



# LOMP *lighter*

## 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)

## 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  
PO Box 17344  
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

Story Portage Poets ..... Ely

Duluth Poets ..... Duluth

## FALL LOMP CONFERENCE OCT 25-27

The League of Minnesota Poets Fall Conference will be held Friday, October 25 through Sunday, October 27, at the Minneapolis Marriott Southwest, 5801 Opus Parkway, Minnetonka. Reserve your hotel room via [bit.ly/2kcRPVj](https://bit.ly/2kcRPVj) by October 4 to receive the discounted rate.

Join us for poetry workshops, guest speakers—including Downrange Telemetrics, See More Perspective, and contributors to the Queer Voices Anthology—and the official announcement of the 2019 LOMP Poetry Contest winners.

Downrange Telemetrics is a collaboration between noted Twin Cities-based poet/performer/singer Becca Barniskis and guitarist Nick Jaffe, a veteran of the Chicago soul, hip hop, post-rock, and experimental music scenes. DT has performed to critical acclaim across the US, in Europe, and on radio and live-television.



Barniskis' mesmerizing voice, innovative use of electronic effects, angular imagery and odd characters and stories are at once comedic and sinister, and blend effortlessly with Nick Jaffe's evocative improvisational soundscapes and hypnotic grooves.

SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE is a hip hop artist, spoken-word poet, and social justice educator. His work explores mythology, science fiction, spirituality, and the paranormal. Find SEE MORE in a cypher or a seance, facilitating conversations about social justice, singing for strangers in a living room, or sharing culture, tradition, and craft in a classroom. Learn more at



[www.seemoreperspective.com](http://www.seemoreperspective.com)

## KEY DATES

October 4, 2019	Deadline for special rate at Mpls Marriott SW
October 25-27, 2019	LOMP Fall Conference

# LeadershipREPORT

## WE ARE GROWING

As the summer comes to an end, a fall filled with poetry is kicking into gear. Our More than 20 poets gathered up at Horseshoe Lake for the Woodtick Poetry Retreat; we are happy to have new faces join us. And this year our membership has exceeded 200—we are growing!

While we have not had too many events over the summer, a lot has been going on behind the scenes. We are excited to run our pilot program for the John C. Rezmerski Award for an Emerging Poet, an award that cultivates the writing of a Minnesota poet by providing dedicated time and space to write.

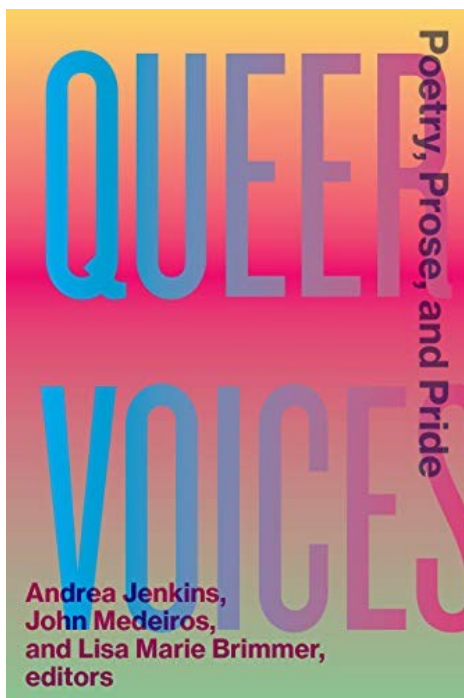
We are also excited to present the curators of *Queer Voices: an Anthology of Poetry, Prose, and Essays*. We are proud to have recognize several of the collection's contributors as members.

We will also feature a few other literary organizations as a part of the Fall Conference to further share the great work happening in the state of Minnesota poetry. This year the conference will feature musical voices on Saturday night. SEE MORE PERSPECTIVE and Downrange Telemetrics will share their unique sound and voices with us. We hope that you join us in this celebration of poetic voices.

Book festival season is kicking up again too. In October, we will have a table at the Deep Valley Book Festival in Mankato. We are looking for more places and ways to connect in different areas in the state. Please keep let us know if there are any book fairs or festivals happening around the state where you would like to see us. With the fall will bring a flurry of poetry with fresh air and crisp books.

Sincerely,

Peter Stein



Since its beginnings in 1993, the Queer Voices reading series has featured both emerging and established Minnesota-based writers of the LGBTQIA+ community. With a track record of more than twenty years, the series has become a national model and one of Minnesota's most important literary institutions. It is reputed to be the longest-running curated queer reading series in the country.

In this volume, series curators John Medeiros and Andrea Jenkins and facilitator Lisa Marie Brimmer present the finest poetry, fiction, and non-fiction pieces by the presenters. Their work, generated and performed in a powerful space of understanding, explores the material of life without internal or external censorship. Living, loving, working, learning, playing, reflecting, knowing, inventing, and being—these magnificent queer voices affirm the importance of civil literacy and the power of vulnerability.

# MEMBER *Achievements*

## NFSPS POETRY AWARDS TO MINNESOTANS

Congratulations to the following Minnesotans who received recognition in the 2019 NFSPS Poetry Contest.

Susan Stevens Chambers (Good Thunder)—NFSPS Founders Award 2nd Place, Winners' Circle Award HM, Al Laster Memorial Award HM, Arizona State Poetry Society Award HM

Robert La Fleur (Ponsford)—Winners' Circle Award HM, New York Poetry Forum Award HM, Columbine Poets of Colorado Award HM, Louisiana State Poetry Society Award HM

Charmaine Pappas Donovan (Brainerd)—Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award 1st Place, Georgia Poetry Society Award HM, New York Poetry Forum Award HM, Illinois State Poetry Society Award HM, Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award HM

Christina M. Flaughner (Mapleton)—Save Our Earth Award 1st Place, Massachusetts State Poetry Society Award HM

Deborah Goschy (Eagle Lake)—Land of Enchantment Award HM

Ellen Lager (Robbinsdale)—Arizona State Poetry Society Award HM

Jana Bouma (Madison Lake)—Jessica C. Saunders Memorial Award 3rd Place

Judith Feenstra (Maple Lake)—Jesse Stuart Memorial Award 3rd Place

Mary Willette Hughes (Waite Park)—The Children's Hour Award HM

Meredith R. Cook (Blue Earth)—Arizona State Poetry Society Award 3rd Place, Minute Award HM, Jesse Stuart Memorial Award HM, Iowa Poetry Association Award HM, Wyopoets Award HM

Micki Blenkush (St. Cloud)—Poetry Society of Michigan Award 1st Place, Florida State Poets Association Award 1st Place, Save Our Earth Award 3rd Place, Al Laster Memorial Award HM, Ohio Award HM



## ABOUT LOMP

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:  
Peter Stein

VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP:  
Amanda Bailey

SECRETARY:  
David Stein

TREASURER:  
Mary Schmidt

PAST PRESIDENT:  
Dennis Herschbach

### APPOINTMENTS

LOMP Poet Laureate:  
Doris Stengel

MOCCASIN EDITOR:  
Meredith R. Cook

HISTORIAN:  
open

LOMPLIGHTER EDITOR:  
Joe Anderson

PUBLICITY CHAIR:  
open

YOUTH CHAIR:  
Brendan Brophy

### CONTACT US

[LeagueOfMNPoets@gmail.com](mailto:LeagueOfMNPoets@gmail.com)



# MEETINGS and EVENTS

## FREE WRITING WORKSHOPS

The Witness Writers host free monthly writing workshops at at UROC, 2001 Plymouth Ave N, Minneapolis. "The Eyes Have It," 9:00am on Saturday, October 5, explores the relationship between sight and writing.

Workshops are led by teaching artists, who provide prompts, samples, and craft guidance. Time is built in for writing, voluntary sharing, and connecting the literary arts to other arts, such as painting, music, or textiles. Workshops are free and are designed for creative writers of all experience levels, from absolute beginners to advanced writers. Healthy snacks and liquid refreshments are provided. More information is available at [facebook.com/witnesswriting](https://facebook.com/witnesswriting)

## U OF MN POETRY READING

The Department of English and the Creative Writing Program present poet Natalie Diaz, 7:00pm, Thursday, October 17, at the McNamara Alumni Center—Swain Room, 200 Oak Street SE, Minneapolis.

Diaz is Mojave and an enrolled member of the Gila River Indian community. She is the author of the acclaimed poetry collection *When My Brother Was an Aztec* (Copper Canyon Press), and was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship in 2018. According to the MacArthur Foundation, "Diaz is broadening the reach of Indigenous perspectives." Diaz is a professor at Arizona State University.

## GOOD THUNDER READING SERIES

The annual Good Thunder Reading Series invites new and established writers to Mankato to conduct discussions on the craft of writing, and to read from their published works. Featured writers usually lead a morning workshop, present an afternoon talk, and give an evening reading followed by a book signing. Readings are held in Centennial Student Union, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Thursday, September 26, 7:30pm, **Ada Limón**, CSU Room 245

Limón is the author of five books of poetry, including *The Carrying*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry and was named one of the top five books of 2018 by the Washington Post, and *Bright Dead Things*. She serves on the faculty of Queens University of Charlotte Low Residency MFA program, and the online and summer programs for Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center. She also works as a freelancer writer in Lexington, Kentucky.

Thursday, November 14, 7:30pm, **Paisley Rekdal**, CSU Room 245

Utah's Poet Laureate, Paisley Rekdal, is the author of three books of nonfiction, including *The Broken Country: On Trauma, a Crime, and the Continuing Legacy of Vietnam* and *The Night My Mother Met Bruce Lee*, and six books of poetry: *Nightingale*; *Imaginary Vessels*, finalist for the 2018 Kingsley Tufts Prize and the Washington State Book Award; *Animal Eye*, finalist for the 2013 Kingsley Tufts Prize and winner of the UNT Rilke Prize; *The Invention of the Kaleidoscope*; *Six Girls Without Pants*; *A Crash of Rhinos*. *Appropriate: A Provocation*, a book-length essay examining cultural appropriation, is forthcoming from W. W. Norton.

Thursday, February 27, 7:30pm, **Bao Phi**, CSU Ostrander Auditorium

Bao Phi has been a performance poet since 1991. A two-time Minnesota Grand Slam champion and a National Poetry Slam finalist, he has performed as a featured artist all over the U.S. and has appeared on HBO Presents Russell Simmons Def Poetry. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Thousand Star Hotel*, which was a finalist for the 2018 Minnesota Book Award for Poetry, and *Sông I Sing*.

Thursday, March 26, **Ross Gay**, CSU Room 245

Ross Gay is the author of three books of poetry: *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, winner of the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award, *Bringing the Shovel Down*, and *Against Which*. He is a founding board member of the Bloomington Community Orchard, a non-profit, free fruit-for-all food justice and joy project, and teaching at Indiana University.

# POETRY CONTESTS and CALLS

## POETRY CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

**South Dakota State Poetry Society** entries are due December 1.

The contest features two categories: Portrait poems, which must be about someone from South Dakota; and Landscape poems, which must feature the natural environment of South Dakota. Electronic entries only. [sdpoetry.org/annual-contest/](http://sdpoetry.org/annual-contest/)

The **Pennsylvania Poetry Society** will accept entries for its 68th annual competition from October 15, 2019 until January 15, 2020. Most categories are open to anyone, but PPS dues must be paid by November 30 to qualify for member-only categories.

[www.nfsps.com/pa/PPS-Competitions.html](http://www.nfsps.com/pa/PPS-Competitions.html)

## MINNESOTA BOOK AWARDS SEEKING BOOKS

The Minnesota Book Awards, a program of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, is seeking submissions of books published in 2019. The nine categories include: Children's literature, general nonfiction, genre fiction, memoir & creative fiction, middle grade literature, Minnesota nonfiction, novel & short story, poetry, and young adult literature. To be eligible, all books must be the work of a Minnesota author or primary artistic creator and must have a copyright of 2019. Authors, publishers and agents are eligible to submit a book by completing the online form, submitting five copies of the book and pay a \$45 entry fee. Guidelines available at [thefriends.org/submissions](http://thefriends.org/submissions). Deadline: Friday, November 15

## GABRIEL'S HORN SEEKING POETRY

From now until March 15, 2020, Gabriel's Horn Press is accepting submissions of poetry for an annual anthology. They are looking for poetry that is written in traditional form, positive, uplifting, and inspirational, in particular with a focus on faith and family. The theme for 2020 is NATURE. We are looking for moments of joy, thoughts on joy, images or stories or moments that bring joy, learning to find or regain joy. The \$3 submission fee allows for up to 5 poems. Poets are paid \$10 per published poem. More information available at [www.gabrielshornpress.com/poetry-anthology](http://www.gabrielshornpress.com/poetry-anthology)

## SUPERIOR WI SEEKS POET LAUREATE

Applicants must submit a cover letter, completed application, list of published works, writing sample, and brief biography via email to [wfoppres@gmail.com](mailto:wfoppres@gmail.com) or via U.S. mail to Jan Chronister, 3931 South Country Road O, Maple, WI 54854. Completed applications may also be dropped off at Superior Public Library, 1530 Tower Ave., Superior. All applications are due October 15.

Thursday, September 12, 2:00pm—**St Paul Poetry Club**, a monthly critique workshop, Amore Coffee, 879 Smith Ave S, West Saint Paul

Saturday, September 14, 2:00pm—**Uptown Poetry Club**, a monthly critique workshop, Common Roots Café, 2558 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis

Sunday, September 15, noon—**Well-Placed Commas: A Weekly Poetry Workshop**, every Sunday afternoon at Strike Theater, 824 18th Ave NE, Minneapolis.

Sunday, September 15, 5:00pm—David Bayliss hosts **Poetry Happy Hour** at the Troubadour Wine Bar, 2827 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis.

Saturday, September 21, 2:00pm—**Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers** monthly meeting, Irreverent Bookwork, 5163 Bloomington Ave, Minneapolis

Saturday, September 28, 6:00pm—reading by **Ryan Vine**, winner of the Northeast Minnesota Book Award winning poetry book *To Keep Him Hidden*, Bookstore at Fitgers, 600 E Superior St, Duluth

Saturday, October 5, 10am-4pm—**Deep Valley Book Festival**, Loose Moose Saloon & Conference Center, 119 S Front St, Mankato

Wednesday, October 16, 7:00pm—**Poets & Pints** with Tony Plocido, Sisyphus Brewing, 712 Ontario Ave W, Minneapolis

To receive a discounted rate, reserve your room for the LOMP Fall Conference at the Minneapolis Marriott SW by **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

[www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1561754494759&key=GRP&app=resvlink](http://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1561754494759&key=GRP&app=resvlink)



## LOMP MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Your membership in the League of Minnesota Poets includes 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 poetry retreats (winter and summer)
- Reduced rates for entering the LOMP and NFSPS annual contests
- Opportunities to meet and share work with other poets
- Opportunity to sell your books at meetings and online

## Poetry Reading Contemporary and Free with **Laura Hansen, Author**



**THURSDAY, SEPT. 19  
6:00 TO 7:00 P.M.**

Laura Hansen will read from her poetry collections *Déjà Vu* and *Midnight River*. Hansen – who writes in contemporary free verse - won the Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition and was a Midwest Book Award Finalist in Poetry for *Midnight River*. Listeners will come away with a new appreciation for poetry as relatable and relevant to modern life.

For adults and teens. Preregistration requested. Limit 40.



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