

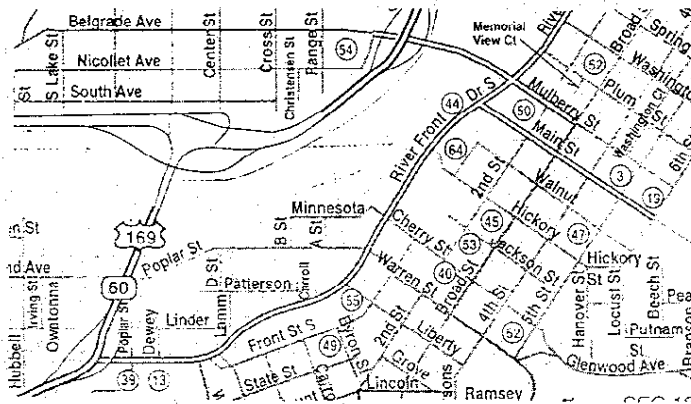
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Meeting: Saturday, November 8, 1997  
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cafe Camarda  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1655  
(OLD DOWNTOWN MALL)

Use Cherry Street Entrance and Parking Lot  
Parking is Free

Take Riverfront Drive to Warren Street (Warren is south of the Civic Center) and head southeast for two blocks. Go northeast on Second Street for one block to Cherry Street; turn left on Cherry and park in the lot on Cherry. Cafe Camarda is just inside the Cherry Street entrance to the old downtown mall.



Join us for a Dutch treat lunch. Reservations are unnecessary. The program starts promptly at 1 p.m. Guests are always welcome!

For our November program MEREDITH COOK will do a presentation on "Writing Memorable Poetry." Meredith is an award-winning poet who is also well-known for her exciting NFSPS reports and for being the editor of our outstanding LOMP Moccasin.

Are you up for a challenge? Our poetry assignment for November is a Villanelle, a musical French form that originated as a shepherd's song.

The Villanelle consists of 19 lines, broken into 5 triplets and a quatrain. Line 1 is repeated as lines 6, 12 and 18; line 3 is repeated as lines 9, 15 and 19. The whole poem is built on just 2 rhymes. The syllabic lines originally were of any length, but usually lines of 4 or 5 iambic feet are used. Line length may be kept the same throughout the poem, or varied slightly to surprise the reader. Wording of repeated lines may also differ somewhat to create a sense of immediacy and move toward a strong resolution. Refrains are indicated below as A1 and A2 because they also rhyme. The pattern is as follows:

A1	a	a	a	a	a
b	b	b	b	b	b
A2	A1	A2	A1	A2	A1
					A2

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Please note a correction to the enclosed list of SMPS program topics: In January our guest speaker will be Jill Hinners, an accomplished writer who is the assistant manager of Barnes and Noble Booksellers. Jill will share writing exercises designed to excite our creativity.

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**Membership notes:** Membership for the Southern Minnesota Poets' Society (SMPS) runs from January to January. Dues are \$15 for adults and \$3 for students. Dues may be mailed to Treasurer Elaine Anderson, R.R. 1, Box 43, Trimont, MN 56176.

Dues for the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) are \$20 for adults or \$12 for students. Membership is open to everyone. Dues for LOMP--which include a year's membership to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS)--may be mailed to Treasurer ~~Chirley~~ Shirley Ensrud, 208 S. Main Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013.

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#### CALENDAR ITEMS

**February 1, 1998** - NFSPS 1998 Edna Meudt Memorial Scholarship Fund deadline. (See recent Strophes.)

**June 18-22, 1998** - NFSPS Annual Convention in Ogden, Utah. A train from Fowa will take two days to get there. If you've never been to a national convention before, this is the one to attend!

**July 18, 1998** - Moccasin deadline.

**Barnes and Noble Writers' Night** - Meets the first Wednesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. This group is led by Assistant Manager Jill Hinners. Come for support, inspiration and feedback (if desired) on your writing projects.

**Barnes and Noble Poetry Night** - This open stage event happens the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. Take advantage of this opportunity to hear local poets and to share your own poetry in public.

**The Good Thunder Reading Series** at Mankato State University brings readings, workshops and book-signings to the community. This year's focus is on ten Minnesota writers. All events are free and open to the public. The visiting writers offer a talk on craft at 3 p.m. and read from their works at 7:30 p.m. For more series information call Roger Sheffer, series director, at 389-2117.

This year's events include the following:

Susan Yuzna, poetry, November 20. Born and raised in Minnesota, SUSAN YUZNA received her MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Montana, where she was a Richard Hugo Memorial Poetry Scholar. Poems of hers have appeared in Mademoiselle, Ploughshares, several other magazines and in the chapbook

Burning the Fake Woman. Yuzna's first full collection, Her Slender Dress, won the 1995 Akron Poetry Prize and the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. The recipient of fellowships from the Bush Foundation and the Ucross and Breadloaf colonies, she currently lives in the Twin Cities.

**Talk on Craft:** 3 p.m.--CSU Ostrander Auditorium

**Reading & Signing:** 7:30 p.m.--CSU Room 253

Beth Weatherby, fiction/nonfiction, January 22. BETH WEATHERBY'S first book, the collection of short fiction Small Invasions, was recently published by Plains Press. Her stories have appeared in several literary magazines, including Short Story, Eureka, River Oak Review and The Little Magazine. She has written a novel, My Story of You, and is working on a second. The recipient of a 1997 Loft-McKnight Artist Fellowship, she is the director of creative writing program at Southwest State University.

**Talk on Craft:** 3 p.m.--CSU Ostrander Auditorium

**Reading & Signing:** 7:30 p.m.--CSU Room 253

David Treuer, fiction, February 12. DAVID TREUER an Ojibwe writer from the Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota, where he grew up and currently resides. His novel Little received wide-spread critical acclaim. One critic calls the book "a moody story with fascinating characters and an ever-evolving plot that highlights the absurd disparities between the rich and the poor." Another claims, "Thanks to Treuer's vigorous storytelling and crystalline characterization, Little proves very big indeed: a passionate tale of place, race and human nature." A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Michigan, Treuer teaches literature at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and is at work on a second novel.

**Talk on Craft:** 3 p.m.--CSU Room 253

**Reading & Signing:** 7:30 p.m.--CSU Room 253

Briefly, other guests include these authors:

Jim Daniels, poetry/screenwriting, March 5.

John Calderazzo, nonfiction/fiction, April 14-17.

Freya Manfred, poetry, May 7.

Roseann Lloyd, poetry, May 28.

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#### ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

**Monica Haack** received a personal letter from Bob Green, syndicated columnist appearing in The Free Press, thanking her for her letter commending him for his columns about poets and poetry. He said it was great to be part of a group and refreshing to know that so many Minnesotans enjoy and promote good poetry. Monica also received personal letters from the associate editor of The Spirit (a Catholic Archdiocese paper) and from the Archbishop in thanks for her uplifting poetry. (She had sent them her book.) Monica was part of the Minnesota Valley Regional Library local authors' night (with three other authors) and read from her book Catch Me a Poem. She felt truly honored.

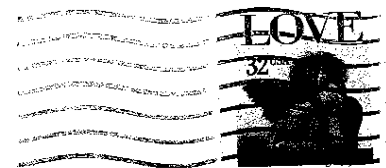
Bonnie Ann Wolle wrote the words and music for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League theme "Hold Up the Light" and performed with guitar and trio at the District Rally.

A HUGE thank-you to Carla Kraft for her creative work in editing the THISTLE-DOWN for several months. We appreciate her contribution, and wish her good luck in her MSU endeavors and in keeping track of her menagerie.

Congratulations to all for expressing your writing gifts!

Do you have a poetry-related achievement we could share in the THISTLE-DOWN? Please send any achievements to your new editor, Faye Mattison, at 521 E. Main Street, #B, Mankato, MN 56001, or call me at 507-345-1174. (Please submit information at least two weeks before the next SMPS meeting.) You may also submit achievements at our monthly meetings. Calls are welcome!

Faye Mattison  
521 East Main #B  
Mankato  
MN 56001



Wilfred Johnson  
5648 Perry Ave N  
Crystal, MN 55429  
MN 55429

THISTLE-DOWN

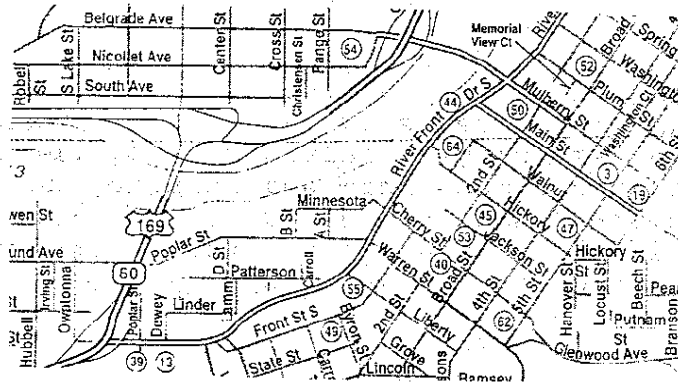
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 16 Issue 4

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Meeting: Saturday, December 13, 1997  
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (order meal at noon)  
Cafe Camarda  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1655  
(OLD DOWNTOWN MALL)  
Use Cherry Street Entrance and Parking Lot  
Parking is Free

Take Riverfront Drive to Warren Street (Warren is south of the Civic Center) and head southeast for two blocks. Go northeast on Second Street for one block to Cherry Street; turn left on Cherry and park in the lot on Cherry. Cafe Camarda is just inside the Cherry Street entrance to the old downtown mall.



All are welcome to join us for a Dutch treat lunch. Feel free to bring a guest! Reservations are unnecessary. Our program starts promptly at 1 p.m.

Our December program will feature a joyous Christmas Celebration. Poets will come together to share holiday poems and sing, with the help of long-time favorites Kevin and Laurie Torbenson.

Our December assignment is a Christmas or winter poem. Bring your winter dreams and hopes to share in this season of peace!

Please note that Meredith Cook was unable to attend our last meeting, so for our program we listened to Poets in Person tapes. Gary Soto, a Mexican-American poet, was highlighted. Soto's work often features the tragi-comic conflicts of growing up in the '50s and '60s in Fresno, California, where the gulf between the haves and the have-nots was wide. There were few books in the home of his youth. His sensitivity to the shared experiences of the Mexican-Americans permeates his work, as illustrated by the following quote from one of his poems:  
". . . And a cup was always smaller than the thirst."

Various poets are featured in the Poets in Person tapes, including Rita Dove, Karl Shapiro, Sharon Olds, Adrienne Rich and others. If you would like to borrow any of these tapes, please see Faye Mattison.

**Southern Minnesota Poets' Society** whole-heartedly welcomes new members Norma Bergquist and Sarah Garcia. We look forward to hearing from them in the months to come!

\*\*\*\*\*

Please note a correction to the enclosed list of SMPS program topics (this time it really is enclosed!): In January our guest speaker will be Jill Hinners, an accomplished writer who is the assistant manager of Barnes and Noble Booksellers. Jill will share writing exercises designed to excite our creativity.

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

#### ALL PATHS LEAD TO YOU

All paths lead to you  
Where e'er I stray,  
You are the evening star  
At the end of day.

All paths lead to you  
Hill-top or low,  
You are the white birch  
In the sun's glow.

All paths lead to you  
Where e'er I roam.  
You are the lark-song  
Calling me home!

Blanche Shoemaker Wagstaff

The following poem is my favorite terzanelle, a moody poem found in The New Book of Forms: A Handbook of Poetics, by Lewis Turco. The terzanelle, of French and Italian derivation, adapts the terza rima to the villanelle form. This complicated, interlocking form is only for the truly brave, creative poet!

# SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS SOCIETY

SMPS is the local chapter of the State organization of the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) which is a chapter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS)

*We meet from the second Saturday of every month, Sept. through June from 11:30 (lunch) to approximately 3:30 p.m., commencing with lunch, then a business meeting and speaker, and ending with time to share our own poems. Assignments are never mandatory, but are instead used to inspire, educate and help expand your poetic creativity. Meetings are dutch treat and currently take place at Cafe Camarda, 12 Civic Center Plaza Suite 1655, Mankato, Minnesota 56001 (1-507-387-5552)*

## Programs for 1997-1998 season

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**OCTOBER 11, 1997 Susan Stevens Chambers "Why Poetry--and When? A writing Workshop."** Sue will discuss exercises to avoid "writers" block. Susan is currently President of LOMP and 1st Vice President of the NFSPS. She has won the 1st place Founders Award two times, 1990 and 1997.

*ASSIGNMENT: A Nature poem*

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOVEMBER 8, 1997 Meredith Cook, guest speaker.** Meredith is a talented poet who has won numerous awards at NFSPS and LOMP competitions and is well-known for exciting NFSPS reports. She has been the LOMP Moccasin Editor, and under her editorship the magazine has earned a well deserved reputation as "the best".

*ASSIGNMENT: A Villanelle*

\*\*\*\*\*

**DECEMBER 13, 1997 Christmas Celebration.** Poets come together to share holiday poems, and sing, with the help of long-time favorites Kevin and Laurie Torbenson

*Assignment: a Christmas or winter poem*

\*\*\*\*\*

**JANUARY 10, 1998 Sue Chambers "The Genesis of a Prize Winning Poem"** Sue returns to discuss the art of rewriting, using "Review of the Living Will" the 1997 \$1,500 prize winner as an example.

*Assignment: Peace/working for peace*

**FEBRUARY 14, 1998 Nancy Dauer and Bonnie Ann Wolle "Love Poetry" Nancy currently serves as SMPS secretary, and Bonnie is currently SMPS President. Both have presented lively programs in the past and are prize winning poets.**

*Assignment: a love poem*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARCH 14, 1998 Charmaine Donovan, guest speaker. Char comes to us from the Heartland Poets Chapter of Brainerd, Minnesota. She currently serves as LOMP Youth Competition chair and has garnered many awards at LOMP and NFSPS. She was a driving force (and wrote the grant) for Heartlands Poets new Anthology, published in the Summer of 1997. She also often incorporates her talents as a photographer with her poetry.**

*ASSIGNMENT: Sonnet on the spiritual impact of music*

\*\*\*\*\*

**APRIL 11, 1998 Steven Reagles "Invoking the Senses in Language". Steve is Professor of Writing at Mankato's Bethany College.**

*ASSIGNMENT: the "Minute" Poem*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAY 9, 1998 Pj Doyle, guest speaker. Pj is a member of the Mississippi Valley Writers and Poets of Minneapolis. She currently serves as NFSPS Edna Meudt Scholarship (college level) chair. Pj has won numerous awards at LOMP and NFSPS, and taught writing classes (poetry, journaling and mystery, among others) at the Loft, colleges and other locations. Most recently she served as seminar critic for the Fall LOMP meeting.**

*ASSIGNMENT: Poetry relating to Americans. 24 line limit*

\*\*\*\*\*

**JUNE 6, 1998 SMPS end-of-season Potluck Picnic. To be held at the home of Sue Chambers, RR 3, Box 86, Good Thunder, Minnesota. Bring Poetry to share!**

*ASSIGNMENT: Poetry for children*

\*\*\*\*\*

Remember these dates as well:

June 18th - 24th NFSPS Convention Ogden, Utah

July 18 - 20th Woodtick Poetry Weekend (Stevens Cabin near Brainerd, Minn.)



TERZANELLE IN THUNDERWEATHER

This is the moment when shadows gather  
under the elms, the cornices and eaves.  
This is the center of thunderweather.

The birds are quiet among these white leaves  
where wind stutters, starts, then moves steadily  
under the elms, the cornices, and eaves--

these are our voices speaking guardedly  
about the sky, of the sheets of lightning  
where wind stutters, starts, then moves steadily

into our lungs, across our lips, tightening  
our throats. Our eyes are speaking in the dark  
about the sky, of the sheets of lightning

that illuminate moments. In the stark  
shades we inhabit, there are no words for  
our throats. Our eyes are speaking in the dark

of things we cannot say, cannot ignore.  
This is the moment when shadows gather,  
shades we inhabit. There are no words, for  
this is the center of thunderweather.

Lewis Turco

\*\*\*\*\*

ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Monica Haack read at Holy Rosary Catholic School's 4th grade classes and introduced them to poetry. She also spoke at Monroe School's 5th grade class, which included her grandson Matt. They were all very receptive, and Monica received 25 acrostic grandma tributes from Monroe. Wow--what a bonus!

Monica Haack received a thank-you letter from the Blue Earth County Historical Society for her book. She was congratulated with gracious appreciation for sharing her personal poetry with present and future generations.

Congratulations to Monica for working to increase appreciation of poetry in the schools and in the community!

Do you have a poetry-related achievement we could share in the THISTLE-DOWN? Please send any achievements to your editor, Faye Mattison, at 521 E. Main Street, #B, Mankato, MN 56001, or call me at 507-345-1174. (Please submit information at least two weeks before the next SMPS meeting.) You may also submit achievements at our monthly meetings. Calls are welcome!

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 16 Issue 5

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Meeting: Saturday, January 10, 1998  
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (order meal at noon)  
Cafe Camarda  
12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1655  
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Join us for a delicious Dutch treat lunch. Guests are always welcome! Reservations are unnecessary. Our program begins at 1 p.m.

Our January guest speaker will be Jill Hinnners, an accomplished writer who is the assistant manager of Barnes and Noble Booksellers. Jill will share writing exercises designed to excite our creativity.

Our January assignment is peace/working for peace.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Loft "is the nation's largest and most comprehensive literary center. It is a place where writers meet and words work, and where literature is valued." Upcoming workshops of interest to poets include the following:

**The Poem as Time Machine**, taught by Juliet Patterson. Saturday, February 28, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$20, \$17 members, class meets at The Loft (see enclosed directions).

In this workshop we'll explore the use of time in poetry and discuss the poem as something in a state of perpetual formation and disintegration. As Tess Gallagher says, the poem as time machine works "like a magnet which draws into it events and beings from all possible past, present and future contexts of the speaker." We'll talk about several philosophical ideas regarding time in poetry and discuss poems from Gallagher and other contemporary poets, such as Robert Creeley, Octavio Paz and Jane Miller, to discover in a more technical sense how time is articulated in a poem. There will be one or two exercises experimenting with tense and narrative perspective, which will encourage thinking about the place and role of time in our work. Handouts will be given. Recommended for the intermediate level.

**Finding Order in Your Beautiful Chaos, taught by Sandra Adelmund:**  
Saturdays, March 7 and March 21, 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Merriam  
Park Library, 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul (Directions:  
612-292-6624), \$60, \$55 members.

This workshop will be a hands-on experience for poets who have been writing seriously for at least a year, who feel they have enough poems to try to put together a collection. A collection has value for revealing to you "What you're doing"--the direction and continuity of your work, and for seeing what makes a set, for submission to a contest or journal or for a chapbook. We will look at and discuss several chapbooks and their organizing principles, but the bulk of the workshop will be spent organizing our poems. You'll have time between sessions to consider suggestions, themes and ways of organizing your collection. Bring paper, pens, poems (at least 8, not more than 40; typed; multiple copies helpful) and a willingness to help each other.

**Paintings (and Other Visual Worlds) Into Poems, taught by Mary Cummings:** Saturday, March 21, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., \$29, \$26 members, class meets at The Loft.

Paintings, and other visual art forms, offer powerfully evocative material and associations. But poets often do not know how to access the world of the visual. In this workshop, an art historian/poet will help you enhance your ability to see more deeply into the work of art, and clarify what attracts you to it as a path to your poem. We'll talk about how to select from the barrage of possibilities, what to write from when visiting museums or art sites. We'll use writing exercises, small groups, feedback and discussion and look at examples in a variety of media from American, European and Asian art. \$2 fee for reproductions and handouts.

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### Hold Fast Your Dreams

Hold fast your dreams!  
Within your heart  
Keep one still, secret spot  
Where dreams may go,  
And, sheltered so,  
May thrive and grow  
Where doubt and fear are not.  
O keep a place apart,  
Within your heart,  
For little dreams to go!

Think still of lovely things that are not true.  
Let wish and magic work at will in you.  
Be sometimes blind to sorrow. Make believe!  
Forget the calm that lies  
In disillusioned eyes.  
Though we all know that we must die,  
Yet you and I  
May walk like gods and be  
Even now at home in immortality.

THISTLE-DOWN

SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POETS' SOCIETY

Volume 16 Issue 6

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Meeting: Saturday, February 14, 1998  
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (order meal at noon)  
Cafe Camarda  
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Join us for a delicious Dutch treat lunch. Guests are always welcome! Reservations are unnecessary. Our program begins at 1 p.m.

For our February meeting Nancy Dauer and Bonnie Ann Wolle will present a program on "Love Poetry." Nancy currently serves as SMPS secretary, and Bonnie Ann is currently SMPS President. Both have presented lively programs in the past and are prize-winning poets.

Our February assignment is a love poem. Forget the winter chill (think: "El Nino"), and write about whatever or whoever inspires you with passion!

\*\*\*\*\*

SMPS would like to thank our January guest speaker Jill Hanners, assistant manager of Barnes and Noble Booksellers, for sharing a technique designed to elicit unusual contrasts in our poetry. First, we wrote for five minutes describing a detailed scene from our lives in which there is some kind of tension, but we are just observing. Next, we wrote for five minutes about another scene where we are actively involved in some activity of striking emotional content. The third step in this process was to combine the two writings, alternating a sentence from the first piece with a sentence from our second set of notes. The juxtaposition of two varied compositions provided some interesting starting points for some poets, and for others the blend was amazingly effective.

The following books were highly recommended by Jill: The Practice of Poetry, edited by Robin Behn, and Ecstatic Occasions, Expedient Forms, edited by David Lehman.

Also recommended: Minnesota Literature newsletter, One Nord Circle, St. Paul, MN 55127. Cost is \$10 for ten issues; write your check to Minnesota Literature Newsletters and send it to the above address, attention Mary Bround Smith, Editor, 612-483-3904.

Thanks again, Jill, for jump-starting our imaginations!

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**Mark your calendars for the LOMP Spring Meeting, Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 1998, at the Good Counsel Education Center in Mankato.** Please bring poetry to share Friday evening. At noon on Friday there will be a special visioning/planning session for the future of the League; board members and interested others are encouraged to attend. This session will be facilitated by Stephanie Stoffel. Our speaker for the Saturday program will be Bill Gunderson. Carol Dahlin will be the seminar chair to send your poems to. Look for more information in the next Lomplighter.

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**SMPS is exploring grant money** for an anthology! Please think about poems of yours you would like to include, and give some thought to possibilities for a title for the anthology. Our thanks to Lee Cummings for heading this project. You must be a current SMPS member to submit poems.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Please find enclosed** a copy of the 1998 National Federation of State Poetry Societies' contest brochure. **Note that the contest deadline is March 15, 1998.** Contest #50 is for students in grades 9 through 12; please encourage students to enter. We would like to have a strong representation from Minnesota poets, so please enter as many contests as you can.

You must <sup>not</sup> be a current League of MN Poets' (LOMP) member to enter the NFSPS contest. LOMP dues are \$20 for adults or \$12 for students. Membership is open to everyone. Dues for LOMP--which include a year's membership to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS)--may be mailed to Treasurer Shirley Ensrud, 208 S. Main Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013.

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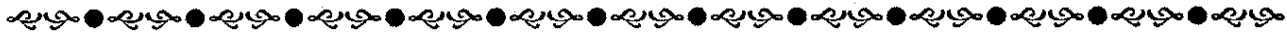
#### CALENDAR ITEMS

**Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 1998** - LOMP Spring Meeting, Good Counsel Education Center, Mankato, MN.

**June 18-22, 1998** - NFSPS Annual Convention in Ogden, Utah. A train from Iowa will take two days to get there. This promises to be an outstanding convention! If you are interested, please contact Sam Zook, 3520 St. Rd. 56, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044.

**July 18, 1998** - Moccasin deadline.

*Thistle-Down*  
*Southern Minnesota Poets' Society*  
*Volume 16 Issue 7*



**Meeting: Saturday, April 11, 1998**  
**11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (order meal at noon)**  
**Café Camarda (Old Downtown Mall)**  
**12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1655**  
**Use Cherry Street Entrance and parking Lot**  
**Parking is Free**

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**Join us for a Dutch treat lunch and 1 p.m. program.** Guests are VERY welcome! Reservations are unnecessary.



**Super thanks to Ike Sarma and Lee Cummings** for stepping in at the last minute and quickly putting together an excellent program on the sonnet. (Our planned guest Charmaine Donovan was unable to come.) We were given an overview of the many types of sonnets—Italian (Petrarchan), Spencerian, Beymorlin, etc. Did you know that Shakespeare actually made up words? Discussion was lively, especially regarding how/whether/when to “break the rules” of a poetic form. A comment was made that a judge may forgive a variation/broken rule IF a poem is good and vivid language is used. Some contest judges follow form rules closely; others may bend a little. We appreciated your input and ideas, Lee and Ike!

**Thanks also to Berneal Schindle** for leading our March meeting; Bonnie Ann was ill and couldn't come.



**Steven Reagles will be our guest speaker** for our **April 11** meeting. We look forward to Steve's program on “Invoking the Senses in Language.” He is Professor of Writing at Mankato's Bethany College. Please bring a poem utilizing all the senses to be shared during the program.

**Our April poetry assignment is the “Minute Poem.”** The description from the 1998 NFSPS Contest brochure (Contest #43) is as follows: A minute is a 60-syllable, 12-line poem written in strict iambic meter, with a syllable count of 8, 4, 4, 4, 8, 4, 4, 4, 8, 4, 4, 4 and rhymed a, a, b, b, c, c, d, d, e, e, f, f. It is capitalized and punctuated like prose and captures a minute in time.

Our April and May meetings promise to be exceptional poetry events, so please come! We look forward to meeting Steven Reagles in April, and Pj Doyle will be our guest speaker in May.



**A brief reminder: The registration deadline for the LOMP Spring Meeting is April 10.** The Retreat and Spring Meeting will be held **Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 1998**, at the Good Counsel Education Center in Mankato. Please see your March *Thistle-Down* for details and a registration form. Your most recent *Lomplighter* also contains more information. Come for inspiration and fellowship with talented poets from all over Minnesota! As those of you who attended the Fall Meeting know, Good Counsel is an exceptional place for a gathering of creative minds. We hope to see you there!



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The NFSPS Annual Convention “**Building Poetic Pyramids**” will take place **June 18-22, 1998**, in Ogden, Utah. An Amtrak train from Iowa will take two days to get there. **Please call Susan Chambers, 507-278-4200, if you would like to ride with a group to Ottumwa, Iowa, where we will pick up the train to Ogden.** If you are interested in the Amtrak Adventure, please contact Sam Zook, 3520 State Route 56, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044. Make reservations with Amtrak FAR ahead in order to have guaranteed seating and to get the lowest fare. Please see your March *Thistle-Down* or recent *Strophes* for further details and reservation forms. This promises to be an outstanding convention, and the trip itself to Ogden will be filled with poetry. Join us!



**April is Poetry Month (sponsored by the American Poetry Society)!** Let’s each do something to promote the love of poetry—invite a friend to our SMPS meeting, write that poem that has been incubating for weeks, send in your reservation for our upcoming Spring Meeting or NFSPS convention or ...



**SMPS heartily welcomes new member Carol F. Neuman!** New faces, new ideas ... keep our meetings stimulating. Welcome, Carol!



## Calendar Items

**Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, 1998:** LOMP Spring Meeting, Good Counsel Education Center, Mankato, MN.

**Saturday, June 6, 1998:** SMPS end-of-season Potluck Picnic, Sue Chambers' home, R.R. 3, Box 86, Good Thunder, MN. Bring poetry to share!

**June 18-22, 1998:** NFSPS Annual Convention in Ogden, Utah—"Building Poetic Pyramids."

**July 17-19, 1998:** Woodticks' Annual Slot. LOMP president Susan Stevens Chambers says that the Stevens' cabin near Merrifield is reserved for poets that Friday through Sunday. Many **exceptional** poets will be attending, so please mark your calendar!

**July 18, 1998:** *Moccasin* deadline.



## Good Thunder Reading Series

**Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Program: John Calderazzo, nonfiction/fiction, Tuesday-Friday, April 14-17.** A former freelance writer, JOHN CALDERAZZO teaches literary nonfiction workshops in Colorado State's MFA program in creative writing. (See your February *Thistle-Down* for more details.)

- Writing Workshop:** Tuesday-Friday  
9 a.m.—CSU Room 203
- Talk on Craft:** Tuesday  
3 p.m.—CSU Ostrander Auditorium
- Reading & Signing:** Thursday  
7:30 p.m.—CSU Room 253

**Freya Manfred, poetry, Thursday, May 7.** FREYA MANFRED grew up in Bloomington, Minnesota, and holds degrees from Macalester College and Stanford University. She has published three books of poems, including *American Roads* and *Yellow Squash Woman*, and has recently completed two novels and a memoir, *Love, Dad*, about her father Frederick Manfred. Her awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Yaddo and MacDowell colonies, and the Wurlitzer Foundation. In recent years Manfred has directed writing workshops in a wide variety of settings, served as a poetry consultant to National Public Radio, and scripted and performed for poetry features on public television.

- Talk on Craft:** 3 p.m.—CSU North Ballroom
- Reading & Signing:** 7:30 p.m.—CSU Ostrander Auditorium

**Roseann Lloyd, poetry, Thursday, May 28.** ROSEANN LLOYD'S new book *War Baby Express* was chosen for the 1997 Minnesota Book Award in Poetry. She has published other books, including the poetry collection *Tap Dancing for Big Mom*, translations, and nonfiction for Hazelden Books. With Deborah Keenan she edited *Looking for Home: Women Writing About Exile*, which won



the 1991 American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation. Among her other awards are grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and The Loft. Lloyd currently works in the Twin Cities as a freelance writer and teacher.

**Talk on Craft:** 3 p.m.—CSU Ostrander Auditorium

**Reading & Signing:** 7:30 p.m.—CSU Ostrander Auditorium



## Achievement Report

**Meredith Cook:** After a year and a half of missing them all, I actually made it to an SMPS meeting. By this point that counts as an achievement! I also judged contests for the poetry societies of Oklahoma and Pennsylvania and the Carlisle Poets Workshop, and I gave a program and three poetry readings (two of my own poetry and one of the late Delavan poet Elizabeth Andrews' poetry) at the Arts Festival in Delavan in November.

**Sue Chambers:** I have judged contests for Louisiana, Oklahoma, Florida and New Ulm, Minnesota (children's contest), Utah and most recently, a manuscript contest for NFSPS.

**Shirley Ensrud:** I read my poetry at the Delavan Arts Festival. My pastor read my sonnets on the New Testament on local radio for morning devotions.

**Sarah Garcia:** I'm busy writing grants for the Madelia School District. Both proposals critiqued have been funded. I am awaiting word on two more: a good batting average so far.

*Congratulations* to all on your wonderful poetry accomplishments!

**Poetry-related achievements** may be sent to your editor, Faye Mattison, at 521 East Main Street, #B, Mankato, MN 56001, or call 507-345-1174.



*Thistle-Down*

1577 Sharon Dr.

N. Mankato, MN 56003

*Thistle-Down*  
*Southern Minnesota Poets' Society*  
*Volume 16 Issue 8*



**Meeting: Saturday, May 9, 1998**  
**11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (order meal at noon)**  
**Café Camarda (Old Downtown Mall)**  
**12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1655**  
**Use Cherry Street Entrance and parking Lot**  
**Parking is Free**

**Take Riverfront Drive to Warren Street** (Warren is south of the Civic Center) and head southeast for two blocks. Go northeast on Second Street for one block to Cherry Street; turn left on Cherry and park in the lot on Cherry. Café Camarda is just inside the Cherry Street entrance to the old downtown mall.

**Join us for a Dutch treat lunch and 1 p.m. program.** Guests are VERY welcome! Reservations are unnecessary.



**Our deep appreciation to Steven Reagles** for sharing a fascinating program at our April meeting on "Invoking the Senses in Language." Steven encouraged us to tap into the senses to make poetry come alive. He has done extensive research on the sense of smell and the intimate connection between smell and the emotions. Think of ... the smell of lake water, burning rubber, grandma's freshly cooked rhubarb pie, a compost heap, ... Our culture has built an entire industry around eliminating odors, while persons in many parts of the world embrace natural smells (even those which are offensive) as simply being part of life. (Walt Whitman would be appalled at our efforts to cover up earthly and human odors! He drank in the smells of nature, and refused to let bottled perfumes seduce him.)

Smells can also influence memory. A brief whiff of a scent in our environment can trigger an intense and detailed recall of an event, place or person from our childhood. Our poetry can be enhanced by including vivid sensory details, for readers will make connections of their own.

Thanks, Steven!



**For our May 9 meeting we are excited to welcome Pj Doyle as our guest speaker.** Pj is a member of the Mississippi Valley Writers and Poets of Minneapolis. She currently serves as NFSPS Edna Meudt Scholarship (college level) chair. Pj has won numerous awards at LOMP and NFSPS, and has taught writing classes on poetry, journaling, mystery and others at the Loft, colleges and other locations. Most recently she served as seminar critic for the Fall LOMP meeting.

All SMPS members and guests are warmly encouraged to attend our May meeting ~ each of you has something unique to offer! Please be thinking of speakers and/or topics for next season's SMPS meetings, so we can discuss plans for 1998/99.

Our May poetry assignment is poetry relating to Americans, with a 24-line limit.



**Membership Notes:** LOMP dues are \$20 for adults or \$12 for students. Anyone may join. Dues for LOMP—which include a year's membership to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS)—may be mailed to Treasurer Shirley Ensrud, 208 South Main Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013.

**Membership for the Southern Minnesota Poets' Society (SMPS)** runs from January to January. Dues are \$15 for adults and \$3 for students. Dues may be mailed to Treasurer Elaine Anderson, R.R. 1, Box 43, Trimont, MN 56176.



## Calendar Items

**May 15, 1998:** Loft 1998-1999 Mentor Series Poetry and Fiction Competition Deadline. Please see the enclosed announcement for details on this exciting opportunity. Note that submissions must be RECEIVED by May 15.

**Saturday, June 6, 1998:** SMPS End-of-Season Potluck Picnic, Sue Chambers' home, R.R. 3, Box 86, Good Thunder, MN. Bring poetry to share!

**June 18-22, 1998:** NFSPS Annual Convention in Ogden, Utah—"Building Poetic Pyramids."

**July 17-19, 1998:** Woodticks' Weekend Workshop at the Lake. LOMP president Susan Stevens Chambers says that the Stevens' cabin near Merrifield will be open to the annual gathering of Woodtick Poets. Make plans now to spend that Friday through Sunday on a poets' weekend at the lake. Bring food to share and a half-hour workshop exercise to contribute. For details contact Susan Stevens Chambers at (507) 278-4200. Many **exceptional** poets will be attending, so please mark your calendar!

**July 18, 1998:** *Moccasin* deadline.

**July 31, 1998:** LOMP 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Contest Deadline. Winners will be announced at the LOMP Fall Meeting in October 1998. Please note on your enclosed contest brochure that Contest #20 is open to students through grade 6. Contest #21 is for students in grades 7-12. We heartily encourage young people to enter these friendly competitions as a way to keep actively involved in their growth as writers.

**Friday-Saturday, October 2-3, 1998:** LOMP Fall Meeting, Assisi Center, Rochester, Minnesota. Watch for details in your August LOMPLIGHTER.

Jane Hirshfield

Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Yusef Komunyakaa

Lynda Barry



1998 - 1999 LOFT MENTOR SERIES

# POETRY & FICTION COMPETITION



The Loft invites poets and fiction writers to apply to the 1998-1999 Mentor Series, which is now celebrating its twentieth year. The Mentor Series offers advanced criticism and professional development opportunities to four poets and four fiction writers. Winners spend four weekends in intensive study with four nationally known writers and study for the duration of the program with an acclaimed local author. The mentors for the 1998-1999 series are poets Jane Hirshfield and Yusef Komunyakaa and fiction writers Lynda Barry and Benjamin Alire Sáenz. The local mentor has not yet been named.

## eligibility:

The contest is open to writers who are able to participate fully in the program and who have not yet published a book in the genre in which they are applying. Participants who were in the program prior to 1996-97 are welcome to apply. Members of the Loft board and staff are ineligible.

Winners are selected on the basis of anonymous manuscripts and receive a \$500 stipend to defray the costs of program participation. Winners are required to prepare for and attend all program-related meetings, seminars, readings, workshops, manuscript conferences and social activities with the visiting writers, the local mentor and the other winners.

If you have questions about eligibility or would like to attend the Mentor Series Open House on Thursday, April 23, please call program coordinator Jerod Santck at (612) 379-8999, extension 15.

## the mentors:

**JANE HIRSHFIELD** (October 15 - 18, 1998) — Jane Hirshfield is the author of four collections of poetry, including most recently *The Lives of the Heart*, and the essay collection *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry*. In addition, she has edited and co-translated two poetry anthologies, *The Ink Dark Moon: Love Poems by Komachi and Shikibu*, *Women of the Ancient Court of Japan* and *Women in Praise of the Sacred: 43 Centuries of Spiritual Poetry by Women*. Photo: ©Jerry Bauer.

**BENJAMIN ALIRE SÁENZ** (December 3 - 6, 1998) — Benjamin Alire Sáenz is the author of the novels *Carry Me Like Water* and *Flowers for the Broken*, as well as two collections of poetry, *Dark and Perfect Angels* and *Calendar of Dust*, which received the 1992 American Book Award. He is the recipient of a Lannan Foundation fellowship and teaches at the University of Texas at El Paso. Photo: ©Cynthia Farah.

**YUSEF KOMUNYAKAA** (February 11 - 14, 1999) — Yusef Komunyakaa received the 1994 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry and the Kingsley-Tufts Poetry Award for his collection *Neon Vernacular*. He is the author of several other titles including, most recently, *Thieves of Paradise*. He teaches creative writing at Princeton University. Photo: ©Mandy Sayer.

**LYNDA BARRY** (April 22 - 25, 1999) — Lynda Barry is the author of the novels *Cruddy* (forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in January 1999) and *The Good Times Are Killing Me*. She is an acclaimed visual artist and cartoonist and the creator of *Ernie Pook's Comeek*, syndicated in forty national newsweeklies. Among her comic fiction collections are *Down the Street*, *My Perfect Life* and *Naked Ladies! Naked Ladies! Naked Ladies!*

## submission guidelines:

▲ Follow the submission guidelines carefully and exactly. Entries that do not comply with the guidelines will be disqualified.

- ▲ You may submit one manuscript in poetry and one in fiction but may win in only one category. A separate cover sheet (and nonrefundable entry fee if you are not a Loft member) must accompany each submission. Photocopies are acceptable.
- ▲ Submit 3 separate copies of a typed manuscript on 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. Pages should be consecutively numbered and each copy must be stapled in the upper left-hand corner. No paper clips, binders or unstapled pages, please.
- ▲ Do not put your name anywhere on the manuscript or anywhere within the text.
- ▲ Length limits: Poets must submit 15 to 18 pages of poetry, with no more than one poem per page (poems longer than one page should be continued on subsequent pages). Pages must be consecutively numbered; page numbers may be handwritten.
- ▲ Length limits: Fiction writers must submit 15 to 20 double-spaced pages, with margins of no less than one inch on all sides. If you are submitting sections of a novel, you may include a one-page synopsis as part of the total. If you are submitting several short pieces,

all pages must be numbered consecutively; page numbers may be handwritten.

▲ Complete the cover sheet at the end of these guidelines and submit it with your manuscript; photocopies are acceptable. Please do not staple your cover sheet to your manuscript.

▲ Enclose a one-paragraph biographical statement. This does not count as part of your manuscript page limit and should not be attached to your manuscript.

▲ If you want to be notified that your manuscript has been received at the Loft, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard.

▲ If you want to receive a list of winners, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

▲ If you are not a Loft member, please enclose a \$10 entry fee payable to the Loft by check or money order only. Please do not send cash.

▲ Address entries to Loft Mentor Series, The Loft Literary Center, 66 Malcolm Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, MN 55414. Please indicate the genre in which you are applying (poetry or fiction) on the outside of the envelope.

▲ We are unable to make changes of any kind to your submission once it has been received.

▲ We are unable to return your manuscripts; please retain copies of your work.

## deadline:

▲ All entries must be *received* by Friday, May 15, 1998; *this is not a postmark deadline!* Hand-delivered entries will be accepted in the Loft offices until 5 p.m. that day. In order to ensure a fair competition process, we cannot make exceptions to the deadline.

▲ Winners will be announced by August 28, 1998. Please let us know how to reach you during both July and August if you will not be at your current address.

For more information about the Loft, the Mentor Series, the visiting writers, and other opportunities for writers, visit our Web site at [www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org) and check the Loft's monthly calendar of events.

*The Loft Mentor Series is made possible through the support of the Jerome Foundation, the Lannan Foundation and our individual donors.*

### Demographic Information:

— OPTIONAL —

*Information about our applicant pool will help the Loft better serve area writers. Please complete the following brief survey. This information is for office use only and will be removed from your submission. It is not a required part of your application.*

Gender:

Female  Male

Age:

Under 30  31-40  
 41-50  Over 50

Race/Ethnicity:

Asian/Pacific Islander  
 African American  Latino  
 Native American  White  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Sexual Orientation:

Bisexual  Gay  
 Heterosexual  Lesbian

Religious or spiritual affiliation(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a disability? Please specify:  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you define the region in which you live?

Rural  Suburban  Urban

Level of education:

Graduate  Undergraduate  
 Technical  High school diploma  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn of this program?

Word of mouth  *A View from the Loft*  
 Online  Guidelines at coffeshops,  
libraries, etc.  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied to this Loft program before?

Yes  No  Don't recall

Have you applied to other Loft programs before?

Yes  No  Don't recall

Other information you consider important:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### 1998 - 1999 LOFT MENTOR SERIES

#### COVER SHEET

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Genre (poetry/fiction) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Title(s) or first line(s) of each piece:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I am a Loft member.

I am not a Loft member. My \$10 check or money order is enclosed.

#### The Loft

Pratt Community Center  
66 Malcolm Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis, MN 55414  
(612) 379-8999  
[www.loft.org](http://www.loft.org)

Nonprofit Organization

U.S. Postage

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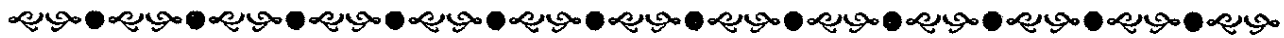
Minneapolis, MN

Permit 1533





*Thistle-Down*  
*Southern Minnesota Poets' Society*  
*Volume 16 Issue 9*



**End-of-Season Potluck Picnic: Saturday, June 6, 1998**  
**12 Noon, Williams Nature Center**

**Please bring poetry to share, a food dish to pass and your own plates and silverware.** Williams Nature Center is located on Minnesota Highway 68 about ½ mile from its beginning off US Highway 169 South. The junction of Highways 68 and 169 is 3 miles west of downtown Mankato and 1 mile west of the Blue Earth River. A blinking yellow light marks the junction, and you will also notice the Williams Pipeline Company's huge gas storage tanks. The Williams Nature Center is on the west edge of the tank farm. We hope to see many of you there—join us for good food and a relaxing afternoon of poetry fellowship. As always, guests are welcome!

**Our June poetry assignment** is poetry for children. Many of us are privileged to be involved with children, whether they are our own little ones, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or youth we mentor at church or other organizations. If there is a child-related incident that made you laugh, cry or appreciate a child's inner world, let the moment become a living poem.

**Please be thinking of speakers and/or topics** for next season's SMPS meetings, to be passed on to the executive board for their planning session this summer.



**What a treat to hear Pj Doyle** speak at our May meeting on British poets! Pj shared an overview of the eight phases of English poetry, each with its own distinctive cultural and historical influences. The fourteen centuries of continuous recorded poetry offer a social record of major and minor life events, as well as a glimpse of how people coped with suffering. British poetry is "poetry of place/people in place." Pj sprinkled her descriptions of the phases with readings of representative poems. SMPS members especially enjoyed her presentation of a delightful cat poem by T. S. Eliot called "McKaffety."

The first phase Pj described is Old English, from 500-1100 AD. Writings were simple, violent, fierce and resigned. Poems were also heroic and expressed respect for wisdom, vision and heart. The poem "Beowulf" was written during this period.

The following periods included Middle English (1100-1500), Renaissance (1500-1660), Restoration (1660-1800), Romantic (1800-1830), Victorian (1830-1914), Modern (1914-1950) and finally Post-Modern (1950-present). From the fine ironies of the Restoration to the uneasiness and skepticism of the Victorian period, the flavor of writing reflected the constant growth of knowledge and major events, such as the world wars.

Finally, in the Post-Modern era, we have poetry that has been described by many as aimless and trivial, with a wide variety of themes and techniques. Rather than becoming overwhelmed by this

apparent lack of rules, Pj suggests that we *take advantage of what came before us*. We can try other styles to grow as a poet. Poetry is a gift, but the gift of reading is the birthright of us all.

Thanks, Pj, for sharing your knowledge and poetic gifts with us!



**Membership Notes:** LOMP dues are \$20 for adults or \$12 for students. Anyone may join. Dues for LOMP—which include a year’s membership to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS)—may be mailed to Treasurer Shirley Ensrud, 208 South Main Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013.

**Membership for the Southern Minnesota Poets’ Society (SMPS)** runs from January to January. Dues are \$15 for adults and \$3 for students. Dues may be mailed to Treasurer Elaine Anderson, R.R. 1, Box 43, Trimont, MN 56176.



SMPS is pleased to welcome new member **Bruce Depew**. We were also happy to have guest **Charlotte Pugh** at our May meeting. We look forward to seeing Bruce and Charlotte at our upcoming gatherings!



We were saddened to learn of **Mildred Hoppe’s death** on May 8 at the age of 75. The funeral was Tuesday, May 12.

### Revival of Spring (Canopus)

The trees are growing green; their leaves unfold  
Like tiny tents to form a canopy  
To shelter man and beast from sun and cold.  
The gentle breeze is teasing merrily.  
New tender branches, bent and swaying, sing  
And soothe earth’s newest creatures caringly.  
Such wondrous marvels will return each spring.

Mildred L. Hoppe, Good Thunder



**Lee Cummings** has asked us to be thinking of ideas or poems you may want to include in our SMPS book, which is in the planning stages. Lee’s address is 228 Fulton Street, #1, Mankato, MN 56001.





Philippine children when Ms. Bartholdi, coordinator of the program, goes there this summer. She will share with them how some American children celebrate American holidays with poetry, song and sharing feelings. I also read from my book for my grandson's 5<sup>th</sup> grade group.

**Bonnie Ann Wolle:** I led two poetry-writing sessions for 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Truman Public School.

**Shirley Ensrud:** I was asked to write and read a poem for volunteers at a banquet (Hospice, Hospital Auxiliary, etc.). It was titled "My Brother's Keeper."

*Congratulations* to all for sharing your love of poetry!

**Poetry-related achievements** may be sent to your editor, Faye Mattison, at 521 East Main Street, #B, Mankato, MN 56001, or call 507-345-1174.



**July 18, 1998:** Deadline for *The Moccasin*. **You NEED NOT WAIT until July to send in your poems!** Try to keep at least six poems on file with *Moccasin* editor Meredith Cook. Vary the subject matter, form, length and width, but keep the quality strong. Very short strong poems are especially desirable. There is a **24-line maximum limit** for all poems that are not NFSPS contests' prize winners. Do not put more than **one poem on a page**. Proofread your work carefully. Check your spelling, especially hyphenated words. Check that your **name is on the poem**; include your **phone number**, too, if possible. Check that your subject and verb agree and your tense remains consistent. Do not use archaic language. Use no inversions. **If you intend to punctuate a poem unconventionally**, send with it in writing a statement that you are doing so on purpose **and what effect you are striving for** in doing so. Otherwise the editor may assume it is inadvertent and conventionally punctuate the poem. Remember this is your magazine, and strive to make it as fine as possible. If you want to use your **whole book** of poetry as your submission, please include \$1-2 for photocopying costs. Keep the *Moccasin* editor and the League's corresponding secretary informed of loss of loved ones and of changes of address.

While *The Moccasin* accepts previously published poetry, we cannot list credits for previous publication except for the NFSPS contests' winners. The Grand Prize-winning poem from the LOMP Annual Contests will also be indicated if submitted to *The Moccasin*. This is done both to encourage participation in NFSPS and LOMP contests and to show our members the kinds of poetry that are winning. LOMP members are becoming so successful in NFSPS contests, however, that *The Moccasin* can no longer print all the prize-winning poems by members. We must now limit each poet to no more than three poems which have won NFSPS contests each year.

**July 31, 1998:** LOMP 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Contest Deadline. Winners will be announced at the LOMP Fall Meeting in October 1998. Please note on your enclosed contest brochure that Contest #20 is open to students through grade 6. Contest #21 is for students in grades 7-12. We heartily encourage young people to enter these friendly competitions as a way to keep actively involved in their growth as writers.

**Friday-Saturday, October 2-3, 1998:** LOMP Fall Meeting, Assisi Center, Rochester, Minnesota. Watch for details in your August LOMPLIGHTER. Diane Glancy will be our guest speaker. LOMP Contest winners will be announced and prizes given.

**Thursday, October 15, 1998, postmark:** Deadline for NFSPS 1999 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition.

**Please keep in mind** that Minnesota hosts the NFSPS Convention in the year 2000.



## Achievement Report

**Berneal Schindle:** I read two poems at GFWC Zetetic Club on Monday, May 4—"Era at an End" in honor of mothers and "Forever and Never" in honor of veterans for Memorial Day.

**Monica Haack:** Jim and I were guests of honor at Monroe School's Arbor Day program. I read two poems, "Wheeler Park Heritage" and "The Planting," which I wrote for grandson Matt and his pal, comparing friendship with a tree and its growth. It was video taped and will be shared with

SMPS members would like to express appreciation to guest speaker Keith Gunderson for sharing an odd selection of animal poems and rhythm poems. We'll always remember his poem involving the dog habit of rolling in smelly things ... a "new use for an old, dead fish." Another poem told the story of how young kids in a class tried to nominate the chicken for state bird. Thanks, Keith!

The brainstorming session led by Stephanie Stoffel of South Central Technical College brought forth a wealth of ideas concerning the mission, vision and goals of LOMP. A summary will be compiled and made available to members. We are grateful to Stephanie for guiding us in an extremely productive meeting.



The Loft's 1998 Summer Day Camp for Young Writers offers creative writing classes for ages 8-16. A one-week session will take place June 15-19, and the two-week session will be July 13-24. As a student in the Loft's summer creative writing day camp, you can expect small classes with experienced teachers who write professionally; people your age who love to write; a fun, but still serious atmosphere; no grades, but plenty of personal attention. You don't need creative writing experience. Beginners and more experienced writers are welcome. Just bring an open mind, a sense of adventure, and a pen or pencil and paper, and you're ready for your summer vacation in the most amazing place of all—your own imagination!

Students will have two writing teachers/mentors each morning. Offerings are designed to enrich and complement one another (it is not possible to register for a single class). Greeters will be at the main parking lot entrance from 8:40-8:55 a.m. If students arrive before or after that time, we ask parents/guardians to escort them to the Loft's second-floor classrooms. Please pick up students promptly at 12:15 p.m. We will have a snack break between classes; please bring snacks not needing refrigeration. (Loft will provide ice water.) One-week fees are \$90 for Loft members and \$110 for nonmembers. Two-week fees are \$180 for Loft members and \$220 for nonmembers. Some scholarships are available, including a special program for Prospect Park area residents. Call for details: 612-379-8999, ext. 10 or 11.



## Calendar Items

**June 18-22, 1998:** NFSPS Annual Convention "Building Poetic Pyramids," Ogden, Utah. An Amtrak train from Iowa will take two days to get there. **Call Susan Chambers, 507-278-4200, if you would like to ride with a group to Ottumwa, Iowa, where we will pick up the train to Ogden.** If you are interested in the Amtrak Adventure, please contact Sam Zook, 3520 State Route 56, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044. Please see your March *Thistle-Down* or recent *Strophes* for further details and reservation forms. **If you need a roommate, please call Susan Chambers.** Join us!

**July 17-19, 1998:** Woodticks' Weekend Workshop at the Lake. Poets will gather at the Stevens' cabin near Merrifield. For details please see the enclosed insert or contact Susan Stevens Chambers at (507) 278-4200. Many **exceptional** poets will be attending; we hope you will be one of them!

Items for the LOMP scrapbook may be sent to Val Bump, 350 St. Clair Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102, 612-222-1625. This may include anything from a newspaper or other source that covers a poetry-related achievement.



Please note the enclosed information on the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. 1999 Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition. You may submit poems that have been previously published in anthologies or chapbooks, and simultaneous submissions are permitted. The back of the competition sheet contains information on ordering copies of past winning manuscripts.



Our LOMP Spring Seminar was led by Evelyn Klein. Some of the items she watched for during the critique session were as follows: The poem should be coherent and focused. Be consistent with punctuation: either leave it out or use it throughout the poem. Avoid the use of the word "that." Read your poem out loud to see where the line breaks should be. If you've used an unusual form, attach a copy of the form's directions for the judge/critique leader.

Thanks, Evelyn, for bringing us a marvelous opportunity to sharpen our revision skills.

Super congratulations to all the fine poets who placed in the LOMP seminar contest!

**Free Verse:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—"The Old Sod," by Pj Doyle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—"Carry Me Back," by Vivian Liners
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—"April Fools Day," by Shirley Poliquin
- 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention—"History Written in Smoke," by Wilfred Johnson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention—"Laundry Lesson," by Charmaine Donovan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention—"Trapped in the Wonder Years," by Helen Pappas

**Fixed Form:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place—"Sweet Solace," by James Eberling
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—"Pianos and Elves," by Shirley Ensrud
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—"The House," by Lola Pagel
- 1<sup>st</sup> Honorable Mention—"World Wise," by Bonnie Ann Wolle
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Honorable Mention—"Rainbow Reverie," by Sylvia Niemi
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Honorable Mention—"A Man of Few Words," by Ruth Wahlberg

LOMP welcomes our slate of officers (those in boldface were newly elected at the Spring Meeting):

- President: Doris Stengel**
- Vice-President: Claire van Breemen Downes
- Treasurer: Shirley Ensrud
- Assistant Treasurer: Joan Wiesner**
- Secretary: Marlys Tennyson Binger
- Assistant Secretary: Loraine Schwanke Mueller

Our thanks to outgoing LOMP officers for their exceptional service: President Susan Stevens Chambers and Assistant Treasurer Doris Stengel.

## BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHERN MINNESOTA POET'S SOCIETY

### OUR CREED:

We have organized to further uplifting poetry in Southern Minnesota—spiritually, socially and intellectually.

1. The organization shall be known as The Southern Minnesota Poet's Society.
2. The Southern Minnesota Poet's Society shall be an organization of persons interested in poetry and willing to work together for the mutual benefit of all in the understanding of their craft.
3. Members shall be classified as active and associate members:
  - a. A person wishing active membership in The Society, must submit three original poems to The Credential Committee. Acceptance as an active member will depend upon the acceptability of the poems submitted and the payment of dues.
  - b. Any lover of the art of poetry may become an associate member upon acceptance by The Credential Committee, and the payment of regular dues. Associate members shall not have voting rights.
4. Dues for both active and associate membership shall be an annual fee, to be paid at the beginning of the fiscal year, the amount to be determined by 2/3 vote of members present at the December meeting.
5. The Executive Board shall consist of: President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer to be elected at the December meeting for a term of two years.
6. The following committees shall be appointed by the president at the January meeting:
  - a. *Program Committee:*  
shall be responsible for the programs at our regular monthly meetings.
  - b. *Publicity and Membership Committee:*  
shall be responsible for all publicity, including those programs outside our regular meetings, which publicize The Society and its work.
  - c. *The Sunshine Committee*
  - d. *Auditing Committee:*  
shall review the treasurer's books at the end of each fiscal year.
  - e. *Nominating Committee:*  
a committee of three persons who shall prepare a slate of officers to be presented for consideration at the December meeting.
7. The Credential Committee shall consist of the president and any two other members of The Executive Committee.
8. The regular meetings of the Society shall be held on the second Saturday of each month, beginning with an 11:30 luncheon.
9. One third of the paid up membership shall constitute a quorum, and no business shall be transacted without this number present.
10. These by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by 2/3 vote of active members present, provided the proposed amendment has been presented at the previous regular meeting, or notice of the proposed change has been sent out to all members at least ten days in advance of the meeting date.
11. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern all proceedings not covered by these by-laws.