

Thistledown

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Southern Minnesota Poets Society

March 2008



Note from the President

Your president apologizes for the late newsletter. I forgot (though I was certainly informed) that our esteemed newsletter editor would be going out of town at the end of February. So, because I didn't get things done when I should, I am having to humbly fill his shoes.

January and February have been banner months for SMPS! We have been enriched by nine new members who have joined our organization since the start of the year. Please welcome them:

Ida Adams
Keegan Anderson (grandson of Susan Chambers)
Kathryn Doty
Janet Fisch
Craig Groe
Jean Mittelsteadt
Marlys Neufeld
Marvin Ostrom
Charles VanBuskirk

We are most delighted to have each of you as a member of SMPS! To reflect these additions, and to update a number of phone numbers and addresses, we've included an SMPS roster with this newsletter.

Don't miss this month's luncheon meeting, Saturday, March 8, when we will hear from a panel on the joys and adventures of the poetry contest. Our panelists have had great success in the LOPM and NFSPS contests, and some of them have judged competitions as well.

Be sure to read the rest of the newsletter for more great SMPS events and member news. And let's celebrate Minnesota's appointment of its first official state Poet Laureate, Robert Bly!

Regards,
Jana Bouma

SMPS Events

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting: The Adventure of the Poetry Contest** Poetry contests—especially those offered by the League of Minnesota Poets and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies—offer a way to share your poems with others, and to receive recognition and publication of your poems. Hear from Susan Chambers, Shirley Ensrud, and Meredith Cook about the joys, and the ins and outs, of the poetry contest.

Saturday, **March 8 2008**. Meal at **12:30pm** ... program / meeting at **1:00pm**. Emy Frenz Arts Guild. No cost to attend. Bring a lunch and a beverage. *Dessert provided by Shirley Ensrud.*

✓ **"Southern Minnesota Voices: A Poetry Reading"** A joint event of SMPS and the collaborative arts website Northography.com. Featuring poets Betty Benner, Jana Bouma, Tim Brennan, Britt Fleming, and Ike Sarma.

Friday, **March 14 2008**. **7:00 pm**. Emy Frenz Arts Guild. No cost to attend.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry Evening: Poetry Film Night** A video celebration of Robert Bly, Minnesota's new state Poet Laureate! No cost to attend. Thursday, **March 20 2008**. **7:00 p.m.** Emy Frenz Arts Guild. *Beverages provided by Sue Chambers.*

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting: Writing Poetry in a Small Town** Phil Bryant, Associate Professor of English, Gustavus Adolphus College. Saturday, **April 12 2008**. Meal at **12:30pm** ... program / meeting at **1:00pm**. Emy Frenz Arts Guild. No cost to attend. Bring a lunch and a beverage. *Dessert provided by Shirley Ensrud.*

✓ **SMPS Road Trip: Sign up now!** If you would like to join SMPS members for a road-trip to Kieran's Pub in Minneapolis for a SlamMN Poetry Slam, **contact Jana Bouma** (243-4050, jbouma@hickorytech.net) by Tuesday, April 1, so that she can reserve seating and arrange car pools. This event, the SlamMN Semi-Finals, will feature semi-finalists competing for the honor of traveling to the National Poetry Slam. Sign up by: Tuesday, **April 1, 2008**... Poetry Slam: Tuesday, **April 8, 2008** Kieran's Pub, Minneapolis.

Other Literary Happenings

- ✓ **Literary Legends series: poet Mary Oliver!**
 Sunday, **March 30 6:30 pm**
 State Theatre, 850 Hennepin Ave., Mpls.

- ✓ **Minnesota names first state Poet Laureate!**
Robert Bly has been named the first official Minnesota State Poet Laureate. Bly has authored more than 30 books of poetry and numerous books of prose, including the best-seller *Iron John: A Book about Men*. He translated Henrik Ibsen's play, *Peer Gynt*, for a recent production at the Guthrie Theater.

- ✓ **National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention**
 Thursday, **June 19** to Sunday, **June 22, Layton, Utah.**
 Featuring Keynote Speaker David Lee, and readings and sessions with Katharine Coles, Deborah Bogen, Alex Caldiero, Kimberly Johnson, Matt Kennington, and more! For details, go to www.NFSPS.com.

SMPS Member News

- ✓ Two films starring Kathryn Adams (a.k.a. **Kathryn Doty**, a new SMPS member) will be shown and celebrated at the Blue Earth County Library on March 29 at 1:00 p.m. Also, Kathryn's memoir, *Becoming the Mother of Me*, was recently published by Edinborough Press.

- ✓ **Jana Bouma's** poem, "Hearing the News," will appear on www.mnartists.org beginning on April 4, 2008, as part of the weekly poetry series, *What Light*.

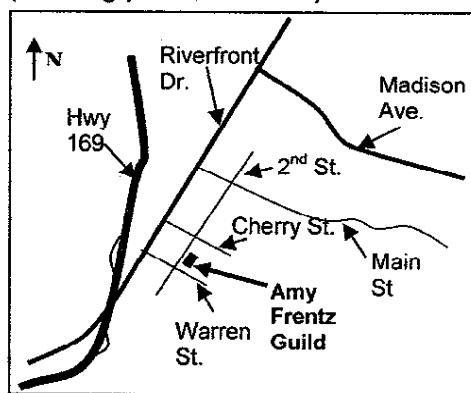
- ✓ An exhibit of artworks by **Craig Roe** is currently on display at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild.

Do you have news about poetry or our SMPS members to share? Pass it along to Jana Bouma, at jbouma@hickorytech.net or (507) 243-4050.

SMPS Officers

President:	Jana Bouma (507) 243-4050 jbouma@hickorytech.net
Vice President:	John Rezmerski
Regional VP	Susan Chambers
Treasurer:	Dorla Wachter
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz bajanorthwest@yahoo.com
Publicity	Geraldine Tostenson
Correspondence Sec.	Sandra Newbauer

The Emy Frenz Arts Guild
 (meeting place of SMPS)



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 (East side of 2nd St., between Cherry and Warren Streets, next to the YWCA)