



The Friends of the Woodstock Library and the Family of Michael Perkins
are pleased to announce the Third Annual

Michael Perkins Poetry Prize

A 40-year resident of Woodstock and Glenford, local writer Michael Perkins, author of *The Woodstock Flaneur* and co-author of *Walking Woodstock*, wrote frequently about the natural and social worlds of Ulster County.

Michael, whose acclaimed 65-year career as a poet, essayist, and novelist began in 1957 when he won a poetry contest at age 14, died in February 2022. His family and the Friends of the Woodstock Library seek to honor his memory by providing a platform to promote and inspire the young poets of the next generation.

Contest Rules

- All students in grades 9-12 residing in Ulster County, New York, are eligible.
- Submit a group of poems of no more than five pages total. There are no theme or style requirements.
- Poems must be unpublished, not submitted to any other contest, and must be the sole work of the author. Use of artificial intelligence is not permitted.
- Poems must be submitted in **Word** or **PDF** format.
- Entries will be judged blindly based on creativity, originality, imagery, artistic quality and mastery of poetic expression.
- First Prize: **\$500**; Second Prize: **\$250**; Third Prize **\$100**.
- First Prize poem will be published in *The Battering Ram*, Woodstock Day School's award-winning literary journal

Important Dates

- Email submissions along with your name, age, school, grade, mailing and email address, phone number and a high resolution photo (candids are fine) to michaelperkinspoetryprize@gmail.com by **February 24, 2025 at 11:59 pm***
- Contest winners will be announced **March 31, 2025**
- Awards Ceremony and Poetry Reading **Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 5 pm** at the Woodstock Library

* Contest winners' names, grades, photos, and towns of residence will be shared with local media outlets unless you let us know when you submit your entry that you don't want this information shared.

Judges

We are honored that the Third Annual Michael Perkins Poetry Prize competition will be judged by Lucia Cherciu, Barbara Ungar and Joshua Coben.



Photo by Karl Barth

Lucia Cherciu is a Professor of English at Dutchess Community College and served as the 2021-2022 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. She is the author of six books of poetry, including *Immigrant Prodigal Daughter* (Kelsay Books, 2023), *Train Ride to Bucharest* (Sheep Meadow Press, 2017), which received the Eugene Paul Nassar Poetry Prize, *Edible Flowers* (Main Street Rag, 2016), *Lalele din Paradis / Tulips in Paradise* (Editura Eikon, 2017), *Altoiul Râsului / Grafted Laughter* (Editura Brumar, 2010), and *Lepădarea de Limbă / The Abandonment of Language* (Editura Vinea, 2009). Her work was nominated multiple times for a Pushcart Prize and for Best of the Net.



Barbara Ungar has been writing poems since she was six or seven. She went to Stanford, traveled around the world for two years, and lived in Woodstock in the 1990s while earning her PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center. A professor emerita from The College of Saint Rose, she lives in Saratoga Springs, New York. Her sixth book, *After Naming the Animals*, addressing the sixth extinction, is recently out from The Word Works, which also published *Immortal Medusa* and *Charlotte Brontë, You Ruined My Life*. Prior books include *Save Our Ship*, which won the Snyder Prize from Ashland Poetry Press, and *The Origin of the Milky Way*, which won the Gival Poetry Prize. She has published in *Scientific American*, *Rattle*, *Salmagundi*, and many other journals. Her poems have been translated into Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, and Bulgarian.



Joshua Coben is the author of two books of poetry, *Maker of Shadows* (Texas Review Press, 2010), winner of the X. J. Kennedy Poetry Prize, and *Night Chaser* (David Robert Books, 2020), a finalist for the Vassar Miller Prize, the New American Poetry Prize, and the Donald Justice Poetry Prize. His poems have appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *College English*, *Natural Bridge*, *Pleiades*, *Poet Lore*, *Poetry Daily*, *Salamander*, and *Verse Daily*. A St. Louis native, he lives with his family outside Boston.