

**THE RIVER RAFT**  
**Mississippi Valley Poets & Writers Newsletter**  
**February 2023**

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**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.

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**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:



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<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](mailto: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 Books in St. Paul **March 14th** at 6:00 p.m. and at Majers and Quinn in Uptown, Minneapolis, **March 21st** at 6:00 p.m. In addition, her poem, *Stepper Point Headland*, has been selected by the Redwing Arts' Poet/ Artist Collaborative contest.

**Mary Jo Robinson-Jamison** was published in the Red Owl, Issue 16, "Come Wander" Dec/Jan 2023 through the **Eastern Iowa Review** ([portyonderpress.com](http://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](mailto:dwbayliss@gmail.com)

**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!"

**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](mailto: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.**

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

**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.



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

**Penned 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](mailto:pennedpoets@gmail.com)

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

**Kozy Lanik** at: [booksnobblog@gmail.com](mailto:booksnobblog@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](mailto: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/leagueofminnesotapoets>

**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.NancyLCook.com](http://www.NancyLCook.com)

**Annette Gagliardi** at: <http://annette-gagliardi.com>

**Donna Isaac** at: <http://www.donnaisaacpoet.com/>

**Evelyn Klein** at: [www.Evelynkleinauthor.com](http://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/#/>



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*Linda White at:*

<http://www.bookmaniaonline.com/>

***Membership Renewal***

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

League of Minnesota Poets' dues are separate

Dues are January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

*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

**Volunteer opportunities**

**Program presenter:**

Jan\_\_\_\_\_ Feb\_\_\_\_\_ Mar\_\_\_\_\_

April\_\_\_\_\_ May\_\_\_\_\_ Sept.\_\_\_\_\_

Oct.\_\_\_\_\_ Nov\_\_\_\_\_

Marketing committee\_\_\_\_\_

Membership committee\_\_\_\_\_

Fall Conference committee\_\_\_\_\_

Poetry Walk Committee \_\_\_\_\_

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City, State,  
Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_

Cell:\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_

