necessary for the words and phrases we're shaping: metaphor, simile, alliteration, repetition, personification, onomatopoeia, etc. "The best words in the best order" (so to speak). The challenge is to master words within the appropriate context of our message while using these figurative tools to make that message evocative. A further challenge is to evoke the feeling of an experience for others whether or not they were actually present at the time.

Words have been used for this purpose long before the first letter-like marks were put on papyrus or the first symbols painted on parchment, before the dawn of written communication began. The bard, the minstrel, and the storyteller preserved in verse man's history, culture and heroes, which were passed on through memory and word-of-mouth to each succeeding generation.

It never ceases to amaze me that individual words can be arranged on a piece of paper and end up touching someone's heart, soul, mind, or memory. Words arranged in such a way so as to lay a soothing hand on the pulse of someone's sorrow and grief. Or words arranged in such a way so as to highlight someone's great joy and happiness.

The critic and columnist H.L. Mencken defined the excitement of it all perfectly. He pointed out that, for the person searching painfully for the perfect word, and who puts the way of saying a thing above the thing said, there is in writing the constant joy of sudden discovery, "of happy accident," as he put it.

I personally believe that the words that are most evocative—whether in poetry or prose—those that convey man's stories of joy, heartache, hope and despair—manifest one of the leading ways we turn knowledge into wisdom. The difference between the right word and the poetic word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug. The right words tell us how to bake a pie. The right words tell us how to wash our long underwear so it doesn't shrink; how to open and reseal the limburger cheese so it stays fresh; how to use odor-eaters in our shoes so we don't alienate our fellow man, etc. The words of poetry, on the other hand, help us to live in the world. The words of poetry help us express. The words of poetry help us grieve. They give voice to our feelings and help us preserve our humanity. Prose is knowledge. Poetry is wisdom!

Spring Poem

How long the sun was banished,
how fierce the winds did blow,
how barren was the landscape
without the winter snow.

Now finally it's over
and spring is in the air –
again the gentle breezes
are playing with my hair.

The flowers begin to open
and jackets to unzip.
I catch a little whistle
escaping from my lip.

Diana Hart

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!

Downriver Poets & Playwrights meets regularly on the first Tuesday of the month at Bacon Memorial Library in **Wyandotte** from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Contact **Dennis White** at 734-755-5988 or denniswhite@mail.com for more information.

The **Detroit Poetry Salon** is a bi-weekly ZOOM meeting of poets who have, according to liaison **Nancy Shattuck**, "bonded in Spring Fed [Arts] poetry classes." You do not need to be a Springfed or PSM member to join. Interested poets should contact Nancy for more info at shattucknj@gmail.com.

Crazy Wisdom Poetry Circle of Ann Arbor meets on 2nd Wednesdays of each month, 7-9 p.m. for writers' workshop and on 4th Wednesdays with featured reader(s) and open mic. All sessions are virtual and accessible through Zoom. Listing of featured readers: <https://cwcircle.poetry.blog/>. Email cwcircle@gmail.com for Zoom link

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.

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 call RJP President **Jim Fobear** at 989-714-5124.

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

Bards of Bird Creek hosts a round-robin poetry reading at the **Port Austin Welcome Center** at 6:30 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month, June through September. Everyone welcome. Call (989) 738-7641 to confirm dates or for more information.

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.

The **Lansing Poetry Club** generally meets once a month at a different member's house. For more info or to confirm a meeting, visit Facebook or email LPC President Ruelaine Stokes (ruestokes@gmail.com) or Board member Cheryl Caesar (caesarc@msu.edu).