

# The New Mexico Writer

*A publication of New Mexico Writers  
Supporting and connecting the literary community*

*September 2025*

## The New Mexico Book Association Reveals Contest Winners at Annual Summer Gala

Book publishers, editors, writers, and other industry professionals gathered for the New Mexico Book Association's (NMBA) annual Summer Gala. The evening event, held at The Club at Las Campanas in Santa Fe, featured a talk by author Deborah Jackson Taffa and the announcement of the winners of the Southwest Book Design & Production Awards (SWBDA). The competition offers prizes for book design and distinction in production for books associated with the Southwest.

Nacha Mendez, a New Mexico Platinum Music Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, provided musical interludes. Performing under her grandmother's name, Mendez tours regionally with her band, playing her original, eclectic pan-Latin-style songs.

Taffa, the author of the memoir *Whiskey Tender*, which was a finalist for the 2024 National Book Award, is director of the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, was a recipient of a 2023 New Mexico Writers grant, and now serves on the New Mexico Writers board of directors.

Taffa began her appearance at the gala by reading an excerpt from her memoir. "The truth of my life is the content of my book," Taffa said after concluding her reading. "Indian boarding schools, the Indian Relocation Act, the power plant my father worked at on the Navajo reservation, the atomic bomb detonated near the Laguna Pueblo, my grandmother as a downwinder who died of a rare form of cancer," Taffa continued. "In memoir our voices are nothing if we don't say what is hard."

Following Taffa's talk, the NMBA unveiled this year's winners in the SWBDA competition. A complete list of the winners and finalists can be found [here](#).



*Deborah Jackson Taffa, left, greets  
Mari Angulo, a finalist in the  
SWBDA competition.*

Are you enjoying this issue of *The New Mexico Writer*?

You can fund this publication  
by becoming a Sustaining Member!

JOIN NOW

## Santa Fe New Mexican Spotlights Local Authors

A new monthly column focusing on the work of New Mexico writers has begun appearing in *Pasatiempo*, the arts and culture magazine published by the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. Written by Brian Sandford, the inaugural column highlighted *Trade Roots* by J. Cosmo Lewis, *Circus Dancer* by Beate Sigridaughter, *Tracking World War II Railroad Operations Across New Mexico* by Mike Butler, and the SouthWest Writers anthology *Unbreaking the Circle: Stories of Service*. Read the article [here](#).

Authors interested in having their books considered for future roundups can mail them to Brian Sandford at P.O. Box 2048, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Submissions should be written by New Mexicans or feature the Land of Enchantment; submission is not a guarantee that the title will be included in future roundups.

---

## Celebrating the Life of Sallie Bingham



Sallie Bingham, prolific Santa Fe author, philanthropist, and a highly visible member of Santa Fe literary circles, died August 6th in her home. Her death was attributed to a stroke. She was 88.

Bingham, a member of the Louisville newspaper publishing family, began pursuing a career in writing after graduating magna cum laude from Radcliffe College. She published her first novel when she was 23. She also sought to be a playwright, and several of her plays were produced on American stages.

In 1991, Bingham moved to Santa Fe. The author of novels, nonfiction books, and several collections of short stories, Bingham found the city to be a perfect place for her creative pursuits. She also engaged with the work of numerous not-for-profit organizations and provided financial support to many of them, especially those related to the arts.

She frequently spoke about her work in New Mexico bookstores and other venues. Her most recent books include the biography *The Silver Swan: In Search of Doris Duke*, *Little Brother*, a memoir of her late brother; the novel *Taken by the Shawnee*; and the short story collection *How Daddy Lost His Ear: And Other Stories*, which will be published posthumously by Turtle Point Press on September 23.

Bingham was preparing to publicize this latest book at the time of her death. She wrote, “It’s all about these newcomers, these strangers, these oddities coming from all over the place, even all over the world, to congregate in New Mexico. These stories are a different version of the West. It’s not the West of the old John Wayne movies. It’s not the romantic, glamorous West. It’s the West that’s bedeviled by modern problems like all the rest of the world.”

Bingham planned on launching *How Daddy Lost His Ear* at Garcia Street Books. The Santa Fe bookstore will now be hosting a Celebration of Life as well as the collection’s official launch. Friends and writers will gather the evening of September 23rd to tell stories, honor Bingham’s life, and read from the book. Event details can be found [here](#).

Over the years, Bingham maintained and updated an autobiographical account of her writing career on [her website](#). At the end of her most recent entry, she wrote, “I’m so very grateful for all my readers who keep me and my books alive. Thank you!”

---

## Fall 2025 Rising Writers Sessions Open for Registration

Registration is open for the second 2025 series of Rising Writers, the New Mexico Writers (NMW) program that supports aspiring writers. The October sessions will be hosted by established authors and publishers, including D.J. Green, Geoff Habiger, Dr. Manny Loley, Pam Lewis, James McGrath Morris, JJ Amaworo Wilson, and Zahra Marwan. Rising Writers session venues across the state include bookstores, a book festival, and an art gallery.

Topics and the schedule for the fall 2025 sessions can be found on the NMW [website](#).

Each in-person conversation is limited to a small group of participants, so do not hesitate! Register now by [emailing](#) Lucy Moore, chair of the Rising Writers committee.

---

## New Mexico Writers Grantee News



2020 NMW Grantee **Khadijah VanBrakle** published her YA novel *My Perfect Family* with Holiday House on August 26. The book has received starred reviews in [Publishers Weekly](#) and [Kirkus Reviews](#).

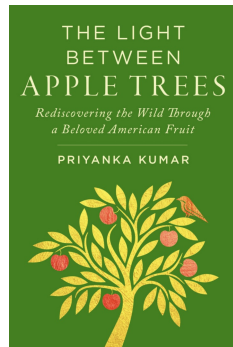
2023 NMW Grantee **Chris Eboch**, writing as Kris Bock, recently released two books in the Reluctantly Psychic Mystery series: *A Stone Cold Murder* and *Death at Rock Bottom*, both published by Tule Publishing.



2025 NMW Grantee **Shebana Coelho** is leading a nine-day [Journey to Peru](#), on which five story-travelers will creatively engage with nature.

---

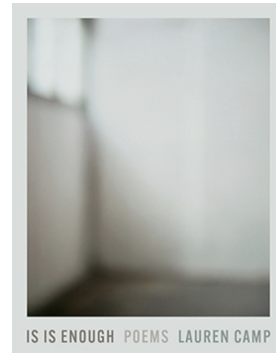
## Briefly Noted



NMW Board Member Priyanka Kumar announced the release of her new book, *The Light Between Apple Trees: Rediscovering the Wild Through a Beloved American Fruit*, published by Island Press.

William (Will) Murray announced the forthcoming publication of two memoirs: *On the Scent: A Lifetime with Dogs in the Field* (McFarland Publishing), and *Rode Hard and Never Put Up: An Untamed Life* (Casa Urraca Press).

*Leading the Way Magazine* gathered for a Celebration of Diné Poetry & Storytelling at the Navajo Nation Library. This event featured Jake Skeets, the newly appointed Navajo



Lauren Camp, the 2023-2025 Poet Laureate of New Mexico, announced that her ninth collection of poetry, *Is Is Enough*, will be published in March 2026.

*Four Corners Voices*, an anthology of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry edited by Chuck Greaves, Mark Stevens, and Lisa C. Taylor, and featuring the work of over forty writers from Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and the Navajo Tribal Nation, won the 2025 Colorado Book Award in the “Best Anthology” category, presented in July by Colorado Humanities and the Center for the Book.

Casa Urraca Press announced the release of Demetria Martínez’s and



Nation Poet Laureate and a graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, as well as readings from other acclaimed Diné poets and storytellers.

Charmayne Samuelson announced that her poem, “The Ancient Desertscape of Dreams,” was published in the September 2025 issue of the Las Cruces–based magazine *Desert Exposure*.

Angela Wilson announced the publication of her novel *White Dan for 200* by Mercury Heartlink Press.

Susan Sherman’s new book, *Poetry in Dangerous Times: Two Women, Two Worlds*.

SouthWest Writers (SWW) announced the finalists in their 2025 Annual Writing Contest. Awards will be presented during the SWW annual business meeting on October 11. A list of finalists can be found [here](#).

### Send Us Your News!

Having a book or article published? Doing a reading? Offering a workshop? Let us know, so we can share your news with other writers. We’re particularly interested to hear from New Mexico and greater Navajo Nation writers. [Drop us a line](#).

---

## Upcoming Events

### September 8 at 5 p.m. [Lit Youngstown](#) (Online)

Join **Lauren Camp** for her presentation titled “Discovering Baghdad: How Writing My Father’s Story Took Me to the Tigris.”

### September 9 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Joan Brooks Baker**, author of the short story collection *In the Swampyland*, in conversation with Cecile Lipworth.

### September 9 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Ruby Martinez** for the launch of her debut YA novel, *An Embroidery of Souls*, in conversation with local author, professor, and archaeologist Dr. Emily Jones.

### September 11 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Demetria Martínez** and **Susan Sherman** for a reading and signing of their new poetry collection, *Poetry in Dangerous Times: Two Women, Two Worlds*.

### September 11 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Alec Nevala-Lee**, author of the biography *Collisions: A Physicist’s Journey from Hiroshima to the Death of the Dinosaurs*, in conversation with Caroline Fraser.

### September 12 at 4 p.m. [Strata Gallery](#) (Santa Fe)

Join poets **Donald Levering** and **Wayne Lee** for a reading of ekphrastic poetry based on artworks by David Olivant.

**September 13 at 2 p.m. [SouthWest Writers](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join authors who contributed to *Unbreaking the Circle: Stories of Service*, the 2025 military anthology, for a reading at the Oliver La Farge Library.

**September 13 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Susan Metallo** for a reading from her YA novel *Reasons to Hate Me*.

**September 13 at 4 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)**

Join poets **Joanne Fay Brown**, author of *Independence Day*, and **Veronica Golos**, author of *GIRL* and *Rootwork*, for Poetry Meets History: A Reading & Conversation.

**September 13 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Maddie Martinez** for a reading and signing of her debut novel, *The Maiden and Her Monster*, in conversation with Sarena Ulibarri.

**September 14 at 1:30 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Emily Jones** for a reading from her YA historical fantasy novel *Nahia*.

**September 14 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Ronald Chapman** for a reading from his novel *The Reckoning of Grace*.

**September 18 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Rachel Kolb** for a reading and signing to celebrate the release of her memoir, *Articulate: A Deaf Memoir of Voice*, in conversation with Elise Nye.

**September 20 at 1 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Jennifer Moore**, author of *Women's Work: Building Peace in War-Affected Communities of Uganda and Sierra Leone*, and **Nathalie Martin**, author of *The Inspired Retirement*.

**September 20 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Caroline Starr Rose** for a reading from her middle-grade book *The Burning Season*.

**September 21 at 12 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Ashley Castillo del Muro** for a reading and signing of her children's book *My Daddy, My Hero*.

**September 21 at 2 p.m. [HERE Gallery](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join more than 15 poets for a reading honoring the poetry of **Gary Worth Moody**.

**September 23 at 5 p.m. [Garcia Street Books](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join this Celebration of Life and book launch for **Sallie Bingham's** *How Daddy Lost His Ear: And Other Stories*.

**September 25 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Philip Connors** for a reading from *The Mountain Knows the Mountain*, an account of one fire season chronicled in haibun.

**September 25 at 5 p.m. [Garcia Street Books](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Priyanka Kumar** for the launch of her new book, *The Light Between Apple Trees: Rediscovering the Wild Through a Beloved American Fruit*, in conversation with Bob Sivinski.

**September 25 at 6 p.m. [New Mexico School for the Arts](#) (Santa Fe)**

The **Autumn Equinox Reading**, featuring the creative writing students at the New Mexico School for the Arts, will celebrate the arrival of fall.

**September 27 at 12 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Bea Donaldson** for a reading and signing from her novel *Pabulum*.

**September 27 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Zachary Kluckman** for a reading from his poetry collection *When I Say Ghost, I Don't Mean Dead*.

**September 28 at 12 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Fermina Isidora Márquez** for a reading and signing from her novel *Klaus*.

**September 28 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Elizabeth Rose Quinn** for a pop-up book club featuring her thriller *Follow Me*, in conversation with Jeff Carter.

**September 30 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Greg Shaw** and **Charlie Soap** in conversation about *Last One Walking: The Life of Cherokee Community Leader Charlie Soap*.

**September 30 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **James Janko** for a reading and signing of his new book, *The Wire-Walker*, in conversation with Ellen Greenblatt.

**October 1 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Priyanka Kumar** for a reading and signing of her new book, *The Light Between Apple Trees: Rediscovering the Wild Through a Beloved American Fruit*, as part of Bookworks's and the Leopold Writing Program's Writing the Wild series.

---

## Writing Craft

The New Mexico Book Association is offering the following events this month:

- **September 12-14 (Santa Fe):** A weekend workshop titled Dreaming in Full Color: Wake Up Your Midnight Muse with Poetic Dream Writing.
- **September 26 at 4 p.m. (Santa Fe/Online):** A monthly writing experience called The ReWriting Room: A Hybrid Monthly Writers & Wellness Circle.

Learn more about these events [here](#).

SouthWest Writers is offering the following events this month:

- **September 13 at 10 a.m. (Albuquerque/Online):** End-of-Life and Your Literary Legacy, presented by Gail Rubin.
- **September 13 at 12 p.m. (Albuquerque/Online):** A workshop titled Trading Cards for Marketing, presented by Michael Avery.
- **September 24 at 6:30 p.m. (Online):** Marketing and Publicity for Writers, presented by Krista Soukup.

Learn more about these events [here](#).

Croak & Dagger is offering the following event this month:

- **September 23 at 6 p.m. (Albuquerque):** A presentation titled What to Expect When Sending a Manuscript To a Publisher from Geoff Habiger, founder of

## Opportunities for Writers

*Please note, there may be fees associated with these opportunities.*



**Southern New Mexico Book Festival**  
Las Cruces Writers invites published authors and the public to join in the First Annual Southern New Mexico Book Festival, a free event debuting on **October 11**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Las Cruces. The event will be held at the Doña Ana Community College. The goal of the Book Festival is to connect writers, readers, publishers, editors, and the public, all in one place. Authors from Southern New Mexico and beyond will host writing workshops, author readings, book sales, and signings. Learn more [here](#). To register to sell your books at this event, please email [Eva Nevarez St. John](#). Sustaining Members of New Mexico Writers will receive a discounted registration fee.

### **Tucson Festival of Books 14th Annual Literary Awards**

Submissions are now open for the writing competition of the 2026 Tucson Festival of Books, which is accepting fiction, nonfiction, and poetry entries through **October 31** and is offering more than \$5,000 in prize money. First-through third-place winners also earn scholarships to the two-day Masters Workshop that follows the March 14-15, 2026 festival; there, they will work with a faculty of distinguished U.S. writers. Learn more [here](#).

### **BARD-WIRED: An Unconventional Writer's Workshop**

Mary Maurice is offering a workshop at Lindy's Diner in Albuquerque on September 20 at 4:30 p.m. All proceeds from the \$10 ticket go to Lindy's Diner.



### **Santa Fe Literary Review**

*The Santa Fe Literary Review* invites submissions **July 15 to November 1** of poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, and visual art. Recent issues featured work by Tommy Orange, Layli Long Soldier, Kirstin Valdez Quade, and Darryl Lorenzo Wellington. Learn more [here](#).

### **Acorn Publishing Debut Author Prize**

The Acorn Publishing Debut Author Prize is open to unpublished fiction and memoir writers across the U.S. who have completed manuscripts of 95,000 words or less. The winner, announced at the 2026 San Diego Writers Festival, will receive a full-service professional publishing and national launch package valued at over \$11,000. Submissions must be received by **November 15**. Learn more [here](#).

### **Carol Shields Prize for Fiction**

Submissions are now open for the 2026 Prize, which celebrates excellence in literary fiction by women and non-binary writers in the U.S. and Canada. The winning author will receive \$150,000 USD, while each of the four shortlisted authors will be awarded \$12,500 USD. Submissions must be received by August 7 or **October 15**, depending on when the book was published. Learn more [here](#).

### **The New Frontiers in Writing Conference**

Texas High Plains Writers will hold a conference on **September 26-28** in Amarillo, Texas. New Frontiers in Writing is an opportunity for writers of



Email for more information [here](#).

### 6th Annual Leopold Lecture

The lecture titled “A Reverence for Rivers: Luna Leopold’s Call for a Water Ethic” by Cynthia Barnett will take place on **September 28** from 5 to 7 p.m., at Los Poblanos Historic Inn & Organic Farm in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. Buy tickets [here](#).

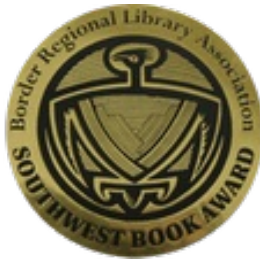
### SOMOS Presents Craft & Critique

A series of eight monthly workshops for writers of fiction, creative nonfiction, and memoir will be provided online via Zoom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., beginning **September 27**. Register [here](#).

all stripes to come together with industry VIPs, delving into the craft and business of writing. Learn more [here](#).

### Workshop: The Art of the Septet

Wayne Lee will be teaching a poetry workshop in Placitas on **September 20**, through Jules Poetry Playhouse. For more information and registration, click [here](#).



### Southwest Book Awards

The Border Regional Library Association is seeking nominations for the annual Southwest Book Awards competition. Any publisher having one or more items which meet the criteria is invited to submit one review copy of each for consideration. Nominations submitted by individuals are also welcome. Review copies must be received by **September 30**. Eligibility and entry guidelines can be found [here](#).



The third annual **Sandia Starforgers Writers Retreat and Workshop** for science-fiction, fantasy, and horror writers is taking place April 24 to 27, 2026, in Albuquerque. Early bird discounted pricing is available through **October 15**. Additionally, there is a scholarship available for one writer with financial need (applications for the scholarship are due November 30). Instructors at this event include:

- Charlie Jane Anders: Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Award winning author
- Mary Robinette Kowal: Hugo, Nebula, and Locus Award winning author and audiobook narrator
- dave ring: Ignyte- and World Fantasy Award-nominated publisher of Neon Hemlock Press (joining virtually)
- Geoff Habiger: founder of Artemesia Publishing and NM-AZ Award winning author

- Marie Parks: NM-AZ Award winning author and Futurescapes Most Promising New Author nominee  
For more information and to register, click [here](#).

---

## In Others' Words

“Another common misconception, I think, is that we writers work alone... It's collaborative. We send drafts to friends. We send drafts to readers, and they nudge us and carry us toward completion. I think this idea of the totally isolated artist is a false one.”

—Ada Limón, U.S. Poet Laureate

*Have a favorite quote about writing you'd like to share? [Send it to us!](#)*



[505-469-5273] [[info@nmwriters.org](mailto:info@nmwriters.org)] [[NMWriters.org](http://NMWriters.org)]

// CONNECT WITH US //



Share This Email



Share This Email



Share This Email

New Mexico Writers | 1066 Governor Dempsey Drive | Santa Fe, NM 87501 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!