

# LOMP *lighter*

A Quarterly Publication of the League of Minnesota Poets

FEBRUARY 2017

## about us >>>

League of Minnesota Poets (LOMP), organized in 1934, holds biannual meetings, supports regional chapters in Minnesota, and publishes the *Moccasin* poem anthology.

www.mnpoets.com

Advertising Rates:

Fees for an 2.5" x 5" ad are \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. There can be no more than 8 ads per edition.

## membership >>>

Annual membership fee: \$20 (\$10 for K-12 students)

Membership includes the quarterly newsletter, *LOMPLighter*, National Federation of State Poetry Societies membership, and the NSFSP annual publication, *Strophes*.

Mail fees to LOMP Treasurer Mary Schmidt  
4921 33rd Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

## chapters >>>

Heartland Poets ... Brainerd Lakes

Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers ..... Twin Cities

Southeastern Minnesota Poets ..... Rochester

Southern Minnesota Poets Society ..... Mankato

Grand View Poets ..... St. Cloud/Sartell

Cracked Walnut ..... Twin Cities

## NFSPS Convention June 29-July 2

### THE ART AND SOUL OF POETRY

Travel to Fort Worth, Texas, for the 2017 NFSPS Convention, headquartered at the historic Hilton hotel, located in downtown Fort Worth. There are three restaurants in the hotel, and others within walking distance.

There will be time Thursday to see the longhorn cattle drive at the Stockyards, and visit one or more of the museums in the Arts District. After dinner Thursday night, convention contest winners will read their prize poems, followed by musical entertainment.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday will be packed with programs, meetings, workshops, meals, readings, contest announcements, and other activities. A poetry/art project will be ongoing, culminating on Sunday morning with a reading at the FW Water Gardens and the creation of a PoetTree.

Loved throughout the world for her moving performances and poetry readings, Dr. Carmen Tafolla, our keynote speaker, is a poet, storyteller, performance artist, motivational speaker, and university professor. In 2015, Tafolla was named Poet Laureate of the State of Texas. The author of more than 20 books, Tafolla has received numerous awards, including the Americas Award, five International Latino Book Awards, two Tomas Rivera Book Awards, two ALA Notable Books, a Charlotte Zolotow Award, the Art of Peace Award, Top Ten Books for Babies, and has been recognized by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies for work which "gives voice to the peoples and cultures of this land."



Additional speakers include Urania Fung, instructor at Tarrant County College; Anne McCrady, poet and storyteller; Pat Stodghill, Poet Laureate of TX, past president of PST and NFSPS; Dr. Nathan Brown, Poet Laureate of OK—who now lives in Texas; Karla Morton, Poet Laureate of TX; Beth and Mark Ayers, Magic Lantern enthusiasts; Scott Wiggerman, Dos Gatos Press; Diane Glancy, winner of the 2016 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize.

## From your President >>>

Language shapes the world around us. Our words and our voices are more important now than ever. Part of the beauty of poetry is it opens us to ideas we have never thought of, emotions we've never felt, and to new ways of experiencing the world around us. Not only is it important to put our words out there for others to better understand our personal experience, but it is vital that we take in and listen to the words of others to understand the layers that overlap our experiences. This enriches our connection to our communities as a whole, not just the writing community.

These are times where it is important to reflect on what really matters to us. The year ahead will undoubtedly pose challenges to many individuals as well as organizations. Promoting not just poetry, but the interchange of ideas through free expression is needed. Some of the greatest American poets such as Whitman and Sandburg encapsulated the beauty of the American landscape, but were also not shy in admitting its flaws. The challenge will be to encourage the rich landscape of poetic voices in state to celebrate the beauty of our minds, as well as to reflect on ways to improve ourselves and our communities.

This year, The League will work on making the connection of our poets throughout the state stronger. We have created a Membership Chair position which Amanda Bailey, our Vice President, volunteered to take on. We'll be reaching out to members at large to consider how we can create more opportunities in those areas. Especially if you are in an area with few or no literary events, we would like to help connect you to other members in your area. We would love to share words with you, and hear from all the poetic voices of members around the state. Please contact Amanda or me if you would like to have get some more literary involvement in your area and we'll do what we can to get something going.

Sincerely,

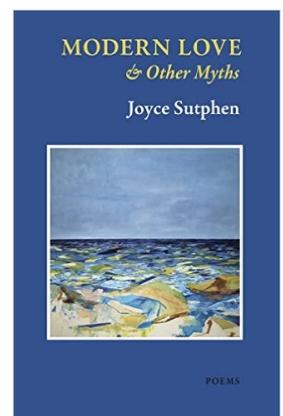
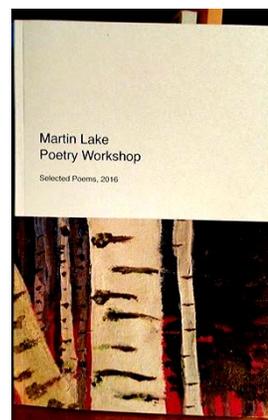
Peter Stein, League of Minnesota Poets President

## MEMBER SHOUT OUTS

Congrats to several of our members:

- Laura Hansen, Jennifer Lundstrom Hernandez, Michael Kiesow Moore, Rebecca Ramsden, Mary Schmidt, Ruth Schmidt-Baeumler, Peter Stein, River Urke, and John Wenstrom have poems included in the Martin Lake Poetry Workshop publication. If you'd like to get your hands on a copy, talk to John Wenstrom or look for it at Boneshaker Books. All proceeds go to the NACE - North Anoka County Emergency Foodshelf. Thanks Martin Lake Poetry Workshop for all the work put in to making the publication possible!
- Joyce Sutphen, 28th Annual Minnesota Book Award finalist for *Modern Love and Other Myths*

If you would like us to share your publications, send the information to [info@mnpoets.com](mailto:info@mnpoets.com) and we'll include you in the next *LOMPlighter*.



# April is National Poetry Month

April was first recognized as National Poetry Month in 1996, spearheaded by the Academy of American Poets on the steps of a post office in New York City. There, the story goes, Academy staff members handed out copies of T.S. Eliot's poem, "The Waste Land," which begins, "April is the cruellest month..." to individuals waiting in line to mail their tax returns.

National Poetry Month is the largest literary celebration in the world, with tens of millions of readers, students, K-12 teachers, librarians, booksellers, literary events curators, publishers, bloggers, and, of course, poets marking poetry's important place in our culture and our lives. This is a time to highlight the extraordinary legacy and ongoing achievement of American poets, encourage the reading of poems, assist teachers in bringing poetry into their classrooms, increase the attention paid to poetry by national and local media, encourage increased publication and distribution of poetry books, and encourage support for poets and poetry.

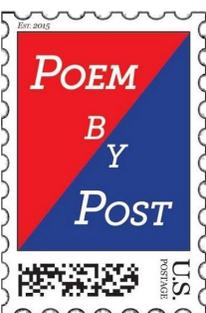
## POEM IN YOUR POCKET

April 27 is Poem in Your Pocket Day, a day when people throughout the United States celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day.

For more ideas on how to celebrate National Poetry Month, visit [www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/30-ways-celebrate-national-poetry-month](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month/30-ways-celebrate-national-poetry-month)

## NFSPS CONVENTION CONTEST TEXAS HOLD'EM

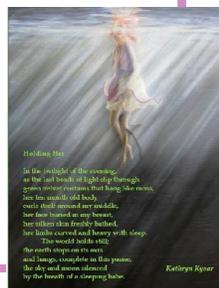
If you plan to attend the convention, focus like you're playing Texas Hold'em and enter your unpublished works in the 2017 NSFSP Convention Poetry Contest. Enter as many poems as you'd like; the fee is \$10 for 3 (or fewer) poems, \$20 for 6, etc. Keep it under 36 lines, but form and subject and entirely up to you. Make checks payable to Poetry Society of Texas and mail 2 copies of each poem to J. Paul Holcomb, Convention Contest Chair, 235 Shady Hill Ln, Double Oak, TX 75077-8270 by March 15, 2017. Label one copy of each poem with your name, address, phone number, and LOMP membership status. The other copy should be identification-free.



### Poem by Post

Receive a monthly postcard with a poem and art. Each month features a new contemporary poet. Enter Coupon Code "LOMPmember" for a \$6 discount.

### Home is Where the Poem is



Visit [www.poembypost.com](http://www.poembypost.com) and sign up today!

# About LOMP

## officers >>>

**PRESIDENT:** Peter Stein  
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marylschmidt2014@gmail.com

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**PAST PRESIDENT:**  
Dennis Herschbach

## appointments >>>

**LOMP Poet Laureate:**  
Doris Stengel

**MOCCASIN EDITOR:**  
Meredith R. Cook

**HISTORIAN:**  
Shirley Poliquin

**LOMPLIGHTER EDITOR:**  
Joe Anderson

**PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN:**  
SuzAnne Wipperling

**YOUTH CHAIRMAN:**  
Brendan Brophy

# LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES: Adults \$20.00, Students (K-12) \$10.00. Dues are payable in January of each year.

The League's fiscal year is January 1 to December 31. All League officers are volunteers who donate their time to the organization.

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:** League of Minnesota Poets dues entitle you to full participation in all League events and automatically make you a member in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Events include state and national poetry contests, conventions, and annual workshops. Also included are state and national newsletters, as well as the opportunity to publish your poetry in our nationally distributed annual publication, *The Moccasin*.

The League of Minnesota Poets promotes poetry at local, state, and national levels. We sponsor annual student contests and participate in the national Manningham student poetry awards.

Members who plan to enter poetry in the national contest need to pay their dues by January 1st of each year in order to participate at the member rate. Those joining after that date must pay the non-member rate to participate in that contest.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to LOMP and mail to:**

Mary Schmidt  
4921 33rd Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

For more information about our organization, visit our website at [mnpoets.org](http://mnpoets.org)

Would you, or someone you know, like to advertise a service, chapbook, or published work? LOMP members may place a 2.5" x 5" ad in the *LOMPlighter* for \$25; non-members pay \$35. Ads for the next issue are due 10 days before publication. Mail payment to Mary Schmidt, 4921 33rd Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55417. Email ad copy and/or graphics (at least 1500 pixels wide; preferably in png or eps format) to [joellyn.anderson@outlook.com](mailto:joellyn.anderson@outlook.com).