

Thistledown

Monthly Photo



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

Reminders

a) It's time to renew (or sign up) with both SMPS and the League of Minnesota Poets. We're into the 2009 membership year already. For SMPS to be a LOMP chapter, one half of our members must also be members of LOMP, so we urge you to join our state organization too.

b) Nobody has volunteered to bring snacks to our upcoming Saturday meeting (less than a week away). Contact Jana if you can help us out. Thank you!

Inside This Issue

Poetry Events	2-3
Signup Lists	3
Officer List	3
Editor's Corner	3

2nd Annual The Image and the Word

Our **Image and the Word** photo/poem exhibit starts later this week at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild. The photo submissions are from our 2008 exhibit "veteran" Bobby McFall, several students from MSU including one with an artist studio at EFG, and a visiting photography professor. The exhibit runs from February 12 through March 18.

A twist this year is a "favorites" contest. Note cards will be available at the gallery hall for anyone who wishes to vote. When voting you can choose your 3 favorite photos, 3 favorite poems, and the single best pairing of photo and poem.

The exhibit reception will be **Thursday March 5** from **7:00pm - 9:00pm**. Wine, soda, and yummy snacks provided, of course. Poets and photographers are invited to speak (if desired). We will also allow time for voting before we count up and announce our contest winners. Plan to attend!



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

From the Poetic Oval Office

Don't miss out on the Double-Trouble Poetry Critique! Bring a poem **this month**; get a fabulous, helpful, insightful critique **next month**. Here are the details:



Feb 14 meeting: Submit a poem, no more than 30 lines, for critique. Bring 2 copies to the meeting (1 with your name, 1 with no identifying marks). You can also mail the copies to Sue Chambers by Feb 21 (57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037) or

email her at schambersmediator@yahoo.com.

March 14 meeting: Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter will present thoughtful critiques of the poems.

And there's lots more this month -- *The Poetry of Love* at our February luncheon meeting on Valentine's Day, our *Wine and Poetry Third Thursday Evening*, and the upcoming "Image and The Word" exhibit. Hope to see you!

Regards,
Jana Bouma



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Luncheon Meeting**

February 14, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **The Poetry of Love**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Love isn't always sweet. Neither are love poems -- there's humor, grief, and bitter sarcasm to go along with the wine and roses. We'll explore some of the many moods of "the love poem". Plus, bring a favorite (yours or someone else's) to share with the group.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry & Music Evening**

February 19, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Come sip a glass of wine or cider while you enjoy poems from Karsten Piper and Jana Bouma. Music by Dan Butzer.

✓ **Image and the Word -- Gallery Exhibit / Reception**

Gallery Run February 12 - March 19, 2009

Exhibit Reception Thursday March 5, 2009 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

An exhibit of photos by local photographers and matching poems written by SMPS members who were inspired by the photos. You can vote for your 3 favorite photos, 3 favorite poems, and the best photo/poem pairing on cards provided at the exhibit. Results will be tallied and shared at the reception in March. Wine, soda, and snacks will be provided.

Regional Events

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

February 19, 2009

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

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event features Julianna Baggot (poet and writer of fiction & children's literature).

✓ **Poetry Performance: Ed Bok Lee**

February 25, 2009 at 7:00pm

Linnaes Arboretum

Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter

Ed Bok Lee is a poet and author of "Real Karaoke People".

✓ **Convention Madness -- Extended Contest Deadline!**

New Contest Deadline: February 28, 2009

Win Your Way to the June NFSPS Convention! Sponsored by members of LOMP. (You must attend to receive a prize.)

1st Place -- 4 nights stay at The Inn On Lake Superior (\$512.00)

2nd Place -- All meals (package) (\$196.00)

3rd Place -- Registration Fee (\$75.00)

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

Any form, any subject, limit one page, 10 point type or larger. May be previously published.

To submit: Include two copies of poems. One copy with name, address, phone number, e-mail and State Society membership and one copy with no identifying marks. Include a S.A.S.E. for winner's list. Winner's will be notified by March 31, 2009.

Fee: Members 3 poems for \$10.00. Non-members 3 poems for \$15.00. No limit on number of submissions, so long as a new entry fee is included for each set of 3 poems.

Make checks payable to the League of Minnesota Poets. Mail your entries to: Susan Stevens Chambers, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037

✓ **Poetry Contest: Invocational Poems for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention**

Contest Deadline: February 15, 2009

The League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP) will host the NFSPS national convention in Duluth, Minnesota in the summer of 2009. LOMP is pleased to announce the Invocational Poems Contest. Invocational poems are to be read by winners at the beginning of convention meals. The paramount consideration is poetic value, not religious orthodoxy: "It must be first of all a poem." Poems should be suitable for a religiously diverse membership, should use gender-inclusive, contemporary language, and should have equal value for the religious and the non-religious.

\$50 for each poem chosen for reading. Prizes will not be ranked. Number of prizes will be at least six. Any form, not to exceed 20 lines. Name the form on your entry. Open to all poets. Must be the original work of the poet, unpublished, not submitted elsewhere for publication, and not a previous host-contest winning poem. Typed or printed from computer. One poem per page. \$3 per poem. Limit 3 poems. Make your check payable to League of Minnesota Poets. Send entries after January 1, 2009. Postmark by February 15, 2009.

Winners will be notified individually by mail in April of the year 2009. We place a high value on your reading of your own poem, but we will provide a substitute reader if you cannot be present at the convention in June. You will receive two copies. Your name and postal address, name of this contest, and name of your chosen form at upper right corner of one; name of contest and form only in upper right corner of the other. Poems will not be returned.

LOMP receives the right to have the poem read at this convention. You retain all other rights. Contact Alan (contest chair) at adownes@charter.net or 941-755-5669. Mail entries to: Alan Downes, 1875 Restful Drive, Bradenton, FL 34207

☪ 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>Dorla is hanging on for now, but the position's open ... 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

☪ 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). 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	<i>more info coming</i>
May 21, 2009	Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD) Feb 14	<i>volunteer needed!</i>
(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	<i>volunteer needed</i>

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

✓ **Superior Convention (Golden Anniversary of NFSPS)**

June 11 - 15, 2009 (Thu – Mon)

The League of Minnesota Poets invites you for an exciting convention on the shores of Lake Superior. We will be staying at The Inn On Lake Superior, which offers some unique rooming options. They have twelve two-bedroom suites which can sleep up to 7 people. One room has a king sized bed, there are town queens in other room, a sleeper sofa in the living room.

Price is \$158.00 per night. For those who like roommates, if you put 6 in a suite, it comes out to \$26.33 per night for luxury accommodations! Standard room are also available at \$128.00 per night (option of king or queen). Room rates are good for three days before convention to three days after, allowing you to take advantage of this incredible vacation destination. Room rates include a full breakfast.

Call for reservations toll free 888-668-4352 or reserve online at www.theinnonlakesuperior.com. You must mention our Group ID 1596. Our password is 37000613.

☪ Editor's Corner ☪

Two weeks ago, I was basking in the Mexican sun beneath a thatched-roof palapa, fruity drink in hand. Silently I thought, "Ahh the poetry I will write!" But not a single word hit the page. The scene was beautiful but not conducive to writing – I was too busy soaking myself in the sun like a bag of tea leaves to describe the steeping experience.

Here at home, the temperatures may be colder but my groggy pen has awoken. The fact that I have been able to draw out words again, to juggle poetic phrases, has made my transition back to snow more enjoyable. Thank you poetry! ☺

The February newsletter's Flickr photo is by a Bostonian who goes by amythyst_lake online. To see the original in higher resolution, go to:

www.flickr.com/photos/amythyst/1474752570/.

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. Thanks for supporting Southern Minnesota Poets Society!

The SMPS membership year runs 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>)