# Southern Minnesota Poets Society

http://www.southernmnpoets.org

# Thistledown

# Monthly Photo ™



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

# 🗷 Holiday Poems 🔊

f you are planning on attending our holiday meeting Saturday -- and I hope you are -- we encourage you to bring a holiday-themed poem with you. Snow, reindeer, hearth & home, a mountain of gift wrap ... the inspirations abound this season.

We look forward to seeing you at the guild next week, and to sharing holiday poems as we go around the room!

Poetry Events	2						
Photo/Poem Show	2						
Signup Lists	3						
Officer List	3						
Member News	3						
Editor's Corner	3						

# 

Make plans to attend the SMPS holiday gathering next Saturday, December 13th. Our farewell to 2008 (which was a very good year, I'd say) features a delicious meal provided by Matt's Catering and a presentation, "Unpacking *The Night Before Christmas*" by John Calvin Rezmerski. We will enjoy a round-robin of holiday poems (see above) and music by local harpist Amy Kortuem. Invite a friend and we'll see you there!

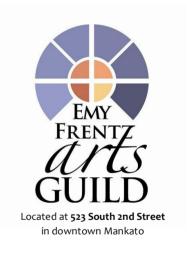
When Saturday, Dec 13 at 12:30pm

Where Emy Frentz Arts Guild, 523 South 2nd Street, Mankato

**Cost** \$10.00 Please reserve your seat today!

Meal Fettuccini alfredo (chicken or vegetarian), salad, garlic toast, beverage, & dessert

Contact Jana Bouma by Monday, December 8 to reserve your meal (specify chicken or vegetarian).



### 

The heat is on! The upgrade to the EFG heating system is complete. The gallery was toasty warm for our November Third Thursday reading. Now, even in the midst of winter, you can come and enjoy the warmth and fellowship of the Southern

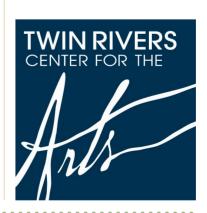
Minnesota Poets Society!



On Nov 30, the Mankato Free Press featured a story about the County Lines poetry anthology edited by John Rezmerski (and company). The story was featured on the front page of the "Currents" section, with photos from our November performance poetry event. Way to go, poets!

I hope to see all of you at the Dec 13 holiday celebration. Matt's Catering received raves for the meal last year, and they're back! Come and enjoy some holiday cheer, and a program with our own John Rezmerski – a new and different look at "The Night Before Christmas.

Regards, Jana Bouma



## ☑ Poetry Events, Near and Far 🔊

# ✓ Luncheon Meeting

December 13, 2008 12:30pm Catered luncheon

1:00pm Unpacking "The Night Before Christmas"

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Our own John Calvin Rezmerski, Professor Emeritus of Gustavus Adolphus Collegus, will shine a new light on the classic Christmas poem.

#### √ Membership Renewal Time

A friendly reminder -- renew your membership in SMPS and LOMP today. It's fun and easy! Plus, it helps with ...

#### ✓ NFSPS Poetry Contest Season

Submissions to the contests must be postmarked between January 1, 2009 and March 15, 2009. Some contests are *only* open to NFSPS members. [If you are a member of LOMP, you are also a member of NFSPS] Contact Jana Bouma if you need a contest brochure.

### ✓ 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-oftown 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 <a href="mailto:chambersmediator@yahoo.com">chambersmediator@yahoo.com</a> or calling (507) 278-4200.

# ☑ Photography/Poetry Collaboration 🔊

ast year in the spring, our SMPS members teamed up with two local photographers to put on a show called *The Image and the Word.* It was an art-inspires-poetry show that was featured in the gallery of the Emy Frentz Arts Guild.

The responses we received were positive all around, so we're doing it again! This year we're lining up more photo contributors by working with MSU students, including one using an artist studio at EFG. Right now it's looking like we will have between 7 and 9 photographers participating.

At the January 11 meeting, all submitted photos will be on hand for SMPS members to view. In addition, we will scan all of them for viewing on our website. The deadline will be somewhat quick; we are under a bit of a time crunch this year due to very limited gallery time available. All entries must be sent to Derek Liebertz **by January 31**. More info will follow in the first newsletter of 2009.

Despite the shorter timeframe than last year, this should be an exciting event for SMPS. Teaming up with students at MSU should also bring new blood and more people to the gallery's opening night celebration and reading. The exhibit at EFG will run from February 12 through March 18, so we will also get to enjoy the photographs and poems during a few of our normal Thursday and Saturday gatherings. Bonus!

As I said, more to come next month. Please plan to attend the January meeting so you can view the entries. Let's show off our "stuff" and make this a terrific show!

The event list is light this month so I've got real estate to fill for this issue. I present (or subject you to?)...

### **Horrible Christmas Limericks**

A jolly, fat grandpa from Vail had a vision from eggnog and ale. "No Kringle are thee", said the cop named McGee, and threw not-Santa in the North jail.

That Frosty's a tough nut to crack -He melts, but each Winter he's back.
Beta-carotene nose,
frozen through to his toes,
and unhurt by a snowmobile's track.

### ഗ്ര SMPS Officers ഉ

President Jana Bouma

jbouma@hickorytech.net

(507) 243 - 4050

Vice President John Rezmerski

rez@gac.edu

Regional VP Susan Chambers

poetsue@aol.com

Treasurer Dorla is hanging on for now, but the

position's open ... interested?

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

#### ശ Editor's Corner ഉ

f you're like me, you get pulled in many directions over the holiday months. Lists are made (and checked twice), events abound to pique your interest, family and friends all hope you'll make time to visit.

Remember: keep yourself grounded. For some that's enjoying a spouse's company; for others it's reading a favorite book. Use those grounded moments to your advantage. Tune out the clamor for plastic toys and 20% off sales. Listen to the quiet ... let it breathe. Then, see if you can take the silence and make music (or in our case, poetry!) out of it.  $\odot$ 

The December newsletter Flickr photo is by "christaki". For the time of year when the light wanes and the darkness holds sway, I thought a stark b/w image was best. To see the original in higher resolution, go to:

www.flickr.com/photos/christaki/2613901809/

Your editor, DEREK

## ✓ 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)

Feb 19, 2009 Jana Bouma & Karsten Piper Mar 19, 2009 Derek Liebertz & John Rezmerski

Apr 16, 2009 more info coming

May 21, 2009 Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

#### **Five Minutes of Fame Poetry Evening**

Jan 15, 2009 Chuck Van Buskirk

(SMD) Jan 10

Craig Groe Marilyn Frank Yvonne Cariveau Ike Sarma

add your name to the list!

Sue Chambers

#### Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

,		
(TTB)	Jan 15	Marlys Neufeld
(SMD)	Feb 14	volunteer needed
(TTB)	Feb 19	Derek Liebertz / Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD)	Mar 14	Ike Sarma
(TTB)	Mar 19	Ike Sarma
(SMD)	Apr 18	Janet Fisch
(TTB)	Apr 16	Craig Groe
(SMD)	May 9	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 21	volunteer needed

#### 

 Meredith Cook had a tremendous showing in the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs contest. She netted a first prize ("The Laughing Lake"), multiple second prizes ("Sentenced to Death: Of Ghosts and Cuckoos", "Good Luck Telling", "The More Seasons Change, the More They Stay the Same"), and an honorable mention ("The Water Skiers"). Congratulations! Southern Minnesota Poets Society Jana Bouma, President 935 Melwood Court Madison Lake, MN 56063

Be sure	e to kee	p SMP	S as a pa	art of y	our life/	! Just 1	fill out t	he forn	n bel	low and	l send	it with	your	memb	pership	) fee
to Jana	Bouma	a. Thai	nks for s	uppor	ting So	uthern	Minnes	ota Po	ets S	ociety!						

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:	Regul	ar (\$15.0	00)	Student (\$7.50)	
Mail application a	nd ched	ck to <b>Ja</b>	na Bouma SM	IPS President, 935 Melwood Court, Ma	adison Lake, MN 5606

man application and electric same pound similar estacing application and electric same pounds

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