

Michael L. Nelson

Poet · Publisher · Editor · Community Arts Organizer

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Professional Summary

Portsmouth poet, publisher, and community arts organizer active in the Seacoast poetry scene for over twenty years. 11th Poet Laureate of Portsmouth (2017–2019) and former Chair of the Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program (2022–2025). Editor at Poetry Society of New Hampshire for their Touchstone Poetry Collection from 2023 to 2025. Author of four collections of poetry; founder of Bee Monk Press LLC, the Hive Poetry Project, Space Bee Studio. Host of Beat Night at The Press Room for 13 years (participant for 20 of its 25 years). Creator of Hum & Hive Poetry calendar app and Founder of can U love THIS LLC Relationship app.

Founder & Creative Ventures

Bee Monk Press LLC, Founder,— New Hampshire Independent poetry publishing house professionally editing, printing, and distributing poetry books and zines. Uses on-demand publishing to bypass the costs of traditional routes; distributes print editions via Amazon while keeping books free to read online. Publishes both personal work and other authors' collections.

Hive Poetry Project Founder — Writing workshop and poetry-reading community built around open mics and microphones. Led writing classes with refugee and immigrant teens and adults, at-risk youth, and people in recovery.

Space Bee Studio — spacebeestudio.com Personal creative portfolio of poetry, painting, photography, and recordings.

Hum & Hive Creator, designer — hum-and-hive.com A web app serving as a calendar for poetry events across the Northeast.

can U love THIS?? Founder, creator, designer — Relationship app <https://can-u-love-this.base44.app/>

Civic & Literary Leadership

11th Poet Laureate of Portsmouth — Portsmouth, NH (April 2017 – April 2019)

Selected term projects:

Raising Voices (2017) — poetry class at the International Institute of New England, Manchester, co-taught with NH State Poet Laureate Alice Fogel, working with refugees and immigrants to New Hampshire.

Good Fat Poetry Zine (from November 2017) — founded a quarterly zine representing the Seacoast poetry community; produced four issues and one book during the term.

Poets In the Park: Women Reading Women (summer 2017) — weekly readings in Prescott Park featuring women poets reading the work of their female literary influences.

Chase Home for Children (2017–2018) — poetry class with teen residents of this Portsmouth home for at-risk youth.

Writing for Recovery (2017–2019) — twice-monthly poetry class at Safe Harbor Recovery Center, Portsmouth.

Poets In the Park, LGBTQ benefit (summer 2018) — 8-week series in Prescott Park with 15 local poets supporting Seacoast Outright.

Lunation: A Good Fat Anthology of 114 Women Poets (released March 2019, International Women's Day, South Church) — 150-page anthology of all women poets from the Seacoast and beyond.

Other Community Service

Chair, Portsmouth Poet Laureate Program (2022 – 2025) Helped produce two books for subsequent laureates: *Poetry as a Bridge to Japan* and *Bread and Poetry Anthology*. Also supported the Comfort Rounds series, the *Comfort Rounds Anthology* (2026), and the Public Poetry Project. Supported two Poets Laureate during their two year terms each.

Editor-in-Chief, Poetry Society of New Hampshire (board member, two years) Edited *Touchstone* poetry journal, producing Issue 65.1 and *The Charles Simic Tribute*.

Host, Beat Night at Thirsty Moose — Portsmouth, NH (13 years as host; participant for 20 of its 25 years) Open-mic poetry event with live music from the Beat Night Band.

Books

Divorced Dad's Laundromat (latest collection 2024) — paperback, hardcover, and Kindle via Amazon. Eighteen poems set to music by David Tonkin of the Beat Night Band on SoundCloud.

Another Forty Years (2014, third collection) — midlife musings on divorce and dating; album recorded with the Beat Night Band on SoundCloud.

Sometimes at Night (2007, second collection) — drawn from poems written while attending Seacoast-area readings in the early 2000s.

The One in the Middle (2005, first collection)

Selected Editing & Publishing Credits

Lunation: A Good Fat Anthology of 114 Women Poets (Good Fat, 2019)

Good Fat Poetry Zine, Issues 1–4 (Good Fat, 2017–2018)

Poetry as a Bridge to Japan and **Bread and Poetry Anthology** (PPLP, 2022–2024)

Touchstone Journal, Issue 65.1, and **The Charles Simic Tribute** (PSNH)

Comfort Rounds Anthology (PPLP, via Bee Monk Press, 2026)

Skills

Poetry writing & editing · Book, journal & zine production · On-demand publishing · Manuscript development · Workshop facilitation (recovery, youth, refugee/immigrant populations) · Event & series organizing · Open-mic hosting & sound setup · Painting · Photography · Audio recording · Web app creation