



March 2022

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 (\$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

Penned Poets Virtual

CARDIO-POETIC-RESUSCITATION: SPRING CONFERENCE

Join us April 23-24 at the Kahler Grand Hotel, 20 2nd Ave SW, Rochester, MN, for the 2022 LOMP Spring Conference featuring Lisa Higgs, Danny Solis, and Christina Flaughter.

Writing Out of the Wreck

During this time of major upheavals, the structures of our lives have shifted irrevocably. Inspired by Adrienne Rich's poem *Diving into the Wreck*, Lisa Higgs invites you to look at things that have been lost or worn down in the hope that we can "see the damage that was done / and the treasures that prevail."

A Minnesota native, Lisa Higgs was 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.

A Cry in the Digital Wilderness, "Does Poetry Matter?"

Our world is inundated with more media input than anyone could ever have imagined. Join Danny Solis as he asks, "What is poetry?"

An international Poetry Slam champion, Solis was one of three American poets chosen by the U.S. State Department to go to Nepal and Botswana to perform, teach and organize poetry slam with local artists.

Say what? Hearing Loss and its Effect on the Poet

Christina Flaughter will guide you through an exploration of the absence of sound in poetry and an interactive look at how disability influences our perspective as writers.

LOMP member Christina Flaughter works as an audiology assistant in the hearing aid program. She is a third-generation poet, past president of LOMP, and a recipient of the Edna Meudt Scholarship Competition.

KEY DATES

April 15, 2022

Registration deadline for Spring Conference

April 23-24, 2022

LOMP Spring Conference

LeadershipREPORT

Coming up on the final days of my term as president, my mind travels back to reflect on the first time I went to an event for the League. I showed up to a Fall Conference in Little Falls (2010, I believe) not knowing anyone. I came in during contest readings and sat next to John Rezmerski, not knowing the ensuing story that would unfold. That night I ended up staying up until 1:30 reading poems with people I had just met that day. That was the first of many late nights of poetry with newly acquainted friends. It is in this spirit of connection through poetry that has driven me through my six years of presidency.



In its 88 years of existence now, the League has provided the connection in poetry throughout, a testament to the prevalence and necessity of poetry. Even though the last two years have been fraught with disruption, this spirit has continued. Utilizing Zoom, we have made our readings, conferences, and many of our chapter meetings accessible and attended from across the country. Amanda Bailey recently launched our Penned Poets chapter, created specifically for online poetic connection. Through these challenges, we have explored new ways of celebrating and enriching Minnesota poetry and its poets. Despite life slowing down in so many ways, our members and chapters have been busy with numerous poetic initiatives, poetry posted in the parks of Richfield and Mankato, the Pandemic Pen Pal Poetry Project, poetry on driftwood, The Bright Lights Stories in the Night chapbook, the Up Close Poetry, and many others.

As I step away from the helm of this leader'ship, I will pick up an oar and keep rowing. I am excited where this ship will navigate with a new and dedicated crew. I have a deep gratitude to all the crew members that have dedicated their time and energy into this organization over these last six years, board members, organizers, and volunteers, to keep us moving towards new horizons. I look forward to where we are headed with new leadership and take in the views of where we will go.

Sincerely,

Peter Stein, President of the League of Minnesota Poets

LOMP CHAPTER NOTES

Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers
Facebook group:

[www.facebook.com/
groups/356196838817845](https://www.facebook.com/groups/356196838817845)

The Duluth Poetry Chapter meets
every Sunday at 1:00pm via Zoom:

[www.facebook.com/
duluthpoetrychapter/](https://www.facebook.com/duluthpoetrychapter/)

The Southern Minnesota Poets'
Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/
southernmnpoets/](https://www.facebook.com/southernmnpoets/)

Poets & Pints YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/channel/
UCrqqVoVHBtqE87WFoOaRqjA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrqqVoVHBtqE87WFoOaRqjA)

Please visit our members' websites to give them support.

LOMP MEMBER

WEBSITE

Micki Blenkush	mickiblenkush.com/
Jan Chronister	janchronisterpoetry.wordpress.com/
Nancy Cook	www.nancylcook.com
Annette Gagliardi	annette-gagliardi.com/
Patrick Cabello Hansel	www.artecabellohansel.com/
Margaret Hasse	www.MargaretHasse.com
Donna Isaac	www.donnaisaacpoet.com
Evelyn Klein	evelynkleinauthor.com/wordpress
Laura Kozy Lanik	booksnob-booksnob.blogspot.com/
Alan Perry	alanperrypoetry.com
Toni Plocido	www.mentalvalley.com
Bill Quist	www.billquistpoet.com
Peter Stein	www.steinography.com
Linda White	www.bookmaniaonline.com

MEMBER *Achievements*

Ruben Rivera published his first book of poetry, *Z is for Zapatazo: Poems Between the Spaces*, published by Atmosphere Press.

www.amazon.com/dp/1639882472

Summoned, **Margaret Hasse**'s sixth full-length collection of poetry, was launched at Rain Taxi's Book Festival in October 2021. Finishing Line Press will bring out a chapbook, *The Call of Glacier Park*, in June 2022 with 26 poems that honor Glacier Park and Margaret's family connection to that beautiful wilderness. www.MargaretHasse.com

21ST ANNUAL POET-ARTIST COLLABORATION

Red Wing Arts will be hosting the 21st Annual Poet-Artist Collaboration exhibit, Friday, April 15 to Sunday, May 15, 418 Levee Street, Red Wing. The Grand Opening will be at the St. James Hotel, Friday, April 29 at 6:30pm, and there will be free weekly poetry readings in the Depot Gallery:

Thursday, April 21, 5-6:30pm—Joyce Sutphen, Walter Cannon, Larry Gavin, Pam Whitfield, Dan Dietrich

Sunday, April 24, 2-3:30pm—D.E. Green, Becky Boling, Amanda Bailey, Casey Patrick, Diane LeBlanc

Sunday, May 1, 2-3:30pm—Rob Hardy, Susan McMillan, Mac Gimse, Kristin Maija Peterson, Kathleen Wedl

Thursday, May 5, 5-6:30pm—Jennifer Hernandez, Mary Schmidt, Paul Schaefer, Patricia Mohr, Nathan Vinehout Kane

Thursday, May 12, 5-6:30pm—Reading and Moderated Conversation by Michael Torres featuring PAC Poetry Jurors Gwen Westerman & Michael Kleber-Diggs

Sunday, May 15 2-3:30pm—Ken McCullough, Scott Lowery, Pam Sinicrope, June Blumenson, Steven R. Vogel

redwingarts.org/poet-artist-collaboration-3

Congratulations to these poets who have works in this collaboration: Amanda Bailey, Micki Blenkush, June Blumenson, Becky Boling, Walter Cannon, Dan Dietrich, Marsha Foss, Larry Gavin, Marie Gery, Mac Gimse, Deborah Goschy, D. E. Green, Rob Hardy, Jennifer Hernandez, Jennifer Jesseph, Teri Joyce, Mim Kagol, Lilah Katcher, Michael Kleber-Diggs (Poetry Juror), Diane LeBlanc, Scott Lowery, Raymond Luczak, Ken McCullough, Susan McMillan, Pat Mohr, Casey Patrick, Kristin Maija Peterson, Jean Prokott, Paul Schaefer, Mary Schmidt, Leslie Schultz, Pam Sinicrope, Joyce Sutphen, Nathan Vinehout Kane, Steven R. Vogel, Kathleen Wedl, Gwen Westerman (Poetry Juror), and Pam Whitfield.



ABOUT LOMP

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

Peter Stein

VICE PRESIDENT

Amanda Bailey

SECRETARY:

Jana Bouma

MEMBERSHIP/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

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from [Pixabay](#)

POETRY CONTESTS & CALLS

POETRY CONTESTS BY NFSPS CHAPTERS

Submissions for the 2022 **Florida State Poets Association** Contest will be accepted May 1 to July 15.

www.floridastatepoetsassociation.org

Entries for the Naomi Cherkofsky Memorial contest, sponsored by the **Massachusetts State Poetry Society**, 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. April entries should center on mythology, dreams, or other universes. The theme for May is portraits, or characters. www.californiastatepoetrysociety.org/our-contests

RICHFIELD NATURE AREA POETRY WALK

The Poetry Walk, located in Richfield Lake Park, 6400 Dupont Ave S, Richfield, is currently accepting nature-themed submissions from LOMP members for 2022 signs.

Sponsored by LOMP and the Mississippi Valley Poets and Writers, the poems will be installed in August, 2022. Submission deadline is June 15th.

leagueofmnpoet.submittable.com/

submit/213916/mississippi-valley-poetry-walk-22



NFSPS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP POETRY SLAM

On October 20-23, 2022, the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) in cooperation with the Florida State Poets Association (FSPA) are sponsoring the first annual national championship slam poetry competition in Daytona Beach, Florida. Competitors are expected from across the country and will be limited to 48 of the top spoken word poets. Each of the 33 member states will be eligible to enter their best poets in the competition. States will be invited to choose representatives in competitions held in the spring of 2022, with the final national competition to be held in the fall. Detailed suggested guidelines are being developed for all states that opt to participate, but final decisions on how to choose state representatives will be by each state organization. A limited number of entries, (approx. 20) will be opened to independent competitors who have won non FSPA sponsored slams in 2022.

LAKE SUPERIOR WRITERS

Lake Superior Writers is accepting entries in multiple genres for its annual writing contest. Submissions should explore the theme "Full Circle," and are due April 11. Interpret the theme as broadly as you wish. For example, write about lives that follow a circle returning to the starting point but with new insights, or relationships that may follow this pattern, or the circle of nature. Winners will be notified by May 11.

lakesuperiorwriters.org/2022-writing-contest/

DAKOTA COUNTY POETRY CONTEST

Enter Dakota County's annual Poetry Contest during National Poetry Month. Haiku, free verse, odes and sonnets — whatever your poetry style, poets of all ages are encouraged to submit original poems from April 1–30.

www.co.dakota.mn.us/libraries/Programs/Everyone/Pages/poetry-contest.aspx

POETRY MONTH POEMS

The Rochester MN Public Library plans to celebrate poetry month by posting one poem each day on their website throughout the month of April. To do that, Southeastern Minnesota Poets has been asked to collect 30 strong and memorable short poems.

Send works to: Sendaprilpoems@gmail.com with *April poems* in the subject line. Include your name, city, state, and list of poems you're submitting. Anyone under the age of 18 must also indicate that in the email. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, March 15, 2022.

Please contact Susan McMillan for more information.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2022 NFSPS CONVENTION

The 2022 convention, *Renewal through Poetry*, will be held June 23-26 at the Nationwide Hotel, 20 minutes from downtown Columbus, Ohio. Keynote Speaker Hanif Abdurraqib, a poet, essayist, and cultural critic, had his first full-length poetry collection, *The Crown Ain't Worth Much*, named a finalist for the Eric Hoffer Book Prize and was nominated for a Hurston-Wright Legacy Award.

SUPERIOR SHARES OPEN MIC

Wednesday, April 13th, 6:00pm, and Wednesday, May 11th, 6:00pm, Lake Superior Writers will host *Superior Shares*, a virtual open mic for local writers to share their work in progress.

There will be 10 five-minute slots available on a first come first served basis, with priority given to Lake Superior Writer members. A Zoom link will be sent out the day of the event.

This event is free and membership is not required. Participants will be notified ahead of time if they have been selected to read. To register and/or request a time, email writers@lakesuperiorwriters.org.

NORTHWOODS CONFERENCE

The Minnesota Northwoods Writers Conference invites you to join them at Bemidji State University, Monday, June 20 through Saturday, June 26.

www.northwoodswriters.org/

NEW ULM PUBLIC LIBRARY POETRY GROUP

Poetry group will meet each month on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the library. Bring 2-3 poems to share with the group. This month's meeting is on Monday, March 14 in the Fred Johnson room. Registration is not required.

BRIGHT LIGHT—STORIES IN THE NIGHT

Southeastern Minnesota Poets is pleased to announce the completion of their Bright Light Stories in the Night Poetry and Illustration Contest. Selected poems were illustrated by selected artists for an e-chapbook.

issuu.com/domsinicropedesign/docs/blsnbook2finalcopy

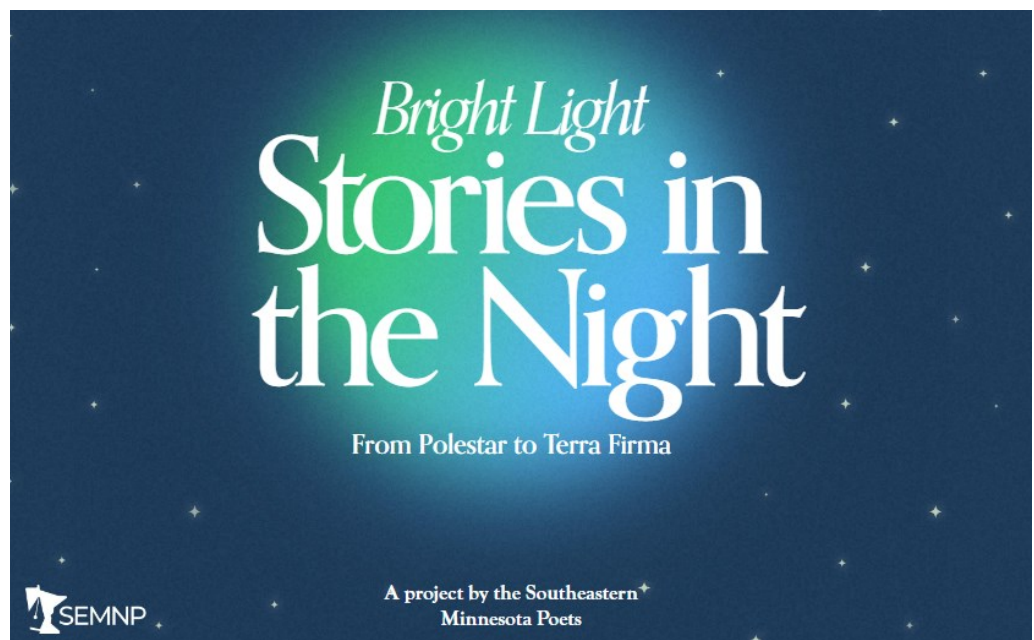
Congratulations to the winning poets:

- James Armstrong, Winona, *Solstice 2020*
- D.E. Green, Northfield, *Frost in May*
- Scott Lowery, *And Then, Rollingstone*
- Steven McCown, Northfield, *Balancing Act*,
- Anne Shea, Rochester, *Teaching*
- Steven Vogel, Rochester, *Star Talk*

Honorable Mention

- Emilio DeGrazia, Winona, *Old Miracle Cures*
- Jean Prokott, Rochester, *On the Task of Collecting*

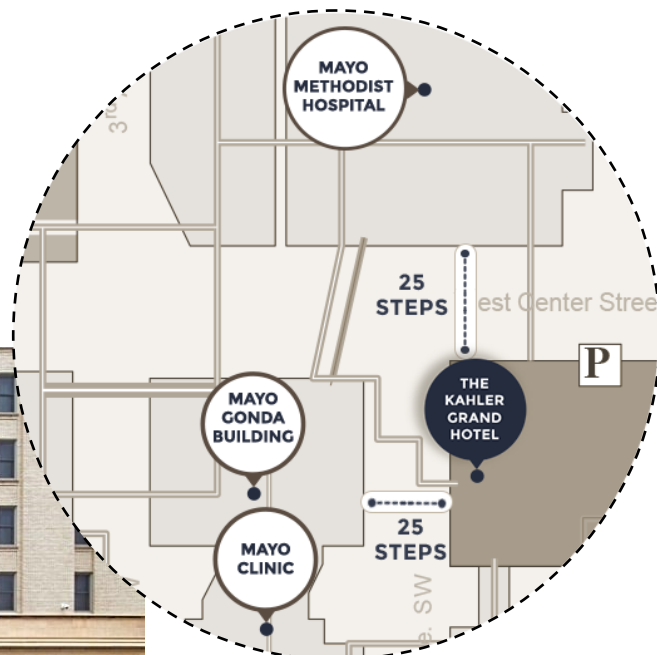
The contest was judged by Minnesota poets Micki Blenkush, James Cihlar, and Chavonn Williams Shen, and Minnesota artists Ayub Haji-Omar, Kate Halverson, and Simon Huelsbeck. It was made possible through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.



LOMP 2022 SPRING CONFERENCE LOGISTICS

Please make your hotel room reservation by calling the Kahler Grand Hotel, 20 2nd Ave SW, Rochester, at (507) 280-6200.

Reserve your room by April 20th,
and mention the League for a special rate of \$99.00 (plus tax).



LOMP 2022 SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

***Registration includes lunch on Saturday**

****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 9	\$ -5.00	\$ _____		
Total attendees and fees		<table><tr><td></td><td>\$</td></tr></table>		\$
	\$			

Make checks payable to LOMP. Mail registration form and fee by **April 15, 2022** to:
The League, PO Box 17344, Minneapolis, MN 55417