

# Language of Enchantment

The New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS) founded in 1969.

March 2022  
Volume 1, Issue 1



## CHANGES— THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Zachary Kluckman has a new role in the Society.**

The position of Fundraising/Contests/Publications Chair oversees all fundraising activities, secures judges for any contests NMSPS runs, and oversees any publications that NMSPS produces.

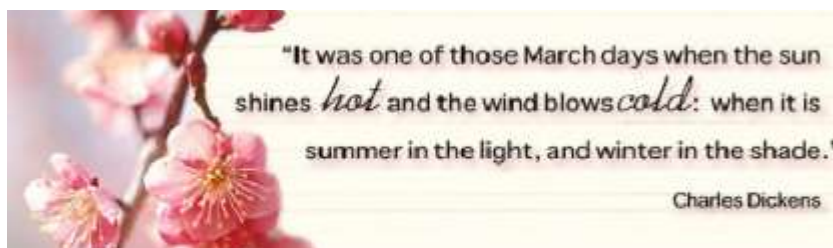
This is an area where Zach has experience and expertise and we at NMSPS are so excited to have made many important advances, particularly in these areas. It is his behind-the-scenes work for which we are thankful.

We want to thank you, Zach. Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles of all. *You distinguished yourself as a judicious official of our organization and in the face of difficult decisions.* A famous activist once said, "Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it." You proved to be both wise and virtuous.

### **Vice President Bernadette Perez accepts President position.**

I am honored to serve as the NMSPS President for 2022-23, and I hope you will join me in the work ahead, as we strive to promote poetry in New Mexico and beyond. There is much to be done as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. I am available to assist you in making the most of your NMSPS membership.

I hope that you will take advantage of the Society's many programs including its workshops, special interest sections, and the upcoming [April 16 th Convention](#). These programs provide you with opportunities for professional growth and for connections with poets inside and outside of New Mexico. NMSPS values your membership and encourages your participation. This is YOUR organization. If I can help in any way, please do not hesitate to [call or e-mail me](#).



### **Nine Essential Writing Books for Any Poet**

- Bird by Bird  
by Anne Lamott.
- The Practicing Poet  
by Diane Lockward.
- On Writing Well  
by William Zinsser.
- Zen in the Art of Writing  
by Ray Bradbury.
- Writing Poetry to Save Your Life  
by Maria Mazziotti Gillan.
- A Poetry Handbook  
by Mary Oliver.
- The Poetry Home Repair Manual  
by Ted Koose



## ANA CASTILLO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
NMSPS CONVENTION 2022

Ana Castillo is slated to be this year's **Keynote Speaker** at our **2022 Annual State Convention** in April!

Ana is a celebrated and distinguished poet, novelist, short story writer, essayist, editor, playwright, translator, and independent scholar. Read her full bio <https://www.anacastillo.net/> (and check out her books and audio/video posts!)



**NMSPS STATE CONVENTION**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022**  
**8:30AM TO 5:30PM VIA ZOOM**

### Featuring

Featured Reader – [Darryl Lorenzo Wellington](#)

Featured Reader – [Scott Wiggerman](#)

Featured Reader – [Dana Levin](#)

Featured Reader – [Lauren Camp](#)

Workshops

Open Mics

Mental Health Poetry

Spoken Word Showcase

Spotlight Poet [Traci Brimhall](#)

Keynote Address: [Ana Castillo](#)



**IMPORTANT Please note:**  
**The General Meeting is free to members, but the Convention is not.**



If you are not already an NMSPS member, consider joining now to take full advantage of our Members Only discount for Convention registration. Click on **“Sign Up”** in the top menu on our website or click **right here!**

*Early Registration ends March 16, 2022*  
(Regular registration from March 17 to April 13.)

**Early Bird Registration for Members: \$20**  
**Early Bird Registration for Non-members : \$45**



1. **NFSPS Annual Contest submission ends March 15, [NFSPS - Poetry Contests](#)** Only members in good standing can submit poems.
2. **March 15: Entry DEADLINE for the [BLACKBERRY PEACH PRIZES FOR POETRY \(BBP3\): SPOKEN AND HEARD CONTEST](#)**
3. The [Poetry Video Contest](#) is open for submissions until April 3, 2022. \$5.00 per poem for members (\$10.00 per poem for non-members) and up to three poems. [Full details on webpage.](#)

For those who have not entered their works in a contest—**give it a try.**

There is a marvelous feeling in the sharing of our poetic thoughts with others.

You are amongst friends.

**Let your light shine!**



## Meet our Board

Bernadette Perez, President  
 Carol Borsello, Secretary  
 Helen Knoll, Treasurer  
 Chapter Chairs  
 Scott Wiggerman, Chair  
*Albuquerque Chapter*  
 Kuan Tikkun, Chair  
*Rio Grande Valencia Chapter*  
 Elise Stuart, Chair  
*River Poets Chapter*  
 Basia Miller, Chair  
*The Santa Fe Poetry Trails Chapter*  
 Directors  
 Shirley Blackwell, Chancellor  
 Marissa Prada, Convention Chair  
 Jannetta Lamourt, Communications Chair  
 Membership Chair  
**Volunteer needed!**

*“I wanted to do something I loved, keep my brain active, and meet other creative people. The Society offered a place to do that and get up to speed with the poetry of this century.” Shirley Blackwell (pg 4)*

## AN EDITORIAL WORD

Welcome to the newest edition of the **NMSPS Language of Enchantment Newsletter.**

You can expect to receive a copy of this feast of poetry, news, events, information, fun, and fabulous experiences throughout the state every other month. There are opportunities for you, to share your work, both in print and video. Share your poetry in publications as they occur, and discover the art of writing poetry.

As a housekeeping note, expect to receive an “Update” Email with the information you need quickly in the months between newsletters. Remember to add our address to your favourites so you don’t miss an edition!

You are welcome to send ideas of



what you would love to see in the newsletter, pictures, or news of your achievements, publications, and other exciting items occurring in the poetic world and our own Land of Enchantment.

Jannetta Lamourt,  
 NMSPS Communications  
[communications@nmpoetry.com](mailto:communications@nmpoetry.com)



The NMSPS all-volunteer Board needs new members! If you are an adult NMSPS member and would like to help steer the organization going forward, consider volunteering for one of the open positions above. If you are not an adult member or prefer to help us in a non-Board position, consider volunteering for one or more of the duties described in the open Board positions above. [Contact President Bernadette Perez](#) to volunteer or for more information.

## Know your poetry

### Types of Poetry

**Lyric-** Poetry in which the speaker reveals personal thoughts and feelings

**Narrative-** Poetry in which the speaker tells a story

### Speaker

Like the narrator of a story, the speaker of a poem is the voice that communicates with the reader.

### Organization Form

*the organizing principle that shapes a poem.*

**Structure-** the poem's arrangement of words, lines, and images, as well as ideas.

**Stanza-** A group of lines forming a unit in a poem. The "paragraph" in poetry.

**Lines-** rows of words that may or may not form sentences

**Quatrain-** a four-lines stanza

**Sestet-** A six-line stanza

### Rhythm and Meter

**Rhythm-** the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of poetry. A poem's rhythm may be regular or irregular.

**Meter-** is the regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables that can establish the rhythm of a poem.

Parents and Educators  
ENCOURAGE  
Writing Creative  
Poetry in our  
youth!



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## WHY I BECAME A MEMBER OF NMSPS

When friends prompted me to join the NMSPS in 2006, I had the same questions and qualms I imagine others have had: Do I have to be a published poet? Do I have to be voted in? Meet any skill requirements? The answer was always No. I didn't have to be a great poet, a good poet, or a poet at all. All I had to do was to like and support poetry.

At the time, I was four years into early retirement and a bit bored and lonely. I missed the challenging writing I'd done in my career and the company of like-minded colleagues. As a journalism and English major in college (40 years before), I had studied poetry and worked on campus literary magazines and newsletters. In the years since, I'd written a poem now and then, even sold a couple, but I was woefully out of touch with modern poetry.

When I wondered, What's in it for me to be in NMSPS? I wasn't looking for anything tangible. I wanted to do something I loved, keep my brain active, and meet other creative people. The Society offered a place to do that and get up to speed with the poetry of this century.

Where else was I going to find a \$15 (that's what dues were in 2006) workshop that lasted all year? That welcomed me into an egalitarian circle of poets? Would my efforts be valued,

even if they failed? Where I'd expand my network of poetry friends not only locally but also throughout the USA as a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies? (Enrollment in the NFSPS is automatic when you join one of its state affiliates.)

In the 15 years I've been in NMSPS, I've come to realize that our Society, as our parent Federation, is a rare—and precious—bird: a group of volunteers willing to share time and talent for the good of poetry itself. Although we give members a forum to advertise their books, events, and classes, we do not focus on the commercial aspects of the poetry world. We subscribe to the mission of the NFSPS, which is the only national poetry entity I know of devoted to nurturing the amateur poet.

First of all, we are a fellowship. Everyone has an equal chance to become a better poet and support each other in the same dream. For me, the rewards have been a life incredibly enriched by poetry and the friends I've made in this community. What you get out of NMSPS depends on what you put into it.

It's that simple.



Shirley Blackwell,  
Chancellor

## ON THE FENCE ABOUT JOINING NMSPS?

Enriching experiences for both established and aspiring poets (and poetry lovers) await you! Consider joining NMSPS today. You will enjoy an entire year of poetry, fellowship, celebration, newsletters, contests, and more,, not only throughout the state of New Mexico, but also as a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Learn more about the benefits of becoming a member ([click here](#)).



For less than a week's worth of your favorite coffee drinks!  
Annual Adult Poet Membership \$20.00. \*\* Under age 22?

## NMSPS CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

### ALBUQUERQUE

The Albuquerque Chapter has focused the 2021-2022 year on poetic forms. Whether you choose to write in a form or not, understanding how poetry is shaped through form and style helps us while reading poems to recognize forms and their variations.

We have had guest NMSPS poets who often write in forms discuss the ins and outs of writing, reading, and adapting these forms. In January, Shirley Blackwell presented information on the sonnet. In February, Scott Wiggerman introduced many to the ghazal.

In March, Jules Nyquist will offer her knowledge of the sestina, and in April, newly elected Chair for the Albuquerque Chapter, Janet Ruth, will lead a discussion on the villanelle.

All presentations come with handouts which include excellent examples and the participants find that having the time to discuss and create is priceless for their growth and knowledge in writing their own poetry, stylistic or not.

**May 7** : Poets' Picnic at the Open Space Visitor Center <https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/events/poets-picnic-1>

This is an **IN PERSON** event—We are looking forward to seeing you there!

### RIO GRANDE VALENCIA POETS

We are currently meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., via Zoom. Members, give the gift of poetry to a friend! Invite them to experience the fun of talking with those who enjoy the reading and hearing of poetry.

### THE SANTA FE POETRY TRAILS

**The Santa Fe Poetry Trails chapter meets for an open mic the first Monday of each month.**

Currently, our Zoom call and readings start at 6:30. Each poet has three minutes to read. We welcome you to visit and even better JOIN US!

### RIVER POETS—SILVER CITY

River Poets have marvelous meetings reading poetry aloud and we are hoping to meet again in person soon! In the meantime, keep the spirit of poetry alive and well!

### MULTIMEDIA & SONGWRITING

This chapter was named to embrace all the ways poetry is experienced beyond spoken word and printed page.

**We are currently looking for a chapter chair.**



**ALL CHAPTERS WELCOME YOU AS MEMBERS AND VISITORS  
REQUEST FORM IS LOCATED on our website - [CLICK HERE.](#)**

**Sestina Sampler for the ABQ NMSPS Chapter March 2021 on line via zoom** Jules Nyquist, instructor [jules@poetryplayhouse.com](mailto:jules@poetryplayhouse.com) **Jules Nyquist** is the founder of Jules' Poetry Playhouse in Placitas, NM, a place for poetry, writing classes, and readings, in the spirit of play. She took her MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College, VT. Her latest book *Atomic Paradise*, winner of the 2021 NM/AZ Book Award for New Mexico History, is an exploration of growing up in the Cold War and living in the Land of Enchantment surrounded by nuclear secrets. **Jules' handbook on sestina writing, *The Sestina Playbook*, winner of the 2021 NM/AZ Book Award for Activity Book, instructs students on writing their own sestinas.** Her other award-winning books are *Zozobra Poems*, 2019 NM/AZ Book Award winner in philosophy and *Homesick*, then 2018 NM/AZ Book Award winner in poetry. She is co-editor of the Poets Speak Anthology series co-published by Poetry Playhouse Publications and Beatlick Press. More info at our new website: <https://www.poetryplayhouse.com/>



## CHAPTER IN FORMATION

### TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES



Sunday, February 6

### Black Cat Poetry Reading

1-2:15pm, Ingo's Art Cafe, 422 N. Broadway,  
Truth or Consequences

The Black Cat Poets have been meeting since 1991. Anyone can join the monthly gathering and enjoy a noncritical, appreciative atmosphere and either listen or read poetry or prose to the group (5 minutes-worth, or about 3 poems). Coffee and pastries are available for purchase. Repeats every 1st Sunday of the month.



### Poetry Challenge for March

**TRY THIS ON YOUR OWN AND  
SHARE WITH YOUR CHAPTER!**

Include as many of the following words (or variations on these words) as you like:  
**translate, securities,  
lamp, shimmer, cornelian,  
impassioned, foams,  
congealing, furniture,  
intuitively, red, tante.**

One of the best ways to get to know another person is to read what they write—poetry especially, because it often comes from the deepest thoughts, emotions, and greatest of experiences—in the light or dark of our lives.

**Each edition of this newsletter will feature a poet.**

For consideration, please send one or two poems and a \*short bio or commentary about your learning process as a poet. [communications@nmpoetry.com](mailto:communications@nmpoetry.com)

*\*Anonymous is acceptable too*

As I worked on a Master's Degree in English, one semester focused on writing poetry, and for ten weeks, we were required to write two poems in instructor-designated topics and forms. Further instructions were no haikus and to write at least ten lines or more and use our imagination and not name love as love or anger as anger, but to find ways to express emotions without "normal" conventions. I found this daunting at first, I usually rely upon the muse to hit me with a first-line and then dash off a poem—voila! Any change from the self-made format had me quaking in my boots!

However, once I began to relax and write without ego getting in the way. found a broadening of my horizons, writing poetry could do more than express the highs and lows of emotions, not that those are wrong to express. But there is a delicacy in the poetic forms—purposeful choices of words, placement, stops, starts, italics, vocabulary which delights when it is sought with an inquisitive and playful manner.

I could write with prompts AND enjoy it. Other forms of poetry give a great challenge, and nothing lost, but so much knowledge gained in the trying.

Jannetta Lamourt

The POET

My Love of an Irishman

**You've been picking blackberries** in the dusty hedge rows— fingers stained with their juices flavored by your rains.

I enjoy the delight in the last few warm days of your summer — expressed best in your reddened nose and forehead.

You say the mornings are cooling—so your having one more swim before the water is too cold.

I see your toes gripping the cool damp sand —the ocean curving your **beach into the mountain'd skyline.**

You need to paint the cottage against your winter storms-protecting a family of memories—a magical place.

I envy the wind—kissing along the nape of your neck.

JVL

## ABOUT NMSPS

The New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS) was founded in 1969. We are a non-profit poetry organization affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS). Our mission is to promote the creation and appreciation of poetry throughout New Mexico.

We are a diverse and inclusive community of poetry aficionados whose collective purpose is literary and educational, with a good dose of fun thrown in.

Come create and share your poetry with us. We thrive on mutual support and mentoring.

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

NEW MEXICO STATE  
POETRY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 21825,  
Albuquerque, NM 87154  
[Contact Us!](#)



SUPPORT NMSPS

[Donate](#)

# National Poetry Month April

**NMSPS EVENT CALENDAR [CLICK HERE](#)  
FOR A COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF  
NEW MEXICO POETRY EVENTS!**

**MARCH 15: BLACKBERRY PEACH PRIZES FOR POETRY (BBP3): SPOKEN AND HEARD CONTEST ENTRIES DEADLINE.**

**MAY 7: Poets' Picnic at the Open Space Visitor Center (ABQ CHAPTER)**



## AROUND THE STATE POETRY & LITERARY EVENTS

**May 20 - 23 Santa Fe Literary Festival**

**June 18 -19 Women of Our Words (WOOW) Writing Workshops**

## WHAT IS POETRY?

Poetry has certain characteristics that make it special. These include...

- *Poetry uses vivid images and descriptive language to 'paint' a picture in the reader's mind.*
- *Poetry cuts out all the excess words that you might find in prose, creating its magic with a limited amount of text.*
- *Poetry is normally designed to be read out loud - when you read it, do try to hear it as well.*
- *Poetry often makes the reader emphasize certain important words, and it usually has a strong rhythm.*
- *Poetry may rhyme, but it does not have to.*