

# LANGUAGE OF ENCHANTMENT

## New Mexico State Poetry Society

2011 January 2011

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*From the desk of Bonnie K. Rucobo*  
NMSPS President

The New Mexico State Poetry Society at its last Board Meeting voted to organize a fundraising luncheon with entertainment on Saturday, March 5. The event is open to all NMSPS members, and we hope that poets from all four NMSPS chapters will attend and participate. The luncheon will be a potluck with poetry readings and live music at the Los Lunas home of poet Shirley Blackwell. Admission is \$5.00 per adult with children attending for free. The event will begin with a noon arrival and lunch served at 1:00 p.m. We hope to have the entertainment concluded so that all attendees can be on the road well before sunset.

Directions to Shirley Blackwell's home from Albuquerque and Belen are as follows. To those NMSPS members requiring specific directions from other locations, please email Shirley at [sonneteer@earthlink.net](mailto:sonneteer@earthlink.net).

◆ **From Albuquerque:** Drive south on I-25 and take Exit 215. When the ramp forks, stay to the left, and go onto Highway 47. From the signal light at Hard Rock Casino, go 9.8 miles to the Valencia Y. When you see Smith's shopping center on your right, get into one of the two left lanes to stay on 47. The road forks here with the Burger King/Albertson's shopping center in the fork. Take the left fork and go .7 of a mile on 47 until it intersects NM 263 (North El Cerro Loop). Do not turn here but continue .6 mile south on 47 in the left lane. Just south of the U-Haul and All-Pine store is a tiny cross street that is called Smith Loop to the west (your right-hand side). Los Cerritos is to the east, toward the mountains. Turn left on Los Cerritos. At the stop sign at the end of Los Cerritos, turn right onto **Fire Station Road**. Continue over one speed bump and you will come to a four-way stop at Fire Station Road and Orona Road. Proceed east toward the mountains on Orona. At the second paved street, turn left onto Blackberry. Shirley Blackwell lives at 18 Blackberry Lane, Los Lunas 87031, (505 565-1806). Look for the ninth house on the left side of the street with a white pipe fence and mailbox.

◆ **From Belen:** Go five miles north of Tome on Highway 47. The road widens from two of four lanes in front of the Valley Lutheran Church on the corner of Highway 47 and Otero Road. Turn east

or right onto Otero Road. Past the second speed bump, turn left onto Orona Road. Continue around a sharp curve to the right and come to a four-way stop at Fire Station Road. Then follow the directions from **Fire Station Road** above.

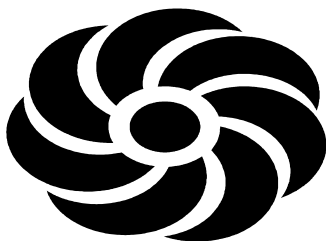
On another topic, you may have noted that NMSPS dues this year have increased from \$15.00 to \$16.00. The reasons for this increase are many: we have paid over \$500 to initiate NMSPS's first website, and mailing costs for the NFSPS *Strophes* and the NMSPS newsletter have increased. According to our Constitution, we may raise the dues by amending the Constitution with a vote of two-thirds of the quorum present at our annual meeting in May, provided the amendment is presented to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting. This, then, will provide you with formal notification of the increase in dues. We will vote on this increase at the annual meeting.

Finally, let's talk for a moment about the annual meeting. Joan Logghe, Santa Fe's Poet Laureate, will be our guest reader. We have not entertained a guest poet at our annual meeting for several years, and Logghe's reading promises to be an inspiring event. Logghe has published seven poetry collections including *Twenty Years in Bed with the Same Man* and *Sofia*. She has won a National Endowment in Poetry award and numerous grants. In the dedication of *Sofia*, Logghe writes:

To the Goddess of Wisdom,  
Sofia, in all of us . . . . .  
I give these words back to the women,  
back to the air. Back to my  
grandmother who I never knew. I  
release them to their own lives,  
to Spanish and to kitchens.  
Sofia is the flower that blooms and blooms.  
I offer my mouth and my sleep  
at night. Thanks to Sofia.

The annual meeting will be at the Cooperage Restaurant at 7220 Lomas Boulevard NE in Albuquerque from noon to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. Please email me at [mechistle@gmail.com](mailto:mechistle@gmail.com) to make your reservations. We encourage poets from around the state to attend.

Bonnie K. Rucobo





CONGRATULATIONS — SHIRLEY BALANCE BLACKWELL  
NEW MEXICO SENIOR POET LAUREATE

[www.nfsps.org](http://www.nfsps.org)

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](http://www.nfsps.org). You can also view this site through the *NMSPS website* at [www.nmpoetry.org](http://www.nmpoetry.org).

Shirley Balance Blackwell, of Los Lunas, New Mexico and member of New Mexico State Poetry Society won the award for the Amy Kitchener Foundation for 2010 — 2011. The Amy Kitchener Foundation is an Angels Without Wings (Poetry Should Be Fun) non profit organization competition for poets over age 50. Shirley Blackwell was one of the founding Mothers of the Rio Grande Valencia Poets and held the position of Chair of that Chapter of the NMSPS for several years. She is currently a Chancellor on the NMSPS Board. She retired from a career as analyst, technical writer and editor with the Federal Government. Her present time is devoted to creating her first poetry chapbook.

The winning poem that won her award as NM Senior Poet Laureate is **SABBATICAL**.

SABBATICAL

Desert dwellers know the keeping of a well,  
its preservation through the generations,  
the years that are for drawing and for drinking,  
the seasons of replenishment and rest.

O my sister, you have hauled the jar of water  
for many wayfarers, their flocks and herds;  
you have poured the cup for thirsty travelers,  
bade them to your fire, shared your bread.

But even a great lake can be made muddy  
if all who need to drink crowd on its shores.  
Let your neighbor, also, host the sojourner  
and share the joy of giving without stint.

The Divine has given us a respite  
to refresh our wellsprings and our souls.  
The seventh year should not pass by unseen,  
like a cutpurse in the stalls of the bazaar.

Let the cistern of your spirit be refilled  
at the fountain of your heart's Creator,  
so that, come next year—or year beyond—  
you will once again stand like a green oasis,

beckoning to those who cross the wastelands,  
made ready for the weary who need rest.  
We cannot nourish others from our dearth.  
Tend your well, dear sister, tend your well.

**IMPORTANT NEWS**

**NMSPS**

**DUES are DUE**

If you have not paid your dues of \$16 for the current 2011 year, please contact

Hilda Wales, Treasurer

at 9616 Rosas Ave. NE,

Albuquerque, NM, 87109

(505 797-3560)

or email her at

[dhwales@comcast.net](mailto:dhwales@comcast.net)



**NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY (NMSPS)**

**ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST GUIDELINES FOR 2011**

Deadline: 15 JULY 2011. Categories: #1 Rhymed, #2 Free Verse, #3 Southwest (theme, reference, or setting), #4 Humor, #5 Youth (poets 18 and under). 1st Prize: \$40, 2nd Prize: \$25, 3rd Prize: \$15, prizes in every category. Any form, 40 line limit (no exceptions). Poems must be original work of the entrant (Please no poems that have won in the past in any NMSPS Contests only); previously published accepted, including electronic; typed or computer generated (not hand written or printed), and single-spaced; without illustrations; written in English; and titled, unless a haiku. No more than 6 poems per entrant.

Send 2 clear copies of each poem on 8 1/2" by 11" white paper in black ink. On **BOTH** copies, place category # and description at upper left corner. For poems over 1 page, put page number on upper left, just below category designation. On second copy **ONLY**, add poet's name, address, telephone number, and email address (if any) at upper right. Flat entry fee: \$20.00 covers 1 to 6 poems. Check or money order payable to NMSPS. Include an SASE on a white legal sized envelope. Mail to NMSPS 2011 Annual Poetry Contest, c/o Annmarie Pearson, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM 87031. First Class or Priority Mail only — no delivery requiring a signature.

Annmarie H. Pearson, Contest Chair, [altbalance@msn.com](mailto:altbalance@msn.com)

# MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Larry Castillo-Wilson  
Albuquerque Chapter  
From his Chapbook Honey Blue

## Behemoth

A dirt road dusty and snaky  
Leads me to my research area  
In an all terrain vehicle—a VW bug.  
A day's research glowed with excitement—  
What would I discover today?  
I found myself in an area punctuated with cattle.  
Suddenly I slammed on the brakes.  
Directly ahead, with a face full  
Of glare and stare, was a Brahma bull.  
This was not the kind of research phenomenon  
I was looking for. What a sight:  
Two eccentric creatures full of bull and bravado  
Staring at one another down a dusty road.

I was Befuddled. I had stared down bull before,  
But nothing like this. Bigger than my VW bug  
Stood this behemoth. Aggressive action,  
Such as rock throwing, would result in worldwide  
Disaster.  
Ever so slowly I drove forward.  
The bull finally turned and sauntered away.  
What happened is clear—  
The bull reasoned my character was unreadable  
And that my vehicle was unbreedable.

\*\*\*\*\*

Karin Bradberry  
Albuquerque Chapter  
Triolet

## Nights from Days

These nights from days now torn to shreds  
Our prayers soft and gentle here  
We ask forgiveness in our beds  
These nights from days now torn to shreds  
Dim winter light, the gloom it spreads  
Yet under covers does endear  
These nights from days now torn to shreds  
Our prayers soft and gentle here

\*\*\*\*\*

Ann Applegarth  
High Prairie Poets  
Roswell Chapter, Chair

## IRRATIONAL HABIT NO. I: ALLEVIATING HOMESICKNESS BY VIEWING THE FORREST PAINT COMPANY

Behind the Oriental Village Café  
on West Eleventh Avenue  
in Eugene, Oregon, stands Taos Pueblo.  
It appears two or three times each winter,  
always in the snow and, sometimes,  
if you are lucky, for a half-hour or so  
during foggy November dawns.

If you stare, it will vanish.  
Its image comes by fleeting glances  
from the window of a passing bus,  
or by sly squints that edit out peripheral  
buildings such as the inappropriate  
Oriental Village, owned and operated  
by much more recent arrivals from the  
Asian continent than those whose  
descendants inhabit the pueblo at Taos.

\*\*\*\*\*

Elaine Schwartz  
Albuquerque Chapter  
Chapter Chair

## Old Glory

Mortar and Pestle sing the sun's amethyst light  
Figures beyond brazen Harley's umber repertoire  
Pound the pavement alongside side-stepping bananas  
Back-sliding guavas well-oiled flatirons

Grandma's teapot declines to whistle  
Not one verse of *I'll fly away Old Glory*  
Passes through her sputtering spout  
Mortar and Pestle approach . . .

## Ars Poetica: The Writing Group

women writers are wonderful      a warm room  
they fill the teapot                      a mindful teacher  
turn the spigot off                        a cup of soothing hot tea  
keep the water boiling                    a safe harbor for the muse

\*\*\*\*\*

# MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Margery Peck  
Member At Large  
Las Cruces, NM

## WEATHERVANE

Perched on the topmost ridgepole,  
vainly it twists, then spins willy-nill,  
blown about by the fitful west wind—  
its iron cock struts on one shank,  
heralding dawn, night and day  
to be heard by no one at all,  
only the unvoiced creak of its reeling  
gives warning, *Take care, take care*

It might, if it could, envy windmills  
whose great blades curve to a purpose,  
propeller wheels moving the pump rod  
witching water from bedrock below—  
but the vane can turn only itself,  
gazing out on the world from its rooftop  
to both sides of walls which divide,  
to both the gnarled tree and young sapling,  
to fields fallow brown in the distance,  
and views the ominous storm clouds  
with a fixed, unblinking eye

If only it could, it might tell us  
of all it has seen—feckless wars,  
old and new, the slow creeping change  
of earth's landscape and life's expectations—  
it spins in its restless gyration, as if  
to say, *Nothing stays constant, take care*

\*\*\*\*\*

Annamarie Pearson  
Rio Grande Valencia Poets  
RGV Chair

## Perception From A Mountain Meadow

I was standing by a mountain stream  
Watching water flow through a gully  
Enchanted by a spiritual bliss  
My emotions possessed with karmic glee

Guidance touched my heart  
Leaving me bewitched  
With love and awareness  
Beholden I felt virtually blessed

I followed the watercourse  
Through a gullet terrain  
That wafted me to a meadow  
With a field of bonny floral domain

Chandra Bales  
Albuquerque Chapter  
From Dec. meeting  
Writing prompts

## Give me that dark moment

*I will carry it everywhere like a  
Mouthful of rain.*—Mary Oliver

Give me that darkness  
I will simmer its bones 'til they verge on tender,  
exhale its steam violent with marrow.  
The steam softens as it falls, rain for small birds.

Give me that moment  
I will knead its tale 'til the story breaks in sobs,  
flash its grief ashes for the soil.  
The ash crumbles, dwells in the core of new trees.

Give me that darkness  
I will crack it as ice 'til it pools before stone,  
suspend it behind the sun an eclipse of past days.

The darkness tempers shadow, clings to my joys.

Give me that dark day that dark year  
that heaviness holds my heart, trains my tongue.

Give me that dark moment.

It will carry me everywhere as a mouthful of rain  
I weep a new life.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bonnie Rucobo  
Albuquerque Chapter  
NMSPS President

## Sacred Mountain

The Navajos  
and Pueblo Indians  
call the Mountain  
marking the southern boundary  
of the ancient Dinétah  
"Tsoodzil" or  
the Turquoise Mountain.

Navajos believe the Mountain  
was fastened to Earth with a great flint knife  
and covered with a blue sky blanket.  
Decorated with turquoise,  
white corn, dark mists, and female rain,  
the Mountain had  
a basket with two eggs  
of a bluebird on its  
highest peak, covered with  
sacred buckskin to make them hatch.

The Turquoise Mountain remains a  
storehouse of uranium.  
Dineh legend says that  
this material from the underworld  
is to be left in the ground.  
The ancient Navajos had to choose  
between mining the uranium or  
planting the yellow corn pollen.  
They chose the pollen,  
the way of life.  
The uranium was to remain  
in the ground  
on penalty  
of grave destruction  
to the world.

Yellow, orange, and blue butterflies  
marked the trail:  
six steep miles up and  
six steep miles down  
the Mountain.  
Rocks shifting below my feet  
on each perilous step.  
Trees changed from  
sparse forest to  
full verdant conifers and  
quaking aspen,  
leaves flickering.

The grassy summit displayed  
one hundred miles in all directions  
on a cloudless New Mexico afternoon.  
Sign on a tree below the summit:  
"The Edge of the World."  
Muscles aching,  
I had reached the edge  
of the volcanic mountain,  
its meadows dotted with  
wild irises  
and birds of paradise.



## A Tribute to Lula (Lou) Collins Daudet

Lula (Lou) Collins Daudet, a life member of the New Mexico State Poetry Society, died January 4, 2011, a few months shy of her 99th birthday. She was born in Ryan, Oklahoma and grew up on a homestead near Des Moines, New Mexico. She received a B.A. degree from New Mexico Normal University (now Highlands University) and an M.A. degree from Teachers College, Columbia University. Her teaching career extended over thirty-five years in New Mexico, Texas, and New York secondary schools. With her sister the late Ruth Roberts (also a member of NMSPS) she co-authored a memoir of their lives in New Mexico titled "Pinto Beans and Silver Spoon." She published many articles and poems in various anthologies and magazines. Until just a few years ago she was able to attend the monthly NMSPS meetings, and she will be missed by the many members who were privileged to know her. Thanks. Jeanne Shannon.

Jeanne was not the only member who sent me a message to offer their heartfelt sadness for the loss of a good friend. Ray Reeder and Don DeNoon both sent either a poem or words of memory.

### A Cup of Elegance (Alvarado Hotel)

By Lula (Lou) Collins Daudet

When the wrecking ball struck you  
Like the voice of God shattering  
You into ruins,  
Where did the elegance go:  
Moorish architecture, roses of Seville,  
Lilacs, mantillas, fans, satin, lace,  
Top hats, morning coats?  
Happy-melancholy Mexican music?  
Dancers in the courtyard?  
Native Americans with their graceful,  
Hand-crafted jewelry of genuine  
Turquoise and pure silver?  
Where did all the elegance go?  
To the landfills with debris from the wreckage?  
With the cloud of dust into the atmosphere?  
Is that why the sky is blue satin,  
The sunset pink crepe de chine,  
The clouds edged in Florentine lace?  
On bleak winter afternoons  
When I am drinking tea from a paper-thin,  
Rose-bordered Limoges china cup  
(My husband bought at the Flea Market)  
I pretend I am having a cup of that elegance:  
I too belong to yester years.

### BEQUEST TO YOUTH

By Lula C. Daudet

When the last vestiges of my house  
Have mingled with the dear earth  
When the last echoes of my song  
Have rolled away  
  
I shall not mind the change  
If these remain:  
A wisp of pink across the morning sky  
Paths to be walked beside a wandering  
Stream,  
Smell of April rain,  
Apple blossoms freshly opened,  
A robin's nest (sky blue eggs),  
The song of a meadow lark,  
Fragrance of lilacs,  
Rambler roses over an ancient wall,  
Asters' purple lace along the roadside  
  
I shall not mind the change  
If these remain  
And there is love to cherish them  
  
Lula C. Daudet  
April 20, 1913— January 4, 2011

## Editor's Poetry Forum

Please contribute to your newsletter any articles, news, **poems**, segments, **laurels**, announcements, etc. to help get poetry news across to our members; please send to Annmarie Pearson, Language of Enchantment, Editor, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031 or email to altbalance@msn.com. Please designate that it is for the newsletter. Newsletters will be published in Jan., April, August, and October.

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It has been brought to my attention that one of our members, Jamie Morewood Anderson, has recently lost her mother, Linda Morewood, born Nov. 23, 1938 and deceased Dec. 13, 2010. Please accept our condolences for your loss. We are truly grateful for your mother's gift of Jamie Morewood Anderson, poet and member of the Albuquerque Chapter.

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Jim Applegate of the High Prairie Poets, Roswell Chapter has completed the 2010—2011 small canyons 5 anthology (haiku poetry). Let us support our fellow chapter by ordering a copy of their anthology. Contact Jim Applegate, 601 Fulkerson Drive, Roswell, NM, 88203 or email at japple@dfn.com.

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

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The Albuquerque Chapter recently held a mini workshop just after their monthly meeting on Jan. 8, 2011. The guest speaker was Anastasia Anderson. She offered some history and examples on Surrealism and Surrealist Poetry. The 2 1/2 hour workshop was one of the most enjoyable times I experienced during a poetry workshop. There were at least 20 members from both the Albuquerque Chapter and the Rio Grande Valencia Chapter. Anastasia is a published poet, Push Cart Nominee, MFA Student at UNM and a fine Continuing Ed Teacher, and a new member of NMSPS.

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*Writing poetry*

*From the inside out*

*Finding your voice through the craft of poetry*

By Sandford Lyne

Published by Sourcebooks, Inc. © 2007

This segment is where I get to share some poetry instruction models that I have come across in my development of poetry education. This book illustrates examples of Poem-Sketching. Poem-Sketching is like learning to draw but instead of drawing trees, animals, hands, or faces with crayon, charcoal or paint, you use words to create pictures; filling a page with images, phrases, sentences and sentence fragments by capturing ideas for poems. In Word-Sketching you use words as materials, and you gather poetic thoughts from your experiences, your intuition, your memories, and your imagination. The concept is to use word groups to inspire your thoughts. The book has an appendix with hundreds of four-word groups. (ex. Child, silence, crow, lake). It is important to understand that you may change the forms of the words to make your creativity flow. (ex. Child = children or childhood, silence = silent or silently, crow = sparrow or hawk, and lake = pond or river). You can make up your own 4 group words by paying attention to words that stimulate you. Write your words down and put them together with other words. Now sit down and try to create a poem with your four words. Have fun Poem-Sketching!

## FIXED & FREE ANTHOLOGY 2011

A Call for Submissions for the Fixed & Free Anthology is geared for any poet who has ever read a poem at the Fixed & Free Open Mic nights. There are four Editors on the Editorial Team and two are NMSPS members: Greg Candela and Elaine Schwartz. The deadline for submission is February 28, 2011. Since I am an ardent reader at the Fixed & Free, I have seen and heard many a fellow-NMSPS members read their poetry at the Fixed & Free, so I want to encourage all NMSPS members who has ever read a poem at the Fixed & Free, to please submit your poetry to this anthology. HOW TO SUBMIT: send up to 3 of your best poems and a short bio (50 words maximum) in the body of an email. (No attachments). All poems must have titles, single spaced, double spaced between stanzas. For more information contact Billy Brown at fixedandfree.anthology@gmail.com. All submissions should be emailed to same address above. Good Luck! Annmarie

## New Mexico State Poetry Society

Hilda Wales, Treasurer  
9616 Rosas Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109

## NMSPS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Bonnie K. Rucobo President (505) 889-4672 mechistle@gmail.com	George Forrest Past President (505) 864-0837 gforresttiffinohio@q.com
Elaine G. Schwartz 1st Vice President Albuquerque Chapter, Chair (505) 255-1742 delschwartz@juno.com	Elizabeth Lackmann Honorary Chancellor (505) 344-6225 elnonie2000@yahoo.com
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Shirley Blackwell, Chancellor (505) 565-1806 sonneteer@earthlink.net	

## CHAPTER MEETING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

All members of 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** meet on the first Saturday of every month at 12:15 p.m., at Mike's (SQ) Square Diner 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** meet on the second Saturday of every month, from September through April only, at 1:00 p.m. at the 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** meet 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** meet on the third Saturday of every month, from September through April only, 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.