



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

CARDIO-POETIC-RESUSCITATION: SPRING CONFERENCE

Join us April 17-19 at the Kahler Grand Hotel, 20 2nd Ave SW, Rochester, MN, for the 2020 LOMP Spring Conference featuring Lisa Higgs, Daniel Dietrich, Christina Flaughner, and Ariel Boswell.

A Minnesota native, Lisa Higgs was fortunate to be named a participant in the Loft Literary Center Mentor Series in Minneapolis from June 2006 through May 2007. She received her MFA in creative writing from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Daniel Dietrich and his wife live in the Driftless Area in southeastern Minnesota. He is a devotee of Thoreau's journals, wood heat and yellow labs. His poems have appeared in *Contours: A Literary Landscape*, *Applause* and *Poet-Artist Collaboration*. *Homestead* is his first collection.

Christina Flaughner is a past president of LOMP. Ariel Boswell is a nurse at Mayo Clinic, a reader, a writer, a wife, and an anthropologist.

Please make your hotel reservation by calling the Kahler at (507) 280-6200. Mention the League for a special rate of \$108.00 (plus tax).



KEY DATES

April 10, 2020

Early-Bird Deadline to register for Spring Conference

April 14, 2020

Deadline to register for Spring Conference

April 17-19, 2020

LOMP Spring Conference, Rochester, MN

LeadershipREPORT

The earth has once again rolled around the sun which not only brings reflection, but looking forward as well. Though in many ways, the League is focused on much of what we have done in the past, we are also looking to push ourselves in what we do to take that next step, to go to the next level. I often think about this in my own writing. Poetry and its devices have largely remained the same for centuries, rooted in images, metaphor, sounds, etc. The challenge is to use these devices to present something new and unique to move the reader or audience. I challenge myself to think how can I use these poetic devices in refreshing ways, taking risks to create something unique. While these attempts don't always yield publishable or winning poems (or even ones I'd want to read in public), the exploration of the possibilities itself helps me chart out new territories of what poetry can be. In many ways, this is the same from an organizational standpoint. The board once again gathered for a retreat this winter to review the territory we have explored, and decide which areas to focus on, as well as which areas to explore next. As we continue to navigate poetic waters, I am grateful for my shipmates who have joined in this expedition. To keep this ship sailing smoothly, we have been working on outlining all the projects and events we run (and ones we want to!). This has helped us identify areas where we could use more assistance on this ship of ours. Whether it is to join the board, or to help with mailings, if you would like to help out please contact us and join us on this journey of sailing into both charted and uncharted waters.

Sincerely,

Peter Stein



MOCCASIN COVER CONTEST!

Do you have a poetic eye for graphic design? The League now has open submissions for the 2020 *Moccasin* cover. Create an image or design to adorn our members publication. Here's what you need to know:

- Winner will receive a first place prize of \$25 and their art on the cover of the 2020 *Moccasin*
- Images must be in jpeg or png format, with a minimum resolution of 3000 x 2400
- Submission Deadline is May 31—email submissions to leagueofmnpoeets@gmail.com with Moccasin Cover Contest as the subject.
- The design does not need to have the text of the poem included, but design will be judged on how it will fit with the text.
- The design may be edited to fit the cover and compliment the text.



MEMBER *Achievements*

The book launch for *Heart on the Page: A Portable Writing Workshop*, a compilation of the life's work of **Wendy Brown-Báez**, will be Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm, at Eat My Words Bookstore, 214 13th Ave NE, Minneapolis.

The book is an inspirational guide for individual writers and writing instructors who work in institutions, non-profit organizations, and healing centers. It interweaves stories of workshops held in community spaces with practical advice on how to guide, encourage and inspire writers who may not think of themselves as writers but have a story to tell. Suggestions of specific poems and prompts to access intuitive guidance and unblock creativity are interwoven with writing exercises.

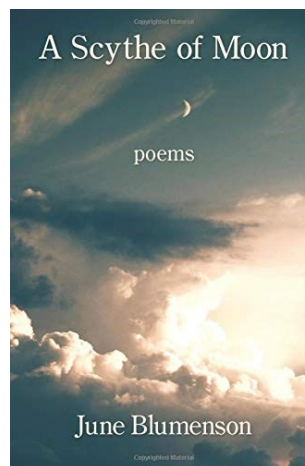
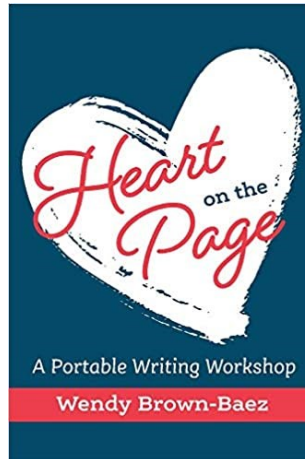
Writing and sharing stories activates the ability to find meaning after trauma, loss, or transition. The book is valuable for individuals who write on their own and staff or volunteers who work either one-on-one or in groups. It is a resource for those wishing to incorporate the arts as a part of integrative medicine and those who wish to develop deeper self-awareness for their own self-care while providing service and care for others.

Wendy is the creator of Writing Circles for Healing. She has facilitated writing workshops for more than fifteen years in community spaces including human service and arts non-profits; institutions such as schools, prisons and libraries; healing centers; spiritual centers and yoga studios; bookstores and arts organizations.

June Blumenson's debut collection of poetry, *A Scythe of Moon*, (Kelsay Books) is now available in bookstores and Amazon. Her work appears in many literary journals including *Comstock*, *Nimrod* and *San Pedro River Review*. She has won several awards including the Minneapolis Institute of Art/Loft Literary Center Sacred Shorts Award. She curates a poetry reading series, teaches and facilitates poetry workshops.

When asked why she writes, she likes to quote Kurt Vonnegut. "I write so I can edit myself into some form of intelligence."

June is also featured in *Mind of a Poet* discussing her shape poem *Swallowing a Mountain* in the February issue of *Spank the Carp*.



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:
Amanda Bailey

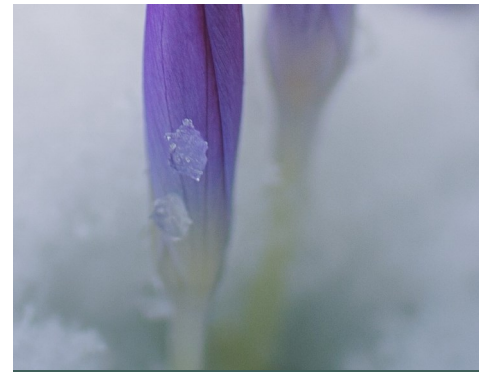
LOMPLIGHTER EDITOR:
Joe Anderson

PUBLICITY CHAIR:
open

YOUTH CHAIR:
Brendan Brophy

CONTACT US

LeagueOfMNPoets@gmail.com



MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sunday, March 8, 3:00pm—

Poetry Book Club: *Space Struck* by Paige Lewis, SubText: A Bookstore, 6 5th St W, Saint Paul

Thursday, March 12, 7:00pm—

Writers Read with Mike Finley, Julie Adrian, Judy Hawkinson, Helen Lapakko, and Sprishya Devkota; The Coffee Shop Northeast, 2852 Johnson St NE, Minneapolis

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00pm—
poetry reading by Michael Kiesow Moore for *The Song Castle* and Carol Masters for *Dear Descendent*.

SubText: A Bookstore, 6 5th St W, Saint Paul

Wednesday, March 18, 7:00pm—

Poets & Pints featuring Didi Koka, George Colburn, Dara Syrkin, and Thressa Johnson; Sisyphus Brewing, 712 Ontario Ave W, Mpls

Thursday, March 19, 7:00pm—

U of M's Creative Writing Program **annual debut-author event**, Coffman Memorial Union Theater, 300 Washington Ave SE, Minneapolis

Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm—

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

Thursday, March 26, 7:30pm—

Good Thunder Reading Series presents **Ross Gay**, Room 245, Centennial Student Union, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Wednesday, April 1, 6:30pm—

Performing Poetry Workshop. Bring a piece to perform, and copies for the group. Since this is a performance workshop, not a writing

workshop, you may select poems from any source. Don't forget a notebook and pen. Eat My Words Bookstore, 214 13th Ave NE, Mpls

Sunday, April 12, 3:00pm—

Poetry Book Club: Jake Skeets, SubText: A Bookstore, 6 5th St W, Saint Paul

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00pm—

Poets & Pints featuring King October, Jessi Marie, Shannon Fletcher, Charlie Curry, Alli Cooney, et al; Sisyphus Brewing, 712 Ontario Ave W, Minneapolis

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00pm—

poetry reading by D.E. Green for *Jumping the Median*, and Joy Sutphen for *Carrying Water to the Field*. Book signing to follow! SubText: A Bookstore, 6 5th St W, Saint Paul

WELL-PLACED COMMAS

This 16+ writing workshop is open to all levels of experience. We do not censor 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.

WITNESS WRITERS

The Witness Writing Project hosts free creative writing workshops, usually on the first 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.

witnesswriting@gmail.com

NORTHWOODS CONFERENCE

Please join us in 2020 from Monday, June 22 through Sunday, June 28 for an exciting opportunity to create, collaborate, and commune in the great northwoods. The conference offers five intensive writing workshops, a craft talk each morning, and a reading each evening by a faculty member.

This year's workshop faculty members are Elizabeth Bradfield (Poetry), Brenda Shaughnessy (Poetry), Alison Hawthorne Deming (Creative Nonfiction), Meera Subramanian (Creative Nonfiction), and Scott Russell Sanders (Fiction). Robin Wall Kimmerer will be our Distinguished Visiting Writer.

Join us for our Evening Reading Series, free and open to the public – June 22 to 27 at the American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University. Faculty readings begin at 7:30 PM each evening.

www.northwoodswriters.org

MIDSTREAM READING SERIES

Thursday, March 12, 2020, 7:30–8:30pm, Midstream Reading Series presents poetry readings by Jim Bohen, Keno Evol, Carolyn Holbrook, and Carol Rucks.

Where: Milkweed building, corner of 39th and (3820) East Lake. Upstairs. Entrance just west of Milkweed (the former Blue Moon coffee house); up the stairs and to the left. Not wheelchair accessible. Plentiful street parking.

midstreamreadingseries.wordpress.com

POETRY CONTESTS & CALLS

CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Submissions for the 2020 **Florida State Poets Association** Contest will be accepted May 1 to July 15. www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org

Entries for the Gertrude Dole Memorial Award, sponsored by the **Massachusetts State Poetry Society**, are due March 15.

Entries for the Naomi Cherkofsky Memorial contest are due June 30. mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/id14.html

Entries for the **California State Poetry Society's** monthly contest must be postmarked during the month of the contest in which they are entered. No topic is specified for the March contest, but April entries should focus on travel, history, mythology, or other cultures. The theme for May is portraits, persons, or characters.

www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests

Connecticut Poetry Society contest entries may be submitted between April 1 and May 31. www.ctpoetry.net/contests.html

Entries for the **Louisiana State Poetry Society's** Spring Festival Contest are due March 22. louisianastatepoetrysociety.org/lspss-contests/

Massachusetts State Poetry Society's Gertrude Dole Memorial Award contest is accepting entries until March 15. mastatepoetrysociety.tripod.com/id14.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.

www.gabrielshornpress.com/poetry-anthology

LAKE SUPERIOR WRITERS

Lake Superior Writers is accepting entries in multiple genres for its annual writing contest.

Submissions should explore the theme "Undecided." Write about the tension found in everyday choices or the profound struggles that shape the world or anything in between.

DEADLINE: April 3, 2020. Winners will be notified by May 4, 2020. lakesuperiorwriters.org/2020-writing-contest/

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/

APRIL 1 DEADLINE FOR MINNESOTA VOICES

April 1st is the deadline for area poets to submit an original poem which may be selected for reading at "Minnesota Voices" on Thursday, April 16 at noon at the Wadena County Museum as part of National Poetry Month.

Poems should not exceed 30 lines, may be in any form, and may have been previously published. Submissions should include your name, address, email, the title of the poem, and the complete text of the poem. Please indicate whether you will be present to read the poem on April 16 (this is not required). Submissions must be postmarked or received by April 1 to be eligible. Submit via email to: 603wchs@arvig.net or mail to: Wadena County Historical Society, 603 Jefferson Street North, Wadena, MN 56482

Minnesota Voices is a free program featuring Minnesota writers and their work. It is held on the third Thursday of each month from noon to 1:00pm.



Artwork by Samantha Aikman. Line excerpted from the poem "Remember" by Joy Harjo, from *She Had Some Horses* (W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1983). For more free poetry resources, visit Poets.org/national-poetry-month.

LOMP 2020 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

****Make your hotel reservation separately by calling Kahler Grand Hotel at (507) 280-6200**

	# OF ATTENDEES	FEES
LOMP Member	\$65.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
Non-member	\$75.00 x _____ =	\$ _____
Early-bird discount if you register by April 10	\$ -5.00	\$ _____
Total attendees and fees		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="width: 50px; height: 30px;"></div> <div style="width: 50px; height: 30px; text-align: center;">\$</div> </div>

Make checks payable to LOMP. Mail registration form and fee by **April 14, 2020** to:
The League, PO Box 17344, Minneapolis, MN 55417