

upcoming dates >>>

March 15, 2018

March 28, 2018

April 20, 2018

April 28, 2018

Deadline to submit poems to the NFSPS annual contests

Deadline to reserve room at Country Inn & Suites at reduced rate

Deadline to register for LOMP Spring Meeting

LOMP Spring Meeting

LOMPlighter

A Quarterly Publication of the League of Minnesota Poets

March 2018

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 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

2018 LOMP Spring Meeting

PLANTING SEEDS OF POETRY

Join us Saturday, April 28, at Country Inn & Suites, 235 Park Ave S, in Saint Cloud, for the LOMP Spring Meeting with keynote speaker Mara Faulkner and special guest Larry Schug.

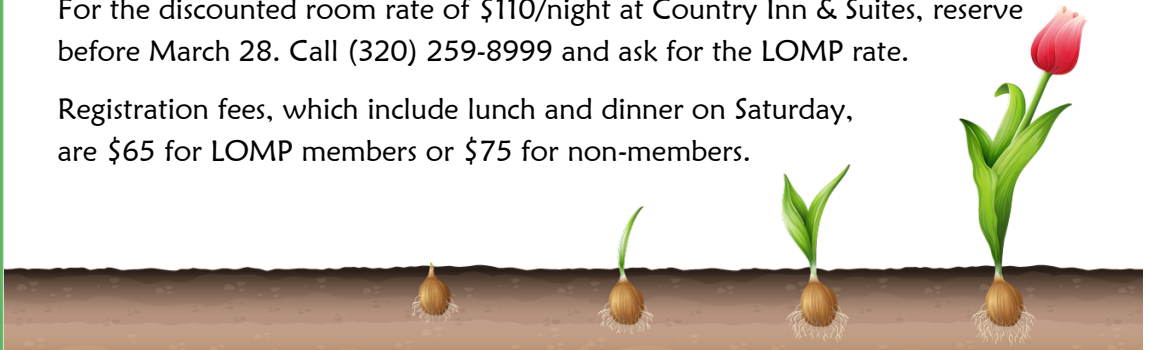
Mara Faulkner, OSB, is a poet, writer, Associate Professor Emeritus of English at the Collect of St. Benedict, and currently teaches poetry and writing at The Spirituality Center of Saint Benedict's Monastery. Her memoir *Going Blind* was a Minnesota Book Award Finalist. Faulkner grew up in a family shaped by Irish ancestry, a close-to-the-bone existence in rural North Dakota, and the secret of her father's blindness—along with the silence and shame surrounding it.

Larry Schug is the author of eight books of poems—*Scales Out of Balance* (1990), *Caution: Thin Ice* (1993), *The Turning of Wheels* (2001), *Arrogant Bones* (2008), *Nails* (2011), *At Gloaming* (2014) and *A Blanket of Raven Feathers* (2017) all published by North Star Press of St. Cloud, Minnesota, and a chapbook, *Obsessed with Mud*, published by Poetry Harbor, Duluth, Minnesota. *Caution: Thin Ice* was a 1993 Minnesota Book Award finalist and *Arrogant Bones* was a 2008 Midwest Book Award finalist. Larry has won two Central Minnesota Arts Board Individual Artist awards, a 2014 Central Minnesota Arts Board Established Artist award and a 2008 McKnight Fellowship for Writers award. Larry lives beside a large tamarack bog with his wife and their dog and cats in St. Wendel Township, Minnesota.



For the discounted room rate of \$110/night at Country Inn & Suites, reserve before March 28. Call (320) 259-8999 and ask for the LOMP rate.

Registration fees, which include lunch and dinner on Saturday, are \$65 for LOMP members or \$75 for non-members.



Leadership Report >>>



The Beauty in Poetry

I think of the role of the poet (or any artist for that matter) is to find and illuminate the beauty in the world. It is a revelation of sorts. I think we do this as much for ourselves as we do it for others. To be able to share these moments of beauty, that is a gift both to the writer and the reader. I don't think there is an inherent beauty in poetry. It is a conduit through which the beauty flows. It allows us to cut through the ugliness to appreciate the underlying aesthetic even when things are not looking their best. This world isn't always pretty, but poetry reminds me it is always beautiful. I have learned as being a part of the League of Minnesota Poets to appreciate poetry in this way. If a poem opens up the beauty of the world even just a little, it is a good poem. As a poet, it is hard not to compare our own poems to those of other.

Be it a poem we read in a journal, another poem entered into the same contest, or to the poems of our favorite poets. I need to remind myself that each poem is its own. It isn't important how it compares. What matters is that the poem reveals that beauty. If it does, it does not matter how it stacks up to other poems. It is a good poem. The poem *Constantly Risking Absurdity (#15)* by Lawrence Ferlinghetti is one I often come back to:

Beauty stands and waits
with gravity
to start her death-defying leap
And he
a little charleychaplin man
who may or may not catch
her fair eternal form
spreadeagled in the empty air
of existence

So I encourage you to keep writing and sharing. Put yourself out there ready to catch the beauty that falls into your arms. And thank you for all the poetry and beauty that you have shared.

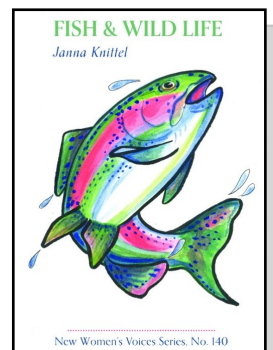
Peter Stein, President of the League of Minnesota Poets

Members' Achievements & Events

David Bayliss hosts two monthly reading series. *Poets and Pints* is held the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00pm at Sisyphus Brewing, 712 Ontario Ave W, Minneapolis. Poetry Happy Hour at The Troubadour (2827 Hennepin Ave S, Minneapolis) is held the first Sunday of the month at 5:30pm. Both events include an open mic, so bring your poems! Check out the website www.poetsandpints.com for more details.

Wendy Brown Baez's *Poet's Corner* is returning to the Walker Library (3228 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis), Saturday, March 3, 1:00pm and continuing every Saturday through April 21. There will be a reading open to the public on Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30pm. The workshops are free but space is limited, so reserve your spot via the Hennepin County Library website at <https://hclib.bibliocommons.com/events/5a73319e866d942f009f3a59>

Fish & Wild Life, a chapbook of nature poetry by **Janna Knittel**, is available for pre-sale from Finishing Line Press. Order now at www.finishinglinepress.com/product/fish-wild-life-nwvs-140-by-janna-knittel/ and the book will ship May 4, 2018.



2018 NFSPS CONVENTION IN COLORADO

Save the date: The Columbine Poets of Colorado will host the convention May 31-June 4 in Denver, Colorado, at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, 3801 Quebec St. The deadline for hotel reservations is May 10, 2018. Single and double rooms are \$119 per night.

Highlights include:

THURSDAY, May 31

- poetry troupe *River City Nomads*
- musical-poetic ensemble *Art Compost & the Word Mechanics*

FRIDAY, June 1

- Carolyn Evans Campbell, author and teacher of poetry and memoir, on the importance of good imagery
- David Rothman introduces Colorado poet Belle Turnbull (1881-1970)

SATURDAY, June 2

- Aaron Abeyta, former Poet Laureate of Colorado Western Slope, hosts a writing workshop
- Eleanor Swanson, award-winning poet and fiction writer, describes the persona poem form
- Veronica Patterson, published author of both traditional and prose poetry, introduces prose poems

SUNDAY, June 3

- Panel on Youth Programs with Anita Jepson Gilbert, author of the bilingual children's book *Maria and the Stars of Nazca / Maria y las Estrellas de Nazca*, and Catherine O'Neill Thorn, former Colorado Western Slope Poet Laureate
- The power of metaphor with Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer
- Joseph Hutchison, Colorado Poet Laureate, on poetry that transforms

www.columbinepoetsofcolorado.com/2018-nfmps-convention

MINNESOTA NORTHWOODS WRITERS CONFERENCE

Since 2003, writers from all over the United States have gathered on the shores of Lake Bemidji for a week of enlivening literary activity. Please join us from June 18-24, 2018, for an exciting opportunity to create, collaborate, and commune in the great northwoods.

This year's workshop faculty members are Mat Johnson (Fiction), Joan Naviyuk Kane (Poetry), Wayne Miller (Poetry), Alison Hawthorne Deming (Creative Nonfiction), and Paisley Rekdal (Creative Nonfiction). And the award-winning and acclaimed poet and critic Edward Hirsch will be our Distinguished Visiting Writer.

Those interested in attending a writing workshop must submit a writing sample, which will be reviewed to determine eligibility for attendance. Apply online before May 1: www.northwoodswriters.org/the-conference/

About LOMP

officers >>>

PRESIDENT: Peter Stein
pwilliamstein@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT:
Amanda Bailey
scienceheckler@aol.com

SECRETARY:
David Stein
hennepindave@gmail.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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

WITNESS WRITING PROJECT

The Witness Writing Project hosts free creative writing workshops on the first Saturday morning of the month, from 9-12, at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis. Led by teaching artists, who provide prompts, samples, and craft guidance, workshops are designed for creative writers of all experience levels.

The March 3 workshop is devoted to Prince. Acclaimed hip hop artist Truth Maze will use the lyrics and music of Prince as the jumping off point for conversation and creative writing exercises. No prior familiarity with Prince's work is necessary – just come ready to rock, reflect, and write.

Our April 7 workshop is all about using typewriters to compose. Register in advance because we have a limited number of typewriters.

Then on May 5, the LOMP leadership team of Christina Flaughter and Mary Schmidt will have us collaborating and making poems on poetry boards and pursuing other fun adventures.

For more information, to register for the April workshops, or to be added to our email list, contact Nancy at witnesswriting@gmail.com

Poetry Contests

CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Louisiana State Poetry Society is holding a contest in celebration of New Orleans' 300-year anniversary. Details are available online at louisianastatepoetrysociety.org/lspcs-contests/

Connecticut Poetry Society contest entries are accepted April 1 to May 31. For more information, visit www.ctpoetry.net/connecticut-poetry-contest.html

BLOOMINGTON POETRY CONTEST

Poets who are 50+ years old or who have a disability may submit up to two original, unpublished poems of any length. Poems must be postmarked by June 30, 2018. Visit www.bloomingtonmn.gov/poetry-contest for more information.

Looking for a place to send your poems? Consider submitting to Err. Formed in 2014 by a group of friends who wanted to make a space where good art met good vibes, Err is a Twin Cities artist collective focused on turning emerging artists into up-and-coming artists. Each month there is an open call for submissions. Email errmpls@gmail.com with questions or visit www.ErrArtistCollective.com for more information or to submit your work for a future event.



Thursday, March 8, 5:00pm— **Poetry Out Loud State Competition finals**, The Loft, 1011 Washington Ave S, Minneapolis

Friday, March 9, 6:00pm—**Heartland Poets** monthly meeting, Brainerd Public Library, 416 S Fifth St, Brainerd

Saturday, March 10, 12:30pm—**Southern MN Poets** monthly meeting, Emy Frentz Art Guild, 523 S 2nd St, Mankato

Saturday, March 17, 2:00pm—**Mississippi Valley Poets** monthly meeting, Common Roots Café, 2558 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Monday, March 26, 6:45pm—**Grandview Poets** monthly meeting, Grandview Estates, 1125 1st St S, Sartell

Friday, April 13, 6:00pm—**Heartland Poets** monthly meeting, Brainerd Public Library, 416 S Fifth St, Brainerd

Saturday, April 14, 12:30pm—**Southern MN Poets** monthly meeting, Emy Frentz Art Guild, 523 S 2nd St, Mankato

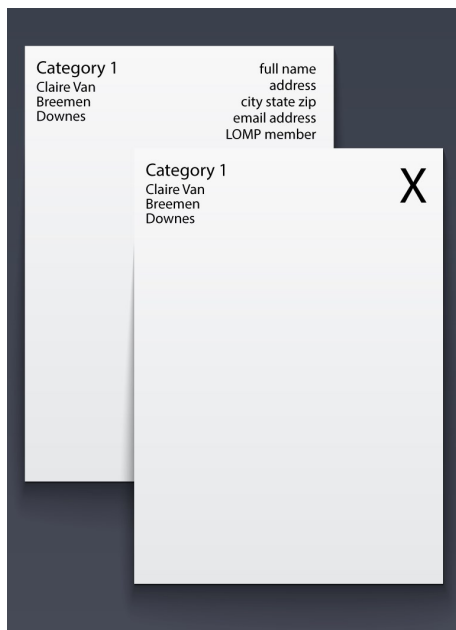
Saturday, April 21, 2:00pm—**Mississippi Valley Poets** monthly meeting, Common Roots Café, 2558 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Monday, April 23, 6:45pm—**Grandview Poets** monthly meeting, Grandview Estates, 1125 1st St S, Sartell

Saturday, April 28— **LOMP Spring Meeting**, Country Inn & Suites, 235 Park Ave S, Saint Cloud

2018 LOMP ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST CATEGORIES

		Theme	Limits / Form
1	John Calvin Rezmerski Memorial Award	any	50 lines & 8 poems
2	So MN Poets Society Award	any	40 lines
3	Blizzard Writers Award	aging	40 lines
4	By the Books Award	numbers	40 lines
5	Cracked Walnut	any	80 lines / prose
6	Stevens Family Award	relationships	50 lines
7	Florence Hynes Willette Memorial Award	humor	30 lines
8	Woodtick Poets Award	tell us a story	40 lines
9	Grand View Award	any	45 lines
10	John & Helen Pappas Memorial Award	ancestry/heritage	50 lines
11	Musica Award	music, song and/or dance	40 lines / lyrical poem
12	#MeToo Award	abuse	40 lines
13	Southeastern MN Poets Award	health, healing, or wellness	30 lines
14	Persona Award	writing as someone else	40 lines
15	Lost in Translation Award	foreign language	40 lines
16	Bring Back the Prairies Award	prairies	40 lines
17	Coral Peterson Memorial Award	the moon	40 lines
18	Heartland Poets Award	ekphrastic description of art	35 lines
19	Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers Award	any	Haiku
20	The <i>Moccasin</i> Award	any	32 lines



Submit original, non-published, non-compensated entries between May 1 and July 31, 2018, to Peter Stein, 2029 103rd Ave NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433. Poems (except haiku) must be titled.

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)

Make checks payable (US\$) to LOMP CONTEST.

2018 NFSPS ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST CATEGORIES

	Subject	Limit / Form
1. NFSPS Founders Award	any	100 lines / any
2. Diamond T Award	work of a cowboy, past or present	50 lines / any
3. NFSPS Board Award	any	Rondeau: 15 lines in 3 stanzas
4. Margo Award	animals	50 lines / any
5. Winners' Circle Award	any	80 lines / any
6. Donald Stodghill Memorial	any	40 lines / any
7. Georgia Poetry Society Award	the American south—history, culture, etc	40 lines / any
8. Poetry Society of Texas Award	any	40 lines / any
9. The Children's Hour Award	poetry for children	40 lines / rhymed
10. Al Laster Memorial	an ekphrastic poem	50 lines / any
11. Florida State Poets Association Award	a celebration of Florida history or culture	40 lines / any
12. Alabama State Poetry Society Award	why is it called Alabama the beautiful	50 lines / any
13. Land of Enchantment Award	borders, real or imagined	40 lines / any
14. Virginia Corrie-Cozart Memorial	art, music, and/or dance	40 lines / any
15. Arizona State Poetry Society Award	last year's vacation	40 lines / any
16. Mildred Vorpahl Baass Remembrance Award	domestic cats' endearing qualities	40 lines / any
17. LOMP Award (In memory of John Rezmerski)	any	45 lines / free verse
18. Jessica C. Saunders Memorial	any	19 lines / villanelle
19. Poetry Society of Indiana Award	barefoot in the summer	40 lines / any
20. Nevada Poetry Society Award	any, but strong on imagery	40 lines / any
21. William Stafford Memorial Award	any	40 lines / any
22. The New York Poetry Forum Award	the art of poetry	40 lines / any
23. Columbine Poets of Colorado Award	reflections	40 lines / any
24. Morton & Elsie Prouty Memorial	nature	40 lines / any
25. Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Award	any	40 lines / any
26. Louisiana State Poetry Society Award	any	40 lines / any
27. Freeda Murphy Memorial Award	any	28 lines / any
28. Claire Van Breemen Downes Memorial	any	sonnet
29. Utah State Poetry Society Award	heritage	50 lines / any
30. CSPS James E. Macwhinney Memorial	any / 50 lines / blank verse –iambic pentameter	
31. Illinois State Poetry Society Award	books	40 lines / any
32. Ohio Award	any	40 lines / any
33. Minute Award	capture a slice of life	a minute poem
34. Poetry Society of Michigan Award	any	40 lines / free verse
35. Mississippi Poetry Society Award	any	sonnet
36. Jesse Stuart Memorial Award	any	40 lines / any
37. Humorous Poetry Award	humorous	16 lines / rhymed
38. Barbara Stevens Memorial Award	any serious theme	12 lines / any
39. Alice Makenzie Swaim Memorial	any	sonnet
40. Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award	any	13 lines / trimetric
41. Save Our Earth Award	environmental issues	40 lines / any
42. Massachusetts Poetry Society Award	any	40 lines / any

	Subject	Limit / Form
43. Poetry Society of Tennessee Award	reference at least 3 of the 5 senses	30 lines / any
44. Iowa Poetry Association Award	poetry for children	32 lines / any
45. WYOPOETS Award	any	40 lines / any
46. San Antonio Poets Association Award	a river runs through it	32 lines / any
47. Maine Poets Society Award	the sea or coast	40 lines / any
48. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial	any	Terza Rima Sonnet
49. The Poets Northwest Award	any	36 lines / any

CRACKED WALNUT 2018 Lit-Fest

Bringing 18 readings to neighborhoods near you!

Flightless Birds

April 5

Wentworth Library
199 Wentworth Ave E
West Saint Paul

Don Quixote

April 7

Blue Harbor

2 + 2 = 5

April 14

St Anthony Library
St. Paul

Travel Ban

April 19

So St Paul Library
106 3rd Ave N
South Saint Paul

Boom Operator

April 20

Duluth

Beta Testing

April 21

Ely

Allen Ginsburg

April 26

Merriam Park
2000 St Anthony Ave
Saint Paul

Tender Buttons

April 27

Artista Bottega
937 7th St W
Saint Paul

15 Steps

April 27

St. Cloud



Bloopers

May 5

Brainerd

Retrograde

May 5

Riverview Library
1 E George St
Saint Paul

Schematics

May 10

Artspace Jackson Flats
901 18 1/2 Ave NE
Minneapolis

Mixtape

May 12

TBD

Music without

Words

May 15

TBD

Spell Casting

May 19

Arcola Mills

Schroedinger's

Pen

May 25

Resonance Box
5255 Chicago Ave
Minneapolis

Rubicon

May 25

Rochester

Somnambulist

May 26

Mankato



2018 LOMP Spring Meeting Registration

April 28, 2018—Country Inn & Suites, St. Cloud

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Registration includes Saturday lunch and dinner.

Vegetarian or other dietary needs _____

REGISTRATION FEE:

		# of attendees
LOMP Member	\$ 65	_____
Non-Member	\$ 75	_____
Guest (meals only)	\$ 30	_____
Total Fee included with this form	\$ _____	_____

Make checks payable to LOMP

Mail registration form and fee by
APRIL 20, 2018

Mary Schmidt
4921 33rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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. Email ad copy and/or graphics* to joellyn.anderson@outlook.com. Mail payment to Mary Schmidt, 4921 33rd Ave S, Minneapolis MN 55417.

*Graphics should be at least 1500 pixels wide; preferably in png or eps format.

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 through December 31. All League officers are volunteers who donate their time to the organization, and dues cover basic operating expenses.

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