The Current
Officers:
President: Annette Gagliardi
Vice-President: Laura Kozy Lanik
Secretary: Dave Anderson
Treasurer: Mary Schmidt

The February meeting: February 18 at 1 PM
At: Village Shores Meeting Room
6501 Woodlake Drive, Richfield, MN 55423.

Next meeting:
March 18, 2023. Place: Village Shores
At: Village Shores Meeting Room
6501 Woodlake Drive, Richfield, MN 55423.

Meeting Business:
Chapter Anthology
Nature Area Poetry Postcards are available
Work toward our chapter anthology
Program: William Carlos Williams - Poet
We are looking for presenters for our monthly programs going forward.

New Members: consider inviting another poet, who you know, to join our poetry chapter. Come with them to the next meeting.

Poetry Quotes:
“A poem begins as a lump in the throat, a sense of wrong, a homesickness, a lovesickness.” ~ Robert Frost

“A poet is, before anything else, a person who is passionately in love with language.” ~ W. H. Auden

“The poet is the priest of the invisible.” ~ Wallace Stevens

“Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.” ~ Edgar Allan Poe

“To be a poet is a condition, not a profession.” ~ Robert Graves, in response to a questionnaire in Horizon, 1946.

Mirror on the Water:

Writing Prompt: According to the Chinese zodiac, 2023 is the year of the rabbit, which symbolizes longevity, peace, and prosperity. The zodiac is a repeating cycle of twelve years, and each year is represented by a different animal with symbolic traits. Next year will be the year of the dragon, which represents strength and independence; followed by the year of the snake, which represents curiosity and wisdom. Write an essay that reflects on the animal associated with your birth year and how it relates to your personality. Can you find any similarities? As an added challenge, consider the animals associated with your family members and whether these signs hold true to their qualities. (From Poets & Writer’s website.)

Write a poem, short story, or essay for this photo:

Photo by Annette Gagliardi

Submission Possibilities & Opportunities:

Nature Area Poetry Contest is open for submissions. If you sent in a poem before December of 2022, send it in again, please. This contest will not be judged until May of 2023. See: our website for more information, at:

The River Raft is published monthly for the Mississippi Valley Poets and Writers.
THE RIVER RAFT
Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers Newsletter
February 2023

https://www.mnpoets.org/chapters/mississippi-valley-poets-writers/

MVP&W Anthology 2023
Theme: Water
Submit 2 poems
the Feb 15th, deadline has been extended.
Include a 50-word bio with submission.
Email submissions to Donna Issac
donna@donnaisaacpoet.com
Members Only: Dues are $10
Donations accepted to help with cost of publishing

Member News:

Annette Gagliardi's poem There was a time Published in the January 2023 issue of Literature Today; Too Soon Gone published in Our Changing Earth Anthology, January 2023, The Poet Magazine, I Will not Loose Your Eyes & Ears, and Following the Magi published in the Spring 2023 Pasque Petals, SDSP Society.

Donna Isaac's poem "An Evening Together" appears in the Indiana Poetry Society's new collection Poetry as My Lover.
https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BTRVWGJN/

Liz Weir will be reading from her second book of poetry, When Our World Was Whole, at Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 Snelling Ave S., St, Paul, MN, featuring Mary Kay Rummel, Sharon Chmielarz, Norita. Dittberner-Jax, Kate Hallett Dayton, Carol Masters, Pat Barone, and host Donna Isaac, who states: "It has been my privilege to be part of this writing group for several years, but it has been around for 50, so it's time to honor that dedication. We will also remember Ethna McKiernan, who sadly passed away, but who was integral to the group, and Margaret Hasse, who will be out of town. Since it is Women's History Month, how fitting to celebrate these talented, brilliant women poets!"

Free Poetry Workshop: Be part of the Cracked Walnut Poetry Workshop--bring about ten copies of an original poem to share and critique to Highland Park Library and Community Center, 1974 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul, MN, Highland Park Community Room (note change of room for this meeting): 10:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, March 4, 2023. RSVP to Donna Isaac: donna@donnaisaacpoet.com

Readings and events at the University of Minnesota
Tues, Feb 21 Pink-poetry prize winner for Great River Review at Pillsbury Hall 7-8pm.

April 18 at Coffman Union. 7:30-8:45 . Hugo award winning author N. K. Jemisin
They have a lot of these open to the public.

EVENTS AND GATHERINGS:

Redwing Arts' Poet/Artist Collaborative contest. Will host a reading and gallery showing will be held at Redwing Arts Gallery April 25th from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m

Literary Bridges marks 50 years of the Onionskins, a writing group, Mar. 5th, 2:00-3:30, Next Chapter Booksellers, 38 Snelling Ave S., St, Paul, MN, featuring Mary Kay Rummel, Sharon Chmielarz, Norita. Dittberner-Jax, Kate Hallett Dayton, Carol Masters, Pat Barone, and host Donna Isaac, who states: "It has been my privilege to be part of this writing group for several years, but it has been around for 50, so it's time to honor that dedication. We will also remember Ethna McKiernan, who sadly passed away, but who was integral to the group, and Margaret Hasse, who will be out of town. Since it is Women's History Month, how fitting to celebrate these talented, brilliant women poets!"

Great River Review is a U of M publication.
Mar 2 also at Pillsbury Hall First book readings 4 authors, I think. 7-8 pm

Mary Jo Robinson-Jamison was published in the Red Owl, Issue 16, “Come Wander” Dec/Jan 2023 through the Eastern Iowa Review (portyonderpress.com)

David Bayliss is hosting a Reading Roundtable on the topic of Age & Poetry. If you are interested in participating, please send David a note at: dwbayliss@gmail.com

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Check out The Witness Project in 2023, free generative creative writing workshops in a supportive environment. Held the first Saturday of every month (second Saturday on holiday weekends), sometimes in person and sometimes on Zoom. The next workshop, the morning of January 10, will take place on Zoom and will feature writing exercises designed to generate work for specific free submission opportunities. To register, or to get additional info on 2023’s schedule, contact Nancy at witnesswriting@gmail.com

A new critique-by-email group is being started, tentatively called Any-Time. It’d be a group that people could submit their poetry to in order to receive feedback from their fellow group members.

All submissions would be sent via email to the entire group, and the feedback would be sent directly to the person. There would be no regular meetings - just feedback given whenever people had the time. If interested, please email Nathan at nathanvinehout@gmail.com. If a lot of people are interested, (10 or more) we may split into separate groups so folks aren’t bombarded with poems, and we reserve the right to institute a two-poems-at-a-time limit.

Tony Plocido hosts Poets and Pints poetsandpints@mail.com 7 pm every third Wednesday at Syssiphus Brewery. They also broadcast on their Utube channel.

Put Poets and Pints in your Youtube search bar.

Pinned Poets is a new LOMP online chapter that Amanda Bailey is leading, will meet weekly via zoom, on Wednesdays 7pm-8pm. Contact Amanda to join this group at: pennedpoets@gmail.com

Poetry Book Club Meets the 4th Thursday of each month from 7 pm - 9 pm via Zoom. See Laura

Kozy Lanik at: booksnobsblog@gmail.com for meeting URL.

Writers Read (renamed Blank Verse) on Instagram, with Trinity V. Fritz Lawrence at the U of M hosting. See Trinity at: blankversempls@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook:
Cracked Walnut Facebook page is here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/poetsandpints

League of Minnesota Poets Facebook page is at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/leagueofminnesota poets

Literary Bridges' Facebook site is: https://www.facebook.com/stananddonna

Mississippi Valley Poets Facebook page is at: https://www.facebook.com/groups/356196838817845

Poets & Pints Facebook page is here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/poetsandpints

Witness Writing Project Facebook page is: https://www.facebook.com/witnesswriting

Let's visit our member's author sites:
Nancy Cook at: www.Nancy1Cook.com
Annette Gagliardi at: http://annette-gagliardi.com
Donna Isaac at: http://www.donnaisaacpoet.com/
Evelyn Klein at: www.Evelynkleinauthor.com
Laura Lanik at: https://booksnob-booksnob.blogspot.com/
Alan Perry at: https://AlanPerryPoetry.com
Toni Plocido at: http://www.mentalvalley.com/
Peter Stein at: https://www.steinography.com/#/
**Linda White at:**
http://www.bookmaniaonline.com/

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**Membership Renewal**

**2023 Mississippi Valley Poets annual dues $10.00**

League of Minnesota Poets’ dues are separate

Dues are January 1st to December 31st.

*While not mandatory, an additional donation of $10.00 would be appreciated from *members without email* to offset the cost of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter.*

Send this completed form with your check made payable to:
Mississippi Valley Poets
C/O Dave Anderson
1896 Jerrold Ave.
Arden Hills. MN 55112

Name:____________________________________
Address:__________________________________
__________________________________________
City, State,
Zip:______________________________________
__________________________________________
Telephone:________________________________
Cell:______________________________________
Email:_____________________________________

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**Volunteer opportunities**

**Program presenter:**

Jan____  Feb____  Mar____
April____  May____  Sept.____
Oct.____  Nov____

Marketing committee_________________________
Membership committee_________________________
Fall Conference committee_____________________
Poetry Walk Committee _______________________