

# Thistledown

## ❧ Thistledown Photo ❧



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## ❧ Blizzard Retreat ❧

Join us for the annual Blizzard Poetry Retreat at Susan Chambers' home in Good Thunder. Thursday Jan 26 to Sunday Jan 29. Bring a half hour program to share and a dish to pass. Enjoy some of the most productive writing time you will have all year in the company of old and new friends. Everyone is welcome!

## ❧ Philip Bryant—"Politics and Poetics are Always Local" ❧

**P**hilip Bryant will be presenting "Politics and Poetics are Always Local" as our guest speaker for the January SMPS meeting. This is a MUST attend event, Philip is an always fascinating speaker.

Philip S. Bryant is the author of *Stompin' at The Grand Terrace: A Jazz Memoir in Verse* with music by Carolyn Wilkins and *Sermon on a Perfect Spring Day*. His work has appeared in *Where One Voice Ends, Another Begins: 150 Years of Minnesota Poetry*, *The Iowa Review*, *The Indiana Review*, *The American Poetry Review*, and *Nimrod*. Phil was a fellow of the Minnesota Arts Board in 1992 and

## ❧ Image and the Word ❧

**F**IFTH annual **Image and the Word** exhibit opens January 12, 2012.

Stop by and see the wonderful photographs and poems inspired by those photos. We have a terrific selection of both photos and poems this year.

Don't miss the reception this year, it will be our best ever! Reading of poetry and statements from photographers will be done Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 6:00pm.

A free poetry book will be given to everyone that attends the reception! And of course there will be refreshments and voting for your favorite poem, photo and pairing.



1998, and has served on the governing board of The Loft, the premier literary and arts center in the Twin Cities. Bryant is a Professor of English at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota.

Join us for a bag lunch at 12:30pm with meeting starting at 1:00pm.



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### Regular Meetings

2nd Saturdays at 12:30 pm  
3rd Thursdays at 7 pm



Facebook.com/southernmnpoets



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato



☞ Calls for Poetry—Contests and Others ☛

**Roadside Poetry—Your Poem, Outdoors and BIG**

Like the Burma Shave signs from the 1950s, Roadside Poetry is a set of 4 billboards with one line of a poem on each.

The mission of The Roadside Poetry Project is to celebrate the personal pulse of poetry in the public landscape. Submissions for Spring and Summer, 2012 are being sought now.

More information: <http://www.roadsidepoetry.org/>

**You are Hear: mnartists.org literary podcast**

**S**tories, poems, spoken word. Any southern MN poets interested in having their poetry recorded—for submission to this podcast, for the SMPS web site or for your own purposes—contact Yvonne at [newsletter@southernmnpoets.org](mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org). Submission information for You Are Hear <http://www.mnartists.org/article.do?rid=301228>

**Lake Region Review**

**A** literary magazine of regional writing. Submit by 5/1/12. [http://www.lakeregionwriters.net/?page\\_id=318](http://www.lakeregionwriters.net/?page_id=318)

**Crossings at Zumbrota: Poet-Artist Collaboration**

**P**oets and artists are invited to submit for an annual exhibit in which artists create work inspired by poetry. Up to 3 poems may be submitted (2 pages per poem). Deadline for poetry entries is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. Questions? Contact Crossings at 507-732-7616 or [crossings@crossingsatcarnegie.com](mailto:crossings@crossingsatcarnegie.com).

☞ Blast from the Past ☛

From **Thistledown Feb, 1996:**



Meetings was held at Vincent Wang Restaurant, dues were \$10 and Shirley Ensrud was Treasurer. The meeting was Ron Arsenault, musician, in a discussion about writing lyrics. The assignment was: A sonnet expressing the spiritual impact of great music (#30 in the 1996 NFSPS contest).

And this plea:  
 “Please come to share a new poem. Give us, too, your gift of insight to bring some charm to an old nag of a question or a limping state of being or just a day without sunshine. When you no longer know if the six weeks from Groundhog Day is a good thing or a bad thing, poetry is the answer!”

☞ Poetry Events ☛

**Shihan**

Jan 10, 2012 7pm  
 MSU Ostrander Auditorum  
 Shihan is a dynamic spoken word artist and National Poetry Slam Champion (2004). His performance in Mankato is free and you will see SMPS members on stage!



**Gerry Tostenson and Margie Larson**

Jan through March, Blue Earth County Historical Society 415 E. Cherry Street, Mankato  
 Gerry Tostenson (our SMPS Treasurer and poet) along with Margie Larson, two artists painting plein air style, will have a show of their work. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, January 19th from 5-7pm. All are invited. No charge.

**Blizzard Poetry Retreat**

Jan 26, 2012 (Thursday) to Jan 29, 2012 (Sunday)  
 Annual poetry writing retreat. Contact Susan Chambers for details and a map to her home.

**Good Thunder Reading Series at MSU**

Jan 26, 2012: Mankato Alumni Reading  
 Bronson Lemer, Creative Nonfiction Writer, Matt Mauch, Poet and Christine Stark, Fiction Writer  
 Talk on Craft at 3pm in Ostrander Auditorium  
 Reading at 7:30pm on campus at MSU CSU Room 253  
 More Information: <http://english2.mnsu.edu/gt/>

**SMPS February Meetings**

Feb 11, 2012 12:30 (lunch) 1pm Meeting  
 Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter - Contest preparation and getting poems ready  
 Feb 16, 2012 7:30pm Craig Groe

**SMPS March Meetings**

Mar 10, 2012 12:30 (lunch) 1pm Meeting  
 Dr. Karl Heise, retired MSU professor, will share Hispanic poetry.  
 Mar 15, 2012 7:30pm Youth Night (college writing groups will join us for poetry reading and discussion)

**More Than Writing Conference and Bookfair**

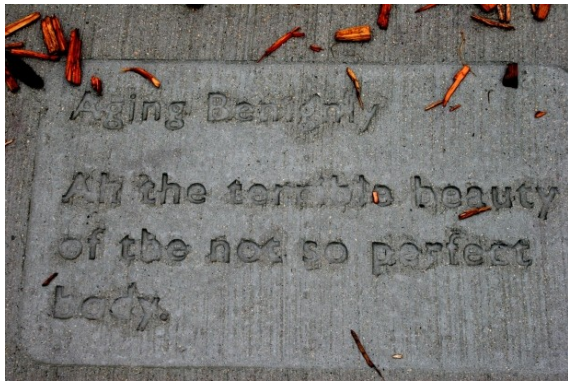
March 30-31, 2012: MSU Student Union Ballroom  
 A conference hosted by MSU’s Creative Writing MFA program will feature a bookfair, used book sale, panel presentations, and readings. The conference is free and open to the public. More information: Angie Mullen, [angela.mullen@mnsu.edu](mailto:angela.mullen@mnsu.edu)

☯ Mankato Poetry Walk ☯

**M**ankato Poetry Walk is an effort to get local poetry posted along walking and biking paths in the Mankato area. The CityArt Sculpture walk has inspired artists and shown the community the power of art to bring people together, to bring people downtown and visitors to Mankato. Inspired by the CityArt project and the WordWalk (poetry in sidewalks), we are hoping to make poetry an even more visible part of Mankato life with the Mankato Poetry Walk project.

**We need your help.** We need contest organizers, people to help select the sites for poems and more.

If you are willing to help, please contact Yvonne Cariveau.



Sue Chambers' WordWalk poem, imprinted in concrete at Riverfront Park.

☯ SMPS Officers ☯

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

☯ Editor's Corner ☯

**A**rt and Poetry is blossoming in the Mankato area. Attend poetry events, help organize poetry and art performances and be a part of nurturing this exciting time in our city!



—Reading Magic, the People's Choice CityArt Winner 2011—

News to share? [newsletter@southernmnpoets.org](mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org) or post at <http://facebook.com/southernmnpoets>

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **Y.V.O.N.N.E**

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☯

**H**elp with refreshments for Saturday meetings (SMD) or drinks for a third Thursday (TTB). Sign up at the next meeting or email [newsletter@southernmnpoets.org](mailto:newsletter@southernmnpoets.org) -- thank you!

**Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages**

(SMD)	Jan 2012	Sue Chambers
(TTB)	Jan 2012	Yvonne & Derek
(SMD)	Feb 2011	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Feb 2011	Craig Groe
(SMD)	Mar 2011	Jana Bouma
(TTB)	Mar 2011	Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD)	Apr 2011	Janelle Hawkrigde
(TTB)	Apr 2011	Kay Helms
(SMD)	May 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 2011	Derek Liebertz

☯ 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](http://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> )