

Thistledown

Thistledown Photo



This month's image is from Scotland.
http://rampantscotland.com/flowers/autumn_c.htm

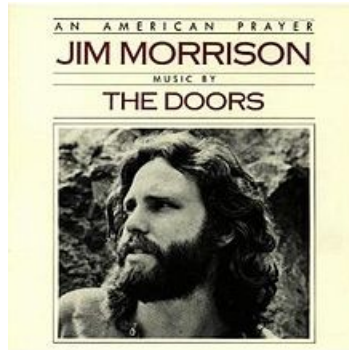
Open stage poetry reading will follow Craig's presentation.

Refreshments will be provided.

Third Thursday with Craig

Craig Groe will be hosting our February Third Thursday at the Emy Frenz Guild from 7-9pm on February 16th.

Craig will premier the new "Captain Jack" movie. He will be reading excerpts from Jim Morrison's poem "An American Prayer".



Inside This Issue

Calls for Poets	2
Blast from the Past	2
Poetry Events	3
Editor's Corner	3
Snacks/Refreshments	3

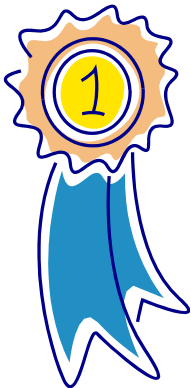
Regular Meetings

2nd Saturdays at 12:30 pm
3rd Thursdays at 7 pm



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

Contest Preparation



Susan Stevens Chambers and Christina Flaughter (President of the League of MN Poets and Susan's daughter) will be presenting at the Second Saturday SMPS meeting on February 11th on the topic of Contest Preparation.

Writing for contests and receiving comments from the judges can help improve your poetry. Learn how contests are run and how to prepare your poems for submission.

Join us for a bag lunch at 12:30pm with meeting starting at 1:00pm.



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

Blizzard Poetry Retreat, January, 2012

The annual Blizzard Retreat, was well-attended and the programs were terrific! Here is a sampling:

Shirley Ensrud: "Poems About Your Mother", Esther Marcella: "Meet Your Inner Critic or Muse", Derek Liebertz: "Unexpected Connections", Meredith Cook: "Acrostic Poems", James Elberling: "Quotes" and Sue Chambers, Christina Flaughter and Janelle Hawkrigde: "Master List of Poem a Day Topics!" Great food, great fun and lots of wonderful poems were generated. Anyone take any pictures?? Looking forward to the Woodtick retreat in the summer!

TWIN RIVERS
COUNCIL FOR THE



☪ Calls for Poetry—Contests and Others ☪

You are Hear: mnartists.org literary podcast

Stories, 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 <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

Roadside Poetry—Your Poem, Outdoors and BIG

Like the Burma Shave signs from the 1950s, Roadside Poetry is a set of 4 billboards with one line of a poem on each.

The mission of The Roadside Poetry Project is to celebrate the personal pulse of poetry in the public landscape. Submissions for Spring and Summer, 2012 are being sought now.

More information: <http://www.roadsidepoetry.org/>

Crossings at Zumbrota: Poet-Artist Collaboration

Poets and artists are invited to submit for an annual exhibit in which artists create work inspired by poetry. Up to 3 poems may be submitted (2 pages per poem). Deadline for poetry entries is Friday, Feb. 10, 2012. Questions? Contact Crossings at 507-732-7616 or crossings@crossingsatcarnegie.com.

☪ Blast from the Past ☪

From **Thistledown** Nov. 2001:



The meeting was held at Barnes & Noble. Ikars (Ike) Sarma was the newsletter editor. The speaker for that month of November was James Elberling. James spoke on the topic “The Chemist as a Poet”.

The poetry assignment for that month was to write a prose poem. Part of the description of this included this note:

“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.”

☪ Wild Thoughts ☪



Chris Heeter runs The Wild Institute, a Minnesota organization, which takes women on outdoor adventure trips (dog sledding, kayaking, snowshoeing, etc.) Chris shares fascinating stories about her trips that teach about team building, balance and leadership.

Chris is a poet and sends poems out to those on her email list, along with information about upcoming trips. To learn more about Chris, the Wild Institute or to get on her email list and receive poems from her, go to <http://thewildinstitute.com>.

Snow.
Now sun and wind re-arranging the décor:
blowing and melting white crystals from
branches of green pine.

Clumps of snow drop rhythmically now
bright white reflects up to blue sky.
Sun on the deck
melts the last of the thin shoveled glaze
back to wet and wood.

I watch this transformation.
So much a part of each day, really,
were I to notice.
And I think of how I, too, am shaped
and transformed each day
by cold and warmth, darkness and light.
Wind blowing clean that which was ready to release.

And that perhaps this way of seeing and being--
as if my transformation were no different
than snow blowing off branches--
would lessen my well practiced resistance
to this most natural of things.

☪ Image and the Word ☪

The fifth annual Image and the Word exhibit is hanging at the Emy Frenz Guild NOW. It will come down on February 15th.

If you have not stopped down to see it, please do. There is a photo there with paper and a box inviting you to write a poem.

Winning Poem was John Rezmerski's "Window"

Winning Picture was "The Witness Tree" by Kay Helms

Winning Pair was "Artist's Colors" by Terri DeGazelle and the poem by Susan Stevens Chambers

☞ Poetry Events ☜

Gerry Tostenson and Margie Larson

Jan through March, Blue Earth County Historical Society
415 E. Cherry Street, Mankato

Gerry Tostenson (our SMPS Treasurer and poet) along with Margie Larson, two artists painting plein air style, will have a show of their work. An opening reception was held on Thursday, January 19th, but you are not too late to see the exhibit!

SMPS February Meetings

Feb 11, 2012 12:30 (lunch) 1pm Meeting
Sue Chambers and Christina Flaugher - Contest preparation and getting poems ready
Feb 16, 2012 7:30pm Craig Groe— see page 1

SMPS March Meetings

Mar 10, 2012 12:30 (lunch) 1pm Meeting
Dr. Karl Heise, retired MSU professor, will share Hispanic poetry.
Mar 15, 2012 7:30pm Youth Night (college writing groups will join us for poetry reading and discussion)

More Than Writing Conference and Bookfair

March 30-31, 2012: MSU Student Union Ballroom
A conference hosted by MSU's Creative Writing MFA program will feature a bookfair, used book sale, panel presentations, and readings. The conference is free and open to the public. More

☞ SMPS Officers ☜

President	Derek Liebertz bajanothwest@yahoo.com (507) 243 - 4050
Vice President	John Rezmerski rez@gac.edu
Regional VP	Susan Chambers poetsue@aol.com
Treasurer	Gerry Tostensen gerrytos@hickorytech.net
Recording Secretary	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net
Newsletter Editor	Yvonne Cariveau newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☞ Editor's Corner ☜

Each month as the end nears, I wonder if there will be enough poetry news to fill these newsletter pages. Every month, by the time I've gathered news from members, checked my events calendar and put it all in—I am struggling to find room for it all.

How wonderful that there are contests and events going on!

Keep an eye on the Books and Poetry section of the Greater Mankato Events calendar for more and be sure to post your events there too!

<http://greatermankatoevents.com/books/>

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

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

Your editor, **YVONNE**

☞ I Signed Up For What?!? ☜

Thanks to everyone that has and has promised to provide refreshments for meetings! For the Feb. meeting, we had to volunteers, so it's "bring your own" dessert month.

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD) (TTB)	Feb 2011 Feb 2011	Bring your own dessert month. Craig Groe
(SMD) (TTB)	Mar 2011 Mar 2011	Jana Bouma Yvonne Cariveau
(SMD) (TTB)	Apr 2011 Apr 2011	Janelle Hawkrigde Kay Helms
(SMD) (TTB)	May 2011 May 2011	Meredith Cook Derek Liebertz

☞ Membership Renewal ☜

Thanks to Betty Benner, Janelle Hawkrigde, Phyllis Borchert and Gerry Tostenson for renewing your SMPS memberships!

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.

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>)