



Southern Minnesota Poets Society

The SMPS is a regional chapter of the League of Minnesota Poets, holds opens meetings on the second Saturday of the month from September through May at the River Hills Mall, Mankato, MN. from 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all who love poetry and writing. For further information contact *Bethany Berry, Editor* at Bethany.berry@mnsu.edu, or *Sue Chambers, President*, at 507-278-4200 or e-mail PoetSue@aol.com.

SMPS Officers:

Sue Chambers, *Pres.*

Ike Sarma, *VP.*

Faye Mattison, *Sec.*

Dorla Wachter, *Treas.*

Monica Haack, *Corresponding Sec.*

Sandra Newbauer, *Regional VP*

Mark your calendars for our special events this year!!!

SMPS will be featuring our annual calendar of events in this Thistledown's edition.

Please make sure to take a look at all the exciting events coming up throughout the year.

Mark Your Calendar Now!

Prepare yourself for an exciting collaboration!

We have aligned collaboration between Southern Minnesota Poet's Society and RiverCrossings!

The Southern Minnesota Poets Society will be meeting at **ENVISION: Design that Works, Inc. 322 South Minnesota Avenue, Saint Peter**, on the 29th of August at **7:00 p.m.** to experience original artwork and to write about it. A selection matching one poem to the piece of art will be made by a judge, and it will be assembled in an exhibit during the RiverCrossings art fair in motion.

Note: this is on the 2nd floor and there is no elevator. (25 steps to second floor of an older building (Schafer building).



Coffee Hag Reading

SMPS Poetry readings continue at the Coffee Hag every 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. This year, each reading will feature the work of two of our own poets. After they are done sharing their work, the mike will be open for anyone who wishes to share their poetry.

The Southern Minnesota Poet's Society would like to extend their condolences to Treasurer Dorla Wachter and her husband Carl. Carl's mother passed away on May 29th of this year.

**Take a Look at our
Calendar of Events for this
Upcoming Year!**

**The calendar is attached to
your Thistledown**

President's Message



We are off for another great year of poetry! I hope you have been writing, rewriting and reading poetry over the summer. This summer I went back and read Stanley Kunitz, who recently died. He has long been a favorite poet of mine. After hearing Naomi Shahib Nye I also had to pull out her books and read some of her poetry. The news of our new Poet Laureate led me to read retiring PL Ted Koozer, as well as the new PL, Donald Hall. Reading Donald Hall led me back to reading Jane Kenyon's poetry—his wife who died of cancer sometime back. Each poet's work was exciting to read, and the time spent with them triggered my own writing. Then there was the newest Lamont winner from the Academy of American Poets, which reminded me of Li Young Lee. Well, you get the idea—reading poetry just broadens your viewpoint and introduces you to many styles of poetry. I hope you have enjoyed similar explorations during our summer hiatus.

Our brochure is ready and extra copies will be distributed at the first meeting in September. Please take the dates of all our events and mark them on your calendar so you can participate in every one. I hope you spread these brochures out to all your friends and neighbors, we don't want the fine work we do at SMPS to be a secret! I know Christina Flaugher and Bethany Berry are motivated to bring in more young members. What have you done to encourage people to come to meetings? Offer them a ride, hand them a brochure.

Bill Johnson, one of our founding members who was responsible for bringing in over a couple dozen members, use to say that all you need to do is talk about poetry. When you do so, you find poets every where—the grocery store, the tire repair shop, the public library. Don't keep your writing a secret—tell people you are a poet!

I look forward to seeing you at the August Art event and our first September meeting.

SUE

**ARE YOU ATTENDING THE
LOMP FALL MEETING IN
DULUTH?**

**YOU CAN READ ALL ABOUT
THE SPEAKERS, THE RULES
FOR CRITIQUING, THE
CONTEST RESULTS AND THE
ENTIRE PROGRAM IN THE
LOMPLIGHTER, WHICH IS NOW
ONLINE AT www.mnpoets.org.**

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE THE
REPORT BY SMPS MEMBER
MEREDITH COOK OF THE
NFSPS CONVENTION WHICH A
NUMBER OF SMPS MEMBERS
ATTENDED IN SAN ANTONIO,
TEXAS**

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION
FOR THE DULUTH
CONVENTION AND HOTEL
RESERVATIONS ARE ON THE
WEB SITE AS WELL.**

**TAKE A LOOK AT THE WHOLE
WEB SITE! IT MAKES YOU
PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF
THE LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA
POETS. BE SURE AND CHECK
OUT WHAT SOME OF THE
OTHER CHAPTERS ARE DOING
AT THIS WEB SITE!**

www.mnpoets.org