

LANGUAGE OF ENCHANTMENT

New Mexico State Poetry Society

2010 September 2010

In this issue.....

Page 1

* President's Message

From the desk of Bonnie K. Rucobo

Page 2

* NMSPS 2010 Poetry Contest Winners

* www.nfmps.org

* Important News: 2011 Dues are due by November First (mail-in form on page 5)

Page 3

* Members' Poetry Corner (NMSPS 2010 Contest: Members' Winning Poems)

Page 4

* Members' Poetry Corner continued

Page 5

* Members' Poetry Corner continued

* Mail-in form designating how you want to receive the *Language of Enchantment* newsletter in the future (by postage mail, e-mail or wait until it appears on the website www.nmpoetry.org)

* Mail-in membership renewal form

* Poetry Forum from the Editor

Page 6

* NMSPS Officers

* Laurels To Our Shining Lights

* Chapter Meeting Times and Locations

A special THANKS is sent out to the
Language of Enchantment
newsletter Editing Staff:
Sylvia Ramos, Bonnie Rucobo
and Hilda Wales

(Thanks from Anmarie Pearson, Editor)

From the desk of Bonnie K. Rucobo
NMSPS President

NMSPS Website is Live!

The New Mexico State Poetry Society Website Committee comprised of Anmarie Pearson, Hilda Wales and I worked this summer to set up the Society's first website. Rebecca Loring of Blue Gamut Press who designs websites for multiple nonprofit groups is our web designer and we are very fortunate to have employed her services.

The website was launched in early August; its official address is <http://www.nmpoetry.org/index.shtml>. One can access the site from a search engine such as Google and Yahoo by entering nmpoetry.org.

Anmarie Pearson's husband, professional landscape photographer Bill Pearson, contributed the photograph which appears on the right hand corner of each page of the website. I took the photograph of four of the five NMSPS anthologies that appears on the History Page.

The web page currently has six pages including: Home Page, Calendar of Poetic Events, Membership Page, News Page, a link to our current NMSPS newsletter *Language of Enchantment* and History Page.

The Home Page lists all officers and chancellors as well as chapter chairs. It also contains a link to the NFSPS website which includes *Strophes*. In addition, the Home Page lists Hilda Wales and me as contacts. Also on the Home Page is an interview with Jeanne Shannon, published poet and owner of the Wildflower Press. A new interview with a poet from a different NMSPS chapter will be featured each quarter.

The website's Membership Page describes the purpose of the organization, its membership rules and chapters. It contains a form which prospective members can complete and send online to Hilda Wales, NMSPS Treasurer. Checks accompanying the form must be sent by snail mail.

The News Page at present contains a photograph of the first joint meeting of the Rio Grande Valencia Poets and the Rio Abajo Poets in Socorro last June. It also contains articles about the Children's Poetry

Project headed by Larry Castillo-Wilson and the members of NMSPS who will appear in Ken Gurney's *Adobe Walls* anthology.

The website's History Page describes the inception of the NMSPS by noted poet Alice Briley, its subsequent history, as well as the Society's more recent projects.

An additional page is in the works for the website. It will be entitled "Members' Book Market" and will advertise publications of NMSPS members. Members in good standing can advertise up to three publications free of charge by sending several paragraphs describing their works to me at mechistle@gmail.com.

I hope that you will access the NMSPS website and send me any feedback or concerns you have about its format or contents. The Website Committee is always looking for ways to improve the site.

While researching the website History Page, I discovered that Alice Briley who founded the NMSPS in 1969 was a nationally known poet. She founded and edited the poetry magazine *Encore* as well as two *Encore* anthologies, edited the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' *Strophes* and served as President of both the NFSPS and the NMSPS.

NMSPS Chancellor Shirley Blackwell has found several of Briley's poems in 1968 *Encore* quarterly magazines. Each issue included the work of approximately fifty to sixty poets. Aside from perfecting her own poetic craft, Briley succeeded in bringing together the national poetic community. Following is one of Briley's poems from the 1968 *Encore* magazine. I have contacted the NFSPS in hopes of discovering more of Briley's work and plan to feature these poems on our website.

Obit By Alice Briley

His house fell down.	What does the owner
We wondered why	Say of this
Such beauty toppled	Fall of his lovely
From our sky.	Edifice?

By the enigmatic	Now irrevocably
Garden gate	Out of town,
We could only weep	He does not say
Or speculate.	Why the house fell down.

NMSPS 2010 Poetry Contest Winners

www.nfsps.org

1st Place Winners:

Rhymed: Sara Gipson,
Scott, AR, "Beach Magic"

Free Verse: Faye Adams,
De Soto, MO, "Chained To The
Podium At The Read-Around"

Southwest Theme: Elaine
Schwartz, Albuquerque, NM,
"Buñuelos"

Humor: Don DeNoon,
Albuquerque, NM,
"I Thought About You"

Youth: Huitzili Gonzalez,
Albuquerque, NM, "Squiggle"

2nd Place Winners:

Rhymed: Catherine
Moran, Little Rock, AR,
"Making Love In A Pick- Up"

Free Verse: Von S.
Bourland, Happy, TX,
"A Ranch Wife's Battles"

Southwest Theme: Ann
Applegarth, Roswell, NM,
"The Bacas Seldom Eat Out"

Humor: Karin Bradberry,
Albuquerque, NM,
"Vacation Postcards"

Youth: Elaine Nava,
Pampa, TX, "One Night"

3rd Place Winners:

Rhymed: Barbara Funke,
Chesterton, IN,
"One Foot In Heaven"

Free Verse: Catherine
Moran, Little Rock, AR,
"Texturing"

Southwest Theme: Donald
DeNoon, Albuquerque, NM,
"High Noon In Dodge City"

Humor: Vera Ogden-Bakker,
West Bountiful, UT,
"How To Build A Bomb"

Youth: Austin Burton,
Pampa, TX, "Rain Fun"

Honorable Mentions:

Rhymed:
Rose A Spaith, Columbus, OH,
"The West Rose At Chartres"

Catherine Moran, Little Rock,
AR, "Crisis Hot-Line"

Kolette Montague,
Centerville, UT,
"Morning Sparrows"

Free Verse:
Annmarie Pearson,
Los Lunas, NM, "Autumn"
Haiku Progression

Eryk Wenzia, North
Haven, CT, "A Hundred
Years Late"

Bonnie Rucobo,
Albuquerque, NM,
"My Mother's Brother"

Southwest Theme:

Karin Bradberry, Albuquerque,
NM, "Gran Quivira"

Barbara Funke, Chesterton, IN,
"Morning Snail en Route"

Kathy Larson, Salt Lake City,
UT, "Shimmering"

Humor:

Ann Applegarth, Roswell, NM,
"Ay! Ay! Ay! Oy! Oy! Oy!
Oh-la-la Zut!"

Barbara DuBois, Socorro, NM,
"The Centipede"

Vera Ogden-Bakker, West
Bountiful, UT, "Washing"

Youth:

Brody Larkin, Pampa, TX,
"I Like Rain"

This was an exciting year
for the 2010 NM Annual
Poetry Contest. There were
179 poetry entries. Everyone
of them an outstanding poem
but only a few can be picked
as a winning poem.

I wish you all good luck
next year in our 2011 NM
Annual Poetry Contest.

Thank you for your Poetry
entries.

Sincerely,

Annmarie Pearson,
Contest Chair

New Mexico 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 website
www.nfsps.org. You can also view
this site through the NMSPS website
at www.nmpoetry.org.

IMPORTANT NEWS

NMSPS

DUES are DUE BY

NOVEMBER FIRST 2010

Please mail your membership dues of
\$16 to Hilda Wales at 9616 Rosas Ave.
NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87109.

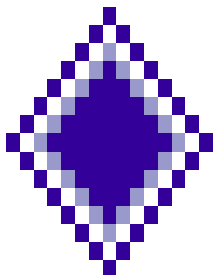
(Please make checks out to NMSPS)
(Mail-in Form on Page 5)
(NMSPS will sponsor children under 18)

You have until November First of 2010 to
submit your membership for 2011 to
have membership privileges for the
NFSPS Annual Poetry Contest and to be
eligible for the NMSPS new web page at
www.nmpoetry.org entitled

"Members' Book Market"

This web page will be a place to
advertise for free to NMSPS members
only. This site will allow you to advertise
up to three books on poetry and other
genres of your choice from poetry chap
books to any other subject. This includes
a book description with the price per
book, your mailing address and a brief
biography of the author.

All submissions will be directed to
Bonnie Rucobo, Chair of website at
mechistle@gmail.com



MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Elaine G Schwartz
 Chair, Albuquerque Chapter
 First Place Southwest Theme

Buñuelos

La Familia Morada sits in silver silence beneath
 the pine covered slopes of the Sangre de Cristos
 as the plain wooden coffin glows like a golden rose
 in the pink summer sun. Purple desert asters,
 embroidered upon the sons' many fringed tallit,
 sway and shimmer as the ritual dawning begins.
 Babies giggle and wiggle behind mothers' skirts
 while the mourners' Kaddish flows as steady
 as the life-giving waters of the Acequia Madre.

In the ancient woodstove memories
 of buñuelos, bizcochitos and chile verde
 wait for resurrection.

Huitzili Gonzalez
 Albuquerque
 First Place Youth

SQUIGGLE

A Squiggle in a lonely
 Painting had a dream of his
 painter turning him into stars
 and moon and sun into dower mice
 and valiant Musketeers into
 a shining suit of armor to envy anyone who wore it,
 and looking through those golden eyes
 and soaring through the sky
 and be turned into a thread of silk so fine
 not even the most discriminating person could say a thing about it,
 and turned into an infinite universe to stretch its arms out wide and
 hug the planets in the lonely space to be turned
 into a question mark and question everything and
 anything in sight to be turned into a single note and ring
 with the power to end world war to be turned
 into an iceberg and float away into the sea until there is no more of me
 to be turned into a mother grasping her child so tight
 no harm would come its way to be turned
 into a new born child and wonder with all its might
 but this dream has now ended and the squiggle is now awake
 but now no longer sad or lonely
 for freedom has now been granted to this lonely squiggle
 the chains that bound it
 to those negative feelings have now been replaced with
 LOVE
 and this squiggle is now awake. And what about you?
 Are you awake yet do you understand your life, have you
 found PEACE & LOVE yet?
 Maybe you have not
 but someday you will find joy in being by yourself
 and then you will truly be awake.

Donald DeNoon
 Albuquerque Chapter
 First Place Humor

I Thought About You

I thought about you today while eating a burrito
 And was reminded of that time we met at the Frontier

You were behind me in line
 We got acquainted and decided
 To place our orders together for burritos
 It would be my treat

Looked for a quiet spot to talk
 Found a place in the back room
 You know, the one where John Wayne's portrait hangs
 You looked up
 Saw our order number on the board

I went to the serving counter
 Picked up our burritos and
 When I returned to our table next to John Wayne's portrait
 You weren't there

I finished my burrito today thinking about you
 Next time I'm going to get a burger and fries

Ann Applegarth
 High Prairie Poets, Roswell Chapter
 Second Place Southwest Theme

The Bacas Seldom Eat Out

Feisty old Marta wears
 broad gray braids dangling
 down past her waist —
 red rubber bands and orange
 wool yarn twisted about
 the ends — a frayed purple
 Navajo skirt, Acoma boots,
 one of her husband Rigo's
 khaki shirts, Abuelo Pepe's
 heirloom old-pawn belt,
 turquoise Zuni earrings, and
 Avon Crystal Aura perfume.
 On Thursday she drives her
 black Chevrolet Caprice to
 La Familia Market where
 she pays cash for a bucket of
 lard, three nice heads of
 garlic, a red mesh bag of
 yellow onions, a box of Ibarra
 chocolate, seven cans of
 Del Monte spinach, ten pounds
 of Idaho potatoes, a sack of
masa harina, the nicest lamb's head,
 and two rounds of snowy Asadero
 cheese fresh in from Mexico.

MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Karin Bradberry
Albuquerque Chapter
Second Place Humor

Vacation Postcards

This is just to say
I burnt my breasts
which you were probably
missing they are
so hot and so tender

I'd like to see them anyway
bring them to me
topped with ice cream
so cold and so sweet

With thanks to William Carlos Williams

Ann Applegarth
High Prairie Poets, Roswell Chapter
Honorable Mention Humor

Ay! Ay! Ay! Oy! Oy! Oy! Oh-la-la Zut!

What intercontinental bliss,
what multilingual pleasure this,
to moan in Spanish, Russ and French
Each time I sit down on a bench.
My arthritic joints rejoice
to hear my tri-lamenting voice,
and I do, too — I even chuckle
as I wiggle every knuckle
hip and knee — oh, mercy me!

Annmarie H Pearson
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
Honorable Mention Free Verse

Autumn ~ Haiku Progression

in the autumn breeze
leaves swirl in a swirl motion
falling to the ground

a song sung softly
among fallen autumn leaves
inspiring angels

Indian summer
a time to harvest and reap
not just the garden

Spring returns again
animation cycles life
in an autumn breeze

the air breathes in thick
like a dense huff and puff sigh
aloft in a song

angelic fancy
endowed seasonally free
where love is divine

garden of roses
fragrant bouquet hibernates
resting 'till next year

Donald DeNoon
Albuquerque Chapter
Second Place Southwest Theme

High Noon In Dodge City (*a Sestina*)

High noon in Dodge
City and the air's deathly still.
Two cowpokes in a show-down,
six guns at their sides, standing
on Main Street staring without
blinking. One, Billy Jake Russell. The other, Jimmy Blue Sky.

With the moon hanging high in the sky
I rode into Dodge
City last evening without
knowing a feud was building between Billy and Jimmy. Still
I sensed that something was going down
because hair was standing

up on the back of my neck. Later I was told Billy Jake Russell had been standing
at the bar of the Last Gulp Saloon when Jimmy Blue Sky,
with pretty Mona Mae Whorgal on his arm, entered and sat down
at a table next to the bar. Jimmy's eyes didn't dodge
from watching Billy as the cowpoke scanned every curve on Mona Mae's body without
so much as a tip of the hat or a friendly howdy-do. They say that everything got as still

as a funeral parlor there in the saloon. Jimmy Blue Sky was still
expecting Billy Jake Russell to be standing
up straight and showing some respect for Mona Mae without
him having to enforce it. But Billy just kept on leering at her, so Jimmy Blue Sky
took his gun from the holster, laid it down
on the table and told Billy, because of his disrespect, he would have to get out of Dodge

City by noon the next day or else he would have to dodge
some bullets. Night passes and Billy Jake Russell is still
at the bar this morning at 11:59 drinking down
his sassperilla, when who does he see standing
next to the door but Jimmy Blue Sky.
Billy Jake Russell gets up and without

hesitating a moment follows Jimmy out to the street. Without
saying a word, Billy makes it plain he is making no plans to leave Dodge
City. So now, with the sun high in the noontime sky,
Billy and Jimmy step off ten paces. Townsfolk are watching behind curtains, but they still
have a view of two cowpokes as they turn and face each other in a final show-down.
Quick as a wink guns are drawn and fired, leaving only one man standing.

I shout to the winner of the show-down to hightail it with me out of Dodge City to Mora,
New Mexico, where I still have outstanding business at the Last National Bank. Seeing
that gunslinger's ability, I'd be a fool to leave Dodge City without Jimmy Blue Sky.

Barbara DuBois
Rio Abajo Poets, Socorro Chapter
Honorable Mention Humor

THE CENTIPEDE

The centipede sounds metric
but he's not
The system has no feet
he has a lot.

MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Editor's Poetry Forum

Bonnie K Rucobo
 Albuquerque Chapter
 Honorable Mention Free Verse

My Mother's Brother

He prayed at the synagogue
 every morning, dovening in his white
 yarmulke and talis.
 He and I performed the unveiling service
 at my father's gravesite,
 reading the prayers in Hebrew and English.
 I took the part of the rabbi; he the cantor.
 I took care not to plant
 my feet directly on the frozen grave;
 he stood on the gravesite without hesitation.
 At the close of the service a monument in granite
 was unsheathed.

It was not his work that made him smile
 but the pirouettes he played on the clarinet
 that he meticulously cleaned and shined.
 He produced a sound molasses-thick
 as he blew on the horn that reverberated
 through his small house.
 He marched in the Redskins Band,
 and was a regular with a local
 Dixieland combo.

He was buried at the beginning
 of the blizzard of the century,
 the rabbi chanting the "El Maleh Rachamim,"
 the prayer for the departed
 who are holy and pure of heart,
 as the snow spilled down from above,
 blanketing the gravesite and
 the family praying in chairs under a white tent
 soon camouflaged in the whirling snow.

Karin Bradberry
 Albuquerque Chapter
 Honorable Mention Southwest Theme

Gran Quivira

My stone hands cradle corn and bones
 My mesa ears hear distant peaks
 My juniper eyes see enemies rise
 I am a cleft through Las Humanas

My mesa ears hear distant peaks
 My cholla sides draw blood
 I am a cleft through Las Humanas
 My hummingbird touch heals wounds

My cholla sides draw blood
 I feed on human spirits
 My hummingbird touch heals wounds
 My rattlesnake teeth can blind

I feed on human spirits
 My cloud ears cover fields
 My rattlesnake teeth can blind
 My gravel tongue scrapes deep

My cloud ears cover fields
 I send lightning to remind them
 My gravel tongue scrapes deep
 My pollen touch brings summer rain

I send lightning to remind them
 My juniper eyes see enemies rise
 My pollen touch brings summer rain
 My stone hands cradle corn and bones

If you would like to contribute articles, news, poems, segments, announcements, etc. to the newsletter, please send to Annmarie Pearson, Editor, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031 or email to altbalance@msn.com. Please designate that it is for the newsletter. (Especially if you have a Laurel To Our Shining Lights)

Calls for submissions and contest announcements will now be designated on the New Mexico State Poetry Society web page at www.nmpoetry.org, listed under the Calendar menu as "Calendar of Poetic Events".

Just a reminder that the NPSPS *Strophes* are sent to me on a quarterly basis and I will mail them to you when I receive them. To help NMSPS we would like to mail the *Strophes* directly to your chapter Chair and that person will help distribute the *Strophes* to their chapter members at your next chapter poetry meeting. Thank you for your cooperation.

NMSPS Board is looking for a member to fill the position of New Members Chair. Please contact Bonnie Rucobo, President at mechistle@gmail.com or call (505) 889-4672 if you are interested.

Becoming A Poet

By Poetry for Dummies

1. Discover as much as you can about the poetic craft.
2. Become as sensitive as you can, both to life and to language.
3. Think *divergently* (that is, keep your mind open and nimble, and be willing to think in different ways and in new directions).
4. Make time for yourself to write.
5. Be disciplined.

LANGUAGE OF ENCHANTMENT

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will no longer be mailed to NMSPS members unless specifically directed through this mail-in form. In an effort to save trees, postage, printing costs and staff time the newsletter will be emailed to all members unless designated through this form. The newsletter will also be posted on the NMSPS website www.nmpoetry.org.

If you want your *Language of Enchantment* newsletter mailed to you quarterly, then please designate below and mail this form to Annmarie Pearson, Editor, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031.

YES I want the Newsletter sent to my mailing address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

NMSPS ANNUAL DUES MAIL-IN FORM

IMPORTANT NEWS

MEMBERSHIP DUES are DUE
 BY NOVEMBER 1ST, 2010

(Please make checks out to NMSPS for \$16)

(Mail form and check to Hilda Wales, 9616 Rosas Ave NE, Alb. NM, 87109)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

New Mexico State Poetry Society
Hilda Wales, Treasurer
9616 Rosas Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

NMSPS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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Ann H. Applegarth, High Prairie Poets
Roswell Chapter, Chair
(575) 627-6014
aapple@plateautel.net

Laurels To Our Shining Lights

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL:

Shirley Blackwell won State Senior Poets Laureate for 2010

Barbara DuBois won 1st Place in Humor from the Poetry Society of Michigan.

10 members of NMSPS were picked for the *Adobe Walls* Anthology: **Shirley Blackwell, Karin Bradberry, Barbara DuBois, Kate Padilla, Bonnie Rucobo, Georgia Santa-Maria, Elaine Schwartz, Jeanne Shannon, Hilda Wales and Andrea Watson.**

Elizabeth Lackmann won 3rd Place in the Wildflower Press Contest.

CHAPTER MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All members of the NMSPS are welcomed 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 us get to know each other better, no matter where we live.

The **RIO GRANDE VALENCIA (RGV) POETS'** meets on the first Saturday of every month at 12:15 p.m., at Joanne's Family Restaurant on HWY 47 in the Tierra del Sol Shopping Center, (1/2 mile South of Reinken) in Belen. Contact Chair Annmarie Pearson at altbalance@msn.com or call (505) 865-5605.

The **ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER** meets on the second Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m., except during the summer, at Manzano del Sol Good Samaritan Village, 5201 Roma Ave. NE, (one block South of Lomas and one block West of San Mateo) in Albuquerque. Contact Chair Elaine Schwartz at delschwartz@juno.com or call (505) 255-1742.

The **RIO ABAJO POETS', SOCORRO CHAPTER** meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m., in the library at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, 801 Leroy Place, in Socorro. Contact Chair Barbara DuBois at brdubois@sdc.org or call (575) 835-3437.

The **HIGH PRAIRIE POETS', ROSWELL CHAPTER** meets on the third Saturday of every month from September through April at 2:00 p.m., at the Roswell Museum and Arts Center, (11th and North Main) in Roswell. Contact Chair Ann H. Applegarth at aapple@plateautel.net or call (575) 627-6014.