

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☞



This month's photo is by Pettygroves (see page 3)

☞ Spoken Poetry Online ☞

Karsten Piper recently emailed me about a great website that he has been working on for several months. It's a blog which showcases recordings of poems, so you can hear them instead of just reading them. The blog is updated a few times a week.

You can browse leisurely, subscribe to be notified of new posts, or even submit a recording yourself.

If you are interested, here is the address to visit: <http://apoetryfeed.com>

Thank you Karsten for shining the light on this cool poetry resource!

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☞ Membership Renewal for 2011 ☞

As we move into the second month of 2011, it's time to check whether you have gotten your yearly membership dues into SMPS (and LOMP for all those members). Our Treasurer Gerry Tostensen will be attending the February luncheon so grab your checkbook and warm up your favorite pen!

Okay, it's sad that I really do mean warm up the pen ... it's just stupid cold outside.

As an additional incentive to get our members all in the "Paid" column, we will be tallying everyone who renews for 2011 on or before the March luncheon meeting. Everyone in that group will be automatically entered into a drawing for a mystery prize.

I promise, no pre-chewed gum or anything like that, though I cannot say what the actual prize will be yet. You know, mystery and all that.

I hope to see each of you at the various events scheduled in the months ahead. We have some great speakers, open mike nights, a very gentle "slam" event, an art exhibit ... all sorts of things that your membership supports and makes possible.

LOMP membership is also important, both for the bonuses you receive as a member and to keep our SMPS a viable chapter in the state. You can go to LOMP's website and find a signup / renewal form there as well.

Thank you very much everyone!
your SMPS board members



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato



☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☪

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Luncheon Program: Poetry Critique**

February 12, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Critique Session

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Sue Chambers and John Rezmerski will review poems sent in and offer constructive criticism, both to help the anonymous authors and everyone else looking for a keener eye toward what makes (or breaks) a poem.

✓ **SMPS Board Meeting**

February 12, 2011 from 3:00pm -- 4:30pm

Immediately following the Poetry Critique event

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Strategic planning, budgetary issues, and upcoming calendar programming are on the agenda.

✓ **Third Thursday: IW4 Exhibit Reception**

February 17, 2011 from 5:00 -- 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

The fourth annual Image and the Word collaboration exhibit will be in the gallery from **February 10 - March 9**. To coincide with a new recurring arts event in the Mankato City Center area, the Third Thursday Gallery Walk, we'll be holding the "opening" reception on the 17th.

We have a terrific variety of entries this year, including more photography submissions as responses. Check it out.

More about the Gallery Walk

In addition to TRCA, participating galleries in the downtown area open from 5 - 7pm for viewing and strolling will include:

Blue Earth County Historical Society, Fillin' Station, Carnegie Art Center, the 410 Project, Landkamer Building, Raydiance Salon, and the Coffee Hag.

✓ **Luncheon Program with Shirley Ensrud**

March 12, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Our friend Shirley, author of *Small Town and Everyday Things*, will be the guest speak at the March luncheon event. More details to come.

☪ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☪

✓ **Third Thursday Reading**

March 17, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

This month features Sandy Newbauer and Sue Chambers as headliner readers; open mike to follow as time allows.

✓ **Luncheon Program with Florence Dacey**

April 9, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

Florence is the author of *Rock Worn by Water* and hails from Cottonwood, MN. Join us in welcoming her and listening to her presentation. More details to come.

✓ **Third Thursday: Poetry Slam 101**

April 14, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

An introductory slam for those new to the event style. Stretch those wings and see what a slam is like!

✓ **Luncheon Program with Doris Stengel**

May 14, 2011

12:30pm Bring your lunch and chat

1:00pm Presentation

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

The oh-so-rude blizzard earlier this winter caused a bump in the schedule, but Doris promises to return during fairer weather and give us the presentation we missed. Be there!

✓ **Third Thursday Reading**

May 19, 2011 at 7:00pm

Emy Frenz Arts Guild

This month features Ike Sarma and John Rezmerski as headliner readers; open mike to follow as time allows.

Regional Events

✓ **Beginning Storytelling for Adults ART-Wo3**

February 19 -- March 19, 2011 (skipping March 12)

9:00am - 12:00pm each Saturday

Arts Center of St. Peter

Cost: \$40 Open to youth and adults, ages 16+

John Rezmerski is leading a storytelling class and you can join in the fun. Learn how to tell anecdotes, fables, historical tales,

☯ SMPS Officers ☯

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (507) 243 - 4050
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☯ Editor's Corner ☯

As in years past, Yvonne and I are grateful to the poets and photographers who shared their creativity with us as we put together our Image and the Word exhibit. Thanks very much everyone, come see the exhibit in the gallery!

If you remember last month's Corner, I tried my hand at a little Toastmaster Poetry Voodoo in an effort to bring milder winds to our area. Wow did that not work! I hereby promise not to engage in amateur voodoo-nous ... voodoo-ism ... -osity ... believe me, I just won't do it again!

The newsletter photo this month is by Flickr user Pettygroves. You can see the original photo in higher resolution at: www.flickr.com/photos/pettygroves/3912883119/

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

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

☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☯

and touching true-life stories. Attendance is required; you will be asked to prepare a well-rehearsed story for each meeting.

We'll talk about concerns such as how to keep an audience's attention, overcoming nervousness, how to vary your delivery, and how to turn a series of details into an entertaining plot. We'll use recordings of professional storytellers to become aware of a wider range of storytelling techniques.

Class size: minimum 6, maximum 12. The **deadline** for registration is **February 14**. For more details or to sign up, visit www.artscentersp.org or call 507-934-3048.

✓ **Upcoming MSU Writer's Conference**

When: May 2011

Details to follow later, stay posted on this event.

✓ **Call for Submissions: NFSPS Poetry Contests**

Deadline: *March 15, 2011*

The yearly National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Poetry Contest entry period started January 1, 2011.

Visit http://www.nfsp.com/poetry_contests.htm for details and good luck to all who enter!

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☯

Talk to Derek at a meeting if you are interested in helping, or email newsletter@southernmnpoeats.org -- thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Feb 12, 2011	Sue Chambers
(TTB)	Feb 17, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(SMD)	Mar 12, 2011	Ike Sarma
(TTB)	Mar 17, 2011	need a volunteer
(SMD)	Apr 9, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Apr 21, 2011	Ike Sarma
(SMD)	May 14, 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 18, 2011	Derek Liebertz

☯ SMPS Member News ☯

- Marv Ostrom continues to recuperate at Pathstone Living in Mankato down by Sibley Park. Best wishes to you sir! Want to visit? 718 Mound Ave, Mankato 507-345-4576
- Sue Chambers won an Honorable Mention in the NFSPS Stevens Manuscript competition for her "Family Law" manuscript. Huzzah!

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>)