

Language of Enchantment



March 2013

Volume 2, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

<i>Dear Poet</i>	2
<i>Contest Deadline Scavenger Hunt</i>	3
<i>Know Your NMSPS Board</i>	4
<i>Changing Horses... Our Veeep Saddles Up Other Contests</i>	5
<i>Notes & Notions</i>	6
<i>Make the Convention Fabulous!</i>	7
<i>Save these Dates</i>	8

The Spring issue of *Strophes* is now on the Federation's website at www.nfsps.com.

This issue contains the June Convention schedule and bios of our workshop leaders, as well as the convention registration page.

We're on the Web!

Expanded Convention info at

www.nmpoetry.com

How are We Doing? President's Message

I am delighted to report that we are strong in numbers, finances, and dedication to promoting our mission: the creation and appreciation of poetry throughout the state and elsewhere.

As of February 1 we had 140 active members, but since then we have enrolled several more. On-line technology has enabled us to expand outside the Rio Grande corridor, and we now have members residing in other parts of NM, New York, California, and even Hawaii. We are looking at opening a chapter in Farmington this spring. Our Turtleback Mountain Poets chapter has disbanded because most of them have moved out of T or C in recent months, but two TMP members now live in Ruidoso and we have a new member in Mescalero, just 15 minutes away, so we may soon charter a chapter in that area. If any of you can help us establish a Las Cruces chapter, let me know.

I ascribe much of our growth to our use of the internet. A few days ago, I spoke with Dawn Huffaker, a new member in Pinos Altos (a little town between Silver City and the edge of the Gila Wilderness). She told me that she had to close her computer business in Silver City when she got sick and is now home-bound. Her Google search for other NM poets brought her to our website. Not only was she able to join the Society from the comfort of her own home, but she offered up to two hours a week to proof-read our website. She has already started that job.

I can't express how grateful I am that our Society gives Dawn and others, even in remote areas or rough situations, a way to connect with kindred souls. This is what our fellowship should be about.

Our finances are healthy. Online member services, like the Members' Book Market, are paying for website maintenance; we've slashed printing and postage costs (once major expenses) by using in-house equipment and communicating online for the most part. Since moving to a credit union, we don't pay bank fees.

Society members keep coming up with good ideas to expand and support our mission:

Charles Trumbull (SF) and Bonnie Rucobo (ABQ) co-direct our new Outreach Project to build ties and expand membership not only among various demographic groups but also with foundations, publishers, libraries, etc. Already, we have the SOMOS literary foundation as a "supporting" NMSPS member.

Paul White and Elizabeth Raby (SF) are working with Santa Fe Folk Art Festival managers to hold readings of poems/songs/stories from the vendors' countries at next July's festival. The works will be read in their native tongue, then in English. Anyone out there speak Urdu? KeSwahili?

I don't have room in this column to mention all that is going on or thank everyone who deserves it, but know that I appreciate all you are doing to promote the Society as a real player in New Mexico's poetry.

Here are just a few examples: Lisa Hase-Jackson's Monthly eBuzz; Sari Krosinsky's Calendar of Poetic Events; Jim Raby's hosting of SF Poet Laureate Jon Davis as feature at SFPT; Bernadette Perez and Kitty Todorovich's leadership in the Alzheimer's Poetry Project in Belen; Chandra Bales' project to publish an ABQ Chapter anthology; Joanne Bodin's shepherding of the NMSPS booth and workshops at the SW Book Fiesta; Jeanne Shannon's advice column in this paper; Larry Castillo-Wilson's NM Children's Poetry Project; plus all those members who serve in the larger poetry community as anthology editors, workshop leaders, youth contest sponsors, and venue providers.

I am so proud to lead an organization in which so many members initiate activities and contribute ideas to build the kind of poetry society **they** believe in. How rare it is to have a group where many participate, instead of one where a handful of folks do everything! But I know that NMSPS members are extraordinarily creative and supportive of one another. You will rock the June Convention!

Dear Poet:
A series by
Jeanne Shannon

The 2013 National Convention: What Will I Miss if I Don't Attend?

If you're mulling over going to the upcoming NFSPS Convention in June and haven't made up your mind yet, here are some things to think about. (I've attended two Conventions and recommend them highly, so read on.)

- ◆ The Convention is fun. It's poetry and music and festive meals and lively conversation with poets from around the country. (And never underestimate the value of fun and joy in our lives, and how it can invigorate our writing.)
- ◆ It's an opportunity to have a mini-vacation right here in New Mexico, complete with tours to points of interest in the Land of Enchantment, if you choose. Even a chance to sit with other poets and write haiku (or whatever) in the Albuquerque BioPark.
- ◆ It's an opportunity to learn. You'll be able to select from among numerous stimulating presentations on everything from "Writing from Place" to information about the many current paths to publication.
- ◆ You'll be able to attend a presentation by Albuquerque's exciting Poet Laureate, Hakim Bellamy.
- ◆ You'll hear a keynote address by a major American poet, Dana Levin.
- ◆ You'll hear the poems that won contests.
- ◆ You can hear poets share their work at open readings.
- ◆ You can share your own work at those open readings as well.
- ◆ You can sell your books in the bookstore, and buy books by numerous New Mexico poets and poets from other states.

I also attended the NFSPS Convention in San Antonio in 2006. Naomi Shihab Nye was the keynote speaker, and as part of her presentation she played the guitar--a bonus we had not expected. And, believe it or not, at the San Antonio Convention I renewed acquaintance with one of the poets I had met in 1981.

I feel like a kid waiting for Christmas—I can't wait for the Convention! So register now and I'll see you there!

This is the first time that the New Mexico State Poetry Society has sponsored the National Convention since 1981. Yes, I attended that one, here in Albuquerque at the Hilton Inn. I still remember some of the events (the banquet, for instance) and three or four of the poets I met there. One very interesting woman inspired me to write a poem about a conversation I had with her over iced tea in the Hilton coffee shop, and the poem was published in at least three different journals. Moments at this June's Convention may summon the Muse for you as well.



NFSPS Contest Deadline is March 15!

Deadline for the NFSPS Contests is March 15. A centerpiece of the NFSPS Convention in June will be the announcement and filming of the awards for the Federation's 50 annual contests. Please, everyone, enter these contests. Where else could you enter over 40 contests for \$10 total? The filming will result in a souvenir DVD for attendees and our own

Hurry, Hurry!

NMSPS archives and is a first for the Federation. For rules and contest categories/themes, go to www.nfsp.org and click on "Contests." Take it from me, New Mexicans compete well in these contests; let's show the rest of the Federation what we can do.

Scavenger Hunt

Want a fun way to help with the Convention? Hospitality Chair Sharon Hoefflin is collecting coffee mugs with names of New Mexico towns on them to serve as door prizes at La Conferencia del Encanto. Sharon will use the mugs as bases for centerpieces featuring New Mexico state emblems (yucca, pinon, roadrunner, chile). This is a way to promote NM businesses and tourism and perhaps get their support in return for the Convention.

So far, we have mugs from Barbeque on Broadway and Black Cat Books & Coffee, both in Truth or Consequences; Rio Grande Diner in Belen; Foreign Auto Parts in Albuquerque; and a motorcycle rally in Alamosa. A couple were donated by businesses, but others were gifts--thank you--from the collections of Kitty Todorovich (RGV Poets) and Fil Peach (Bosque Poets).

We need at least 80 more mugs to do centerpieces for the three nights of the Convention. Many businesses are happy to donate a mug, knowing their names will be listed on our website as sponsors and they will get a charitable gift tax receipt. So, don't hesitate to ask; just get the donor's mailing address. The more unusual, famous, or New Mexican the name of the town and/or the business, the better. If we collect enough, every attendee could go home with one. At the least, let's have something from each town in which we have an NMSPS chapter.

To make it interesting, we'll give a prize to the chapter that brings in the most mugs (1 point for each unique mug). The chapter that wins will also have its "mug shot" displayed in the Convention Bookstore.



Know Your NMSPS Board

Elected Board (Officers and Chapter Chairs)

Shirley Blackwell
President
505-565-1806
president@nmpoetry.com

Joanne Bodin
Vice President
505-861-0634
vicepresident@nmpoetry.com

Debbi Gutierrez
Treasurer
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Charles Trumbull
Secretary
505-982-0914
secretary@nmpoetry.com

Bonnie Rucobo
Chancellor
505-889-4672
chancellor@nmpoetry.com

Chandra Bales, Chair
Albuquerque Chapter
505-277-3622 ext. 243
ABQchair@nmpoetry.com

Chuck Russell, Chair
High Prairie Poets (Roswell)
575-622-4062
HPchair@nmpoetry.com

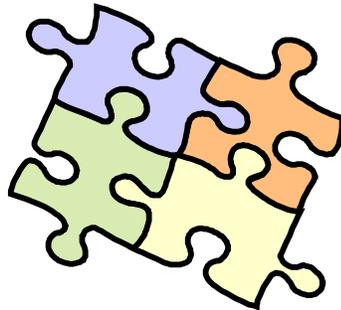
Barbara DuBois, Chair
Rio Abajo Poets (Socorro)
575-835-3437
RAchair@nmpoetry.com

James Raby, Chair
Santa Fe Poetry Trails
505-955-9067
SFchair@nmpoetry.com

Bernadette Perez, Chair
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
505-991-1376
RGVchair@nmpoetry.com

Susan Paquet, Chair
Bosque Poets (Corrales)
817-597-9539
BPchair@nmpoetry.com

Andrea Watson, Chair
Walking Rain Poets (Taos)
303-249-4731
TaosChair@nmpoetry.com



Appointed Board (Project Leaders)

Carol Borsello
PL for Contests
575-202-5709
NMSPScontests@nmpoetry.com

Princess Ifeoma Achusim
PL for Membership
505-856-8565
membership@nmpoetry.com

Larry Castillo-Wilson
PL for NM Children's Poetry Project
505-892-6396
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Lisa Hase-Jackson
PL for Social Media
816-500-8614
eBuzz@nmpoetry.com

Bonnie Rucobo & Charles Trumbull
PLs for Outreach
outreach@nmpoetry.com

Debbi Gutierrez
PL for Web Presence
webmaster@nmpoetry.com

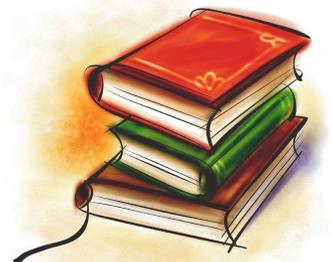
Non-Board Positions

Sari Krosinsky
NMSPS Calendar
NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com

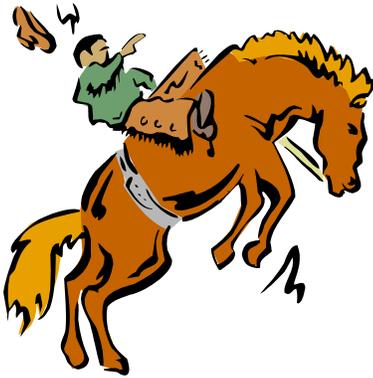
MEMBER BOOK MARKET WEB PAGE

<http://nmpoetry.org/nmsps-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.



Changing Horses...



Someone told me a year or so ago that I wouldn't be able to handle all the work involved in being president of the NMSPS and coordinator of the national convention simultaneously. Boy, did they know what they were talking about! If the NMSPS were a sleepy, just-poking-along outfit, I could manage, but that is hardly the case with our revved-up NMSPS. I promised the Society that I wouldn't let it suffer in favor of the Convention, either financially or in its mission.

I believe I need to head the Convention effort, so, I have asked NMSPS VP Joanne Bodin to step into the role of chief operations officer of the NMSPS until we get through the Convention. Joanne is an eminently capable woman,

but she will need all the support you have given me so generously. I will continue to handle the public relations and policy duties of my office, but Joanne will be the person you should go to first if you are a project leader or have a procedural matter specific to Society business.

I must express my appreciation for all those who have stepped forward to help with the Convention, even as I ask Society officers (project leaders, chapter chairs) plus others who have come up with wonderful ideas, to work with Joanne in the coming months. You can reach Joanne at vicepresident@nmpoetry.com. Contact information for all our officers is on page 4 of this newsletter.

I am so impressed by the synergy and energy of our Society now, with ideas in development and in store for the future. Working together, we are building a NM State Poetry Society with real impact. I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

Shirley Blackwell

...and our Veep Saddles Up!

I wanted to introduce myself to NMSPS members and to say how honored I am to be your new vice president. There are so many exciting things planned for this year, and as our Society continues to grow, our presence in New Mexico is also expanding. First, I want to thank the chapter chairs for all of their participation and support. We now have eight chapters throughout the State and the number keeps growing. I also want to thank the Project Leaders and the Convention Steering Committee Chairs who have shown incredible enthusiasm and support, especially as we prepare for the National Federation's Annual Convention in June.

As things begin to ramp up for the Convention, I will be contacting the Project Leaders so we can maintain momentum for events and programs in our own NMSPS, even while we prepare for the Federation Convention. One of those events is the exciting development of NMSPS participation in the 2013 Southwest Book Fiesta, which will take place at the Convention Center in Albuquerque on May 10-12. NMSPS will have its own poetry booth where members can showcase and sell their books. We will also host a poetry workshop as well as a panel composed of poets laureate from New Mexico.

I look forward to working with all of you and to seeing you at the NFSPS Annual Convention June 13-17 next year.

Joanne Bodin



Convention Fundraiser Contest

Remember your Convention Contest and Invocation poems are due to Jeanne Shannon by May 1. Contest rules and info can be found on our website. Send to:

Jeanne Shannon
 Convention Contest Chair
 1217 Espejo Street NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87112-5215

Sweepstakes Winner

Elaine Schwartz of the Albuquerque Chapter won the sweepstakes drawing for the free registration (a \$75 value) for the NFSPS Annual Convention at Hotel Albuquerque in June. Her name was chosen in a blind drawing using tumbled Boggle cubes; all those who renewed memberships or joined the Society by October 31, 2012 were entered in the drawing.



Hey, Helen!

Our indomitable **Helen “Hoot” Bezansky**, NMSPS member since 1975 who became a lifetime member on her 90th birthday in May 2011, is still going strong but has moved to new environs in California. I received a call from her before Christmas, and she said that her son had scooped her out of a nursing and rehab center in T or C, tucked her into his car's back seat, and whisked her off to his home in California. She is now living in an assisted living facility where her daughter-in-law is a manager and Helen gets royal treatment.

A longtime contributor to Sierra County's popular *Sierra Sentinel*, Helen says the paper is still publishing her columns. One of the latest discussed her new digs and companions in California. Helen said she is determined to “let the people in this place know that there is a poet in the house.” She said she submitted a poem to the facility's monthly newsletter, but guesses that they delayed publishing it because of her unflattering description of the building's aged elevator as “having the hiccups.”

Helen asked that I pass along her good wishes to her friends in NMSPS (actually, they were supposed to be Christmas greetings, but I did not get them out in time). She would write you herself but her arthritic hands make writing difficult. However, she is experimenting with a new voice-activated computer. Way to go, Hoot!!!



We're Up and Running

Membership application, Book Market registration, dues payment--you can now do it all from the comfort of your own computer. A streamlined system is up and operating on our website, www.nmposociety.com, complete with PayPal or credit card capability.

You can also register for the 2013 Annual NFSPS Convention, choose your meals, and register your books or CDS for sale in the Convention Bookstore using online resources. Of course, we can still take paper, but why not save trees and do business the swift, secure way?

Pickin', Poetry, & Potluck for Youth Benefit

Impress us with your culinary talents! Sign up for the April 26 potluck at www.perfectpotluck.com. Under “Find A Mel”, enter name “Krosinsky”, password “NMSPSfund”
(more on page 8)



I regret to inform our NMSPS members of the passing of longtime member Eleanor Hoppe on February 27. Eleanor resided at Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village in Albuquerque, where she joyously and exuberantly celebrated her 90th birthday just a few months ago. We will miss seeing her at the ABQ chapter meetings, which she attended until her health went into decline. Her name will be read aloud during the traditional memorial moment at the NFSPS Annual Convention in June. Services were held March 8 in the Manzano del Sol chapel.

—Shirley Blackwell

How You Can Make the Convention Fabulous

1. Know what it's all about and when it's happening. Go to our website, www.nmsps.com and see what is on the program. This is a BIG deal, not some local event that will come again soon. NMSPS will be on the national stage during June 13-18 (including pre- and post-convention events), a stage on which to promote the local economy and display our State's incredible poetic talent.

This event can give NMSPS its credentials as a leader in the NM poetry community, which will help us further other goals on the horizon, such as creating the post of State Poet Laureate. At present, we are one of only six states that do not have a poet laureate.

2. Attend the Convention and encourage others to do the same. Very few of our members have gone to an NFSPS Convention, either because they didn't know what to expect or they simply could not afford an out of state trip. This year, the Convention is coming to us, for the first time in 32 years!

Where else can you get in on three full days of top-quality workshops and activities, a dynamite keynote speaker, the chance to sell or trade your books, and the opportunity to hear poetic voices from every corner of this nation for a measly \$75?

3. Make sure your fellow poets also get to come. Some Society members are already taking steps to see that their fellow chapter members who can't find the money to attend are not left out in the cold.

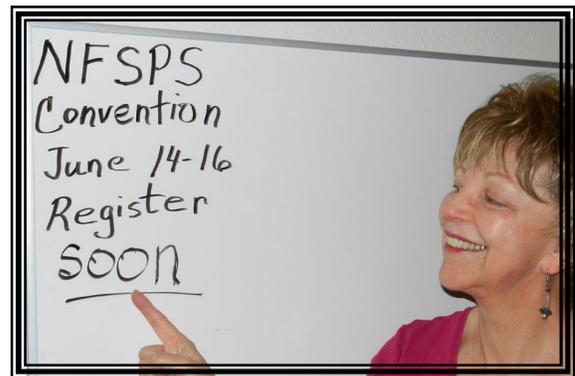
An Albuquerque chapter member has donated funds to defray the fees for fellow ABQ poets who cannot afford registration. Two other members have pledged substantial sums to pay the way of designated poets. A few members have contributed \$10 or \$20 apiece to assist their compatriots. No NMSPS members need miss the Convention because they don't have \$75 for registration. Please contact Shirley Blackwell if you need this help.

RGV Poets are seeking sponsors for Valencia County poets who want to attend but cannot afford to pay for everything, including meals and the hotel stay. Bernadette Perez, the RGV Poets Chair, has visited more than 50 businesses in Valencia County asking for donations so that the County is well represented at this prestigious event.

Stewart Warren and his NMSPS crew are organizing an April 26 fundraiser to provide youth scholarships for the

Convention. We already have two youth members and will soon have two more. A youth poetry team is interested in performing at the Convention and needs funding.

4. Buy all the hotel meals you can afford and eat with new acquaintances. Not only does the NMSPS pay for its meeting space by purchasing hotel-supplied meals, but



the mealtimes are where the action happens. This is when the prizewinners are announced and filmed, and this is where you get to really know people.

NFSPS conventions are not typical professional or trade conferences, where you duck out for a quick lunch so that you can get back for the next business session. At NFSPS conventions, the meals ARE the "next session." If you sign up for the \$190 meal plan, you get all 6 meals, including the banquet, which come with a full range of sides plus the program and entertainment that goes with them. Even vegans, gluten-sensitive, and allergic folks can enjoy; just let us know who cannot have what.

5. Stay at Hotel ABQ if you possibly can. So much of what is really important at these gatherings takes place in the off-hours, in those cozy chats over coffee, or chance encounters in the halls or on the patio. Being in the hotel where you have a room of your own to rest, change clothes, or keep that extra stash of books is so convenient. You can linger over a glass of wine or a scintillating conversation without worrying about a late drive home.

Let's have another Convention the NFSPS will still be talking about three decades from now, the way they still remember the one we hosted in 1981. No, let's have one even better—one YOU will be talking about for years to come.

New Mexico State Poetry Society

P.O. Box 1352

Los Lunas, NM 87031

Find us online at
nmpoetry.com

Save These Dates!

Friday, April 26: 6:30-9:00 p.m.

NMSPS Youth Convention Scholarship Benefit at
The Projects, 3614 High St NE, Albuquerque

Dinner (** provided potluck-style by NMSPS members)

Live music by DogStar (folk fusion, feel good band)

Brief talk about NMSPS and June's National Convention

Performance by teen poets

Info about the youth poetry scene in ABQ

ABQ Chapter anthology for sale (percentage to the fund)

Suggested donation at the door: \$5-\$50

(\$40 pays youth membership and 3-day convention registration)

** Sign up now to bring food or items at www.perfectpotluck.com. Under "Find a meal" enter name "Krosinsky" password "NMSPSfund" (all one word).

Friday through Sunday, May 10, 11, 12

Southwest Book Fiesta Booth #531 at the
Albuquerque Convention Center East
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Sunday: 4:00 p.m.)

NMSPS poets in Booth #531

NMSPS-sponsored Poets Laureate Panel
is at 1:00 p.m. Sunday on the Main Stage

With readings/performance by:

Hakim Bellamy (ABQ)

Jon Davis (Santa Fe)

Joan Logghe (Santa Fe)

Valerie Martinez (Santa Fe)

Other NMSPS members giving workshops; look for them in the Fiesta program. Details at www.southwestbookfiesta.com