

Thistledown

❧ Monthly Photo ❧



This month's photo is by Pettygroves (see page 3)

❧ IW4 Update ❧

The chosen images for 2011's Image and the Word will be on display at the upcoming Saturday meeting. A copy of the images will be left at the front desk until the deadline. You can also view the source images online now at www.imageandtheword.com.

If possible, please use the website for your poetry responses. We understand this is not everyone's cup of tea, though; you can also mail them here:

Image and the Word 2011
1131 E Main St
Mankato, MN 56001

The deadline is *January 24, 2011* (last day of the Blizzard Retreat. We will also have copies of the photos at Sue's place. Happy writing!

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❧ Poetry Challenge Responses ❧

Thank you for all the responses I received from my previous challenge: *a holiday poem from the buyer's point of view*. I would like to share Meredith Cook's terrific submission with you all in this newsletter, a funny reminder of the just-past season.

Now I need to do some scheming and give you all another challenge!

Caveat Emptor Planning Ahead

Last Christmas past, I watched the sales for items that remind me of friends and family, since I don't like giving present blindly, and haven't cash to flush into the economic seas at even levels ads imply

show scantest of degrees of admiration and respect towards those to whom they're gifted.

So all year long I kept in mind friends' interests while I sifted through end-cap closeouts, rummage sales, and thrift store stocks, to capture a present that's within my means but still will bring friends rapture.

I watched. I pounced. I set aside; shopped months before the season. So why, when it comes time to wrap, am I out shopping, freezing'?

Though I bought perfect gifts, it's true, where they are stored I have no clue.



Located at 523 South 2nd Street
in downtown Mankato

TWIN RIVERS
COUNCIL FOR THE



☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far ☛

SMPS - Specific Local Events✓ **Luncheon Program: Meaningless on the page?**

January 8, 2011 at 12:30pm
 Emy Frentz Arts Guild

On Saturday, performance poet Esther Marcella will take a look at some of the divisions within the poetry world. What do categories like 'academic poet', 'performance', 'slam', and 'mystical' mean? Do we have to choose a label? You should be curious about what Esther will say. I am.

✓ **Blizzard Poetry Retreat**

January 20 -- 23, 2011
 The beautiful Susan Chambers Estate
 57310 166th Lane
 Good Thunder, MN 56037

This annual gathering is simply the place to be for some poetic inspiration! We read poetry, write poetry, eat good food; read poetry, write poetry, eat good food -- you get the idea. All are welcome to attend!

No cost, but guests are asked to bring food to share, and a 30-minute presentation about poetry. Don't be intimidated! Talk about your favorite poet, or throw out a writing invitation!

Sue will provide lodging for out-of-town guests. Meet poets from all over Minnesota, and beyond! For information, or to sign up for the retreat, contact Sue by phone at 507-278-4200 or by email at chambersmediator@yahoo.com.

✓ **Third Thursday Reading: Blizzard Poets**

January 20, 2011 at 7:00pm
 Emy Frentz Arts Guild

We are kicking off the 2011 Blizzard Retreat by featuring poets attending the four-day event during our monthly evening reading, especially those hardy souls who are visiting from far outside of the area. The variety and poetic chops should be terrific, please join us!

✓ **Bonus Blizzard Friday Reading**

January 21, 2011 at 7:30pm
 Grand Kabaret
 210 North Minnesota Street
 New Ulm, MN

The Grand Center for Arts & Culture of New Ulm Arts Entertainment Series presents a night of poetry from the statewide poets "Blizzard Writer's Retreat" participants. We hope to intersperse a little music with the poetry; you are welcome to bring an instrument if you wish to play. Contact the Kabaret at 507-359-9222 or info@thegrandnewulm.com.

☞ Poetry Events, Near and Far (cont.) ☛

Regional Events✓ **Opening Reception for Art Exhibit**

January 21 -- February 20, 2011 **Exhibit duration**
 January 22, 2011 from 2:00 -- 5:00pm **Opening reception**
 1st Annual Prairie Lakes/McKnight Artist Grantee Art Exhibition
 featuring artist grantees from 2009 and 2010
 315 South Minnesota Avenue
 St. Peter, MN

The Arts Center in St. Peter always has terrific exhibits, and this should be another home run. Our esteemed SMPS president Jana Bouma will be one of the readers at the opening reception.

Gallery hours each week for the center are:

Tuesday -- Friday, 11:00am -- 6:00pm

Saturday -- Sunday, 1:00 -- 5:00pm

Contact the Arts Center by phone at 507-931-3630 or by email at www.artscentersp.org.

✓ **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!

✓ **Call for Submissions: NFSPS Poetry Contests**

Deadline: *March 15, 2011*

The yearly National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Poetry Contest entry period started January 1, 2011.

Visit http://www.nfsps.com/poetry_contests.htm for details and good luck to all who enter!

☪ SMPS Officers ☪

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☪ Editor's Corner ☪

Where did 2010 sneak off to, and why did it leave in such a rush anyway? Maybe it was the winter wonderland that it gave us for a present ... think it felt guilty, hmm?!

A toast to our incoming year 2011 -- "May your four seasons comfort, not corral us, and we will do you justice in the poems held within our hearts." There, hopefully that will provide a smooth and long spring. Toastmaster Poetry Voodoo!

The newsletter photo this month is by Flickr user Pettygroves. You can see the original photo in higher resolution at: www.flickr.com/photos/pettygroves/3912883119/

Happy reading and writing, everyone.

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

☪ Membership Renewal ☪

Oh ho, 2011 has arrive and with it the need 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 ☪

- Our condolences are with John Rezmerski and his wife Lorna as they mourn the recent loss of her mother.

☪ 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) | 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 | need a volunteer |
| (SMD) | Apr 9, 2011 | Sandy Newbauer |
| (TTB) | Apr 21, 2011 | Ike Sarma |
| (SMD) | May 14, 2011 | Meredith Cook |
| (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>)