

Language of Enchantment



"A grain of poetry suffices to season a century." -- Jose Marti, Cuban poet

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Fall has arrived!

This issue includes contest news and upcoming events.

Check out what the chapters are doing.

Learn new poetry forms.

From the President's Pen

Dear New Mexico Poets & Friends:

You may have noticed a slight change to the masthead of this issue. (Or perhaps you did not.) We've added the José Martí quotation which is also our NMSPS motto: "A grain of poetry suffices to season a century." For this autumn season, as we enjoy chile harvests, deciduous cottonwoods, and bursting pinon seedpods, our organization's motto becomes especially poignant against the backdrop of our own tumultuous century.

The tumult is nowhere more apparent than in the plight of the Syrian refugees fleeing terror at home only to find persecution along their desperate journey. I had been watching and listening to the news in horror, wondering how in the world a grain of poetry can purge the bitterness. Then I came across a poem by Luci Tapahonso, Navajo Nation Poet Laureate, as I prepared to share her work with the Albuquerque Chapter at our Sept. 12 meeting. Although "In 1864" speaks of the forced 300-mile walk of the Navajos by the US Army, note how her words resonate with today's displaced thousands on another continent in another century:

Our family talked it over, and we decided to go to this place. What would our lives be like...? At least, we thought we would be safe from gunfire and our family would not starve.

...

All of us walked, some carried babies. Little children and the elderly stayed in the middle of the group. We walked steadily each day....We didn't know how far it was or even where we were going.

(Sáanii Dahataal: The Women Are Singing, p. 9)

The poet transports us to the time and place, and gives voice to the suffering. She invites us to enter the experience, so far from own, yet so close in our common humanity. And then she reminds us, "This is why we are here. Because our grandparents prayed and grieved for us" (p. 10).

As you both write and read poetry this autumn, may you be inspired to bless the grain, plant the seed, and envision not only a better century, but also a better now.

Peace for the journey,

Andi Penner
NMSPS President



We're on the Web!

www.nmpoetry.org

Andi Penner
President

Convention Madness! Contest: Receive Entry-Fee Discount & Opportunity to Win Big Prize!

By virtue of your membership in the New Mexico State Poetry Society, you are also a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). The upcoming annual NFSPS convention will be held at Hotel 340, St. Paul, Minnesota, **June 9-13, 2016**. To entice you into poetry convention mode, the clever members of the League of Minnesota Poets are sponsoring a “**Convention Madness! Poetry Contest**” with prizes related to convention attendance:

- **1st Place wins a 4-night stay at the convention hotel (~\$556.00 value)**
- **2nd Place wins an all-meals package at the convention (~\$200.00 value)**
- **3rd Place wins a waived convention registration fee (\$75.00)**

Entry fee for **members, 3 poems for \$10.00**; non-members pay \$18.00 for 3 poems. Make checks payable to the League of Minnesota Poets. You may enter as many poems/submissions as you like, as long as a separate entry fee is included for each set of 3 poems. Poems may be any form, any subject, limit one page, 10-point font or larger. May be previously published.

To submit: Include 2 copies of each poem. One copy with name, address, phone number, email, and State Society Membership (will be verified), and one copy with no identifying marks. Include an SASE for winner's list. Winners will be notified by March 1, 2016, and must attend the NFSPS convention to receive the prize. **Deadline: January 5, 2016.** Mail your entries to Susan Steven Chambers, 57310 166th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037.

p.s. *If you are not now a member of NMSPS, we encourage you to join so you can take advantage of member benefits, such as reduced fees for contest entry.*



*Bernadette Perez
Vice-President*

Falling Leaves Foretell Federation Contests!

Prepare your Submissions:



National Federation of State Poetry Societies
(NFSPS) 2016 Annual Poetry Contests

When to submit entries:

must not be postmarked before January 1, 2016

Deadline: postmarked by March 15, 2016



2016 College Undergraduate Poetry
Competition

MEUDT and KAHN AWARDS

Two winners will be chosen for the College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) Competition, one receiving the Edna Meudt Memorial Award, *and* the other receiving the Florence Kahn Memorial Award.



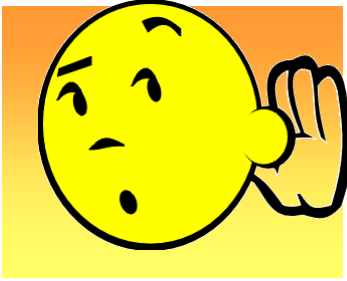
Manningham Trust Student Poetry
Contest

*"Students are the Future"
Keep Poetry Alive
Write it down!*

The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6-12. Public, private, and homeschooled students are eligible for entry by individual NFSPS member states.

These and other contests can be found on the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) website. There you will find additional information. Go to nfsp.com





What's Happening in the Chapters?

Rio Grande Valencia Chapter

Dante Berry: The RGV poets meet the first Thursday of the month at Perk It Up Coffee Shop, 520 Baca St. in Belen, NM from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Our group extends congratulations to Brittany Wyatt on the birth of a baby boy. Brittany is a talented writer and active member of the RGV group.

A Haiku workshop was held September 12, at the Belen Public Library. The free workshop, led by Jim Applegate, was open to the public. (See "Rengay" article on page 8.)

The RGV group will host a poetry reading with open mic in Socorro November 21 at Manzanares Coffee Shop, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. This reading will coincide with the Festival of Cranes event. All poets are invited. For more information contact Dante Berry at dante.berry45@yahoo.com or 505-864-4231.

President's note: Dante has also been instrumental in organizing a first-ever Veterans Day poetry and music event at Sandia Labs.

Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter

Jim Raby: Santa Fe Poetry Trails continued to conduct its monthly open poetry reading the first Monday of each month at Teatro Paraguas; directions to the theater may be found at this link: <http://teatroparaguas.org/home/index.php?n=Main.LocationMap> Basic rules are: Sign-Up at 6:00 PM; reading begins promptly at 6:30 PM

On October 23, 2015, Elizabeth Raby and Scott Wiggerman launched their respective new Purple Flag books at Bookworks in Albuquerque, New Mexico at 7:00 p.m., Beneath Green Rain and Leaf and Beak, about a year since last reading together in Texas, when neither of these books were out.

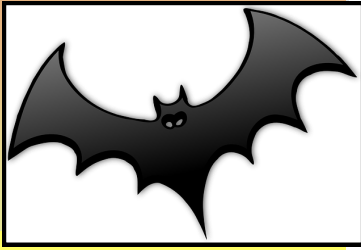
Santa Fe-based Red Mountain Press, now in its tenth year of operation, launches two major books on Sunday, October 25, 2015 at 6 pm at Teatro Paraguas, 3504 Calle Marie, Santa Fe.

On **November 7**, 2015, Scott Wiggerman will be participating in an art & poetry reading in Taos, New Mexico, to kick off "Under a Common Sky," an invitational exhibit in the Mural Room of the Historic County Courthouse in the Taos Plaza opening November 13, 2015 and running through February 2016.

WeBeMuses, Lee Dunne, Paula Miller, Judy Mosher, Cheryl Marita and Lib OBrien will be featured poets at the Festival of the Cranes, Bosque del Apache, November, Sat. Nov. 21.

On November 22, 2015, Elizabeth Raby and Scott Wiggerman will again appear together, this time in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at Teatro Paraguas, 3205 Calle Marie, at 5:00 p.m. Again, they will be promoting their Purple Flag books.





NMSPS Members Beat their Wings & Play with Poetry!

WINGBEATS II at BOOKWORKS!

Scott Wiggerman, new member and co-owner of **Dos Gatos Press**, has been hosting a series of free poetry workshops this fall based on his publication, *Wingbeats II: Exercises & Practice in Poetry*.

In September, Nickole Brown offered a workshop called "Defamiliarizing the Apple: Ostranenie & Awareness."

In October, Veronica Golos taught the art of the persona poem in her workshop, "Becoming Another."

The 3rd Wingbeats II Workshop will be held on Tuesday, November 17, featuring Valerie Martinez. The workshop begins at 7:00 p.m. at Bookworks, 4022 Rio Grande Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87107. Martínez will offer "Dip, Rise, Dive: Personal Questions & the Leap into Poetry."

Valerie Martínez is the author of numerous poetry collections, including *Each and Her* (University of Arizona, 2010), winner of the 2011 Arizona Book Award, and *Absence, Luminiscent* (Four Way Books, 1999 & 2010). From 2008-2010, she served as Poet Laureate of the City of Santa Fe.

Participants: Please bring a pen or pencil and paper or a notebook.

Join Us! Our workshops are open and **free** of charge.

What is the Poetry Playhouse?

Jules Nyquist is the founder of Jules' Poetry Playhouse, LLC, established in 2011 in Albuquerque. The Poetry Playhouse is a place for poetry - and play! Jules features visiting poets and also leads writing classes and workshops, as well as poetry movie nights. Currently, the Poetry Playhouse is in Old Town, Albuquerque. In January 2016 it will have a brand new location on 5th and Granite, just east of downtown, with free parking and a dedicated space for more classes, workshops, readings and events. Watch for a grand opening in January.

Jules will teach a class on the sestina form in 2016. "The Lonesome Sestina" will meet on Tuesday nights from 6-8 pm for six weeks, January 19- Feb 23, 2016. In this class, students will learn about the sestina form, its variations, and even its sense of humor. The sestina can be a lonesome form, as not all poets want to attempt it. Those who do, however, discover its grace and magic.

For more information on Jules' Poetry Playhouse, visit her web site:

http://www.julesnyquist.com/poetry_playhouse.html

Important Dates...

Board Meetings

October 24, 2015 at the North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, Albuquerque
January 23, 2016, in Belen (time & location TBD)

Annual State Convention: April 23, 2016 Monte Vista Christian Church, Albuquerque

VP Bernadette Perez says: Wow!! New Mexico is full of exciting venues of poetry this fall so many choices. From workshops to Open Mics, Chapter readings, Sunday Chatter, Poetry at the Library, Poetry at book stores, parks, art museum to poetry with beer, poetry at the Range and at the Source. Slams here and Competitions there, Poetry is Everywhere! We would like to thank Billy Brown, Jules Nyquist, Jim Raby, and others who help spread the word.

Earl Kious
Treasurer

Variations on a Form

Poetry has a variety of different forms, some of which are familiar, some perhaps not. The acrostic poem is one that most readers probably recognize but give little thought to, deeming it unworthy of serious consideration. In an acrostic, the first letter of each line, taken from top to bottom, spells out a word or phrase.

A couple of years ago I created a variation that I named AMBICROSTIC. Not only do the first letters of each line spell a word or phrase, but the last letters do also -- and that can be either the same or something related but totally different. If you think an ordinary acrostic isn't worth the effort, why not try an ambicrostic? You might find it a bit more challenging.

In another variation, which I call Embedded Acrostic, the word or phrase appears within the body of the poem, formed from every n^{th} character, where n is any arbitrary number. And *every* character is counted, including spaces and numerals. With an embedded acrostic, the word or phrase is easier to see when the poem is printed using a monospace font.

Here are some examples, in which I've used color and boldface type to make the form more apparent.

POETRY READER (Ambicrostic)

Perhaps to hear a frantic cry for help
Outspoken in this wordsmith rodeo
Each one of us might ought to be or have
The tolerance and patience of a saint
Refusing one to aid another
Yields only undeserved antipathy.

Replete with insufficient rigor,
Expect no praise for any lines of verse
A-teem with tripe but not one good caesura.
Dead weight will run each wayward ship aground,
Excusing none that fail to excite.
Reward indulgence of your reader!

(more on page 7)



POETRY

Pray say what makes someone a writer
 Of clever words, and tales they tell in verse,
 Each line a taste of their ambrosia?
 They tempt one's soul inside and raise the dead,
 Ring out across the land, their words of praise.
 Yet little enough it is to savor.

Psychedelics (Ambicrostic)


Pretty flowers afloat in purple soup
 supporting LSD-soaked sugar cubes.
 Yellow moon-swept nights of alchemy
 come crashing in like schizophrenic
 hallucinations sharp as knives, with
 every shred of reason set aside.
 Disembodied thoughts invade the head,
 exaggerated visions in burlesque.
 Logic disappears within a swirl
 infused with overwhelming stimuli,
 cartoon-like frames of pornographic
 scenes that dominate the senses.

Eclipse (Embedded Acrostic)


The moon which sits between the earth and sun,
 and Galileo's lens embraced a million moons ago
 overpowering the bolder light of day by virtue of
 a briefly adventitious distance from the pair,
 maintains its ceaseless path across the sky
 despite all human efforts to wrest control away
 from Nature's steely fire-iron grip.

In an embedded acrostic, the 25th character of each
 line, from top to bottom, spells the title of the poem.
 Can you see it?

Bernadette Perez
Vice-President

Haiku Workshop - Rengay Form

In Belen NM, I attended a Haiku Workshop, taught by Jim Applegate. I learned a variety of short syllabic poetry forms. Haiku: A poem about nature and man's relationship to nature, from traditional, modern, and contemporary. One of the forms we worked on as a group was a **Rengay Form**. This is our poetic collaboration.

A Hint of Autumn

a hint of autumn
 on the August breeze
 the flowers' last dance

light delays shine
 breaking over mountain

sunflowers withers
 leaves turn brown
 seeds fall

chicks now grow
 storing up energy
 for migration

noisy squirrels
 gather all my pecans

bees harvest nectar
 legs golden with pollen
 late afternoon sun



Jim Applegate is a retired chemical engineer. Born and raised in Cedar City, Utah he earned a master's degree from BYU. He and his wife, Beth Ann, have four grown children, fourteen grandchildren and 1 great grandson. Jim is a docent at the Roswell Museum and Art Center and a former president of New Mexico State Poetry Society. Jim first started to write poetry in high school and took up writing again when he retired. Since then he has published more than 250 poems. He has edited and published the annual Small Canyons Anthology for the Southwest region. He is also involved with the magazine "SciFaikuest" which he has contributed to with poetry, articles and as featured poet.

The All-Volunteer NMSPS Board Serves YOU!

Elected Board Officers and Chapter Chairs, 2015-2017

Andi Penner
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505-306-0369
president@nmpoetry.org

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Vice President
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vicepresident@nmpoetry.org

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Vicki Holmsten
Secretary
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Fil Peach
Chancellor
chancellor@nmpoetry.org

Gayle Lauradunn, Chair
Albuquerque Chapter
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ABQchair@nmpoetry.org

Zachary Kluckman, Chair
Slam of Enchantment Chapter
slamchair@nmpoetry.com
505-985-9708

Irene Hamilton, Chair
4 Corners Poets (Farmington)
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Robert Reynolds, Chair
High Prairie Poets (Roswell)
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HPchair@nmpoetry.org

Dante Berry, Chair
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
505-864-4231
RGVchair@nmpoetry.org

Elise Stuart, Chair
River Poets (Silver City area)
575-956-5038
RPchair@nmpoetry.org

Jim Raby, Chair
Santa Fe Poetry Trails
505-955-9067
SFchair@nmpoetry.org

Chair: Vacancy
Walking Rain Poets (Taos)

Want to start a state chapter in your city or town? Contact a board member and we'll be happy to help you initiate the process.

Appointed Board (Project Leaders)

Dawn Huffaker
PL for Newsletter
505-990-6706
NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.org

John Candelaria
PL for Children's Poetry
505-898-4464
NMSPSchildpoetryproject@nmpoetry.org

Non-Board Positions

Debbi Gutierrez
Web Presence
webmaster@nmpoetry.org

Need Volunteers!

To keep the NMSPS Calendar current, we need a volunteer to handle the incoming emails and post events. If you would like to be the Calendar Master, please send an email to

NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com

We are also looking for a Membership Chair and volunteers to help with the annual convention—we need a planning chair and members. **Contact a board member to volunteer!**

MEMBER BOOK MARKET WEB PAGE

<http://nmpoetry.org/nmmps-market.shtml>

Want your book included in the Members' Book Market? Look for the submission guidelines on the NMSPS website. A \$10 set-up fee lets you list up to three books with links to where your books can be purchased.



New Mexico State Poetry Society

P.O. Box 21825

Albuquerque NM 87154



Find us online at

www.nmpoetry.org

The NMSPS Board is pleased to announce the October NMSPS Membership Sweepstakes!

This year, we are offering **TWO \$100 Gift Card Prizes!** The NMSPS Membership year runs Nov. 1 to Oct. 31. We submit our roster every January to the National Federation to ensure that paid members receive discounts on poetry contests and convention registrations. To get the most out of **your** annual membership, we recommend that you sign up early.

We are pleased to offer two Sweepstakes Prizes in appreciation for your volunteer spirit to promote poetry in the land of Enchantment and beyond. We will do **2 drawings**: one for **first-time members only** and one for **renewing members**, a **\$100 Visa gift card each!** Sweepstakes eligibility runs from **October 1 through October 31, 2015.*** On **November 9**, we will draw a name at random from each group (first-time and renewing members). Sign up early to qualify at www.nmpoetry.org or send your check to NMSPS, P. O. Box 21825, Albuquerque NM 87154, postmarked by October 31, 2015. **Winners will be contacted by phone or email by November 16, 2015.**

Member dues are \$20.00/year (Nov. 1-Oct. 31). Age 18 and younger, \$5.00/year. The board had voted on a \$10 student rate for any-age student, however, that will need to be ratified in a Constitutional amendment as the membership categories are determined by the NMSPS Constitution. Stay tuned for a membership vote on the issue!

**Rest assured that if you are one of a few eager members who has paid your 2015-2016 dues already in September, you are already eligible for the October sweepstakes drawing!*