

Thistledown

☪ Monthly Photo ☪



Photo by "mafleen" (see page 3 for details)

☪ November Events ☪

There is a change in the monthly lunch program. The scheduled editors' panel discussion should still happen but has been moved to the springtime.

Jana Bouma will jump into the gap with a review of why poets end their free verse lines the way they do. **Truly ...** a mystery of Cosellian proportions.

Our Third Thursday event also features Jana, along with John Rezmerski. I invite you to come by the Emy Frenz Guild on the 19th and enjoy a night of terrific readings. Music may also be part of the evening if plans allow.

As time permits, an open-mike session will follow.

☪ Inside This Issue ☪

Poetry Events	2
Minnesota Champs!	2
Membership Reminder	2
SMPS Member News	3
Officer List	3
Editor's Corner	3
Sign-Up Reminder	3



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

☪ IW3: Monthly Update ☪

Jana usually takes this corner of the newsletter for her President's Notes. This month she is basking in the glow of my personal favorite of the Seven Deadly Sins:



SLOTH

← See Jana smiling?!

Uhh ... I mean, she has most generously offered to let me co-opt this space to provide you with an update to the **Image and the Word** plans.

The big news? I rescind my announcement of strict deadlines being followed this year. I am already behind schedule ... sigh.

We have gotten some **great** source material on both the poetry and photography side of things, but to ensure a full and varied exhibit I am going to see what else I can get from all my poet and photographer friends this week.

I will still bring any photos already gathered to the November meetings, but look for some additions to the mix during the holiday season.



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

November 14, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm

“The End of the Line”

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Join us for a presentation by our own Jana Bouma, who will cover everything you always wanted to know about choosing line breaks in free verse poetry. Why do poets make the choices they do? [The originally scheduled Nov program, a literary magazine editors’ panel, will be rescheduled for a date this spring.]

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry & Music (?)**

November 19, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

SMPS cornerstones Jana Bouma and John Calvin Rezmerski will be our featured readers for this month’s poetry event.

Musical interludes may also be part of the program ... join us!

✓ **Annual Holiday Program**

December 12, 2009

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Our yearly holiday gathering will feature harpist and singer **Amy Korteum** as we celebrate the season. If you only make one Saturday meeting a year, **this** is the one.

Regional Events

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series - MSU Alumni Reading**

November 19, 2009

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

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event in the series features Edward Micus (fiction and poetry), Connie Colwell Miller (poetry), and Christina Olson (poetry).

✓ **RATTLE: Call for poetry submissions**

Deadline: February 1, 2010

The Summer 2010 issue of RATTLE has a humor theme; puns, parodies, you name it. See <http://www.rattle.com/> for more details on submission guidelines.

☞ Minnesota Champs! ☛

If you haven’t heard — the poets of St. Paul’s SoapBoxing poetry slam team are national champions! The team [Khary (“6 is 9”) Jackson, Michael Mlekody, Kyle Myhre, Sierra De-Mulder, and alternate Jenn Parks] won the 2009 National Poetry Slam in West Palm Beach, FL.

These poets perform frequently at both major Twin Cities Slam venues: *Kieran’s Pub* in Minneapolis and the *Artist’s Quarter* in St. Paul. It’s great to know we have world-class slam poets here in Minnesota!

☞ Membership Renewal ☛

The beginning of 2010 is just around the corner, and with the new year comes a reminder to get your SMPS and LOMP membership renewed. The last page of this newsletter has a form to complete for SMPS, and on the LOMP website — www.mnpoets.org — you can find their renewal form.

We will also have forms available at the meetings this month, so if you attend either Saturday or Thursday events you can grab a copy. A reminder for you all:

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

☯ 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	Gerry Tostensen gerrytos@hickorytech.net
Recording Secretary	Yvonne Cariveau ycariveau@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☯ Editor's Corner ☯

Some of you know that my wife and I are the (proud?) owners of 4 cats. Not surprisingly, we enjoy the subject of cat poetry, pretty much a constant in the poetry world.

Well ... now we own a dog too. Somehow dogs have never provided quite the same poetic inspiration to me, but I plan to dig into this untapped reservoir! *I apologize in advance for any horrendous drive! I subject you to in the coming months.*

I just love this month's oversized Flickr image. The photo really caught me with the background sunset and its downy filaments that remind me of dragonflies. The image is by "**mafleen**". You can see the original in higher resolution at this address:

www.flickr.com/photos/mafleen/1217111411/

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

☯ SMPS Member News ☯

Congratulations to the following members who received awards in the 2009 League of Minnesota Poets contests:

- **Shirley Ensrud** received 2nd place for her poem "Cobalt Sky Backdrop". She also received an Award of Merit.
- **Christina Flaughter** received 1st place for her poem "To Reach My Brother". She also received an Award of Merit and a Citation (*not the speeding kind* ☺).
- **Meredith Cook** received two 1st place awards for her poems "Agent of Infection" and "Sea Change", a 3rd place award for her poem "The Plan", and two Awards of Merit. Quite the haul!
- **John Rezmerski** took home the Grand Prize for his poem "Painting Outdoors". He also received a 1st place award for his poem "Whales Are Where You Find Them", a 3rd place award for "Bottom Feeders", and three Awards of Merit. Huzzah!

In other news:

- **Yvonne Cariveau** was part of a group of 24 Mankato-area residents who attended the recent Blandin Community Leadership Training retreat.

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☯

Thank you to the members who have already signed up to help with one of our events. Everyone else - as you can see below, over 50% of the slots are still open. Talk to Jana or Derek if you see us at a meeting, or email us if you are interested in helping but can't attend the October events.

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Nov 14	Gerry Tostenson
(TTB)	Nov 19	Marv Ostrom
(SMD)	Jan 9	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Jan 21	Marlys Neufeld
(SMD)	Feb 13	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Feb 18	Yvonne & Derek
(SMD)	Mar 13	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Mar 18	Jill Niebuhr
(SMD)	Apr 10	Judy Mosca
(TTB)	Apr 15	need a volunteer
(SMD)	May 8	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 20	need a volunteer

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

Nov 19, 2009	John Rezmerski & Jana Bouma
May 20, 2010	Meredith Cook & Karsten Piper

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Derek Liebertz, Newsletter Editor
1131 E Main St
Mankato, MN 56001

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 our Treasurer Gerry Tostensen. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs from **January 1st** - **December 31st** of each calendar year

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: Gerry Tostensen SMPS Treasurer, 24070 577th Lane, Mankato, MN 56001

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