

Thistledown

Vol. 28, Issue 3

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

November 2007

SMPS Holiday Party

Attention all SMPS members! No brown-bag lunch this month ... we're doing it right. ☺ Don't miss our holiday celebration on Saturday December 8th, starting at 12:30pm, at the Emy Frenz Guild. We'll share poetry and music, have lots of fun, and eat great food by *Matt's Catering*. Make your reservations today!

Cuisine: The cost of a meal is \$10.00 ... to reserve a meal, contact Sue Chambers by December 3rd at 507-278-4200 or poetsue@aol.com. Please specify chicken or vegetarian alfredo for your entrée.

Reading: For the meeting, bring any poetry you wish to share (seasonal poems encouraged) during our open "read-around" session.

Holiday carol sing-along: Warm up those vocal chords and join in, accompanied by the viola duo of Jana and Chandra Bouma.

Poem exchange for the January critique: Don't miss this opportunity to have a poem critiqued by your SMPS peers. To participate, bring *three anonymous (unsigned) copies* of the poem. Members will take them home, read and make comments, and bring their comments to our January 12th, 2008 meeting.

Optional riddle-me-a-gift exchange: The final event of the party. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped small gift (\$10 or less) and a poem that *describes the item*. The poem can be any form and size. **Warning** – don't get too attached to any one gift. You never know which one you'll actually be taking home. ☺

Proud Member of

TWIN RIVERS
CENTER FOR THE



Note from the President



At the October meeting, SMPS members enjoyed a delightful presentation by Prof. Rebecca Taylor Fremo of Gustavus Adolphus College entitled "Still Processing", in which she shared some of her poems as well as her thoughts about where poems come from and how they evolve. Our

meetings this year have been full of energy and stimulating poetic conversations. Come and enjoy!

Don't miss all of the special happenings at our upcoming December meeting—the Holidays and Poetry Celebration on Dec. 8. Make your reservations now for the catered meal!

And don't miss your chance to have a poem critiqued. Bring 3 copies of a poem to the Dec. 8 meeting, and a member will share their critique at the Jan. 12 meeting.

Thanks to the many members who have volunteered for a wide variety of tasks to keep SMPS growing and vibrant. We have a terrific, involved membership.

Don't forget to renew your membership in SMPS! The new membership year begins on Jan. 1. Have a terrific December!

Regards,
Jana Bouma

Saturday Meeting Dessert Sign-up List

Thanks to the following people for offering to bring a yummy treat to our monthly luncheon meetings. We had a suggestion to add this to the newsletter, so here is the current list.

Editor's note: How did Rez get such an easy one? It's catered already, for goodness sake. ☺

Dec. 8	John Rezmerski
Jan 12	Sandra Newbauer
Feb 9	Yvonne Cariveau
Mar 8	Shirley Ensrud
Apr 12	Faye Mattison
May 10	Sister Margaret Mary

SMPS Events

✓ **Holiday Poetry Gathering (w/ catered food!)**

Saturday, December 8th

Meal at 12:30pm ... other fun begins around 1:00pm depending on how full we let ourselves get. ☺

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Read the **front page** for important details. You won't want to miss this one!

✓ **Schedule Notice**

Due to the holiday season, there will be NO Third Thursday poetry evening in December. Happy Holidays everyone!

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting: Poetry Critique**

Saturday, January 12th 2008

Meal at 12:30pm ... program / meeting at 1:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

No cost to attend. Bring a lunch, a beverage, and your notes from the critique you will share with the group.

✓ **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.

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

Other Literary Happenings

In the Mankato area

✓ **"Whistling Shade"**

A Minnesota literary magazine, available *free* at the Coffee Hag and Mankato/North Mankato libraries.

In the region

✓ **Poetry Slam (\$5.00 fee) featuring J.W. Baz**

Monday, December 3th 2007 at 8:00pm

The Artist's Quarter in St. Paul

Music by *Green* from 7:00 to 8:00pm

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Less than 90 ...

Last month, four brave souls dared to enter the dangerous poetic waters of "Tuna Haiku". I salute them all, and include their submissions below:

Craving lunchbox love

I slowly open the lid

Fish smell breaks my heart

Yvonne Cariveau

Flashes of silver

Fled in search of cooler seas

Now what will we eat

Jana Bourma

Schools of silver fish

Flash through ocean depths, tuna

Becomes silver cans.

Marlys Neufeld

Sweden's best lodging –

No misrepresentation –

Call up Eskilstuna

Ike Sarma

For January, try a couplet where the first words rhyme **and** the last words rhyme **and** it includes at least one 5-letter animal name. It's the ol' "Five & Rhyme" contest! As always, writing the poem should take you under 90 seconds. Take all the time you want to pick your animal(s), though. An example:

Skink says "Listen, I don't stunk!
Think me an obnoxious skunk?"

Hmm. Now I understand why Yvonne looks sideways at me sometimes, like I have three noses. I blame this unsavory couplet on the massive weekend tryptophan overdose. You can do better! PLEASE!!

Editor's Note

Beginning with this issue, I am emailing the newsletter to anyone on the roster with an email address. The remainder will still be postal mailed, and I will always print several extra copies to hand out at the Saturday lunch meetings. Saving trees is a good thing ...

My plans for shaking up the format a little took a back seat to a couple of runaway projects for work, but the idea is still there. Let's see what 2008 brings.

Have a great holiday season filled with family and fun!

Your editor, **DEREK**

(Other Literary Happenings continued)

✓ **Poetry Reading featuring Sun Yung Shin**

Wednesday, **December 5th at 7:00pm**
 Nina's Cafe
 Selby & Western in St. Paul

✓ **SlamMN Season Semi-Finals & Individual World Poetry Slam Qualifier**

Tuesday, **December 11th at 8:00pm**
 Kieran's Pub
 330 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis

✓ **Launch party for Lost Hills Books**

Saturday, **December 15th at 12:30 to 3:00pm**
 Kickoff party for a new publishing company with a poetry reading at **2:00pm**, Tejas Restaurant
 50th & France Avenue South, Edina

"Poetry and Wine" Evenings

Third Thursday each month at the Emy Frenz Guild

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.

Here is the current reading schedule:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Featuring</u>
Jan. 17	John Rezmerski & Sue Chambers Beverages by Sandra Newbauer
Feb. 21	Shirley Ensrud (<i>need one more!</i>) Beverages by Sue Chambers
Mar. 20	Poetry Film Night Beverages by Ike Sama (maybe?)
Apr. 17	Derek Liebertz (<i>need one more!</i>) Beverages by Sue Chambers
May 15	Meredith Cooke & Dorothy Lutz Beverages by June Emanuel

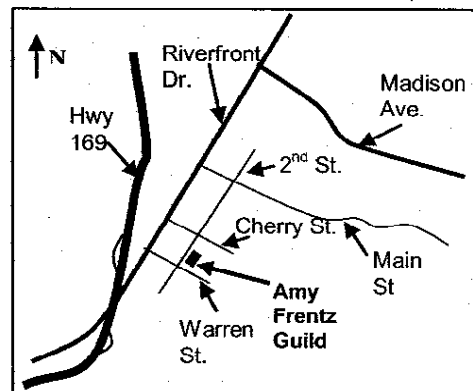
These readings are very informal and low-key. Don't be intimidated—share your poems! Or just come to enjoy the wine, the words, and the company.

SMPS Officers

President:	Jana Bouma (507) 243-4050 jbouma@hickorytech.net
Vice President:	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers poetsue@aol.com
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The Emy Frenz Arts Guild

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



The holidays are a busy time – send in your SMPS membership renewal form to Dorla Wachter today!

Don't miss out on the Thistledown newsletter and all of SMPS's great programming. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st 2008.

See the membership form on the outside of this newsletter mailing. Thank you!