

# Thistledown

Vol. 28, Issue 1

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

September 2007

## Note from the President



It was a great pleasure to see the familiar faces of SMPS members at our kick-off meeting on September 8. We all shared the excitement of being at our new location, the Emy Frentz Arts Guild. It's inspiring to have a "home of our own," and to feel like a part of the larger Mankato-area arts

community. Be sure to come to one of our upcoming events and check out our new digs!

I was honored, in May, to be elected president of SMPS. As a relative newcomer, I've already been deeply enriched in knowing this delightful group of poets and poetry lovers. Outgoing president Susan Chambers has provided a strong foundation on which to continue the SMPS tradition. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Susan and to our other outgoing officers: vice-president Ike Sarma, secretary Faye Mattison, corresponding secretary Monica Haake, and newsletter editor Bethany Berry. With your help, vice-president John Rezmerski, treasurer Dorla Wachter and I will strive to maintain SMPS as a vibrant and healthy organization.

Although we've moved to a new location, our Saturday luncheon meetings continue much as before: Come with your lunch and a beverage, and enjoy the wonderful company and enriching programming that only SMPS provides. An added bonus this year: Dessert!

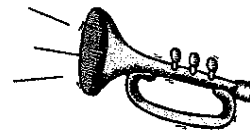
Our monthly "Poetry Evenings" (formerly held at the Coffee Hag) are also moving to the Guild. They're also on a new night: the third Thursday of the month. See the enclosed Program Schedule for details of these and many other upcoming SMPS events. In particular, mark your calendars for the several events coming up very soon. (They're listed to the right). We especially request your participation and/or attendance at two upcoming readings: Prairie Stories and River Rhymes (Sep. 30 at Morgan Creek Vineyards) and the RiverCrossings performance (Oct. 6 at the Guild).

Please note that our October Luncheon meeting will take place on the **third Saturday** of October to avoid conflict with the LOMP fall meeting.

I look forward to an exciting year of SMPS programming. I especially look forward to spending time with the members of SMPS, who are united by their love of, and curiosity about, the art form of poetry. I hope to see you soon!

Regards,  
Jana Bouma

## Up Next! SMPS events



### Prairie Stories and River Rhymes: "Harvest"

Sun., Sept. 30, 2-4 p.m., Morgan Creek Vineyards, Cambria, MN. No cost.

SMPS poets and poetry lovers: WE NEED YOU! Bring your favorite poems (yours or someone else's) to share in this celebration of "Harvest." (If possible, contact John Rezmerski at 345-5876, to let him know what you'll be reading.) Or just come to the vineyard to enjoy the poetry readings, music, wine, and more! SMPS sponsors this event together with the Blue Earth County Historical Society and Morgan Creek Vineyards.

### RiverCrossings Art Fair in Motion: SMPS Poetry Reading

Sat., Oct. 6, 7 p.m., Emy Frentz Arts Guild.\* No cost.

Several SMPS poets will be reading their poems, which were inspired by fine art pieces from the RiverCrossings art fair. Come listen to poetry, view the work of area artists, meet the artists, and check out the new Emy Frentz Arts Guild!

### League of Minnesota Poets Fall Meeting

Oct. 12-13, Brainerd, MN.

### Inaugural SMPS Thursday Poetry Evening

Thu., Oct. 18, Emy Frentz Arts Guild.\* No cost.

Poetry and wine! Featuring the poems of SMPS member Jana Bouma, followed by an open-mike poetry reading. Bring a poem (or poems) to share, or just come and enjoy a night of poetry!

### SMPS Saturday Luncheon Meeting: a visit from the Arrowhead Poets

Sat., Oct. 20, 12:30 p.m. (lunch), 1:00 p.m. (program and meeting), Emy Frentz Arts Guild.\* No cost.

Bring lunch and a beverage and join us as members of the Arrowhead Poets, from Duluth, MN, share their poems and their thoughts about poetry.

*\*Location of Emy Frentz Arts Guild: 523 So. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Mankato (on east side of 2<sup>nd</sup> St., between Cherry and Warren Streets, next to the Mankato YWCA)*

## League of Minnesota Poets Fall Meeting

October 12 & 13

Northland Arboretum, Brainerd, MN

Come enjoy the company of Minnesota poets at this annual gala! Featuring Keynote Speaker David Bengston, the LOMP Poetry Awards, and a poetry seminar, also led by David Bengston.

To have a poem critiqued, mail two copies (one with name & address, one without) to Candace Simar, 28718 County Rd. 197, Pequot Lake, MN 56472. If you will not be at the convention, include a SASE.

Friday Registration: 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.  
Saturday-only Registration: 8:30 – 8:45 a.m.

### Lodging:

AmericInn, 14466 Dellwood Dr., Baxter, MN, 1-866-822-3080 (Ask for "League of MN room block")

For more information, e-mail [lomppoet@gmail.com](mailto:lomppoet@gmail.com). To register, use the form on the back of the newsletter. Hope to see you in Brainerd!

## SMPS Member News

- **Shirley Ensrud** will be the featured reader at noon on Tues., Sep. 18 at the Red Rock Center for the Arts in Fairmont, MN.
- A short story by **John Rezmerski**, "The Romance of the West," appears in the recently-published anthology, *The Blue Road Reader: Stardust and Fate*, from Blue Road Press.
- **Susan Chambers** was one of five finalists at the Eisteddfodd "Chairing of the Bard" competition at Morgan Creek Vineyards on June 24. Several of her poems also placed in the recent poetry competition of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, including one first and one second place finish.
- **Meredith Cook** received a first and a third place award, and several honorable mentions, for her poems entered in the NSFPS contest.
- **Susan Chambers, Meredith Cook, John Rezmerski, Ed Brekke-Kramer, and Jana Bouma** attended the annual Woodticks poetry retreat hosted at Sue Chambers' family cabin near Brainerd, MN in July. About 20 poets took part in the retreat.

Do you have poetry news to share? Pass it along to Jana Bouma, [jbouma@hickorytech.net](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net), (507) 243-4050.

## "Poetry and Wine"—SMPS Thursday Poetry Evenings



3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, Emy Frentz  
Arts Guild, 523 So. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Mankato

We still have room for you to read as a "featured poet" on any of our Thursday Poetry Evenings. If you can be a featured reader (reading for about 15 to 20 minutes), contact Jana Bouma at [jbouma@hickorytech.net](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net) or (507) 243-4050.

Each night will feature readings by one or two poets, followed by an open-mike reading.

Two of our Thursday evenings will feature films on poetry and poets.

Here is the reading schedule so far:

Date	Featuring:
Oct. 18	Jana Bouma ( <i>Add'l reader sought!</i> )
Nov. 15	Poetry Film Night
~ no poetry evening in December~	
Jan. 17	John Rezmerski & Sue Chambers
Feb. 21	Shirley Ensrud ( <i>Add'l reader sought!</i> )
Mar. 20	Poetry Film Night
Apr. 17	<i>Readers needed!</i>
May 15	<i>Readers needed!</i>

These readings are very informal and low-key. Don't be intimidated—share your poems! Or just come to enjoy the wine, the words, and the company.

## Have you joined LOMP?

Membership in the League of Minnesota Poets connects you with a network of poets from around the state. It entitles you to receive the *Lomplighter* newsletter and to contribute to *The Moccasin*, the LOMP literary magazine. You'll be able to attend the spring and fall LOMP meetings, and the annual convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). You'll also receive the NFSPS newsletter, *Strophes*. Finally, you'll be entitled to enter the LOMP and NFSPS poetry competitions at a reduced cost.

To join, go to <http://www.mnpoets.org/>, or contact James Elberling, LOMP membership chair, 1766 Karis Way, Eagan, MN 55122, [j.elberling@comcast.net](mailto:j.elberling@comcast.net).



## URGENT!

As we start the new year, there is much to be done! If you can help with any of the following tasks, please contact Jana Bouma at (507) 243-4050 or [jbouma@hickorytech.net](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net):

- **Publicity:** Mail or deliver SMPS brochures and posters to a list of area businesses and organizations.
- **Saturday luncheon meetings:** On *one* of the following dates, bring dessert for 20 persons: Oct. 20, 2007 or Feb. 9, 2008.
- **Thursday Poetry Evenings:** On Thursday, March 20, 2008, bring wine and a non-alcoholic beverage for 12 persons.
- **Corresponding secretary:** Send courtesy correspondence, such as thank-yous, condolences, get-well messages, etc. to SMPS members and presenters.
- **Recording secretary:** Take minutes at meetings, maintain file of minutes and treasurer's reports, and serve on executive board.
- **Thursday evening coordinator:** Make sure refreshments will be provided (in accordance with sign-up sheet) and that facility is open and ready-to-go for Thursday Poetry Evenings.

## Other Literary Happenings

### Mankato area:

- Poet **Gwen Hart** and fiction writers **Robert David Clark** and **Thomas Maltman**, Good Thunder Reading Series, Mankato State University, Centennial Student Union.  
Thurs., Oct. 11, 3 p.m. (talk on craft), 7:30 p.m. (reading)
- **Deep Valley Book Festival**, Alltel Center (formerly Midwest Wireless Civic Center), Mankato, featuring over 85 authors, illustrators, and publishers, with special guest authors Freya Manfred and William Durbin.  
Sat., Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Elsewhere:

- Poets **Thomas R. Smith** and **Sun Yung Shin** reading at The University Club, St. Paul, MN.  
Tues., Sep. 18, 7 p.m.
- Poets **Deborah Keenan**, **Jim Cihlar** and **William Reichard** reading at Nina's Café, Selby & Western, St. Paul.  
Tues., Oct. 3, 2007
- Poet **Bill Holm**, "Windows of Brimnes: An American in Iceland," Minneapolis Central Library.  
Thurs., Nov. 29, 7:00 p.m.

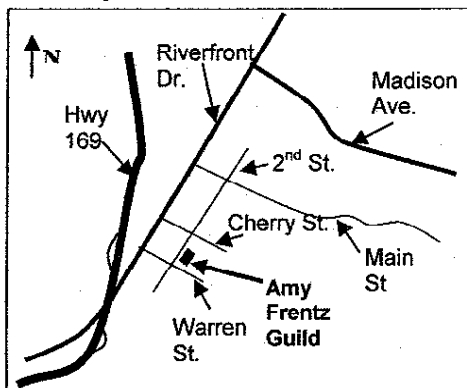


### MEMBERS: Please Read!!

**SMPS Directory:** If you would like your contact information to be excluded from the SMPS directory, please contact Jana Bouma at (507) 243-4050 or [jbouma@hickorytech.net](mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net). If I don't hear from you by Sep. 30, I'll assume it's okay to include your contact information. An updated directory will be included in the next newsletter. Thanks!

## The Emy Frenz Arts Guild

(meeting place of SMPS)



523 So. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Mankato, MN  
(East side of 2<sup>nd</sup> St., between Cherry and Warren Streets, next to the YWCA)

## SMPS OFFICERS

President:	Jana Bouma, (507) 243-4050, <a href="mailto:jbouma@hickorytech.net">jbouma@hickorytech.net</a>
Vice-Pres.:	John Rezmerski
Treasurer:	Dorla Wachter