

Thistledown

☞ Thistledown Photo ☜



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☞ Third Thursday ☜

The March Third Thursday will be a fun evening and an opportunity to meet young poets, hear their poetry, and share yours.

Mar 15, 2012 7:30pm Youth Night

College writing groups will join us for poetry reading and discussion.

Refreshments will be a bit more lavish than usual in honor of our young guests.

INVITE any young poets you know to join us and be SURE to come for this one.

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Regular Meetings

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

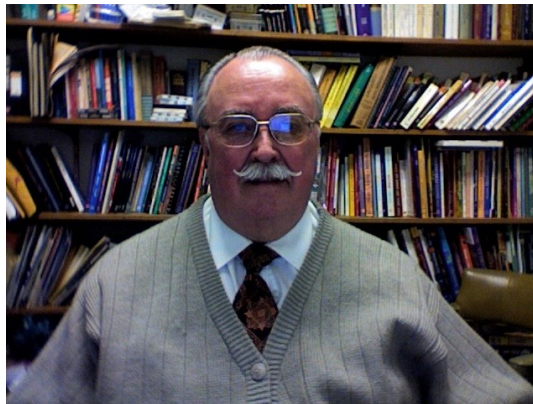


[Facebook.com/southernmnpoets](https://www.facebook.com/southernmnpoets)

☞ Five Centuries of Poetry in Spanish America—Dr. Heise ☜

Five Centuries of Poetry in Spanish America will be the presentation by Dr. Karl Heise, retired Minnesota State University professor. Dr. Heise will discuss and share examples of poetry by a few major poets from the five centuries since the Conquest of Latin America.

Dr. Heise taught Spanish and Spanish literature for many years at MSU—one of his students in the 1980s was SMPS member, Yvonne Cariveau. He took students to Mexico for study abroad experiences as well. Yvonne remembers him fondly as one of her favorite professors—and a great storyteller! Please join us for what will undoubtedly be a fascinating talk! Bag lunch at 12:30pm with meeting starting at 1:00pm.



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



☞ Mankato Magazine Features Poetry ☜

Congratulations to Southern Minnesota Poets Society members Jose Aguillon Jr, Jana Bouma, John Rezmerski, Shirley Ensrud, Meredith Cook and others featured in the February, 2012 issue of Mankato Magazine. The article, titled "For the Love of Poetry" features a picture of the meeting and poems written by several of our members. If you missed the paper copy, you can read it online at

http://issuu.com/dhabrat/docs/mankato_mag_january



☞ Calls for Poetry—Contests and Others ☛

You are Hear: mnartists.org literary podcast

Stories, 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. 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

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/>

☞ Blast from the Past ☛

THANKS to Meredith Cook for her kindness and time spent gathering and providing copies to Yvonne of past Thistledowns. Yvonne made PDFs of those past issues and added them to the SMPS web site.



<http://www.southernmnpoets.org/newsletter/> now has issues from this one back to 1980. We are still missing a few issues, but the collection is pretty complete. If you have an issue that is not on the page, we'd love to scan it for the web site and return it to you.

From the Thistledown, Volume 6, 1985

The September meeting was held at the Mr. Rene Banquet Hall in downtown Mankato. SMPS honored and surprised Martin & Mildred Offerle, long-time loyal SMPS members. Poems and other offerings were presented to the couple at the September meeting.

SMPS members were invited to read poetry at the Carnegie Art Center in support of the Sunday on Broad Street Festival sponsored by the Arts Council and the Blue Earth County Historical Society.

☞ Arts by the River ☛



**Arts by the River
Fine Art & Music
Festival**
Saturday,
June 9
& Sunday,
June 10

Susan Stevens Chambers June 11, 2011

For the Arts by the River Festival, Riverfront Park in Mankato, comes alive with people, music, smells of delicious food and ART—paintings, photography, pottery, fabrics, wire, books, glass and poetry.

This is an opportunity to view and purchase a wide variety of fine arts, experience artist demonstrations, listen to live music and enjoy fabulous food and drink.

Southern MN Poets will have a table at the festival both days and we will be reading poetry. If you can come down and help at the table or if you would like to read poetry, contact Derek at bajanorthwest@yahoo.com or at the next SMPS meeting.

If you have books or other materials to sell, please bring them to our table at the park on Saturday between 9 and 10am and pick up at 5pm on Sunday.

More information: www.artsbytheriver.com



☪ Poetry Events ☪

Good Thunder Reading Series

March 22, 2012: MSU Centennial Student Union (CSU)
 Caitlin O’Sullivan, Fiction Writer and 2011-2012 Andreas Graduate Assistant; William Trowbridge, Poet, Sharon Olds, Poet and 2011-2012 Andreas Visiting Writer
 Talk on Craft—3pm CSU Ostrander Auditorium
 Reading—7:30pm CSU Room 253

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

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 was held on Thursday, January 19th, but you are not too late to see the exhibit!

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

President	Derek Liebertz bajanothwest@yahoo.com (507) 344-8709
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 ☪

Spring. Rebirth, renewal and growth are the theme of this season and our next few meetings and events.

Connecting to the young poets and university community motivated the types of events in March. As we have for other meetings this year, the Saturday meeting is a bit more academic and about improving your craft as a poet and the Thursday meeting is about practicing performance/reading and meshing our art with that of other types of artists—visual, film, etc. April and May will continue that trend as well.

And it’s time to start thinking about speakers for next fall and winter—if you know a poet that you’d like to invite to speak at a future SMPS meeting, let us know!

News to share? newsletter@southernmnpoets.org or post at <http://facebook.com/southernmnpoets>

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **YVONNE**

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

Thanks to everyone that has promised to provide refreshments for meetings!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Mar 2012	Jana Bouma
(TTB)	Mar 2012	Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD)	Apr 2012	Janelle Hawkridge
(TTB)	Apr 2012	Kay Helms
(SMD)	May 2012	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 2012	Derek Liebertz

☪ Membership Renewal ☪

Thanks to Jo Ann Vertetis for joining SMPS this month! Welcome—we all look forward to seeing you at events. And thanks to Bonnie Wolle, Shirley Ensrud, Jose Aguillon and Henry Panowitsch for renewing your memberships.

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.

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>)