

“A SUPERIOR CONVENTION”

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES

50TH Annual Convention

The Inn on Lake Superior

Duluth, Minnesota

Thursday, June 11 to Monday, June 15, 2009

LODGING DETAILS: Participants must make their own hotel arrangements. Rooms are \$128.00 for Standard Rooms, \$158.00 for 2 bedroom suites (which can sleep up to 7-8). Rate includes a full breakfast and s'mores every evening. Hotel reservations must be received on or before **MAY 13, 2009** to receive special rate. We will help coordinate roommates if you request. Contact Shirley Ensrud: smebooks@bevcomm.net

You can register Online using Group ID 1596 and Password 37000613. Log onto www.innonlakesuperior.com, click on “Reservations” Box, at top of page choose the “Groups” Tab, enter ID and Password and make reservation. Or call toll free 888-668-4352, local number 218-726-1111. Be sure and specify NFSPS for group rate.

NWA AIRLINES 7% DISCOUNT: We have made arrangements with Northwest Airlines for Convention attendees. This is for travel a week before convention to a week afterwards. The code to use is as follows: NM2TX (If there are 40 flyers or more the discount will be greater.) There are direct flights to Duluth.

The Skyline Shuttle runs from Mpls 5 times per day, \$69.00 for 1st rider, \$50.00 each additional. This takes approximately 2 1/2 hours. www.skylineshuttle.com or 1-888-354-2677

***ADDITIONAL TOURS**

In addition to the above-listed Harbor/Dinner Cruise on Thursday evening, there will be tours of the Duluth area on Thursday morning, Thursday afternoon and a longer tour of the North Shore area on Monday. Prices and information will be forthcoming in the next Strophes.

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## **CRITIQUE SESSION TO BE HELD AT CONVENTION**

One of our sessions will involved critiquing of poems of attendees at convention. Our workshop leaders will select 5 to 10 poems to highlight during the session, but all poems submitted will get a written critique.

Submit your poem on or before May 1, 2009. No more than 24 lines, on left hand side designate the type of poem “free verse” “sonnet”, etc. 2 copies, one with name and address, one without identification. Poems will be returned at the end of the session. You must be attending convention to submit.

**Mail your entries to:**  
**Susan Stevens Chambers**  
57310 166<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Good Thunder, Mn 56037

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS WELCOMED:**  
[schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com)  
(in Re: line please identify it as a critique poem submission)

## MARK DOTY: KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT NFSPS

Mark Doty, the only American poet to have won Great Britain's T. S. Eliot Prize, is the author of six books of poems. The first, *Turtle, Swan*, appeared in 1987. His third collection, *My Alexandria* (1993), received both the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Since then he has published *Atlantis* (1995), *Sweet Machine* (1998), *Source* (2001), and the most recent critically acclaimed volume of poems, *School of the Arts* (2005), HarperCollin. He is the author of the memoirs *Heaven's Coast* (1996), *Firebird* (1999), and *Dog Years* (2007). His interest in the visual arts is evident not only in his poems but also in his book-length essay "Still Life with Oysters and Lemon" (2001). Among his many awards are two NEA fellowships, Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundation Fellowships, a Lila Wallace/Readers Digest Award, and the Witter Byner Prize. As the award citation for the last of these noted, "Mark Doty's poems extend the range of the American lyric." Doty teaches in the graduate program the University of Houston, and is a frequent guest at Columbia University, Hunter College, and NYU. He lives in Houston and in New York City.



"With his clarity of vision and great heart, Doty stands among us an emblematic and shining presence." —Stanley Kunitz

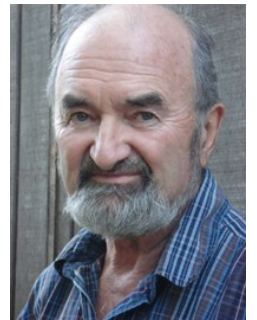
"A new book of poems—or of anything—by Mark Doty is good news in a dark time. The precision, daring, scope, elegance of his compassion and of the language in which he embodies it are a reassuring pleasure." —W. S. Merwin

"If it were mine to invent the poet to complete the century of William Carlos Williams and Wallace Stevens, I would create Mark Doty just as he is, a maker of big, risky, fearless poems in which ordinary human experience becomes music." —Philip Levine

## Michael Dennis Browne: Speaker at NFSPS

Michael Dennis Browne's fifth collection of poetry, *Selected Poems 1965-1995*, published by Carnegie Mellon University Press, won the Minnesota Book Award for poetry in 1998. His previous book, *You Won't Remember This*, won a Minnesota Book Award in 1993. He has taught at Iowa, Columbia, Bennington, and, since 1971, the University of Minnesota, where he is a Morse-Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and former director of the program in creative writing.

As a librettist, he has written many texts for music, working principally with composers Stephen Paulus and John Foley S.J. His latest collaboration with Stephen Paulus, the post-Holocaust oratorio *To be Certain of the Dawn*, was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in music by the Minnesota Orchestra in 2005 and was recorded by them in 2008.



Browne's poems have been published in many magazines and anthologies, and his awards include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bush Foundation, the Jerome Foundation, and the McKnight Foundation.

*Give Her the River*, a picture book with paintings by Wendell Minor, was published in 2004 by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. *Things I Can't Tell You*, a new collection of poetry, was published in 2005 by Carnegie Mellon University Press. Carnegie Mellon will publish *What the Poem Wants: Prose on Poetry* in 2009. Browne is married to Lisa McLean and they have three children: Peter, Mary and Nellie.

## Connie Wanek: Speaker at NFSPS

Connie Wanek lives in Duluth, Minnesota. She was born in Wisconsin in 1952, and lived on a farm outside Green Bay until her family moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico in 1964. In 1989 she moved with her husband and two children to Duluth. She was educated at New Mexico State University, and worked in a family solar heating business for many years. Also, she worked at the Duluth Public Library and restored a number of old houses. Her books of poems include *Bonfire* (1997) and *Hartley Field* (2002), and she was co-editor of a prize-winning comprehensive historical anthology of Minnesota women poets, *To Sing Along the Way* (2006). Poet Laureate Ted Kooser named her a 2006 Witter Bynner Fellow of the Library of Congress. Her third book of poems, *On Speaking Terms*, is forthcoming in 2009 from Copper Canyon Press.



## Anna George Meek: Speaker at NFSPS

Anna George Meek has published in *Poetry*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Yale Review*, *The Paris Review*, *Threepenny Review*, and many other national journals. She is the recipient of an Academy of American Poetry Prize, a Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, and most recently, a 2009 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. She has been a finalist for the National Poetry Series (twice), the Minnesota Book Award, and the Yale Series of Younger Poets. Her first book "Acts of Contortion" won the 2002 Brittingham Prize in Poetry. Meek lives with her husband and daughter in Minneapolis, where she teaches writing, sings professionally as a member of the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, and works as a freelance violinist.



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## REGISTRATION FORM

|                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Participant Name:                   |                                 |
| Participant Name:                   |                                 |
| Address:                            |                                 |
| Phone:                              | E-Mail:                         |
| Membership Affiliation:             | How long attending conventions? |
| Spouse/Guest* Name:                 |                                 |
| Names & Ages of children attending: |                                 |

## CONVENTION FEES

|                                |  |                  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|
| # of Members/Participants      |  | @ \$75.00        |
| # of Participants under 18     |  | @ \$35.00        |
| # of Single Day Participants   |  | @ \$35.00 perday |
| #of Guests                     |  | @ \$15.00        |
| <b>TOTAL REGISTRATION COST</b> |  | <b>\$</b>        |

| MEALS                  | NUMBER | PRICE    | TOTAL     |
|------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Thursday Dinner Cruise |        | \$46.00  | \$        |
| Friday Lunch           |        | \$20.00  | \$        |
| Friday Dinner          |        | \$30.00  | \$        |
| Saturday Lunch         |        | \$20.00  | \$        |
| Saturday Dinner        |        | \$30.00  | \$        |
| Sunday Lunch           |        | \$20.00  | \$        |
| Sunday Dinner          |        | \$30.00  | \$        |
| TOTAL MEAL PACKAGE     |        | \$196.00 | \$        |
| <b>TOTAL MEAL COST</b> |        |          | <b>\$</b> |

|                                                       |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>MEALS AND REGISTRATION - TOTAL CONFERENCE COST</b> | <b>\$</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|

***Make checks payable to:  
League of Minnesota Poets  
Mail registration form and check to:***

Jim Elberling NFSPS Convention Registrar  
1766 Karis Way  
Eagan, MN 55122  
651-688-8815  
j.elberling@comcast.net