

# LOMPlighter

A Quarterly Publication of the League of Minnesota Poets

MAY 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](http://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 NFSPS 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

## 29th Annual

### WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT

Let the woods and water of Northern Minnesota inspire you at the annual Woodtick Poetry Writing Retreat on Horseshoe Lake, Merrifield, MN, held Thursday, July 20 through Sunday, July 23. Join fellow poets for writing, reading, presenting, swimming and swatting mosquitoes.

Bring food, your poems, a swimsuit, and a long-sleeved shirt for evening wear. Towels and bed linens will be provided, but housekeeping is a shared responsibility.

Each poet should be prepared to lead a 30-minute (or longer) writing workshop or discussion on a topic of their choosing, and we will have several read-around sessions to share poetry. We've tentatively scheduled an evening junket to a nearby coffee shop, bar, or art center for a reading.

Contact Sue Chambers at [schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com) as soon as possible so she can coordinate rooms and meals.

### DIRECTIONS

The retreat is held at 13362 SW Horseshoe Lake Road, Merrifield, MN. From the mall in Brainerd, go north on 8th Ave NE (also known as Hwy 25 or County Rd 3) to Merrifield (about 8 miles). North of Merrifield, you'll need to turn right (east) at the Half Moon Saloon to stay on County Rd 3. Continue 7 miles north, (past Ossipee Corners), where the speed limit reduces to 45. Turn right (east) on the first blacktop road after you see "Jim's Campers" on the right. Take Mission Park Dr to Oak Spur and turn left (north). At the first stop sign, make a sharp right onto Horseshoe Lake Dr, then take the first driveway on the left. Look for the *Daughters of MURRY & BARBARA STEVENS* sign in front of the cabin.

2017

OCTOBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## Save the Date

### LOMP FALL CONFERENCE

The LOMP Fall Conference will be October 21-22, at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, 111 Mainstreet. More information will be available on our website ([mnpoets.org](http://mnpoets.org)) and will be published in the next issue of the *LOMPLighter*.

## From your President >>>

*What is the purpose of poetry? What role does it play in society?* These are questions that often pop into my mind. At our Spring Conference, Philip Bryant proposed a unique idea about poetry. As he put it, the job of the poet is to bring to light what typically goes unseen. The poet takes what goes unnoticed and makes it visible again. It is the job of the poet to notice what is going on with the bees in their backyards. To find unique ideas in bits of stray conversation. To call attention to events and lives in other parts of the world. That is only the first step, of course. The poet must then write it down, and just as importantly, share to bring it to the forefront of the minds of others. It is not just about the sharing of information, but the sharing of emotions.

The poet then becomes the reporter of the human condition. Good poetry speaks out not just about what is going on in the world, but how it affects us, personally and globally. Poetry, in doing this, challenges the reader to accept as a part of them these previously unseen pieces as a part of who they are. Both the struggles and the beauty that is still ever present this collective experience of the world we live in.

As an organization, the job of the League of Minnesota Poets is to bring visibility to Minnesota poets. Our goal is to foster and illuminate poetry in this state. We do this in a number of ways—through our conferences, retreats, local chapters meetings, and contests. And we are looking at additional ways to accomplish our goal. We have been hosting tables at book fairs to get the word out—not only about our organization, but about our members as well. (If you are interested in having your books for sale at events, please contact me and we'll make arrangements to sell your books for you.)

We are also considering setting up a writers and residence program. We want to be able to give a poet the opportunity to have the space and time for their craft. We're seeking to reduce financial barriers to our events and programs, making League events more accessible and inclusive. We'll be looking to set up a scholarship fund through member donations to help with this.

Many of these ideas are in progress, so we hope you stay tuned in for more news as we work these things out. If you have any other ideas of programs or events you'd like to see, please let me know. As members, I hope to see and hear what you are making visible through your poetry at one of our events.

Thank you,

Peter Stein, President of the League of Minnesota Poets

## **The Moccasin is in Progress: Send Poems!**

Each year the League of Minnesota Poets publishes *The Moccasin*, a chapbook featuring poems by LOMP members, and distributes a copy to each current member. Please submit your best work, especially poems that have won an NFSPS contest prize or have been published. Email your poems (in .doc format) to MeredithCookLOMP@aol.com or mail them to Meredith R. Cook, 427 N Gorman St, Blue Earth, MN 56013 -2459, by Saturday, July 8, 2017. Please follow these guidelines for your submission:

- Keep it short—8 lines or shorter, and no more than **32** lines (unless your poem won an NFSPS contest).
- Title your poem (unless submitting haiku or senryu).
- Proofread carefully. Do your verbs agree with the subject? Is the tense consistent? Do not use inversions or archaic language.
- If you mail your poems, use 8-1/2 inch x 11-inch paper, one poem per page. Use an easily read font and do not print on both sides of the paper. Include your name and phone number on each page.
- If you punctuate a poem unconventionally, please notify the editor so she does not make corrections.

# The Moccasin Celebrates 24 Years in Print

by Amanda Bailey

**“With this number, THE MOCCASIN has blossomed into a printed poetry publication. It is the official organ of the League of Minnesota Poets, and will be sent to every paid-up member without extra charge... Members in good standing are privileged to submit poems.”**

These were the first lines printed in the first Moccasin Volume I, Number I, May 1937. Now in May, 2017, we celebrate 80 years in print, and, through these 80 years, those first few lines have always remained true.

Eighty years of changes and innovations in costs, formats, features and staff has yielded the fine poetry journal the League now issues annually each Fall. Members in good standing continue to receive their first copy of *The Moccasin* free and only pay for additional copies. That has never changed, but the donation amount for additional copies has increased from \$1.50 in 1937 to \$7.00 in 2017. In the early years, *The Moccasin* was 8 pages issued quarterly. In 1945, substantial format changes included an increase to 12 pages and a new, heavy-weight cover. The number of issues per year decreased over time, and the number of pages has increased. This year it will be 60 pages, perfect bound, with a professionally designed color cover and a new single column page layout on the inside. As a result, we were able to increase the poem line maximum to 32 lines.

Of course, other features of *The Moccasin* have changed as well. When it was the only printed publication of the League of Minnesota Poets, it included news and information pertinent to League members. But *The Moccasin* is now strictly a literary journal.

During the first 53 years (1937 – 1990), ten different editors (and some associate editors) facilitated publication. For the past 27 years, Meredith R. Cook has been the diligent and effective editor. She brought some much appreciated innovations: the author index, the ten year indices and the membership directory included in the 60th Anniversary edition.

In 1990, when Pat Johnson vacated the editor position to become LOMP president, she asked Meredith Cook to become the new editor. Cook successfully published her first edition of *The Moccasin* six months later.

Cook, a graduate of Morningside College in 1977 with a B.A. in English, grew up in Blue Earth, MN in the house her great-grandfather built in about 1898. This house now serves as Cook's poetry office.



## About LOMP

### *officers* >>>

PRESIDENT: Peter Stein  
pwilliamstein@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT:  
Amanda Bailey  
scienceheckler@aol.com

SECRETARY:  
Dennis Herschbach  
(218) 343-1522  
dhersch2@yahoo.com

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP:  
Mary Schmidt  
marylschmidt2014@gmail.com

ASSISTANT TREASURER:  
Susan Stevens Chambers  
(507) 278-4200  
schambersmediator@yahoo.com

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

## 2017 NFSPS CONVENTION

The Poetry Society of Texas invites you to celebrate The Art and Soul of Poetry at the historic Hilton hotel in Fort Worth. Arrive as early as Wednesday, June 28 and stay through July 2. There will be music, poetry, art, words, excursions and more. Speakers include:

- **Scott Wiggerman**, author of three books of poetry, *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets, Presence, and Vegetables and Other Relationships*, and an editor for *Dos Gatos Press* of Albuquerque, NM
- **Urania Fung**, English professor at Tarrant County College; she earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University
- **Anne McCrady**, author of *Along Greathouse Road, Under a Blameless Moon, and Letting Myself In*
- **Diane Glancy**, professor emerita at Macalester College and Willa Poetry Award winner
- **Nathan L. Brown**, retired English professor and former Poet Laureate of Oklahoma
- **Karla Morton**, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate, and an award-winning author of 12 books of poetry
- **Mark and Beth Ayers**, antique slide projector demonstrators and poetry enthusiasts
- **Pat Stodghill**, former Poet Laureate of Texas, former president of NFSPS, and author of *Mirrored Images*
- **Carmen Tafolla**, Poet Laureate of Texas in 2015, polyglot, author of more than 20 books, and professor of Transformative Children's Literature at the University of Texas-San Antonio

## Poetry

Marianne Moore

I, too, dislike it: there are things that are important beyond all this fiddle.  
Reading it, however, with a perfect contempt for it, one discovers that there is in it after all, a place for the genuine.  
Hands that can grasp, eyes that can dilate, hair that can rise if it must, these things are important not because a high-sounding interpretation can be put upon them but because they are useful; when they become so derivative as to become unintelligible, the same thing may be said for all of us—that we do not admire what we cannot understand. The bat, holding on upside down or in quest of something to eat, elephants pushing, a wild horse taking a roll, a tireless wolf under a tree, the immovable critic twinkling his skin like a horse that feels a flea, the base-ball fan, the statistician—case after case could be cited did on wish it; nor is it valid to discriminate against “business documents and school-books”; all these phenomena are important. One must make a distinction however: when dragged into prominence by half poets, the result is not poetry, nor till the autocrats among us can be “literalists of the imagination”—above insolence and triviality and can present for inspection, imaginary gardens with real toads in them, shall we have it. In the meantime, if you demand on the one hand, in defiance of their opinion—the raw material of poetry in all its rawness, and that which is on the other hand, genuine, you are interested in poetry.

*This poem is in the public domain.*

# MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## *Poetry Contests*

### **MARIA W FAUST SONNET CONTEST**

Participate in the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Winona by writing a sonnet or two. Submit a previously unpublished 14-line iambic pentameter sonnet using a Shakespearean, Spenserian, Petrarchan or Non-Traditional rhyme scheme. Entry fee of \$5 and no more than three sonnets must be submitted by June 1, 2017. Winning sonnets will be read at the Shakespeare Festival Award Ceremony, Saturday, July 29, in the Miller Auditorium of Stark Hall, Winona State University. Visit [sonnetcontest.org](http://sonnetcontest.org) for more information.

### **MORRIS MEMORIAL CHAPBOOK COMPETITION**

The Alabama State Poetry Society is accepting submissions for the annual John and Miriam Morris Memorial Chapbook Competition. Submit 16-24 pages of poetry and a \$15 fee by May 31, 2017. Visit [www.newdawnunlimited.com](http://www.newdawnunlimited.com) for more information.

### **BLOOMINGTON SENIOR POETRY CONTEST**

Participants ages 50 and older may submit up to two poems of any length to the Bloomington Senior Program Poetry Contest. All poems must be original and unpublished. A cover sheet with each entry should include the title of the poem and author's contact information. Contact information should not be included on the poem. Send poems and \$5 fee to Creekside Community Center, c/o poetry contest, 9801 Penn Ave, Bloomington, MN 55431. Poems must be postmarked by Friday, June 30, 2017.

### **CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS**

Connecticut Poetry Society entries are due May 31.

[www.ctpoetry.net/connecticut-poetry-contest.html](http://www.ctpoetry.net/connecticut-poetry-contest.html)

California State Poetry Society entries are due June 30.

[www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests](http://www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests)

Florida State Poets Association entries are due July 15.

[www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org](http://www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org)

Poetry Society of Michigan entries are due August 1.

[poetrysocietyofmichigan.wordpress.com/contests/](http://poetrysocietyofmichigan.wordpress.com/contests/)

Poetry Society of Texas contest entries must be postmarked by August 15.

[poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests](http://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests)

Poets Roundtable of Arkansas entries are also due August 15.

[poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/2017-poetry-day-contests](http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/2017-poetry-day-contests)

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00pm—**Heid E Erdrich Book Launch**, The Loft Performance Hall, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis

Tuesday, May 16, 7:00pm—**Readings from the Saint Paul Almanac:**, Common Good Books, 38 Snelling Ave S, St Paul

Friday, May 19, 7:00pm—**Reading with Allison Adelle Hedge Coke**, The Loft Performance Hall, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis

Saturday, May 20, 2:00pm—**Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers present Eric Tu**, Common Roots Café, 2558 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Sunday, May 21, 3:00pm—**Literary Celebration** of the Lake Superior Writers, UU Congregation, 835 W College, Duluth. RSVP by May 18 to [writers@lakesuperiorwriters.org](mailto:writers@lakesuperiorwriters.org)

Sunday, May 21, 2:00pm—**Readings from the Saint Paul Almanac:**, Claddagh Coffee, 459 Seventh St W, St Paul

Monday, May 22, 7:00pm—**Readings from the Saint Paul Almanac:**, Golden Thyme Coffee Café, 921 Selby Ave, St Paul

Friday, June 2, 7:00pm—**Readings from the Saint Paul Almanac:**, Golden's Lowertown, 275 Fourth St E, St Paul

Friday, June 9, 6:00pm—**Heartland Poets Meeting**, Brainerd Public Library, 416 S 5th St, Brainerd

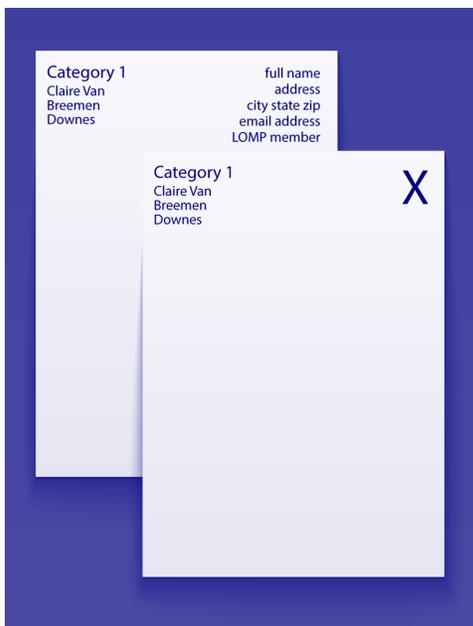
Friday, June 16, 7:00pm—**Reading with Abdul Ali**, The Loft Performance Hall, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis

Saturday, June 17, 1:00pm—**Readings from the Saint Paul Almanac:**, Polly's Coffee Cove, 1382 Payne Ave, St Paul

# LOMP ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST—DEADLINE JULY 31

		Subject	Limits
1	Claire Van Breemen Downes Memorial	any	50 lines/8 poems
2	Blizzard Writers Award	aging	40 lines
3	Cracked Walnut Award	prose poem	80 lines
4	Stevens Family Award	relationships	50 lines
5	Woodtick Poets Award	this is not a sex poem	40 lines
6	So MN Poets Society Award	any	narrative, 45 lines
7	Grand View Award	any	45 lines
8	Lilian Osborn Memorial Award	any	40 lines
9	Musica Award	music, song and/or dance	50 lines
10	John & Helen Pappas Memorial Award	ancestry/heritage	50 lines
11	Janelle Hawkridge Memorial Award	extraordinary persons	40 lines
12	Poets Potluck Award	stormy weather	30 lines
13	Southeastern MN Poets Award	health, healing, or wellness	30 lines
14	You Go, Brophy! Award	youth or future generations	40 lines
15	Lost in Translation Award	foreign language	40 lines
16	Poem by Post Award	2nd person voice	40 lines
17	Stepping Off the Cliff	moving on, letting go	40 lines
18	Mississippi Valley Poets Haiku Award		haiku
19	Minnesota Pen Women Award	any	40 lines
20	Bring Back the Prairies Award	prairies	40 lines
21	Let Love Show	a love poem	40 lines

Submit original, non-published, non-compensated entries by July 31, 2017, to Peter Stein, 5612 23rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417. Make checks payable (US\$) to LOMP.



## Fees for LOMP members:

Category 1: \$1 per poem (limit 8 poems)

All other categories: \$1 per poem or \$5 for 5 or more poems (limit 1 poem per category)

## Fees for Nonmembers:

Category 1: \$2 per poem (limit 8 poems)

All other categories: \$1 per poem (limit 1 poem per category)

Poems (except haiku) must be titled. Format poems in 1 column per page, without artwork or copyright marks, single-sided on 8-1/2 x 11 paper. Staple multiple-page poems together. Submit 2 copies of each poem. In the upper left corner of both copies, indicate the category # and award name. One copy should be anonymous but include the author's name, address, email address and LOMP membership status in upper right corner of the other copy.