

Language of Enchantment



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This issue welcomes the newly elected officers.

Check out what the chapters are doing.

Congratulate the New Mexico poets who placed in the national poetry contest.

Learn to do the Fibonacci.

We're on the Web!

www.nmpoetry.com

From The President's Pen

Dear New Mexico Poets & Friends:

It's a humid day. The water is glistening, reflecting the early evening Florida sunshine. Humidity? Water? Florida? Have you opened the wrong newsletter?

I am writing from the annual convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) in St. Petersburg, Florida, at which I have the privilege of representing the New Mexico State Poetry Society, along with Shirley Blackwell, our stalwart NMSPS leader. There are some wonderful poets here--including the Florida State Slam Team--and many inspirational state society leaders who have been generous with their time and stories. By the time you read this, the event will be long past, but I hope to keep alive the ideas I am considering and the enthusiasm I am feeling for the direction of our state society. Here's a sampling:

First, it's a great time to be a poet. We have so

many resources to help us hone our craft (individual and collective). Our tools are basic and cheap--all we need is pen and paper, or a simple electronic device. We can connect with other poets in person, online, or by reading their work any time. We can join critique groups, write alone in city parks, attend workshops, go to open mic nights, or listen to podcasts. As members of an active state society, we can advertise our events and publications, and promote the cause of poetry (expression, literacy, education, etc.) in our communities in ways we may not be able to, as individuals.

Second, as one poet said today, **"Our youngest writers will keep alive our oldest form of literature."** It's no secret--the average age of NFSPS members is, well, older (myself included). Poetry will outlive and outlast us all--the question really is one of how deeply and how widely future generations will cultivate the art and practice of

poetic expression. Think about how you came to poetry, and consider helping others make that discovery while you are able. NMSPS has a Children's Poetry Project in one elementary school, and we encourage youth membership.... but we can do more.

Finally, have you hugged a poet today? At the NFSPS convention, I have heard poets compliment one another on their work, their ideas, their kindness--whether I've been hanging out in the book room or listening to panel presentations or participating in a workshop. There has been a refreshing generosity of spirit here. Poets are good people, and we have a lot to offer the world, both locally and globally. In these long, light days of summer, let us remember to reach out to one another.

Peace for the journey,

Andi
NMSPS
President



Sandra Wheeler
Four Corners
 Chapter

Sowing Seeds in the Four Corners



During our first year as the **Four Corners Chapter**, we were in it for ourselves while this year we tried to branch out and sow seeds for poetry in the area.

Usually six to ten of us get together on the third Saturday of the month at 2:00 to give and get feedback on poems in progress--our fundamental purpose that provides enrichment enough to keep us coming back for more. Beyond this core, we have about thirty-five people who have expressed interest in being on our mailing list, some of whom come to meetings as they can.

We want to be inclusive of the four corners area, and one of our regular members comes all the way from Utah. We are a far flung group.

Our founder, Vicki Holmsten, who served as our original chair, has become special projects person. Our new chair is Irene Hamilton. Secretary is Sandra Wheeler.

As part of **National Poetry Month** this past in April, we took on three poetry outreach projects.

Irene Hamilton, Coila King, and Sandra Wheeler represented the Four Corners Poets at the **Farmington Public Library's Make-Do Friday series**. The turnout was low but because people were so willing to engage with us about poetry, we had someone at our table for most of the hour and a half venue. We gave away eight different double-sided handouts of poems for adults and six for children. Many people took one of each and did a writing exercise (the Make-Do activity). In addition we had several books of poetry available for giveaway. Again, some people asked how many they were allowed, and when we answered as many as they wanted, they were pleased, even relieved. A couple of them already had a little stack picked out. I think the very best were young parents who took books to read to their little ones--may their tribe of parental readers increase.

On Monday, April 27, Vicki Holmsten, Coila King, Geney Stan, Gail Janezich, and Sandra Wheeler perpetrated a **Guerilla Poetry event**. We met at Good Will, armed with folded poetry handouts that we slipped into unsuspecting pockets of garments on the racks. Some kid's sizes have such tiny pockets that we had to fold and fold again to get the poems to fit. Hopefully the new

owners will be interested in our offerings. It turns out that on Mondays Good Will offers an extra 25% off, and as a fringe benefit, we each found something to buy.



For **National Poem in Your Pocket Day**, we met in the observation room of the Riverside Nature Center. The members attending for all or part of the session were Pip Howard, Vicki Holmsten, Geney Stan, Irene Hamilton, Linda Fredericks, Gail Janezich, Sandra Wheeler, and me. Donna Thatcher, the educational specialist at the nature center and a poetry lover, joined us. We read a wide variety of poems (our own, some classics, and lesser knowns) and talked about other global and philosophical issues. Personally, I think the continual infusion of poetry kept the conversation at a level that matters. Through the window-walls of the observation room, we watched a deer, a family of Canada geese protective of their unfledged goslings, hummingbirds, house finches, etc. at their own meeting. Doesn't get much better than that.

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Our members also participate in on-going local projects related to poetry and writing in general.

A local community organization, **Identity, Inc.**, hosts **open mic nights** on the first and third Thursdays of the month beginning at 6:00 at the former Andrea Kristina's Kafe and Bookstore in Farmington. Several of us have read. Turnout so far is small but mutually supportive.

The summer **Poetry Picnics** are hosted by the **Riverside Nature Center**. These are the second and fourth Fridays of the month starting at 6:00. We meet at the center and move to shaded picnic tables for a picnic supper and poetry reading, our own or others. These are open to community members, some of whom share and some listen. All in a delightful setting. The last of these will be outdoors at the Farmington Public Library on August 7, 2015.

Some of our members are actively involved with the **Bisti Writing Project**, for writers who teach and teachers who write, is an affiliate of the National Writing Project.

Our chair, Irene Hamilton, has been invited to present a **workshop at the Bluff Arts Festival** to be held in October. As our monthly meeting coincides with one day of the festival, she has invited us to attend and got an enthusiastic response.

Dante Berry
*Rio Grande
Valencia Chapter*

Festival of the Cranes & Chapter Anthology

The **Rio Grande Valencia Chapter** (RGV) poets meet on the first Thursday of the month at Perk It Up Coffee Shoppe, 520 Baca St. in Belen, NM from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will not meet in July. At our June meeting the group worked on Cento and Exquisite Corpse poetry. The exercises were fun and interesting.

The group has a planned reading in Socorro to coincide with the Festival of Cranes, November 17-24. The reading is scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Socorro Bistro or Coffee House. Current projects also include an anthology from chapter poets.



Jim Raby
*Santa Fe
Poetry Trails
Chapter*

First Mondays at Teatro Paraguas

The **Santa Fe Chapter** continues to conduct its monthly open poetry reading the First Monday of each month at Teatro Paraguas.

Sign-Up at 6:00 PM; reading begins promptly at 6:30 PM

There are usually more than twenty readers and several people who come to listen to excellent poems read out loud.

We also send out a monthly newsletter in which we list readings and other poetry activities that will be taking

place that month.

All are welcome to join us on the first Monday of every month:

Directions:

Teatro Paraguas. Directions to the theater may be found at this link:

<http://teatroparaguas.org/home/index.php?n=Main.LocationMap>

3205 Calle Marie, Santa Fe.

Andi Penner
President

Do The Fibonacci!

If you are looking for a new form to infuse your writing, try the Fibonacci poem. Although the form is based on mathematical sequence, don't let the math frighten you. It's easy to master the concept. In fact, to explain it, I've written a "fib" for you. (I'd like to thank Chuck Salmons, President of the Ohio Poetry Association, for introducing me to fibs during the "Last Poet Standing" competition at the NFSPS convention in Florida.)

Introducing the Fib

To
write
a fib
you count the
syllables--start with
one (zero is implied) and add
it to the previous number to produce the sum
for the next line. Dispense with rhyme. Just use your fingers and your brain to appropriate
vocabulary for your Fibonacci refrain.
One one two three five eight thirteen--
Forge on or back down
to where you
began
to
fib.

For more information about the Fibonacci poem, go to **The Fib Review** at:

<http://www.musepiepress.com/fibreview/index.html>

Have fun fibbing!

Vicki Holmsten
Secretary
 and
Andi Penner
President

Highlights from the July 25, 2015 NMSPS Board Meeting

The NMSPS board met on Saturday, July 25, 2015, in Santa Fe. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. Thank you to Elizabeth & Jim Raby for hosting the meeting and providing a lovely lunch for board members assembled at their Santa Fe home. Members present: Andi Penner, President; Bernadette Perez, Vice President; Vicki Holmsten, Secretary; Earl Kious, Treasurer; John Candelaria, Special Projects Coordinator for Children's Poetry Project; Jim Raby, Chair of Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter.

The complete minutes from the meeting will soon be posted on the web site. In the meantime, a few votes deserve immediate mention:

Slam of Enchantment. The "Slam of Enchantment" poetry community is sending a team of four to the **National Poetry Slam in Oakland, California, August 10-16, 2015.** The board voted to support this team by covering the cost of their entry fee, \$500. Their founder and slam manager, Zach Kluckman, is an at-large member of NMSPS; the other 4 slam team poets will be joining NMSPS, also. In fact, they will soon become a new

NMSPS Chapter--the Slam of Enchantment Chapter--with Zach as the Chapter Chair. The board voted unanimously in support of the slam team, and we look forward to working with the new chapter. NOTE: Andi had the pleasure of presenting the \$500 check to the national slam team at a recent Pool & Poetry Party hosted by Ginny Gaskell. We wish the team well in Oakland!

Student Membership. The board voted unanimously to adjust the student membership category in two ways. First, we adopted a new definition of student to include students of any age (instead of age 18 and under), and raised the student membership fee from \$5 to \$10, effective immediately. Welcome, students!

Quarterly Board meetings for the 2015-16 NMSPS year:

- October 24, 2015 in Albuquerque
- January 23, 2016 in Belen
- April 2016, TBD (stay tuned for the finalized date of the annual NMSPS convention--in April 2016)
- July 2016, TBD

The new board is working hard to improve our communication tools. Please bear with us (and communicate with us!) as we strive to promote poetry across the state.



Bernadette Perez
Vice-President

Congratulations!! New Mexico Winners of the NFSPS -2015 Annual Poetry Contest

The numbered items below refer to the National Federation of State Poetry Society's contest numbers. The HM refers to "Honorable Mention.

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| <p>9. NFSPS Board Award
4HM - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest NM</p> <p>10. Utah State Poetry Society Award
1st Place - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest NM</p> <p>18. Indiana State Federation Of Poetry Clubs Awards
5HM - Brittany Wyatt, Los Lunas, NM</p> <p>20. The New York Poetry Forum Award
3rd Place - Ray Reeder, Albuquerque NM</p> <p>25. American Indian Heritage Award
3HM - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest, NM</p> <p>27. Claire Van Breeman Downes Memorial Award
3rd Place - Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM</p> <p>34. Barbara Stevens Awards Memorial Award
2nd Place - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest, NM</p> <p>37. Save Our Earth Award
1HM - Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM</p> <p>40. Iowa Poetry Association Award
7HM - Ray Reeder, Albuquerque, NM</p> | <p>41. WyoPoets Award
6th HM - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest, NM</p> <p>43. Gingerbread Poets Award
2nd Place - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest, NM</p> <p>46. Miriam S. Strauss Memorial Award
7HM - Jamie Morewood Anderson
Cedar Crest, NM</p> |
|--|--|



Take the Challenge...

Anagram

A word spelled out by rearranging the letters of another word; for example, "The teacher *gapes* at the mounds of exam *pages* lying before her." What can you come up with? Have fun! -- *Bernadette*

Know Your NMSPS Board

Elected Board Officers and Chapter Chairs, 2015-2017

Appointed Board (Project Leaders)

Andi Penner
President
505-306-0369
president@nmpoetry.com

Bernadette Perez
Vice President
505-991-1376
vicepresident@nmpoetry.com

Earl Kious
Treasurer
214-642-8864
treasurer@nmpoetry.com

Vicki Holmsten
Secretary
505-326-6145
secretary@nmpoetry.com

Fil Peach
Chancellor
chancellor@nmpoetry.com

Earl Kious, Chair
Albuquerque Chapter
214-642-8864
ABQchair@nmpoetry.com

Irene Hamilton, Chair
4 Corners Poets (Farmington)
4CornersChair@nmpoetry.com

Robert Reynolds, Chair
High Prairie Poets (Roswell)
575-623-8658
HPchair@nmpoetry.com

Dante Berry, Chair
Rio Grande Valencia Poets
505-864-4231
RGVchair@nmpoetry.com

Elise Stuart, Chair
River Poets (Silver City area)
575-956-5038
RPchair@nmpoetry.com

Jim Raby, Chair
Santa Fe Poetry Trails
505-955-9067
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Andrea Watson, Chair
Walking Rain Poets (Taos)
303-249-4731
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505-990-6706
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John Candelaria
PL for Children's Poetry
505-898-4464
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Non-Board Positions

Debbi Gutierrez
Web Presence
webmaster@nmpoetry.com

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.



New Mexico State Poetry Society

P.O. Box 1352

Los Lunas, NM 87031

**Find us online at
nmpoetry.com**

Notes from your Vice-President, Bernadette Perez:

At our last gathering of the board, we came up with several ideas to encourage and excite our members.

I would like to know if we have some volunteers who would be interested in becoming a project leader for these various group of activities.

1. Welcoming Committee
2. NMSPS Members Open Mic
3. NMSPS Contest
4. NMSPS Anthology
5. Poetry literary with special intensity given to expression, Distinctive style rhythm and form.
(Information for poet members)

If you would like to be a project leader and or have ideas in other areas, please send me an email.
vicepresident@nmpoetry.com