

Language of Enchantment

New Mexico State Poetry Society Newsletter, September-October 2019

Find us at www.nmpoetry.com or on Facebook!

A grain of poetry suffices to season a century. —Cuban poet José Martí



NMSPS Annual Meeting September 21, 2019

In lieu of a State Convention, we will be having an Annual meeting and potluck on Saturday, September 21st, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Center for Spiritual Living, 2801 Louisiana Blvd NE, Albuquerque.

This free, day-long event will include a little business and a lot of fun! We will hold our elections, report to our members, and present a proposed Constitution (by-laws) revision, followed by food and open mike!

Come and share your poems, bring a friend and enjoy a day with friends. We will be breaking bread together at the potluck. Aside from a main dish or salad, consider bringing a sandwich filler. NMSPS will provide specialty breads. Consider limiting desserts please.

The NMSPS is entering a dynamic period in its history. The NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe in June was a huge success, and the Society made a sizable profit that it can now use to reach out across the whole of New Mexico, expand our children's and youth programs like Poets in the Classroom, and lend our support to the recently enacted State Poet Laureate and State Youth Poet Laureate programs, all of which enrich the literary lives of all New Mexicans. Come be a part of this exciting time.

NOTE: PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT NMSPS ELECTION INFORMATION ON PAGES 3-6 AND A BALLOT ON PAGE 7 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

Convention was a success!

The New Mexico State Poetry Society is proud and honored to have hosted the 2019 National Convention, NFSPS' 60th Anniversary annual convention, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Workshops were attended at capacity, and meals enjoyed with poets from all over the country. Our book sale room and fundraising auction was open and busy throughout the 4-day convention. A highlight was meeting in the NM State Legislature's Rotunda where the Blackberry Peach Poetry winners and over 50 poets read at open mike. We presented a certificate to our State Senator and poet Bill O'Neill for his efforts in securing funding for a New Mexico State Poet Laureate!

Our hosting of National Convention was so well done that some members of NMSPS's Convention committee (Ginny Gaskill, Shirley Blackwell, and Terri Klein) are drafting a "how-to" manual for NFSPS, to help state poetry societies who want to host a National Convention in the future.

Convention Contest awards were won by the following NMSPS members:

- Janet Ruth, 1st Prize, Poem Different contest
- Amy Wray Irish, 3rd Prize, Poem Different contest
- Megan Baldrige, HM, Poem Different contest

Amy Wray Irish, Invocation contest
Janet Ruth, Invocation contest
Shirley Blackwell, Invocation contest

Thank you, Convention Volunteers!

Special thanks to Ginny Gaskill, our Convention Chair; to Shirley Blackwell for assisting everywhere; to Debbi Gutierrez for setting up the registration portal and laying out the program; to Debbi Brody for inviting the Mayor of Santa Fe and State Representative Bill O'Neill and helping to get a Proclamation for Poetry Week, as well as encouraging members of the Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter to volunteer; to Dorothy Alexander for stepping in to manage the Bookstore on short notice; and to Tomey Anaya for managing the very profitable Silent Auction.

We also thank all of the volunteers statewide who made this Diamond Jubilee brilliant!

Megan Baldrige	Sheryl Guterl	Gayle Lauradunn	Paul White
Cyvil Burks	John Hicks	Brett Nelson	Hannah S. Wiseheart
Deb Coy	Carlton Holte	June Parsons	
Jesse Ehrenberg	Paulette Johnston	Kevin Ribble	
Melanie Faithful	Faith Kaltenbach	Janet Ruth	
Benjamin Green	Michael Klein	Mike Truax	

National Poetry Day

NFSPS has declared October 15th as National Poetry Day. The celebration was spearheaded by NMSPS member Shirley Blackwell. NMSPS will be issuing an open call for (short) one-stanza poems on our Facebook page. The theme will be Truth (which is also the theme of the UK's National Poetry Day).

Congratulations to the NMSPS members who won NFSPS national contests:

Janet Ruth, 1st HM, Contest #4, The Margo Award
S. A. (Sidney A.) Young, 3rd HM, Contest #4, The Margo Award
Ray Reeder, 3rd HM, Contest #23, Columbine Poets of Colorado Award
Edith Powers, 5th HM, Contest #24, Morton D. Prouty & Elise S. Prouty Memorial Award
Ray Reeder, 5th HM, Contest #25, Poets Roundtable of Arkansas Award
Von S. Bourland, 7th HM, Contest #36, Jesse Stuart Memorial Award
Larry Schulte, 3rd Place (for his poem "Home"), Contest #38, Barbara Stevens Memorial Award
Von S. Bourland, 3rd HM, Contest #40, Poetry Society of Oklahoma Award
Janet Ruth, 1st HM, Contest #45, Wyopoets Award

We apologize for any omissions. For a complete list of NFSPS contest winners, go to <https://www.nfsps.com/2019Winners.pdf>

NMSPS sponsors a new national contest

In addition to our ongoing Poetry in the Classroom project, NMSPS is now sponsoring NFSPS Poetry in The Classroom Award, part of the Student Awards, in the following

categories: Grades 6 to 8, and Grades 3 to 5. We encourage all NFSPS members to reach out to students to submit to this contest. For contest guidelines, go to https://www.nfspd.com/poetry_contests.htm (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Thank you to outgoing NMSPS officers and Board members from NMSPS

President Bernadette Perez


Words can neither qualify nor quantify how helpful your guidance and advice has been. NMSPS is forever grateful for your support!

Iris Gersh - We will forever be grateful for the knowledge and skills that the organization has gained working with you. We are grateful for the time that we've been able to work together. Thanks again, and best of luck.

Andi Penner - Words can neither qualify nor quantify how helpful your guidance and advice has been. NMSPS is forever grateful for your support!

Debbi Brody - Thank you Debbi so much for serving as Santa Fe Poetry Trails chapter chair, for growing SFPT's membership, and for your words of encouragement and inspiration. You are relentlessly helpful, not to mention you are very skilled and have much to teach. Thank you! It was a blast!

Bonnie Rucobo - Thank you for two years of service as Poetry in the Classroom project leader and for introducing the students to ekphrastic poetry by collaborating with Albuquerque Museum. Thank you for managing this important youth project!

 I want to say thank you to all of you for being fantastic leaders, mentors and friends. You all have taught me so much in my time here and I honestly can't thank you enough for your kindness, generosity, and support.

New Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter Chair

NMSPS welcomes Hannah Wiseheart as new Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter Chair.

New Poetry in the Classroom Chair

NMSPS welcomes Megan Baldrige as the new Poetry in the Classroom project leader.

New NMSPS project!

In recognition and celebration of the 2020 Woman's Suffrage Centennial, we are participating in a project called Speak with the Poet. Poets will appear at pop-ups throughout Albuquerque and will write poems based on "interviews" with people who want to share their stories of extraordinary everyday women. A book and play on the subject are in the works.

NMSPS website and Facebook page

All NMSPS events and chapter meetings are free and open to the public. Please attend and bring friends! Many of our members are also participating in poetry readings and other events throughout the state. NMSPS maintains a calendar on our website, www.nmpoetry.com. Click on "Calendar" in the sidebar on any website page. To

submit a poetry event for listing, email NMSPSCalendar@nmpoetry.com. Our Calendar poet, Jules Nyquist, welcomes any information about what's going on in our state. While you're on the website, visit the "Contact Us" page for more info about NMSPS officers and project chairs.

New Issue of *Strophes* Available

The October issue of *Strophes*, the NFSPS newsletter, is available to read or download at <http://www.nfsps.com/Strophes2019-Oct.pdf> .

***Strophes* Seeks New Volunteer Editor**

NFSPS is seeking a new editor for its quarterly newsletter, *Strophes*, starting with the August 2020 issue. The commitment would be for the two-year 2020/22 NFSPS board term. The current Editor, Paul Ford, is very willing to help in the transition. The successful candidate, besides being willing to publish four issues per year, will have these basic competencies:

- Word processing skills, especially in laying out a multi-page document (e.g., MS Word with multiple sections and pages with multiple columns)
- English grammar (i.e., uses an accepted style guide; e.g., *The Elements of Style*, Fourth Edition by William Strunk and E. B. White)
- Maintain NFSPS and state society contacts and send periodic 'group' emails (e.g., the emails I have been sending for submission reminders and this new *Strophes*-posted email)
- Plan to attend NFSPS annual conventions (helps to be connected to other NFSPS board members)

If you are interested, email Paul Ford, *Strophes* Editor: pmford3@gmail.com

NMSPS ELECTION INFORMATION

To the members of New Mexico State Poetry Society, Inc. Our Society is poised to do remarkable things for poetry in New Mexico and at the national level. We need remarkable people to lead us, and the Nominating Committee believes our nominees are eminently qualified. We are proud to propose the following **SLATE OF NOMINEES:**

For NMSPS President - Bernadette Perez (incumbent)

Business executive Bernadette Perez has over 39 years' restaurant experience, which has focused on management since she joined Burritos Alinstante in 2001. She says, "Developing strong relationships is the foundation of everything I do, both professionally and personally." Perez has studied management at the Disney Institute and an executive coaching firm in Albuquerque. Some of her career tasks include employee development and technology applications that may not seem germane to poetry, but benefit any organization. She has studied how to foster leadership in a group, intentionally demonstrate behaviors that uphold its values and vision, and develop internal ideas generated by her peers.

Perez says, "I have been involved in NMSPS since 2005 as a member, chapter chair, historian, vice president, and president (2017-19). It has been a wonderful opportunity.

The times I spend working with friends on NMSPS projects are the best parts of my week. NMSPS is my passion and my defining experience. I hope to continue to lead it as we positively influence others' experiences and promote poetry into the future in New Mexico and Beyond."

Perez' poetry has appeared in 100+ publications since 2015. She won Audience Favorite in the Wagner Society's Write Your Own Prize Song contest for the Santa Fe Opera production of Der Meistersinger. She enjoys writing, drawing, and spending time with friends and family, especially her grandchildren.

For NMSPS Vice President - Dino de Leyba

Dino de Leyba has served since 2017 as Secretary of the NMSPS elected board; he serves concurrently as membership chair of the Southwest Writers Board of Directors. Dino was a member of the NMSPS team that championed the 2019 NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe, where his work experience in conferences and conventions proved to be a valuable asset. Last April, Dino was asked to arrange the first Poet in the Classroom program at Cleveland Middle School. After he agreed to do so, word got out; what was initially to be one classroom became 90 students. Every fifth grade teacher wanted their students to participate. The success of this event has prompted a discussion about expanding the program to middle schools in 2020.

A graduate of California State University Long Beach, Dino holds credential in clothing, handbag, and jewelry design. He owns and runs his business, the BeautyMark Foundation. Dino's passion for the arts comes with an eye for detail, sheer determination, and positive will that we see as assets for the post of VP.

Leyba's first manuscript, *Sketching a Life*, was published for use at the prestigious Otis Parsons School of Design in Los Angeles. His work has appeared in numerous anthologies and was favorably reviewed in *Black Butterfly*. A member of NMSPS's Albuquerque Chapter, he resides in the city's Sandia foothills area with his dog Cash. Leyba is currently working on a memoir.

For NMSPS Treasurer – Terri Klein (incumbent)

Terri Klein is a poet, playwright, and performer currently living in Albuquerque. She was born in Arlington, Virginia, spent her childhood being schlepped hither and yon, and then spent 25 years in Cromwell, Connecticut, before prevailing upon her husband to load up the Camry-stoga and light out for the territories. Despite being an artiste, she has the following math experience:

2017- present, Treasurer, NMSPS

2011-2014, Treasurer, Riverwood Poetry Series, Inc. (non-profit org. in Connecticut).

1996-1998, Treasurer, Adath Israel (synagogue), Middletown, CT

1992-1996, Bookkeeper, Adath Israel

1986, MBA in finance, Pace University, New York, NY

1984-1985, accounting clerk, McLaughlin Co., New York, NY

1981-1984, accounting clerk, Martin E. Segal Co., New York, NY

Terri would welcome anyone willing to take over as NMSPS Treasurer or Treasurer-in-training. We know that Terri has restructured our books so that anyone coming after her will inherit a common sense, flexible, and useful system based on spreadsheets

compatible with both Apple and Microsoft computers. She also developed a system for this year's NFSPS Convention that will likely become the model for future NFSPS conventions.

For NMSPS Secretary – Cyvil B. Burks, Sr.

Cyvil (pronounced sehVILLE) Burks and his wife, Diane, have been to and through New Mexico since 1995 and resident in Santa Fe for the last 16 months. Before moving to Santa Fe, they lived in Oklahoma City.

Cyvil has retired from the following: US Air Force, private practice in psychotherapy, and licensed local pastor in the United Methodist Church (although he does get called back to work occasionally in the latter). In his previous jobs, he developed the computer skills that will be required as NMSPS secretary, including internet research; composing documents, forms, and letters using Microsoft Office; and developing power point graphics for his presentations to groups in various settings. Cyvil notes that in each of his career fields, he worked with people in leadership roles and developed good people skills.

Cyvil has been writing poetry off and on since high school. He reports that he has been writing more frequently lately due to the encouragement of Santa Fe Poetry Trails member Dorothy Alexander, who initially invited him to the Santa Fe poets' open mike. Cyvil hopes to use experience gained over the years to serve his fellow poets well in the office of NMSPS Secretary. Not yet a published poet, he also wants to achieve that goal in the near future as he learns more about the art and craft of writing poetry.

For NMSPS Chancellor

The post of chancellor traditionally goes to the immediate past president. Andi Penner has served in that post for over two years now, but her day job keeps her busy and traveling. Since Charles Filmore (Fil) Peach has recently retired from the semiconductor industry as an engineer and inventor, we asked him, and he said yes. Fil was NMSPS President during 2013-15. Since moving to Benbrook, TX, he has maintained at-large membership in NMSPS while serving as an active member of the Ft. Worth Poetry Society. He still owns property in NM and comes here occasionally.

Many will recognize Fil as Transportation & Tours Coordinator for both the 2013 NFSPS Convention in Albuquerque and the 2019 NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe. He was a key player in the 2013 drive to establish the post of NM State Poet Laureate, which culminated in the announcement this year that the program has been funded in perpetuity.

Fil is a founding member and primary supporter of the NFSPS BlackBerryPeach Poetry Prizes. He is currently working on NFSPS sponsorship for a national slam contest to replace the event previously run by the now defunct Poetry Slam, Inc. For several years he has been an invited reader at the annual Langdon Review weekend at Granbury, Texas. He is a past recipient of the NMSPS Patron of Poetry Award.

HOW VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE

The election will have three stages:

Early bird online voting that will close on September 20. Our Webmaster, Debbi Gutierrez, will set up a "voting booth" on September 14 and send all members a notice when it is open. This is the only period in which you will be able to vote electronically.

Mail-in ballots postmarked by September 17. Debbi will create a pdf form that can be downloaded and printed from a computer so that each chapter can provide paper ballots to those in their group who do not have computer access. The online ballot will provide mailing instructions, or you can print and use the form below.

Attendees at the Annual Meeting on September 21 who have not voted previously or who join NMSPS or renew their membership that day will be able to vote from the floor during the meeting. Our Constitution also provides for additional nominees at that time (with the nominee's consent). The Committee will then tally all the votes--electronic, paper, and floor--and announce the results at the end of the meeting.

Please watch for the notice that the electronic voting is open and be diligent in voting. We must have a quorum of our dues-paid members vote in order for the election to be valid. Results will be announced at the meeting and published to all members thereafter. Come join your poet friends at the Annual Meeting on September 21 so you can hear the outcome immediately.

Respectfully submitted
NMSPS Nominating Committee:

Shirley Blackwell, Chair of Committee (RGV Poets)
email to: sonneteer@earthlink.net or call 505-235-5735

John Candelaria (Albuquerque Chapter)

Barbara Rockman (Santa Fe Poetry Trails)

(This page was intentionally left blank, so the ballot on page 9 would be blank on the back.)

BALLOT

Please fill out the top portion of this ballot so that we can verify that you are an NMSPS member in good standing. When you have marked this ballot, please detach the bottom portion at the dotted line and **either mail both portions to the address below or bring them to the Annual Meeting on September 21**, where you can give your membership verification information to the NMSPS Secretary and cast your anonymous ballot separately.

Mail to:

NMSPS Nominating Committee
PO Box 1352
Los Lunas, NM 80731

Must be postmarked no later than 17 September 2019.

Please note that this is NOT the official NMSPS address and ballots will not be received/seen by any nominee.

NAME (Last name first, please) _____

CHAPTER

_____ Albuquerque _____ Santa Fe Poetry Trails
_____ Rio Grande Valencia (RGV) _____ At Large Member

Detach on this line:

Please vote for one person only for each office. Unless you check the box by each nominee's name, write in another candidate's name, or check the box to vote for the full proposed slate, your vote will not be tallied.

To vote for ALL of the nominees on the proposed slate, check HERE _____ .

Otherwise, vote individually for the following nominees. Any write-ins must be NMSPS members in good standing and must have consented before the election to be a nominee.

OFFICE NOMINEE WRITE-IN or NOMINEE FROM THE FLOOR

President _____ Bernadette Perez (RGV) or _____

Vice President _____ Dino de Leyba (ABQ) or _____

Treasurer _____ Terri Klein (ABQ) or _____

Secretary _____ Cyvil Burks, Sr. (SFPT) or _____

Chancellor _____ Charles [Fil] Peach (At large) or _____