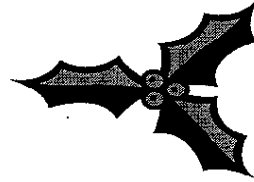


Thistle Down

December '06 Volume 26, Issue 12

Happy Holidays From The
Southern League of
Minnesota Poets!



Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The SMPS is a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, holds opens meetings on the second Saturday of the month from September through May at the River Hills Mall, Mankato, MN. from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all who love poetry and writing. For further information contact *Bethany Berry, Editor* at bethanyberry@hotmail.com, or *Sue Chambers, President*, at 507-278-4200 or e-mail PoetSue@aol.com.

SMPS Officers:

Sue Chambers, *Pres.*

Ike Sarma, *VP.*

Faye Mattison, *Sec.*

Dorla Wachter, *Treas.*

Monica Haack, *Corresponding Sec.*

Sandra Newbauer, *Regional VP*

December 9 "Poetry at the Holidays" Bring your Christmas poems/ songs. The Southern Minnesota Poets' Society invites you to attend their next meeting on Saturday, December 9, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Great Wall Restaurant, 1802 Commerce Drive, North Mankato. (Please note this temporary change of venue for the holidays.)

December's theme is "Poetry at the Holidays." All are invited to come and enjoy the Christmas festivities, have lunch and share the season's spirit. Bring your favorite Christmas poems or songs.

Each person is asked to bring a small gift to exchange, somewhere between \$5.00 and \$10.00. But this is just the beginning of the fun! Please wrap the gift, and attach a poem to it. The poem should be about the gift, but not describe it (for example, if your gift was a toy car, the poem should not be titled "car") or totally give it away. The poem can be from any poet—masters, friends, or your own. We will read the poems and try and guess what the package contains.

Southern Minnesota Poets' Society has the latest information on local, state and national poetry news, events, competitions and publishing opportunities. All are welcome and no reservations are needed.

For more information call Sue Chambers, 507-278-4200

8th ANNUAL League of Minnesota Poets

BLIZZARD WRITER'S POETRY RETREAT

WHEN: 4th weekend of January. Come Thursday, January 25th afternoon or night through Sunday, January 28th, 2007. (Or who knows how long if we get snowed in!)

WHERE: At the home of Sue Chambers, located in the country on 10 lovely wooded acres next to the Big Cobb River, 10 miles south of Mankato, Minnesota. There are many bedrooms in the main house, additional if needed in garage apartment. There are fireplaces to curl up in front of, a full library so we can consult the authorities, and good places to hike, ski or skate.

Directions: *Approximately 8 miles south of Mankato on Highway 22. Turn west (right) on County Road 16. (Or 2 miles north of Beauford, if coming from the south, and turn left (west) on County Road 16). Follow Co. 16 and turn left on the 2nd gravel road on the left (approximately 2 miles). Follow gravel road to first*

right (Don't turn into farmhouse driveway!) (Approximately one--half mile), turn right. House is on the right, is milk chocolate in color. Look for the dogs! (Friendly)

WHO: You! This retreat is for all who are interested in poetry.

WHAT IS REQUIRED: Bring a poetry program that is at least half an hour in length and some food to share. The program can be anything that tickles your fancy--a writing workshop, a favorite author, a new form, a lecture, a special taped program that you want to lead a discussion on...the possibilities are endless. Joint programs are also permissible.

Not required, but you might also want to bring hiking boots, cross-country skis, skates, a sled. Please notify Sue Chambers at least 3 weeks in advance so that food selections can be coordinated.

Want to Come?

Contact Sue Chambers:

57310 166th Lane

Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037

Home Phone: 507.278.4200

Work Phone: 507.625.3000

Fax: 507.625.2002

Email: PoetSue@AOL.Com or

Schambers@Katolaw.com

Friendly Reminder: Please refrain from wearing perfume, cologne and other scented body-care products during meetings and events, as some of our members are highly allergic to them. Thank you!



Coffee Hag Reading

SMPS Poetry readings continue at the Coffee Hag every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

*This month—MONDAY DECEMBER 18, 2006 is a special Christmas treat. **JOHN REZMERSKI** will do a reading (with a twist!) of The Night Before Christmas. After this, the mike will be open for members to share their winter or Christmas poetry.*

**BE SURE AND COME TO
SHARE GOOD CHEER!**

President's Message



I hope the holidays are friendly to your writing spirit. This is a great time to pull out old favorite poems of the season, and I predict that they will get your creative juices flowing and you will write something new for our December meeting. Don't forget we change locations for this meeting, and enjoy a sit down meal at the Great Wall in North Mankato.

I am embarking on new adventures. On January 1st I am retiring from my law partnership to devote more time to writing. This has always been my passion and I want to have more time to see what I can accomplish. I will continue mediating for all types of situations where there is a difference in opinion and the participants need help in learning new ways to communicate.

I hope to share many new poems as I move forward in this new quest. Who knows, I may spring a play or some chapters from a book on you as well!

I hope you will put the Blizzard Retreat in January on your calendar and join us for some delightful company and great writing opportunities. This is for everyone. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

SUE

TAKE A LOOK AT THE LOMP WEBSITE! IT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS. BE SURE AND CHECK OUT WHAT SOME OF THE OTHER CHAPTERS ARE DOING AT THIS WEB SITE!

www.mnpoets.org