

LANGUAGE OF ENCHANTMENT

New Mexico State Poetry Society

2011 April 2011

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

This will be my final communication to you as President of the New Mexico State Poetry Society. I have enjoyed my two-year tenure as President. We have made great strides during this period to bring the NMSPS into the 21st Century, and I have met some wonderful poets and made many friends in the process.

Let me highlight some of our major accomplishments:

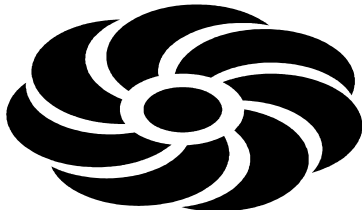
- We are now an organization of **79 dues-paying members** that reaches across New Mexico and extends into other states.
- We have launched a website at nmpoetry.org with links to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, our newsletter, and our Children's Projects. On the website's homepage is an interview with a NMSPS poet. I am about to post a feature on the Chair of the Rio Abajo Poets of Socorro, Barbara DuBois.
- We have just ratified a revised **NMSPS Constitution** which hopefully will engage our chapters in Socorro and Roswell in Board Meetings and other NMSPS activities. It also redefines the duties of NMSPS officers. Heartfelt thanks to Shirley Blackwell, Don DeNoon, and Ray Reeder, members of the Constitution Committee.
- We had our first annual **NMSPS Potluck** at Shirley Blackwell's home last month and raised \$185 for the NMSPS coffers. We enjoyed the poetry of ten poets and two musical groups.
- The **High Prairie Poets (HPP) of Roswell** and the High Plains Writing Project at Eastern New Mexico University

co-sponsored the annual **Spring Poetry Contest** for students in Roswell public, private, and home schools. HPP member Jim Applegate held a separate competition in conjunction with the Spring Poetry Contest honoring winning haiku poems.

- The Albuquerque Chapter is involved in the second year of its **Children's Poetry Project** chaired by Larry Castillo-Wilson. During April, National Poetry month, Castillo-Wilson and his legions of poets go into libraries and elementary school classrooms to read our poetry to children and teach them to create poems. This year three appearances are scheduled in libraries (including the Main Library) along with ten appearances in Alvarado Elementary in Albuquerque's North Valley. Annmarie Pearson will also present to children at the Belen Library in the coming months.
- Finally, let me remind you of our **Annual Luncheon**, this year on May 21 at noon at the Cooperage at 7220 Lomas Boulevard NE in Albuquerque (just east of Lomas and Louisiana). Poet Laureate of Santa Fe, Joan Logghe, will be our featured reader. We are looking forward to this event with much anticipation and hope to see members from throughout the state there. If you need a place to stay that night, please let me know at (505) 889-4672. And don't forget to email your RSVP's to me at mechistle@gmail.com.

Thanks to all NMSPS members and Board Members for making this an enjoyable and productive two years.

Bonnie K. Rucobo



Constitution Adopted During National Poetry Month

By Shirley Blackwell

By a unanimous vote, the new NMSPS Constitution was ratified on April 9, 2011. The Society sent out 75 ballots, and 47 were returned in time for the count. All those ballots carried "yes" votes; there were no abstentions. They were tallied at a specially called Board meeting just before the jointly sponsored NMSPS-Southwest Writers open microphone readings in Albuquerque to celebrate National Poetry Month. The original copy of the document was signed immediately by President Bonnie Rucobo, Vice President Elaine Schwartz, and head of the Constitutional Committee, Shirley Blackwell.

Note from Shirley: I want to thank the members of my committee, Don DeNoon and Ray Reeder, for their insights, time, and careful consideration of the Constitution and the Policies and Procedures Supplement. Thanks also to expert editor Elaine Schwartz for doing an "independent review" and polishing the final draft; to the Board for additions, questions, and suggestions; and to all those who returned their ballots so promptly. I believe this Constitution will give us the tools to reinvigorate our Society by taking advantage of technology that allows participation by all members, no matter where they reside. Congratulations to us all as we work toward the future.

www.nfmps.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.nfmps.org. You can also view this site through the *NMSPS website* at www.nmpoetry.org.

NOMINATED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NMSPS May, 2011 — May, 2013

Shirley Balance Blackwell, President

Shirley joined the NMSPS as a charter member of the Rio Grande Valencia (RGV) chapter in 2005. She chaired the RGV Poets during 2006-08. From 2007 to 2010 she wrote a monthly poetry column for the *Valencia News-Bulletin*. NMSPS Chancellor since 2009, she recently chaired the committee to revise the Society's Constitution. She represented the NMSPS at the 2008 and 2009 National Conventions of the NFSPS and will do so again this June in Dearborn, MI. She won the 2010 New Mexico Sr. Poet Laureate Award. Shirley lives in Los Lunas with her husband of 45 years, Louis.

Kitty Todorovich, Vice President

K. K. (Kitty) Todorovich's poetry has appeared in regional, national, and international literary magazines for the past twenty years. She has won the Wallace Stevens prize, and her book of poetry was chosen for the series Golden Hits. Most recently her work appears in the Albuquerque Fixed and Free Anthology. Kitty was also one of the founding members of the Rio Grande Valencia Poets Chapter.

Sylvia Ramos Cruz, Secretary

A member of the Albuquerque Chapter, Sylvia was born in Puerto Rico, grew up in New York and moved to New Mexico in 1990. She is a general surgeon who works part-time specializing in the diagnosis and management of breast diseases and lymphedema. She loves words and how they help find the universal in the personal experience. She feels fortunate to be a member of the Albuquerque writers' community. Sylvia has served as Recording Secretary for NMSPS for the past two years.

Debbi Miller Gutierrez, Treasurer

Debbi recently joined the NMSPS. A singer-songwriter, Debbi has had fiction, non-fiction, and poetry published in print and online publications, including *Highlights for Children*, *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, and *Psychological Reports*. Also a web designer, Debbi set up a website for children at www.kidskorner.net in 1997 to entertain children, parents, and teachers from around the world. She set up a poetry society in California and held numerous offices. Debbi lives in Belen, NM with her three dogs, Hansel, Dieter, and Gretchen.

Please mail your ballot to vote for approval or non-approval of the

NOMINATED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR NMSPS May, 2011 – May, 2013

Mail to Annmarie H. Pearson, RGV Chair, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031

Please mail before May 4, 2011

Yes _____ No _____

Sign: _____ Print: _____

Date: _____ Designate your Chapter: _____

MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Sylvia Ramos Cruz
Albuquerque Chapter

Doctor of Medicine
-Rye Pottery figurine based on
Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

I

Wrapped in taffeta from head to toe
rich summer green and autumn rose,
face partly hidden by the enormous
jar he carries, the *Doctour of Phisic*
straddles a white translucent majolica
horse that looks too small to bear his
gravity. Neither complains on this
unending pilgrimage to the grave of
Thomas A Becket.

This *verray parfit praktisour* cast
horoscopes for patients, gave magical
medals, prescribed potions. Perhaps,
as Chaucer wrote, he was too close to
pharmacists sharing the profits and, maybe
used his skills too readily to earn his gold—
metal valued for its powers to soothe sore
bones, heal ulcerations, stimulate tone.

II

One April I rode the train from London
to Canterbury, not clear whether to expiate,
keep promises or see the Shrine. Outside
I met an errant soldier who, when he learned
I was a doctor, asked politely if I would
look at his wound. He rolled his pants' leg up,
unwound a grimy gauze that covered a ragged
beef-red ulcer near his ankle, the end
result of long-standing venous stasis.

Having no armamentarium of charms,
liniments or linens, I gave him my thoughts—
free of charge— and went my way casting
a teasing smile into the skies for Geoffrey
Chaucer.

Shirley Blackwell
Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Epitaph

Everybody says, in memoriam,
"Beloved wife, mother, sister, friend."
Some, if they are fortunate,
are remembered for gifts
that brightened their world:
"Musician, Teacher, Leader, Artist."

Nobody says, in memoriam,
"Here lies a superb duster of furniture,
a faithful scrubber of floors,
an accomplished organizer of closets."

Knowing this to be so,
on those days when I have a choice
to leave as my legacy
sparkling toilets and folded clothes or
a sonnet that holds a fragment of soul,
I shall choose to write poetry.

Barbara DuBois
Rio Abajo Poets, Socorro Chapter

Women

Greek men sit at little tables
in little plazas
drinking little coffees
while Greek women weave and knit
indoors.
In ancient Greece, too, women
did the work.
In Athens on the Acropolis
see the Caryatides,
priestesses from Caryae
their heads supporting the entablature
of the Erechitheion,
of course named after a man.
And they look so beautiful
working
you would watch them all day.
In Delphi, see the column,
dancers
frozen in time
Forever giving pleasure:
Women.

Bonnie K. Rucobo
Albuquerque Chapter

Pachuco
(a cinquain)

Amazon
green, jaunty
flying, singing, dancing
brown intrusive eyes flashing
Mine

George Forrest
Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Echoes

Are you the Echo
of distant drum
that passes me
like a vapor
or a fragrance
hinted
then lost to memory?

Or, are you
part of the minutes
of my journal
that justifies eternity?
Your life bringing light
to my soul
and know
that I can recall
and feel the echo.

And yes...You can never flee
that echo in the wind
of memory
no matter
where you should be.

MEMBERS' POETRY CORNER

Zanthy Pillar, aka
Antonio Pilar Sanches
Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Gary Chorrè
Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Annmarie Pearson
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
Chapter Chair

Voluptuous Sculptors

We all have them:
Fountain heads,
Well springs,
Gardens of plants
Of imagery, symbolism,
Allusion, metaphor.

Plants of allegories,
Parables, free form verse,
Handed down to us, or
Presented to us fully developed
For us to note down
On paper dutiful secretaries
To our laughing imagination CEO.

Eagles perched on mountain tops;
Geese flying by flock after flock;
Zen and Christian enlightenment:
So much like sex — climax;
Spirit permeating our very being.

Our imagination capturing butterflies
And fireflies with their bare hands.

Swaying in the Breeze

How is it that a man of principle must be a reed,
nimble and swaying with the breeze?
One would think an unbending oak more to the task
of maintaining a steady helm through the rapids of strife.
Remaining rigid is to be swallowed by pride
and chained to the rock of ego.
When willing to let go we become one with the flow.
Fly high, oh, weightless one.
Ride the Pegasus of life beyond the clouds
through the fiery heavens.
Drink lustily from the soul-pond of truth
for the only eternity is in the moment.
Love life with every fiber and drop of fluid at your disposal,
then the milk and honey heavens shall flow freely in the squall.

National Poetry Month

A poem a day
What a way to play
I love my rhymes
They sound like chimes
It can be fun to pass the time
With poetry that is sublime
I want to share some rhapsody
And make poetry sound like a melody

Knock, knock, please let me in
I want to play the round-robin
Don't leave me out
Or I'll cry and shout
Poetry is my game
Even if it is quite lame
I want to play
A poem a day

The Children's Poetry Project

This year the Children's Poetry Project is very active especially during National Poetry Month. Volunteers for this project will be presenting poetry to children on April 15 at the Los Griego Library; on April 16 at the Albuquerque Main Library; on April 18 and 19 at the Alvarado Elementary School; and on May 20 at the Lomas Tramway Library. If you are interested in volunteering to support the Children's Poetry Project, please contact Larry Castillo-Wilson, Project Chair at casidy@cableone.net or call 892-6396.

NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY SOCIETY (NMSPS)

ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST GUIDELINES FOR 2011

It's that time again! Help your Poetry Guild raise money by entering a poem for the NMSPS Annual Poetry Contest.

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 a (SASE) self addresses stamped envelope, a white legal sized envelope. Mail to NMSPS 2011 Annual Poetry Contest, c/o Annmarie Pearson, Contest Chair, 454 Diana Dr. NE, Los Lunas, NM, 87031. First Class or Priority Mail only — no delivery requiring a signature.

NMSPS Kicks Off National Poetry Month with TV Broadcast

By Shirley Blackwell

Three members of the Rio Grande Valencia chapter of the NMSPS went live on Albuquerque's local access television station on March 30 to promote National Poetry Month and the Society. Shirley Blackwell, Gary Chorrè, and singer/songwriter/poet Debbi Gutierrez appeared on the Cable Channel 27 program "Hello In There," hosted by Gerard Bezzeg.

The team scored two historical notes: they were the first poets to appear on the program, which, for the three years it has been on the air, has focused largely on other arts (mostly music); and, they played the final show before the program moved to a new location. The host of the program wants to do more shows in the future incorporating poetry.

Gary performed his original poems and also rendered a Robert Burns piece in Scots dialect; Debbi, who accompanied herself on guitar, sang an old Scottish ballad and several other songs of her own composing; Shirley read original poems, served as deputy emcee, and chatted with host Gerard Bezzeg about the Society's mission, website, and NM Children's Poetry Project. Throughout the broadcast, a sign on the wall displayed the website information, and it was also scrolled across the bottom of the screen. The show was great fun and a rousing success.

Adobe Walls Anthology of New Mexico Poetry (#2)

Edited by Kenneth P. Gurney

There were 12 NMSPS members who were accepted in the second edition of the Adobe Walls Anthology.

Congratulations to:

Anastasia Andersen — Albuquerque Chapter

Ann Applegarth — High Prairie Poets, Roswell Chapter

Chandra Bales — Albuquerque Chapter &
www.nmpoetry.org, Calendar of Events, Editor

Shirley Blackwell — Rio Grande Valencia Poets &
Chancellor on the NMSPS Board

Karin Bradberry — Albuquerque Chapter

Gregory L. Candela — Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Teresa E. Gallion — Albuquerque Chapter

Kate Padilla — Albuquerque Chapter

Bonnie K. Rucobo — Albuquerque Chapter & NMSPS
President

Georgia Santa Maria — Rio Grande Valencia Poets

Elaine G. Schwartz — Albuquerque Chapter & Chapter
Chair

Hilda Wales — Albuquerque Chapter & NMSPS
Treasurer

Editor's Poetry Forum

Writing Poetry

This segment of the newsletter is my favorite part. I get to offer poetry exercises to help develop our poetry writing skills. I have several books that I read to learn to help me in my personal poetry writing. Today I've chosen to share "Discovering Your Poetry". This exercise helps you to see your poems more objectively. Look at your poems and see if you are writing in patterns or creating habits in your poems. For example, check to see if you use the same colors (red or blue). Check for body parts. Do you write about the same body parts in your poems (head, heart, face). How about flowers? Do you use the same flower in each poem (roses, daisies). What about the animals in your poems, are they always cats, dogs or birds? Are your odd animals always tigers? Look at your poems and see if you have patterns or habits. Now try to write a poem to break those patterns or habits. Have fun writing!

If you have friends who loves to share their poetry with you then please invite them to join NMSPS. Then let your friend know that their poem can be published in their newsletter. Please direct your friends to our web page at www.nmpoetry.org. There is a membership page for new members.

Treasurer's & Membership's Report

Currently there are 79 members in our state organization at NMSPS (with two lifetime members). Bank balance as of April 9, 2011 is \$1,369.65. The First Annual NMSPS Fund-raiser that was held at Shirley Blackwell's home in Los Lunas raised \$185.00.

Don't forget to come to the Annual NMSPS Meeting on May 21 at the Cooperage Restaurant at 7220 Lomas Blvd. NE in Albuquerque from noon to 3:00 p.m. Our guest speaker is Santa Fe Poet Laureate Joan Logghe. It will be a fun event and a pleasure to see all our members. I'll see you there.

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@q.com. Please designate that it is for the newsletter. Newsletters will be published in January, April, August, and October.

Congratulations to one of our newest student members, Dey Nunez, he won a Third Place Honorable Mention in this year's Manningham Contest.

Congratulations to Barbara DuBois whose poem *Women* was published in the online magazine WritingRaw.com on March 21st.

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
Larry Castillo-Wilson 2nd Vice President Children's Poetry, Chair (505) 892-6396 casidy@cableone.net	Annmarie H. Pearson RGV Poets, Chair <i>Language of Enchantment</i> , Editor NMSPS Annual Contest, Chair (505) 865-5605 altbalance@q.com
Hilda Wales, Treasurer (505) 797-3560 dhwales@comcast.net	Barbara DuBois Rio Abajo Poets Socorro Chapter, Chair (575) 835-3437 brdubois@sdc.org
Dr. Sylvia M. Ramos Recording Secretary (505) 242-0061 smrcmd@msn.com	Ann H. Applegarth High Prairie Poets Roswell Chapter, Chair (575) 627-6014 aapple@plateautel.net
Jim Applegate, Chancellor (575) 623-8267 japple@dfn.com	Princess Ifeama Achusism Membership Chair ifebube@q.com
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 Joanne's Café 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.