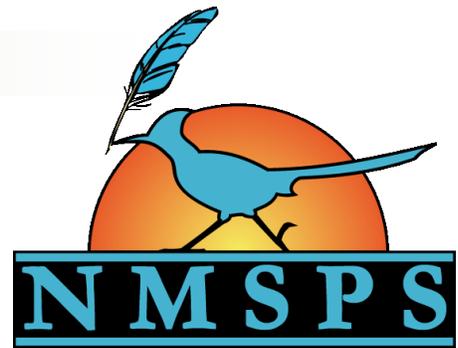


# Language of Enchantment



*“A grain of poetry suffices to season a century.” -- Jose Marti, Cuban poet*

**January 2016**

Volume 4, Issue 1

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The *Language of Enchantment* is published quarterly by the New Mexico State Poetry Society. Submit articles and ideas to [NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com](mailto:NMSPSnewsletter@nmpoetry.com). Deadline for April 2016 issue is March 4, 2016. Past issues are on our website.

We're on the Web!  
[www.nmpoetry.org](http://www.nmpoetry.org)

## From the President's Pen

### *Dear New Mexico Poets & Friends:*

In December 2015 I had the opportunity to hear the U. S. poet laureate, Juan Felipe Herrera, address a small but diverse and enthusiastic crowd at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM. He spoke lovingly of family, education, language, and poetry, and read from several of his books, including his most recent and bilingual work, *Notes on the Assemblage*.

Most notably, he used the opportunity to remind the audience that there is room for everyone at the table—each person has a story to tell and a voice with which to tell it. He likened poetry to cooking—a pinch of this, a dash of that—stirring, seasoning, simmering. Herrera also encouraged us to remember that poetry has deep roots in New Mexico: “*En Nuevo Mexico, vivimos la poesia*”—we live poetry, he said.

After the reading, I waited in line for the book signing. When it was my turn, after Mr. Herrera signed my copy of his book, I gave him my NMSPS business card and told him about our State poetry society—he said he had not known of it. That gave me the opportunity to tell him also about the national federation and the many local chapters around the country. He asked me to invite New Mexico poets to participate in his project, La Casa de Colores (The House of Colors), on the

Library of Congress poet laureate web site:

<http://www.loc.gov/poetry/casadecolores/>

There you can participate in a national epic poem project which he calls La Familia (the family). This feature will have periodic themes. The theme through January 14, 2016, is **What Peace Can Bring**. As Herrera says, “Every one of us loves peace: peace of mind, peace of heart and—in one way or another—‘peace on earth.’ Tell us about your kind of peace. Write a poem with your list of things that will happen if we attain peace.”

Herrera’s web site also offers a “garden” (El Jardin) full of Library of Congress resources related to poets and poetry. If you are looking for inspiration in the gray of winter, perhaps you will find it in the house of colors.

Peace for the journey,

*Andi Penner*  
NMSPS President



**Mark Fleisher**

*Member,  
Albuquerque  
Chapter*

## Poets Take a Road Trip to Tucumcari

Pardon me if I paraphrase the century-old British music hall song and say

“It’s a long way to *Tucumcari*,  
It’s a long way to go...”

But not for six intrepid members of the New Mexico State Poetry Society who ventured to that eastern New Mexico city November 13-14, 2015, for a Friday night spoken word program and a Saturday morning workshop as part of the NMSPS mission to promote poetry in the land of enchantment.

Joining local Tucumcari poets at the **Eastern New Mexico ArtSpace** event were NMSPS President Andi Penner; Dante Berry, chair of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter; Jim Raby, chair of the Santa Fe Trails Chapter; Zachary Kluckman, chair of the newly incorporated Southwest Speaks chapter; and NMSPS members Mark Fleisher and Ginny Gaskill.

The event was organized primarily by **Gregg Howard** (Mesalands Community College instructor and chair of the Enchanted Mesa Poets chapter). More than 50 local poetry enthusiasts packed the gallery, owned by Toni & Rick Haymaker, and listened to several open mic readers before Gregg and Tucumcari resident Levi Mericle joined the NMPS crew for the spoken word program. Levi, a performance poet, gave the audience an unexpected bonus when he ended a love poem by kneeling on one knee and asking his girlfriend, Crystal Dawn, for her hand in marriage. And yes, friends, she did accept!

The two-hour Saturday workshop led by Zachary Kluckman focused on pushing the envelope in discovering techniques to help avoid using the same “favorite” words in poems we write. Zach encouraged the twenty or so poets in the room to get out of our comfort zones.

Writing exercises, including word association and filling in the blanks in a series of unrelated sentences helped workshop attendees use images to convey their thoughts—in other words, employing images to “show rather than tell.” The workshop concluded with writers creating at least the beginnings of poems using “The Golden Shovel” form, based on a poem of that name by Terrance Hayes (who got it from Gwendolyn Brooks’ “We Real Cool.”)

NMSPS is a proud sponsor of poetry road trips!





## What's Happening in the Chapters?

### Rio Grande & Valencia Chapter

#### by Dante Berry, Chapter Chair

Autumn brought a harvest of activities for the Rio Grande & Valencia Poets (RGV) chapter. In October 2015 we hosted slam poet Maxine Peseke. Maxine recently moved to Canada, but not before reading in Belen, one of her last poetry performances in New Mexico.

The Rio Abajo Poets and RGV co-hosted a reading in Socorro in conjunction with the Festival of Cranes. The event was held November 21, 2015, at M-Mountain Coffee and included an open mic and several featured poets. The group WeBeMuse (Lee Dunne, Cheryl Marita, Paula Miller, Judy Mosher, and Elizabeth O'Brien) read from their book *Bosque Rhythms* and Mary Dezember read from her book *Earth-Marked Like You*.

The RGV poets meet regularly on the first Thursday of the month at **Perk It Up Coffee Shop**, 520 Baca St. in Belen, NM, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. All poets are welcome. For more information contact Dante Berry at [dante.berry45@yahoo.com](mailto:dante.berry45@yahoo.com) or 505-864-4231.



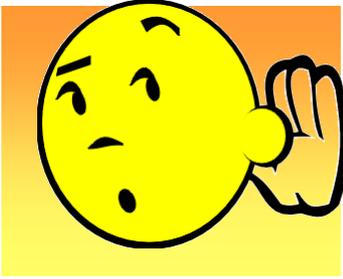
RGV chair Dante Berry organized a **Veterans Day Tribute** held at Sandia National Laboratories on November 10,

2015. The New Mexico State Poetry Society partnered with Sandia's Diversity and Inclusion office to sponsor the event. Participating poets included guests Mark Fleischer and Jim Nye, and lab employees Dante Berry, Andi Penner, and Curtis Keli-iaa. The tribute also included music by Full Battle Rattle's Rob Mitchell and Ron Hoskie, and patriotic artwork by Arnold Puentes. Given the event's success, there's talk of inviting poets, musicians, and artists again next year, in a larger venue.

### Southwest Speaks Chapter

#### by Zachary Kluckman, Chapter Chair

Southwest Speaks, based in Albuquerque, is a unique **new chapter** of the NMSPS with a focus on **spoken word** and poetry's oral tradition. We seek to honor these traditions through outreach, education, empowerment, and event development. While many of us come from the slam tradition, we are diverse and welcome all styles of poetries. We are dedicated to first crafting a great poem, and then speaking it in a way that resonates and celebrates the life of each word. Southwest Speaks meets on the third Saturday of each month at 4 pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Zachary Kluckman ([zgkluckman@msn.com](mailto:zgkluckman@msn.com)).



## What's Happening in the Chapters? ...continued...

### Albuquerque Chapter

by **Gayle Lauradunn, Chapter Chair**

The chapter hosted some excellent guest and member presenters in **Fall 2015**. In October, **Elizabeth Raby**, Santa Fe Chapter, guided us through a workshop using objects from nature as prompts. Everyone wrote and shared a poem and thoroughly enjoyed Elizabeth's presentation. In November, **Kelly Yenser and Pamela Yenser** presented a joint workshop on "Image and Recollection: Getting Your Words' Worth" which was enthusiastically received. **Susan Paquet** presented her favorite poet from Argentina, Juan Gelman. Her husband, Andy, made apricot empanadas for us to enjoy to put us in the Argentine mood along with some tango music. In December, **Zachary Kluckman** of the Southwest Speaks Chapter presented his favorite poet, Bob Hicok, introducing us to Hicok's inimitable style which some of us imitated in a paraphrased sort of way.

**Elizabeth Galligan** organized an autumn reading by several local poets at the Tony Hillerman Library, hosted by **Jeanne Shannon**. Chapter member readers included **Karen McKinnon, Ray Reeder, and Gayle Lauradunn**.

The **January 2016** meeting was well attended, featuring a writing workshop by **Scott Wiggerman** on the Golden Shovel form. Several new poems, based on lines from Rumi, were born. **Caryl McHarney** shared her love of objects, calligraphy, and handmade books as venues for poetry. Caryl provided instructed us in the art of folding our own little 4- and 8-page books.

In other news, from Feb. 10–Mar. 16, 2016, **Gayle Lauradunn** will offer a poetry workshop through Southwest Writers on Weds. evenings, 5:30-7:30 p.m. For more information and to register go to [www.southwestwriters.com](http://www.southwestwriters.com)

### Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter

by **Jim Raby, Chapter Chair**

Monthly SFPT chapter readings happen on the first Monday of each month at the Teatro Paraguas, 3205 Calle Marie, Santa Fe. Directions to the theater may be found [HERE](#). Open mic sign-ups start at 6:00 PM. Readings begin at 6:30 PM. Each reader is limited to 2 to 3 minutes, total. All are welcome to share their work or just listen. It's a great time!

Three Santa Fe poets have the following books featured on the NMSPS members' book market page:

**Donald Levering**, *Sweeping the Skylight*, *The Number of Names*, and *Algonquins Planted Salmon*

**Elizabeth Raby**, *This Woman*, *Ink on Snow*, and *The Year the Pears Bloomed Twice*

**Linda Whittenberg**, *Somewhere in Ireland*, *Tender Harvest*, and *Let Nothing Be Lost*

See page 9 for instructions on getting **your** book on the members' book market page!



## NMSPS Member & Community Recognition

### Assorted Honors & Member Notoriety

Congratulations to winners of the **Indiana State Federation** of Poetry Clubs' 2015 Contest. In the category "Ultimate Grand Prize," **Jamie Morewood Anderson**, of Cedar Crest, NM, won 1st Place! In the category "Honoring Cole Porter," **Jane Lipman** of Tesuque, NM, won 2nd Place. With entries by nine poets, NM had second highest number of entries (after Indiana) in the 2015 contest.

△

**Gayle Lauradunn's** second poetry collection "All the Wild and Holy: A Life of Eunice Williams, 1696-1785" received Honorable Mention for the May Sarton Poetry Prize from Bauhan Publishing.

△

The **New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards** recognized **Susan Paquet's** book, *Apricots and Tortillas*, as a finalist in four categories: Anthology; Multi-cultural Subject; First Book; and Biography–New Mexico subject. In the same venue, **Judy Mosher** was a finalist in the Poetry Book New Mexico (individual or collection) category for her book, *Bosque Rhythms*.

△

**Elyse Russo** received an Hon. Mention from the Southwest Writers International Bi-Monthly Writing Competition for her unpublished poem, "Aaron."

**Jamie Morewood Anderson**, a Letters member of the National League of American Pen Women since the mid-1990s, was one of 4 poets nominated by the NLAPW for the coveted and prestigious Pushcart Prize. Jamie herself said it best: "...WOW. I am honored and I am humbled."

△

### New NMSPS Amigo Award Presented to Teatro Paraguas

Teatro Paraguas was selected by the Board of New Mexico State Poetry Society to receive the **first NMSPS Amigo Award**. This award acknowledges the organization's great work to advance the cause of poetry in New Mexico and its support of Santa Fe Poetry Trails. [Teatro Paraguas](#), 3205 Calle Marie, Santa Fe, generously provides space for poetry readings and performances, and a home to poets and poetry, throughout the year. The NMSPS board voted to present the Amigo Award as a thank you to **Executive Director Argos MacCullum** and the many volunteers who have shared his passion for the arts over the last ten years. The Amigo Award consists of a monetary award and the recognition and thanks of the members and friends of the New Mexico State Poetry Society. This first award was presented by Andi Penner, NMSPS President, at the Nov. 2015 meeting of the Santa Fe Poetry Trails chapter, held at Teatro Paraguas.

If you would like to nominate an Amigo award recipient please contact the NMSPS board for information.

## Important Dates...Please note on your Calendar

### Board Meetings

**January 23, 2016**, 12:00—2:30 p.m. Belen, NM

Contact any board member for more information if you wish to attend.

**April 23, 2016**, time TBD, **Annual State Convention**, Monte Vista Christian Church, Albuquerque, NM

For more events, meetings, and happenings all around the state poetry community, please see our [online calendar](#). To have your poetry event listed, email [NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com](mailto:NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com)

**John Candelaria**  
*Project Leader*

## Children's Poetry Project

The **NMSPS Children's Poetry Project** tradition continues this school-year and has expanded to include two schools in Albuquerque: **Alvarado and Reginald Chavez Elementary Schools** in the Albuquerque Public Schools district. The project hosts a **Poet in the Classroom Day** and involves teachers and students in writing and sharing poetry.

Last year, with the help of over a dozen local poets\* who volunteered their time, the project reached every classroom at Alvarado. With a \$500 grant of support from NMSPS, the project culminated in the publication of a beautiful full-color hardback book of poetry called ***Alvarado Elementary Poems***, written and illustrated by the children and facilitated by Alison O'Leary, school librarian. (One of those poems appears below.)

For the 2015-16 year, we are expanding into a second school in the Albuquerque Public School district, Reginald Chavez Elementary School.

A **"Share Your Experience"** session is scheduled for **January 22, 2016**. This is an opportunity for past and new Poets in the Classroom to learn how others have conducted their Poet in the Classroom Day.

- The Poet in the Classroom Day at Reginald Chavez Elementary School will be presented on **February 12, 2016**.
- The Poet in the Classroom Day at Alvarado Elementary School is scheduled for **March 18, 2016**.

The children at both schools will have a chance to listen to children's poetry, write a poem, and then present that poem to their class.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, would like to volunteer your time, or have ideas for doing a children's poetry project in your area, the NMSPS would like to hear from you! Please contact John Candelaria at [NMSPSchildpoetryproject@nmpoetry.com](mailto:NMSPSchildpoetryproject@nmpoetry.com)

### Purple

I feel purple like a  
grape in the night I  
feel cold.

*~Isabella Gonzales, 1st grade*

\*NMSPS poets: **Chandra Bales, Greg Candela, John J. Candelaria, Gary Chorre, Deborah B. Eagan, Fil Peach, Elizabeth Raby, and Bonnie Rucobo.**

**Vicki Holmsten**  
*NMSPS Secretary*

## New Mexico State Poetry Society to Host its 2016 State Convention

### NM State Poetry Society Annual Convention: April 23, 2016!

The NMSPS 2016 Convention will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2016, at the **Monte Vista Christian Church, 3501 Campus Blvd, NE, in Albuquerque**. All members and visitors are welcome to attend this day of poetry readings, workshops, and news from around the State.

This year's event will be **catered** so that those coming from long distances do not have to worry about transporting potluck fare. Please mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details. Typically we begin mid-morning with the board/business meeting in which members may participate and vote on any proposed actions. The meeting also includes reports from the chapters and announcements of special awards and recognition. We share a meal together and of course we share poetry! Workshops and open mic are open to all.

We hope to see you there for a day of poetry, greeting old friends, and making new ones.

Conventions don't just happen, however. It takes a **group of volunteers** to plan together in advance.

- Do we want music? If so, who will play and sing?
- Do we want workshops? If so, who will lead them?
- Do we want to sell books? If so, who will host the sale table? **Jim & Elizabeth Raby will! :)**
- Do we want an open mic? If so, who will emcee and keep time?
- Do we want to contact each member with a personal invitation? If so, who will make phone calls?

**If you are interested in volunteering to make this convention happen, we need you!** Please contact your chapter chair or any board member. See page 9 of this newsletter for complete contact information. Thank you!

Oh, yes,  
 let's bless the imagination. It gives  
 us the myths we live by. Let's bless  
 the visionary power of the human—

from "On the Meeting of Garcia Lorca and Hart Crane" by Philip Levine



**Shirley Blackwell**  
*NFSPS Appointive*  
*Board Member*

## From the Desk of the Chair of the CUP (now, that's a lot of nouns!)



No, the “cup” headline above is not some Mad Hatter's tea party reference! The **College Undergraduate Poetry (CUP) Competition** is the new name of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies' (NFSPS) annual prize of \$500 plus publication awarded to two US college students for a chapbook of poetry. I became chair of the CUP Competition in 2014, which also means I am a member of the NFSPS Appointive Board. Wondering what that means and why it matters? Let me explain.

The New Mexico State Poetry Society is the only New Mexico state affiliate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, NFSPS, aka the Federation. Each June, the Federation holds its Annual Convention during which the NFSPS Board meets to discuss policies and vote on major decisions. The Convention moves from state to state each year; we hosted it in Albuquerque in 2013. The 2013 Convention breathed new life into the Federation, and the same excitement was apparent at the 2015 Florida convention. One idea gaining momentum is online contest submissions. Last year, we started that process with the CUP Competition and it proved quite successful among computer savvy college students. Our success with CUP paved the way for the Stevens Manuscript Contest (another annual NFSPS award) to go online as well. The Stevens chair reports that over 90 percent of this year's entries were digital, and it looks like only a matter of time before the Nationals—those 50 NFSPS contests whose winners are announced at the Convention and published in the *Encore* anthology—will follow suit.

As a member of the NFSPS Appointive Board, I get a backstage look at some of the other ideas floating around the Federation, and I am heartened by what I see. Younger members, new approaches, and some lively debate about what our Federation should be in this still-new century might surprise you, including talk about contests for performance poetry and the spoken word. At the next Convention (Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN, June 9-13), Board members will stay an extra day to work on strategic planning—a first for NFSPS. The NFSPS Board is now communicating year-round in a new online chat forum where we are looking hard at long-held practices at the “heart” of NFSPS.

Speaking of the **Annual Convention**, plan now to attend, if you can. NMSPS has become a force in the Federation, but unless we have a full delegation at its main event, we don't get an equal voice in voting (one vote per delegate, up to four per state). Who knows? You could be part of a literary revolution.



## *The All-Volunteer NMSPS Board Serves YOU!*

### Elected Board Officers and Chapter Chairs, 2015-2017

<p>Andi Penner President 505-306-0369 president@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Bernadette Perez Vice President 505-991-1376 vicepresident@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Earl Kious Treasurer 214-642-8864 treasurer@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Vicki Holmsten Secretary 505-326-6145 secretary@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Fil Peach Chancellor chancellor@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Gayle Lauradunn, Chair Albuquerque Chapter 505-235-6680 ABQchair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Zachary Kluckman, Chair Southwest Speaks—A Spoken Word Chapter slamchair@nmpoetry.com</p>	<p>505-985-9708 Irene Hamilton, Chair 4 Corners Poets (Farmington) 505.598.5593 4CornersChair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Robert Reynolds, Chair High Prairie Poets (Roswell) 575-623-8658 HPchair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Dante Berry, Chair Rio Grande Valencia Poets 505-864-4231 RGVchair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Elise Stuart, Chair River Poets (Silver City area) 575-956-5038 RPchair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p>Jim Raby, Chair Santa Fe Poetry Trails 505-955-9067 SFchair@nmpoetry.org</p> <p><b>Chair: Vacancy</b> Walking Rain Poets (<b>Taos</b>) Want to start a state chapter in your city or town? Contact a board member and we'll be happy to help you initiate the process.</p>
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### Appointed Board (Project Leaders)

John Candelaria  
Project Leader, Children's Poetry Project  
505-898-4464  
NMSPSchildpoetryproject@nmpoetry.org

#### **Non-Board Positions**

Debbi Gutierrez  
Web Presence & Digital Communications  
webmaster@nmpoetry.org

#### **NMSPS Needs Volunteers!**

To keep the NMSPS Calendar current, we need a volunteer to handle the incoming emails and post events. If you would like to be the **Calendar Master**, please send an email to

[NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com](mailto:NMSPScalendar@nmpoetry.com)

We are also looking for a **Membership Chair** and volunteers to help with the annual convention—we need a **Convention Planning Chair** and committee members.

**Contact a board member to volunteer!**

#### **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 21825

Albuquerque NM 87154

Find us online at

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

The NMSPS Board is pleased to announce  
the **winners** of the October NMSPS Membership Sweepstakes!

Congratulations to NEW MEMBER **Vijali Hamilton** of Santa Fe and RENEWING MEMBER **Bonnie Rucobo** of Albuquerque whose names were drawn for the sweepstakes prizes! Each won a \$100 Visa gift card from the NMSPS.

**Member dues are \$20.00/year (Nov. 1-Oct. 31).** Age 18 and younger, \$5.00/year. The board had voted on a \$10 student rate for any-age student, however, that will need to be ratified in a Constitutional amendment as the membership categories are determined by the NMSPS Constitution. Stay tuned for a membership vote on the issue!

**You may join at any time during the member year.** (Annual dues are not pro-rated.) Your dollars support web site hosting, special events and awards, road trips/outreach, the Children's Poetry Project, etc.—all to promote poetry in the land of enchantment, and beyond. **Thank you** to all who joined and paid their dues by Oct. 31, 2015. Your early donations helped us get a jumpstart on planning for 2016. Find out where else your money goes by reading the stories in this newsletter.

At last count, we have **35 NEW MEMBERS!** Let's try to make it 50 new members by April 23!