

Thistledown

☞ Thistledown Photo ☛



This month's image is from 123rf.com
(see page 3 for details)

☞ Next Meeting ☛

Saturday, November 12, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and visit

1:00pm "In Praise of Chewing Gum, Hot Dish and Door Knobs: A Poetry Workshop" presented by Jana Bouma

☞ SMPS Member News ☛

John Rezmerski's "Dancing Lessons 2" is one of fifty poems about poets' experiences of learning published in *Bringing Gifts*, *Bringing News*, published by DownStairs Press in Minneapolis. On Oct. 22, he participated in a reading by 25 of the published poets at the Loft in Minneapolis. On October 19 at the Loft, he introduced Jane Yolen at a reading celebrating the publication of her new book of poems *Things to Say to a Dead man*.

Two of **Sandra Newbauer's** poems will be included in *Talking Stick*, a Minnesota literary journal out of Park Rapids, MN. The book release party is next weekend in Park Rapids, MN.

If you have had a poem accepted for publication or if you have other news to share, be sure to send that information to newsletter@southernmnpoets.org.

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☞ Art of Recovery Submissions Due Soon ☛



Art of Recovery is an annual exhibition co-sponsored by the Minnesota State Arts Board and Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs. The exhibit heightens awareness about crime victims and their rights, and commemorates Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 22-28, 2012).

Submit by E-Mail:

Entries sent by e-mail must be received before 4:30pm on Monday, November 14, 2011.

Submit by U.S. Mail:

Entries sent by U.S. Mail must be post-marked no later than Thursday, November 10, 2011.

More information at:

<http://www.arts.state.mn.us/aor/2012/call.htm>

or call Virginia Padden, Minnesota State Arts Board, at: (651) 215-1627 or (800) 866-2787.



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

TWIN RIVERS
COUNCIL FOR THE



☪ Blue Skunk Poetry Series ☪

ROCKSAW PRESS

EST. 2009

Rocksaw Press is seeking original poetry manuscripts for its Blue Skunk Poetry Series.

It was founded in Mankato, MN and is now based out of Spokane, WA. Rocksaw is an independent publisher of poetry chapbooks.

For the Blue Skunk Poetry Series, individual poems in the manuscript may have been published previously, but not in book form. Manuscripts must be of 24 pages or under (excluding front matter). They do not accept translations or multiple author works. There is no particular theme to the contest.

This year's contest finalists will be judged by Jude Nutter, author of *I Wish I Had a Heart Like Yours*, *Walt Whitman*; *The Creator of Silence*; and *Pictures of the Afterlife*.

Winner will receive 50 copies of the chapbook and a \$100 prize. Finalists will receive a copy of the winning chapbook.

Reading Period: December 1st, 2011 through April 30, 2012

All submissions must be made online, no hard copies will be accepted.

For more information and a link to submit, go to <http://rocksawpress.com/blueskunk.html>

☪ Blast from the Past ☪

From the Thistledown published in February, 1981:

In November, 1976, SMPS began with only eight charter members and has increased in four years to a total active writing membership of thirty-three (including one live membership and two honorary memberships) and fifteen associate members as well as many guests who often later have become active members or associates, also.

New writing members accepted in 1980: John Domeier, Michael Paul Gallo, Roger German, Richard Jensen, John Kolbe, Ron Newell, Lucille Nitzkowski, Karen Shilling, Dr. Robert Shipman and Astrid VanDeWege.

SMPS can also be proud of our 1980 average attendance record per meeting: Members = 16; Associates=4; Guests=5 Total average meeting attendance = 25

☪ Call for Poets: Poet-Artist Collaboration XI ☪

Deadline: Feb. 10, 2012

“Poetry is the journal of the sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air. Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable. Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away.”

~Carl Sandburg, *Poetry Considered*



In honor of National Poetry Month in April, Crossings at Carnegie

(Zumbrota, MN) invites poets and artists to submit their work to the eleventh Poet-Artist Collaboration, an annual exhibit in which artists create work inspired by poetry.

Up to 3 poems may be submitted (2 pages per poem).

Poems will be juried and those selected to be part of the collaboration will be chosen or assigned to an artist who will create an original piece of art inspired by the poem.

Deadline for poetry entries is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. Notification of acceptance will be the following week.

Poet/Artist Reception

Poets and artists are strongly encouraged to attend the poet/artist reception on Saturday, April 21, beginning at 7 p.m. at Crossings. This special event will feature the poets reading and discussing their work, and the artists discussing how the poems inspired their art. It is not only an opportunity for the poets and artists to meet each other, but an unforgettable evening of camaraderie for all those who love the arts!

Questions? Contact Crossings at 507-732-7616 or crossings@crossingsatcarnegie.com.

For more information about Crossings, visit www.crossingsatcarnegie.com

☪ Sympathy ☪

The Southern Minnesota Poetry Society extends its sympathy to the family and friends of William A. Ostrom, the son of SMPS member Marvin Ostrom.

William, loving Son, Brother and Uncle Age 51, of Eagan passed away on October 6, 2011.

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

President	Derek Liebertz bajanothwest@yahoo.com (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers poetsue@aol.com
Treasurer	Gerry Tostensen gerrytos@hickorytech.net
Recording Secretary	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne Cariveau newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

Staying in Touch. We sometimes get news too late to put it into the newsletter. It might be a great event that's coming up, a contest deadline approaching or an opportunity to collaborate.

In between newsletters, we will e-mail and post those types of things on Facebook and on the SMPS web site.

Watch for emails from smps@southernmnpoets.org or visit <http://www.southernmnpoets.org> or on Facebook and LIKE our page to get notices of news.

<http://www.facebook.com/southernmnpoets>

<http://www.southernmnpoets.org>



The thistledown image on the first page is a purchased image from 123RF Stock Photos.

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **YVONNE**

☪ Other Poetry Events ☪

Good Thunder Reading Series

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011 Debra Monroe

Thursday, Nov. 17 MSU Mankato Faculty

Candace Black and Richard Robbins, Poets and Roger Scheffer, Fiction Writer

Talk on Craft event at 3pm and Reading at 7:30pm on campus at MSU.

More Information: <http://english2.mnsu.edu/gt/dm.html>

The Grand Kabaret, New Ulm

Dec. 16, 2011 Poetry Night with the MN Poetry Society

Info: <http://thegrandnewulm.com/kabaret/calendar>

Coffee Hag

Watch for notices for the Big Deal Poetry Open Stage or Spice of Life Variety Show nights hosted by Esther Marcella. She is fun and fabulous!

For the poetry open stage, bring your performance poems and prepare to be amazed at the talent in the room.

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

We need help with desserts for Saturday meetings or drinks for a third Thursday. Sign up at the next meeting or email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org – thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Nov, 2011	Gerry Tostenson
(TTB)	Nov, 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	Jan, 2012	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(TTB)	Jan, 2012	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	Feb 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(TTB)	Feb 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	Mar 2011	Yvonne Cariveau
(TTB)	Mar 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	Apr 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(TTB)	Apr 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	May 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>

☪ Membership Renewal ☪

A reminder to renew your SMPS and LOMP (League of MN Poets) membership. The outer page of this newsletter has a form to complete for SMPS, and on the LOMP website —www.mnpoets.org — you can find their renewal form.

We urge you to join our state organization, the League of MN Poets .

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Yvonne Cariveau, Newsletter Editor
1131 E Main St
Mankato, MN 56001

Be sure to keep SMPS as a part of your life! Just fill out the form below and send it with your membership fee to our Treasurer Gerry Tostensen. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs from **January 1st** - **December 31st** of each calendar year

SMPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone #: _____ Cell #: _____

New Member? Yes No (circle one)

Dues Enclosed: Regular (\$15.00) ____ Student (\$7.50) ____

Mail application and check to: **Gerry Tostensen SMPS Treasurer, 24070 577th Lane, Mankato, MN 56001**

All SMPS members are encouraged to also become members of the League of Minnesota Poets (<http://www.mnpoets.org>)