



# 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:  
\$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

## 32ND ANNUAL WOODTICK POETRY RETREAT

This year marks the 32nd year of the Woodtick Poetry Retreat. We were scheduled, before COVID-19, to meet July 16-19, but we are going to make history this year—instead of spending a long weekend together on Horseshoe Lake, we are going to hold a virtual retreat, with time slots for presentations, and culminating with a Zoom Open Mic poetry reading (on Friday or Saturday night). These extraordinary times give us the opportunity to write extraordinary poetry.

Anyone who would like to do a roughly half hour program (with or without a writing exercise at the end) please contact Sue Chambers with a title, and a brief indication of the topic. [schambersmediator@yahoo.com](mailto:schambersmediator@yahoo.com)

Also, at Woodticks we always pass the hat to sponsor a category in next year's LOMP annual contest. Last year we chose "Aging" (a very popular category) for the 36th annual contest, and we raised \$120.00. Please let Sue know your pledge amount, and any suggestions for the subject. Send payment to Mary Schmidt, LOMP Treasurer, PO Box 17344, Minneapolis, MN 55417.

Join us for some or all of this virtual retreat into poetry writing and sharing opportunities!

## LOMP FALL CONFERENCE TO BE VIRTUAL

Due to the risks associated with COVID-19, this year's Fall Conference will be virtual. We are still working on how that will work, but we are planning to have the reading of the contest winners, a workshop or two, open mics, and a critique workshop. We will send out an announcement when we have the schedule set for this event and how to join in.

## KEY DATES

July 11, 2020

Deadline to submit poems for The Moccasin

[www.mnpoets.org/publications/the-moccasin/](http://www.mnpoets.org/publications/the-moccasin/)

July 31, 2020

Deadline to submit poems to LOMP contest

# LeadershipREPORT

The death of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department sent shockwaves throughout not just Minnesota, but the world. The ensuing worldwide protests highlight the global importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and its calls to stamp out racism. Carl Sandburg, aside from being a poet, was a journalist who covered the Chicago riots of 1919. He described the active role the police played as they desecrated black neighborhoods. In Minneapolis, it does not feel like much has changed since then. The video of George Floyd's death shocked and motivated the nation, and the world, to protest the ongoing injustices perpetrated both legally and illegally against the BIPOC communities. For many, especially in Minneapolis, this incident was not surprising. Sadly, it was one of many instances over the years of an unjust death of a black man with no substantial change to the MPD or its union.



This year is also the 50th anniversary of the first Pride Parade that came about a year after the Stonewall Uprising, a response to a violent police raid on a gay bar in New York. 50 years later, there are still laws being passed to discriminate against the LGBTQIA community. This underscores the importance that, while there has been an outpouring support for the Black Lives Matter initiative and the LGBTQIA efforts for globally equity, the road has, and will be, a continuing struggle for years to come.

While these protests have revolved around singular events, the calls for justice revolve around a multitude of issues that impact the BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities. Police reform, the prison system, homelessness, healthcare, education, and even climate change; the lasting justice and racial equity sought is impacted by many facets of our society.

There are immediate needs—such as food and basic supplies to communities in Minneapolis—and there are long-term goals to build racial equity. I implore you to research and understand the variety of issues at play and look into many organizations, what they are doing, why it is needed, and how one can help—both for the immediate and long-term needs. While there will be no quick fixes, we can keep taking steps toward a more equitable society.

Sincerely,  
Peter Stein

## ANTIRACISM—RECOMMENDED READING

*When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Asha Bandele

*Stay Woke: A People's Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter* by Tehama Lopez Bunyasi & Candis Watts Smith

*Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

*On Account of Race: The Supreme Court, White Supremacy, and the Ravaging of African American Voting Rights*  
by Lawrence Goldstone

*How To Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi

*Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi

*How We Fight White Supremacy: A Field Guide to Black Resistance* by Akiba Solomon & Kenrya Rankin

*The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein

*Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F Saad

*I Can't Breathe: A Killing on Bay Street* by Matt Taibbi

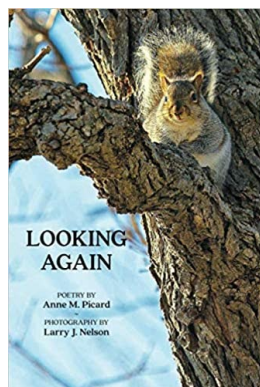
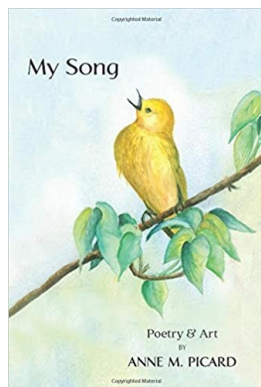
# MEMBER Achievements

**June Blumenson's** debut collection of poetry, *A Scythe of Moon*, was published by Kelsay Books in November, 2019.

[kelsaybooks.com/products/a-scythe-of-moon](https://kelsaybooks.com/products/a-scythe-of-moon)

**Anne Picard's** most recent books, *My Song*, and *Looking Again*, are available on Amazon.

[www.amazon.com/Anne-M-Picard/e/B088X5FJYQ](https://www.amazon.com/Anne-M-Picard/e/B088X5FJYQ)



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

## POETS & PINTS - VIRTUAL

On Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 7:00pm, we will feature Chev Michael Arnold, Portland, OR; Isadora Gruye, co-publisher of *Nice Cage* online literary magazine; Courtney Faye Taylor, Kansas City, MO; Brendan Brophy, member of LOMP; and Mariah Hanson, recommended by her college professor. [www.facebook.com/events/1166255223728438/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1166255223728438/)

## LOMP TO SPONSOR POETRY OUT LOUD

LOMP will be sponsoring Minnesota's 2021 Poetry Out Loud, a high school competition coordinated by South Central Service Cooperative, North Mankato. The program encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization and performance, to master public speaking skills, and to build self-confidence.

The League will be listed in all materials generated by the competition, including announcements of the competition, programs at regional and state events, etc. We will need to provide volunteer judges and event volunteers (to staff the registration table, help collect judge's score sheets, etc.) for each regional contest. In the past, there have been five regions, but COVID-19-permitting, there may be more in 2021. There will be 10 to 14 qualifiers, and LOMP will award a free student membership to those who advance to the final competition (for a minimum of five memberships).

LOMP will be allowed to publicize the Manningham, NFSPS college scholarships, our contests, and other relevant events. We hope to invite the state champions (maybe the top 3) to perform at future LOMP meetings. Stay tuned for more information about this great opportunity to work with high school poetry enthusiasts.

# LOMP 36TH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST

## 1. JOHN CALVIN REZMERSKI MEMORIAL

Prizes: \$ 125 \$ 75 \$ 50  
Any subject / any form / limit 50 lines  
Sponsor: *League of MN Poets*  
Entry fee for this specific category:  
\$1/poem for LOMP members; \$2/poem  
for non-members.

## 2. THE MOCCASIN AWARD

(LOMP MEMBERS ONLY)

Prizes: \$ 125 \$ 75 \$ 50  
Any subject / any form / limit 32 lines  
Poems in this category will be submitted  
for publication in *The Moccasin*.

## 3. STONE GATHERING AWARD

Prizes: \$ 100 \$ 70 \$ 30  
Subject: Travel / prose / limit 45 lines  
Sponsor: *French Press Editions (Danielle  
Duffy Literary)* Winning poems considered  
for publication in *Stone Gathering*

## 4. STORY PORTAGE AWARD

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 50 \$ 50  
Subject: Trees  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Story Portage*

## 5. STEVENS FAMILY AWARD

Prizes: \$ 75 \$ 50 \$ 25  
Subject: Relationships  
any form / limit 50 lines  
Sponsor: *the Stevens Family: in memory  
of Barbara, Murry, & Scott Stevens*

## 6. FLORENCE HYNES WILLETTE MEMORIAL

Prizes: \$ 60 \$ 40 \$ 25  
Subject: Growing up on the farm  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Mary Willette Hughes*

## 7. BLIZZARD WRITERS AWARD

Prizes: \$ 60 \$ 40 \$ 25  
Subject: Myths and Fairy Tales  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Blizzard Retreat Participants*

## 8. WOODTICK POETS AWARD

Prizes: \$ 60 \$ 40 \$ 20  
Subject: Aging  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Woodtick Writers Retreat*

## 9. MISSISSIPPI VALLEY POETS & WRITERS

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 40 \$ 30  
Subject: Daily Routines  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Mississippi Valley Poets*

## 10. SOUTH MN POETS SOCIETY AWARD

Prizes: \$ 60 \$ 35 \$ 15  
Any subject / any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Southern Minnesota Poets*

## 11. JOHN & HELEN PAPPAS MEMORIAL

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 30 \$ 20  
Subject: Ancestry/Heritage  
any form / limit 50 lines  
Sponsor: Charmaine Pappas Donovan

## 12. BRING BACK THE PRAIRIES AWARD

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 30 \$ 20  
Subject: Prairies  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Henry Panowitsch*

## 13. MUSICA AWARD

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 30 \$ 20  
Any subject / lyrical form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: Steven & Mary Vogel

## 14. FROM THE SOUND OF IT

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 30 \$ 20  
Subject: Sound  
Free Verse / limit 45 lines  
Sponsor: Susan McMillan

## 15. WRITING CIRCLES FOR HEALING AWARD

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 25 \$ 10  
Subject: Personal experience of hope,  
joy, or healing  
Free Verse / limit 60 lines  
Sponsor: *Writing Circles for Healing*

## 16. STEINOGRAPHY AWARD

Prizes: \$ 50 \$ 20 \$ 10  
Subject: Ekphrastic, based on an image  
from [steinography.com](http://steinography.com)  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Steinography*

## 17. BOARD GAMES AWARD

Prizes: \$ 40 \$ 25 \$ 10  
Subject: Board Games  
any form / limit 20 lines  
Sponsor: *Yvonne and Derik*

## 18. SOUTHEASTERN MN POET AWARD

Prizes: \$ 35 \$ 25 \$ 10  
Subject: Health, healing/wellness  
any form / limit 50 lines  
Sponsor: *South Eastern MN Poets*

## 19. CORAL PETERSON MEMORIAL AWARD

Prizes: \$ 35 \$ 15 \$ 10  
Subject: Awaken  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *Linda White*

## 20. LOST IN TRANSLATION AWARD

Prizes: \$30 \$ 20 \$ 10  
Subject: Foreign Language  
any form / limit 40 lines  
Sponsor: *League of Minnesota Poets  
In Honor of Hellmut Schmidt-Baeumler*

## 21. HEARTLAND POETS AWARD

Prizes: \$ 25 \$ 15 \$ 10  
Subject: The Unusual  
any form / limit 35 lines  
Sponsor: *Heartland Poets*

## NOTES:

Category 2 (*The Moccasin Award*) is for LOMP Members only. Previously published—but not prize-winning—poems will be accepted for this category (and only this category). All submissions in this category will be considered for publication in *The Moccasin*.

Poems submitted for *Category 2 (The Moccasin Award)* and *Category 3 (Stone Gathering Award)* may be published; submissions for the remaining categories will not be published.



# POETRY CONTESTS & CALLS

## CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Entries for the **California State Poetry Society's** monthly contest must be postmarked during the month of the contest in which they are entered. July entries should focus on childhood, memoir, or lessons from the past. The theme for August is humor, satire, or joy of life.

[www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests](http://www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests)

The **Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas** also sponsors monthly contests (only open to PRA members). Poems must be postmarked by the second Saturday of the month. The subject for July is community, any form, 32 lines. For August, submit a comic rhyme, 20 lines, about a summer frolic.

[poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/](http://poetsroundtableofarkansas.org/contests/)

The **Arizona State Poetry Society** is once again sponsoring a national poetry contest in ten different categories. Submissions are now being accepted through September 30, 2020. Winning poems will be published in the 2020 *Sandcutters*, the annual journal featuring monthly winners and annual contest winners. [azpoetry.webs.com/annual-contest](http://azpoetry.webs.com/annual-contest)

The **Poetry Society of Indiana's** 42nd annual poetry contest will accept submissions from June 15 until August 15.

[www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/annual-contest.html](http://www.poetrysocietyofindiana.org/annual-contest.html)

Entries for the **Poetry Society of Tennessee's** 64th annual contest are due August 10. Winners will be announced October 24.

[www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html](http://www.poetrytennessee.org/annual-festival-and-contest.html)

Choose from 100 categories in the annual contest of the **Poetry Society of Texas**. Entries must be postmarked by August 15.

[poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/](http://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/)

## PANDEMIC PENPAL POETRY PROJECT

LOMP is asking for your participation in a project to reach out to our neighbors in congregate housing who not only have little (if any) opportunity to get outside, but are not able to welcome visitors during this time of COVID 19 isolation. We will be collecting cheerful, encouraging poems and brief messages (your own poems or works in the public domain) for distribution to people of all ages throughout the state. Email your contributions in the body of an email or as Word docs or to [penpalpoets@gmail.com](mailto:penpalpoets@gmail.com). Use an easy-to-read font since many of the poems will be delivered to elders. If possible, submit poems weekly or monthly as this project will continue as long as needed. Between now and July 15, we are especially interested in poems that fit the theme "Days of Delight and Lazy Nights of Summer."

**Call for Chalk Poets!** Throughout the summer, the PPPP is collaborating with local artists to put poems and pictures to pavement at selected congregate living facilities. Short poems can be written in chalk on walkways and patios where residents and caregivers are able to enjoy and meditate on the inspiring words. If interested in joining the fun, send a note to Nancy at [PenPalPoets@gmail.com](mailto:PenPalPoets@gmail.com).

