



Language of Enchantment

Message from the President—Convention Bid Accepted for 2013

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by Shirley Blackwell, President

Dear Members of NMSPS:

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies has accepted the bid of the NMSPS to host the June 2013 annual national convention in Albuquerque.

Not only has the NFSPS Board accepted the offer, but individuals on the Board have told me they are thrilled to be coming to Albuquerque again. The last time the national convention was held in New Mexico was 1981, and many in the Federation think it was one of the most memorable and enjoyable meetings they ever had. I see no reason

we cannot repeat--even surpass--that achievement.

Preparing for the convention will color everything we do as a Society in the near future, but we must keep our eye on the more distant prize of building a robust Society that continues to grow and lead. I have said all along that the convention is a means to an end, not the goal itself.

Beyond the obvious aims of showcasing our beautiful state, benefiting tourism and our local economy, and taking what I think is our rightful place as a state rich in literature and



art, I have ulterior motives for NMSPS itself. As we work across chapters to pool our resources and build the relationships needed to put on a successful national event, we will also be learning from one another.

The Member Survey on our website is a basic tool to assess the resources

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Letter from the Newsletter Editor

by Jules Nyquist, Newsletter Editor

Greetings New Mexico poets! I am pleased and honored to be your new newsletter editor for the "Language of Enchantment." This newsletter will be on-line and in print and I

hope you find it informative, easy to navigate and encouraging for your love of poetry.

A bit about myself: I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and moved to Albuquerque about eight months ago. I was actively involved in the



Jules at the Tijeras Poetry Fest

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Special interest:

- Member Peggy Sandoval passed away Nov 4, 2011 - see page 7

Letter from the President - continued from page 1

available to us in both near and long term. I am so grateful for those of you responded during the Membership Sweepstakes by sending in those surveys. Many have offered their talents in such areas as grant writing, publicity, contest judging, workshops, all of which will be an integral part of the convention but will be needed before and after the convention, if we are to remain a vital and growing organization.

Another aspect of the convention that we should consider as an opportunity is the financial planning and preparation. I will seek to ensure that every money-raising tool we employ for the convention can be used later to support ongoing programs of the Society.

The Board confirmed me last week as coordinator for the 2013 convention, and I will be asking for help in the coming

weeks as we start the planning. I hope to have a site selected and have the Steering Committee for the event in place by January 2012.

Along with approving my position, the Board also confirmed my appointment of Chandra Bales of the Albuquerque chapter to be coordinator of our first NMSPS State Convention in spring of 2012. This statewide gathering will be a 1-2 day event modeled in miniature on the plan of the an-

nual Federation convention, and will serve not only as a way for our Society members to become acquainted with each other across chapters, but also as a dress rehearsal for the big event in 2013.

Fasten your seatbelts for the next few months. This is just the beginning of a glorious ride.

Dear Poet:

"How do I find the best markets for my poems?"

Dear Poet: by Jeanne Shannon

Welcome to my new column on tips for publishing your poetry. When Shirley asked me whether I would like to write a few words on this topic for forthcoming issues of the *Language of Enchantment* newsletter, I was happy to say yes.

In future columns I will try to answer questions like these:

- How do I find the best markets for my poems?
- What do I need to keep in mind when preparing my manuscript?
- Since so many publications now prefer or require electronic submissions, how do I find publications that are willing to accept submissions by postal mail?
- What is an SASE and why do I need to enclose one with all postal mail submissions?
- How do I find online poetry publications?
- How do I submit poems by e-mail or through an online "submission manager"?
- What is a simultaneous submission?

● What do editors usually mean when they refer to "multiple submissions"?

● How do I go about publishing a chapbook of my poems?

● Will entering contests help me to get my poems published?

● How can I present my poetry most effectively when I read it in public? (After all, reading our poetry aloud to an audience is a form of publication.)

Options available for finding markets and submitting poetry to magazines and contests have expanded a great deal since the electronic age began. Poets who are willing to use the Internet to find outlets for their work and to submit their poems electronically are probably much more likely to succeed in their quest to present their poems to the world. Nevertheless, it remains possible to submit poetry the "old-fashioned" way by postal mail. In fact, there are quite a number of publica-

tions that will not accept electronic submissions.

When I had a day job, I would often spend a weekend afternoon preparing packages of poems to send out on my next trip to the post office. Sometimes I still submit that way, but more often I spend time researching sources on the web and deciding which poems to send electronically. Most of the poems I have published in the last two or three years were submitted electronically to markets that I found online.

I hope you will find this column informative, and if you have other points related to publishing that you would like me to address, I'd love to hear from you. You may contact me at jspetry@aol.com. Happy publishing!

Dead Poets Dance in Duke City

By Stewart Warren

Poets Marianne Moore, Arthur Rimbaud, Wallace Stevens and Sor Juana Inez de la Cruz are unlikely dance partners, but not at the Dead Poets Dance hosted by the Albuquerque Poet Laureate Program (APLP) on November 1st. The party at 100 Gold in downtown Albuquerque signaled the launch of, and celebrated five months of collaborative work on, an extensive project that will select and then support a poet laureate to represent our community. As their mission statement attests, the program “celebrates the diversity of poetry in Albuquerque by offering a resident poet to make meaningful

connections, honor and serve the community, elevate the importance of the art form, and share poetry with Albuquerque residents.” Yes, an ambitious goal—and one that we definitely deserve.

As well as being a launch party, the Dead Poets Dance—in the spirit of every APLP endeavor—provided opportunities for poets to connect with one another, to celebrate our uniqueness and our likeness, and to extend the boundaries of our poetry community. Susan McAllister gave a brief introduction, setting a tone of enthusiastic professionalism and acknowledging many

supporters of the program thus far, and Don McIver (Jack Kerouac) emceed the event with appropriate bohemian swagger.

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Yasmeeen Najmi & Stewart Warren, Dead Poets Dance

Poet's Picnic in Tijeras September 24th

Where else can you find a poetry fall festival that includes not only Fab Four poets Tani Arness, Rich Boucher, Yasmine Najdi (with accompanist Stefan Dill) and Richard Vargas (emceed by the incomparable Stewart Warren), a 5-piece acoustic band that includes a fiddle player who can twirl a hula hoop and dance to her own fiddle tune at the same time, poetry-honking Esmeralda (yes, a direct descendent of THE Mother Goose) and her translator, Oma, one of the few humans certified in Goose language, and an open microphone session under the trees? Oh, and did I mention being surrounded by beautiful art in a

perfect open-air setting in Tijeras, New Mexico?

Those were only a few highlights of the first NMSPS Fall Festival. Having the date coincide with the September 24 date chosen by 100,000 Poets for Change enabled the Society to take part not only with other groups across Albuquerque and Santa Fe but also in a global event involving 90 countries or more. It sounds like an auspicious beginning for what could become an annual event. Start thinking NMSPS Fall Festival and Poets Picnic every year.

More photos at

<http://nmpoetry.org/nmsps-news.shtml>



Pat, Lou, John, Debbi Gutierrez, Gerard

Dead Poets Dance (continued)

Continued from page 3

Albuquerque residents Yasmeen Najmi, Margaret Randall, Billy Brown, Valerie Martinez and Rich Boucher, to name only a few, gave short performances by “dead poets”. Each presenter was in full character, and door prizes included tombstones (pillowcases) with pictures of some of our favorite dead poets. Imagine rubbing elbows with novelist George Sand, poets Anne Sexton, Pablo Neruda or Hafiz at the drink table. Imagine the poetry of it! There is no doubt this will become an annual Albuquerque event.

The Albuquerque Poet Laureate Program is currently taking applications for those wishing to be on the Selection Committee—the group that will interview and select our first poet

laureate to begin a two-year tenure on April 1st, 2012.

The APLP is also taking applications for poet laureate. Now! All this happens online at www.abqpoetlaureate.org. And, if you wish to support the program (it takes a lot of cash for a poet laureate to design and implement projects) please consider a donation. You can call 505-265-2636 to donate, as well as go on-line. As well, the APLP invites individuals and organizations to come up with their own creative ways to support the program. Everything is an opportunity for artistic expression and, ultimately, we are all artists.

News from Roswell

Roswell poet Gorton Smith was the featured reader at the High Prairie Poets' October 15th meeting. Smith, pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Roswell, grew up in Mississippi and has lived in New Mexico since 1972. He and his wife Linda are the parents of two married children and grandparents to two granddaughters. His interests include photography and writing poetry.

In October, members Gorton Smith and Gretchen Phillips participated as panelists in a Roswell Reads event that focused on the religion and spirituality of Emily Dickinson. High Prairie Poets members were the invited judges for both the Roswell Reads essay and poetry competitions and the Character Counts poetry competition. The winning poets in these two contests were invited to attend the HPP meetings and read their winning poems.

Copies of *small canyons 6 anthology*, a compilation of haiku sponsored by the Southwest Region of Haiku Society of America and edited and published by HPP member Jim Applegate, are available from Jim. Nine HPP members have poems in the anthology, and it also contains winning poems from the annual Kathyne Applegate haiku competition held in conjunction with the HPP All-Schools Spring Poetry Contest.

The next High Prairie Poets meeting will be on Saturday, November 19, 2:00 p.m., at the Roswell Museum and Art Center. Roswell poet Alice Wagoner will report on the American Christian Writers conference that she attended in Phoenix in October.

The HPP annual Christmas party for members, families, and guests will be on Thursday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m., at Kwan Den.

Letter from the Newsletter Editor (continued)

Minneapolis literary scene for many years. I worked at the Loft Literary Center in the education department and volunteered for a non-profit radio station interviewing writers. I received my MFA in Writing & Literature from Bennington College in Vermont. I am happy to bring my skills to Albuquerque and the New Mexico area, where I have received a

warm welcome. You can find out more about me on my website at www.julesnyquist.com

This is your newsletter, so

please let me know your feedback. You can write me at NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com

Jules

Know your Officers

NMSPS Elected Board

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

Kitty K. Todorovich
Vice President
505-861-0634
vicepresident@nmpoetry.com

Debbi Gutierrez
Treasurer/Webmaster
Project Leader Web Presence
505-864-3256
treasurer@nmpoetry.com
webmaster@nmpoetry.com

Dr. Sylvia Ramos Cruz
Secretary
505-242-0061
secretary@nmpoetry.com

Elaine G. Schwartz, Chair
Albuquerque Chapter
505-255-1742
ABQchair@nmpoetry.com

Ann H. Applegarth, Chair
High Prairie Poets-Roswell
575-627-6014
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

George Forrest, Interim Chair
Rio Grande/Valencia
505-864-0837
RGVchair@nmpoetry.com

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

NMSPS

Appointed Board

Larry Castillo-Wilson
Project Leader
NM Children's Poetry Project
505-892-6396
childpoetryproject@nmpoetry.com

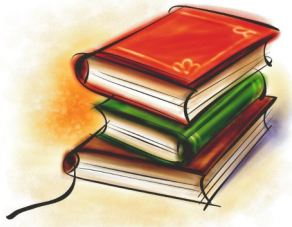
Princess Ifeoma Achusim
Project Leader New Members
505-856-8565
membership@nmpoetry.com

George Forrest
Project Leader Membership Development
505-864-0837
MemberDevelopment@nmpoetry.com

Chandra Bales
Project Leader Web Calendar of Poetic Events
Project Leader 2012 State Convention
505-277-366 x 243
NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com

Jules Nyquist
Project Leader Language of Enchantment
612-251-7604 cell
NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com

Ann Marie Pearson
Project Leader for Contests
505-865-5605
NMSPScontests@nmpoetry.com



Member Laurels

Congrats to new member **Joanne Bodin** whose book, “Walking Fish” (Outskirts Press) was the winner in the gay/lesbian fiction category for the New Mexico Book Awards! Joanne’s book also placed as finalist in three other categories.

Hilda Wales has won the 2011 NM Senior Poet Laureate Award from the Amy Kitchener Foundation.

MEMBER BOOK MARKET WEB PAGE

Many members have books—
check them out at

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

Chapter chairs: Have news for your member’s awards? Email info to NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com

Logo Contest

Are you a visual artist? The Board has extended the logo contest deadline! More info will be forthcoming with clearer guidelines in the next few weeks.

Sweepstakes Award

The sweepstakes winner will be announced shortly. Watch for details!

Albuquerque Chapter Meeting & Holiday Gathering

Holiday Gathering
Saturday, December 10
1:00 to 3:00 PM

Hobby Room at Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village
5201 Roma NE
(one block south of Lomas and just west of San Mateo).

Bring paper, pens and poetry to share.

We’ll have a short writing exercise, share our poetry, and celebrate the season.

Hope to see you there.

Elaine Schwartz,
Chairperson
Albuquerque Chapter



Remembering Peggy Sandoval

Peggy Sandoval passed away on November 4, 2011 at the age of 91.

She was an accomplished poet, writer, and songwriter with three published books of poems. She was a member of The Honored Ladies of the Ballut Abyad Shiner's, the NM Poetry Society, listed in the International Who's Who of Poetry, and the International Platform Association. She enjoyed a long career including 15 years

as a government employee where she received several Superior Performance Awards, and worked in commercial real estate.

NMSPS sent an Arbor Day Foundation card to her family and a tree is being planted in her name. Shirley Blackwell attended her funeral on behalf of NMSPS.

Below are two poems of hers, courtesy of Don De Noon, in her remembrance and honor.



New Mexico - by Peggy Sandoval

This land of yucca, sage and pine
Of turquoise skies and suns that shine
Of snowcapped peaks and desert air
Of 'dobe huts and history rare.

This land of blended cultures, three,
Of conquest and of gallantry
Lift up your proud face to the sky
For all to see, none to deny.

This land has given much to all
Its welcome hand knows not a wall,
The warmth of hearth or kitchen flame,
You're welcome, stranger, glad you came.

Where mountains rise from desert's edge
And cactus blooms by rocky ledge,
I proudly claim my heritage
To this fair land of windswept sage.

Rebirth—by Peggy Sandoval

The urn of honest endeavor
carries my ashes
To be strewn into the
rich soil of roses.
There, sweet scented, my life
will bloom again.
Thorns will protect me
from rough hands.
Gentle hands will hold my
head high, cup my beauty
And breathe the nectar
of my soul.

NM State Poetry Society

P.O. Box 1352
Los Lunas, NM 87031

We're on the web! More news/photos at:

www.nmpoetry.org

NM State Poetry Society (NMSPS) is a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS), an educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America. The NFSPS can be found at www.nfsps.org.

Chapter Meeting Times and Locations

All members of NMSPS are welcome to attend meetings of any chapter, whether or not it is the member's 'home chapter' and are encouraged to bring guests who might consider joining the NMSPS. Members at large are especially invited to drop in on meetings whenever they get the opportunity. Let's get to know each other better, no matter where we live in New Mexico!

The ALBUQUERQUE chapter (see page 6 for December) meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month from September through April at 1 pm at the Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village, 5201 Roma Ave NE (one block south of Lomas and one block west of San Mateo.) Contact chair Elaine Schwartz at ABQchair@nmpoetry.com or 505-255-1742.

The HIGH PRAIRIE POETS, ROSWELL chapter meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month from September through April only, at 2 pm at the Roswell Museum and Arts Center (11th and North Main) in Roswell. Contact chair Ann H. Applegarth at HPchair@nmpoetry.com or 575-627-6014.

The RIO ABAJO POETS, SOCORRO chapter meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the library of the

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, 801 Leroy Place in Socorro. Contact chair Barbara DuBois at 575-835-3437 or RAchair@nmpoetry.com.

The RIO GRANDE VALENCIA (RGV) Poets meet on the 1st Saturday of every month at 1 pm at the Belen Public Library, 333 Becker Ave in Belen. Contact chair George Forrest at RGVchair@nmpoetry.com or 505-864-0837.

The SANTA FE POETRY TRAILS chapter meets on the first Saturday of the

month for open mic readings at Tribes Coffee House, 4370-A Zafarano Drive, Santa Fe; sign-up at 6:30 p.m., readings at 7:00 p.m. No charge.

BOSQUE CHAPTER:
contact Susan Paquet, Chair
817-597-9539
BPchair@nmpoetry.com

ROSWELL CHAPTER (see article on page 4)

Updates to your chapter meeting? Email NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com