

Thistledown

☞ LOMP Spring Meeting: "The Ecology of Creativity" ☛

What?

League of Minnesota Poets Spring Meeting!

Keynote Speaker?

Joe Paddock, poet, naturalist, and author of *A Sort of Honey*, *Handful of Thunder*, and *Boar's Dance*

When?

April 23 - 24, 2010

Where?

AmericInn Hotel and Conference Center
240 Stadium Road, Mankato, MN 56001
phone: (800) 634-3444



Details

Registration required for this event. Visit www.mnpoets.org or contact Jana Bouma at (507) 243-4050. Also note, special room rates are available for Friday, April 23. Ask for League of Minnesota Poets room rates when reserving a room.

Schedule:

Friday April 23rd 8:00pm (tentative) Poetry reading at The Grand Kabaret, New Ulm featuring LOMP poets.

Saturday April 24th 9:00am -- 4:00pm Spring Meeting at the AmericInn, featuring Keynote Presentation by poet Joe Paddock, and Poetry Critique Session by John Calvin Rezmerski and Jana Bouma.

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☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

One of my favorite poets—one of the poets who first made me care about poetry—has died. Lucille Clifton passed away on February 13, 2010, at the age of 73. Clifton wrote vivid, compact poems that convey the sounds of real voices in conversation.

Her poems attest especially to the experiences of African Americans and of women, even bodily experiences (like menstruation and abortion) that were long considered taboo. Her poems are often gritty, often joyful, always full of life, and full of sounds that roll deliciously around in the mouth.



Whether writing tenderly about a grandchild's autism or brassily about her own physique ("these hips are big hips / they need space to / move around in. . . / these hips have never been enslaved, / they go where they want to go"), Clifton always spoke with a forthrightness and zest that said to the reader, "Wake up. Pay attention. This is life!"

That, it seems to me, is one of the most valuable things that a poem, and a poet, can do.

Regards,
Jana Bouma



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

April 10, 2010

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm Spring poetry read-around

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

If you have poems about blizzards, frigid cold, snow blindness, and the like — **leave them at home**. Let's celebrate the new buds on the trees and the higher temperatures with a spring theme group read-around. See you there!

✓ **Third Thursday: Poetry Slam 101**

April 15, 2010 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Please join us at the guild on Thursday evening for a primer on poetry slams. Also, game of Twister may break out! Well, not really, but it will be fun even without poet Twister.

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☪

Regional Events

✓ **Girls Re-Mixed: Performance Poetry Show**

TWO SHOWS -- each starts at 7:00pm

April 12, 2010

River Rock Coffee, St. Peter

April 29, 2010

The Coffee Hag, Mankato

Four local performance poets combine their talents: Jennifer Miller, Jade Metzger, Esther Marcella, and Leah Matz. You will be glad you put this on your calendar. Do it. Today.

☪ SMPS Member News ☪

- **Sue Chambers** and **Jana Bouma** led poetry workshops at the Young Writers Conference sponsored by the South Central Service Cooperative on March 10 and 11 .
- **Amy Korteum** was recently awarded an Artist Initiative Grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board to travel and study in Ireland this summer. Congratulations, Amy!

☪ Have You Renewed? ☪

Keep SMPS vital and growing by renewing your membership! The new membership year began on January 1. The back page of this newsletter has a renewal form. Do it now!

We also encourage all SMPS members to join our parent organization, the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP). Joining LOMP gives you the opportunity to enter state and national poetry contests, to be published in the Moccasin literary journal, to receive the LOMP newsletter, and to get to know poets from around the state. For a LOMP membership form, go to www.mnpoets.org and click on "Join."

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers schambersmediator@yahoo.com
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Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

Sparingly stated
my brain refuses to find
one topic worth ink

you then dear reader
are the victim of my blank
empty thoughtless mind

self-referential,
this haiku talks of itself
in the third person.

you say tuh-may-toe
but in my secret garden
I say tuh-mah-toe

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

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

Talk to Jana at a meeting or email her if you are interested in helping with snacks and refreshments.

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Apr 10	Derek Liebertz
(TTB)	Apr 15	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	May 8	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 20	<i>need a volunteer</i>

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

May 20, 2010 Meredith Cook & Karsten Piper

☪ LOMP Spring Meeting (cont.) ☪

One note regarding the LOMP meeting — we are looking for donations of door prizes; inexpensive new or used things like books and reading lights and journals.

If you have anything you can donate, bring it to the Saturday meeting if possible or contact Jana otherwise. We appreciate the assistance from our members, thanks!

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>)