

# LOMP *lighter*

A Quarterly Publication of the League of Minnesota Poets

September 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 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

## LOMP FALL MEETING OCTOBER 21-22

Join the League of Minnesota Poets the weekend of October 21-22 for a gathering at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, 111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. Mary Austin Speaker will give the keynote address on Saturday, and Michael Kleber-Diggs will lead the workshop on Sunday.

Poet and book designer, Mary Austin Speaker's first full length collection, *Ceremony* (2013) won the 2012 Slope Editions poetry prize. She published her second book, *The Bridge* in 2016 by Shearsman Books. Her work has appeared in *Boston Review*, *Subtropics*, *Iowa Review*, and others. She received the Vera Meyer Strube prize from the Academy of American Poets and she taught writing at Kirkwood Community College, Indiana University, the Jackson Hole Writers Conference, and the University of Iowa Young Writers program. Together with Chris Martin and Sam Gould, Mary co-edits and designs *Society*, a new publication project about poetry and power. She is currently Art Director for Milkweed Editions, organizes the Great Twin Cities Poetry Read, and edits a chapbook column for *Rain Taxi*. She will be teaching at the Martha's Vineyard Institute for Creative Writing in 2018.



In 2015, Michael Kleber-Diggs was a Fellow with the Givens Foundation for African-American Literature and a winner of the Loft Mentor Series in Poetry. His essay "A Fundamental Human Yearning" is included in *How Dare We Write* – a collection of essays on writing edited by Sherry Quan Lee. Two of his poems will appear in an anthology of poetry about fatherhood forthcoming from Nodin Press. Michael's



work has also appeared or will soon appear in *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Paper Darts*, *WaterStone Review* and elsewhere. Michael is a contributor to Twin Cities Daily Planet, writes literary criticism for the Star Tribune and blogs when he feels like it at michaelkleberdiggs.com. Michael is husband to Karen, a horticulturist who makes art with flowers. Karen and Michael have a 16 year-old daughter who is an accomplished dancer and a newly licensed driver. They live on a busy street in Saint Paul.

## Leadership Report >>>



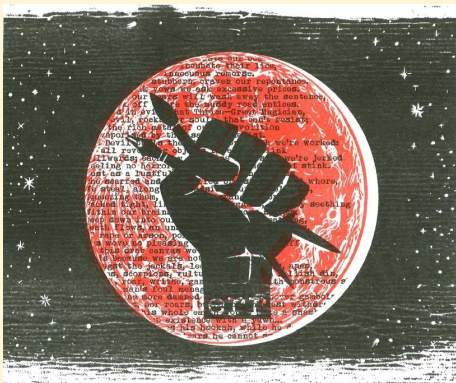
It has been a busy summer season. The Cracked Walnut Festival is wrapping up its ambitious line-up of 17 readings. I'd like to extend a special thank you to the team of hosts and organizers for the festival; David Stein, Mary Schmidt, Donna Isaac, Jeanne Lutz, and Michael Kiesow Moore. Our annual contest deadline has passed and the judges are reviewing them as we speak. Meredith and Amanda are hard at work putting together *The Moccasin*. (If you'd like to be a "Patron of Poetry" and help with publishing costs, make your check out to League of MN Poets, write "Moccasin Patron" in the memo, and mail to LOMP Treasurer Mary Schmidt, 4921 33rd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417.)

The fall will be just as exciting. Thanks to Brendan Brophy, we have co-conspired with Err Arts Collective, an organization that supports emerging artists of all mediums, including the literary arts (more info and how to submit to Err is listed below). Their events kick off with a generative writing group, have featured readers, showcase a visual artist, and include live music. We're looking forward to teaming with them and driving each other's missions.

We also have our 2017 Fall Conference coming up at the Hopkins Center for the Arts with speakers Mary Austin Speaker and Michael Kleber-Diggs. Our conference will overlap with the Hopkins Center Art Gallery Fall Exhibition, *Luminous Light*, by the MN Watercolor Society. So along with being surrounded by art for the conference, we'll enjoy Mary's perspective as a visual artist as well as a poet. Being immersed in art will be a good reminder of approaching poetry not just as words, but as works of art.

The League is also working on providing an award for an emerging poet to attend a writers' retreat to further develop their work. So the League has yet another busy, and exciting, season ahead. I hope that you have been busy writing down what needs to get out, getting your words to the desks of editors, and getting out to readings to be inspired by fellow poets and writers.

Thank you, Peter Stein



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. They throw art-filled parties and make party-filled art. Their monthly events and handmade zines feature local artists of all mediums.

Each month there is an open call for submissions. Email [errmpls@gmail.com](mailto:errmpls@gmail.com) with questions or visit [www.ErrArtistCollective.com](http://www.ErrArtistCollective.com) for more information or to submit your work for a future event.

## Our Achievements >>>

Poetry by **Brendan Brophy** is featured in Err – XXIV – Wayward Artist Showcase.

**Alan Perry** had poems in the following journals:

- *Muddy River Poetry Review*, Spring issue  
[muddyriverpoetryreview.com](http://muddyriverpoetryreview.com)
- *Talking Stick*, #26, September 2017
- *Riddled with Arrows*, June 2017 [riddledwitharrows.com](http://riddledwitharrows.com)
- *Gyroscope Review*, Spring 2017 [gyroscopereview.com](http://gyroscopereview.com)
- *Sleet Magazine*, Summer 2017 [sleetmagazine.com](http://sleetmagazine.com)

**Pamela Sinicrope's** poem "Breach After Nine Months and Two Weeks" will be in the Fall edition of *3 Elements Review*. [3elementsreview.com](http://3elementsreview.com)

**Wendy Brown-Baez** will hold events at Community Grounds, 560 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights. First, a "Writing with Courage" workshop on Tuesdays from September 19-October 24, at 6:00pm, and second, a mini-retreat for writers Saturdays, October 7-28 from 10:00am-2:00pm

**Peter Stein** had a few poems published in Nice Cage, a collaborative literary project. [www.nicecage.com](http://www.nicecage.com)

## NFSPS Poetry Awards to Minnesotans

**Amanda Bailey**—The New York Poetry Forum Award; Miriam S Strauss Memorial Award

**Micki Blenkush**—Peace Award: 1st *This community garden*; The Poets Northwest Award; Humorous Poetry

**Ed Brekke-Kramer**—Louisiana State Poetry Society Award

**Sue Chambers**—William Stafford Memorial Award; Gingerbread Poets Award

**Meredith Cook**—Nevada Poetry Society Award; Maine Poets Society Award; Arizona State Poetry Society Award: 3rd *Invasion of Consciousness*

**Christina Flaughter**—Donald Stodghill Memorial Award

**Deborah Goschy**—Donald Stodghill Memorial Award

**Robert La Fleur**—Utah State Poetry Society Award

**Ellen Lager**—Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award

**Henry Panowitsch**—Winners' Circle Award: 3rd *The Last Fly of the Season*

**Charmaine Pappas Donovan**—Winners' Circle Award; Al Laster Memorial Award: 2nd *Lost Cause*; Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award: 2nd *Bridle Paths*

**Doris Stengel**—League of MN Poets Award; Ohio Award

**Mary Willete Hughes**—Jesse Stuart Memorial Award: 1st *Minnesota Thunderstorm*; Poetry Society of Michigan Award

## About LOMP

### officers >>>

PRESIDENT: Peter Stein  
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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

## LOMP membership >>>

Your membership in the League of Minnesota Poets has these benefits:

- You may publish your work in our annual poetry magazine, *The Moccasin*.
- Membership in the NFSPS (National Federation of State Poetry Societies)
- *LOMPlighter*, our quarterly newsletter
- Reduced rates to attend the spring and fall LOMP conferences
- An invitation to participate in our two annual poetry retreats (winter and summer)
- Reduced rates for entering the LOMP and NFSPS annual contests
- Opportunities to meet and share work with other poets
- Access to members-only portions of our website including our online poetry forum)
- Opportunity to sell your books at meetings and online

To pay online via PayPal, visit [www.mnpoets.com](http://www.mnpoets.com), click the white "Join" button, then click the "Pay membership online here" link.

Pay with your PayPal account or use a credit/debit card. Your payment will be processed securely by PayPal.



## NATURE TRAIL NAMED FOR POET WANEK

A hiking trail in Duluth's Hartley Field has been designated the Connie Wanek Wildflower Trail, and fitted with trailside signs that feature excerpts from seven of her poems. Wanek's 2002 book, *Hartley Field*, was inspired by the beauty (and daisies) of the park.

## 2017-2018 US POET LAUREATE NAMED



Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced the appointment of Tracy K. Smith as the Library's 22nd Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry for 2017-2018. Smith will take up her duties in the fall, opening the Library's annual literary season in September with a reading of her work in the Coolidge Auditorium.

Smith, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and a professor at Princeton University, succeeds Juan Felipe Herrera as Poet Laureate. She is the author of three books of poetry, including *Life on Mars* (2011), winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; *Duende* (2007), winner of the 2006 James Laughlin Award and the 2008 Essence Literary Award; and *The Body's Question* (2003), winner of the Cave Canem Poetry Prize.

In 2014, the Academy of American Poets awarded Smith with the Academy Fellowship, given to one poet each year to recognize distinguished poetic achievement. In 2016, she won the 16th annual Robert Creeley Award and was awarded Columbia University's Medal for Excellence.

Born in Falmouth, Massachusetts in 1972, and raised in Fairfield, California, Tracy K. Smith earned a B.A. from Harvard University and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Columbia University. From 1997 to 1999, she was a Stegner Fellow in poetry at Stanford University. She is currently the director of the creative writing program at Princeton University.

## 2017-2019 YOUNG PEOPLE'S POET LAUREATE



The Poetry Foundation has named Margarita Engle the Young People's Poet Laureate. Awarded every two years, the \$25,000 laureate title is given to a living writer in recognition of a career devoted to writing exceptional poetry for young readers. The laureate advises the Poetry Foundation on matters relating to young people's literature and may engage in a variety of projects to help instill a lifelong love of poetry among the nation's developing readers. This laureateship aims to promote poetry to children and their families, teachers, and librarians over the course of its two-year tenure.

Poet, novelist, and journalist Margarita Engle was born in Pasadena, California, to a Cuban mother and an American father. Engle lives in central California and has taught agronomy at California State Polytechnic University.

# MEETINGS AND EVENTS

## GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

The Good Thunder Reading Series presents 21st Poet Laureate of the United States Juan Felipe Herrera on Wednesday, September 13, 6:30pm, at the Elias J Halling Recital Hall, Jane Early Performing Arts Center, MSU-Mankato. (If you miss this event, Mr Herrera will also be at the 2017 Twin Cities Book Festival held at the state fairgrounds on Saturday, October 14.)

Marcus Wicker, published author and recipient of a Ruth Lilly Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, will read some of his works on Thursday, October 12, 7:30pm, Room 253, Centennial Student Union, MSU-Mankato.

Meg Day, assistant professor of English/Creative Writing at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, is the featured poet at a reading on Thursday, November 9, 7:30pm, Room 253, Centennial Student Union, MSU-Mankato.

## MARYANN CORBETT & MARGARET HASSE READING

Join us at Subtext Books, 6 W 5th St, Saint Paul, on Thursday, September 14, 7:00pm, for a poetry reading by Maryann Corbett featuring her new poetry collection, *Street View*. Corbett will be in conversation with Margaret Hasse, author of *Between Us* and many other books. Book signing to follow reading and conversation.

## 2018 NFSPS CONVENTION

Save the date: the convention will be May 31-June 4 in Denver, Colorado, at the Renaissance Denver Stapleton Hotel, 3801 Quebec St  
[www.columbinpoetsofcolorado.com/2018-nfmps-convention](http://www.columbinpoetsofcolorado.com/2018-nfmps-convention)

## Poetry Contests

### CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Georgia Poetry Society entries are due November 15. Three cash prizes are awarded. Poems submitted must be consistent with the publication aims of the Society's annual anthology, *The Reach of Song*. Because this anthology is forwarded to school and public libraries where children are readers, and because winning poems may be published in it, poems submitted must avoid language or themes inappropriate for a child readership.

[georgiapoetrysociety.org.s151994.gridserver.com/contests/contest-details/](http://georgiapoetrysociety.org.s151994.gridserver.com/contests/contest-details/)

South Dakota State Poetry Society entries or due December 1. The contest features two categories: *Portrait* poems must be about someone from South Dakota; the subject of *Landscape* poems must be the natural environment of South Dakota. Electronic entries only. [sdpoetry.org/annual-contest/](http://sdpoetry.org/annual-contest/)

Friday, September 8, 6:00pm—  
**Heartland Poets** monthly meeting, Brainerd Public Library, 416 S Fifth St, Brainerd

Saturday, September 9, 12:30pm—  
**Southern MN Poets** monthly meeting, Emy Frenz Art Guild, 523 S 2nd St, Mankato

Friday, September 15, 6:30pm—  
**Southeast MN Poets** monthly meeting, Assisi Heights, 1001 14th St NW, Rochester

Saturday, September 16, 2:00pm—  
**Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers** monthly meeting, 2558 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Saturday, September 16, 8:00pm—Lit Crawl MN presents **Life Advice from Poets**, Trapeze at Barbette, 1600 W Lake St, Minneapolis

Monday, September 25, 2:00pm—  
**Poet's Roundtable** sponsored by Southeast MN Poets, contact [poets.sem@gmail.com](mailto:poets.sem@gmail.com) to register.

Monday, September 25, 6:45pm—  
**Grandview Poets** monthly meeting, Grandview Estates, 1125 1st St S, Sartell

Tuesday, September 26, 7:00pm—  
**Reading by Alan Shapiro**, Weisman Art Museum (AKA The Tin Can), 333 E River Parkway, Minneapolis

Thursday, November 9, 7:00pm—  
**Readings by Afaa Michael Weaver & Marcus Wicker**, Arthur Upson Room, U of M Walter Library, 117 Pleasant St SE, Minneapolis

Tuesday, November 14, 7:00pm—  
**Reading by Mary Ruefle**, Heritage Gallery, U of M McNamara Center, 200 Oak St SE, Minneapolis

# SCHEDULE FOR THE FALL CONFERENCE

## SATURDAY

- 7:30 am Set up and Registration (On Going)  
9:30 am Open Mic  
10:30 am Poetry Club Workshop Critique  
12:00 pm Lunch  
12:45 pm 2017 League Poetry Contest Results  
2:00 pm Mary Austin Speaker Workshop Presentation  
3:15 pm 2017 League Poetry Contest Results  
4:30 pm Mary Austin Speaker: Keynote Address  
6:30 pm Dinner  
7:00 pm League Announcements and 2017 Poetry Contest Results  
9:30 pm Open Mic

## SUNDAY

- 8:00 am Board Meeting/Open Mic  
9:15 am Fantastic Ekphrastic  
9:45 am Interactive Writing Workshop Stations  
11:00 am Michael Kleber-Diggs Workshop Presentation  
12:00 pm Conference wrap up/Clean up

## HOTEL Accommodations

LOMP has negotiated a discounted rate (\$105/night) for double-occupancy rooms at Hilton Garden Inn Minneapolis/Eden Prairie, 6330 Point Chase, Eden Prairie. There are 5 rooms available for Friday, October 20, and 20 rooms available for Saturday, October 21.

**To get this discounted rate, you must make your reservation before September 29.**

Call 1-952-995-9000 to make your reservation. Ask for a room in the League of Minnesota Poets block.

If you are hungry when checking in on Saturday morning, breakfast will be available for \$8.99 or \$10.95.

## 2017 LOMP Fall Meeting Registration October 21-22, 2017 Hopkins Center for the Arts



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes all snacks, Saturday buffet lunch and dinner, Sunday rolls and coffee.

### REGISTRATION FEE:

		# of attendees
LOMP Member	\$65.00	_____
Non-Member	\$75.00	_____

### REGISTRATION FEE WITHOUT MEALS:

		# of attendees
LOMP Member	\$45.00	_____
Non-Member	\$55.00	_____

Total Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total Fee included  
with this form \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### *Make checks payable to LOMP*

Mail registration form and fee by

**OCTOBER 13, 2017**

Mary Schmidt

4921 33rd Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55417