

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☛



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

☞ He's In the Details ☛

Please take time to read through this month's issue. [Um ... actually, you should every month! ☺] We have all sorts of news and announcements: *date changes, time changes, deadlines*, and more. Don't miss the info on our city's **WordWalk** sidewalk poetry contest! Also, I hope you plan to attend the big "Superior Convention" event in Duluth this June, too. The golden anniversary of the NFSPS convention is going to be fun and exciting. Join us if you can!

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☞ Announcements ☛

✓ **March Third Thursday: Late Start**

On Thursday, March 19, arrive at **8:00 p.m.** at the Emy Frenzt Arts Guild. for Third Thursday Poetry and Music (an hour later than usual). Listen to our fabulous featured poets, John Calvin Rezmerski and Derek Liebertz, plus music by P.J. Rezmerski. Come sip wine (or cider) and revel in poetry!

✓ **NFSPS Poetry Contest Deadline Approaches**

The postmark deadline to submit poems to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies contest is March 15! If you would like information about the contests, visit <http://www.nfsp.com> and click the "Poetry Contests" link. NOTE: Some of the contests are open to all; some are open only to NFSPS members. (If you are a member of the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP), then you are also a member of NFSPS.) Good luck!



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

Many of you have already heard the sad news that Minnesota poet and essayist Bill Holm passed away on February 25, 2009 at the age of 65. Holm was an award-winning author and a beloved figure on the Minnesota literary scene,



remembered not only for his intimate literary observations of life in Minnesota, Iceland, and elsewhere, but also for his larger-than-life presence on the stage and in the classroom.

We send our sympathies to SMPS member John Rezmerski, who was a close friend of Holm's.

Garrison Keillor called Holm, who appeared often on *A Prairie Home Companion*, "the sage of Minnesota." John Rezmerski called him "a missionary for the life of the mind." Minnesota will miss him.

Regards,
Jana Bouma



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

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

March 14, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **Double Trouble: Poetry Critique Session**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Sue Chambers and Christina Flaughter will critique poems previously submitted by SMPS members. They'll also discuss the rewriting and polishing process.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry & Music Evening**

March 19, 2009 at 8:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Come sip a glass of wine or cider while you enjoy poems from Derek Liebertz & John Calvin Rezmerski. Music will also be part of the evening, performed by P.J. Rezmerski.

✓ **Third Thursday – WordStage Performance Poetry**

April 16, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

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

✓ **Luncheon Meeting – Special date!**April 18, 2009 (*third* Saturday)

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm **Poetry Scavenger Hunt**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild 1st, Barnes & Noble 2nd

Meet for lunch at Emy Frentz Arts Guild, then caravan out to Barnes & Noble in search of poetic material! Derek Liebertz and Yvonne Cariveau will lead the adventure.

Regional Events✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series - MSU Alumni Reading**

March 24 – 27, 2009 (Tue - Fri)

10:00am Tue - Fri Writing Workshop (CSU Room 202)

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

7:30pm Thu Reading (CSU Room 253)

This multi-day event features poet Oliver de la Paz.

✓ **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.

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

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.

☪ More Announcements ☯

✓ **LOMPLighter Available Online**

The February issue of the LOMPLighter -- the newsletter of the League of Minnesota Poets -- is now available online. Check out the latest at <http://www.mnpoets.org/lomp.pdf>.

✓ **LOMP Spring Convention Approaches**

The League of Minnesota Poets Spring Convention will take place on April 25, 2009 at The Inn on Lake Superior in Duluth, Minnesota. This is a great place to get to know poets, to share poetry, and to learn about poetry. Registration is \$40. Hotel rooms at the Inn on Lake Superior are available at a special rate of \$111 plus 13% tax. Room registration deadline is March 25. For more information and a registration form, see the February LOMPLighter (link in previous bullet) or contact Jana Bouma at (507) 243-4050.

✓ **LOMP Convention Critique Session Submission Deadline**

April 3, 2009 is the postmark deadline to submit a poem for critique at the LOMP Spring Convention. The critique session will be led by Cal Benson, adjunct professor of poetry at several local colleges.

To have a poem critiqued, mail it to Dennis Herschbach, 1410 Cardinal Road, Two Harbors, MN 55616. Limit your poem to one page, typed in 12 pt font or larger. Identify form on both copies. On one copy ONLY include name, address, and LOMP chapter membership. Include SASE if unable to attend the Spring Meeting.

✓ **The Greater Mankato Events Calendar Is Live!**

The Twin Rivers Center for the Arts and Greater Mankato Growth have launched Mankato's new arts and culture calendar! It's easy to use, and a terrific gateway to the events in Mankato, including theater, music, art, literature and more. Check it out at www.greatermankatoevents.com!

☪ 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
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☪ Editor's Corner ☺

The March newsletter's Flickr image is by a photographer who lives in Kentucky and goes by **outlier*** online.

You can see the original in higher resolution at:

www.flickr.com/photos/eileen_mcfall/2635016041/

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

☪ I Signed Up For What?!? ☺

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

Mar 19, 2009	Derek Liebertz & John Rezmerski
Apr 16, 2009	WordStage - Performance Poetry night #2
May 21, 2009	Ike Sarma & Meredith Cook

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(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

☪ More Announcements ☺

✓ **WordWalk: A Poetry Competition (up to 8 winners will receive a city-wide honor!)**

Twin Rivers Center for the Arts, the City Center Business Association, the Southern Minnesota Poets Society, and the City of Mankato invite the public to enter a sidewalk poetry contest. This new project will permanently install poems to enhance our city sidewalks, starting in Mankato's City Center. We are looking for short poems that provide a delightful moment of outdoor reading. Poems may be inspiring, funny, meaningful, cynical, mundane ... anything appropriate for the general public. For questions, contact Shannon Robinson, TRCA Executive Director, at (507) 387 1008 or via email at shannon@twinriversarts.org.

- Open to all area writers of any age, published or not. Each contestant may submit up to three poems.
- Poems should be short and create an easy-to-read sidewalk experience, **200 characters max including spaces (not words)**. Each line of the poem can be no longer than **30** characters total. Poems must be text only (no images) and be in English. Entries must be original work by the entrant, previously published or unpublished. Poems may be about any subject. No vulgar, abusive or sexually explicit language will be accepted.
- Up to **8 poems** will be selected. Each winning poet will receive publication in a printed book, on a project website, and on city sidewalks. Honorable mentions will also be published. Entries will be blind-judged anonymously by a past president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.
- Selected poems will be permanently installed in many sites throughout the City of Mankato over the course of several years, beginning with the City Center in Summer 2009. Attribution of authorship will be provided in the printed book and on the project website but not in the sidewalk.
- Each entry may contain up to three poems, typed, one poem per page with no identifying marks. Please include two copies of each poem. Each entry must also include a \$5 entry fee (**payable to Twin Rivers Center for the Arts**) and the following information on a separate sheet of paper: Writer's name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and title and first line of each poem. One entry per contestant. Non-winning entries will not be returned. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for results if desired.
- Postmark deadline for submissions is **March 16, 2009**. Winners will be announced on the Twin Rivers Center for the Arts website (www.twinriversarts.org) on April 20, 2009
Send contest entries -- along with a \$5.00 check made payable to Twin Rivers Center for the Arts -- to:

WordWalk

Twin Rivers Center for the Arts

P.O. Box 293, Mankato, MN 56002

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>)