

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☛



This month's thistledown photo is by wanderingnome (see the Editor's Corner for more info)

☞ Reminder! ☛

It's time to renew your membership in SMPS and the League of Minnesota Poets. January 1, 2009 is the deadline -- don't let it sneak up on you!

For SMPS to be a LOMP chapter, one half of our members must also be LOMP members -- we urge you to join our state organization.

Fill out the forms included with this newsletter and send them in today so you can enjoy the many benefits of membership in these two organizations.

☞ Inside This Issue ☛

Poetry Events	2
Member News	2
Signup Lists	3
Officer List	3
Member Spotlight	3
Editor's Corner	3

☞ Convention Madness Poetry Contest ☛

Win your way to the 2009 NFSPS Convention in Duluth! First place: a 4-night stay at The Inn on Lake Superior (prize value of \$512). Second place: all meals paid for (\$196). Third place: a free convention registration (\$75). Submit as many poems as you wish -- any form, any subject; limit one page per poem, 10-point type or larger. Poems may be previously published. Entry fee: Members of LOMP or other state society: 3 poems for \$10; non-members, 3 for \$15.

To submit entries: print 2 copies of the poems (one with NO identifying marks, the other with name + address + phone number + email + state society membership). Include a S.A.S.E. to receive a list of winners. All winners will be notified by March 31, 2009. Send all entries with a check payable to the League of Minnesota Poets to Susan Chambers, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037.

Deadline: January 31, 2009



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

On November 4, Minnesotans will be asked to vote on the Amendment for Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas. This amendment would dedicate state funding, raised via a 3/8ths percent sales tax, to the support of Minnesota's natural resources and arts and culture.



Please note that if you vote on November 4, you will be

voting on this issue. **(If you skip this question on the ballot, your vote will count as a NO vote.)** I hope all Minnesotans will make an informed choice.

On Oct. 6, the Star Tribune published an article on the amendment. You can find it here: www.startribune.com/politics/30495844.html

Regards,
Jana Bouma



☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Luncheon Meeting**

November 8, 2008

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **Inside the "What Light" Poetry Series** program

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Guest Lightsey Darst, a poet and dance critic and curator of "What Light" at <http://mnartists.org>, will share her thoughts on the poetry series and other topics.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry Evening -- "Word Stage"**

November 20, 2008 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Show up. Sign up. Bring your best. A night of high-octane open mike entertainment -- Performance Poetry!

✓ **Luncheon Meeting**

December 13, 2008

12:30pm Catered luncheon

1:00pm **Unpacking "The Night Before Christmas"**

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Our own John Calvin Rezmerski, Professor Emeritus of Gustavus Adolphus Collegus, will open his holiday suitcase and throw a classic Christmas poem into the laundry hamper ...

[What? But the title says "Unpacking", so I -- yeah, okay Rez.]

Sorry everyone, I have **no idea** what John will say. Don't miss the holiday meeting! ☺

✓ **Blizzard Poetry Retreat of '09**

January 22 - 25, 2009 (Thu - Sun)

Home of Susan Chambers

57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN

Don't miss out on this favorite annual event, hosted by Susan Chambers. Be inspired -- go home with a batch of new poems! All poets welcome. Accommodations provided for out-of-town guests; drop-ins are also welcome. There is NO CHARGE to attend the retreat, but all guests are asked to pitch in and provide food and/or assist with meal prep and cleanup. Each guest should also plan to give a presentation on some aspect of poetry.

For more info or to sign up, contact Sue Chambers by emailing chambersmediator@yahoo.com or calling (507) 278-4200.

Regional Events✓ **Call for entries: "What Light: This Week's Poem"**October 31, 2008 deadline extended!

Submit up to three previously unpublished, short (maximum 50 lines or 300 words each) poems as attachments by the deadline to poems@mnartists.org. Winning poems will be

☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

featured on <http://mnartists.org> during November, December, and January. For more details, visit the website.

✓ **Spoken Word Happening -- Theme: Identity**

November 5, 2008 from 6:00 - 8:00pm (& each month's 1st Wed)

The Coffee Hag, Mankato

The Harambee Cultural Association invites SMPS poets to be a part of their monthly Spoken Word Happenings celebrating diversity and promoting cultural exchange in the Mankato area. It explores "identity" in all its forms -- age, gender, ethnic heritage, place of origin, religion, occupation, economic background, rural vs. urban, etc.

To be part of the program, contact Meredith Lemiso ASAP by phone at (507) 351-7640. This is NOT an open mike event. She would like to schedule performers in advance so they may be featured on a printed program.

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

November 20, 2008

3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Ostrander Auditorium)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event features authors Lindsay Schacht (poetry, creative non-fiction) & Heid Erdrich (children's lit, fiction).

☯ Member News/Announcements ☯

- On October 23, Shannon Robinson interviewed Craig Groe on KTOE Radio's program, *Artcetera*, about his show at the Carnegie Art Center. He put in some nice plugs for SMPS. Thanks very much, Craig, and congrats on your exhibit!
- Jana Bouma's review of Deb Bogen's *Landscape with Silos* appears online in the Fall issue of *The Valparaiso Review*.
- Poems by Karsten Piper and Bonnie Ann Wolle appear in the *County Lines* sesquicentennial anthology. (sorry we missed mentioning them previously!)
- *The Moccasin*, LOMP's literary magazine, has been mailed. LOMP members: If you do not receive your copy, contact LOMP treasurer Angela Foster, 30036 St. Croix Road, Pine City, MN 55063, or affoster_foster@yahoo.com. Also, remember to submit your poems for *The Moccasin* to Meredith Cook, 427 Gorman Street, Blue Earth, MN 56013.
- The 2008 edition of *The Moccasin* (the journal of the League of Minnesota Poets) includes poems by Phyllis Borchert, Susan Stevens Chambers, Meredith Cook, June Emanuel, Shirley Ensrud, Christina Flaughner, Monica Toohey Haack, Loraine Schwanke Mueller, John Calvin Rezmerski, Berneal Dodge Schindle, Charlotte Seward, and Bonnie Ann Wolle.

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers poetsue@aol.com
Treasurer	<i>position currently open ... are you interested?</i>
Recording Secretary	Yvonne Cariveau ycariveau@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Publicity	Ikars Sarma icarusj@hickorytech.net
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☪ Member Spotlight ☪

When space allows, I will be looking for short poems from our SPMS members to add to the newsletter. Here is something that Marvin Ostrom sent me a few months ago. Thanks Marv ... I hadn't forgotten your letter! ☺

Poet's Addendum

Got poems strewn across the dining room table
Wife wants to set it but she isn't able

No two square inches my poems do not cover
Dead father's spirit o'er this mess must hover
(preached to me "neatness" over and over)

Like to file these poems -- don't know where to start
May scoop 'em up in a basket, carry them out in a cart
Wife says "bury 'em in a casket"

If so a memorial service we'd need
Then bury 'em deep lest they go to seed

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☪

Let Us Hear Your Poems!

Be part of our Third Thursday Poetry Evenings! If you have plenty to share, pick a "Poetry and Music" slot (each poet will share about 20 minutes of poetry). If you'd rather share just a few poems, sign up for our "Five Minutes of Fame" evening on January 15. At most meetings, we also still have time for a brief poetry "read-around." Don't keep all of that poetry to yourself -- share!

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

Nov 20, 2008	Performance Poetry -- be there!
Jan 15, 2009	<i>poets needed</i>
Feb 19, 2009	John Rezmerski & Jana Bouma
Mar 19, 2009	Derek Liebertz & <i>poet needed</i>
Apr 16, 2009	<i>more info coming</i>
May 21, 2009	Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

Five Minutes of Fame Poetry Evening

Jan 15, 2009	Chuck Van Buskirk Craig Groe Marilyn Frank <i>add your name to the list!</i>
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Third Thursday Beverages & Saturday Meeting Desserts

(SMD) Nov 8, 2008	Dorla Wachter
(TTB) Nov 20, 2008	<i>still open</i>
(SMD) Dec 13, 2008	<i>still open</i>

The 2009 portion of the event & snack schedule will be listed starting with next month's newsletter.

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

In this final week before a new president takes up the torch, you'll see more door-knocking and find more mail in the box than ever. Whatever side you're on, you have to smile at the participation this race is generating.

As SMPS moves into 2009, we have some terrific events and big responsibilities to fulfill as well. (Duluth!) Let's push for a similar full-throttle effort -- *uhh, maybe less partisan* -- to make those events and our poetic endeavors a big success. Attend the meetings, enjoy the camaraderie!

November's stunning newsletter image is by a photographer known on Flickr as "wanderingnome". To see her original photograph in higher resolution, go to:

www.flickr.com/photos/wanderingnome/149121059/

Your editor, **D E R E K**

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
Jana Bouma, President
935 Melwood Court
Madison Lake, MN 56063

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 Jana Bouma (until we get a new treasurer). Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The upcoming SMPS membership year will run from **January 1, 2009** through **December 31, 2009**

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 **Jana Bouma SMPS President, 935 Melwood Court, Madison Lake, MN 56063**

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