September 2002

Volume 22, Issue 1

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusi@mnic.net* or *Sue chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200.

Startup Meeting September 14th, 2003

WELCOME. The time has come... to talk of other things. Sharpen your pencils, quills or whatever it is you write your poetry with and bring along a friend, especially if he or she happens or is inclined to be a **poetry nut.** But it really does not matter as long as it is a friend, large or small.

This issue of the ***Thistle~Down*** is chock-full of information to guide all through a great year in poetry. I need not elaborate, do I?

The program schedule names assignments, but as everyone should know they are not a must. One 'formal' assignment for you is to bring **a lot of poems to read and share**. New poems on any topic are always welcome.

Coming Events

Please make note of the **Good Thunder Reading Series** sponsored by Minnesota State University at Mankato. Except for the lunch and program option for the *Robert Wright Conference,* all events are free. This year there is a special emphasis week on the work of 'local' authors, culminated by the participation of *Bill Holm.*

The readings are as a rule at 7:30 p.m. –CSU Room 253 and the talks on craft at 3:00 p.m. –CSU Ostrander Auditorium.

Plan to attend the Fall Meeting of the LOMP.

Starting to polish up your sentries for the **NFSPS** CONTEST may not hurt either.

A little bird told me that the ROOT RIVER POETS of Rochester, Minnesota may be meeting every 4th Thursday at Rebekah's in Plainview and the time so far has been 6:00 p.m. or so. Will confirm soonest.

GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES 2002-2003

FALL TERM 2002

Fiction writer
Terry Davis
Thursday, September 19

•

Poet & nonfiction writer
Paul Zimmer
Thursday, October 10

•

Poets
Denise Duhamel
& Stephen Dunn
Thursday, October 24

•

A WEEK-LONG MINNESOTA WRITERS CELEBRATION

Minnesota fiction writers
im Heynen,
Alison McGhee,
& Shannon Olson
Monday, November 11

Minnesota poets
Sharon Chmielarz,
Orval Lund, Jude Nutter,
& J.P. White
Tuesday, November 12

Minnesota writers for children/young adults
Nancy Loewen &
Marybeth Lorbiecki
Wednesday, November 13

Minnesota poets
Mai Neng Moua &
Thien-bao Phi
Wednesday, November 13

⇒

Minnesota nonfiction writers
Julie Landsman,
Valerie Miner,
& Cheri Register
Thursday, November 14

The Robert C. Wright Minnesota Writers Conference
* * * *
Minnesota poet & nonfiction writer
Bill Holm
Friday, November 15
Lunch & program:
$20/$10 for students
Program only: free

SPRING TERM 2003

Poet
Philip Bryant
Fiction writer
David Haynes
Thursday, January 30

•

Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Program
* * * *
Poet
Philip Dacey
Tuesday-Friday,
February 18-21

•

Fiction writer & poet
Heather Sellers
Thursday, March 27

•

Fiction writer
Alyson Hagy
Poet, fiction writer, & nonfiction writer
Ray Gonzalez
Thursday, April 24

League Of Minnesota Poets

LOMPLIGHTER

League of Minnesota Poets

Fall Meeting

October 4 and 5, 2002 in Rochester

Register by September 18th—see enclosed form.
Contact Cathy Tacinelli by September 18th if you have any dietary restrictions: phone 507-281-3888 or e-mail tacinelli@juno.com

Join us at Assisi Heights for the LOMP Fall Conference. Among those not attending are such luminaries as William Shakespeare, Billy Collins and Maya Angelou. However, we do have the wonderful John Calvin Rezmerski, and we hope YOU will come. The theme for the weekend is "Hidden Treasures." We will begin the festivities at Bon's Buffet* at 5 pm. Bon's is a Chinese buffet and Mongolian barbecue, with a good selection including American food and vegetarian choices. The price is $10 per person for the buffet (10% off for the senior citizen discount!), which includes soft drinks. Beer and wine are also available. **Note clearly: The cost of this dinner is NOT included in your registration fee.**

Friday, October 4th
3 pm Registration begins at Assisi
5 pm Optional supper at Bon's
7 pm Contest results at Assisi

Saturday, October 5th
8:00 am Breakfast, Assisi Dining Area
8:45 Board meeting or open reading
9:00 Registration, Saturday-only attendees
10:00 General assembly & business meeting
10:45 NFSPS Report by Meredith R. Cook
11:15 Seminar
12:15 pm Luncheon, Assisi Dining Area
1:30 Keynote address:
John Calvin Rezmerski
"The Four Enemies"
(Door Prizes following the speaker)

*Directions to Bon's Buffet

(We'll have a few locals at Assisi to assist.)

from Assisi Heights

Go down Assisi driveway.
Turn right on 14th Street.
Take a diagonal right when you come to the light at 11th Ave.
Go past Samaritan Bethany on your right and take a left BEFORE the light into the Hillcrest Shopping Center parking lot.
Bon's Buffet is right there!

from Highway 52 Southbound

Take the 19th Street Exit.
Take a left at the light.
Cross over the bridge and take a right at the light.
Take a right after the next light, into the Hillcrest Shopping Center parking lot.
Bon's Buffet is right there!

SEMINAR
Guidelines for conference seminar are on page 4.

August, 2002

SEMINAR GUIDELINES

The seminar is a regular feature of our state meetings, providing an opportunity for you to hear a detailed analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of your poem, but with a protective blanket of anonymity. There will be in-depth comments, but no ranking. We encourage everyone to send a poem they want input on. Because of time restrictions at the fall conference, it is to be understood that the seminar leader will select a limited number of poems for analysis.

LOMP members only may enter. Send two copies of a one-page poem (one with and one without your name and address) postmarked by September 10 to:

Ann Allen
600 4th ST SW #205
Rochester MN 55902

Postmark deadline
September 10, 2002

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return of your poem if you are not planning to attend the conference.

(Since poems will be displayed on a projector, it is important that you provide good, dark print on white paper.)

DUES PAYMENTS: The address label on this LOMPLIGHTER shows the latest year for which you have paid dues. Dues are $20 (students $10). The LOMP treasurer is:

Jim Elberling
1766 Karis Way
Eagan MN 55122-2671

Treasurer telephone:
(612) 688-8815

GETTING TO THE FALL CONFERENCE

DIRECTIONS TO ASSISI COMMUNITY CENTER IN ROCHESTER, MN

The only entrance to Assisi Heights is located on **14th Street NW, at 10th Avenue NW.**

From the **north,** on US 52, exit RIGHT on 19th St. NW turn LEFT at the light. Immediately upon crossing over the highway, turn RIGHT and follow 11th Ave.NW to the first light (8/10 mile). Turn LEFT on 14th St. NW and proceed 1 1/2 blocks to the entrance, on LEFT.

From the **south** on US 52, exit RIGHT on 14th St. NW Continue to 10th Ave. NW (1/2 mile). Entrance on LEFT.

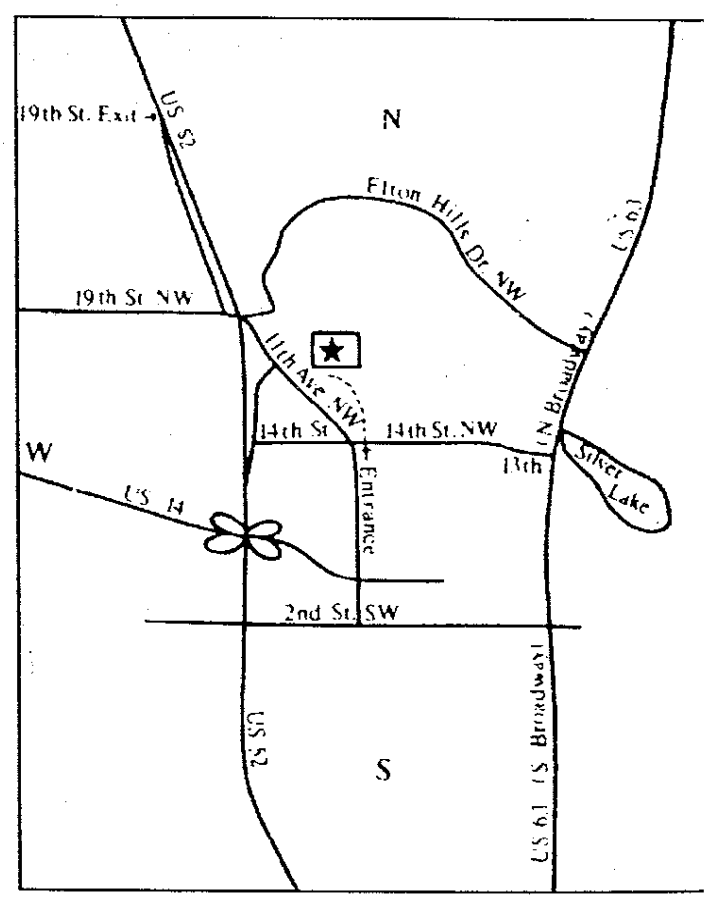
From the **north** on US 63 (Broadway), turn RIGHT on 13th St. NW, which becomes 14th St. NW. Proceed to 10th Ave.NW (7/10 mile). Entrance on RIGHT.

From the **south** on US 63 (Broadway), turn LEFT on 13th St. NW, which becomes 14th St. NW. Proceed to 10th Ave.NW (7/10 mile). Entrance on RIGHT.

BUS: A terminal 1 1/2 miles from Assisi Hts. Taxi service available.

AIR: Airport about 11 miles away. Limousine to downtown Rochester and taxi service available. Limo. service also available to & from Minneapolis airport.

Parking: Drive around to the back of the building where a sign, "Assisi Community Center," clearly marks the entrance. There is a large parking area.



SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME: _____

Address: _____

_____

E-mail: _____

Phone (h): _____

Phone (w _____

Annual Dues are:

$15.00 *for adults,*
$7.50 *for students.*

Mail application and check to Treasurer:

Elaine Anderson
463 200th Street
Trimont, Minn. 56176

****

Southern Minnesota Poet's Society

For all who love poetry and/ or write poetry

****

2002-03
Program Calendar

SMPS normally meets
the second Saturday of every month
at Barnes & Noble Booksellers
at 1857 Adams, Mankato
(across from the River Hills Mall)
at 1 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

SMPS is a chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets.

LOMP is affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

September 14th

Mary W. Hughes
"Ten to the Inch."
Book reading from her new book "Quilt Pieces" and signing at 3 p.m.
Assignment: subject poem "Dealing with a change" 40-line limit
(Our assignments are never mandatory)

October 12th
The Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival is the largest in the world and holds a special day for students to meet with poets. This year there were five past and current Poet Laureates present. 3 local students *Seth Meyer, Andrew Freedman, and Colin Chambers,* who were able to attend, will discuss their experience and read from their favorite poets.
Assignment: A Pantoum

November 9th
Joyce Sutphen Gustavus Adolphus Professor and Author will speak and read from her works.
Book signing at 3 p.m.
Assignment: subject poem "work" 1 page only.

December 14th ***Noon.***
Great Wall Restaurant
1802 Commerce Drive, North Mankato.
Note change of time and meeting place.
Enjoy the Christmas festivities. Have lunch: share the season's spirit.
Assignment: winter or Christmas Poem.

January 11th, 2003
Writing Workshop (SMPS members)
"How to overcome writers block in the bookstore"
Assignment: An Adelaide Crapsey Cinquain

February 8th
Richard Robbins
Minnesota State University at Mankato
Professor and Author will lead us through this season of love.
Book Signing and Reading from his works "The Invisible Wedding" and "Famous Persons I Have Known" at 3 p.m.
Assignment: Love Poem 40 line limit

March 8th
Cathy Tacinelli,
"Poetry Slams—For the Love of It" Come learn about poetry slams from a pro--she may have us up and trying the art ourselves!
Assignment: Narrative poem 40 line limit

April 12th
Doris Stengel
2nd Vice President of National Federation of State Poetry Societies, LOMP President, Co-chair of the Heartland Poets of Brainerd.
"A Bit or a Bite" a writing workshop
***Assignment**: subject poem "starting over" or "rebirth" 40 line limit*

May 10th
Mississippi Valley Writer's chapter from the Twin Cities joins us to talk about poetry issues and share poetry.
Assignment: The Minute.

June 14th **Annual picnic**
at St. Peter's Glueck Park 11:00 a.m.

OTHER UPCOMING POETRY EVENTS

NFSPS CONVENTION

June 5 –8, 2003

SMPS sends delegates to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' meeting. This year it will be in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The keynote speaker is Bill Holms.

BLIZZARD WRITER'S RETREAT
Jan.24th - 26th
at Sue Chambers
57310 166th Lane,
Good Thunder.56037
Rules—bring a program of ½ hour at least, and something to eat!

SMPS meets Sept through June, and participates in The Woodtick Writing Retreat (in the Brainerd area) July 18- 20, 2003.

Registration Form

Send entire form to Jeanette Hinds, with payment made out to LOMP, by September 18th

League of Minnesota Poets Fall Conference 2002

October 4 & 5

Assisi Community Center

Rochester, Minnesota

Please check below the option of your choice:

Option 1: _____ $52 per person, which includes:

On Friday, October 4: Single bed, dorm-style room, snack and beverages during contest results.
Note well: Friday evening dinner is NOT included; see program on page 1 for details.

On Saturday, October 5: Breakfast, noon meal, beverage breaks.

Option 2: _____ $32 per person. All of the above without overnight lodgings.

Option 3: Saturday October 5 ONLY

_____ $20 per person. Register at 9 am, noon meal, beverage break.

Those who travel far may wish to have a room Saturday night also. There may be a few rooms available for Saturday night. Register early! If available, the room would cost $26 for a single bed.

_____ $26 Saturday extra night, per person, single bed.

John Rezmerski's presentation, "The Four Enemies," will be open to the public for $3, no preregistration necessary.

Please include complete payment postmarked no later than September 18th. According to our contract with the Assisi Center, each person will be charged full price for cancellations after October 1.

Return this sheet and a check payable to LOMP to:

Jeanette Hinds
1511 Wilshire Dr NE
Rochester, MN 55906

phone 507.282.2447
email jghinds@aol.com

Your name_____

Address_____

Amount of check enclosed_____Email_____Phone_____

October 2002 Volume 22, Issue 2

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200.

Meeting of October 12th, 2002

WELCOME. The most exquisite meeting of poets, at least in the USA, is the **Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival**. As announced in our previously mailed (with last T~D) program calendar, we will hear from local students, **Seth Meyer**, **Andrew Freedman** and **Colin Chambers** who were lucky to have been there, about their experiences.

All members in attendance of this meeting will receive a free copy of **Poetic Thoughts and Memories**, a collection by **June Emmanuel.**

The program schedule names **pantoum** as a poem assignment, but as everyone may know it is not a must. One 'formal' assignment for you is to bring **a lot of poems to read and share**. New poems on any topic are always welcome.

If you are not sure what a **pantoum** is, there is a brief summary on a following page.

Last Meeting

We were in for a rare treat supplied by **Mary Hughes** who is a member of the Heartland group of the LOMP, a teacher and a marvelous poet. The topic of her talk, **Ten To The Inch**, is an extension of the title of her recently published book of poems, ***Quilt Pieces***, and a fine metaphor between quilting and the writing of poetry. It reflects, among the Amish, the ability, in placing stitches, of a diligent and dedicated quilter. The implication is that every detail should be made a lot of thought.

It was nigh impossible to mark down or remember the many unique points **Mary** made re the nature of poetry as she sees it, but this reporter tends to agree wholeheartedly with most of her views and her references to the thoughts of many other poets whom she obviously has studied extensively. Here are some high points.

Recitation of rhythmic poetry has produced a notable slowdown of heart rates in a test group of listeners. There is reason to feel that good poetry is/must be as precise as geometry (and quilting)...as Mary Ann Moore felt that, in principle, nothing is too much trouble [referring to revision]...rhythm is made by small silences here and there...to get ideas for poems, pay quiet attention to surroundings to feel the nibble...processes of writing as many as writers... bullseye process: try to hit the outer rim [of target] and then move to the center (M.D. Brown)...on revision: re-see, revive (new other words), restore (put back words removed in earlier revisions)...refresh (poem has to mature, when you see it later again you may have a different mindset, see something you did not see before).

Thanks, **Mary Hughes** for a further lovely look at the crafting of the art. The appreciable number of listeners got everything they could ask and more

A pantoum is made up of any number of quatrains, but the last may be replaced by a couplet. The lines can be in any meter and of any length as long as they are all of same length. The quatrains are interlocked, each having their 2nd and 4th lines — which are rhymed – reappear as the 1st and 3rd lines of the next. This leaves the 1st and 3rd lines of the very first quatrain to reappear, for purposes of resolution, as the the 2nd and 4th lines of the last quatrain or instead as the closing couplet.

My apologies for including my pantoum assignment to demonstrate the form. It is not meant to be high poetry, in which case I would not have included it..

The Problem With Assigned Poems!

I have chosen a difficult task,
~~like a weaver who's stuck at the loom –~~
might as well draw some strength from the flask –
a way I can craft a pantoum.

Like a weaver who's stuck at the loom
I must cleverly think of a way,
a way I can craft a pantoum
without rhymes holding me at bay.

I must cleverly think of a way
to anticipate how it would end
without rhymes holding me at bay
and not to offend any friend.

To anticipate how it should end
do I risk to employ a quatrain
or seek help from that very old friend,
try a couplet and make it sound vain?

Do I risk to employ a quatrain,
risk instead to not end it at all,
try a couplet and make it sound vain,
a dilemma to hold you in thrall.

Risk instead to not end it at all –
I have chosen a difficult task,
a dilemma to hold you in thrall –
might as well draw some strength from the flask.

Coming Events

Plan to attend the Fall Meeting of the LOMP.

It may not hurt to start polishing up your entries for the **NFSPS Annual Contest.** The deadline is in March, 2003.

Don't forget the opportunity to hear emerging poete present their work and bring insights into writing poetry at the **Good Thunder Reading Series**, sponsored by Minnesota State University at Mankato. Except for the lunch and program option for the *Robert Wright Conference,* all events are free. This year there is a special emphasis week on the work of 'local' authors, culminated by the participation of *Bill Holm*.

The readings are as a rule at 7:30 p.m. –CSU Room 253 and the talks on craft at 3:00 p.m. –CSU Ostrander Auditorium.

Next Meeting

Just in case you have misiaid or lost your program schedule, on November 9th, **Joyce Suthpen**, who is a professor at Gustavus Adolphus and an Author will speak and read from her works the most recent being a collection of poems, a copy of which I have but could not find to tell the title. There will be a book signing at 3 p.m.

The assignment, should you choose to accept it, is a poem on the subject "work" and is not to exceed a page, in any style.

November 2002 Volume 22, Issue 3

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Meeting of November 9th, 2002

WELCOME. We are privileged to have **Joyce Suthpen** present a program. Joyce is a Proffessor at Gustavus Adolphus College in St.Peter and an author who has recently gained national recognition for her poetry. Your editor has been unable to reach her to be certain about the topic of her presentation, but she was a featured on the Good Thunder Reading Series and will do a book signing, sponsored by Barnes & Noble after our meeting, of her latest book of poetry. Having been present at her reading at the Good Thunder occasion, I can guarantee her appearance will be a valuable experience.

The 'formal' assignment is a poem not to exceed a page on the subject "work". The informal assignment is as usual to bring **a lot of poems to read and share**. New poems on any topic are always welcome.

Last Meeting

Your editor was unable to attend, but his absence was made up and more by the number of attendees. He has been told that the presentation by those three young men reporting on their experiences at the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival was a truly pleasant experience.

Thank you **Seth**, **Andrew** and **Colin**.

Coming Events

It may not hurt to start polishing up your entries for the **NFSPS Annual Contest.** The deadline is in March, 2003.

Don't forget the opportunity to hear emerging poets and writers present their work and bring insights into writing poetry at the **Good Thunder Reading Series**, sponsored by Minnesota State University at Mankato. Except for the lunch and program option for the *Robert Wright Conference,* all events are free. This year there is a special emphasis week on the work of 'local' authors, culminated by the participation of *Bill Holm*.

The readings are as a rule at 7:30 p.m. –CSU Room 253 and the talks on craft at 3:00 p.m. –CSU Ostrander Auditorium.

The next stage in the series is a week-long celebration of Minnesota poets and writers to begin on Monday, November 11.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of a fellow poet, a beautiful person and a Life Member of the Southern Minnesota poets

Maguerite R. Kramer

We will fondly remember Meg a long time for her uplifting spirit which she maintained despite adversity and for her insightful poetry.

Full moon peers through dry
Branches, moves slowly westward...
Roundness accomplished.

December 14th Meeting

As per a long standing tradition, we will have lunch and share the season's spirit at the **Great Wall Restaurant**, 1803 Commerce Drive, North Mankato.

Please note that the time of the meeting has been changed to 12 noon.

As a great surprise to no one, the assignment, should you decide to accept the challenge, is a poem on the subject of winter or Christmas. Hope for a bit of snow to give you some inspiration. any style.

Club Notes

Just to make certain everybody is in the know, I hereby officially submit the names of our officers for the current operating two-year term:

Sue Chambers – President
Bonnie Ann Wolle – Vice-president
Faye Mattison – Secretary
Elaine Anderson – Treasurer

Past President, Bonnie Ann Wolle sends the following message:

As outgoing president serving SMPS for the past four and a half years I want to thank each and all members for an experience I never dreamed of having. You were all so wonderful and supportive. My hope is that we may continue our outreach and growth as we welcome back **Susan Chambers** leading us through a year of stimulating programs and workshops crafted with this goal in mind.

(signed) **Bonnie Ann Wolle**

December 2002 Volume 22, Issue 4

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Meeting of December 14th, 2002

This is, of course, just a repeat notice of the fact that our Holiday get-together will be at **noon** and at the **Great Wall of China** restaurant, 1802 Commerce Drive in North Mankato, (see attached map) **not** at 1 p.m. and at our usual location, Barnes & Noble bookstore.) As has been the custom, we will indulge in timely entertainment provided by some not all that well known but world famous artists to go along with the meal (actually after).

The 'formal' assignment is any poem celebrating the season and, hopefully, a fresh take. Yes, it may exceed a page. The informal assignment is to bring **any new poem(s) to read and share and any friends of poetry willing to admit they are**.

Last Meeting

We had another of those presentations that leave your garrulous editor at a loss for adequate words.

Our guest speaker was **Joyce Sutphen**. She was gracious to forgive the misspelling of her last name in the November ***Thistle~Down***.

Besides being a very impressive poet, **Joyce** is most obviously an excellent teacher, a fact witnessed by her ability to touch on exactly the kind of questions and points amateur poets are eager to know more about.

A **huge thank you** to Joyce Sutphen for sharing her experiences and expertise.

A special thank you to **Faye Mattison**, our secretary, for her excellent review (see other side) of **Joyces** presentation. For the real fine points we may be able to beg June Emmanuel for a copy of her tape recording of the proceedings
Unfortunately, your editor was unable to stay for the whole program and the book signing, but is happy to report that our membership is growing. His mailing list has been expanded by **four** more names.

Next Meeting

Make plans for the January meeting at the usual hour and place on **January 11th, 2003**.

The assignment is to write an **Adelaide Crapsey Cinquain**. This is a five-line, syllabic verse poem, meaning that one of the constraints is the number of syllable counts per line, i.e., 2, 4, 6, 8 and 2 syllables in that order. The other constraint, if one can call it that, is that, like the ***tanka***, it should be "a vehicle suited for reflective thought in poetry. It is a 'modern' form. As you will see, recent practice avoids caps, except when justified when a line begins a sentence. Samples are on the next page.

At the November meeting, SMPS poets were treated to a delightful presentation by poet and Gustavus Adolphus professor Joyce Sutphen entitled "The Green Fields." Joyce chose four contemporary Irish poets to give us a glimpse, in warm and lively word pictures, of the range of Irish poets. She discussed the works and lives of John Montegue, Seamus Heaney, Eavan Boland and Dermot Healy. John Montegue was the first Catholic poet in Northern Ireland to achieve international renown. (See his *Collected Poems.*) Seamus Heaney was Mozart to Montegue's Salieri. The last line of his poem "Digging" expresses a connection between his father digging with a spade and Seamus digging with his pen. (See the collection *Opened Ground,* 1966-1996.) Eavan Boland, in her poem "Object Lessons," demonstrates how a woman, seen for centuries as a romantic object, now desires to write poetry of her own. The fourth poet, Dermot Healy, wrote "My House Is Tiny" and many other short poems.

Joyce's presentation left us with a huge appreciation for the depth of contemporary Irish poetry, due in part to her own strong emotional connection with poetry about living on farms or in small towns. Lately she has been writing sonnets about growing up on a farm in the 1950s. Her poems "Living in the Body" and "Girl on a Tractor" were chosen for Garrison Keilor's *Good Poems.* Joyce's poems illustrate well her idea that, while the prose writer expands, the poet's impulse is to condense and crystallize. Her books include *Straight Out of View* and *Coming Back to the Body.* Watch for a new book by Joyce Sutphen in March 2003 called *Naming the Stars.* Thank you, Joyce, for immersing us in the rich, green fields of Irish poetry, and for sharing your own exceptional poetry with us!

Faye Mattison
SMPS Secretary

Coming Events

The **Blizzard Writer's Retreat** is on January 24 thru 26. Details are found in the program calendar included with an earlier issue of the ***Thistle~Down***. Attached map shows, in detail, how to get there.

It may not hurt to start polishing up your entries for the NFSPS Annual Contest. The deadline is in March of 2003.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear emerging poets and writers present their work and bring insights into writing at the Good Thunder Reading Series, sponsored by Minnesota State University at Mankato. Except for the lunch option for the Robert Wright Conference, all events are free.

This year there was a special emphasis week on the work of 'local' authors, culminated by the participation of Bill Holm. And note this, **John Rezmerski** judged the Robert Wright competition. His review of the prizewinners work alone was worth the admission.

The readings are as a rule at 7:30 p.m. –CSU Room 253 and the talks on craft at 3:00 p.m. –CSU Ostrander Auditorium. Let this editor know if you have lost or not received the schedule.

Triad

These be
Three silent things:
The falling snow...the hour
Before the dawn...the mouth of one
Just dead.
---Adelaide Crapsey 1910 from "The Complete Poems" 1915

Jesus
fed five thousand
on the grassy hillside,
and there was enough left over
for me.
---Viola Berg

She likes
to walk around
on Sunday afternoons
with absolutely nothing on
her mind.
----Clement Long

January 2003 Volume 22, Issue 5

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Meeting of January 11th, 2003

This is, again, just a reminder that our first **regular** (1 p.m. at Barnes & Noble) meeting of the New Year (not the calendar one) is upon us. A writing workshop on "*How to overcome writer's block in the bookstore*" is to be led by our own **Ed Brekke-Kramer**. You don't want to miss this. On the formal side, **Ed** is, in conjunction with his work for DNR, an accomplished naturalist, but many informal personal encounters have proven him to be a very knowledgeable writer.
The 'formal' assignment is the **Adelaide Crapsey Cinquain**. This is a five-line, syllabic verse poem, meaning that the number of syllable counts per line is 2, 4, 6, 8 and 2 syllables in that order. More detail was given in the last issue of the *Thistle~Down*. Be sure to remember that you have a standing informal assignment which is to bring **any new poem(s) to read and share and any friends of poetry willing to admit they are**.

Last Meeting

We had another of those wonderful times where members were sharing their seasonal poems and due to the failure of that famous pair, Sonny and Cher, to show up as promised, a reasonable musical support to the singing of carols was provided by Bonnie Ann Wolle and yours truly. What was especially gratifying was the high level of poems shared but especially those by our newest members.

Coming Events

We are fortunate to have professor **Richard Robbins** as our guest speaker for February. Besides being an excellent poet and teacher, he directs the *Good Thunder Reading Series* sponsored by Minnesota State University at Mankato. He will read from his collections "*The Invisible Wedding*" and "*Famous Persons I have Known*". Come prepared for some enjoyable listening and questions about poetry important to you. Barnes & Noble has scheduled a book signing shortly after the reading, but he may have time, as he has done many times before, to enrich our learning experience with his considerable insights of what makes poetry work.
Your formal assignment is a cinch. All you have to do is to write, in keeping with the tradition of February, a love poem, no less, but not to exceed 40 lines. See if you can surpass your own expectations and write one that represents some real strongly felt experience, maybe one you have not so far dared to exploit.

SPECIAL NOTES

The next **Good Thunder** event is January 30, featuring poet Philip Bryant and fiction writer David Hynes. You should have detail on time and place in an earlier issue, but contact this Editor if you do not.

The Blizzard Writer's Retreat is on January 24 thru 26. Details are found in the program calendar included with an earlier issue of the Thistle~Down. Attached map shows, in detail, how to get there. Our President, Sue Chambers will appreciate you checking wit her on what food to bring. This will avoid much duplication.

Lucile Nitzkowski now resides at the Meridan Way, 163 N Wayzata Blvd., #119, Wayzata, MN 55391. She would surely enjoy a note from each and all of us. (This is an assisted living facility.)

February 2003 Volume 22, Issue 6

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue Chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200 or e-mail *PoetSue@aol.com*

Meeting of February 8th, 2003

First: a reminder that the meeting will be at the standard appointed time and place. Our guest speaker is **Richard Robbins**, a poet, a professor of English (creative writing, I am sure) at Minnesota State University, at Mankato, the director of the most excellent *Good Thunder Reading Series* at that U, and last but not least the author of two fine volumes of poetry. (B & N is holding a reading and book-signing session at 3 p.m., just after our meeting.) By attending, you are ensured of a wonderful time at listening to and hearing about the craft of writing poetry. Be sure to ask Richard about your specific concerns on becoming a better writer. He has been our guest before and has done other service in bringing poetry and the understanding of it to the public.

The 'formal' assignment is, to no one's surprise, a love poem. Try for some most heartfelt love 'incident' and deliver it in some crazily unusual way, like saying first what in prose would be at the end of a sentence. 40 line limit.

Remember that you have a standing informal assignment: bring **any new poem(s) to read and share and any friends of poetry willing to admit they are**.

Last Meeting

Guided by **Ed Brekke-Kramer,** we had a blast running around the store to prove that we could follow his clever idea of "*How to overcome writer's block in the bookstore*". Your editor, having some notion of Ed's literary acumen was only half-skeptical of what a writer's block had to do with a bookstore. Well, Ed's idea is like this: pick a letter and a series of numbers to take you to, in that order: a section in the store, a stack or row of shelves, a section in that row, a shelf in that section, a book on that shelf and a page in that book. To summarize, each of us participants wound up with a randomly found page from which we could pick a word or words to pin a poem to. This works really well, and, if you are ever stuck for something to write a poem about, don't just sit there at your desk with a blank piece of paper on it and wait for an inspiration. Grab a book, any book in the house, flip it open and the theme of your poem will be somewhere on the pages you come to. Thank you Ed, for a fun-filled and educational experience.

Coming Events

A poet from the Root River bunch, one reputed to be a pro at ***slam*** poetry, **Cathy Tacinelli** is our guest speaker for March. Expect her to show just how that is done and watch out, for you just may get up and slam on your own.

The formal assignment is a narrative poem not to exceed 40 lines – another cinch, for all you have to do is is to tell us something you would rather not reveal about your escapades of the past ;-). Make sure you include other folks in your 'story'.

SPECIAL NOTES

The next **Good Thunder** event is on February 20, featuring poet Phillip Dacey. Both: the talk on craft and the reading are at the Student Union at MSU. The talk is at the Ostrander Auditorium, at 3 p.m. and the reading in Room 253 at 7:30 p.m. These are valuable events, and you should really try to attend one or both. If you have a hard time with transportation, contact your editor, who is almost sure, short of a broken leg, to attend at least the talk on craft.

The **Blizzard** retreat was a real bang-up, in terms of the total attendance hours. At times, there were some 20 poets in attending, and the going started Thursday afternoon with a greater number than usual present. The usual letdown, due to intellectual exhaustion, on Sunday morning was not as noticeable, so I'm told. Plan on attending next year. Do not let the bring-a-program requirement scare you. Just about anything goes, and the Thistle~Down will shortly provide hints on what one could be.

Start considering and making plans to attend the LOMP Spring Assembly in May. We will not have, due to a scheduling conflict with that assembly, a meeting in that Month.

The **NFSPS Annual Meeting** in June is hosted by the South Dakota State Poets, but, since they are a smaller group, the LOMP has taken on the honor of helping them out. Consider contacting our President, **Sue Chambers**, to offer help. There will be a goodly contingent of the LOMP going there. It is not often when that meeting is this close to home, and the cost is to be very, very reasonable.

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March 2003 Volume 22, Issue 7

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue Chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200 or e-mail *PoetSue@aol.com*

Meeting of March 8th 2003

Our guest speaker is **Cathy Tacinelli**, a member of the Root River Poets chapter of the LOMP at Rochester and a poet with some reputation in doing a 'certain kind of standup poetry'. Not surprisingly, her presentation is on the topic, **"Poetry Slams—For the Love of It."** Let's make Cathy welcome by a strong attendance. Expect to be welcome if you have a poem full of "sound and fury" to share. We need to make sure that March comes in as a lion.

The 'formal' assignment is a narrative poem with a 40 line limit, It is certain, you can dredge up some incident of interest to all in which you were the observer and witness to an incident and the accompanying conversation involving two or more people. Characterization of the participants is usually a worthwhile ingredient as are their speech colloquialisms.

You always have a standing informal assignment: to bring **any new poem(s) to read and share and any friends of poetry willing to admit they are**.

Last Meeting

Richard Robbins, a professor of English at Minnesota State University at Mankato, the director of that most excellent *Good Thunder Reading Series* at that U, and last but not least a poet and the author of two fine volumes of poetry was our guest speaker in February. In keeping with the theme for that month, he read love poems by several authors, himself included, to show that such can be done in styles ranging from cool to hot, and proving that love is not restricted to a romantic bent only but that love for any fellow human is worthy. He was gracious to read requested poems, provided he happened to bring along a volume by that author containing such. I trust all present had as wonderful a listening experience as I did.

Thank you, Professor Robbins, for a fun-filled and warm experience.

Coming Events

Doris Stengel, 2nd Vice President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, President of the LOMP, Co-Chair of the Heartland Poets of Brainerd and a poet and wonderful teacher is our guest speaker in April. She will conduct a writing workshop on the theme, "A Bit or a Bite."

The formal assignment is a "subject" poem, the choices being "a rebirth" or "starting over". There is a 40 line limit.

REMINDERS

The next **Good Thunder Reading** is on March 27th and will feature fiction writer and poet **Heather Sellers**. She has two books of poetry just out from Ahsahta press and is an associate professor of English at Hope College.

Start making plans to attend the **LOMP Spring Assembly** in May. The Mississippi Valley Writers, the Minneapolis chapter is hosting, and the venue is the Mall of America. Details will be published soon.

We will not have a regular meeting in May.

The **NFSPS Annual Meeting** in June is hosted by the South Dakota State Poets, but, since they are a smaller group, the Society is providing some of the heavy needs. However, we as good neighbors are asked to lend a helping hand too. Please contact our President, **Sue Chambers**, who will be pressed for help, to offer same. There will be a goodly contingent of the LOMP going there. It is not often when that meeting is this close to home, and the cost is to be very, very reasonable. Exact cost figures and schedules will be published in the April issue.

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h Mankato, MN 56003

April 2003 Volume 22, Issue 8

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue Chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200 or e-mail *PoetSue@aol.com*

Meeting of April 12th 2003

Our guest speaker is **Doris Stengel** who, beyond her not inconsiderable talent for writing some of the sharpest poetry in this Editor's opinion, is a most impressive leader of writing workshops and manages to be the 2nd Vice President of NFSPS, President of the LOMP as well as an active member of the Heartland chapter of the LOMP at Brainerd. She will present a writing workshop with the topic, **"A Bit or a Bite."** I dare you to miss this at the peril of your poetic soul.

The 'formal' assignment is a "subject poem" on either "rebirth" or "starting over". There is a 40 line limit. All of us are sure to have undergone either of such life transforming occasions. Hopefully, you have written one, having been ENCOURAGED TO DO SO last month. And you know you have a standing informal assignment: to bring **any new poem(s) to read and share and any friends of poetry willing to admit they are**.

Last Meeting

Your Editor is miffed about not being able to attend the meeting postponed due to bad weather to March 15th. Per testimony of member who could attend, it was a frisky meeting. **Cathy Tacinelli's** ability to do stand-up poetry also known as slam had been proven previously and she did not disappoint. Although our members did not do any of that poems shared by them were generally of a nature that corresponded well with the slam notion and Cathy made a lot of gracious comments to help us get used to that rather novel to us approach to poetry-out-loud. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Another encouraging note was the presence of several new young faces, especially the fact that they had come to the originally scheduled date in spite of the weather.

Coming Events

Please note: We will not have a regular meeting in **May**. The reason is that that is the time selected for

the **LOMP Spring Assembly**

The Mississippi Valley Writers, the Minneapolis chapter of the LOMP are the hosts, and the venue is the **Mall of America**.

All the details will be published in the May issue of the Thistle~Down.

KUDOS, KUDOS

Christina Chambers has been awarded one of the two college scholarships granted by the NFSPS and will have her chapbook printed and published.

May 2003 Volume 22, Issue 9

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue Chambers, President*, at 507-278-4200 or e-mail *PoetSue@aol.com*

Instead of our regular meeting on **May 10**, we hope you can attend the—

League Of Minnesota Poets
Spring Assembly

The Mississippi Valley Writers, the Minneapolis chapter of the LOMP are the hosts, and the place is

the **Mall of America**.

Please check out all the details given on the following and attached pages.

Those who have not yet registered and would like to have a ride must contact Susan Chambers, President. The point of departure is her office at 75 Teton Lane. This is just west of the River Hills Mall and North of Adams Str. The time of departure is **7 a.m.**

Last Meeting

Another fabulous program and get together. **Doris Stengel** did a marvelous job of passing along a goodly number of most interesting observations made at the Geraldine Dodge Poetry Festival. All that under the initially intriguing, but, as all present found out, extremely pertinent heading, ***A Bit or a Bite***. Nothing to do with computers, **Doris** , in her expectedly excellent style, gave renditions of incisive utterances on the nature of poetry and the involvement of a poet in her/his work, as heard at the festival from such notables as Collins, Dove, Kunitz, Pinsky, LiYoung Le and many more.

An overarching statement, to summarize what many notable poets have said in the past and continue saying, would be that [given no single satisfying to everybody a definition of poetry] each poet formulate a new definition at least once a day. Doris further talked in detail on onomatopoeia, not that of the already know exemplars, but of how specific vowels and consonant sets keep reappearing in words that have related connotations. Thus we see **sl** in words that relate to something smoothly wet, **dr** in words that denote things heavy and **sh** in words dealing with things brutal. A suggested text on that and other relevant aspects of poetry is *Art & Craft* by Michael Bugeja.

Your editor apologizes for having another commitment that forced him to miss the subsequent workshop. It is likely a report on that will be available in the June issue of the Thistle~Down.

Thank you **Doris Stengel** for another wonderful poetry experience.

Watch for the June Thistle~Down for details on our picknic set for the 14th as planned.

National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.
An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America

STROPHES

Vol. XXXIX, No. 4 www.NFSPS.com April 20

President's Message

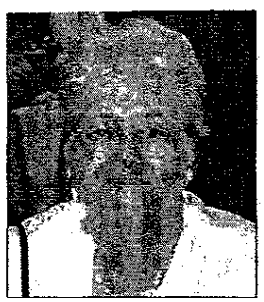
Thank you to the many presidents who answered my last "president-to-presidents" letter, for permitting me to know you and your state better. Where you have shared concerns I have shared them with the Executive Board via my quarterly "President's Report." to them. Be assured that you are taken seriously.

Many special spring programs are being planned during National Poetry Month. If you enjoy travel by Internet visit the *Academy of American Poets* site where there will be a National Poetry Map of America *(see page 4)*. In April 1998 they provided such a map when Andrew Carroll traveled across American starting from New York on Wednesday April 1st and ending with visits to San José and San Francisco on Thursday April 30, giving away books to people along the way in "The Great APLseed Giveaway".

Presidents, regarding the 2003 convention, please send a list of your official delegates to me by mail or e-mail as early as you can since I expect to travel by car from Florida to S. Dakota and will be on the road by the 30th of May. I hope you plan to read your state report—*one page only with the highlights please*!—during one of the two plenary meetings, (more information at bottom of this page) but please send two copies of your report (and another list of your delegates) to Geraldine Felt NFSP secretary (*address listed on page 2)*.

All NFSPS members who attend the convention should try to attend the plenary meetings. They provide information about our federation as well as highlights of state societies.

I look forward to meeting many state members who will attend the NFSPS convention in S. Dakota



to hear good speakers, share poetry, and meet poets from other states. How wonderful to put faces and names together as we meet and share! I look forward to visiting with poet-friends I only see at conventions.

Until June!

Madelyn Eastlund

"Giants of theEarth!"

***NFSPS Convention** — June 5th - 8th*

Augustana College —Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Li-Young Lee is author of *Book of My Nights* (BOA Editions, 2001); *The City in Which I Love You* (1991), 1990 Lamont Poetry Selection; *Rose* (1986), Delmore Schwartz Memorial Poetry Award; a memoir, *The Winged Seed: A Remembrance* (Simon and Schuster, 1995), recipient of American Book Award from the *Before Columbus Foundation*. Among his other honors are grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Gugenheim Foundation fellowship.

Diane Glancy has written in a wide range of genres; novels essays, plays and po

In 2000 she was recipient of the *NFSPS Stevens P Manuscript Award* for her "The Stones for a Pillow". has received numerous awards and fellowships, inclu the *Emily Dickinson Poetry Prize* from the Poetry So of America; *Pablo Neruda Prize for Poetry* from Nir Journal, University of Tulsa; *Lannan Foundation Fel ship*; a Minnesota Humanities Commission Grant; grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. In June, versity of Arizona will publish "*The Shadow's Horse*"

John Rezmerski has had poems published in such diverse publications as *The Street Journal, Mennonite Life, Nursing Outlook, Twin Cities,* and *Tales of the Unanticipated*. His work has won the *Devins Award*, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, and a Rhysling Award. He is a member of Heartland Storytellers, and founder of Minnesota Poetry Outloud, and he has entertained in schools, theaters, churches, community and fraternal organizations, professional associations, business, and civic groups. In the introduction to his book *"What Do I Know?"* new and selected poems from the last 33 years, he discusses his evolution as a poet and the concerns at the core of his work, especially his efforts to develop his poetry as a vehicle of oral expression.

Dave Evans, Professor of English and Writer-In-Residence at South Dakota University, was named South Dakota Poet Laureate, June 15, 2002. He has had Fulbright Grants in the last decade, a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, has five books of poetry. He likes "poetry that comes out of the real physical livin earth."

Excerpt from NFSPS Bylaws:

Article VIII-Plenary Sessions: - The Plenary Sessions shall be comprised of all members of the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, anc State Presidents and other delegates of all member state organizations. Said delegates shall be selected in accordance to the terms of Article below. The National President, as chairman, shall preside at all meetings of the Plenary Sessions and shall provide guidance, as necessary. function of the Plenary Sessions is to facilitate the efforts of the member states through their executive officers working directly with the NF officers in furthering the aims and plans of the Federation. All business that furthers those functions may be undertaken at Plenary Sessions cluding but not limited to: elections, motions and amendments to these bylaws with proper notice.

Article XVI-Annual Conventions: Section B. Delegates: each member state is allowed five (5) delegates to the annual national convent 1. each delegate must have proper credentials, which is a written letter from the state president of member State. A delegate must be recogn before being seated, and must be present to vote. 2. A delegate may not represent more than one state, although that delegate may hold mem ship in more than one state.

"Giants of the Earth!"

NFSPS National Convention – Augustana College

Sioux Falls, South Dakota —June 5th - 8th

Thursday

9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. Downtown Historical Trolley Tour—*optional: page 8*
9 a.m. *Bookroom set up —to three p.m.*
12:30 p.m. Lunch
1.00 p.m Executive Board Meeting
3:30 p.m. *Bookroom Open for sales until 5 p.m.)*
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m Welcome to South Dakota!
Sy Swann, Tom Roberts, and a musical treat
Coyote Howls - *Open Poetry Readings*

Friday

7:00 a.m. Pasque Pleasures - *Open Poetry Readings*
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m Registration
8:30 a.m. Bookroom Open *(closes at 11:30 a.m.)*
9:00 a.m. First Plenary Session
11:45 a.m Lunch
12:30 p.m Stevens Manuscript Award: Doris Stengel
Manningham Awards Katherine Clement
1:30 p.m. NFSPS Contest Awards: Kathleen Pederzani
2:40 p.m. Breakout Sessions:
a. NFSPS Online with NFSPS Webmasters
Tom Padgett & Darwyne Tessier
b. Shaping the Poem: Clarence Socwell
c. Let Your Manuscript Win! *Panel Discussion with past Stevens Manuscript recipients.* Moderator: Doris Stengel
d. The Poetry of Place: Budd P. Mahan
e. Poets Alive! *Theater in the world of poetry*
Sy Swann and Tom Roberts
3:45 p.m. Breakout Sessions:
a. Know Your computers - *repeat*
b. Let Your Manuscript Win! Stevens - *repeat*
c. A Journey: Healing Through Poetry: Mary Willette Hughes
d. Formal Measures in the 21st Century: Madelyn Eastlund
e. How to make your poetry group come alive
State Presidents share their secrets
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. College/University Awards: Sybella Beyer-Snyder
Speaker/Reader: Diane Glancy
7:45 p.m. NFSPS Contest Awards: Kathleen Pederzani
9:00 p.m. Badlands/Good Folks - *Open Poetry Readings*

Saturday

7:00 a.m.. Pheasant Fantasies - *Open Poetry Readings*
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:30 a.m. *Book Room Open (closes for lunch at noon)*
9:00 a.m. John Rezmerski
10:00 a.m. Diane Glancy
11:00 .m. Truth and Poetry — does it make a difference?
Panel: David Evans, Diane Glancy, John Rezmerski
Noon. Lunch
1:00 p.m. *Book Room Open (closes at 5 p.m.)*
1:00 p.m. NFSPS Contests: Kathleen Pederzani
2:45 p.m. Can you teach poetry?: *A Panel of Professors*
Moderator: Art Husebo, Augustana College
4:00 p.m. Since Feeling is First: On the Poetic Species: Dan Evans
5:00 p.m Book Signing
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m Speaker/Reader: John Rezmerski
8:15 p.m. NFSPS Contest Awards: Kathleen Pederzani
9:30 p.m. Black Hills Gold - *Open Poetry Readings*

Sunday

7:00 a.m. Sunshine State - *Open Poetry Readings*
8:30 *Bookroom Opens (closes for lunch at noon)*
7:30 a.m Breakfast
9:00 a.m. 2nd Plenary Session
10:15 a.m. Inheriting Poetry: How our Heritage influences us
Panel: Li-Young Lee, Diane Glancy, John Rezmerski
Moderator: Sue Chambers
Noon. Lunch
NFSPS Executive Board Lunch meeting
1:00 p.m. *Bookroom Open for sales until 4 p.m.*
1:30 p.m. NFSPS Contest Awards: Kathleen Pederzani
2:45 p.m. Li-Young Lee workshop
4:00 p.m. *Bookroom checkout until 5 p.m.*
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:00 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Keynote Speaker: Li-Young Lee
8:00 p.m. NFSPS Contest Awards
after awards Great Faces, Great Places—*Open Poetry Readings*

Monday

7:30 a.m. Breakfast
Check out of dorms - pick up books from bookroom
Sioux Falls Critter Tour - *optional: see page 8*

Lose your registration form? — there is another one inserted in this issue for your convenience. Don't forget to check the tours on pa

Hotels/ Motels *near Augustana College*

Best Western Empire Towers
4100 W. Shirley Place
(605) 361-3118 1-888-338-3118
www.bestwestern.com/empiretowers

Hampton Inn
2417 S. Carolyn Ave.
(605) 362-1700 or 1 800- HAMPTON

Days Inn Empire
3401 Gateway Blvd
(605) 361-9240 or 1-800-Days-Inn

Empire Inn
4208 W 41st St.
605-361-2345

Baymont Inn
3200 Meadow Ave.
(605) 362-0835

Fairfield Inn
4501 W Empire Place
(605) 361-2211 or 1-800-228-2800

Special Air Fares on Northwest/KLM/Continental Airlines

Northwest/KLM/Continental airlines are the official air carrier for the convention. Poets and family members traveling to Sioux Falls on Northwest/KLM/Continental will receive a discount of at least 5% off the lowest applicable published fare. Those who purchase their tickets at least 60 days before departure date will receive an additional 5% off the lowest applicable published fare. To take advantage of these discounts, convention participants or their travel agents must call 1-800-328-1111, Monday-Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Central Time. When calling, participants **must mention** "WorldFile NMZZ7".

Convention Book Room Rules

If possible, please register books by Ma
Mail a master list to: NFSPS BOOK ROO
Susan Stevens Chambers, 57310 166th
Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037. Fax 50
2002 E-mail PoetSue@Aol.com.

When you mail the master list you m
quire as to mailing books directly to Aug
College. Instructions will be sent promptly.

The master list must designate the nan
address of person registering and picki
books, title of each book (and author's n
different), number of copies of each tit
price of each.

We will be computerized, eliminating n
cards or post-it notes in books.

Book room set up will take place on Th
from 9:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

The Book room will open at 8:30 on
Sunday Book room sales will stop at 4:0
checkout will go from 4:00 to 5:30 and M
morning.

League
Of
Minnesota
Poets

LOMP

LOMP SPRING MEETING

Saturday, May 10, 2003

Minnesota Room

at the

Mall of America

Bloomington, Minnesota

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker

Mick Spence

Registration Fee $20.00
includes luncheon

PROGRAM

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00 a.m.	Board Meeting/Open Reading
10:00 a.m.	Gen. Assembly/Business Mtg.
11:00 a.m.	Preparation for NFSPS Convention in Sioux Falls
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Mick Spence, Keynote Speaker
3:00 p.m.	Spinoffs or Open Reading
3:30 p.m.	Door Prizes
4:00 p.m.	Adjournment

REGISTRATION FORM, MAP, AND PARKING DIRECTIONS ARE ON PAGE THREE

Woodticks

Poetry-Writing Retreat

The annual Woodticks Retreat will be Jul 17 to 20—the traditional third weekend—a the Stevens cabin on Horseshoe Lake nort of Brainerd. Each participant contributes half-hour workshop, a contribution of foo and communal effort with meals and clear up. Participants begin arriving in the lat afternoon of Thursday and begin departin on Sunday afternoon. Please plan to ca Sue Chambers at home in advance to coo dinate the food, to get directions, and t know when she will open the cabin. Com for all or part of the time together.

LOMP spring conference meets only one day, but if you want to include a day's shopping or merely to rest up before driving home, here are convenient lodgings:

Hotels
in Mall of America area

(All hotels have a shuttle bus to the Mall o America.)

Holiday Inn Express, 814 E. 79th St. Bloomington. $55/night, king or 2 doubles Continental breakfast.
800-HOLIDAY or 952-854-5558

Baymont Inn, 7815 Nicollet Ave. S., Bloomington. $59/night. Lobby breakfast.
952-881-7311

Clarion Hotel, 8151 Bridge Rd. Bloomington. $59/night. Lobby breakfast.
952-830-1300 or 800-CLARION

Days Inn, 1901 Killebrew Dr., Bloomington $59/night (queen), $69/night (2 doubles). Continental breakfast.
952-854-8400 or 800-329-7466

(Add tax to all prices. Mention you are with th League of Minnesota Poets for this special rate

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Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, unless announced otherwise, holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, at 507-345-4014, e-mail *icarusj@mnic.net* or *Sue Chambers, President,* at 507-278-4200 or e-mail *PoetSue@aol.com*

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WHEN?

June 14th at 1:00 P. M.

WHERE?

Gluck Park St. Peter.

Please check out the map below (If you want to get there.

Our Prez, Susan Chambers SEZ "I will bring the TURKEY."

You bring whatever she says you should bring.

BE SURE TO CALL HER FOR WHAT MAY BE NEEDED AT 507-287-4200.