



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

An educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

Strophes

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Julie Cummings
33rd NFSPS
President

Hello Poetry Family!

The plans are finalized for the 60th Annual NFSPS Convention in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico, and I am getting very anxious. The convention contests, "The Poem Different" and "Invocation," will open on May 1st so get your words on paper soon and join me in the poetry challenge I mention below! As far as the convention goes, I have my room reserved, my registration will be sent this month, and I am excited to see you all again!

As I write this, February is nearing its bitter end and a lot of the country is experiencing record snowfall and below normal temperatures. But rest assured! There should be no snow in Santa Fe in June! Although Santa Fe is nestled in what is referred to as the high desert at an elevation of 7,000 feet, the month of June has an average temperature of 83 degrees as a high and 50 degrees as a low. Be sure to bring a jacket for the cool evenings. It seldom rains in Santa Fe in June, with an average of 3 rainy days during the month.

Unfortunately, I have only been to Santa Fe a few times, even though it is geographically very close to Colorado. I do remember, however, the many amazing art museums, such as the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, the brilliantly painted homes and buildings, the fine restaurants bursting with amazing flavors to delight your palate, and all the history that is Santa Fe, making it what it is. I know Santa Fe was settled long before Plymouth Rock, and is home to so much history including historical buildings such as the San Miguel Chapel, the oldest church in the USA, built between 1610 and finished in or around 1626. As time permits, I hope to more deeply explore the magical mysteries of Santa Fe. But mostly, I hope to spend the majority of my time with you, my poetry family.

I am looking forward to continuing my service as the President during the 60th Annual Convention. I am exceptionally honored and simply humbled to be in a similar situation as Nancy Baass, who was the President during the 50th Annual Convention in Duluth, Minnesota. I've mentioned before that it was at that convention, my very first, that I met Nancy and she offered me a seat at her table. What a seat it has become! I am eternally grateful to her and all the magnificent people who have honorably served as President before me. The NFSPS foundation has been laid, and it is very strong. I talked about the reasons I attend convention in the last *Strophes*, and I am personally extending an invitation to each of you. When you make your travel plans, ask a friend to come join you and introduce them to the world of poetry and our NFSPS family.

I was just in Crestone, Colorado, at a Poetry Festival with many of my friends (my CO/NM poetry family.) We talked about how much we anticipate the festivals we host in Colorado because we will all be together and how grateful we are to share our love of poetry over a long weekend. I attended several workshops and stayed up way too late every night and got up way too early each day to ensure I didn't miss anything. Just like I will do in Santa Fe, just as we did in Colorado in 2018. During one of the workshops, the workshop presenter, who is a young enthusiastic poet who absolutely adores Walt Whitman, asked a group of us to commit to something poetry related in the upcoming months. I talked about how busy I am and about my writing practice, how I write every day, but it isn't always a poem. On the drive home from Crestone, I had a few hours of drive time to reflect on the weekend and what I wanted and needed to do. I decided I can't be too busy anymore. No one ever wishes they had worked harder at their job. I want to work harder at what I love. [continued on page 8]

NFSPS 2019 CONVENTION

DIAMONDS CROWN THE POET IN THE CITY DIFFERENT

I'd like to personally welcome each of you to the Annual Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). The Convention will be held in Santa Fe during June 23-26, 2019, Sunday through Wednesday. This year, New Mexico State Poetry Society (NMSPS) is the host society. We are excited to provide "a convention different" in the City Different. This convention will mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Federation and the Golden Anniversary of NMSPS. Attending means you also will experience Santa Fe, a beautiful city renowned for its international flavor and inspiring diversity. Located in the heart of New Mexico and one of the world's top convention cities, Santa Fe has something for everyone. You'll find a friendly population, world-famous art, famous New Mexico cuisine, and an atmosphere of celebration. NFSPS will be an exceptional conference for sharing the latest poetic insights as well as experiencing the unique culture of Santa Fe. We thank you for your participation and look forward to seeing you in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sincerely, Bernadette Perez, NMSPS President

NFSPS 2019 CONVENTION SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, June 23

- 9:45am – 4:15 pm Tour: El Rancho De Las Golondrinas, *or*
- 12:45 – 4:15 pm Tour: El Rancho De Las Golondrinas
- 3:30 – 5:30 pm Convention Registration (Hotel Santa Fe);
Bookstore open for intake (Hotel SF, Kiva C)
- 4:00 – 5:30 pm First NFSPS Board meeting (Sage Inn,
Sunrise Room)
- 6:00 – 8:00 pm Group Dinner (La Casa Sena restaurant)
- 8:00 – 9:30 pm *Gathering of Bards*, NM Cowboy singer &
poet Mike Moutoux (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B);
Convention Registration (Hotel SF);
Silent Auction intake (Hotel SF, Canyon Rm);
Bookstore open for intake (Hotel SF, Kiva C)
- 9:30 pm Open Mics

MONDAY, June 24

- 7:00 – 8:30 am Open Mic
- 8:00 – 11:30 am Convention Registration (Hotel SF)
- 9:00 – 9:20 am Opening ceremony/Welcome to New Mexico
(Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 9:30 – 10:15 am Morning Workshops:
Mental Maps, John Roche (Hotel SF, Kiva A);
Breaking the Narrative Mold, David Meischen
(Hotel SF, Kiva B);
Ekphrastic Poetry Walking Retreat in Santa Fe,
Jules Nyquist; meets in front of Bookstore (Hotel
SF, Kiva C)
- 10:30 – 11:15 am Plenary (Sage Inn, Sunrise Room)
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm Southwestern Buffet Lunch (Hotel SF, Kiva
A&B), Manningham Awards

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE POETRY SOCIETIES, INC.

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STROPHES

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* Submission Deadlines

Strophes is available without cost to all paid-up members of NFSPS member state societies when mailed/shipped in bulk to the president or other designated person, who is responsible for ordering the number needed by the submission deadline for each issue. Individual subscriptions are \$4.00 a year to cover handling costs. Special orders are mailed separately. To order a single issue: specify the issue ordered, include a #10 SASE and \$1.00 per copy.

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NFSPS 2019 CONVENTION SCHEDULE (continued)

MONDAY, June 24

- 1:30 – 2:45 pm Afternoon Workshops:
Finding the Voice that is Great Within, Debbi Brody (Hotel SF, Kiva A);
Chews and Sucks: The Language of Our Ancestors, Sylvia Ramos (Hotel SF, Kiva B)
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm Contest Awards (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B);
Critiques with Steven Concert (Hotel SF, Library)
- 6:00 – 7:30 pm Dinner (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 8:00 – 9:30 pm *Cypher Santa Fe* (meet at Hotel SF)
- 9:30 pm Open Mics

TUESDAY, June 25

- 7:00 – 8:30 am Open Mic;
State Presidents' meeting (Hotel SF, Kiva A)
- 9:00 – 10:15 am Morning Workshops:
Hopeful Heroes, Stewart Warren (Hotel SF, Kiva A);
Listing: Side to Side, Top to Bottom: Tips and Techniques for Writing Every Day, Nathan Brown (Hotel SF, Kiva B)
- 10:30 – 11:30 am Contest Awards (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B);
Critiques with Steven Concert (Hotel SF, Library)
- 12:00 – 1:00 pm Cold Cut Buffet Lunch (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 1:30 – 5:30 pm State Capitol (aka Roundhouse) Rotunda:
BlackBerryPeach Prizes and performances;
Open Mic at the Rotunda
- 6:00 – 7:15 pm Dinner (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B), Stevens Award
- 7:30 – 9:30 pm Contest Awards (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B);
Critiques with Steven Concert (Hotel SF, Library)
- 9:30 pm Open Mics

WEDNESDAY, June 26

- 7:00 – 8:00 am Open Mic (Sage Inn)
- 8:30 – 9:45 am Morning Workshops:
Poetry as Prayer, Barbara Rockman (Hotel SF, Kiva A);
Digging Up Roots - Cultura, Metaphor & Healing, Manuel Gonzalez (Hotel SF, Kiva B)
- 10:00am – 12:00 pm Contest Awards (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B);
Critiques with Steven Concert (Hotel SF, Library)
- 12:30 – 1:45 pm Cowboy BBQ Buffet Lunch (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)

- 1:30 pm Deadline for book pickup from the Bookstore (Hotel SF, Kiva C)
- 1:45 – 2:45 pm Second NFSPS Board meeting (Hotel SF, Library)
- 3:00 – 4:30 pm Reception and Book Signings: visit with featured speakers and enjoy readings by Keynote Valerie Martinez (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B)
- 4:00 pm Close of Silent Auction (Kiva A&B)
- 4:00 – 4:45 pm Silent Auction winners pick up items & pay
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm Gala Banquet (Hotel SF, Kiva A&B&C): Keynote by Valerie Martinez, *Poetry Now: Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Going*; Final Contest Awards and Convention closing
- 9:30 pm Open Mics

THURSDAY, June 27

- 9:45 am Tour: Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens and Madrid excursion, return by late afternoon

NFSPS 2019 CONVENTION CONTESTS: The Poem Different and Invocations

NMSPS invites you to enter "The Poem Different" contest. This year's theme was previously published in *Strophes* under the erroneous title (our bad) "Diamonds Surround the Poet in the City Different," but the actual theme for our Convention is "Diamonds Crown. . . ." So, we will accept poems that play on any of the capitalized words mentioned above (ie, *Surround* and *Crown*). Limit 40 lines, any form except prose poem. Fee is \$10 for up to three poems per entry. No limit on number of entries, but each group of 1-3 poems must be accompanied by a \$10 fee.

1st Prize – One free night at Sage Inn or \$100 cash

2nd Prize – Free Convention registration or \$75 cash

3rd Prize – Free banquet meal or \$50 cash

Invocation Poems: Nondenominational poem of thanks, appreciation, or inspiration. There will be six \$25 awards given, and winners will read their poems prior to lunch or dinner. Limit 10 lines, any form. Fee is \$5 for up to three poems per entry. No limit on number of entries, but, as above, each must be accompanied by the \$5 fee.

Winners must be present at the Convention and may not win more than one prize in either contest.

Submission period for both Poem Different and Invocation contests is May 1-25 at the online submissions manager Submittable.com. Paper copies will not be accepted. Go to the Convention tab on the

NFSPS website and it will guide you to the online submission page.

If you do not yet have a Submittable account, it is free, easy to set up, and yours forever. Remember, if you entered any of this year's 50 NFSPS Annual Contests online, you may already have an account. You can both submit your poems and pay the entry fee electronically using a credit card or PayPal. If you need help with how to do online submission, email contest chair and IT guru David Meischen at contesthelp@nmpoetry.com.

CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Meet the Keynote: Valerie Martínez is a poet, educator, arts administrator, and collaborative artist. Her books of poetry include *Absence*, *Luminescent* (1999), *World to World* (2004), *And They Called It Horizon* (2010), the limited-edition chapbooks *This is How it Began* (2010) and *A Hundred Little Mouths* (2015), as well as the book-length poem, *Each and Her* (2010), which won the Arizona Book Award and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, the PEN Open Book Award, the William Carlos William Award, and the Ron Ridenhour Prize. Her work has been published widely in journals, magazines, anthologies, and media outlets including *The Best American Poetry*, the *Washington Post*, and the Poetry Foundation's "Poetry Everywhere" series.



Martínez also translated the work of the Uruguayan poet Delmira Agustini (1886–1914) which was published as the collection, *A Flock of Scarlet Doves* (2005). She was the Poet Laureate of Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 2008 to 2010. Martínez has more than 20 years of experience as a college/university professor and has spent over 10 years in the non-profit sector, working with children, young adults, adults, teachers, and seniors in a wide range of arts and community development projects. She is currently the Director of History and Literary Arts at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque.

Martínez will be flying in from Chicago just in time to join us at the reception and book signings prior to the gala banquet on Wednesday evening. She hopes to do some readings at the reception, in addition to giving her Keynote address at the banquet, which will give us insights into how poetry can/does address complex issues of our time, such as tumultuous cultural and climate change, news and fake news, and a wide range of global crises.

Debbi Brody conducts poetry workshops and readings at festivals and other venues throughout the Southwest to writers age 5 through 95. She publishes frequently in regional and national literary journals. Her work has appeared in the *Santa Fe Literary Review*, *Broomweed Journal*, *Poetica*, *Sin Fronteras* and other magazines and books of note, including numerous anthologies. Her first full length collection, *Portraits in Poetry* (Village Books Press, OK, 2006), as well as her chapbook, *FreeForm*, are out of print. Her 2013 chapbook, *Awe in the Muddle*, and collection, *In Everything Birds* (Village Books Press, OK, 2006), are available through artqueen58@aol.com and the usual online book purchasing sites. As well as being active in the poetry community, editing, writing, and reviewing, coordinating readings, and judging art shows and recitations, Debbi works for a small scientific research and development company. She has lived in Santa Fe with her husband since 1992.



Nathan Brown is an author, songwriter, and award-winning poet living in Wimberley, Texas. He holds a Ph.D. in English and Journalism from the University of Oklahoma



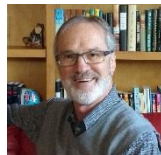
where he taught for seventeen years. He served as Poet Laureate for the State of Oklahoma in 2013-14, and now travels fulltime: performing readings and concerts; teaching workshops; and speaking on creativity, poetry, songwriting, and creative writing. Nathan has published roughly 19 books. Most recent are *An Honest Day's Confession*; *Apocalypse Soon: The Mostly Unedited Poems of Ezra E. Lipschitz*; and *Don't Try*, a collection of co-written poems with Austin Music Hall of Fame songwriter, Jon Dee Graham. *Karma Crisis: New and Selected Poems* was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Oklahoma Book Award. His earlier book, *Two Tables Over*, won the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. He's taught memoir, songwriting, performance, and creativity workshops from Tuscany to the Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon, the Taos Poetry Festival, the Woody Guthrie Festival, Laity Lodge, the Everwood Farmstead Foundation in Wisconsin, as well as for Blue Rock Artist Ranch near Austin, Texas. Naomi Shihab Nye said about Nathan's book, *My Salvaged Heart*, "Brave new world! The sizzle of couplings and uncouplings – attraction and romance, ineffable magnetism, mysterious as ever – but doused with a savory dose of Nathan Brown humor, a tilted long-ranging

eye that sees the next bend in the road even when he's standing right here, firmly planted."

City of Albuquerque Poet Laureate Emeritus (2016-18) **Manuel González** began his career in poetry slam and has represented Albuquerque four times as a member of the Albuquerque Poetry Slam team. After working in Albuquerque's poetry community for six years, Manuel began to use slam poetry to help local youth find positive and constructive ways to deal with life's pressures. He began teaching workshops on self-expression through poetry in high schools and youth detention centers, and he also facilitated art therapy programs to help at-risk and incarcerated youth. In 2014, Manuel started Low Writing at El Chante, a free, bimonthly writers' group open to all members of the community. In 2016, he was selected as Albuquerque's third poet laureate and has continued his passion of helping others heal and express themselves through poetry. Manuel has appeared twice on the PBS show, ¡COLORES!, where he did a program called *My Word is my Power*. His poetry collection, *...but my friends call me Burke*, was published in 2014 by Swimming with Elephants Press.



David Meischen has been writing poetry and teaching the writing of poetry for 35 years. A Pushcart honoree, with a personal essay in *Pushcart Prize XLII*, Meischen is co-founder and Managing Editor at Dos Gatos Press, publisher of *Wingbeats* and *Wingbeats II*, collections of poetry writing exercises contributed by teaching poets from all over the United States. Meischen has recent work in *Borderlands*, *Bosque*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Manzano Mountain Review*, *The Ocotillo Review*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Talking Writing*, and elsewhere. He lives in Albuquerque with his husband—also his co-publisher and co-editor—Scott Wiggerman.



Mike Moutoux is a cowboy-singer-songwriter-poet from Silver City, New Mexico. Also known as "New Mexico's Enchanting Cowboy," he specializes in turning ranch work into cowboy songs and cowboy poetry that give listeners a rare look into the life of a working cowboy. "I've helped to pull calves that could not be delivered normally and watched them take their first breath; lain on the ground in the mud and blood doctoring cows; been chased by cows,



kicked by cows, fallen off a horse or two, and just generally collected too many fond memories to remember." Mike's poetry is always lyrical—perhaps because he is also a songwriter. His songs and poems are always filled with wonderful images—perhaps influenced by his work as a photographer. But it is his work as a cowboy that lends an authenticity to his work most audiences quickly realize and appreciate. What does this mean for you? Wild rides, cattle drives, and a chance to look closely at life, love, and some mighty fine country through a cowboy's eyes.

Jules Nyquist is the founder of Jules' Poetry Playhouse in Placitas, NM, where she creates a space for poetry and play with day and weekend retreats. She took her MFA in Writing and Literature from Bennington College, VT. Her latest book of poems, *Homesick, Then*, won the NM/AZ Book Award for poetry. She has been interviewed by *NM Entertainment Magazine*, *Minnesota Reads* and other publications. She also publishes other poets with Jules' Poetry Playhouse Publications and has edited several poetry anthologies. Her website is julesnyquist.com.



Sylvia Ramos Cruz writes poems eclectic in form and content, inspired by works of art in all its forms, women's lives, and everyday injustices. Many reflect the places that have shaped her life—Puerto Rico, New York, New Mexico. Her ongoing project—writing haibun about her journeys to visit road markers commemorating historic NM women—combines three of her passions: poetry, feminism, and driving the open road. Her work has appeared in *Persimmon Tree*, *Malpais Review*, *Small Canyons Haiku Anthology*, *Encore: Prize Poems 2017*, and the *Journal of Latina Critical Feminism*, among others. Her poetic essay, "Trilogy: Thoughts on Price, Value, Worth," won First Prize in the NM Press Women and the National Federation of Press Women 2018 Communications contests. She is a retired general surgeon, amateur photographer, avid gardener, and fully engaged women's rights activist.



Barbara Rockman is author of *Sting and Nest*, winner of the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award and the National Press Women Book Prize. Her new collection, *to cleave*, is forthcoming this summer from University of New Mexico Press. Barbara has received the



New Mexico Discovery Award, Southwest Writers Prize, Baskerville Poetry Award, The MacGuffin Poet Hunt Prize, and Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net nominations. Her poems appear in *Bellingham Review*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Taos Journal of Art and Literature*, *Louisville Review*, and *Nimrod Journal*. Barbara teaches at Santa Fe Community College, leads writing workshops in various locales, and brings poetry to Esperanza Shelter for Battered Families. She received her MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts and lives in Santa Fe.

John Roche lives in Placitas, NM, helping Jules Nyquist run Jules' Poetry Playhouse. He taught Literature and Creative Writing for many years at Rochester Institute of Technology, Michigan State University, and Emory University, among other schools. John and Jules recently completed the five-volume *Poets Speak* anthology series. John's own poetry collections include *On Conesus*, *Topicalities*, *Road Ghosts*, and *The Joe Poems: The Continuing Saga of Joe the Poet*.



Stewart Warren, author of about 25 poetry collections, was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1950. He hit the road early, engaging in a life of troublemaking and creative expression. His poetry is both personal and transpersonal with a mystic undercurrent. His heart-wise images evoke secret fire and cosmic yearning, while suggesting pathways perpendicular to the slave trade matrix of world society. As a publishing coach, catalyst and community organizer, Stewart helps others realize their creative visions. He owns Mercury HeartLink (heartlink.com), a small press in New Mexico.



CONVENTION FELLOWSHIPS

Again this year, NFSPS is offering several fellowships to help make it affordable for active members of affiliated state societies to attend the convention. The amounts of the fellowships are \$500 for those living over 300 miles from the 2019 convention site in Santa Fe, \$300 for those living closer.

State society members who wish to attend the 2019 convention and would appreciate financial assistance are encouraged to apply. All members, except 2018 fellowship recipients, are eligible in 2019. The application form is on the NFSPS website nfsp.com as the link: "2019 NFSPS Convention Attendance Fellowship Application". The deadline for submitting an application is April 30.

The application process is a change from the past three years, when fellowship recipients were nominated by state society presidents. This year, fellowship seekers are asked to apply directly. Of course, state society presidents are welcome to apply for themselves.

The Convention Attendance Fellowship Committee (Eleanor Berry, Diane Glancy and Lucille Morgan Wilson) will try to notify fellowship recipients by May 15.

CONVENTION TOURS

El Rancho de las Golondrinas

This living museum will give visitors a glimpse of the early history of New Mexico's Spanish cultural heritage. It has a working, water-powered mill, an early church and many original buildings on the 400+ acre site. Cost is \$15, which doesn't include lunch (can be purchased at the site).

Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens and Madrid Excursion

We will start with a private tour of the Allan Houser Sculpture Gardens, then head to the city of Madrid for lunch (not included in the cost) and a visit to the Mine Museum. Cost is \$35.

CONVENTION HOTELS

You can choose between the luxurious Hotel Santa Fe and the affordable Sage Inn, both coordinating with each other to provide all the space and amenities required, as well as free transportation between hotels if you cannot manage the easy 2-block walk.

To reserve a room at the guaranteed convention rates, you must book by May 22. For hotel rates, see the convention site: nmpoetry.com/convention-nfsp-2019.shtml

CONVENTION BOOKSTORE GUIDELINES

To give all NFSPS members equal opportunity with the limited Bookstore space at the 2019 NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe, we will allot each author a 30" by 22" space on the table. You may display up to 10 titles, 5 copies of each, at a given time. You may switch out titles and replenish copies as needed. For each space, the Bookstore will supply a 5" by 7" easel-mounted card on which you can publicize your work and/or list additional products you have for sale/trade. You may display your own promotional material if it fits in your allotted space.

Please place a 3" by 5" index card with author's name, book title, and price in every book or affixed to any CD offered for sale.

The most efficient way to get your books/CDs into the Bookstore quickly (i.e., before others grab the good spots) is to *fill out the form on the convention website and email it prior to the convention*. You can

also email the following info to Bookstore@nmpoetry.com: author's name, mailing address, email address, telephone number, plus titles and prices of up to ten books. Please enter "Bookstore2019" in the subject line of the email. Or, you take your chances when you arrive at the convention, waiting in line as the Bookstore Staff retypes your handwritten information into our Bookstore files. Whichever way you decide to go, also hand the Bookstore staff a legal-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) when you bring your books.

The Bookstore will be accepting cash, check, and credit cards. We will do our best to mail checks to the sellers by mid-July. The Bookstore will begin receiving books on Sunday afternoon, June 23; you must pick up your books by 1:30 pm on Wednesday, June 26.

Can't wait to see you in Santa Fe!
Shirley Blackwell, Bookstore manager

2019 COLLEGE UNDERGRADUATE POETRY PRIZES

Winners of the 2019 NFSPS CUP competition have been chosen, and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies wishes to congratulate them.

Deanna Altomara was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Edna Meudt Memorial Award. A junior at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, Deanna's manuscript is titled *The Happening: Reflections on the Amish School Shooting*. Deanna's hometown is Mahwah, NJ.

Caleb Jordan Rosenthal was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Florence Kahn Memorial Award. A senior at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, Caleb's manuscript is titled *From the Smoking Courtyard*. Caleb's hometown is St. Louis, MO.

The Federation also congratulates the other finalists in the competition:

- 1st Honorable Mention - Triana Reed, a sophomore at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, NM, for *American Tainted*.
- 2nd Honorable Mention - Medeline Miele, a junior at the University of Southern Maine in Portland, ME, for *Many Small Moons*.
- 3rd Honorable Mention - Yinge Zhao, a senior at Brown University in Providence, RI, for *Memories of Ephemera*.

The judge for this year's competition was Barbara DeCesare. A graduate of the Goddard College MFA-W program, she is the author of *jigsaweyesore* (Anti-Man Press), *Adrift* (Seventh Wave), and *Silent Type* (Paper Kite Press). Barbara curated The Prufrock Project, an art exhibit based on

the T.S. Eliot poem, cast audience members to perform in her series of small plays "You're Soaking In It," and took the title in the Fear No Lit Literary Page Match automatic writing competition. Her poems and short fiction have been published in *Folio*, *Poetry*, *Alaska Quarterly*, *Tarpaulin Sky* and many others.

CUP winners have been invited to read and to sell their books at the Convention.

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS

POETS' ROUNDTABLE OF ARKANSAS' annual Dr. Lily Peter Spring Celebration will be held in Little Rock's Cox Building in downtown's River Market District. Guest speaker is H.K. Hummel, poet, author and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Professor Hummel has an MFA in Creative Writing and an MFA in English Literature. She has written two books, published two chapbooks, and had her work appear in a variety of literary journals and anthologies. Ms. Hummel also will share critiques of poems that members submit. Jo McDougall, Arkansas Poet Laureate and PRA member, was asked by the governor to write and read a poem at his inauguration in January. She was also awarded the 2019 Porter Fund Lifetime Achievement Award. Past winners include Donald Harington, Miller Williams and Charles Portis. A gala in her honor will be held on June 20th at the Clinton Presidential Center. Harding Stedler (River Market) received news in January of his Pushcart nomination for 2018. PRA lost a vibrant member in February, Karen Hayes, who was a member of the River Market Poets branch and the Hot Springs Writers group. She will be truly missed. ~ *Laura Bridges, Reporter*

FLORIDA STATE POETS ASSOCIATION is looking forward to its annual Spring Fling (May 17-18) in Orlando where they'll be hosting the first in-house Team Slam. Individual slams have been so successful that team slams have been added to the program. Spring Fling is hosted this year by Orlando Area Poets and Osceola Poets Society. FSPA is working with the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs to select a new State Poet Laureate and has submitted seven candidates. To create a strong bond between local chapters and the statewide association, FSPA offers a Speaker's Bureau that provides selected speakers from among its members for chapter meetings and state conventions. ~ *Leslie C. Halpern, FSPA Secretary*

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY held its quarterly meeting in January 2019, at W.C. Bradley Company in Columbus, Georgia.

Nick Norwood presented the morning workshop, "Let it Linger: On Ending on an Image." Norwood teaches creative writing and is Director of the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians in Columbus, Georgia, and Nyack, New York. His poems have appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Oxford American*, *Shenandoah*, US Poet Laureate Ted Kooser's *American Life in Poetry*, *The Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor*, *Pushcart Prize XLII* and elsewhere. His fourth volume of poetry, *Eagle & Phenix*, is due out in 2019. Michelle Castleberry, a writer and social worker living in northeast Georgia, read a selection of her poetry from her book, *Dissecting the Angel and Other Poems*. Castleberry was a finalist for the Georgia Author of the Year in Poetry, 2013. Her work, including two Pushcart nominations, can be found in *The Chattahoochee Review*, *Still: The Journal*, and *The Atlanta Journal*. She is currently a Makery Fellow with the Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky. New officers and board members of GPS were installed. The 2018 Fall Contest awards were presented. Visit georgiapoetrysociety.org for more information. As well, *The Reach of Song 2018* is available for purchase online. ~ *DuAnne Kaiser, Reporter*

ILLINOIS STATE POETRY SOCIETY has been coordinating with various public libraries around the state to host displays of members' poems during April Poetry Month. The plans also include readings open to the public at specific bookstores as well as some of the libraries. The Manningham contest submission deadline has ended, and Ida Kotyuk, our contest chair, has been busy with details. Our monthly featured and open mic readings continue at Brewed Awakening every month in Westmont. Several ISPS poets have already made their reservations for the Santa Fe convention location, and this year may be the largest ISPS group to attend. We had a very successful poetry contest in 2019 with 100 entrants. Watch for our 2019 contest details in September. Check illinoispoets.org for members' most recent poetry additions, information on ISPS membership, and in August, our contest details. ~ *Susan T. Moss, President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF INDIANA is accepting submissions for the creation of a Youth Poet Anthology, in addition to the Indiana Manningham Contest. Information is posted on poetrysocietyofindiana.org and our FB page. We are offering assistance to our members from beginning to end in the publishing process so they can publish their chapbooks. We are focusing on being more

intentional in our keynote speaker presentations and outreaches to offer a variety of topics to attract more interest and attention to the organization. We are finalizing the agenda and details for our Spring Fling to be held April 27th in Anderson, Indiana. This event will include honoring the winners of the Manningham and a presentation by the young authors. A line item has been added to our budget accepting donations to cover the costs for the youth to attend all planned events by PSI. We recently released our Poetry Contest Brochure for this year's event. Dates will be June 15th through August 15th. For Poetry month, each day in April we will post Writing Prompts on our website. Come join other wordsmiths in creating new forms and addressing all sorts of topics. ~ *Deborah Petersen, President*

LOUISIANA STATE POETRY SOCIETY's 2019 Spring Festival will be hosted by the Greater New Orleans-Fleur de Lys Chapter in April to celebrate Poetry month. Emma Pierson, Festival Coordinator, has confirmed Peter Cooley, a former Louisiana Poet Laureate (2015-2017), as the guest speaker. He is a retired Tulane professor of English and author of 11 books of poetry. The festival will be held April 13 at the Brick Oven in Kenner, LA. As part of a community poetic outreach, the Greater New Orleans-Fleur de Lys chapter has been hosting a modern haiku workshop for a year. Poets interested in reading and writing haiku meet in the evening the first Monday of each month at the Jefferson Parish Regional Library. The Founders' Chapter now meets the second Saturday of the month at a member's home, while the Greater New Orleans Chapter has temporarily moved its meeting time to the first Saturday of the month at the Jefferson Regional Library until May. ~ *Mary Galvin, Acting Corresponding Secretary*

MAINE POETS SOCIETY's next meeting will be Saturday, April 27, 2019, at the First Universalist Church, 169 Pleasant St. in Auburn. Attendees are asked to bring a bag lunch. A \$10 registration fee for members and guests will help defray the cost of renting the facility. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The morning session will include an open mic and a mini-workshop. In the afternoon, Carol Bachofner, judge of the members-only contest (a persona poem with a twist), will announce the results of the contest and share some of her own work. The meeting is expected to end at 3:30 p.m. Details of the meeting and the contest are available on mainepoetsociety.com, as are membership application forms. ~ *Sally Joy, Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN's fall meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Kerlikowske. Members and guests met in Douglas, Michigan, on October 20. A reading by members resulted in Brenda Gasahl winning the Traveling Trophy for her poem "My Heart Still Yearns for Scotland." Several writing workshops were conducted by Kathleen McGookey followed by lunch and a business meeting. Proposed changes to the bylaws will be presented to members for consideration at the spring meeting to be held in Kalamazoo on April 13, 2019. A change was suggested for the PSM motto. Discussion followed. Dues have been increased to \$30 a year, which are due October 2019. Melanie Dunbar gave a report on the annual contest results. Eighty entrants submitted three hundred poems. Reports were received from poetry groups within the state. Jack Ridl read a poem from his new book, which is due out April 1. It will be titled, *Saint Peter and the Goldfinch*. ~ Inge Logenburg Kyler, *Historian*

MISSISSIPPI POETRY SOCIETY's Spring Contests have closed. Now we look forward to our Spring Festival April 6-7 at the Cabot Lodge Millsaps in Jackson, Mississippi. Our festival theme is "Singing Mississippi." Natchez, Mississippi author Mark LaFrancis, as the keynote speaker, will discuss poetry written by soldiers during times of war. MPS members Tommy Little, Jeanne Kelly, Doris Jones, Bill Gressett, and Stephen Curry will deliver mini-speeches on capturing mood in poetry, publishing pointers, science and verse, and sonnet writing. Matthew VanDeburgh will play guitar and sing original songs. Our annual contest winners will receive awards and read their winning poems; POY Judy Davies will also read poems from her new book, *Inkspirations*. Our festival theme is based on a special event. MPS President Linda Owen recently received a book entitled *Singing Mississippi*, published in 1935 by the Mississippi Poetry Society. While browsing through used books at a garage sale, Andrew Winters, a middle-school music teacher from Florida, found this treasure and sent it to Linda. MPS is grateful for this gift. We congratulate Central Branch member Tommy Little, whose poems were read on Bill Ellison's "Grass Roots" program (Mississippi Public Broadcasting) Saturday, February 16. For contest winners list, visit misspoetry.net. ~ Janice Canerdy, *Secretary*

OREGON POETRY ASSOCIATION has a new President and Board: Shirley Marc, President; Lynn Otto, Treasurer; Charles Castle and Diane Corson, Membership; Bruce Parker and Dale Champlin, Newsletter (Bruce is also the OPA Historian

and delegate to NFSPS, Dale is also Co-editor of *Verseweavers*, OPA's annual collection of prizewinning entries in OPA poetry contests); Stella Jeng Guillory, Newsletter Proofreader; Erik Muller, Secretary; Jennifer Rood, At Large; and Alan Contreras, Alternate. The annual OPA fall conference is scheduled for September 14-15, 2019, at the Salem Convention Center. Please note on your calendar and join us for another good conference. Our early bird registration deadline will be August 12. Calls for conference session proposals will go out beginning March 15 with a deadline for submission of June 1. Check oregonpoets.org for more details as they become available. The Fall OPA Poetry Contest will open July 1, and close on September 1, 2019. Check our website for more details as they become available in late June. Books were collected at the OPA conference last September for the Oregon Poetry Collection. Erik Muller writes: "The basket of donations ... is heavy, indeed. Seventeen authors, twenty-three titles, forty-six books, and two 2016 *Verseweavers*." ~ Bruce Parker, *Reporter*

POETRY SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA held its Annual Spring Awards Banquet on March 9th at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City. Winning poems were read, poets recognized, awards given, and a delicious banquet capped this special day. Our 2019 banquet theme will be an observance of the Easter season. April is National Poetry month, and once again, PSO is looking forward to the OKC City Council proclaiming April as National Poetry Month in Oklahoma City (8th year in a row!). The State Legislature will present a Resolution proclaiming April as National Poetry month for the entire state (8th year in a row as well!). In July, PSO will host a workshop (again at Twin Hills Country Club in Oklahoma City); this will be an in-house (morning and afternoon) workshop presented by PSO members and a keynote speaker. We will also be presenting awards for the July contest winners at this workshop. As always, our workshop will include a delicious noontime buffet. We encourage everyone to check our website angelfire.com/poetry/ps/ and our Facebook page for current PSO information. As always, "Come and grow at PSO!" ~ Patti Koch, *President*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE is working to grow. The original Memphis chapter is a small but active and dedicated group. We are proud of our two sister chapters which are both expanding: our long-standing Northeast chapter, and our relatively new chapter in Knoxville.

Currently we are working to establish a chapter in Middle Tennessee. A good percentage of our members send entries to the National annual contest each year, and we're excited about the Blackberry-Peach Contest as well. Each year we challenge the membership with no less than ten poetry contests of varying criteria, offering three prizes and HMs. All three chapters hold regular meetings and sponsor poetry readings. Annually we invite elementary, middle, and high school students in Tennessee to enter a special student-only contest, and we dedicate one meeting each year to hearing and rewarding their efforts. Our big annual event, the Mid-South Poetry Festival, is booked for mid-October this year. Our contest brochure will be available at the June NFSPS Convention in Santa Fe and upon request. We welcome participants from other states. Please join us in either one of our chapters or as an at-large member. You will enjoy being a member of the Poetry Society of Tennessee. ~ Florence Bruce & Lori Goetz, *Reporters*

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS' meetings are presently held September through May on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas except the Annual Awards Banquet, which takes the place of the November meeting. It is held at a Dallas hotel. In June, attendance at the NFSPS Convention is encouraged. In July, the 3-day Summer Conference is held at different sites around the state. The 2018-2019 Executive Board is comprised of President Amanullah Khan, Vice President Irene Robertson, Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, Corresponding Secretary Ann Howells, Treasurer Patrick Lee Marshall, and Directors Susan Maxwell Campbell, J. Darrell Kirkley and Richard Weatherly. ~ Nancy Baass, *Reporter*

President's Message from page 1

I love poetry, and I am committed to writing a poem a day for the month of April. Following in the footsteps of my very good friend, Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer, who was challenged many years ago to begin a poem-a-day for 30 days. I believe she has written a poem a day ever since then. Let that sink in for a moment. Every day, for years, she has put her word to paper. I tend to let my words marinate, decompose, ferment, and then agonize over a line and overthink it. But I am going to hunker down and get it done. At convention, ask me how it went! Hopefully I will have exceeded my poem objectives and continue the daily practice and be on poem 84! I hope one or two will be good enough to enter in the Convention Contests. Join me in the poetry challenge and let's reach out and encourage each other to express ourselves on the written page with the poetry that lives inside us.

See you soon!

Your sister in words,

Julie Cummings, 33rd NFSPS President

NFSPS MEMBER SOCIETY NEWS (continued from page 7)

WYOPOETS: Spring is here again and time for the WyoPoet's Workshop. This year the workshop will be held in Casper during April 26-27 at the East Holiday Inn. This year's presenter is the distinguished poet Connie Wanek. Her first book, *Bonfire*, was published in 1997 and won the New Voices Award. She published her second work, *Hartley Field*, in 2002. In 2018 a chapbook titled *Consider the Lilies: Mrs. God Poems* was released. A children's book of poetry co-written with renowned poet Ted Kooser is forthcoming. Connie Wanek's honors include the Willow Poetry Prize, The Jane Kenyon Poetry Prize, and a Witter Bynner Fellowship at the Library of Congress. You can find more out about Connie and her career at poetryfoundation.org, website for the Poetry Foundation, and at wyopoets.org. A huge *thank you* to Vicki Windle and her Casper Crew for putting on the workshop. Also thank you to Holiday Inn East for hosting. Circle the last weekend of April on your calendar and prepare your best work! Let's have an amazing workshop. See you all there! ~ *Angel Mizner, Reporter*

POETRY CONTESTS

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Poetry Society of Texas 2019 Annual Contests will be coming up soon. Entries: must be postmarked by August 15, 2019. Our brochure listing all contests, procedures and rules can be obtained by visiting poetrysocietyoftexas.org or by mailing a SASE to PST Annual Contests Chairman Nancy Baass, 408 E. Warren Ave., Victoria, TX 77901-4847.

OHIO POETRY DAY CONTESTS

This contest, now in its 82nd year, is open to all poets for all but three of its 20+ categories. If you have not entered in the past few years, get back on our mailing list by sending a postcard with your name and address, or a #10 SASE, to: Amy Jo Zook, Contest Chairman, 3520 State Route 56, Mechanicsburg, OH 43044. Opens in March and closes in May each year.

CONTEST BROCHURE EXCHANGE

To make it easier for members to find contest information from member-states, NFSPS has created a webpage that lists individual state poetry societies that run contests. This page includes a link to download contest brochures which are provided in a .pdf format. In order to be listed, at least some of the contest categories must be open to all and not limited to just state society members. Contest links can be found at nfsp.com/statecontests.html. This page will be updated as new contests become available. ~ *Steven Concert, NFSPS 4th VP*

ENCORE 2018

NFSPS' anthology of 2018's top 150 prize-winning poems is on amazon.com for \$13. Buy two copies and get free shipping. All royalties support NFSPS. ~ *Kathy Cotton, Encore Editor*

SHARON MARTIN TURNER GAVE DEVOTED SERVICE TO PST AND NFSPS

By Eleanor Berry, Past NFSPS President

I was very sad to learn of the death of Sharon Martin Turner, who served for the past decade as Contest Sponsors and Brochure Chairperson for NFSPS. Even as her health failed, she remained committed to finding sponsors for all fifty of our annual contests.

It was no surprise to me to learn, from the notice of her death in the Poetry Society of Texas *Bulletin*, that Sharon had received PST's Hilton Ross Greer Service Award in 2017. Her volunteer work for her state society included serving as a Councilor, co-chairing two summer conferences, chairing the Life Member Fund, and sponsoring and judging several annual contests. I remember meeting Sharon and her sister, Valerie Martin Bailey, over breakfast at one of the first NFSPS conventions I attended. As a newcomer to the national gatherings, I was grateful for their warm friendliness.

I last saw Sharon at the 2017 NFSPS convention in Fort Worth where she and Valerie had driven from their homes in San Antonio. I was delighted to see them both again after several years when they'd been unable to make the long trips required to get to more distant convention sites. I didn't suspect that six months later, Sharon would be in the intensive care unit, fighting for her life against pulmonary hypertension and COPD.

From her obituary in the *San Antonio Express News*, I learned that Sharon was a teacher of theater arts and that she designed and built award-winning floats for the San Antonio Fiesta. I wish I'd had a chance to see her creativity in those areas, but I'm glad to have known her at least a little through NFSPS and poetry.

Registration

2019 NFSPS Diamond Jubilee Convention, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sunday, June 23 through Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Deadline for registration is June 1st

Convention registration fee is \$75 for NFSPS members. There are no single-day fees and no charge for guests. This fee gives NFSPS member attendees access to all workshops and activities. Guests, friends, and family of attendees and of Prizewinners (Stevens, CUP, BlackBerryPeach) may attend award ceremonies for free and purchase meals if they select them by June 1. Guests will not receive registration packets/totes or be permitted to attend workshops, but they will be welcome at after-meal presentations by Prizewinners and the Keynote, as well as tours and evening socials.

	Quantity			Total for this item
Registration fee	_____	X \$75	=	\$ _____

MEALS: All meal prices include drink, dessert, taxes and gratuities.

Mon. lunch: Southwestern Buffet	_____	X \$25	=	\$ _____
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Tues. lunch: Cold-cuts Buffet	_____	X \$25	=	\$ _____
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Wed. lunch: Cowboy BBQ Buffet	_____	X \$25	=	\$ _____
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Dinner: (put quantity for that selection)

Mon: pork loin____, trout____, veg____	_____	X \$35	=	\$ _____
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Tue: chicken____, salmon____, veg____	_____	X \$35	=	\$ _____
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Wednesday Gala Banquet

Steak____, Shrimp____,	Total banquets _____	X \$50	=	\$ _____
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Steak&Shrimp____, Veg____	Subtotal for all meal purchases:	\$ _____
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Please note any special dietary needs, for instance: Gluten-free____ Vegan____ Allergies____ (please list below) Other_____

TOURS: You **must** pre-register for Allan Houser tour; **please** pre-register for Rancho Golondrinas.

Sun: Golondrinas: Fee covers ride+entry; buy your own meal onsite.	_____	X \$15	=	\$ _____
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Thur: Houser/Madrid: Fee covers ride+entry; buy lunch in Madrid.	_____	X \$35	=	\$ _____
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Subtotal for all tour purchases:	\$ _____
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(see reverse side for more)

TEES: High quality, long wear shirts, with dry-weave comfort. Universal style, sizes Small-5X.

Conference logo and info on back, diamond logo on front left. Turquoise or white. Every shirt \$20, regardless of size. Order below, indicating quantity for each color and size.

Size _____ Turquoise _____ White _____ Quantity _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Size _____ Turquoise _____ White _____ Quantity _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Size _____ Turquoise _____ White _____ Quantity _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

BASEBALL CAPS: Caps have diamond logo with "NFSPS Diamond Jubilee" text. Caps are Turquoise only. Adjustable fit.

Quantity _____ X \$15 \$ _____

Subtotal all Tees and Caps \$ _____

Subtotal for all tour purchases: \$ _____

Subtotal for all meal purchases: \$ _____

Subtotal for registrations: \$ _____

TOTAL ALL ITEMS \$ _____

Make checks payable to NMSPS, Inc. (that's New Mexico, NOT NF SPS) and mail with this form to:

Convention Registrar
P.O. Box 21825
Albuquerque, NM, 87154-1825

Or, grab another cuppa and stay in your PJs when you **register and pay online** with PayPal or a personal credit card. REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1ST whether by mail or via online registration. Our NMSPS officers, VP Iris Gersh and Treasurer Terri Klein, are serving as co-registrars for the convention. You can contact them at vicepresident@nmpoetry.com or treasurer@nmpoetry.com.

TRANSPORTATION:

Taxis, Lyft, and Uber operate at Albuquerque Intl. Airport (Sunport). A shuttle runs to the rental car area.

Sandia Shuttle offers shuttle services between the Sunport and hotels in Santa Fe. Rate is \$33+tax per person for one-way trip. Limit 2 pieces of luggage and one carry-on item per person, which must fit under your seat on the shuttle. Book online at www.sandiashuttle.com or call toll free 888-775-5696.

RailRunner Express www.nmrailrunner.com commuter train station is just 2 blocks from Hotel Santa Fe. The City Different provides free shuttle service to the downtown area, and both our hotels have stops on that circuit. Our convention hotels are a 2-block walk apart, but both hotels have complimentary shuttles if you cannot make the walk. Please remember to tip your driver.

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____