

# Thistledown

## ☪ Monthly Photo ☪



This month's photo is by flicknick (see page 3 for details)

## ☪ A New Season ☪

**H**ello poets, and welcome back after a few months of some *gorgeous* summer weather. All SMPS members should have already received a brochure in the mail detailing the season's Saturday programs and other special dates.

If your membership is current and you did not see a mailing, please get in touch with either Jana or Derek. See you soon!

## ☪ Inside This Issue ☪

Poetry Events	2
SMPS Member News	2
Officer List	3
Editor's Corner	3
Book Review	3

## ☪ Submit Poetry, Inspire a Photographer ☪

**O**ur "Image and the Word" gallery exhibit for 2010 will feature a twist on the previous two years as we allow photographers the same opportunity to find inspiration. We need poems that can be shown to photographers, who will look to capture response images through their lenses.

To submit a poem, email Derek at [bajanorthwest@yahoo.com](mailto:bajanorthwest@yahoo.com) or hand a copy to Derek or Yvonne at one of the next Saturday meetings. The deadline for submission is October 15, 2009. Look for more info regarding the exhibit in the coming newsletters.

## ☪ From the Poetic Oval Office ☪

**I**t has been too long since I have seen many of my poetry friends! Summer is a delightful time, but I am ready for fall, because it brings the start of the SMPS season and an opportunity to see the faces I've missed for the past three months. I hope that you are as excited as I am to get back to poetry and to get together with your fellow poets and poetry fans.



We'll start our season off on September 12 with our first luncheon meeting. What have you been up to in your poetry life? Have you been writing poems? How about reading? Come share your poetry news. If you'd like

(and I hope you will!), bring along a poem to share -- yours, or a poem by a favorite author. This is our chance to catch up on all the news, and to look forward to the exciting possibilities for 2009-2010.

We'll also celebrate the success of the Minnesota-hosted NFSPS National Convention. A number of our SMPS members brought home several honors from the convention, so come celebrate with them!

Yes, summer is coming to an end. But thanks to SMPS, there's plenty to look forward to. I hope to see you soon!

Regards,  
Jana Bouma



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato



## ☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Season Kick-off Luncheon Meeting**

September 12, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **A Nation of Poets**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

After lunch is done, our focus will turn to a review of the 2009 national convention held in Duluth this summer.

✓ **Riverfront Park Grand Opening**

September 16, 2009 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Riverfront Park

Joins us as the city of Mankato celebrates the grand opening of the new Riverfront Park! As part of the program, TRCA will be highlighting Mankato's public arts initiative, including its first art installation, the *WordWalk Poetry Project*!

SMPS will have a booth at the celebration, where we will be selling the *WordWalk* chapbook, promoting SMPS, and encouraging kids to write their own "sidewalk poems" (with chalk!) as part of the celebration.

✓ **Third Thursday**

September 17, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Wine and Poetry, featured poets TBA, followed by an open mike session for anyone who wishes to participate.

Regional Events✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

September 17, 2009

3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Room 284)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event in the series features Dinty W. Moore, author of the memoir *Between Panic & Desire* and four other books. He has published essays and stories in *The Southern Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *Harpers*, *The New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Utne Reader*, and *CrazyHorse*, and teaches in the creative nonfiction PhD program at Ohio University.

✓ **A Stompin' Suite: Phil Bryant and Carolyn Wilkins**

October 7, 2009

The Arts Center of St. Peter

315 S Minnesota Avenue

St, Peter, Minnesota, 56082

The opening event of a Stompin' weekend in Minnesota. Phil and Carolyn will be performing their awesome collaborative

## ☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☛

piece, *A Stompin' Suite*, in front of a hometown crowd at The Arts Center of St. Peter. Get you tickets early because it'll sell out!

✓ **A Stompin' Suite (day 2): Good Thunder Reading Series Brings Phil and Carolyn Together**

October 8, 2009

Mankato, MN

Philip S. Bryant and Carolyn Wilkins will perform their *Stompin' Suite* at Minnesota State University-Mankato. As a joint production of the Good Thunder Reading Series and the Department of Music, Phil and Carolyn bring a cross-country jazz collaboration to Southern Minnesota's premier literary and musical stage. Stay tuned for more details.

## ☞ SMPS Member News ☛

- Shirley Ensrud had 3 poems accepted for *Talking Stick* magazine.
- Susan Stevens Chambers' poem "Weather Advisory" was selected for the *What Light* poetry series on the website <http://mncartists.org>.
- Colin Chambers (son of Sue Chambers) is the 2009 recipient of the Florence Kahn Memorial Award, a national chapbook competition for college students sponsored by NFSPS. Colin receives a \$500 cash prize. In addition, his chapbook will be published by NFSPS, and he read excerpts at the June 2009 NFSPS convention.
- Finalists for the 2009 Cambria Eisteddfod included SMPS members Christina Flaughner, Meredith Cook, and Dorothy Stengel.
- Loraine Schwanke Mueller published a book of spiritual poetry entitled "Petals of Roses Falling".

## ☞ I Signed Up For What?!? ☛

We'll be taking volunteers for the new season who can bring food and/or beverages to the Saturday luncheons and Third Thursday meetings. If you can't make the opening meeting but want to help, contact Jana.

☯ SMPS Officers ☯

<b>President</b>	Jana Bouma <a href="mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net">jbouma@hickorytech.net</a> (507) 243 - 4050
<b>Vice President</b>	John Rezmerski <a href="mailto:rez@gac.edu">rez@gac.edu</a>
<b>Regional VP</b>	Susan Chambers <a href="mailto:poetsue@aol.com">poetsue@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Gerry Tostensen <a href="mailto:gerrytos@hickorytech.net">gerrytos@hickorytech.net</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Yvonne Cariveau <a href="mailto:ycariveau@gmail.com">ycariveau@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Derek Liebertz <a href="mailto:bajanorthwest@yahoo.com">bajanorthwest@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Correspondence Secretary</b>	Sandra Newbauer <a href="mailto:snewbauer0147@charter.net">snewbauer0147@charter.net</a>

☯ Editor's Corner ☯

**B**ack to the grindstone after a summer respite — lo and behold, the newsletter season is upon me!

My days have been busy, though not often with poetry. As the many events of summer wind down (replaced by the full calendar for the fall?!), I look forward to digging up poetry tubers from my mind's garden. And sautéing them. With butter and fresh chives ... hmm. Okay, this metaphor is seriously not working. **I am excited to write poetry again!** ☺

The September newsletter's Flickr image is by a California photographer who calls himself **flicknick**. You can see the original in higher resolution at:

[www.flickr.com/photos/83462169@N00/1199239497/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/83462169@N00/1199239497/)

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

☯ “Petals of Roses Falling” Book Review ☯

**I** had the opportunity to sit down with a copy of Loraine Schwanke Mueller's book last month. Loraine is a member of SMPS whom I have not met, so her poems served as a (one-sided) introduction. She writes with an evident passion for life; her spirituality shines through the pages of the book. The majority of her poetry rhymes, and she often gives her images room to flow within a solid meter. I enjoyed sinking into the pages and listening to the words as I read aloud. She writes about faith, the cycle of life, nature, and more. Below is my favorite — I invite you to seek out “Petals of Roses Falling” and find your own.

LETTER TO FIRST GREAT-GRANDCHILD

Dear Little One, now taking form  
beneath granddaughter's heart,  
already of my prayers and dreams  
a living, vital part.  
I wait to see your little face —  
to hold you in my arms —  
to tell you stories, sing my songs,  
protect from all that harms.  
You did not ask to come to earth,  
nor can you know the joy  
of seeing sunrise wake the world;  
day breaks as God's envoy.  
Already an eternal soul  
for us to love and guide  
through all your years,  
till you return to our Creator's side.

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 SMPS membership year runs 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> )