



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

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership fee:
\$25 (\$15 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

Blizzard Writers Poetry Retreat

Join us Thursday, January 23, through Sunday, January 26, 2020, for the 21st Annual Blizzard Writers Poetry Retreat at The Lodge, 822 S 4th St, Saint Peter (on the corner of College Ave and S 4th St near Minnesota Square Park and not far from Gustavus Adolphus College).

You must be a current LOMP member to attend, so be sure your 2020 dues have been paid. The fee for the Retreat is \$80 for the full weekend. If you do not need lodging, join us for \$10 per day (\$30 for the full weekend). Make checks payable to LOMP and mail to Retreat Coordinator Sue Chambers, PO Box 422, Mankato, MN 56002, by Friday, January 17. Contact Sue to discuss scholarship opportunities, or for more information, via phone, 507-387-8154, or email, schambersmediator@yahoo.com.

Bring food and/or beverages to share. If you have special needs or food allergies, bring what you need for the weekend. Participants will be grouped into meal preparation teams, and everyone will help with clean-up. Request a specific team by contacting Sue Chambers.

Bring poems to share at read-arounds, and prepare a poetry program that is at least 30 minutes in length.

The program can be anything—physical

activity that will stimulate writing; a writing workshop; a favorite author; a new form; a lecture; a special taped program that you want to lead a discussion on...the possibilities are endless. Joint programs are also permissible.



KEY DATES

January 17, 2020

Blizzard Writers Poetry Retreat fees due

January 23-26, 2020

Blizzard Writers Poetry Retreat

April, 2020

LOMP Spring Conference

LeadershipREPORT

Winter is always a good season for reflection and review, especially in Minnesota. The League of Minnesota Poets has had a busy year. We kicked it off with a board retreat to brainstorm and plan for the years to come. Out of that, we identified the direction of our organization which included greater promotion for the League and poetry throughout the state, additional programs to benefit members, and ways to connect people throughout the state through poetry.

In this coming year, we will continue with this focus. Once again, we will start the year with board retreat to regain focus on what lies ahead for the League. This coming year will start off with a number of changes for the League. We have increased our dues for the first time in over 20 years to accommodate costs, as well as to help fund additional programing. We also added language to include the option of requesting membership if the cost presents a financial barrier in order to be more inclusive. We are also holding our Blizzard retreat in a new location this year. The League appreciates the hospitality that Sue Chambers has provided over the years for this cornerstone event. We will continue this tradition and make it as accommodating as we can for our members to congregate and celebrate each other's poetry. Information on the retreat is included in the newsletter, and although there will be a cost this year to rent a facility to house us, we are making efforts to keep it affordable.

I would also like to extend an endless thank you to all who have put in so much time and effort into making the League what it is. From the Moccasin, to the Conferences, the chapters and all that they do, the hours of commitment fill me with a gratitude that is impossible to express. I look forward to making the new year even more inspiring and successful in this great state of Poetry.

Sincerely,

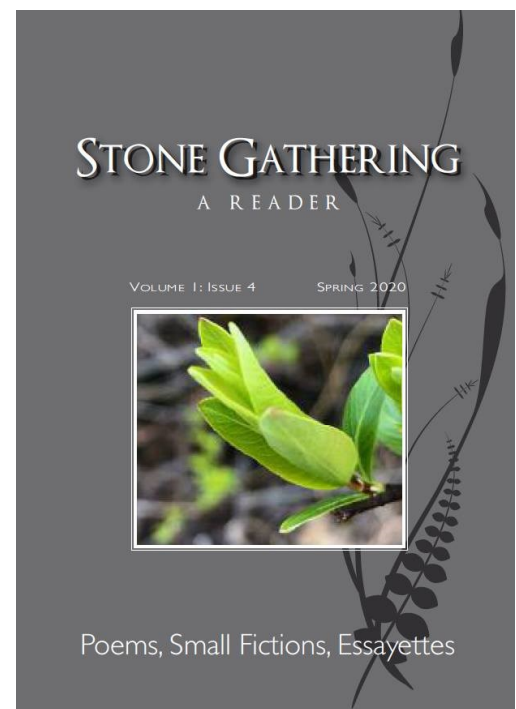
Peter Stein



Stone Gathering is a quarterly anthology of short-literature run by League member Deborah Jacobs. Named for her grandchildren's practice of finding, painting, and giving away kindness rocks, *Stone Gathering* has featured other League members such as Laura Hansen, Morgan Grayce Willow, and Margaret Hasse, as well as national authors such as Ross Gay, Naomi Shihab Nye, and William Stafford.

Subscribe at www.danielledufy.com

Join the Friends of the Brainerd Public Library at noon, Monday, March 2, for an event with Deborah Jacobs to discuss *Stone Gathering*. No registration necessary, just come and enjoy the light refreshments provided or bring a bag lunch over your lunch break. The Library is located at 416 S 5th St, Brainerd.



MEMBER *Achievements*

Isadora Gruye's first poetry collection, *The Ladies' Guide to the Apocalypse*, poems for all your end of times, was published in October. www.isadoragruye.com

The Night Journey, a collection of short prose and poems by Laura Hansen, will be published in January 2020 by River Place Press.

www.laurahansenbooks.com/store/p1/the-night-journey.html

Margaret Hasse's poems were featured on Poetry Sunday for *Women's Voices for Change*, a news, commentary and opinion website that celebrates women's health, beauty, wisdom and vibrancy. womensvoicesforchange.org/radiance-truant-and-marking-him-by-margaret-hasse.htm

Persistence of Vision, a chapbook by **Donna Isaac**, was published in November by Finishing Line Press. Featuring 32 poems, it is a reflection of the author's love for classic films.

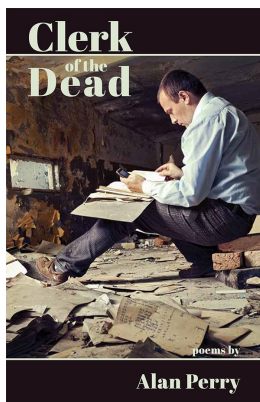
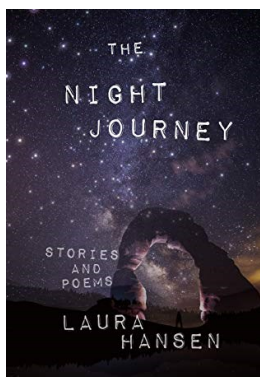
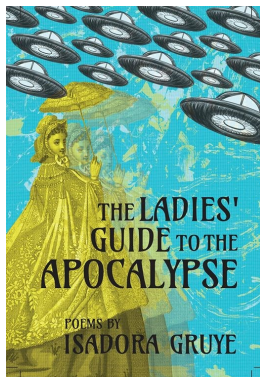
www.finishinglinepress.com/product/persistence-of-vision-by-donna-isaac/

Alan Perry's first chapbook, *Clerk of the Dead*, will be published by Main Street Rag Publishing in early 2020. For release details, comments and a significant pre-publication discount offer, visit mainstreetragbookstore.com/product-category/coming-soon/

Several LOMP members have their NFSPS poetry-contest-winning poems published in *Encore 2019*, the annual anthology of 150 poems, now available on Amazon.com for \$13.

www.amazon.com/Encore-National-Federation-Poetry-Societies/dp/1076228658/

Sheila Packa and **Bryan Thao Worra** were awarded artist initiative grants from the Minnesota States Arts Board. Packa will develop poems for a new manuscript, *Surface Displacements*, and present four readings and workshops focused on individual stories that reflect on local history and current tensions in the landscape. Thao Worra will strengthen and diversify the audience for Lao Minnesotan literary arts, particularly speculative poetry, in underserved communities in North Minneapolis and Warroad.



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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sunday, January 5, 5:00pm—

David Bayliss hosts **Poetry Happy Hour**, Troubadour Wine Bar, 2827 Hennepin Ave, Mpls

Thursday, January 9, 3:30pm—

Poetry Meet-Up, an informal sharing and discussion group, Creators Space, 218 7th St E, St Paul

Thursday, January 9, 6:30pm—

St Paul Poetry Club, a monthly critique workshop, Amore Coffee, 879 Smith Ave S, West Saint Paul

Wednesday, January 15, 7pm—

Book Launch for *Persistence of Vision* and *The Ladies Guide to the Apocalypse* with Donna Isaac and Isadora Gruye, Subtext Books, 6 5th St W, Saint Paul

Wednesday, January 15, 7pm—

Poets & Pints with Tony Plocido, Sisyphus Brewing, 712 Ontario Ave W Ste 100, Mpls

Thursday, January 16, 10am—

SW Metro Poets Group, Chanhassen Library, 7711 Kerber Blvd, Chanhassen

Saturday, January 18, 2:00pm—

Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers monthly meeting, Irreverent Bookworm, 5163 Bloomington Ave, Minneapolis

Tuesday, January 21, 7:30pm—

Readings by Writers, Hosted by Tim Nolan, University Club of St Paul, 420 Summit Ave, St Paul

Wednesday, February 12, 7pm—

Fireside Reading Series: Laurie Allman, Hamline Midway Library, 1558 Minnehaha Ave W, St Paul

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. Readings are held in Centennial Student Union, Minnesota State University, Mankato.

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 teaches at Indiana University.

WELL-PLACED COMMAS

This 16+ writing workshop is open to all levels of experience. We do not censor for content—we believe in both free speech and in holding people accountable for their words. Held every Sunday from 12-2 pm at Strike Theater, 824 18th Ave NE, Minneapolis. Dialogue is encouraged, and absolutely everyone is welcome!

WITNESS WRITERS

The Witness Writing Project hosts free creative writing workshops, usually on the 1st Saturday of the month, from 9-12, at UROC, near the intersection of Plymouth and Penn in north Minneapolis. Workshops are led by teaching artists, who provide prompts, samples, and craft guidance. For more information, or to get on our email list, contact Nancy at witnesswriting@gmail.com

2019 LOMP POETRY CONTESTS WINNERS

John Calvin Rezmerski Memorial Grand Prize

1. *So long and thanks for all the riches*, Barbara Blanks, Garland TX
2. *Daughter*, Beth Spencer, Eden Prairie MN
3. *Heavy*, Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake MN

Relevance of Rural Award

1. *Living Patterns*, Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN
2. *It's Not as If Destruction Can Simply Be Undone*, Judith Feenstra, Maple Lake MN
3. *This Breathing Body*, Pamela Sinicrope, Rochester MN

Story Portage Award

1. *Disputation of Joyce Kilmer By a Tree Anomaly*, Roger Brezina, New Prague MN
2. *I Dwell in Possibility*, Lucy Tyrrell, Bayfield WI
3. *A Walk With Henry*, Doris Stengel, Brainerd MN

Stevens Family Award

1. *Under a Full Moon*, Laura Lynn Hansen, Little Falls MN
2. *For Audrey*, Jennifer Jessep, Pine Island
3. *Shoebox of Photographs*, Eileen Malone, Broadmoor Village CA

Florence Hynes Willette Memorial

1. *On Learning that Robert Frost Wrote his Poem in the Summertime*, Jane Hufford Downes, Hopkins MN
2. *She Walks in Butter*, Josh Lefkowitz, Brooklyn NY
3. *Poetically Speaking*, Mary Willette Hughes, Waite Park

Woodtick Poets Award

1. *Green Papaya Salad at the Night Market in Thailand*, Laura Lanik, St. Paul MN
2. *Birthright*, Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN
3. *Rhubarb*, Jane Downes, Hopkins MN

Southern MN Poets Society Award

1. *Early Risers in Shadow*, Ellen Lager, Robbinsdale MN
2. *Road Kill*, Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne IN
3. *Bachelors*, Steven Vogel, Rochester MN

John & Helen Pappas Memorial

1. *Love is a Theory*, Lynda La Rocca, Salida CO
2. *Legacy in Passing*, Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN
3. *On the First Day of School*, Beth Staas, Oak Brook IL

Blizzard Writers' Award

1. *The Art of Healing*, Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights
2. *The Drive Home*, Barbara Terrill, Owatonna MN
3. *The Wait for Parallel Lines to Converge*, Lucille Morgan Wilson, Des Moines IA

Grandview Award

1. *So Near My Sickly Child, I Count to Twelve*, Beth Spencer, Eden Prairie, MN
2. *Pleas*, Alan Perry, Maple Grove, MN
3. *Rocket Pajamas*, Marg Walker, St. Paul MN

Bring Back the Prairies Award

1. *Another View*, Ed Brekke-Kramer, Fairmont MN
2. *Disturbing Reflections from the (Developed) World*, Cole Williams, Minneapolis MN
3. *Posted in a Sea of Reclaimed Prairie the Sign along the Highway Reads, Kindred*, Micki Blenkush, St. Cloud MN

Musica Award

1. *A Song Bird's Symphony*, Rita Aiken Moritz, Cropwell AL
2. *The Conductor*, Barbara Blanks, Garland TX
3. *A Young Maiden Asks of Love*, Shirley Smith Franklin, Arden Hills MN

Poets Potluck

1. *Exposure*, Nancy Cook, St. Paul MN
2. *Voice*, Steven R. Vogel, Rochester MN
3. *Urban Night Sky*, Meredith Cook, Blue Earth MN

Southeastern Minnesota Poets Award

1. *Anna's Victorious Illness*, Gail Denham, Sunriver OR
2. *The Devil's Come to Get Me*, June Blumenson, Minneapolis
3. *Mirage*, Annette Gagliardi, Minneapolis MN

Coral Peterson Memorial Award

1. *Family Barbecue, August 1970*, Lynda La Rocca, Salida CO
2. *North Shore Lake Superior 1959*, Jeanette Marie Cox, Ely
3. *Grandma's Butter*, LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair OK

Lost in Translation Award

1. *I am a foot soldier in the battle of words*, Jenna Pashley Smith, Richmond TX
2. *Signs*, Alan Perry, Maple Grove MN
3. *Play Date*, Jerri Hardesty, Brierfield AL

Heartland Poets Award

1. *Sagrada Familia, 2001*, Steven R Vogel, Rochester MN
2. *Lunar Musings*, Donna Isaac, Inver Grove Heights MN
3. *Christina and Me*, Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake MN

Mississippi Valley Poets and Writers Award

1. *Hornet and I swish*, Diana Berrigan, White Bear Lake MN
2. *Three Haiku*, Shirley Smith Franklin, Arden Hills MN
3. *December winds hurl*, Nancy Simmonds, Ft. Wayne IN

The Moccasin Award

1. *Azure*, Sandra M. Kacher, Burnsville MN
2. *Laundry and Reproach*, Laura Lynn Hansen, Little Falls
3. *My Youngest Uncle*, Kathryn Knudson, Minneapolis MN

POETRY CONTESTS & CALLS

POETRY CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Two of **Massachusetts State Poetry Society's** contests are currently accepting unpublished entries in any form. Submit a poem in praise of someone, something, or someplace (human, vegetable, animal, mineral, flora, etc.) by January 15, 2020 for "Of Thee I Sing" contest. The Gertrude Dole Memorial Award contest is accepting entries until March 15, 2020. mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/id14.html

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

Entries for **Mississippi Poetry Society's** Spring Fest contest must be received by Friday, February 7, 2020. Winners are announced at the Fest in April, and all poems that place first, second, or third will be published in the 2020 *Mississippi Poetry Journal*. www.misspoetry.net/contests.html

Original, unpublished poems will be accepted electronically until February 1, 2020, for **Georgia Poetry Society's** annual print collection of poems, *The Reach of Song*; for the Byron Herbert Reese Poetry Prize (\$1,000 awarded to the first place winner); or, if you join the Georgia Poetry Society, for the GPS Member Contest. Poems submitted must be appropriate for placement in school and public libraries.

The **Georgia Poetry Society** is also accepting manuscripts for the Charles Dickson Chapbook Contest. Dickson, an internationally respected poet of the haiku, was the author of *A Touch of Wholeness*, *Taste of Summer*, *Fragrance of Frost Grapes*, and *Out of Cassiopeia*. The winner will receive \$250 and 25 printed copies of the chapbook. The deadline to enter is February 1, 2020. georgiapoetrysociety.org/contests/

The annual **WyoPoets** Eugene V. Shea National Poetry Contest opened October 1 for submissions. Entries will be accepted through December 31, 2019. This contest honors the late Eugene V. Shea, a longtime member of WyoPoets. Eugene was a prolific writer who ran the organization's national contest for many years, and his dedication to the written word, to encouraging other writers, and to WyoPoets is forever appreciated. www.wyopoets.org/shea-contest.html

Entries for the **Utah State Poetry Society** 2020 contest are due February 1, 2020. Winners will be announced at the UTSPS April Awards Festival. www.utahpoets.com/contests/contests.html

GABRIEL'S HORN

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



FLEXIBLE PRESS

Flexible Press and Split Rock Review seek poetry submissions for *Rewilding: Poems for the Environment*, an anthology that explores the current state of the natural environment. All proceeds will be donated to Friends of the Boundary Waters and Wilderness, a nonprofit environmental organization. Deadline: December 31. For information and guidelines, visit: www.splitrockreview.org/submit or www.flexiblepub.com

POETRY FOR THE WINONA POETRY WALK

The Winona Fine Arts Commission (FAC) is asking Winona residents to submit original short poems for the Winona Poetry Walk. Submissions will be accepted through January 31.

www.cityofwinona.com/2019/10/winona-poetry-walk/

MIDWAY JOURNAL SEEKS FAIRGROUND-THEMED WORKS

Midway Journal accepts submissions of aesthetically ambitious work that invokes the colliding and converging energies of the fairgrounds. Submit online between January 1 and March 31. midwayjournal.com/submissions/

SUNDAY MORNING LYRICALITY FEATURES MINNESOTA POETS

Each week Lyricality.org will publish a poem, son, or spoken word video by a Minnesota writer. Submit a poem that will move or inspire, arouse compassion, or invoke curiosity. Previously published work is welcome, but include acknowledgement and obtain relevant permission. New work is also welcome. lyricality.org/submissions/

2020 COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY COMPETITION

Florence Kahn Award

Edna Meudt Award



www.nfmps.com/CUP.html

Each of the two winners will receive:

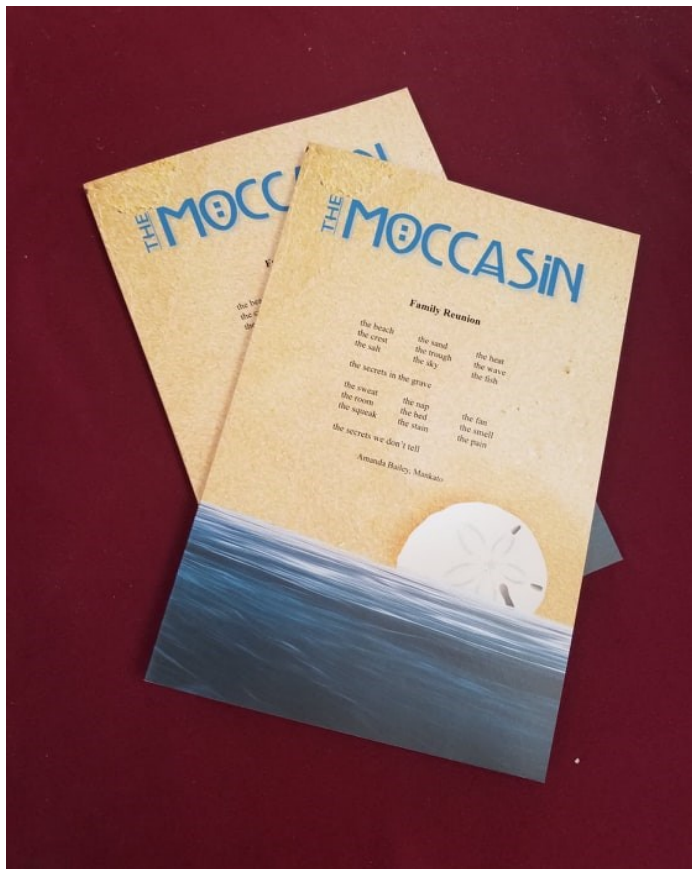
- \$500 cash
- Chapbook publication and 75 copies of the chapbook
- \$300 travel stipend to the NFSPS convention
- Complimentary one-year membership in NFSPS and in an NFSPS-affiliated state poetry society of the winner's choosing

Submit a manuscript of ten original, unpublished poems, and a \$10 fee by midnight PST January 31, 2020. You will be required to confirm that your poetry is original and unpublished. Contestants may not use any material copyrighted by another author as the basis for their poems.

Complete the application form and upload your manuscript file online at nfmps.submittable.com/submit. The manuscript must be a single document that contains only your title page followed by ten poems. Insert a page break after the text of each poem. Once you have uploaded the file, you cannot make edits. Acceptable file formats include .doc and .docx (MS Word) and pdf

To be eligible, you must be an undergraduate working toward a degree in an accredited US college or university during the submission period (December 1, 2019 through January 31, 2020).

Two winners will be chosen, one receiving the Edna Meudt Memorial Award; the other receiving the Florence Kahn Memorial Award. Winners and entrants will be notified by email on Monday, March 11. Winners will be announced in the April issue of *Strophes*, the NFSPS newsletter.



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



LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA POETS 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ANNUAL DUES: Adults \$25.00, Students (K-12) \$15.00. Please submit dues by March 1 for membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Dues paid after October 31 will be applied to the upcoming calendar year. Dues may be paid online via PayPal at www.mnpoets.org/membership or by mailing a check to the treasurer.

IF PAYING BY CHECK, PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

If you are a new member, how did you hear about LOMP? _____

Signature of applicant: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to LOMP and mail to: Mary Schmidt, PO Box 17344, Minneapolis, MN 55417

Questions about membership? Email marylschmidt2014@gmail.com