

Thistledown

❧ Blizzard Event Photos (see page 3 for details) ❧



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❧ Get Your Critique Here — Poems Wanted! ❧

Looking for some constructive feedback on your verse, or just an honest response to a poem? This is your chance! At the Mar 13th luncheon meeting, Jana Bouma will offer poetry critiques.

Poems must be submitted by Feb 28th. Submit **one poem** to [Sue Chambers](#), who will forward the poems anonymously to Jana. Sue can be reached in person at the February events, or —

By postal mail: 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037
By email: schambersmediator@yahoo.com



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

❧ From the Poetic Oval Office ❧

If you missed the January 28 Blizzard Poets reading, you missed a dynamite event. Several of the esteemed Blizzard poets were there, as was Amy Korteum with her harp, and some terrific performers from the local open mike poetry scene. Fabulous!



At Sue Chambers' annual Blizzard Poetry Retreat, the mushroom soup was great, the poetry ideas were flying, and the sun in the sunroom was cozy. It was a great way to warm up a few cold days

in January. If you missed it, put July 15-18 on your calendar. That's when Sue hosts her Woodticks poetry retreat near Brainerd.

Don't miss our premier February events! Sue Chambers and John Calvin Rezmerski will highlight Valentine's Day with a workshop on love poetry at our February 13 meeting, and we'll celebrate "The Image and the Word," our collaborative poet/artist event, with a reading on February 18. Hope you can be there!

Regards,
Jana Bouma



☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☯

SMPS - Specific Local Events

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

February 13, 2010

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat
1:00pm "To Write of Love: a Workshop"

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Sue Chambers and John Rezmerski examine the tricks of the trade for one of a poet's most sacred duties — writing about the subject of **love**. Not to be missed.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry: Gallery Exhibit Reception**

February 18, 2010 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Thank you! to the poets and photographers who submitted stunning entries for our "Image and the Word" exhibit. We celebrate the artists and our third annual gallery run with an evening of readings, refreshment, and fun. Please join us for this once-a-year event!

☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☯

Regional Events

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series -**

Eddice B. Barber Visiting Writer Residency

February 16 - 19, 2010

3:00pm Talk on craft (CSU Ostrander Auditorium)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

This event in the series features fiction writer Aryn Kyle.

✓ **Road Trip Opportunity: Minneapolis Poetry Slam**

February 27, 2010 at 7:55pm

Kieran's Pub Minneapolis, MN

For those of you who'd like to experience slam poetry:

SlamMN is having a Saturday (!) Slam on Feb 27th at Kieran's Pub in Minneapolis. This rare weekend event is an opportunity for us out-of-towners to catch some world-class slam.

If you'd like to road trip, contact Jana, 243-4050 or email jbouma@hickorytech.net. **Caution:** Raunchy material, mature themes, and strong language are to be expected.

✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

March 25, 2010

This event in the series features poets Lucille Clifton and Jorge Evans.

☯ SMPS Member News ☯

- **Loraine Mueller** has moved to a nursing home in South Dakota. Mail can be sent to her c/o Jeannie Endres, 1106 18th St NE, Watertown, SD 57201. Phone: 605-753-3261.
- **Sue Chambers and John Rezmerski** spoke on "The Importance of Titles" as "The Salon", a series of literary talks at Bryant Lake Bowl. Thanks for representing SMPS!
- Friends of SMPS: Local spoken word poet Jennifer Miller, who has been a guest at several SMPS events, is featured in the February issue of *Mankato Magazine*. Another spoken word artist, Jade Metzger, competed on February 2 in the finals for a chance to represent SlamMN at the Women of the World Poetry Slam. Kudos to both!

☯ It's Renewal Time! ☯

Keep SMPS vital and growing by renewing your membership! The new membership year began on January 1. The back page of this newsletter has a renewal form. Do it now!

We also encourage all SMPS members to join our parent organization, the League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP). Joining LOMP gives you the opportunity to enter state and national poetry contests, to be published in the Moccasin literary journal, to receive the LOMP newsletter, and to get to know poets from around the state. For a LOMP membership form, go to www.mnpoets.org and click on "Join."

☯ SMPS Officers ☯

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

☯ Editor's Corner ☯

Front-page photos this month were taken during the Blizzard Poets reading, a bonus Thursday event that kicked off this year's retreat. Shown are Marlys Neufeld and Jennifer Miller.

Below is one more photo, this time of a group in the sun room at Sue's house, ideas and ink flowing freely.

I don't know about you, but the piles of snow had put a cap on my writing the last couple months. I wondered if my pen was even **welded shut**. Luckily, the sun keeps rising; no slump lasts forever. In my case, the photos for our gallery exhibit shook me awake, but each person will find a different catalyst.

That's it for this month ... just a gentle blessing to you all as you read or write, in case you're stuck too. See you in March!

Your editor, **D E R E K**

☯ I Signed Up For What?!? ☯

Thank you to the members who have already signed up.

Everyone else - several slots are *still open*. Talk to Jana or Derek if you see us at a meeting, or email if you are interested in helping with snacks and refreshments.

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Feb 13	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Feb 18	Yvonne & Derek
(SMD)	Mar 13	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(TTB)	Mar 18	Jill Niebuhr
(SMD)	Apr 10	Judy Mosca
(TTB)	Apr 15	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	May 8	Meredith Cook
(TTB)	May 20	<i>need a volunteer</i>

Poetry & Music Evenings (Featured Poets)

May 20, 2010 Meredith Cook & Karsten Piper



Southern Minnesota Poets Society
c/o Derek Liebertz, 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>)