



Indiana Poet

Poetry Society of Indiana's
Seasonal Newsletter

Fall 2022



Our annual *Fall Rendezvous Convention* is almost here!

Fall Rendezvous (FR) this year is **in-person only**, the weekend of Friday Oct 07 thru Sunday Oct 09 at Turkey Run State Park Inn. **Everything you need to know about this year's FR is on our website:**
<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/2022-fall-rendezvous.html>

The winners in the **27** categories of our 2022 [PSI Annual Poetry Contest](#), with over \$1,800 in prize money, are announced at FR.

***Fall Rendezvous* Presenters:**

Keynote Speaker:



Indiana Poet Laureate Matthew Graham

(Saturday 1-3PM)

During his 35 years in southern Indiana, Matthew Graham has been a respected and recognized writer, teacher, and advocate for poetry and the arts. Having recently retired from the University of Southern Indiana (USI), he has taught all levels of creative writing, contemporary literature, and worked with multicultural and international students in freshman composition. Among other community service Graham has worked with diverse writing groups such as high school students and community writing groups.

Matthew Graham is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *The Geography of Home* (Galileo Press, 2018). His work has earned numerous national, regional and local honors and awards, including a Pushcart Prize, an Academy of American Poets Award, two grants from the Indiana Arts Commission, and the Artist of the Year Award from the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana.

While at USI, Matthew co-founded and co-

directed (with Thomas Wilhelmus) The Ropewalk Writers' Retreat, a summer program that brought national and international writers to New Harmony, Indiana for 22 years, and the Ropewalk Visiting Writers Series, which brought prominent fiction and non-fiction writers and poets to the USI campus for free public readings. The list of participating writers includes the present U.S. Poet Laureate, Joy Harjo. Updates about Matthew's Keynote Address can be found at

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/2022-fall-rendezvous.html>

Guest Presenter Sajjad Jawad (Saturday 10AM)

Sajjad will present on Arabic poetry, Arabic culture, the role of storytelling through poetry, and how we might foster better relationships with peoples from other cultures through poetry. Sajjad's presentation will also include readings of his poetry in both English and Arabic.



PSI Premier Poet Celebration of our outgoing Premier Poet, Sarah E. Morin, and the announcement of the newly selected PSI Premier Poet (Saturday 6PM)



The new Premier Poet will be announced after we recognize Sarah E.'s tenure as Premier Poet. Over the past three years, in her many presentations at our PSI events, she has provided our members and the public with inspirational leadership, showing us ways to think about poetry with innovation and fresh creativity. We thank her for her generous service to PSI.

Our annual *Fall Rendezvous* weekend conference includes poetry-related workshops, presentations, the announcement of our PSI Annual Poetry Contest winners, announcement of the winners of our **inaugural PSI Young Voices Poetry Contest for Grades 3 – 12**, and a lot of Round Robin poetry sharing (as part of our Round Robins, see the *Heritage Poetry callout* below!).

The conference is open to the public to register and attend. We hope you'll join us for everything we have planned for the Friday October 07 thru Sunday October 09 weekend convention at Turkey Run State Park Inn (if you reserve rooms at Turkey Run, you have to call them and use the PSI discount

Reservation Code 1007PC; the code will not work online).

PSI 2022 Fall Rendezvous Registration Form webpage:

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/2022-fall-rendezvous.html>

Registration: PSI Members \$20; non-members \$30.

You may pay securely using PayPal: www.paypal.com/paypalme/poetrysocietyindiana

PSI's 2022 Fall Rendezvous Heritage Poetry callout!

Anyone attending PSI's 2022 Fall Rendezvous can share their Heritage poems during Round Robin sessions. **Goal:** Writing down our family stories/histories to pass down legacy through poetry.

A note from PSI President John Hinton: I would like for everyone to write at least one poem that would be a poem you'd pass down to your family as a keepsake. As an example, below is a poem my uncle **Marion Rhine** wrote about his brother. Marion recently passed away at 101 years of age. He was my last living uncle or aunt. I never even knew he wrote poetry until my cousin mentioned it a couple of weeks ago. Now, I'm not judging the quality of the poem ~ this is a poem written by a farmer/factory worker writing a tribute to his only brother. Just a common man, expressing his heart in words. It's an example of telling our stories through poems to pass on, which is what I want to encourage for the Heritage poems shared at FR. Here's my uncle's poem:

I want you to meet my little brother
he is also my big one, because I have no other
we were raised down on the farm
where we work early by the alarm

there was always work to do
for our dad and us too
after several years on the farm
he quit because the dust did him harm

he has three girls and a wife
which brings him joy to his life
he also has some grands to name a few
which altogether would fill a pew

that is the story of my little brother
for now I have no other

PSI NEWS

PSI is thrilled to host a **new annual contest for younger poets**, the [PSI Young Voices Poetry Contest](https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-young-voices-annual-poetry-contest.html) for Grades 3 – 12! This contest encourages and supports Indiana's younger voices in poetry. The annual submissions deadline is September 15, and winners are announced at our annual *Fall Rendezvous* Conventions. Information about the annual contest is available at:

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-young-voices-annual-poetry-contest.html>



In June, PSI President John Hinton announced the appointment of Payge Gillig as PSI's Acting Secretary, pending formal election at our 2023 *Spring Fling* Convention! Thank you to Payge for volunteering to help make PSI the very best great state poetry organization ~ she brings unbridled enthusiasm and great willingness to help with the behind the scenes work of PSI to her new role in the organization. PSI is lucky to have her! As John Hinton likes to say, **PSI is YOU. It's what YOU make it!** There are many ways to help behind the scenes: appointed to the Board

or with committee work.

You can find a list of available positions on our website:

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/officers.html>

You can contact John Hinton about anything you want to do to help PSI, whether or not it's a listed position, by emailing him at poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com

PSI Premier Poet's Corner

The *Indiana Poet* PSI Members-Only Poetry Contest in each of our newsletters is hosted by the PSI Premier Poet. Winners agree their poems are considered as PUBLISHED because poems may be in the next *Indiana Poet*, PSI's annual *Ink to Paper*, on the PSI website's [Premier Poet page](#), & PSI's [public Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), & [Instagram](#).

This Newsletter's contest winners are from the final contest hosted by Sarah E. Morin, whose tenure as Premier Poet ends at this year's Fall Rendezvous. Sarah E. hosted & judged this contest, for which the rules were: **theme:** *Vacations*; **form:** Any; **line limit:** 40. **Prizes:** 1st (\$9); 2nd (\$6).

The first-place winner is *Vacation* by Nancy Simmonds!

Vacation

A Tricube Poem

by Nancy Simmonds

from the car
to the sand
in the surf

castle play
in the sun
oh, the burn
end of day
in the car
almost home

Second Place:

Dozing In A Lounge Chair On An Indiana Summer's Day

by Alys Caviness-Gober

Dozing in a lounge chair
on an Indiana summer's day,
droning lawnmowers and planes
and dancing leaves overhead become
crashing waves and humming bees that thrum
behind my closed eyes, mere echoes
from summers long ago:
I am there, a kid again, seeing the sweet
faces of my mom and dad smiling
as they wave me into an airplane and
their smiles make me brave enough to go,
and then I'm off, to Oregon . . .
sitting with my father's mother in her lush
and fragrant garden, nestled in her loving presence,
where sandwiches tasted better than anywhere else,
and droning bees sang lullabies as butterflies

rested gently on rose petals near my elbow;
I feel wet sand squelching between my toes,
waves are kissing my ankles, I'm oceanside
with my mother's parents, running ahead
and turning back waving and squinting
as sunlight blurs their beloved figures . . .

the crashing waves still call to me . . .

the humming bees still sing to me . . .

dozing in a lounge chair
on an Indiana summer's day,
sudden tears seep slowly from the corners
of my closed eyes, mere remnants
of reverie and heartache, for I had thought
my world would contain them forever,
but now they are all gone from me.
I could not know:
those were hallowed and halcyon days.

Congratulations to Nancy and Alys!

NOTE to PSI Members: the Premier Poet newsletter contests may resume in the Spring 2023 PSI *Indiana Poet* newsletter edition.

Please encourage poet friends to [join PSI!](#)

Open-to-the-public PSI Events & Opportunities:

2022 Fall Rendezvous

Friday October 07 thru Sunday October 09

Turkey Run State Park Inn reservation code: 1007PC

Our annual *Fall Rendezvous* weekend conference includes poetry-related workshops, presentations, the announcement of our [PSI Annual Poetry Contest](#) winners, a lot of Round Robin poetry sharing, and much more. **The conference is open to the public to register and attend.** Registration Form webpage: <https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/2022-fall-rendezvous.html>

Annual Registration: PSI Members \$20; non-members \$30.

You may pay securely using PayPal: www.paypal.com/paypalme/poetrysocietyindiana

(If you want to join in our PSI Members-Only events & opportunities, membership information can be found here: <https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-membership.html>)

PSI MEMBERS-ONLY Events & Opportunities:

What is Poetry? Workshop

(second in the series)

Saturday, 17 September 2022

7:00 – 8:30PM

Presented by [John R. Hinton](#)

President, [Poetry Society of Indiana](#) (PSI)

Second in our members-only *What Is Poetry?* workshop series. The presentation includes a



brief sketch of Romanian poet Gheorghe Izbăşescu, discussion of his poem, *Stream of Seduction*, and an exercise.

About Gheorghe Izbăşescu:

Gheorghe Izbăşescu (08 September 1935 – 09 October 2017) was a Romanian writer and poet. He graduated from Ienăchiță Văcărescu High School in Târgoviște, and became a student at the Faculty of Philology (Slavic Department) in Bucharest. Izbăşescu graduated at the Faculty of Philology (Department of Romanian Language and Literature) of the AICuza University in Iași in 1970. His debut in the literary press was in the Ateneu Magazine (no. 6/1979). He is a member of the Union of Writers and a founding member of the Association of Professional Writers in Romania (ASPRO). In 1990 in Onești, he founded the Zburătorul cultural league and the new series of the magazine with the same name. In 1975, within his department of literary creation at the Alecu Aslan Student Club in Onești, he organized the Zburătorul Literary Cenacle, which published three collections of student works.

PSI Members Critique Group: PSI Members can check the PSI closed group Facebook page for members-only for date/time announcements. **Critique Group is friendly!** It's just a chance to see how others "hear" your poetry! There's no obligation to accept changes suggested by others. Have a poem ready to share, or send in a poem in advance of the meeting by emailing it with Subject line Attn: John Hinton, to poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com.

PSI First Tuesdays Membership Meetings

Location: *your comfy chair!* We gather in Zoom on the First Tuesday of each month, at 7:30PM. Meetings include a little social time, a little PSI business, a short presentation from one of our members on a poetry-related topic, and Round Robin. Join in the fun! Paid PSI Members receive an email with Zoom Meeting info every month.

Contact poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com if you wish to present in a particular month on anything poetry-related!



Poetry Society of
Indiana

Members Only
First Tuesdays
Meeting

PSI Quick Links and communication tools:

- [PSI website](#)
- poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com
- [Members Only Calendar](#) & [Public Calendar](#)
- [PSI YouTube](#)
- [public Facebook page](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- **PSI Zoom meetings:** Zoom login information for PSI meetings is always the same. Login to your own Zoom account and click "Join" then follow the prompts for Meeting ID and Passcode (PSI members have received the Meeting ID and Passcode *via* email).
- Mailchimp (secure bulk emailing)
- [private Members Only Facebook group page](#)

Info about PSI-Affiliated Local Poetry Groups:

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/indiana-local-poetry-groups.html>

Poetry Society of Indiana membership information can be found here:

<https://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/psi-membership.html>

In Memoriam

Dorothy “Dottie” L. Mack
January 28, 1931 – June 21, 2022



Quote of the Season



... and all the lives we ever lived and all the lives to be are full of trees and changing leaves ...

– Virginia Woolf

Newsletter content questions or comments? Email PSI: poetrysocietyofindiana@gmail.com
