

Thistledown

❧ Thistledown Photo ❧



This month's image is from a folksong web site in New Zealand (see page 3 for details)

❧ Poetry Walk ❧

Planning has begun for the Mankato Poetry Walk—placement of poems along walking and biking trails in the Mankato area. If you are interested in helping with the poetry contest or any other aspect of the project, contact Yvonne Cariveau at ycariveau@gmail.com soon!

❧ Holiday Gathering Dec. 10 with Ocho and Betty! ❧



BETTY and **OCHO** will be performing at the Southern MN Poets Society Holiday Gathering on December 10, 2011 from 12:30 to 1:30pm. Be there early and get a good seat, these two are terrific! They play at area music venues and have terrific musicality and fun as they perform.

❧ Image and the Word ❧

Poems submitted by December 10, 2011 will be considered for the **FIFTH annual Image and the Word exhibit** (poetry inspired by photography event). Submit at <http://imageandtheword.com>

- Sign up and login.
- Click on DASHBOARD
- You'll see links to VIEW PHOTOS and ADD A RESPONSE POEM.

If you would prefer to submit "offline", send poems to Derek Liebertz at 1131 E. Main Street, Mankato, MN 56001 or bring them to the Holiday SMPS meeting on December 10 and give them to Jana Bouma.

We have over a dozen poets signed up on the web site and poems are flowing in!



Thanks League of MN Poets visitors! Thanks to Sue Chambers for organizing!

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Regular Meetings

Every 2nd Saturday at 12:30 pm
Every 3rd Thursday at 7 pm



[Facebook.com/southernmnpoets](https://www.facebook.com/southernmnpoets)



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

TWIN RIVERS
COUNCIL FOR THE



Get a preview of their music by visiting their web pages at

<http://www.facebook.com/bettyplaysguitar>
and <http://www.ochoTunes.com>

There will be a catered meal to enjoy. Bring your holiday poems to share.

Live entertainment and a wonderful catered meal for \$10 per person!

Be sure to **RSVP by December 3** to Jana Bouma (507-243-4050) so we have a count for meals.

Thank you to Jana for stepping in while Derek is on vacation!

☞ Calls for Poetry—Contests and Others ☛

You are Hear: mnartists.org literary podcast

Sories, poems, spoken word. Any southern MN poets interested in having their poetry recorded—for submission to this podcast, for the SMPS web site or for your own purposes—contact Yvonne at newsletter@southernmnpoets.org.

Submission information for You Are Hear is at <http://www.mnartists.org/article.do?rid=301228>

Lake Region Review

A literary magazine of regional writing, submit by 5/1/12. http://www.lakeregionwriters.net/?page_id=318



Rocksaw Press is seeking original poetry manuscripts for its Blue Skunk Poetry Series.

Manuscripts must be of 24 pages or under (excluding front matter). They do not accept translations or multiple author works. There is no particular theme to the contest.

This year's contest finalists will be judged by Jude Nutter. Winner will receive 50 copies of the chapbook and a \$100 prize. Finalists will receive a copy of the winning chapbook. Reading Period: December 1st, 2011 through April 30, 2012

All submissions must be made online, no hard copies will be accepted. For more information and a link to submit, go to <http://rocksawpress.com/blueskunk.html>

☞ Blast from the Past ☛

From the Thistledown published November, 1983:



Meetings were held at Mr. Rene Banquet Hall. There were 76 members (SMPS was founded in 1976).

Meeting: "Perspectives of Latin American Poets and Poetry" by Dr. Karl Heise from the then-named Mankato State University Foreign Language Department.

The Good Thunder Reading Series featured noted poet-author Carol Muske from the U of Cal. Irvine.

"The Prairie" Poems on that topic were to be submitted to Bill Johnson for possible inclusion in that year's anthology, Prairie Bread.

☞ Manningham Competition ☛

Submissions are due by Feb. 1, 2012

Share this with the young poets and teachers you know. The 24th Annual Manningham Poetry Competition will be doing state and national awards for school year 2011-2012. There are two divisions, Grade 6-8 (Junior) and Grades 9-12 (Senior). There is no entry fee and all students in Minnesota can submit.

The rules and a poster are both available on the SMPS web site and by contacting Sue Chambers (see officers list).

☞ Call for Poets: Poet-Artist Collaboration XI ☛

"Poetry is the journal of the sea animal living on land, wanting to fly in the air. Poetry is a search for syllables to shoot at the barriers of the unknown and the unknowable. Poetry is a phantom script telling how rainbows are made and why they go away."

~Carl Sandburg, Poetry Considered



In honor of National Poetry Month in April, Crossings at Carnegie (Zumbrota, MN) invites poets and artists to submit their work to the eleventh Poet-Artist Collaboration, an annual exhibit in which artists create work inspired by poetry.

Up to 3 poems may be submitted (2 pages per poem). Poems will be juried and those selected to be part of the collaboration will be chosen or assigned to an artist who will create an original piece of art inspired by the poem.

Deadline for poetry entries is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012.

Questions? Contact Crossings at 507-732-7616 or crossings@crossingsatcarnegie.com.

For more information about Crossings, visit

☞ Welcome ☛

Welcome to new Southern MN Poetry member: Donnette Wheelock of Mankato!

Please invite and encourage YOUR friends to come to Saturday meetings or evening events (like 3rd Thursdays).

❧ SMPS Officers ❧

- President** Derek Liebertz
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 (507) 243 - 4050
- Vice President** John Rezmerski
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- Regional VP** Susan Chambers
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- Recording Secretary** Jana Bouma
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- Newsletter Editor** Yvonne Cariveau
newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
- Correspondence Secretary** Sandra Newbauer
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❧ Editor's Corner ❧

Thistledowns are all over the world. This month's image was found on a web site in New Zealand that features a wonderful poem in the Maori language. Below is the first stanza, read the rest and see a video of it being sung at http://folksong.org.nz/he_kakano_ahau/

He Kakano Ahau "Born of Greatness"

I am a seed
 Scattered from Rangiatea
 And I can never be lost
 I am a seed, born of greatness
 Descended from a line of chiefs
 I am a seed.

News to share? newsletter@southernmnpoets.org or post at <http://facebook.com/southernmnpoets>

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **Y V O N N E**

❧ Poetry Events ❧

Reading of Tomas Tranströmer's Poetry

Dec. 12, 2011 7pm: In honor of the 2011 Nobel Prize winner in Literature, Tomas Tranströmer of Sweden, there will be a reading of his work in the Linnaeus Arboretum Interpretive Center. In 1973, Tranströmer did a reading at Gustavus Adolphus College and some of those present at that 1973 event will be reading on the 12th.



Poetry Night with the MN Poetry Society

Dec. 16, 2011 evening: The Grand Kabaret, New Ulm
 Read/perform poetry. Arrange car pooling at Dec 10 meeting.
<http://thegrandnewulm.com/kabaret/calendar>

Spice of Life Variety Show

Dec. 17, 2011 8-10pm: The Coffee Hag, Mankato
 Short plays written by John Rezmerski and Esther Marcella.

Good Thunder Reading Series at MSU

Jan 26, 2012: Mankato Alumni Reading
 Bronson Lemer, Creative Nonfiction Writer, Matt Mauch,
 Poet and Christine Stark, Fiction Writer
 Talk on Craft at 3pm in Ostrander Auditorium
 Reading at 7:30pm on campus at MSU CSU Room 253
 More Information: <http://english2.mnsu.edu/gt/>

❧ I Signed Up For What?!? ❧

Help with refreshments for Saturday meetings (SMD) or drinks for a third Thursday (TTB). Sign up at the next meeting or email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org – thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Jan 2012	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Jan 2012	need a volunteer
(SMD)	Feb 2011	need a volunteer
(TTB)	Feb 2011	need a volunteer
(SMD)	Mar 2011	Jana Bouma
(TTB)	Mar 2011	Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD)	Apr 2011	Janelle Hawkrigde
(TTB)	Apr 2011	Kay Helms
(SMD)	May 2011	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 2011	Derek Liebertz

❧ Membership Renewal ❧

A reminder to renew your SMPS and LOMP (League of Mn Poets) membership. The outer page of this newsletter has a form to complete for SMPS, and on the LOMP website —www.mnpoets.org— you can find their renewal form.

We urge you to join our state organization, the League of MN Poets .

Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Yvonne Cariveau, 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>)