

# Thistledown

## ☞ Monthly Photo ☛



Photo by Linda Plaisted (see p. 3 for details)

## ☞ October SMPS Events ☛

**M**ark down this coming Saturday and the following Thursday evening -- we hope you will join in the fun we have scheduled.

Our Second Saturday event features readings of poems from other countries. SMPS poets are invited to bring a poem or two for sharing, perhaps from your ancestral heritage.

Our Third Thursday evening will celebrate the frightful holiday of Halloween. Spooky poems are just what the witchdoctor ordered, and costumes will be met with a ghostly cheer!

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## ☞ IW3: Who wants to inspire a photographer? ☛

**T**he advance planning for the 2010 Image and the Word gallery presentation is underway, and we are looking for poem submissions that intrepid photographers will use as inspiration as they click and crop. All "source" poetry must be submitted by November 1st to Derek either by email ( [bajanorthwest@yahoo.com](mailto:bajanorthwest@yahoo.com) ) or by mail ( 1131 E Main St, Mankato MN 56001 ). The photos we receive this year should be terrific -- let's give them something great in return, shall we?

### Important Notes

Any theme / form is acceptable; poems should fit on a single page with reasonable font size and margins. Unlike last year, deadlines **will be honored** to preserve the sanity of the organizers. ☺



Located at 523 South 2nd Street  
in downtown Mankato

## ☞ From the Poetic Oval Office ☛

**T**he Mankato Sidewalk Poetry Project is now a reality! This project was the first of a series of public art initiatives planned for the Mankato City Center. Eight "sidewalk poems" by southern Minnesota poets have been imprinted into sidewalks in Mankato's new Riverfront Park and in the 300 to 600 blocks along Riverfront Drive.



The sidewalk poems, and eight honorable mention poems, are also featured in a new book published by SMPS, *WordWalk 2009: The Mankato Sidewalk Poetry Project*. The chapbook is

available for \$4.00. Look for it at our next SMPS event! Congratulations to the six SMPS poets whose poems are included!

The project was highlighted at the recent Grand Opening for Riverfront Park. Thanks to Sue Chambers, Gerry Tostensen, and Ike Sarma, who helped out at the booth. Lots of interested folks stopped by our booth, and some bought copies of the chapbook. It was great fun letting people know about SMPS!

I hope to see you soon at SMPS!

Regards,  
Jana Bouma



## ☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

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

October 10, 2009

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm

**A Nation of Poets**

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Reach past the border with us and read/discuss poems from other countries. Ike Sarma will treat us to works in Russian and Polish; Yvonne will share native American and Spanish language poetry. Other readers are very welcome, whether you perform in English or not. We will also discuss the use of more than one language within a poem -- when it works and when it doesn't.

✓ **Third Thursday Spooky Poetry\*\***

October 15, 2009 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Open that creepy chest in the basement with the skeleton key from your grandfather, dust off the ancient pages, and bring his ghostliest poems to read! *Huh? What do you mean not everyone has a weird family like me?!* Harumph. Anyway, a costume is not required but most certainly welcomed!

\*\* Possible mystery guest too mysterious to name right now

Regional Events✓ **A Stompin' Suite: Phil Bryant and Carolyn Wilkins**

October 7, 2009

The Arts Center of St. Peter

315 S Minnesota Avenue

St, Peter, Minnesota, 56082

The opening event of a Stompin' weekend in Minnesota. Phil and Carolyn will be performing their awesome collaborative piece, A Stompin' Suite, in front of a hometown crowd at The Arts Center of St. Peter. Get you tickets early because it'll sell out!

✓ **A Stompin' Suite (day 2): Good Thunder Reading Series Brings Phil and Carolyn Together**

October 8, 2009

Mankato, MN

Philip S. Bryant and Carolyn Wilkins will perform their Stompin' Suite at Minnesota State University-Mankato. As a joint production of the Good Thunder Reading Series and the Department of Music, Phil and Carolyn bring a cross-country jazz collaboration to Southern Minnesota's premier literary and musical stage. Stay tuned for more details.

## ☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☛

✓ **ROMP 09**

October 8, 2009 at 7:00pm

Rochester Public Library Auditorium

101 2nd Street SE, Rochester, MN

What is ROMP? Rochester Open Mike Poetry! Winona poet laureate James Armstrong will headline the presentation, which will be followed by an open mike session. This event is co-sponsored by the Rochester Public Library and the South-eastern Minnesota Poets.

✓ **LOMP Fall Meeting**

October 16 - 17, 2009

Aloft Minneapolis Hotel

Friday evening features the LOMP 75th Anniversary Reception at Open Book center for print arts. Saturday features a keynote address and poetry seminar led by Norita Dittberner-Jax.

Dittberner-Jax's second full-length book, *The Watch: A Collection of Poetry*, was published by Whistling Shade in 2008. Her previous book, *What They Always Were*, won the Minnesota Voices Competition and was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award. Her chapbook, *Longing for Home*, appeared in 2008. She lives and teaches in St. Paul.

For more information, visit <http://www.mnpoets.org/lomp.pdf> or contact Jana Bouma. Reservations are required to attend Friday's anniversary reception. If you would like to reserve a spot, contact Jana Bouma by phone at 243-4050.

✓ **RATTLE: Call for poetry submissions**

Deadline: February 1, 2010

The Summer 2010 issue of RATTLE has a humor theme; puns, parodies, you name it. See <http://www.rattle.com/> for more details on submission guidelines.

☯ SMPS Officers ☮

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☯ Editor's Corner ☮

In September my brain was slowly waking up after a calm summer of poetry “snooze” time. Thanks to the great artistic programs cropping up this fall, October is challenging me to load up on caffeine and get moving! ☺

For all you writers, take advantage of the exciting events and contests coming your way. If you enjoy reading more, reach for a new book -- find an author that tickles your funny bone or tugs at your heart.

The wonderful October newsletter’s Flickr image is by **Linda Plaisted**. You can see the original in higher resolution at: [www.flickr.com/photos/manymuses/197292449/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/manymuses/197292449/)

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

☯ SMPS Member News ☮

- In the 2009 NFSPS contests, Susan Stevens Chambers received two third place awards and an honorable mention, and Meredith Cook received two honorable mentions. Congratulations!
- The SMPS website has gotten an overhaul and looks more creative than ever before. If you haven’t taken a peek lately, check it out! (okay, so the website is more of an extension of the members ... close enough)

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☮

Thank you to the members who have already signed up to help with one of our events. Everyone else - as you can see below, over 50% of the slots are still open. Talk to Jana or Derek if you see us at a meeting, or email us if you are interested in helping but can’t attend the October events.

**Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages**

(SMD)	Oct 10	Yvonne & Derek
(TTB)	Oct 15	Sue Chambers
(SMD)	Nov 14	Gerry Tostenson
(TTB)	Nov 19	Marv Ostrom
(SMD)	Jan 9	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(TTB)	Jan 21	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(SMD)	Feb 13	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Feb 18	Yvonne & Derek
(SMD)	Mar 13	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(TTB)	Mar 18	Jill Niebuhr
(SMD)	Apr 10	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(TTB)	Apr 15	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(SMD)	May 8	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>
(TTB)	May 20	<a href="#">need a volunteer</a>

☯ Poetry Jackpot! ☮

**P**oet Heather McHugh (currently a Milliman Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA) has been named a 2009 MacArthur Fellow. A short quote from the <http://www.macfound.org> website: *“Heather McHugh is a poet whose intricately patterned compositions explore various aspects of the human condition and inspire wonder in the unexpected associations that language can evoke.”*

She will receive a stipend of \$500,000 (also known as a “genius grant”). Wow! Who says writing poetry doesn’t pay?

**Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)**

Nov 19, 2009	<a href="#">looking for readers</a>
May 20, 2010	<a href="#">looking for readers</a>

Southern Minnesota Poets Society  
c/o Derek Liebertz, 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> )