

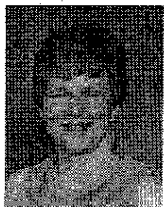
Thistle down

Vol. 28, Issue 2

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

October 2007

Note from the President



Poetry was certainly in the air in September and October! On September 30, SMPS members John Rezmerski, Sister Justin Wirth, and Jana Bouma participated in the **Prairie Stories and River Rhymes** event at Morgan Creek Vineyards. The event combined storytelling, historical

photos, music, and poetry around the theme of "Harvest." Anna Larson helped to curate and MC the event, and Jack Madsen shared his memories of the harvest season in southern Minnesota. If you missed this marvelous event (and Anna's apple pie!), plan to attend the next one on Sunday, January 27, 2 p.m., at the Cambria Town Hall.

On Oct. 6, SMPS poets participated in the **RiverCrossings Art Fair** by reading poems written in response to works by eight different artists. Poets Jana Bouma, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Susan Chambers, Ronan Kingsley, and Ike Sarma read before an audience of about 30 persons at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild. (Dorothy Lutz also contributed poems.)

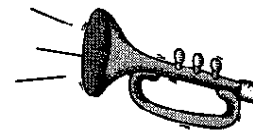
On October 18, SMPS members gathered for the year's first **Thursday Poetry Evening**. Ike Sarma and I shared the honor of being "featured readers," followed by a lively round of poetry sharing. If you couldn't be there, you missed a good one! (The wine didn't hurt.)

Thanks to our speaker, Dennis Herschbach, for a delightful presentation, "A Poet's Journey," at our October 20 meeting. Thanks, too, to John Rezmerski for chairing the meeting. Members voted to grant a lifetime membership in SMPS and to pay annual LOMP dues for founding member Charlotte Seward. We also honored outgoing officers Sue Chambers, Ike Sarma, Monica Haake, Faye Mattison, and Bethany Berry.

Finally, say a big thank-you to the following folks, who have agreed to serve SMPS for the 2007-2008 year: President Jana Bouma, Vice President John Rezmerski, Regional VP Susan Chambers, Treasurer Dorla Wachter, Recording Secretary Sister Justin Wirth, Newsletter editor Derek Liebertz, and Publicity Chair Geraldine Tostenson. We are still in need of a corresponding secretary.

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Coming Up!



SMPS Events

Saturday Luncheon Meeting: Prof. Rebecca Taylor Fremo, "Still Processing"

Saturday, **November 10th**

Lunch at **12:30pm** ... program / meeting at **1:00pm**
Emy Frenz Arts Guild. No cost to attend. Bring a lunch and a beverage!

Third Thursday Poetry Evening: Poetry Film Night, Oscar-nominated *Il Postino*

Thursday, **November 15th at 7:00pm**

Emy Frenz Arts Guild. No cost to attend.

Other Literary Happenings

In the Mankato area

✓ **Deep Valley Book Festival**

Saturday, **November 10th from 10:00am to 5:00pm**

Alltel Center (formerly Midwest Wireless Civic Center) Mankato, featuring over 85 authors, illustrators, and publishers, with special guest authors Freya Manfred and William Durbin.

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series:**

Poet Deborah Keenan

Thursday, **November 29th**

Talk on craft: CSU Ostrander Auditorium at **3:00pm**

Reading: CSU Room 253 at **7:30pm**

✓ **2008 Blizzard Poetry Retreat**

Friday to Sunday, **January 27th - January 29th 2008**

Hosted by SMPS member Susan Chambers. All poets are welcome! This retreat provides a warm, welcoming atmosphere in which to gain inspiration, share poems, and learn about poetry. Overnight accommodations are provided ("drop-in" guests are also welcome). Meals are "pot luck" style. There is **no charge** to attend the retreat, but guests are asked to pitch in and provide food, assist with meal preparation, and help with cleanup duties. Each guest will also give a presentation on some aspect of poetry.

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(Note from the President continued)

I look forward to seeing all of you at our November 10 meeting, where we'll hear Professor Becky Fremo's presentation, "Still Processing." She'll take us through her writing process, from first draft to polished poem.

Regards,
Jana Bouma

*"Poetry and Wine"— Monthly
SMPS Thursday Poetry Evenings*



Third Thursday each month, Emy Frenz
Arts Guild, 523 So. 2nd Street, Mankato

We still need "featured poets" for some Thursday Poetry Evenings. If you can be a featured reader (for about 15 to 20 minutes), contact Jana Bouma at 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
Nov. 15	Poetry Film Night
~ no poetry evening in December ~	
Jan. 17	John Rezmerski & Sue Chambers
Feb. 21	Shirley Ensrud (need one more!)
Mar. 20	Poetry Film Night
Apr. 17	Derek Liebertz (need one more!)
May 15	Readers needed!

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.

Editor's Note

Since I'm just getting my feet wet, this month I am keeping our current newsletter format. You will see a bit more creativity and hopefully a new look for the *Thistledown* in issue 3.

Next month, I will begin "**Less Than 90 ...**", a feature showing off member-submitted poems. Rules?

- 1) I name the topic one month ahead
- 2) The entire poem takes you under 90 seconds

It's completely voluntary and **never** serious. Here is my sample entry for next issue's subject, "Tuna Haiku":

Greasy spoon diner,
One page menu. I select
'Tuna melt' on rye.

Your editor, **DEREK**

(Coming Up! continued)

At the home of Susan Chambers:
57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN

To sign up for the Blizzard Retreat or just ask for information, contact Susan at (507) 278-4200 or chambersmediator@yahoo.com

In the region

✓ **Color Theory for the 21st Century: Beyond the Pure, Readings by Writers of Color**

Thursday, **November 8th 2007 at 7:00pm**

Featuring Bryan Thao Worra and Heid E. Erdrich
Patrick's Cabaret

3010 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis, (612) 871-4444
(Part of the Carol Connolly Reading Series)

✓ **Reading by poet Kathryn Kysar.**

Friday, **November 9th at 7:30pm**

Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts
6666 E River Rd., Fridley, (612) 871-4444

(Part of the Carol Connolly Reading Series)

✓ **Reading featuring memoirist Patricia Hampl and poet Katrina Vandenberg**

Tuesday, **November 20th at 7:30pm**

University Club of St. Paul
420 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

(Part of the Carol Connolly Reading Series)

✓ **Windows of Brimnes: An American in Iceland**

Thursday, **November 29th at 7:00pm**

Featuring poet Bill Holm
Minneapolis Central Library

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.

SMPS Member News

- *The Moccasin*, literary magazine of the League of Minnesota Poets, has arrived. (SMPS's **Meredith Cooke** edits the magazine.) The 2007 issue contains poems by SMPS members **Phyllis Borchert, Jana Bouma, Susan Chambers, Meredith Cooke, June Emanuel, Shirley Ensrud, Christina Flaucher, Monica Toohey Haack, John Calvin Rezmerski, Berneal Schindle, Charlotte Seward, and Bonnie Ann Wolle.**
- A poem by **Sister Justin Wirth**, "Switch," is forthcoming in the print journal *Sacred Journey*
- **Yvonne Cariveau and Derek Liebertz** were married on September 8th.
[*Editor's note: We are deliciously happy!*]

Do you have news about poetry or our SMPS members to share? Pass it along to **Jana Bouma**, at jbouma@hickorytech.net or (507) 243-4050.

SMPS Officers

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| President: | Jana Bouma
(507) 243-4050
jbouma@hickorytech.net |
| Vice President: | John Rezmerski |
| Regional VP | Susan Chambers |
| Treasurer: | Dorla Wachter |
| Recording Secretary | Sister Justin Wirth |
| Newsletter Editor | Derek Liebertz
bajanorthwest@yahoo.com |
| Publicity | Geraldine Tostenson |
| Correspondence Sec. | Monica Toohey Haack |

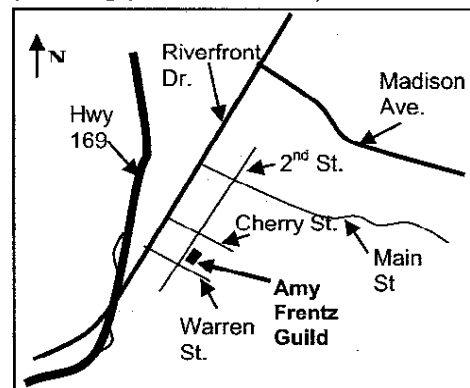


WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We have a great start to the new year, but a few things still need to be ironed out. If you can help with these items, please contact **Jana Bouma** at (507) 243-4050 or jbouma@hickorytech.net:

- **Meeting treats:** Bring dessert for 20 persons on Saturday, February 9th, 2008.
- **Thursday Poetry Evenings:** Bring wine and a non-alcoholic beverage for 12 persons on Thursday, March 20th, 2008.

The Emy Frenz Arts Guild
(meeting place of SMPS)



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

SMPS Membership Roster

Name	Address	Phone(s)	Email Address
Bethany Berry	17430 Jonquil Ave. W Lakeville, MN 55044	952-892-6304 or 952-240-8739	bethanyberry@hotmail.com
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Sr. M. Justin Wirth	423 W. 7th St. Mankato, MN 56001-2131	507-388-2515	smjustinw@yahoo.com