

Thistledown

☞ Monthly Photo ☛



This month's photo is by Broot (see page 3 for details)

☞ Poetry Challenge ☛

Okay folks, it's been a while since I issued a challenge: write a poem for the December issue about the holidays from a buyer's point of view. Submissions emailed back to newsletter@southernmnpoets.org by December 1. Sample (please do better):

They've got a card for it

Believe me, the season doesn't matter.
Autumn Summer Winter Spring --
Hallmark, Inc. © has got your thing.

It could be that you have gotten fatter.
Graduation Surgery Birthday Loss --
probably one that mentions dental floss.

Mixing up some choco-Christmas batter?
Santa Bunny Leprechaun Ghost --
plenty now that show a turkey roast.

All these choices leave me Mad as a Hatter.
Standing in the aisle a drooling twit --
Any day, they've got a card for it.

- Derek Liebertz

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Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

☞ Image and the Word IV: Release the Hounds ☛

Like our wonderful Blizzard and Woodtick retreats where we are bathed in phrase images generously shared by our fellow poets, this event -- at least for me -- creates a fertile place where wisps of ideas are born. Then the fun and work begins to capture them and grow them into poems.

The photos from our Image and the Word event stimulate wonderful poems and I know that some of the poems have in turn sparked more poetry. We are hoping this year to also have photography or other art inspired by poems.

A great Möbius cycle of inspiration!

Yvonne Cariveau

With all due respect to my wife Yvonne, I must admit that a computer screen tends to dominate my daily life. I use a computer for work and recreation, so it's common for the technical side of my brain to do all the "heavy lifting" on any given day.

Events like Image and the Word energize me, kick-start my creative engine, shove me off that inertial La-Z-Boy recliner. I suddenly make time in my day to appreciate artwork for its own sake, and then I grab the rabbit's ears and pull something fun out of my ... **hat**. I hope you'll join us in the magic show this year.

Derek Liebertz



☯ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☮

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Friday Night Feast**

November 12, 2010 at 6:00pm

The Chambers Estate

57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037

Sue Chambers has graciously invited people over for dinner to meet Doris Stengel and enjoy an evening read-around as a warm up for the Saturday program. She will prepare a couple hearty soups -- attendees are asked to bring an appetizer, bread, salad, or dessert. My stomach has already RSVP'd.

✓ **Saturday Luncheon Meeting**

November 13, 2010

12:30pm Bring your own lunch and chat

1:00pm ***Sending Your Child Off To School***

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Interested in getting your poetry (single poems or book manuscripts) off to magazines, chapbook competitions, and the like? Brainerd poet Doris Stengel will talk about getting your poetry out into the world. Listen to her recent experiences walking this road.

✓ **Third Thursday Poetry Reading**

November 18, 2010 at 7:00pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Please join us Thursday evening for College Poet night, which features guest poets from area colleges. This will be a chance to interact with "new blood" and meet interesting people in the poetry community. See you there!

✓ **Call for Submissions: Image and the Word IV**Deadline: *December 5, 2010*

The fourth annual Image and the Word gallery exhibit is now accepting submissions for "source" material. We are looking for both poems and photographs, so don't be shy.

We have a website dedicated to exhibit organization this year where you can sign up to participate and submit entries. Visit <http://www.imageandtheword.com> today! Don't worry, we still accept delivery by mail too, but we do prefer use of the website. The gallery exhibit will be shown in the Emy Frentz Guild hall from February 20 -- March 9, 2011.

✓ **Holiday Celebration**

December 11, 2010 at 12:30pm

Emy Frentz Arts Guild

Our tradition of a holiday meal continues this year. Please RSVP to Jana Bouma by December 3 if you will attend. The cost of the catered event is \$10.00 per person.

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

Regional Events✓ **Good Thunder Reading Series**

November 11, 2010

3:00pm Talk on craft (Ostrander Auditorium)

7:30pm Reading (CSU Room 253)

Minnesota State Mankato

Full info here: <http://www.english2.mnsu.edu/gt>

Presenter information:

Melissa Kwasny is the author of three books of poetry, *The Archival Birds*; *Thistle*, which also won the Idaho Prize for 2006; and the recent *Reading Novalis* in Montana.

Lee Ann Roripaugh was born and raised in Laramie, Wyoming. Her first volume of poetry, *Beyond Heart Mountain*, was selected by Ishmael Reed for the National Poetry Series and was also a finalist for the 2000 Asian American Literature Awards.

Yusef Komunyakaa was born in Bogalusa, Louisiana, in 1947. His honors include the William Faulkner Prize from the Université de Rennes, the Thomas Forcade Award, the Hanes Poetry Prize, and the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam, where he served as a managing editor of *The Southern Cross*.

Editor's note: Wow. I seriously abbreviated these biographies. This should be a superb event to attend.

✓ **Big Deal Poetry Open Stage**

November 20, 2010 from 8:00pm -- 10:00pm

Coffee Hag, Mankato

Hosted by the talented Jade Metzger. Two hours of great performance poetry. Yummy caffeine. **Be there.**

✓ **Call for Submissions: Poet-Artist Collaboration X**Deadline: *February 11, 2011*Straight from <http://www.crossingsatcarnegie.com> --

"Crossings at Carnegie invites poets and artists to submit their work to the tenth Poet-Artist Collaboration, an annual exhibit in which artists create work inspired by poetry."

This wonderful tradition is another opportunity for mixing the talents of poets and other artists. Please go to the website and read the full list of guidelines and participate in the event!

☯ SMPS Officers ☮

President	Jana Bouma jbouma@hickorytech.net (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	Yvonne Cariveau ycariveau@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Derek Liebertz newsletter@southernmnpoets.org
Correspondence Secretary	Sandra Newbauer snewbauer0147@charter.net

☯ Editor's Corner ☮

Worth a repeat from last issue: Each month I am hoping for a volunteer from SMPS to write a short article.

The subject is up to you and the length would be somewhere around 200 - 300 words. One member has promised to submit a piece, but most slots are open. If you're interested please contact me.

The newsletter image is by Flickr user "Broot". What a great, close-up image of tiny dew droplets on the individual strands of a thistledown seed. You can see the original photo in higher resolution at:

www.flickr.com/photos/broot/5006123959/

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

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

☯ Membership Renewal ☮

The beginning of 2011 is on the doorstep, and with the new year comes a reminder to get your SMPS and LOMP membership renewed. 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.

A reminder for you all:

For SMPS to be a LOMP chapter, one half of our members must also be LOMP members -- we urge you to join our state organization.

☯ SMPS Member News ☮

- John Rezmerski has a new book out entitled "BREAKING THE RULES: Starting With Ghazals", published by Red Dragonfly Press. Christmas present, anyone?

☯ I Signed Up For What!?!? ☮

Talk to Derek at a meeting if you are interested in helping, or email newsletter@southernmnpoets.org -- thank you!

Saturday Meeting Desserts & Third Thursday Beverages

(SMD)	Nov 13	Linda Reuben
(TTB)	Nov 18	Marv Ostrom
(SMD)	Jan 8, 2011	Marv Ostrom
(TTB)	Jan 20, 2011	John Rezmerski
(SMD)	Feb 12, 2011	Sue Chambers
(TTB)	Feb 17, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(SMD)	Mar 12, 2011	Ike Sarma
(TTB)	Mar 17, 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(SMD)	Apr 9, 2011	Sandy Newbauer
(TTB)	Apr 21, 2011	Ike Sarma
(SMD)	May 14, 2011	<i>need a volunteer</i>
(TTB)	May 18, 2011	Derek Liebertz

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>)