



A grain of poetry serves to season a century – José Luis Martí

Language of Enchantment

**News from the New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS)
September/October 2022**

Welcome to the newsletter of the New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS). To keep information flowing at a manageable rate, we have reinvented our newsletter to an email format. Look for it in your inbox every other month.



A Word from the President

Bernadette Perez, NMSPS President

This October is the perfect time to take control of your life on the inside as well as the outside. We accomplish extraordinary things by taking control of our lives from the inside out and learning to live deeply, joyfully, and successfully. That practice allows us to reflect on life's purpose and goals, and to follow through with all the little things that can make them happen.

These little things can be anything: spending more time reading with your kids, taking evening walks with your spouse, writing in a journal a few times each week, calling a friend. Think about the different areas of your life and your health. Are there certain aspects you would like to improve?

As we reflect on all that's changed within our Society since COVID, we deserve to be immensely proud of where we are today. Poets are ready more than ever to give their Voice to a world that cries for truth and healing words.

Promoting poetry in New Mexico and beyond continues to be the underlying goal of NMSPS, but connection is its lifeblood. Connection provides a bounty of opportunities. I believe that the strength of our board and the dedication of our members will help us achieve the vision of what we are capable of becoming as an organization. My goal as board president is to keep us loyal to that vision.

We will keep working to expand support for the Voices of Poets, ensure the value of member benefits, and enhance the satisfaction of our membership. Thank you for your part in our vision for New Mexico State Poetry Society and I can't wait to see what we will achieve together.

Sincerely,
Bernadette Perez



We LOVE Our Volunteers!

We will elect a new Board in April 2023, and that means we need to line up volunteers soon. Two positions - Vice President and Membership Chair – are vacant now. We need someone to fill them immediately and continue into the next Board term. We also need someone to start shadowing our Treasurer, Helen Knoll, learn our financial system and be ready to serve as our next Treasurer. We are always happy to have “deputies” to handle parts of the directors’ portfolios, and right now, that includes people who can run contests, organize conventions or festivals, help with the newsletter or publicity, or work with youth and children’s programs.

There are so many opportunities to help steer the NMSPS toward a vibrant and active future! And there is nothing like working together to create those friendships and memories you come to cherish. Our youth members are especially invited to participate. Although they cannot hold Board positions, we can name them to “intern” positions that look good on college or work resumes and help them build skills in leadership, organization, and public speaking that will serve them well in life and later careers.

We are an all-volunteer Society and all-volunteer Board. If you can lend us your skills and talents, we will welcome you with open hearts. For more information, to sign up for a job, or just to give us your insights, contact Bernadette Perez at president@nmpoetry.com or the appropriate Board member (see below for email addresses).



Ellen Bass to Judge to 2022 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies is proud to announce that the judge for the 2022 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition is Ellen Bass. A Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Ellen Bass is the author of four collections of poetry, most recently, *Indigo* (Copper Canyon Press, 2020). Her earlier collections are *Like a Beggar* (2014) and *The Human Line* (2007), both from Copper Canyon, and *Mules of Love* (BOA Editions, 2002). Her poetry has been widely praised for its intimate tone, expansive concerns, and impeccable craft. Individual poems appear frequently in *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, and many other journals. She served as co-editor of the groundbreaking *No More Masks! An Anthology of Poems by Women* (Knopf, 1973) and co-authored *The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse* (Harper Collins, 1988,2008) and *Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth*. Among her awards are fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, The NEA, and The California Arts Council, as well as a Lambda Literary Award and four Pushcart Prizes. A gifted teacher, she is on the faculty of the low-residency MFA program in writing at Pacific University. For more information about her and her work, visit www.ellenbass.com.

The Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition is open to all poets writing in English, except previous Stevens Competition winners. Friends, colleagues, and students of Ellen Bass are asked to postpone entering until a future year. The 2022 submission window is August 1-November 15. The winner will receive \$1,000, publication of the winning manuscript, and 50 copies of the published book. You'll find complete guidelines [here](#).



Remembering Dorothy Alexander, Santa Fe Poet

From Bernadette Perez, NMSPS Board President

NMSPS joins with the poetry communities of Oklahoma and New Mexico in marking the passing of a guiding light and powerful voice for the arts and for social justice: Dorothy Alexander.

A legend among her peers, Dorothy was a lawyer-turned-poet, whose support for and leadership among her colleagues was formidable. A native Oklahoman, her spirit took root in the agrarian literary tradition and the populist political movements that began in the 1890s in the rural western and southwestern United States.

Alexander practiced law for more than 40 years in rural Oklahoma and Texas, and served as a magistrate for small municipalities for decades. She and her life partner, Devey Napier, founded Village Books Press, a small poetry press that garnered 17 finalist nominations and five grand prize awards in the Oklahoma Book Awards.

A tireless organizer and activist, Dorothy played a prominent role in the poetry community. Over the years, I had the opportunities to visit and work with Dorothy in Santa Fe. I heard her read at Fixed and Free, and she helped volunteer with the National Convention held in Santa Fe. She will always be remembered in our hearts, and as a voice for poetry.



Meet JC Wayne, Youth Chair

Hello, NMSPS Members! It's my great honor to have joined NMSPS as your Youth Chair. I am a working poet; visual artist; "cartographer of the unseen" through words, art and illumination; youth creativity mentor; Certified Creative Aging Teaching Artist; Book Doula and handmade children's book author, illustrator and creator. I have studios in Vermont, Chicago, and New Mexico, and circulate among these locations throughout the year. The missions of the initiatives I've created, The Poetry Project and Golden Threads of Good Books, are "building loving worlds through loving words and art" and "lighting a path of good in the world," respectively, and I bring this spirit and reality that words and visuals matter into my role as your Youth Chair.

I have a special love for hosting poetry and art events and collaboratives, providing inclusive opportunities for lives of all ages to play with poetry and adventure in art together across generations - especially through outdoor experiences and organic play – and helping instill a love of words as early in life as possible since I was bitten by the reading bug and discovered natural talents for poetry and art-making as young as two years old. In my teaching/mentoring experience, grades 1-3 are a special sweet spot for this kind of creative impact. As your Youth advocate, I have dedicated my first few months on board to developing a New Mexico-oriented modular learning enrichment program, "Playing with Poetry, Voicing Our HeArts," which I have successfully offered throughout Vermont; in New Haven, Connecticut; the Chicago area; Sheboygan, Wisconsin; and Delaware at after-school programs, summer camps, libraries, arts centers, museums, parks/other outdoor spaces, and charter schools in in-person, hybrid and fully online formats. Shirley Blackwell, NMSPS Chancellor, and Kuan Tikun, RGV Chapter President, have been my collaborators and guides in developing the New Mexico-specific program as a way to reengage Poetry in the Classroom and help empower elementary school teachers to facilitate poetry lessons and experiences themselves.

I would love to hear from you as members with your ideas and experiences for youth initiatives, as well your interest if you would like to help out. This is definitely a job I don't see doing alone! I can be reached at poartryproject@gmail.com or via texting/phone at [832-928-8837](tel:832-928-8837). If you would like to know more about me and my work, please check out poartry.org and my bio at the NMSPS Meet Our Board page [here](#) (I'm almost all the way at the bottom).

JC



Slam 4 All Wrap-up

From Zachary Kluckman, Publications/Contest/Fundraising Director

Slam 4 All ! We chose this name because of the implied double meaning – that the poets who signed up for the event would be competing for all of the available opportunities that winning would provide, and in the effort at doing so, they would give it their all. And the poets did not disappoint!

Fourteen of New Mexico's veteran poets brought a wide swath of poetic experiences together on August 15th for this first ever Slam 4 All qualifier, and every single poet understood the assignment. The evening was an artistic firestorm of verse, performance and experience as the poets performed for a packed house!

NMSPS hosts and in-person and Zoom audience members were so honored to have played witness to each and every one of the poets. In the end, after three rounds of competition, our judges picked two winners. After an evening full of tied scores and neck and neck competition, Marcial Delgado (above left) became our winning adult poet, narrowly defeating poets, Kristin Patton and Rene Mullen, (who had a tied score of 29.9) by pulling down a perfect 30 in the last round!

Youth poet, Chance Kluckman (above right), who competed in three rounds of competition against the 13 adult poets, achieved a victory of third place overall alongside Ken Bagnall. Our judges had their work cut out for them, and I will say on a personal note, in almost two decades of poetry, I have never seen a slam with such tight scoring. It was a rare, one-of-a-kind night of poetry, and we are beyond thrilled to help send Marcial and Chance on to represent New Mexico at the inaugural Blackberry Peach National Slam Poetry Competition in Florida, where we know they will do us proud!



What's in a Convention?

From Shirley Blackwell, NMSPS Board Chancellor

In my last article for this newsletter, I spoke of four benefits of being in a poetry society

affiliated with the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS): contests, conventions, collaboration, and camaraderie. There couldn't be a better time than now to discuss conventions, and the way they are tied to the other three topics, because I am right between two NFSPS conventions. One was the NFSPS Annual Convention held in Columbus, Ohio, last June; the other is the first annual BlackBerryPeach National Poetry Slam in Daytona Beach, Florida, October 20-23.

The Columbus convention was magical, not just because it was the first in-person—well, hybrid—NFSPS assembly since the 2019 one in Santa Fe. NMSPS had three members who went to Ohio (Bernadette Perez, JC Wayne, and I) and two (Janet Ruth and Jannetta LaMourt) who joined us via Zoom. Since all were official delegates, NMSPS had its full allotment of voices and the opportunity to impact the future of the Federation, which we did. Bernadette and JC are now members of the NFSPS Board: Bernadette as Social Media Chair and JC as Youth Chair.

Yes, having sway on the national scene is a benefit. Yes, folks get to learn from workshops and distinguished speakers. Yes, attendees get to have the excitement of winning contests and collecting their awards in person. Yes, members get to sell their books and network with other poets. The real reason people attend is to be with friends.

I have gone to every NFSPS convention but one since my first experience in 2008. Every time, I have made at least one new friend, and the bonds between us have persisted. The friendships I have formed with other poets are radically different than those I have with people in my neighborhood, church, gym, or even family. Friendship between poets is more than a meeting of minds; it's a meeting of hearts.

The spirit that permeated the Ohio convention was extraordinary. It was supportive, inclusive, nonjudgmental, hopeful, and loving. At the courtyard read-arounds (I can't bring myself to call these intimate, trusting exchanges of the heart open mics), people listened mindfully to the readers and lingered until everyone who wanted to had read. Camaraderie and cooperation abounded in group workshops and panel discussions, and everyone seemed ready to lend a hand.

Despite the late-night and then break-of-dawn open mics and the jam-packed schedule of entertainment and education events, I felt refreshed by the convention and ready to tackle some of the exciting initiatives that came out of the event. Let's hope I get a repeat at the Daytona gathering.

The BBP Poetry Slam next month in Florida runs concurrently with the Florida State Poets' Association's FSPA Fall Forum and will be held in the same hotel. FSPA and BBP have coordinated their schedules so that attendees can partake of both Stage and Page activities.

The Slam is an outgrowth of the NFSPS BBP Prize for Poetry: Spoken and Heard,

which had its genesis at our very own 2013 NFSPS Convention in Albuquerque, and NMSPS members have taken leading roles in it since then. NMSPS is sending three contestants. They are youth poet Chance Kluckman (age 16); Marcel Delgado, adult winner of the NMSPS Slam 4 All; and Zach Kluckman, 2017 BBP Poetry Prize HM (all poets who have been published in BBP Prize chapbooks are invitees).

The Slam is being supported (and filmed) by Bethune-Cookman University, a historically Black school. Slam Finals will be held in the 2,500-seat, state-of-the-art Mary McCleod Bethune Performing Arts Center, and B-CU students will have free admittance. What a great way to launch this endeavor! I can hardly wait to see the Slam itself and to later revisit it via a recording made by B-CU film students and available to the NFSPS.

Contests and Other News



NFSPS 2023 Annual Competition/Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest Rules

Ten prizes will be awarded in each division: First Place - \$75; Second Place - \$50; Third Place - \$40; Fourth Place - \$35; Fifth Place - \$30; and five Honorable Mentions - \$10 each.

All winning poems will be published in the Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology. Winners will receive complimentary copies. The schools of each winning student will receive a complimentary copy for the school library.

There is no entry fee.

There are two divisions: Grade 6-8 (Junior Division) and Grades 9-12 (Senior Division). Competition is open to all qualified students. Poems may have been previously published and/or have won previous awards.

The competition is open to all USA students in grades 6-12. Public, private, and homeschools are eligible for entry by individual submission. **Individual poets may only submit one poem.**

All entries must be entered through **Submittable**, and the proper application form must be completed, indicating poet's contact information, school attended, and grade student is currently in. All students can open a Submittable account for no cost and there is no entry fee for the contest. For more information, go to Contest at <http://www.nfsps.com/>.

NFSPS 2022 Annual Contest/New Mexico Winners

NFSPS Board Award Contest #4

Entries (98) Judge: Amy Irish

1st Place: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM, with "Trick of Light"

Maine Poets Society Award Contest #48

Entries (108) Judge: Paul Ford

3rd Honorable Mention: Janet Ruth, Corrales, NM

Poetry in the Classroom Award: Contest #53

Grades 3-5 Entries (14) Judge: Julia L. George

1st Place: Tonya Wyatt, Albuquerque, NM, with "St. George"

*"Now, more than ever,
the world needs to hear
and elevate the voices
and concerns of our
youth. What an
opportunity in the
national platform of the
Manningham Trust
Poetry Award for student
poets to share the words
and wisdom of their
experiences through the
power of written poetry
to build bridges of
understanding!"*

JC WAYNE,
Youth Chair,
National Federation of
State Poetry Societies

September 21, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNOUNCING
THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
STATE POETRY SOCIETIES
MANNINGHAM TRUST POETRY AWARD

Calling grade 6-12 student poets to share their poetic
written voices

The National Federation of State Poetry Societies and its member state poetry societies are pleased to announce and share the call to student poets, grades 6-12, to submit their written poetry to the Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest. With 10 prizes, five places, cash awards and publication in the *Manningham Trust Poetry Student Award Anthology*, this award provides student youth poets with an unparalleled national platform to make their voices heard through written poetry.

The competition is open to all USA students, grades 6-12, in two divisions: Junior Division (grades 6-8) and Senior Division (grades 9-12). **Entry is free.** Submitted poems may have been published previously and/or have won previous awards. The top winning poems will be read at the Annual National Federation of State Poetry Societies Convention to be held in June 2023.

TO SUBMIT POETRY (online only):
nfps.com/manningham.html

SUBMISSION WINDOW & DUE DATE:
September 15 - November 15, 2022

QUESTIONS: pollyopsahl@gmail.com

ABOUT NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES

NFSPS is a non-profit organization, exclusively educational and literary. Its purpose is to recognize the importance of poetry with respect to national cultural heritage. It is dedicated solely to the furtherance of poetry on the national level and serves to unite poets in the bonds of fellowship and understanding.

FSPA FALL FORUM 2022

Florida State Poets Association
Associate of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

With



National Federation
of State Poetry Societies



MCLATCHY



HOLMAN



MABREY

FEATURING:

BLACKBERRY PEACH NATIONAL SLAM POETRY COMPETITION

FSPA Contests' Results, Chancellor Induction
Presentations, Workshops
and more!



CAMPBELL



PERSON



CRUM



WELCOME



CRAIG



TERRY

October 21-23
Residence Inn Daytona Beach Shores

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Poetry meetings and events for July 9-August 9 are listed below. For complete details on these and future events, click the **NM Poetry Calendar** button below, or go to [this link](#).

NM Poetry Calendar

Rio Grande Valencia Poets Chapter Meeting. Monthly meeting of the Rio Grande Valencia Poets chapter of NMSPS. For details on this month's program, go to website calendar. November 2, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Online via Zoom.

NMSPS Albuquerque Chapter Meeting. On November 10, 2022, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., at North Domingo Baca Intergenerational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM.

Do you have a poetry-related item to post? Post it for free on our the [NMSPS Calendar](#).

The NMSPS Board of Directors

Contact Our Board

To contact any of the leaders listed below, go to our website, www.nmpoetry.com, and click on the "Contact Us" tab. Click on the person's name, and a simple form will pop up on which you can comment, and your message will be sent directly to that person in a way that notifies them it concerns NMSPS. Or, you can send it to the email addresses listed below. Although personnel may change, the assigned emails will persist for future holders of the respective offices. The chapter affiliations of current individual board members are in parentheses.

Executive Board

President: Bernadette Perez (RGV) president@nmpoetry.com

Vice President: *position vacant*

Secretary: Stan Crawford (ABQ) secretary@nmpoetry.com

Treasurer: Helen Knoll (ABQ) treasurer@nmpoetry.com

Chapter Chairs

Albuquerque: Janet Ruth (ABQ) abq_chair@nmpoetry.com

Rio Grande Valencia: Kuan Tikkun (RGV) rgv_chair@nmpoetry.com

River Poets (Silver City): Carole Cvujko (RP) rp_chair@nmpoetry.com

Santa Fe Poetry Trails: Edward Pittman (SFPT) sfpt_chair@nmpoetry.com

Appointive Board (Directors)

Chancellor: Shirley Blackwell (RGV) chancellor@nmpoetry.com

Communications: Jannetta Lamourt (ABQ) communications@nmpoetry.com

Convention: Marissa Prada (ABQ) convention@nmpoetry.com

Fundraising/Contest/Publications: Zach Kluckman (ABQ) publications@nmpoetry.com

Membership: *position vacant* membership@nmpoetry.com

Youth: JC Wayne (RGV) youth@nmpoetry.com

Have a question, comment, or suggestion? We want to hear from you!

Contact us!

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