

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Ikars (Ike) Sarma, VP and Editor, at 1-507-345-4014, or e-mail icarusj@mnpc.net

Regular Meeting - October 13th

We welcome **Laurel Winter**, a multitasking poet (she writes fiction and paints and that may not be all) who is a member of the LOMP, specifically of the Root River Poets of Rochester, Minnesota. She will present a talk on a topic entitled "Spinning the Web". Your editor has no further clues, but, judging from **Laurel's** previous talks, it will be an experience you do not want to miss.

Barnes & Noble has scheduled a book-signing at 3:00 P.M. for **Laurel's** latest book of science fiction for children.

The assignment for the month was to be an *ottava rima*, but consider it as one for November. Detailed description of this form appears on the next page.

Special

You are invited to join **Richard and Sue Chambers** for the marking of their 30th wedding anniversary 7:00 P.M. Saturday, October 13th to be held at the Unitarian Universal Fellowship of Mankato located at 114 Pohl Road (just West of the MSU Campus and off Stadium Road). They would like to make poetry a central feature of this celebration, and your Editor strongly urges you to bring your poetry for sharing.

Coming Events

A reminder: Sue Chambers still has room in her van for those who would like to attend the Fall Meeting of the LOMP. The departure is set for noon October 19th. Please contact Sue Chambers at 507/625-3000 to let her know you are joining the excursion. See details on attached sheet.

You may still meet the deadline of October 15th for the Stevens Manuscript Contest, sponsored by the NFSPS. This is in honor of Sue's mother **Barbara Stevens**, Past President of the NFSPS. Details on attached sheet include the rules for the 2002 National contest of the NFSPS.

Our scheduled guest speakers for the year include Jim Eberling, Rose McGee, John Rezmerski, Diane Glancy and Shirley Ensrud.

Treasurer James Eberling of the LOMP has asked me to remind you that LOMP membership "fees" are again due. They are \$20. Send them to James Eberling, 1766 Karis Way, Eagan MN 55122-2671.

That time to pay your SMPS dues is here as well. They are \$15 and should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St, Trimont MN 56176.

OTTAVA RIMA

A poem of one or more eight-line stanzas rhymed *abababcc*. Indentations may vary, that for the closing couplet being the better known, but some have only the 2nd, 4th and the 6th indented while others show no indentation at all. As to meter, there should be five primary (and/or secondary) stresses, as in a typically English iambic pentameter (10 syllables), but the classic was to use 11 syllable (hendecasyllabic) lines which then would be like the accentual verse.

The form is a descendant of several Italian forms. Byron (*Don Juan*) is said to be the first master of the form in English and Yeats (*Sailing to Byzantium*, with near rhymes) the modern master . Others using the form are Shelley (*The Witch of Atlas*) and Keats (*Isabella*).

As to general possibilities, the stanza is long enough to carry a narrative thread but not so long that it becomes unmanageable and allows ampler room for exposition and elaboration than the quatrain. The accumulation of rhyme, reaching a precarious crescendo with the third repetition prepares the reader for the neat summation, the acute observation or the epigrammatic twist, which comes with the final couplet.

And Julia's voice was lost, except in sighs,
Until too late for useful conversation;
The tears were gushing from her gentle eyes,
I wish, indeed, they had not had occasion;
But who, alas! can love, and then be wise?
Not that remorse did not oppose temptation:
A little still she strove, and much repented,
And whispering "I will ne'er consent"—
consented.

(*Don Juan* 1.117)

The last line shows the *poetic license* the better poets have taken when it feels right, i.e., the breaking of the last line for a fuller impact, and not according to any 'rules'.

Your editor is taking the liberty to add a sample of his, a complete two-stanza poem, but just because he could not find one by someone else.

DOUBLE RIMA

Each year I drink my pleasure's fill
while walking in the springtime rain
to watch pale trees, on snow-free hill,
drink up each drop and, thus, regain
the strength to spite the wind at will
—wind bound to play a wilder strain—
while, at their feet, from waiting soil,
green shoots of grass begin their toil.

But I don't like first autumn rain
that brings a strange, foreboding chill
and fills each pore and every grain
of soul and body, saps the will.
If there's no wind the leaves won't drain
but hang there—dripping, sodden, still—
a weary fencer, without foil,
exhausted from the drizzly toil.

DUES PAYMENTS: Dues for the 2002 membership year can be paid at the state meeting or by mail prior to January 1. Dues are \$20 (students \$10). The treasurer is:

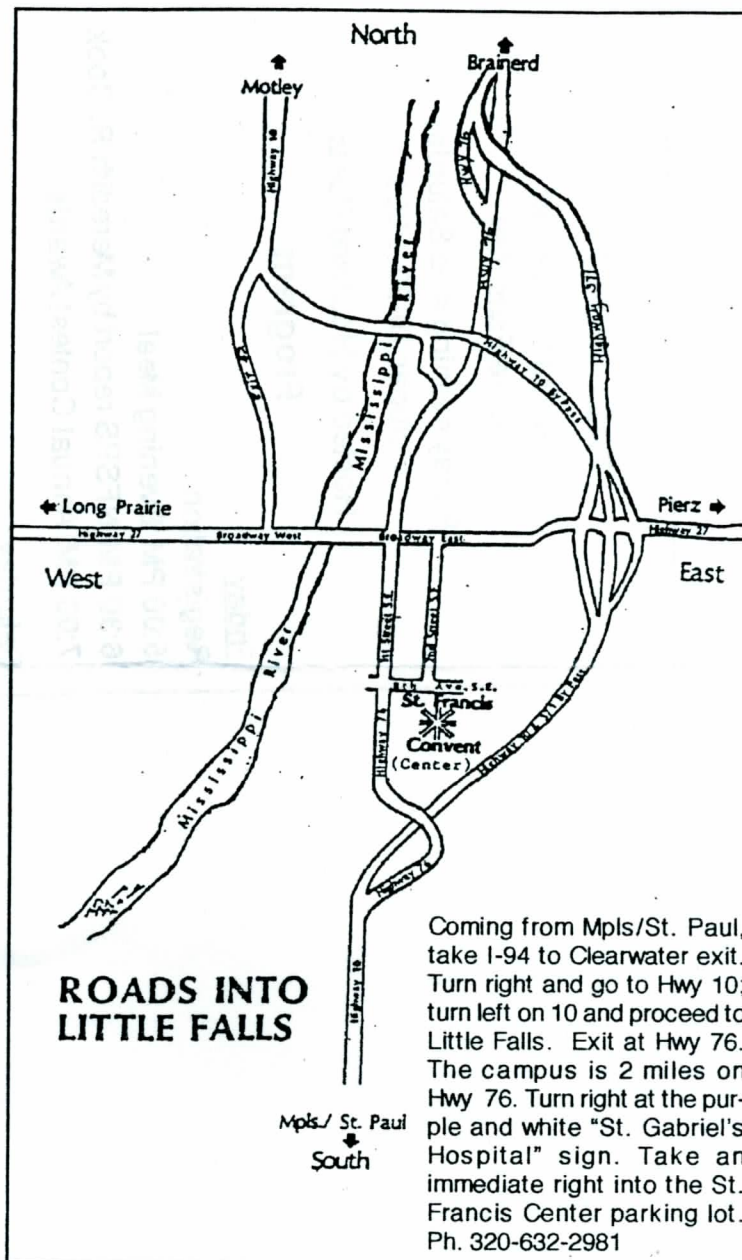
Jim Elberling
1766 Karis Way
Eagan MN 55122-2671

Treasurer telephone:
(651) 688-8815



Registration form for LOMP fall meeting

The comprehensive fee of \$50 includes lodging, meals, and events. Rates are per person double occupancy. Single room \$8 extra. For Saturday only (no lodging or breakfast) the fee is \$16 for registration and lunch.



YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NAME OF ROOMMATE PAYING SEPARATELY: _____

ROOMMATE INCLUDED IN THIS PAYMENT: _____

Adding \$8 for single room _____ Saturday only @ \$16 per person _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK ENCLOSED _____ YOUR PHONE _____

Make check payable to **Heartland Poets** and send with this form by **October 5** to:
Doris Stengel, 1510 S 7th St., Brainerd MN 56401

FALL MEETING

St. Francis Center
Little Falls, MN

Friday evening and Saturday
October 19-20, 2001

Hosted by Heartland Poets

Program

Friday

Registration

5:00 PM Evening Meal

6:30 PM NFSPS report by Meredith R. Cook

7:00 PM Annual Contest Awards

Saturday

8:00 AM Breakfast

8:45 AM Board meeting or open reading

9:00 AM Registration, Saturday-only attendees

10:00 AM General assembly, business meeting conducted by Doris Stengel, President
10:45 AM Speaker:

Larry Schug, "Nothing Wasted"

12:15 PM Luncheon

Afternoon events to be announced

Conference participants are asked to bring their poems to share at open readings

NO SEMINAR

1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15.

41. MINUTE AWARD

A Minute is a 60 syllable, 12 line poem written in strict iambic meter, syllable count 8, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4, 4; rhymed a, a, b, b, c, c, d, d, e, e, f, f; capitalized and punctuated like prose and capturing a slice of life. Sponsored by Verna Lee Hinegardner. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15.

42. SAVE OUR EARTH AWARD

In memory of David F. Ralph. Subject: Environmental issues. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Martha H. Ralph. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

43. BEN LOMOND POETS AWARD

Subject: Mountains. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Ben Lomond Poets, Ogden, Utah. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

44. MASSACHUSETTS STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD

Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Massachusetts State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

45. POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE DORSIMBRA AWARD

In honor of Frieda Beasley DORs, Robert SIMonton and Eve BRAden Hatchett. Any subject. Form: Dorsimbra, consisting of 12 lines: 4 lines iambic pentameter rhymed abab, 4 lines short and snappy free verse, 4 lines iambic pentameter blank verse. The last line repeats the first line. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Tennessee. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

46. POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN AWARD

Any subject. Form: Villanelle. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of Michigan. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

47. LIGHTEN YOUR LIFE AWARD

Any humorous subject. Any Rhyming form, up to 12 lines. Sponsored by Wanda Blaisdell. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

48. IOWA POETRY ASSOCIATION AWARD

Subject: Poetry for children. Any form. 32 line limit. Sponsored by the Iowa Poetry Association. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

49. SAN ANTONIO POETS' ASSOCIATION AWARD

Any subject. Any form. 28 line limit. Sponsored by the San Antonio Poets' Association, San Antonio, Texas. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$15, 3rd Prize: \$10.

50. STUDENT AWARD

Any subject. Any form. 32 line limit. Sponsored by Kay Kinnaman and Ralph Hammond. 1st Prize: \$40, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15, 7 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each. No entry fee required. Open only to students in Grades 9 through 12. (Indicate Grade on entry.)

* OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY

No books may be returned.

2000 anthology	book(s) @ \$8.00
1999 anthology	book(s) @ \$6.00
1998 anthology	book(s) @ \$6.00
1996 anthology	book(s) @ \$4.00
1995 anthology	book(s) @ \$4.00
1992 anthology	book(s) @ \$4.00
1991 anthology	book(s) @ \$4.00
1990 anthology	book(s) @ \$4.00

Postage and handling for one book is: \$ 1.50*
*Postage for each additional book in the same mailing is \$.50.
Total cost due: \$ _____

The anthology reflecting contests in this brochure will be available at the 2003 NFSPS Convention.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING: E-mail or send a #10, 9 1/2" x 4 1/4" SASE to the Chairman in charge:

- **Rules, 2002 Annual Contests.** Patricia and Irvin Kimber, NFSPS Contest Chairman and Clerk, 1220 W. Koradine Drive, South Jordan, UT 84095.
E-mail: invkimber@jgcy.com
- **Brochures, 2002 Annual Contests.** Vera O. Bakker, Strophes Editor, 784 W. 1400 North, West Bountiful, UT 84087.
E-mail: veraobakker@msn.com
- **Contest Sponsorship.** Nancy Baass, NFSPS Contest Sponsors/Brochures Chairman, 3160 W. Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, TX 77025-1503.
E-mail: nbaass@earthlink.net
- **Membership.** Sy Swann, NFSPS Membership Chairman, 2736 Creekwood Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76123.
E-mail: jfs@flash.net
- **The Stevens Manuscript Competition.** Doris Stengel, NFSPS Manuscript Contest Chairman, 1510 S. 7th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401.
E-mail: dpoet@brainerd.net
- **The 2002 Scholarships for Junior/Senior college students.** (Eligibility involves poetry manuscript competition and other criteria.) Madelyn Eastlund, NFSPS Scholarship Chairman, 310 S. Adams Street, Beverly Hills, FL 34465.
E-mail: verdure@digitalusa.net



State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Organized in Baton Rouge, LA--October 17, 1959
Constitution adopted in Philadelphia, PA--June 18, 1960
Incorporated in Madison, WI--July 15, 1966

NFSPS is a non-profit organization, exclusively educational and literary. Its purpose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding. NFSPS offers fifty national contests each year and conducts an annual convention hosted by one of its affiliated states. The 2002 Convention will be held in Coos Bay, Oregon.

HONORARY CHANCELLORS

(In order of appointment)

Joseph Auslander	James Dickey
John Crowe Ransom	Judson Jerome
Glenn Ward Dresbach	John Clardi
Jessie Stuart	Robert Coles
Grace Noll Crowell	Richard Shelton
Jean Starr Untermeyer	Marcia Lee Masters
Loring Williams	Robert Penn Warren
Harry M. Meacham	Richard Wilbur
John Williams Andrews	William Stafford
August Derleth	Rodney Jones
William Stafford	Tess Gallagher
N. Scott Momaday	Michael Bugeja
Richard Armour	David Wagoner
Richard Eberhart	

43rd ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2002 ANNUAL CC TESTS

1. **NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD** (to honor Mary B. Wall)
Any subject. Any form. 100 line limit. Sponsored by NFSPS, Inc. 1st Prize: \$1500, 2nd Prize: \$500, 3rd Prize: \$250. Entry fee for members and non-members: \$5 per poem. Limit: 4 poems per contestant.
2. **WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD**
Any subject. Any form. 80 line limit. Sponsored by previous winners in Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award: Susan Chambers, Elaine Christensen, Ida Fasel, Diane Glancy, Martha P. Morris, Marion Birnbaum Rewey, Clarence P. Sowell, Pat Stodghill and Carlee Swann. 1st Prize: \$225, 2nd Prize: \$150, 3rd Prize: \$100.
3. **MAX C. GOLIGHTLY MEMORIAL AWARD (Members Only)**
In memory of Max C. Golightly who served as President of NFSPS and the Utah State Poetry Society. Subject: One Who Waits. Any form. 50 line limit. Sponsored by the Golightly Family. 1st Prize: \$150, 2nd Prize: \$100, 3rd Prize: \$50.

***5. NFSPS PAST PRESIDENTS' AWARD (Members Only)**
Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Russell B. Ferrall. 1st Prize: \$125, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

***6. THE JACK MURPHY MEMORIAL AWARD (Members Only)**
In memory of Jack Murphy who served as President of NFSPS and the Poetry Society of Texas. Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Pat and Don Stodghill. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$60, 3rd Prize: \$40.

7. FUTURISTIC AWARD
A poem that is optimistic, sensitive and persuasive concerning 2052 A.D. May be imaginative. Form: Traditional Meter and Rhyme. 32 line limit. Sponsored by Walt Morgan. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$60, 3rd Prize: \$40.

8. POWER OF WOMAN AWARD
In memory of Barbara Stevens who served as President of NFSPS. Subject: Power of Woman. Any form. 50 line limit. Sponsored by Susan and Christina Chambers. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$75, 3rd Prize: \$25.

9. UTAH STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Subject: Heritage. Any form. 50 line limit. Sponsored by the Utah State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$60, 3rd Prize: \$40.

10. UTAH APPRECIATION AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 50 line limit. In appreciation of the kind treatment by Utah poets and Utah medical personnel during my 1998 stay in Utah. Sponsored by J. Paul Holcomb. 1st Prize: \$125, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

11. THE WILLIAM STAFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD
In memory of William Stafford, Oregon's late Poet Laureate and twice Honorary Chancellor of NFSPS. Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Oregon State Poetry Association. 1st Prize: \$125, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

12. FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION, INC. AWARD
Any subject. Ballad form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Florida State Poets Association. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

13. POETRY SOCIETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 30 line limit. Sponsored by the Poetry Society of New Hampshire. 1st Prize: \$100, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

14. NEVADA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Theme: Persona - Assume the personality and speak with the voice of a famous writer, composer or artist. Form: Free Verse. 50 line limit. Sponsored by the Nevada Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$80, 2nd Prize: \$40, 3rd Prize: \$30.

***15. ALABAMA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD (Members Only)**
A poem about Love (any aspect). Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Alabama State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$75, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

Universe: An Anthology of the Prose Poem" or "The Best of the Prose Poem: An International Journal." Sponsored by his wife, Madelyn Eastlund. 1st Prize: \$75, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

17. ESTHER TOWNS SONNET AWARD
Any subject. Any Sonnet form. Sponsored by the Muncie Poetry Club, Muncie, Indiana. 1st Prize: \$75, 2nd Prize: \$50, 3rd Prize: \$25.

18. MUSIC AWARD
A Sonnet expressing the spiritual impact of great music. Sponsored by Pearl Hand Cockrell. 1st Prize: \$75, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

19. INDIANA STATE FEDERATION OF POETRY CLUBS AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Indiana State Federation of Poetry Clubs, the Poets' Study Club of Terre Haute and the Anderson Poetry Club. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$25.

20. LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Subject: My Favorite Poet. Form: Spoon River (use voice of poet from the grave). Any length. Sponsored by the Louisiana State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

21. EDNA MEUDT MEMORIAL AWARD
Narrative subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$15.

22. ALL POETS AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 2 page limit. Sponsored by Lake Shore Publishing. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15, 2 Honorable Mentions: \$5 each.

23. BARBARA STEVENS MEMORIAL AWARD
Any serious theme. Any form. 12 line limit. Sponsored by the South Dakota State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$15.

24. THE NEW YORK POETRY FORUM AWARD
Subject: The Art of Poetry. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the New York Poetry Forum. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

25. THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS AWARD
Any subject. Form: Prose Poem. 15 line limit. For a reference, read Louis Jenkins' "Nice Fish." Sponsored by the League of Minnesota Poets. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

26. PLAINS POETS AWARD
In memory of Yuni J. House (1980-1999), only son and grandson of Sy and Carlee Swann. Subject: The Trouble with January. Any form. 30 line limit. Sponsored by Sy and Carlee Swann. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$15.

27. WEST VIRGINIA POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Subject: Appalachia - history, heritage, home life or gifts of nature. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the West Virginia Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

abababcc, dededeff, ghhghhii, jklkljll, mmmmmnoo. No rhyme word may be used more than once. Sponsored by the Georgia Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$15.

29. WISCONSIN POETRY AWARD
Theme: Nature and Human Values. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$35, 3rd Prize: \$15.

30. AMELIA REYNOLDS LONG MEMORIAL AWARD
Subject: On the right side. Any form. 32 line limit. Sponsored by the Amelia Reynolds Long Memorial Fund. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

31. HUMOROUS POETRY AWARD
Any subject. Form: Rhymed. 16 line limit. Sponsored by Irene Warsaw and Colleen Stanley Bare. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$30, 3rd Prize: \$20.

32. MORTON D. PROUTY, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD
In memory of Morton D. Prouty, Jr., who served as NFSPS Treasurer and Poet Laureate of Alabama. A Nature poem. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Elsie S. Prouty. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15.

33. CONNECTICUT POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Subject: Work. Any form. 1 page limit. Sponsored by the Connecticut Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$50, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15.

34. ARIZONA STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
In memory of Donnatred. Subject: New Beginnings. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$35, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15.

***35. TWO LADIES FROM TEXAS AWARD (Members Only)**
Subject: Domestic Cats - their endearing habits, intelligence, loyalty, beauty, etc. (no reference to cruelty or abuse). Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by Nancy Baass and Mildred Vorpahl Baass. 1st Prize: \$35, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15.

36. DONALD D. DUNGEY MEMORIAL AWARD
Subject: Dogs. Any form. 36 line limit. Sponsored by Melba Dungey. 1st Prize: \$30, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15.

37. OHIO AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Ohio Poetry Association. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15.

38. KENTUCKY STATE POETRY SOCIETY AWARD
Any subject. Any form. 28 line limit. Sponsored by the Kentucky State Poetry Society. 1st Prize: \$25, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$15.

***39. CECILIA PARSONS MILLER MEMORIAL AWARD (Members Only)**
Any subject. Form: Free Verse. 40 line limit. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc. 1st Prize: \$30, 2nd Prize: \$20, 3rd Prize: \$10.



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

2001 STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT COMPETITION
awarding \$1000 + publication + 50 books

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION

Manuscripts by a single author, 35-60 pages total, typewritten, with no identified author throughout manuscript. Pages numbered, one poem, one column of poetry per page. No illustrations, no bulky folders or binders. Plain manila folder, staple permissible. May contain individual poems that have been previously published in anthologies, journals or chapbooks. Simultaneous and multiple submissions permitted. Manuscripts will NOT be returned. Include with poems two cover/title pages, one with no author identification, the other with name, address, phone number, and if applicable, membership affiliation.

NO CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED MAIL. NO DISKS.

Judging will be anonymous and by independent judge. Winning manuscript will be sold at NFSPS annual convention in June 2002 in Coos Bay, OR.

MAIL SUBMISSION TO:
DORIS STENGEL, CHAIRMAN
NFSPS STEVENS POETRY MANUSCRIPT CONTEST
1510 S 7TH ST
BRAINARD MN 56401

DEADLINE: October 15, 2001 (postmark)
(opens August 1)

NOTIFICATION: to those who send #10 SASE, January 2002

ENTRY FEE: \$15 NFSPS members, \$20 nonmembers

(Membership information available. Send SASE to Sy Swann,
2712 Scott Ave., Ft. Worth, TX 76103)

Past judges of this competition have been David Baker, Michael Dennis Browne, Anne Marx, Michael Bugeja, Sue Brannan Walker and Kenneth Brewer.

CONTEST RULES

(Any violation will disqualify entry.)

- Any poem submitted must:
 - be the original work of the contestant, unpublished in any form, including electronically, not under consideration or accepted for publication. (Award will be recalled if a winning poem is found to be in violation of rules before publication in the NFSPS anthology of prize poems, and lower prizes and honorable mentions will move up in classification);
 - be written in English, be titled, unless a haiku, but not use the exact words of contest subject or theme as poem title;
 - have a 40 line limit for all contests not stating line limit;
 - be typed or computer generated (not handwritten or hand printed) without illustrations.
- Poets give NFSPS exclusive first printing rights to all poems entered in the NFSPS Annual Contests. Poems winning a cash prize of \$15.00 or more will be printed in the NFSPS prize poems anthology, *Encore*, at the discretion of the Editor. Printing rights revert to the poet after the anthology is published (June 2003). Printing rights to poems winning less than \$15.00 (or no prize) revert to the poet after the list of winners is published in the NFSPS newsletter, *Strophes* (See Rule 10). No poems will be returned, so poets should retain copies.
- An eligible poem may not be withdrawn after submission.
- Except as indicated in Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award, contestant may submit only one entry in any contest, and may not submit the same poem in any other contest.
- Check or money order enclosed must be made to NFSPS, Inc. (initials sufficient) rather than to any individual.
 - Non-members may enter most contests at \$1.00 each (except \$5.00 for each entry in Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award). Non-members may not enter Contests 3, 5, 6, 15, 35 or 39 (those marked with an asterisk and "Members Only").
 - Members may enter up to 8 contests for \$1.00 per poem or \$8.00 total for entry in more than 8 contests (except for Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award which is \$5.00 per poem).
 - Entrants from outside the U.S. must send checks drawn on U.S. banks or branches, payable in U.S. funds, or send U.S. currency.
- First Prize winner in Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award is not eligible to enter the following year. (NFSPS Founders Award only)

- Judges will be selected by NFSPS, Inc. No ties will be awarded, and the decisions of the judges will be final.

- Contest deadline: entries must be postmarked by **March 15, 2002.**

- "Members Only" eligible if a paid-up member of a state society, listed in alphabetical membership roll sent to the Contest Chairman by January 15, 2002.

- A list of winners will appear in 3rd quarter *Strophes* (August). All prize winners will be notified, and others may obtain a list of winners in August by sending \$1.00 and a #10 SASE to: Vera O. Bakker, *Strophes* Editor, 784 W. 1400 North, West Bountiful, UT, 84087.

- How to submit poems:

- Send **two** clear copies of the poem, typed, photocopied, or computer-generated, on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper (no onionskin or tissue). Should be single-spaced. If poem runs longer than one page, staple together all pages of each copy.
- On **both** copies, place number and name of contest in upper **left** corner.
- On **second** copy **only**, name and address of poet, state society membership or "NON MEMBER NFSPS" in upper **right** corner. If a poem is over one page, number pages also on upper right corner (both copies).
- Separate originals from duplicates and stack in numerical order (1-50) with originals on top. Count them.
- Prepare a 3x5 file card with your name, address, phone number, E-mail address (if available), state/society membership (or "NON-MEMBER"). List on the card the number but not the whole title of each contest you are entering. List the total number of poems sent (from your count).
- Mail all entries unfolded, at one time, in a large envelope, including file card and entry fee with poems. Send First Class or Priority Mail only (after Special Delivery or Registered) to the Contest Chairman, not January 1, 2002. Do not send entries to any other NFSPS officer.

Mail entries to:

Patricia and Irvin Kimber,
NFSPS Contest Chairman and Clerk
1220 W. Koradine Drive
South Jordan, UT 84095

NFSPS, Inc. will not assume mailing costs and will not be responsible for any entries lost or delayed in the mail.



National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Organized in Baton Rouge, LA--October 17, 1959
Constitution adopted in Philadelphia, PA--June 18, 1960
Incorporated in Madison, WI--July 15, 1966

NFSPS is a non-profit organization, exclusively educational and literary. Its purpose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding. NFSPS offers fifty national contests each year and conducts an annual convention hosted by one of its affiliated states. The 2002 Convention will be held in Coos Bay, Oregon.

HONORARY CHANCELLORS

(in order of appointment)

Joseph Auslander	James Dickey
John Crowe Ransom	Judson Jerome
Glenn Ward Dresbach	John Clardi
Jessie Stuart	Robert Coles
Grace Noll Crowell	Richard Shelton
Jean Starr Untermeyer	Marcia Lee Masters
Loring Williams	Robert Penn Warren
Harry M. Meacham	Richard Wilbur
John Williams Andrews	William Stafford
August Derleth	Rodney Jones
William Stafford	Tess Gallagher
N. Scott Momaday	Michael Bugela
Richard Armour	David Wagoner
Richard Eberhart	

43rd ANNUAL CONVENTION - 2002 ANNUAL CCNTES

- NFSPS FOUNDERS AWARD (to honor Mary B. Wall)**
Any subject. Any form. 100 line limit. Sponsored by NFSPS, Inc.
1st Prize: \$1500, 2nd Prize: \$500, 3rd Prize: \$250. **Entry fee for members and non-members: \$5 per poem. Limit: 4 poems per contestant.**
- WINNERS' CIRCLE AWARD**
Any subject. Any form. 80 line limit. Sponsored by previous winners in Contest 1-NFSPS Founders Award: Susan Chambers, Elaine Christensen, Ida Fasel, Diane Glancey, Martha P. Morris, Marion Brimm Rewey, Clarence P. Socwell, Pat Stodghill and Carlee Swann. 1st Prize: \$225, 2nd Prize: \$150, 3rd Prize: \$100.
- MAX C. GOLIGHTLY MEMORIAL AWARD (Members Only)**
In memory of Max C. Golightly who served as President of NFSPS and the Utah State Poetry Society. Subject: One Who Makes a Difference.

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Ikars (Ike) Sarma, VP and Editor, at 1-507-345-4014, or e-mail icarusj@mnnc.net

Regular Meeting - November 10th

We welcome **James Elberling**, who happens to be a prize-winning and excitingly different poet as well as the LOMP treasure and a member of the St. Paul chapter. He will present a talk on a topic entitled "The Chemist as a Poet". Your Editor, who happens to be an ex-chemist, suggests you bring, along with a pad and pencil, a pair of safety glasses, for you can never tell what can happen when a chemist does a demo.

The assignment for the month is an *ottava rima*. A detailed description of this form appeared in the October issue.

Coming Events

Scheduled guest speakers for the year are: Rose McGee, John Rezmerski, Diane Glancy and Shirley Ensrud.

The assignment for December is a *prose poem*.

This is a poem written to look, on paper, like plain prose. Consider writing a poem, then eliminate the line breaks. Line breaks may have the effect of punctuation and punctuation becomes of importance in a prose poem. The limit is **500 words**, as for Category 16 of the NFSPS Annual Contest. See next page for thoughts on punctuation.

Achievements and Brags

Sue Chambers was invited to be teach a seminar course for the Seniors Program sponsored by the Minnesota State University, Mankato. Her topic? "What's a Nice Attorney Like You Doing Writing Poetry".

Meredith Cook received 5 HM's in Jessee Poet's Contests.

Monica Haack had two poems appearing in the Holy Rosary Bulletin.

Ed Kramer-Brekke admits having written a few limericks.

Charles Sehe admits to having survived 79 and revising his Utah Beach poem

Ike Sarma's 2nd place Beymorlin Sonnet of the 1986 NFSPS Contest has re-emerged in *Hidden Frontiers*, an anthology published by the International Library of Poetry.

Treasurer James Elberling of the LOMP has asked me to remind you of your membership dues. LOMP membership is \$20. Send them to James Elberling, 1766 Karis Way, Eagan MN 55122-2671.

SMPS membership is \$15 and dues should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St, Trimont, MN 56176.

On Punctuation

A reading of a poem (or any other verbal composition) especially if done out loud, is certain to be more effective if it includes pauses of a duration appropriate for the punctuation mark applied by its author.

That is the only way the author can make sure that all parts of the poem receive the best possible approximation of the emphasis or weight the author intended or desired to give that part. While this is more important when the poem is read out loud, we should recall that most of us sub-vocalize what we read and thus get more of the poem's intended effect.

The relatively longest pause is that due to a period and (unless they appear in mid-sentence for specific emphasizing a word or phrase) to a question mark and an exclamation point.

Double-m dashes, parentheses and even commas when used to separate an interjection or a non-restrictive dependent clause from the main) are usually accorded a lesser duration and in the order given. Ellipses and colons also fit in here roughly.

Commas and semicolons used appropriately to separate equivalent speech elements in series create the least interruption of a poem's narrative flow.

Line breaks without line ending punctuation create pauses which are hardly noticeable. More so when we have familiarized ourselves with a poem by re-reading it several times.

Double spaced lines, as between stanzas, should have at least a comma after the last line of a stanza or the separation into stanzas becomes meaningless.

More generally, poets may choose to punctuate as little as is possible, mostly to insure the ability of the reader to make sense when syntax is twisted to serve rhythm, logic and/or rhyme. Sometimes there is a need to do something unusual for special emphasis but this still must be somehow accountable. One of the ways then is to use multiple spacing between words.

The prose poem is an interesting challenge, for line breaks are not acceptable except between paragraphs which then substitute for stanzas. Of some help is the possibility to use semicolons, colons, parentheses and ellipses to a greater extent than this is practiced in more conventional poems.

Editor hopes you find the above of some use.

Since this assignment gets us close to X-mas, and, perish the thought at this time, winter, you may well choose to use a seasonal theme for your prose poem.

A poem is still distinguished by some rhythm (beyond plain and strict meter), by such word-sound features as alliteration, assonance and consonance and all the good standbys like simile, metonymy and metaphor and lesser ways to build new and fresh images.

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Regular Meeting - December 8th

Please note that this month the meeting is held at the *Great Wall* restaurant, 1802 Commerce Drive, North Mankato and at 12:00 noon, rather than at the usual hour.

The restaurant is located between the Lookout Drive and the Lor Ray Drive exits off US Highway 169 and in the Dimension Center behind the **Wells Federal Bank** (not Wells Fargo).

We will have a luncheon in a meeting room that is not part of the common area. **The program will be a musical entertainment by parties whose names shall remain unknown for the present.**

The assignment for the month is a **prose poem**. Your Editor's ideas on this approach to writing poetry appeared in the November issue. Do not be too upset if you have not managed to do one. The assignment is always optional and, since the current one was to be on some topic that is seasonal or festive, any new poems on any topic are always welcome.

Last Month's Meeting

Great appreciation is due to **James Elberling**, a prize-winning and excitingly different poet, he LOMP treasurer and a member of the St. Paul chapter. His talk on the topic entitled "**The Chemist as a Poet**" was quite different than what your Editor, who happens to be an ex-chemist, expected. **It was better.** We learned about three notable chemists who were also quite respectable poets. Time and space prevents your Editor to provide relevant details and a cross-section of the poetry we enjoyed hearing. Thank you very much, **James**. Safety glasses were not needed.

Coming Events

Please see the attached program and event schedule for the remainder of our 'operating' year. Make good of this 'document'. Make copies and leave them around schools, libraries and any other public places including stores. Good way to let the world around us know we exist and make poetry accessible to all who have the interest and desire to partake.

The assignment for January is a **poem** which may not exceed 30 lines and can be on any subject and in any form (or non-form) but must somehow reflect the theme **The Truoble With January**. Apparently, no advice or detail is available. You are strictly on your own.

This is a poem written to look, on paper, like plain prose. Consider writing a poem, then eliminate the line breaks. Line breaks may have the effect of punctuation and punctuation becomes of importance in a prose poem. The limit is **500 words, as for Category 16 of the NFSPS Annual Contest**. See next page for thoughts on punctuation.

**SMPS MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

NAME:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone (h):

Phone (w)

*Annual Dues are
\$15.00 for adults,
\$7.50 for students.*

*Mail application and
check to Treasurer:*

***Elaine Anderson
463 200th Street
Trimont, Minn 56176***

**2001-02
Program
Calendar

***Southern
Minnesota
Poet's
Society***

*For all who love poetry
and/or write poetry

*SMPS normally meets
the second Saturday of
every month at Barnes
& Noble Booksellers at
1857 Adams, Mankato,
at 1 p.m. unless
otherwise noted.*

*SMPS is a chapter of the League
of Minnesota Poets.*

*LOMP is affiliated with the
National Federation of State
Poetry Societies.*

October 13th

Laurie Winter, Poet and novelist.

"Stretching the Web"

Book signing of her book "Growing Wings" at 3p.m

Assignment: (Our assignments are never mandatory) Ottawa Rima

November 10th

Jim Elberling, Poet and officer of LOMP, Mississippi Writers Society.

Assignment: Prose Poem, 500-word limit OR 15-line limit

December 8th Noon.

Great Wall Restaurant 1802 Commerce Drive, North Mankato.

Note change of time and meeting place.

Enjoy the Christmas festivities. Have lunch: share the season's spirit.

Assignment: Winter or Christmas Poem. OR Heritage Poem.

January 12th, 2002

Panel discussion (SMPS members)

"How to Present your poem"

Assignment: subject poem—"The Trouble with January" 30 line limit, any form.

February 9th

John Rezmerski, Poet and teacher. Reading and Book signing at 3 p.m.

Assignment: Love Poem 40 line limit

March 9th

Shirley Ensrud, Poet featured on Garrison Keller's poetry minute.

"Publish and Market your Poetry"

Assignment: Humorous Poetry 12 lines rhymed or 32 or 20 lines any form.

April 13th

Diane Glancy, Poet and Novelist. winner of NEA, other grants. Book reading and signing of her many published works at 3 p.m.

Assignment: Environmental issue, 40 lines

May 5th (Note change of Saturday's)

Rose McGee, Poet, cultural diversity trainer, storyteller, and playwright. Reading and Book signing at 3 p.m.

Assignment: Spoon River Anthology form (use voice from the grave). Any length.

June 8th Annual picnic Location to be announced

OTHER EVENTS

June 27 - July 1

SMPS hopes to send delegates to the annual National Federation of State Poetry Societies' meeting. This year it will be in Coos Bay, Oregon.

BLIZZARD WRITER'S RETREAT

Jan. 25th - 27th

at Sue Chambers 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder. 56037 Rules—bring a program of ½ hour at least, and something to eat!

SMPS meets Sept through June, and participates in a writing retreat (The Woodtick Writing Retreat in the Brainerd area) in July.

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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January 12th, Regular Meeting

A repeat reminder: Those of you who find it convenient to arrive in Mankato early (to make greater opportunity of the trip) may want to gather for a quick lunch at the food court of the River Hills Mall. You may find your fellow poets and poetry lovers in the area nearest the West entry and the J.C. Penney store starting at about 11:30 a.m.

Please note that we are meeting at our 'official venue', the Barnes and Noble bookstore. The **meat of this meeting** is a panel discussion aimed at giving one and all a leg up on "How to Present Your Poem".

The '**assignment**' is a poem on the theme "The Trouble With January" which should allow your imagination free rein to complain, with the alternative to express your joy of starting a New Year. No special limits set as to length or form.

Remember, assignments are not compulsory, and any inspired writing, poem or otherwise is welcome and on any subject, as long as you feel the need for sharing, compassion, help and advice.

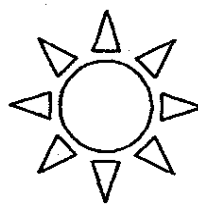
You are encouraged to attend this meeting if you can, for we must begin seriously tackling the issues surrounding our long cherished dream of compiling and publishing an anthology of poems by members of the **SMPS**. The first such was done in about 1983-84.

The '**assignment**' for February is a love poem, a poem expressing those special experiences regarding someone you hold dear and in a special place in your heart. Suppose, it can be any pet, human or otherwise. No inanimate objects at this time, but 'inanimate' shall remain undefined. And the powers that be have decreed that there will be a 40-line limit which gives you plenty room.

Please note the back of this page which provides the particulars for the 3rd ANNUAL BLIZZARD WRITER'S POETRY RETREAT. It is an event you cannot afford to miss. Bringing a program on something about poetry should not scare you off. A wide range of choices are available including a reading of, or biographical sketches on your favorite poet/poetess and up to a discussion of your experience in writing or even a workshop on some aspect thereof.

December Meeting

Yes, there was one. You missed it? Too bad. Or maybe not. Your Editor made an attempt to lead the singing of carols in the squeakiest off key voice you have ever dreamt off. Fortunately, his singing was drowned out by our President's and her guitar and the joining in of everybody present. We had a goodly number there including new members Sarah Bannister, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Phyllis Borchert and Frank Shimanski (if I missed anyone or misspelled a name, shoot me later) and someone, Margy Hengy, a long time member we had not seen for a much too long a period. You can make up this loss by coming to the meeting Saturday the 12th of January.



3rd ANNUAL BLIZZARD WRITER'S POETRY RETREAT

WHEN: Thursday afternoon or night, January 24th, 2002 to Sunday, January 27th, 2002. (Or who knows how long if we get snowed in!)

WHERE: At the home of Sue Chambers, located in the country on 10 lovely wooded acres next to the Big Cobb River, 10 miles south of Mankato, Minnesota. There are dormitory style rooms available in living quarters attached to the garage, as well as many bedrooms in the main house. There are fireplaces to curl up in front of, a full library so we can consult the authorities, and good places to hike, ski or skate.

Directions: 10 miles south of Mankato on Highway 22. Turn west on County Road 16. Turn left on the 2nd gravel road on the left. Follow gravel road to first right (approximately one-half mile), turn right. House is on the right, is milk chocolate in color. Look for the dogs! (Friendly)

WHAT IS REQUIRED: Bring a poetry program that is at least half an hour in length and some food to share. The program can be anything that tickles your fancy—a writing workshop, a favorite author, a new form, a lecture, a special taped program that you want to lead a discussion on...the possibilities are endless. Joint programs are also permissible. Not required, but you might also want to bring hiking boots, cross-country skis, skates, a sled.

Please notify Sue Chambers at least 3 weeks in advance so that food selections can be coordinated.

Want to come? Contact Sue Chambers:

57310 166th Lane

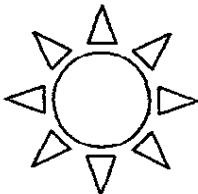
Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037

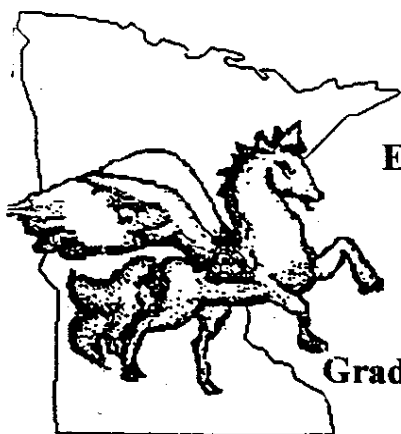
Home phone: (507)278-4200

Work phone: (507)625-3000

Fax: (507) 625-2002

E-mail: PoetSue@Aol.com





The League of Minnesota Poets
proudly presents

2002

Eighteenth Annual Manningham Poetry Competition
(Deadline: February 1st postmark)

State and National Awards (no entry fee)

Two Categories:

Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) & Grades 9-12 (Senior Division)

Contest Entry Rules:

All students attending school in Minnesota are eligible: public, parochial & private. Submit two copies of ONE original poem. The poem needs to be typed on white paper. Please do not use fancy typefaces, colored fonts, or illustrations. *Submit only one poem per student per year.*

One copy of the poem should contain only the poem with title. The second copy should also contain the following information: 1) student name and complete home address 2) student's grade and division (junior or senior) 3) school name, address and the school's phone number. 4) A statement "This is my original work." The student must sign this statement. 5). Poems submitted may have been published or may have won previous awards.

Poems which disregard these entry rules will be disqualified. Please be considerate of our Judges. We want to see your work, but we need it to be in the correct format.

Nationally recognized out-of-state poets judge the contest. The winners will have their poems published in a chapbook, which will be forwarded to all participating schools. The winners will also be sent to compete in the National Manningham competition. There they may win cash prizes and publication.

Mail all contest entries to: Susan Stevens Chambers, Manningham Contest Chair, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037

**REMEMBER--ALL POEMS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
FEBRUARY 1, 2002. *Good Luck, and Keep Writing!***

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Regular Meeting - February 9th

Unless you do not have a copy of our program schedule for the year, you should be aware that our speaker will be **John Rezmerski** who teaches writing and is the Resident Writer at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. He is the one poet in our bunch who must be considered a professional. He has a wonderful book of poems, *What Do I Know*, by Holy Cow Press, to his credit, and has been featured, as an 'emerging poet', in the *Good Thunder Reading Series*, sponsored by Minnesota State University – Mankato, among such notables as Robert Bly, John Hessler and others. He has been a very active and supportive member of SMPS and has given us many valuable presentations and has often shared his poetry with us.

After our meeting, Barnes and Noble are holding a second reading and book-signing session for **John**.

As previously announced, the 'formal' assignment for this month is, appropriately, a *love poem*, with a 40 line limit and no form restrictions. Do not shy away, if you have not managed to do one, for the 'assignment' is always optional and any new poems on any topic are always welcome.

Last Meeting

A great THANK YOU to **Charles Sehe**, **June Emmanuel** and **Sue Chambers**, for their participation on the panel presentation on "How To Present Your Poem". **Charles** gave us a taste of how well a poem sounds when recited properly by heart. **June** demonstrated the enhancement of poetry set to music and **Sue** gave a **dramatic** illustration of the **do's and don't's** in voice control and on body language and posture effects on presentation. We had a great turnout and all participants were conjoined to apply the precepts demonstrated while sharing their poetry.

The 3rd Annual Blizzard Writers' Poetry Retreat

was held in near total absence of a blizzard, not to mention snow, at the Chambers 'dacha' on January 24 thru 27, more or less. There were 17 poets in attendance representing locales as far flung as Brainerd, Rochester and Minneapolis, not to mention Blue Earth, Eagle Lake, Mankato, North Mankato and Truman.

A good time (food) was had by all, including a few guests and the household of Richard and Sue. There was a lot of nifty poetry shared and an overwhelming number of presentations and writing workshops on poetry. Some of the latter were, shall we say, wild?

The attendees contributed funds to sponsor a 'Blizzardly Poems' category to be included in the next Annual LOMP Poetry contest.

A special THANK YOU to Richard and Sue for the effort.

Coming Events

Please consult your program and event schedule for the remainder of our 'operating' year. Our guest speaker will be **Shirley Ensrud**, a member of SMPS and a published poet in her own right. She will talk about how to "Publish and Market your Poetry".

The formal assignment for March is a **humorous poem** which may not exceed 12 lines, if rhymed, or 20 to 32 lines if in any other form ((prose poem?). Your Editor would challenge you to write a **sad limerick or two**.

Treasurer James Elberling of the LOMP is still willing to accept your membership dues to the tune of \$20. Send them to James Elberling, 1766 Karis Way, Eagan MN 55122-2671.

SMPS membership is \$15 and dues are welcome and should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St, Trimont, MN 56176.

With mute sadness we mark the passing of a long-time SMPS member

Verna Larsen

**She was an active participant before her health prevented her to be among us.
Special notice is made of all the loons she painted for the Annual NFSPS Meeting held in Mankato.**

The sadness is special, since, typically, like many other good, unprepossessing poets, she has left behind few of her poems for us to read and enjoy.

My Quest

**I have been looking for you everywhere!
Throwing balls at the carnival,
Under a black derby hat,
Eating ice cream on a stick,
In an old Graham-Paige,
In your chair on the dock,
In your boat, rocking
on white horses of the lake,
But you are not there,
You are not anywhere!**

I find you
in the one place
you still live--
in my heart!

Verna Larsen

Thistle~Down

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Regular Meeting - March 9th

As you probably already know, our speaker of the month is **Shirley Ensrud** who, beyond being a multiple contest-prize-winning member of our 'society' and a talented poet by any other measure, has succeeded in publishing at least three books of her poems and is, most likely, in the process of publishing more. **Shirley** was featured on **Garrison Keillor's Poetry Minute**, and has given us presentations about ways of writing. She will now give us a talk on "Publish and Market Your Poetry".

It may be of interest to note that **Shirley** is part of the two-member 'branch', located in Blue Earth, of the SMPS, the other being another good poet and prizewinning member, **Meredith Cook**, who just happens to be the estimable editor of "the Moccassin", the annual poetry anthology of the LOMP. The *Thistle~Down* has failed miserably to give the recognition that Meredith deserves.

As previously announced, the 'formal' assignment for this month is, appropriately (Wait a minute, April Fool is next month!), a **humorous poem**, with a 12 line limit if rhymed and 20 to 32 lines without any form restrictions. Do not shy away, if you have not managed to do one, for the 'assignment' is always optional and any new poems on any topic are always welcome.

Don't overlook the chance of a prize in the NFSPS National Contest for 2002. The postmark deadline is March 15.

Last Meeting

We had a great deal of Valentine's Day type of fun, thanks to **John Rezmerski** who has, at least he so claimed, a whole book of, would you have guessed, Valentine type of poems. He said he has been writing them almost as long as he can remember. All we could see was a bunch of sheets, each with just a bit of type on it, but what John read was nice, some time sad, more often humorous but still very nice. So what if it was not hardbound yet.

Thank you very much, **John R.**

The LOMP Spring Meeting

...is to take place in May and in Mankato. Our President, **Bonnie Ann Woole** is certain to relish any help she can get for making the arrangements and conducting the agenda, as well as other matters expected from the hosts.

Coming Events

Please consult your program and event schedule for the remainder of our 'operating' year. Our guest speaker for April will be **Diane Glancy**, Poet and Novelist, a winner of NEA and other grants and a member of the LOMP. She has been a speaker for the LOMP meetings and we are honored to have her come to give us a talk on poetry. We expect, barring unexpected weather, a large audience, since Barnes and Noble is holding a reading and signing session of her many published works at 3 p.m. To hear her talk, come timely to insure you can claim a seat.

The 'formal' assignment for April is a ***poem on some environmental issue***, not to exceed 40 lines.

A Few Worthwhile Notes

Editor's apologies are in order. Due to recent events and changes in his usual lifestyle, he has not managed, next to other responsibilities, to report on achievements and expedite the arrival of the *Thistle~Down* as is desired. He would like condolences on his retirement—from gainful work. President Bonnie Ann has expressed the condolences of all in the event of the death of his mother-in-law, Elma Tone, for which Ike and Ranta are grateful as they are for Elma's 96+ years of life in which she was often instrumental in getting them fed in time, even for poetry events (esp. Ike)

We all wish success to Sue Chambers in her pursuit of the now open Blue Earth County judgeship and hope she is in high favor with our nothing-less-than-colorful Governor Ventura.

Treasurer James Elberling of the LOMP will be glad to accept new memberships as well as past dues, all to the tune of \$20. Send them to James Elberling, 1766 Karis Way, Eagan MN 55122-2671.

SMPS membership is \$15 and dues, if you have not managed yet to do so, should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St. Trimont, MN 56176.

Thistle ~ Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Regular Meeting - April 13th

Our guest speaker will be **Diane Glancy**, a poet and novelist. **Diane** is a member of the LOMP and was the 2000 NFSPS Stevens Poetry Manuscript Winner for her book "The Stones For A Pillow". She has written 4 novels, 8 books of poetry, a play, 3 books of essays and is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship and a Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, and the holder of the American Book and the Native American Prose Awards. She currently is an Associate Professor at Macalester, where she teaches Native American Literature and Creative Writing.

We remember her excellent presentations at previous LOMP and NFSPS meetings. Barnes & Noble is sponsoring her public reading and a book-signing session 3 p. m., following our meeting.

Unless there is an unexpected change of plans, **Diane** will be present at a 6 p.m. **pot luck and poetry sharing** at Susan and Dick Chambers' home in Good Thunder. Plan to attend and co-ordinate with Sue (507-278-4200) as to what you may want to bring to the pot luck.

As previously announced, the 'formal' assignment for this month is a **poem on an environmental theme** with a 40-line limit. Remember that the 'assignment' is always optional, and that any new poems on any topic are always welcome.

Hope you did not miss the deadline of March 15 past to send in that great new poem or poems for a chance at a prize in the NFSPS National Contest for 2002.

Last Meeting

We left last month's meeting with a rather detailed knowledge of what to do and what not to do when planning to self-publish a book of your poetry. **Shirley Ensrud** began by recounting the steps that she took to publish her five books of poetry—getting ISBN numbers, bar codes, a printer, federal and state ID numbers and a distributor. Once she got the books from the printer, she had to do the promotion—getting publicity in the newspapers and radio, calling on stores, having signings and doing readings took a lot of time, but she enjoyed the readings. Selling enough of one book, she said was enough to recoup her cost for it to be applied to the next. In the remaining part of her presentation, **Shirley** read some of her poems and pointed out the importance of using poetic devices such as alliteration, assonance, consonance and onomatopoeia, especially when writing free verse as she does. She concluded by challenging us to write a poem about some event seen from different points of view, e.g., those of a neighbor, a child and its mother, as in her poem "A Child In Church".

Your Editor did not take time here to present the details Shirley gave on specific points such as the ISBN, the bar code etc. You may contact her about those, and, if there is high interest, these will appear in a future issue of the T~D. Thank you very much, **Shirley**, for this excellent presentation.

Coming Events

The 'formal' assignment for May is a *poem in the Spoon River Anthology form*, which means you write it from a viewpoint of a deceased person, i.e., a 'story' told from the grave. There is no limit to the length. Be your own judge.

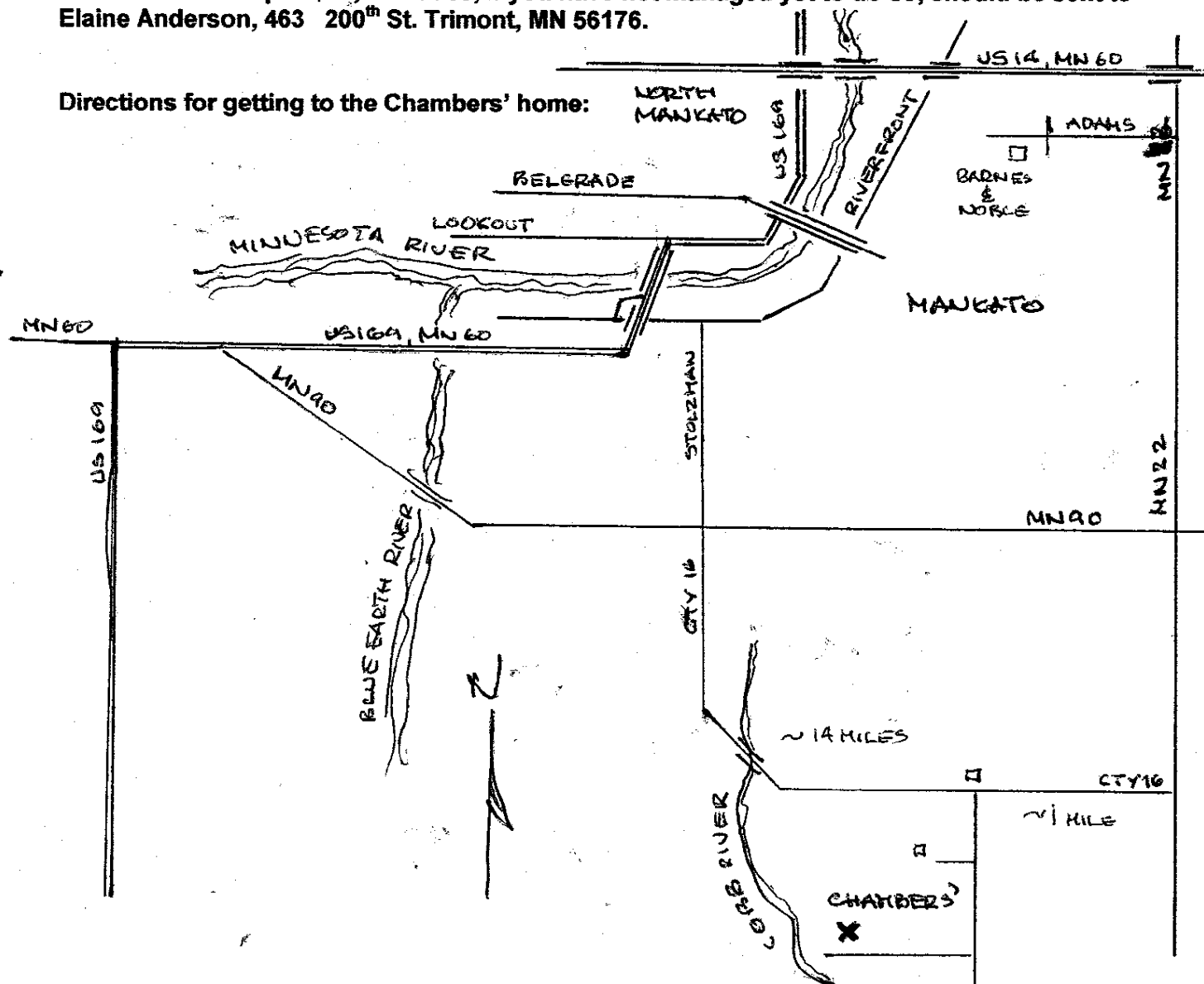
Please note that the May meeting is on Saturday, the 4th. **Rose McGee**, poet, storyteller and playwright is to be our speaker.

As in other years, the May meeting is a week early, because the LOMP meeting is set for the 11th. The place for that meeting is a park just South of St. Peter and off Hwy 99 going to Nicollet. Details will appear in the next issue which should reach you in about two weeks (April 24). There are full indoor facilities provided in the park, but there are walks and a pond to induce you to write poetry while at the meeting. Come prepared.

Our President, Bonnie Ann Wolle, is certain to relish any help she can get for making the arrangements and conducting the agenda of the LOMP meeting, as well as other matters expected from us, the hosts. Your efforts to attend and help will be appreciated.

SMPS membership is \$15, and dues, if you have not managed yet to do so, should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St. Trimont, MN 56176.

Directions for getting to the Chambers' home:



Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The S M P S, a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets holds open meetings at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 1857 Adams St. in Mankato on the second Saturday of the months of September through May from 1:00 p.m. through 3:30 p.m. Meetings and memberships are open to all lovers of poetry and writing. For further information call Editor, Ikars (Ike) Sarma, VP, at 1-507-345-4014, or e-mail icarusj@chartermi.net

Regular Meeting – May 4th

As noted in the April issue of the *Thistle~Down*, our regular meeting has been shifted to allow us to host the LOMP Spring Meeting on May 11.

Our guest speaker for the regular meeting is **Rose McGee**. Rose grew up in Jackson, Tennessee, is a graduate from Lane College, a member of the Minnesota association of Black Storytellers, and an artist in residence with the Plymouth Music Series' WITNESS Program. She appears in national and local television commercials, is the author of plays "What About Me?", "Kumbayah...The Juneteenth Story" and co-author of "Since The Beginning". Her poetry publications include "And Then I Felt" and "Seriously Incorporated". She left IBM Corporation in 1993 to start her own company, Seriously Incorporated, which she describes as created for the "soul" purpose of making positive changes in our diverse society. Many of us will recall her as the spellbinding keynote speaker at a recent LOMP meeting hosted by the Minnesota Poets and Writers chapter.

The officers of the SMPS urge all to take this opportunity to come and hear an outstanding and highly visible public figure, known and respected for her educated views on family and societal issues.

The 'formal' assignment is a poem in the *Spoon River Anthology* style, a 'story' told from the grave, i.e., one written from a viewpoint of a deceased person. The title usually is the name of the person speaking, real or imaginary. The themes vary from gossip to accusatory and often include a telling of the persons demise or the events that led to it. There is no limit to the length.

Remember that the 'assignment' is always optional, and that any new poems on any topic are always welcome.

Last Meeting

We had a thoroughly enjoyable presentation by **Diane Glancy**, a poet and novelist of considerable stature. Diane spoke about some of the less well recognized 'features' of poetry, a lot of which she would illustrate by reference to her recent book, "The Stones For A Pillow" which was the 2000 NFSPS Stevens Poetry Manuscript Winner. There were plenty of copies available for all of us to closely follow her interpretation and comments. Your Editor is short of the right words to adequately describe the marvelous insights to writing provided by her interactive talk. Presentations like this have always been on his list for reasons for belonging to the SMPS and the LOMP. Thank you, **Diane Glancy**.

In the business part of the meeting, **Sue Chambers** presented the new bylaws for the SMPS in compliance with the latest regulations of the State of Minnesota. The bylaws were adopted unanimous and the membership passed a resolution to elect officers at the end of the operating year. The elections will be held at our June picnic meeting.

A Note from Our President

I regret that I am unable to attend the May SMPS meeting and LOMP meeting due to family obligations — including our oldest son's wedding in Florida. I know things are in good hands without me, however. I do wish I could join you and am missing you already as I write this. Hoping to be filled in on it all when I return. See you in June!

Bonnie Ann Wolle

Coming Events

As announced earlier, the LOMP Spring Meeting will take place on the 11th of May. The place for that meeting is Gluck Park, a part of the St. Peter Regional Treatment Center campus. To get there, you must go to the South end of St. Peter where State Highway 99 joins US 169. Take Hwy 99 West (toward the town of Nicollet). A short distance from that intersection look for Hwy 333, turn left onto it and then take the first right branch. There are full indoor facilities provided in the park, and there are walks and a pond to induce you to write poetry while at the meeting. Come prepared. Lunch will be provided from the kitchens of the St. Peter Co-op.

The keynote speaker is **Michael Dennis Brown**, a well known poet and professor at the University of Minnesota whose presentation is entitled ***"Craft Talk: A dialogue with writers"***

The seminar leader is our own **John Rezmerski** whose talents we know well and which need no further elaboration. As per recent practice, poems submitted will be discussed, under a shield of anonymity, for their strengths and weaknesses with in-depth comments but no ranking.

The officers of SMPS encourage everyone to attend, not only to honor the outstanding talent of the above presenters but to make use of this great opportunity to learn more about poetry.

Those of you who are not members of the LOMP are most welcome but should contact Sue chambers to assure you are included in the nose count for lunch.

The whole event, including lunch, is \$15. Sue's address is 57310 -166th Lane, Good Thunder, Mn 56037 and e-mail is PoetSue@aol.com. Make out checks payable to SMPS.

Our last chance to make sure we carry off honorably our duties as hosts for the LOMP meeting. If you have any last minute notions or loose ends to tie up, please contact Bonnie Ann or Sue Chambers.

The picnic meeting is scheduled for June 9th and will be held at the Gluck Park location described above
Further details will be announced in the next, special issue of the *Thistle~Down*.

SMPS membership is \$15, and dues, if you have not managed yet to do so, should be sent to Elaine Anderson, 463 200th St. Trimont, MN 56176.

Elaine's last membership roster shows that a majority have brought their membership up to date, but there are a few outstanding. Your dues support the vital operations of the SMPS including our ability to publish the *Thistle~Down*.

Thistle~Down

Southern Minnesota Poets Society

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Picnic Meeting & Election of Officers – June 8th

Contrary to the date given in the May issue of the *Thistle~Down*, the meeting is scheduled for June 8th and will be held at the Gluck Park location. Directions are given at the bottom of this page. Please note that the arrival time at the venue is 11:00 A.M. The only known business item is the election of officers for the next biennium. This is per a change in by laws adopted in April to give the officers more time to set programs and other activities for the entire year as well as to make plans for further enhancements in the life of the SMPS. One 'formal' assignment for you is to bring a lot of poems to read and share. New poems on any topic are always welcome. The other 'formal' assignment for you is a dish or some goodies to pass. Sue will bring a bucket of juice

Last Meeting

We had a thoroughly enjoyable presentation by **Rose McGee**. Rose is a poet and a storyteller and spoke about poetry, her recent visit to Africa and her single-poem chapbook motivated by her observations on attitudes toward AIDS there, a very educational presentation. We will recall her as one of the most spellbinding speakers we have heard. The few of our members who were brave enough to meet for dinner with Rose and had an opportunity to share poems with her will fondly remember her for being a great facilitator in that respect.

LOMP Spring Meeting

Our own **John Rezmerski** (whose talents we know well and which need no further elaboration) conducted a meticulously thorough critiquing seminar. He made detailed analysis of poems (kept anonymous and projected on the screen to make it possible for all to follow), while pointing out features that may weaken or help strengthening a poems' ability to project the poetry within it. In spite of keeping copious notes, no way can your Editor do full justice to the entire know-how **John** gave us all. It is Too-bad-you-missed-it #1.

Too-bad-you-missed-it #2 was the keynote talk by **Michael Dennis Brown**. His presentation was another educational experience beyond simple description. Your Editor must say, however, that **Michael** made the many concerns we have, about crafting poetry, clear enough to see their applicability to all poets dream to accomplish.

In spite of the rain keeping us inside most of the time, the whole seemed like a most lovely day spent in the sunshine that comes, from and to, the hearts and minds and mouths of those who love poetry.

Coming Events

A special get together in August is likely to help our officers plan activities for next year. The Annual NFSPS meeting is coming soon. If you get a sudden change of mind and want to go, contact Sue Chambers. **To get to Gluck Park**, you must go to the South end of St. Peter where State Highway 99 joins US 169. Take Hwy 99 West (toward Nicollet) and look for Hwy 333, turn left onto it and then take the first right branch. You will find that, if you keep right (or turn right whenever in doubt) going through and past a cluster of buildings, you will come to a gravel road and the park sign.

Your Editor wishes to express his gratitude for your indulgence in his shortcomings in getting this 'publication' to you as timely as might be desirable, and the understanding of his circumstances that made it unavoidable. He wishes all the best to his successor, should he be unable to continue.