

## Nine Years Ago

Dave Stokka told me that the poems have strayed  
From the reasons the poems once were portrayed  
No more complaining about service and beer  
This year I hope to regain that holiday cheer

Nine years ago I started this task  
Why write the poems; someone might ask  
The reasons for writing my thoughts every year  
Are born from the friendship and bonds that are here

See the poems I've read aloud through the years  
Are based on our stories, our hopes and our fears  
For the journey we travel, down this path of life  
Is covered with events of happiness and strife

We share them together; the good and the bad  
Rejoicing the happiness and dealing with the sad  
That's why we gather here; the young and the old  
To share our life's story as we watch it unfold

Its Christmas time and I think you will find  
It reminds us again to be thoughtful and kind  
To help those in need; be it big or so small  
For everyone needs these; not some but us all

21 December is the date so let's have some fun  
The Solstice upon us; Winter has begun  
My Sister Debbie has turned another year  
And the days will now be longer, starting from here

I ask you again as I do every year  
To raise up your glass and let out a cheer  
For the poem is done for yet another year  
I'm glad to see you all and I'm happy you're here

Merry Christmas Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 2009

Michael Dennis