



Diamonds Crown the Poet
in the City Different

**Event Program
and
Convention Schedule**

2019 NFSPS Annual Convention
Diamond Jubilee
hosted by New Mexico State Poetry Society
Santa Fe, New Mexico
June 23-26

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Proclamation

Words of Welcome



A Message from the NFSPS President

On behalf of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' Board of Directors, welcome to the NFSPS's 60th Annual Conference and welcome to Santa Fe, New Mexico!

While it's been over a year since we last convened, I hope you are as excited as I am to be gathering with poets and friends in the high desert. Look around you; I'm sure you'll agree, Santa Fe could not be more beautiful this time of year. The vast scenery of this famous Southwestern city should help to put you in the mindset of this year's theme, *Diamonds Crown the Poet in the City Different!*

This year's presenters provide a diverse platform to inspire attendees traveling from near and far to learn about the various landscapes our poetry traverses. The NFSPS's annual national conference is OUR premier poetry event, so I hope you will take advantage of every opportunity. Expand your knowledge. Attend a variety of sessions. Network with your peers. Learn something new about your poet friends. Reinvigorate your poetry!

With this year being my first conference serving as the NFSPS's Elected President, I want to personally thank all the individuals who work to make this event such an anticipated success. Your diligent efforts are vital to this organization and poetry.

Your sister in words,
Julie Cummings, NFSPS 33rd President

Welcome by the NMSPS President



The New Mexico State Poetry Society is honored and excited to be hosting the 2019 Annual Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). I'd like to personally welcome each of you to this convention, which marks the Diamond Jubilee

of the Federation and the Golden Anniversary of NMSPS.

Amid the international flavor and inspiring diversity of Santa Fe, we know you will find a friendly population, world-famous art, outstanding New Mexico cuisine, and an atmosphere of celebration. Please use this special conference to make new friends, enjoy old friendships, and learn and share poetic skills and insights. We thank you for coming and hope that you will take home a basketload of happy and rewarding memories.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Perez,, NMSPS President

A Note from the Convention Coordinator



Bienvenidos! The New Mexico State Poetry Society welcomes you to the 60th anniversary of the NFSPS Annual Convention, our Diamond Jubilee!

Please let me introduce you to these fine NMSPS members on our Convention Steering Committee. If you have questions or need assistance, please ask the person directing that aspect of the event.

Ginny Gaskill	Coordinator
Iris Gersh	Registrar
Terri Klein	Treasurer
Shirley Blackwell	Bookstore
Fil Peach	Tours & Transportation
Dino de Leyba	Hospitality
Tomey Anaya	Silent Auction
David Meischen	Invocation /Convention Contests

Yours, in poetry,

Ginny Gaskill, Coordinator
2019 Diamond Jubilee NFSPS Convention

Convention Schedule

Please refer to the following pages for information on everything from workshops to entertainment to music jams and open readings. A tour brochure will also be available with helpful information. You can also ask any convention volunteer to steer you in the right direction.

Sunday, June 23

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 9:45am or
12:45pm | Depart for Rancho De Las Golondrinas
Return by 4:15pm |
| 3:30-5:30pm | Convention Registration (Hotel Santa Fe)
Bookstore open for intake (Hotel SF, Kiva C) |
| 4:00-5:30pm | First NFSPS Board meeting (Sage Inn Sunrise Room) |
| 6:00-8:00pm | Group Dinner (La Casa Sena restaurant) |
| 8:00-9:30pm | Gathering of the Bards (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)

NM Cowboy singer and poet Mike Moutoux

Convention Registration (Hotel SF)

Silent Auction items intake (Hotel SF, Canyon Room)

Bookstore open for intake (Hotel SF, Kiva C) |
| 9:30pm + | Open Mics |

Convention Schedule

Monday, June 24

- 7:00-8:30am Open Mic (Sage Inn)
- 8:00-11:30am Convention Registration (Hotel SF)
- 9:00-9:20am Opening ceremony/Welcome to New Mexico
Dante Berry, Special Guest Santa Fe Mayor
Allan M. Webber (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 9:30-10:15am Morning Workshops (Hotel SF):
- Mental Maps*— John Roche (Kiva A)
- Breaking the Narrative Mold*
David Meischen (Kiva B)
- Ekphrastic Poetry Walking Retreat in SF*
Jules Nyquist (meets in front of Bookstore
In Kiva C)
- 10:30-11:15am Plenary (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 12:00-1:15pm Southwestern Buffet Lunch (Kiva A&B)
Manningham Awards
- 1:30-2:45pm Afternoon Workshops (Hotel SF):
- Finding the Voice that is Great Within*
Debbi Brody (Kiva A)
- Chews and Sucks: The Language of Our
Ancestors*—Sylvia Ramos (Kiva B)

Convention Schedule

(Monday, June 24, continued)

3:00-5:00pm	Contest Awards (Kiva A&B) Critiques with Steven Concert (Library)
6:00-7:30pm	Dinner (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B) College Undergrad Poetry (CUP) Award
8:00-9:30pm	Cypher Santa Fe
9:30pm +	Open Mics

Tuesday, June 25

7:00-8:30am	Open Mic State Presidents' meeting (Hotel SF, Kiva A)
9:00-10:15am	Morning Workshops (Hotel SF) <i>Hopeful Heroes</i> —Stewart Warren (Kiva A) <i>Listing—Side to Side, Top to Bottom: Tips and Technique for Writing Every Day</i> Nathan Brown (Kiva B)
10:30-11:30am	Contest Awards (Kiva A&B) Critiques with Steven Concert (Library)

Convention Schedule

(Tuesday, June 25, continued)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 12:00-1:00pm | Cold Cut Buffet Lunch (Kiva A&B) |
| 1:30-5:00pm | State Capitol (aka Roundhouse) Rotunda
Dante Berry, with Special Guest New Mexico
State Senator Bill O’Neill

BlackBerryPeach Prizes and performances

Open Mic at the Rotunda |
| 6:00-7:15pm | Dinner (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
Stevens Award |
| 7:30-9:30pm | Contest Awards (Kiva A&B)

Critiques with Steven Concert (Library) |
| 9:30pm + | Open Mics |

Convention Schedule

Wednesday, June 26

7:00-8:00am	Open Mic (Sage Inn)
8:30-9:45am	Morning Workshops (Hotel SF): <i>Poetry as Prayer</i> —Barbara Rockman (Kiva A) <i>Digging Up Roots: Cultura, Metaphor & Healing</i> —Manuel Gonzalez (Kiva B)
10:00am-noon	Contest Awards (Kiva A&B) Critiques with Steven Concert (Library)
12:30-1:45pm	Cowboy BBQ Buffet Lunch (Kiva A&B)
1:30pm	Deadline for book pickup from the Bookstore (Kiva C)
1:45-2:45pm	Second NFSPS Board meeting (Hotel SF, Library)
3:00-4:30pm	Reception and Book Signings Visit with featured speakers and enjoy readings by Keynote Valerie Martinez
4:00pm	Silent Auction closes (Kiva A&B)
4:00-4:45pm	Silent Auction winners pick up items & pay (Kiva A&B)

Convention Schedule

(Wednesday, June 26, continued)

- 6:00-9:00pm Gala Banquet (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B&C)
Keynote Valerie Martinez:
*Poetry Now: Where We've Been,
Where We Are, Where We're Going*
- Convention closing and final Contest Awards
- 9:30pm + Open Mics

Thursday, June 27

- 9:45am Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens and Madrid
excursion
Return by late afternoon

Workshops and Presenters



Gathering of the Bards

Mike Moutoux

Cowboy poet and musician Mike Moutoux’s poetry is always lyrical—perhaps because he is also a songwriter. His songs and poems are always filled with wonderful images—perhaps influenced by his work as a photographer. But it is his work as a cowboy that lends an authenticity to

his work most audiences quickly realize and appreciate. What does this mean for you? Wild rides, cattle drives, and a chance to look closely at life, love and some mighty fine country through a cowboy's eyes

A cowboy-singer-songwriter-poet from Silver City, New Mexico, Mike is known as “New Mexico's Enchanting Cowboy.” He specializes in turning ranch work into cowboy songs and cowboy poetry that give listeners a rare look into the life of a working cowboy. “I’ve helped to pull calves that could not be delivered normally and watched them take their first breath; lain on the ground in the mud and blood doctoring cows; been chased by cows, kicked by cows, fallen off a horse or two, and just generally collected too many fond memories to remember.”

Workshops and Presenters



Mental Maps

John Roche

We will examine the maps we carry around in our heads as a means of generating narratives and writing poems. Where is HOME? What are its boundaries? Have they expanded?

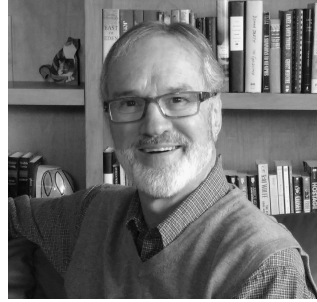
Do you have more than one place you consider/considered home? Do you have favourite trails or roads or cities to explore? Places you'd rather avoid? Where do there be dragons?

John Roche lives in Placitas, NM, helping Jules Nyquist run Jules' Poetry Playhouse. He taught Literature and Creative Writing for many years at Rochester Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, and Emory University, among other schools. John and Jules recently completed the five-volume *Poets Speak* anthology series. John's own poetry collections include *On Conesus*, *Topicalities*, *Road Ghosts*, and *The Joe Poems: The Continuing Saga of Joe the Poet*.

Workshops and Presenters

Breaking the Narrative Mold

David Meischen



For twenty years, I've been exploring ways to jar narrative out of its linear rut. I'm indebted to the poet Victoria Redel for one of the most successful approaches, an exercise she calls "Memory, Periphery, & Then Some," from *Wingbeats: Exercises and Practice in Poetry*. In this workshop, we'll go through several quick steps for opening up a narrative poem, then do some drafting. If time allows, participants will have the opportunity to share their drafts.

David Meischen has been writing poetry and teaching the writing of poetry for 35 years. A Pushcart honoree, with a personal essay in *Pushcart Prize XLII*, Meischen is co-founder and Managing Editor at Dos Gatos Press, publisher of *Wingbeats* and *Wingbeats II*, collections of poetry writing exercises contributed by teaching poets from all over the United States. Meischen has recent work in *Borderlands*, *Bosque*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Manzano Mountain Review*, *The Ocotillo Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Talking Writing*, and elsewhere. He lives in Albuquerque with his husband—also his co-publisher and co-editor—Scott Wiggerman.

Workshops and Presenters



*Ekphrastic Poetry Walking
Retreat in Santa Fe*
Jules Nyquist

Walk the streets of Santa Fe and observe and write about the City Different, the City of Holy Faith.

An ekphrastic poem is a vivid description of a scene, or, more commonly, a work of art. Through the imaginative act of narrating and reflecting on the “action” of a painting or sculpture, or a scene observed in real life, the poet may amplify and expand its meaning. We will walk a few blocks around the hotel area, read poems by others to inspire us, and have time to write and share our own observations.

Jules Nyquist is the founder of Jules' Poetry Playhouse in Placitas, NM, where she creates a space for poetry and play with day and weekend retreats. She took her MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College, VT. Her latest book of poems, *Homesick, Then*, won the NM/AZ Book Award for poetry. She has been interviewed by *NM Entertainment Magazine*, *Minnesota Reads* and other publications. She also publishes other poets with Jules' Poetry Playhouse Publications and has edited several poetry anthologies.

Workshops and Presenters



Finding the Voice that is Great Within

Debbi Brody

The single most important thing we have as writers is our unique voice. Finding it can be a strange and challenging journey, but it is well worth the trip. This journey effects our lives in many areas in a self strengthening and affirming way. I will set you on the path and leave you with additional tools to carry on this delightful work well beyond the time spent in our workshop.

Debbi Brody conducts poetry workshops and readings at festivals and other venues throughout the Southwest to writers age 5 through 95. She publishes frequently in regional and national literary journals. Her work has appeared in the *Santa Fe Literary Review*, *Broomweed Journal*, *Poetica*, *Sin Fronteras* and many other magazines and books of note, including numerous anthologies. Her first full length collection, *Portraits in Poetry* (Village Books Press, Oklahoma, 2006), as well as her chapbook, *FreeForm* are out of print. Her 2013 chapbook, *Awe in the Muddle* and her 2015 collection *In Everything Birds* are available through the usual online book purchasing sites.

As well as being active in the poetry community, editing, writing, and reviewing, coordinating readings, and judging art shows and recitations, Debbi works for a small scientific research and development company. She has lived in Santa Fe with her husband since 1992.

Workshops and Presenters

*Chews and Sucks: The
Language of Our Ancestors*
Sylvia Ramos Cruz



All of us have, near or far, an ancestor who spoke a different language, a language many of us have lost in the process (or, perhaps, hopes) of melting into the pot. Language is not only words but culture and Alex Haley reminds us that “In every conceivable manner, the family is link to our past, bridge to our future.”

In this workshop we will read, write, and share poems related to this theme. We will consider these questions:

- What is the language of your family?
- Have you held on to that language or did you lose it along the way? Do you know why?
- Are there words or phrases that have been passed down through your family that tie you to your history? Would a distant relative know you were in their family tree if they heard you say them? What do those words/phrases mean to you?
- How can you use those words/phrases to build poems that explore your roots or lead you down paths that surprise you?

Sylvia Ramos Cruz writes poems eclectic in form and content, inspired by works of art in all its forms, women's lives, and everyday injustices. Many reflect the places that have shaped her life—Puerto Rico, New York, New Mexico. Her ongoing project—writing haibun

Workshops and Presenters

(Sylvia Ramos, continued)

about her journeys to visit road markers commemorating historic NM women—combines three of her passions: poetry, feminism, and driving the open road.

Her work has appeared in *Persimmon Tree*, *Malpais Review*, *Small Canyons Haiku Anthology*, *Encore: Prize Poems 2017*, and the *Journal of Latina Critical Feminism*, among others. Her poetic essay, *Trilogy: Thoughts on Price, Value, Worth*, won First Prize in the NM Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women 2018 Communications contests.

She is a retired general surgeon, amateur photographer, avid gardener, and fully engaged women's rights activist.

Workshops and Presenters



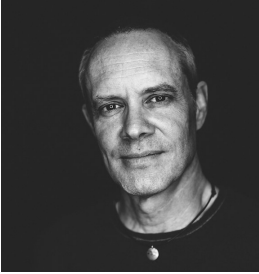
Line by Line: Creating Poems Using Literary Devices

We all use literary devices when we write poems, but how many do we use when we approach any given poem? Three? Five? In this fun and creative workshop, you will use at least a dozen, one or more per line! Be prepared to write! Many of the most popular literary devices—metaphor, onomatopoeia, rhyme, alliteration, etc.—will

be worked as Scott Wiggerman leads you line by line through the creation of a poem. Whether you end up reviewing old terms or learning a few unfamiliar ones, you will write a brand-new poem chock full of literary devices. Following writing and brief editing, we will share our new creations with each other; you will definitely be listening for and recognizing literary devices, line by line.

Scott Wiggerman, Chair of the Albuquerque chapter of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, is author of three books of poetry, *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets, Presence, and Vegetables and Other Relationships*; and editor of several volumes for Dos Gatos Press, including the best-selling *Wingbeats: Exercises & Practice in Poetry (I & II)*, *Bearing the Mask*, *Weaving the Terrain*, and other Southwestern-themed anthologies. Poems have appeared recently in *Softblow*, *frogpond*, *Chiron Review*, *Ocotillo Review*, *The Ghazal Page*, *bosque*, and *Allegro Poetry*.

Workshops and Presenters



Listing—Side to Side, Top to Bottom: Tips and Techniques for Writing Every Day

Nathan Brown

This workshop deals with how to never be caught without something to write about. Many writers, from Dickens to Twain, and Hemingway on up to Stephen King, had (or have) a daily writing practice, and many writers claim that this discipline was their 'great teacher.' I've written a poem a day for the last 14 years, and nothing has taught me more about writing.

We will explore:

- Ways to generate material and organize it into “themes”
- Techniques for getting a daily writing practice up and running
- How to maintain it through “bite-sized” blocks of time and output
- We will also dialogue about what techniques work, and do not work, for each of us as individual writers.

Poet and songwriter Nathan Brown holds a PhD in English and Journalism from the University of Oklahoma, where he taught for 17 years. He was Oklahoma’s State Poet Laureate in 2013-14 and now travels fulltime to perform readings and concerts, teach workshops, and speak on creativity, poetry, songwriting.

Nathan has published roughly 19 books. Most recent are *An Honest Day's Confession*; *Apocalypse Soon: The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz*; and *Don't Try*, a collection of co-written poems with Austin Music Hall of Fame songwriter, Jon Dee Graham. *Karma Crisis: New and Selected Poems*, was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Oklahoma Book Award. His earlier book, *Two Tables Over*, won the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award.

Workshops and Presenters



Poetry as Prayer

Barbara Rockman

Poetry's history runs deeply alongside that of meditation, song, spiritual quest, and communion with nature. A reach for the divine or holiness is not unlike the deep witnessing a poet seeks as she gathers images, sounds, and language that reflect personal

inquiry, soul-searching, and longing to define a self within the cosmic and mundane.

In this *not* religious workshop we will discuss the work of exemplary poets such as Rilke, Jane Hirshfield, Whitman, Jane Kenyon, and Mark Doty. Writing prompts will offer the opportunity to create and share your own poems of longing, praise, and doubt.

As author of *Sting and Nest*, Barbara won the NM/AZ Book Award and the National Press Women Book Prize. Her new collection, *To Cleave*, is forthcoming from University of New Mexico Press.

Barbara teaches at Santa Fe Community College, leads writing workshops in various locales, and brings poetry to Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families. She received her MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives in Santa Fe.

Barbara has received the New Mexico Discovery Award, Southwest Writers Prize, Baskerville Poetry Award, MacGuffin Poet Hunt Prize, and nominations for Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net. Her poems appear in *Bellingham Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Taos Journal of Art and Literature*, *Louisville Review*, and *Nimrod Journal*.

Workshops and Presenters



***Digging Up Roots:
Cultura, Metaphor & Healing***
Manuel González

As humans, we need to be seen and understood, but most People of Color (POC), LGBTQ, and other

marginalized groups in our communities never see this as an option. In this workshop, we will explore societal influence, cultural identity, and self-exploration in our work. From birth, traditions and life experiences mold us into who we are. These soul-feeding moments enrich the *tierra* from which sparks of creativity can grow. It's time to work the land!

The workshop opens with a performance of poems meant to provoke emotional response and cultural self-reflection, followed by a shared writing prompt and discussion on cultural and self-identity. At closing, attendees will be invited to share their work and connect with other participants.

Albuquerque Poet Laureate (2016-18) Manuel González has represented Albuquerque four times as a member of the Albuquerque Poetry Slam team. He uses slam poetry to help local youth find positive and constructive ways to deal with life's pressures. He also teaches workshops on self-expression through poetry in high schools and youth detention centers, and facilitates art therapy programs to help at-risk and incarcerated youth. In 2014, Manuel founded Low Writing at El Chante, a free writer's group open to anyone in the community.

To bring his message of helping others heal and express themselves through poetry, Manuel has appeared twice on the PBS show, *¡COLORES!*.

His poetry collection, . . . *but my friends call me Burque*, was published in 2014 by Swimming with Elephants Press.

Meet Our Keynote Speaker!

Poetry Now: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going

Keynote Speaker Valerie Martínez

How can/does poetry address complex issues of our time, such as climate change and cultural tumult, news and fake news, and a wide range of global crises?



Valerie Martínez is a poet, educator, arts administrator, and collaborative artist. Her books of poetry include *Absence, Luminescent* (1999), *World to World* (2004), *And They Called It Horizon* (2010), the limited-edition chapbooks *This is How it Began* (2010) and *A Hundred Little Mouths* (2015), and the book-length poem, *Each and Her* (2010), which won the Arizona Book Award and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN Open Book Award, the William Carlos William Award, and the Ron Ridenhour Prize. Her work has been published widely in journals, magazines, anthologies, and media outlets including *The Best American Poetry*, the *Washington Post*, and the Poetry Foundation's "Poetry Everywhere" series.

Martínez also translated the work of the Uruguayan poet Delmira Agustini (1886-1914) which was published as the collection, *A Flock of Scarlet Doves* (2005). She was the Poet Laureate of Santa Fe, New Mexico from 2008 to 2010. Martínez has more than 20 years of experience as a college/university professor and has spent over 10 years in the non-profit sector, working with children, young adults, adults, teachers, and seniors in a wide range of arts and community development projects. She is currently the Director of History and Literary Arts at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Contest Winners & Judges

College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP)



Meudt Award Winner

Deanna Altomara

Deanna Altomara is the recipient of the 2019 Edna Meudt Memorial Award. Her manuscript is titled *The Happening: Reflections on the Amish School Shooting*. Deanna's hometown is Mahwah, NJ.

Deanna grew up in New Jersey, where she first fell in love with words and storytelling. She has been honored on a national and international stage through several organizations, including Future Problem Solving, the Ayn Rand Foundation, the Outdoor Writers Association of America, and the Coalition of Texans with Disabilities. An avid dreamer, she is the author of two middle-grade fantasy books, *Ageless* and *Pi*. Deanna now attends Emory University, where she is majoring in Creative Writing and Human Health. When she's not writing, she can usually be found with a book, hiking shoes, or a good meal!

Kahn Award Winner

Caleb Jordan Rosenthal



Contest Winners & Judges

College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP)



2019 CUP Judge
Barbara DeCesare

Barbara DeCesare is a graduate of the Goddard College MFA-W program. She is the author of *jigsaweyesore* (Anti-Man Press), *Adrift* (Seventh Wave), and *Silent Type* (Paper Kite Press). Barbara curated The Prufrock Project, an art exhibit based on the T. S. Eliot poem; cast audience members to perform in her

series of small plays, *You're Soaking In It*; and took the title in the Fear No Lit organization's Literary Page Match automatic writing competition. Her poems and short fiction have been published in *Folio*, *Poetry*, *Alaska Quarterly*, *Tarpaulin Sky* and many others. Barbara DeCesare is a graduate of the Goddard College MFA-W program. She is the author of *jigsaweyesore* (Anti-Man Press), *Adrift* (Seventh Wave), and *Silent Type* (Paper Kite Press).

Barbara curated The Prufrock Project, an art exhibit based on the T. S. Eliot poem; cast audience members to perform in her series of small plays, *You're Soaking In It*; and took the title in the Fear No Lit organization's Literary Page Match automatic writing competition. Her poems and short fiction have been published in *Folio*, *Poetry*, *Alaska Quarterly*, *Tarpaulin Sky* and many others.

Contest Winners & Judges

BlackBerry Peach Prize



***BlackBerryPeach Prize for
Poetry: Spoken and Heard***
B.J. Alligood, First Prize Winner

Floridian B.J. Alligood has resided in the Daytona Beach area for over 55 years. A member of Tomoka Poets and Florida State Poets Association (FSPA), she currently hosts the popular Tomoka Poets open mic night at the Copperline Cafe in Port Orange.

B.J. is frequent winner in state and national poetry contests and has been published in *The Meridian Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*, *REVELRY*, *Poetry to Feed the Spirit*, *Kaleidoscope: Exploring the Experience of Disability through Literature and the Fine Arts*, *Poetry in the Park* and *Of Poets and Poetry* as well as many FSPA anthologies.

A student mentor for the LaVilla School of the Arts in Jacksonville, B.J. has read her poetry at schools and libraries as well as television and radio. She is a University of Florida graduate and a fervent Gator fan.

Contest Winners & Judges

BlackBerry Peach Prize



BlackBerryPeach Prize for Poetry Judge

SETH

A writer, poet, actor, musician, producer, and director, SETH has over 30 years' experience in devising creative ways to present poetry. He has collaborated with musicians, poets, actors, dancers and other performance artists to render poetry more entertaining--and thus more accessible to general audiences.

A founding member of performance poetry troupe Open Rangers (1989-2000), SETH helped pioneer the art of "Poetry Theater" in Denver. The ensemble interweaves multiple artistic voices into thematically cohesive productions for the stage as well as audio and film media. He also performed during 1993-2004 with the critically acclaimed performance art trio, Jafrika, lauded by the *Rocky Mountain News* as "one of Colorado's finest cultural offerings."

SETH has competed in National Slam Competitions and teaches the art of reading and performing poetry. He currently heads Art Compost & the Word Mechanics, an improvisational music/poetry ensemble performing weekly at the Mercury Café in Denver and featured for the past two decades at poetry festivals throughout Colorado.

Contest Winners & Judges

Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition



***Winner of Stevens Poetry
Manuscript Competition***
Flower Conroy

LGBTQ+ writer and former Key West Poet Laureate, Flower Conroy has won the Stevens MS competition with her book, *Snake Breaking Medusa Disorder*. She is the author of the chapbooks *Facts About Snakes & Hearts*, *The Awful Suicidal Swans*, and *Escape to Nowhere*. Conroy is the winner of Radar Poetry's first annual Coniston Prize and the Tennessee Williams Exhibit Poetry Contest, as well as a

scholarship recipient of Bread Loaf, Squaw Valley, Napa Valley, and the Key West Literary Seminar. She is poetry editor at *sourland mountain review*. Her poetry has appeared in *American Literary Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, and other journals.

Ms. Conroy earned her MFA from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Originally from New Jersey, she lives in Key West, Florida, with her partner and their three Papillons (toy spaniels), Lucy, Lexi, and Fiddler.

Contest Winners & Judges

Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition



Stevens Poetry Manuscript Competition Judge

Chen Chen

Chen Chen was born in Xiamen, China, and grew up in Massachusetts. He received his B.A. in Creative Writing and Asian/Pacific/American Studies at Hampshire College in 2011 and his MFA from Syracuse University in 2014. Chen is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in English and creative writing at Texas Tech University, where he is a part-time instructor in composition.

Chen's work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Massachusetts Review*, *Drunken Boat*, *Best of the Net*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Academy of American Poets*, and elsewhere. He has served as a poetry editor for *Salt Hill Journal*, and currently serves as editor-in-chief of *Underblong* and managing editor for *Iron Horse Review*. He has published three books of poetry since 2015: *Set the Garden on Fire*, *Kissing the Sphinx*, and his latest, *When I Grow Up I Want to be a List of Further Possibilities*. He has received numerous awards, including the 2011 Joyce Carol Oates Award and 2014 A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize. He is a 2016 Kundiman Fellow and was a finalist for the Poetry Foundation's 2015 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowships.

TOUR INFORMATION

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

This living museum will give visitors a glimpse of the early history of New Mexico's Spanish cultural heritage. It has a working, water-powered mill, an early church and many original buildings on the 400+ acre site. There is food service available for visitors.

This historic venue served as a rest stop on El Camino Real (Royal Road) between Mexico City and Santa Fe in the early 1700s. Two departure times: 9:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Return trips are at noon, 1:15 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 plus meal purchase at the site (or bring a bag lunch).

Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens and visit to Madrid

On Thursday, we will revisit a popular tour from our 2013 Convention--the Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens between Cerrillos and Galisteo, NM. Director David Retting will guide us in a private tour of the Gardens, located on the foundry's grounds, at 10:30 a.m. A building in the main garden has tables and chairs for writing.

We will then lunch in Madrid before visiting the Mine Museum, famous for being the first electrically lit mining operation in the U.S. Thomas Edison lived in Madrid for a time, and the original head-lamp battery charger he installed is on display there. Other interesting facts about Madrid (locals pronounce it MADrid):

- Site of the first nighttime baseball game played in the U.S.
- Filming site for the movie *Wild Hogs*.
- In the late 1930s, the Madrid miners' Christmas Toyland in the town's ballfield inspired a young visitor, Walt Disney, to dream of building a park he would eventually call *Disneyland*.

We will leave from Hotel Santa Fe at 9:45 a.m. and return around 3:00 p.m. Cost will be \$35, plus your lunch purchase in Madrid.

Critique Sessions with Steven Concert

The critique sessions will be self-directed by the participants and facilitated by Steven Concert. Only individuals attending the 2019 NFSPS convention in Santa Fe, NM, are eligible, and should have pre-registered and submitted to Steve a 1-page, unattributed poem.

Participants will have been given general guidelines on how to critique, as well as copies of all poems submitted by themselves and all others in the group. Critique all but your own, and bring them to the session. **The packet of critiqued poems is your ticket into the critique session.** During the session, participants will be asked to share their critiques in group discussion. At the end of the session, each participant will receive the critiques written for their piece.

Cypher Santa Fe

What is cyphering when it applies to poetry? It has nothing to do with secret codes, monograms, zeroes, or arithmetic. **Cypher Santa Fe** means an evening of street corner poetry led by a group of talented young poets and some performance veterans. Speak up for poetry and create some memories not only for yourself but also for others who have come to The City Different.

Poetry rocks Santa Fe. Be part of it!

Poetry Recordings with Seadog Studios

Seadog Studios is a Texas company that specializes in recording poets reciting their original work. They have designed a special "mobile studio" that will be set up in at Hotel Santa Fe. Check the white boards for the room number and sign-up sheet.

Here's how it works: You (the poet) schedule a time to come to the mobile studio. Bring three poems to record. Once they are recorded, Seadog spends the next couple of months augmenting these recordings with original music and other audio effects to create memorable "performance pieces." Seadog combines the tracks from various NFSPS poets to make a commemorative CD of the event (coordinating with each poet in this creative process).

You can pre-order a copy of the CD or order a copy later from Seadog's website. You retain the copyright to your poem and the final version that will go on the CD; what you grant Seadog is the right to sell the result of the recordings.

This will be Seadog's third year of recording at NFSPS Annual Conventions. CDs from previous years are for sale in the Bookstore. The price is \$12, with \$2 of each sale going to the society hosting the Convention.

So, dust off your best reading manner, become a lasting voice in NFSPS, and support the host societies that work so hard to make these conventions happen.

