

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☛



This month's thistledown photo is by Ben Cooper
(see the Editor's Corner for more info)

☞ Reminder! ☛

Okay everyone, it's time to renew (or sign up) with both SMPS and the League of Minnesota Poets. We're into the 2009 membership year already.

For SMPS to be a LOMP chapter, one half of our members must also be members of LOMP, so we urge you to join our state organization too.

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☞ 2nd Annual The Image and the Word ☛

Last spring, SMPS members teamed up with two local photographers to put on a show called *The Image and the Word*. It was an art-inspires-poetry exhibit featured in the gallery of the Emy Frentz Arts Guild. This year we're lining up 5-7 MSU student photo contributors, including an artist with a studio at EFG and a visiting photography professor.

At the January 11 meeting, all submitted photos will be on hand for SMPS members to view. We'll also scan all of them for viewing on our website. The deadline will be somewhat quick; we are under a bit of a time crunch this year due to very limited gallery time available. All entries must be sent to bajanorthwest@yahoo.com by **January 31**. Plain text email or Word doc attachments are fine.

Teaming up with MSU should bring new blood to the gallery celebration and reading (which still needs to be scheduled, look for details next month). The exhibit at EFG runs from February 12 through March 18, so we will also get to enjoy the photos and poems during a few of our normal Thursday and Saturday gatherings. Bonus!



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

If you weren't able to attend our December Holiday Celebration, you missed something special! Our thanks go out to John Rezemerski, who entertained us with his inside look at "The Night Before Christmas," and to Amy Kortum, who provided beautiful music on the harp. (And a big thank-you to Derek Liebertz for arranging to have Amy join us!) And yet another thank-you to Matt's



Catering, who provided a fabulous meal.

More good news: Amy is not only a harpist, but a poet, too, and she is the newest member of SMPS. Welcome, Amy!

In January, we have just the stuff to keep you out of a post-holiday funk. Don't miss our January 10 luncheon meeting. I'll kick things off with a look at contemporary poetry in "Paired Revelations: Looking at how poems work." After our meeting, interested poets will have a chance to find poetic inspiration in the artwork of MSU photography students (see above).



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☸

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Luncheon Meeting**

January 10, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **Paired Revelations: Looking at How Poems Work**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Jana will remind us that mimicry isn't just the sincerest form of flattery; it can also be a source of inspiration. We'll look at pairs of contemporary poems in which one poem seems to be mimicking the strategies of another poet – always, of course, with a twist.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry Evening**

January 15, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Come sip a glass of wine or cider while you enjoy brief "Five Minutes of Fame" readings by a sampling of SMPS poets!

✓ **Blizzard Poetry Retreat of '09**

January 22 - 25, 2009 (Thu – Sun)

Home of Susan Chambers

57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN

Don't miss out on this favorite annual event, hosted by Susan Chambers. Be inspired – go home with a batch of new poems! All poets welcome. Accommodations provided for out-of-town guests; drop-ins are also welcome. There is NO CHARGE to attend the retreat, but all guests are asked to pitch in and provide food and/or assist with meal prep and cleanup. Each guest should also plan to give a presentation on some aspect of poetry.

For more info or to sign up, contact Sue Chambers by emailing chambersmediator@yahoo.com or calling (507) 278-4200.

✓ **Prairie Stories & River Rhymes**

January 25, 2009 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

Cambria Town Hall

Cambria, MN

Regional Events✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

January 29, 2009

3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Ostrander Auditorium)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event features three writers: Benjamin Drevlow (fiction and creative nonfiction), Nicole Helget (fiction and creative nonfiction), and Jude Nutter (poet).

✓ **Poetry Contest: Convention Madness!**

Contest Deadline: January 31, 2009

Win Your Way to the June NFSPS Convention! Sponsored by

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☸

members of LOMP. (You must attend to receive a prize.)

1st Place – 4 nights stay at The Inn On Lake Superior (\$512.00)

2nd Place – All meals (package) (\$196.00)

3rd Place – Registration Fee (\$75.00)

Any form, any subject, limit one page, 10 point type or larger. May be previously published. No limit on number of submissions, so long as a new entry fee is included for each set of 3 poems.

To submit: Include two copies of poems. One copy with name, address, phone number, e-mail and State Society membership and one copy with no identifying marks. Include a S.A.S.E. for winner's list. Winner's will be notified by March 31, 2009.

Fee: Members 3 poems for \$10.00. Non-members 3 poems for \$15.00. Make checks payable to the League of Minnesota Poets. Mail your entries to: Susan Stevens Chambers, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037

✓ **Poetry Contest: Invocational Poems for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention**

Contest Deadline: February 15, 2009

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) will host the NFSPS national convention in Duluth, Minnesota in the summer of 2009. LOMP is pleased to announce the Invocational Poems Contest. Invocational poems are to be read by winners at the beginning of convention meals. The paramount consideration is poetic value, not religious orthodoxy: "It must be first of all a poem." Poems should be suitable for a religiously diverse membership, should use gender-inclusive, contemporary language, and should have equal value for the religious and the non-religious.

\$50 for each poem chosen for reading. Prizes will not be ranked. Number of prizes will be at least six. Any form, not to exceed 20 lines. Name the form on your entry. Open to all poets. Must be the original work of the poet, unpublished, not submitted elsewhere for publication, and not a previous host-contest winning poem. Typed or printed from computer. One poem per page. \$3 per poem. Limit 3 poems. Make your check payable to League of Minnesota Poets. Send entries after January 1, 2009. Postmark by February 15, 2009.

Winners will be notified individually by mail in April of the year 2009. We place a high value on your reading of your own poem, but we will provide a substitute reader if you cannot be present at the convention in June. You will receive two copies. Your name and postal address, name of this contest, and name of your chosen form at upper right corner of one; name of contest and form only in upper right corner of the other. Poems will not be returned.

☞ SMPS Officers ☛

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers poetsue@aol.com
Treasurer	<i>Dorla is hanging on for now, but the position's open ... interested?</i>
Recording Secretary	Yvonne Cariveau ycariveau@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Publicity	Ikars Sarma icarusj@hickorytech.net
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

LOMP receives the right to have the poem read at this convention. You retain all other rights. Contact Alan (contest chair) at adownes@charter.net or 941-755-5669. Mail entries to: Alan Downes, 1875 Restful Drive, Bradenton, FL 34207

✓ **Superior Convention (Golden Anniversary of NFSPS)**
June 11 - 15, 2009 (Thu – Mon)

The League of Minnesota Poets invites you for an exciting convention on the shores of Lake Superior. We will be staying at The Inn On Lake Superior, which offers some unique rooming options. They have twelve two-bedroom suites which can sleep up to 7 people. One room has a king sized bed, there are town queens in other room, a sleeper sofa in the living room.

Price is \$158.00 per night. For those who like roommates, if you put 6 in a suite, it comes out to \$26.33 per night for luxury accommodations! Standard room are also available at \$128.00 per night (option of king or queen). Room rates are good for three days before convention to three days after, allowing you to take advantage of this incredible vacation destination. Room rates include a full breakfast.

Call for reservations toll free 888-668-4352 or reserve online at www.theinnonlakesuperior.com. You must mention our Group ID 1596. Our password is 37000613.

☞ I Signed Up For What?!? ☛

Let Us Hear Your Poems!

Be part of our Third Thursday Poetry Evenings! If you have plenty to share, pick a “Poetry and Music” slot (each poet will share about 20 minutes of poetry). At most meetings, we also still have time for a brief poetry “read-around.” Don’t keep all of that poetry to yourself – share!

Five Minutes of Fame Poetry Evening

Jan 15, 2009	Chuck Van Buskirk
	Craig Groe
	Marilyn Frank
	Yvonne Cariveau
	Ike Sarma

add your name to the list!


Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

Feb 19, 2009	Jana Bouma & Karsten Piper
Mar 19, 2009	Derek Liebertz & John Rezmerski
Apr 16, 2009	<i>more info coming</i>
May 21, 2009	Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD) Jan 10	Sue Chambers
(TTB) Jan 15	Marlys Neufeld
(SMD) Feb 14	<i>volunteer needed</i>
(TTB) Feb 19	Derek Liebertz / Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD) Mar 14	Ike Sarma
(TTB) Mar 19	Ike Sarma
(SMD) Apr 18	Janet Fisch
(TTB) Apr 16	Craig Groe
(SMD) May 9	Meredith Cook
(TTB) May 21	<i>volunteer needed</i>

☞ Editor’s Corner ☛

 apologize to everyone for the delay in publishing this issue. I’ve included news about the Jan 10 meeting for those who get a PDF copy, though I realize the people who get a copy via postal mail won’t find that useful. Not the best start to a new year; I’ll be quicker next month!

The January newsletter Flickr photo is by Ben Cooper. To see the original in higher resolution, go to:

www.flickr.com/photos/cycleologist/1240864075/

Your editor, **D E R E K**

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
Jana Bouma, President
935 Melwood Court
Madison Lake, MN 56063

Be sure to keep SMPS as a part of your life! Just fill out the form below and send it with your membership fee to Jana Bouma. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The upcoming SMPS membership year will run from **January 1, 2009** through **December 31, 2009**

SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

New Member? Yes No (circle one)

Dues Enclosed: Regular (\$15.00) ___ Student (\$7.50) ___

Mail application and check to **Jana Bouma SMPS President, 935 Melwood Court, Madison Lake, MN 56063**

All SMPS members are encouraged to also become members of the League of Minnesota Poets (<http://www.mnpoets.org>)