

# The New Mexico Writer

MARCH 2026

*Supporting and connecting the literary community in New Mexico.*

A publication of **NMwriters**  
Supporting and connecting the literary community

## New Mexico Book Awards Opens for Entries

Authors, designers, publishers, and publicists from New Mexico or the greater Navajo Nation—or anyone involved in the production of a book with a creative connection to New Mexico—may now submit entries to the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards.

The book awards program enters its second year under NM Writers management, with Lisa McCoy serving as director. In 2025, the competition received 212 entries and recognized 48 winners and more than 150 finalists across multiple categories.



In addition to category awards, NM Writers will once again present the Paul Rhetts Award to the highest-rated book in the competition. Rhetts, who founded the New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards in 2007, managed the program for nearly two decades before transitioning leadership to NM Writers in early 2025. The contest was designed “to uncover and honor the best in New Mexico books,” Rhetts said. The Paul Rhetts Award was created by NM Writers to honor Rhetts’ legacy. A plaque will be awarded to the 2025 winner, Vaunda Micheaux Nelson for *Radiant*, at the NM Writers Annual Dinner on April 30, reported

McCoy.

“It was a diligent group of dedicated judges in 2025, and I look forward to working with returning and new judges this year,” McCoy said. Each book entered in the competition will be evaluated by at least three judges—volunteers who are booksellers, librarians, teachers, authors, publishers, agents, and avid readers. “This is a great way to connect New Mexico writers with New Mexico readers,” McCoy said.

Print books published in 2024 or 2025 are eligible for entry to the 2026 New Mexico Book Awards. Detailed information about eligibility, categories, submission instructions, and entry fees is available at the NM Writers website [here](#). The deadline for entering is May 8, 2026.

Results will be announced in early October on the NM Writers website and in *The New Mexico Writer*. “I have a glimmer of an idea for a 2026 winners and finalists awards banquet,” McCoy said, “to be held in a different city of our fair state than where NM Writers has its annual dinner.”

## Judges needed for the NM Book Awards!

*Help discover great New Mexico books.*

*Sign up [here](#) to be a judge in the 2026 NM Book Awards.*

*Judges can be booksellers, librarians, teachers, authors, publishers, agents, or avid readers. Judges will have about 3 months for reading and scoring their assigned books. Previous year judges will need to sign up again and re-choose categories. The deadline for judging is August 31, 2026.*

The New Mexico Book Awards were celebrated with two events held in February for 2025 winners and finalists—and their fans—who live near Abiquiú and Taos.



Abiquiú Inn hosted NM Writers and four winning and finalist authors in the Inn’s art gallery room. The 40 seats quickly filled up and it was standing room only at this Abiquiú event, reported McCoy.

Renée Gregorio connected body movement with creativity from her book *The Writer Who Inhabits Your Body*. Karen Chrappa shared a unique path to publishing her debut memoir *Beyond Fear: A Woman’s Path to Enlightenment*. Zach Hively, a 2021 NM Writers grantee, elicited laughs from the audience with a humorous essay from *Call Me Zach Hively Because That Is My Name*. Joan Logghe pulled at everyone’s heartstrings with poems and art from *Jade Bird: Singing Grief*.



SOMOS hosted NM Writers and three winning and finalist authors inside SOMOS’ expansive bookshop. Attendees arrived eager for the chance to hear from their favorite authors and be introduced to other authors from the Taos area, reported McCoy.

Bree Rosenblum led audience members in a thought-provoking writing exercise from her book *AND: The Tiny Word That Can Radically Transform Your Life*. Lise Goett, a 2022 NM Writers grantee, read an evocative poem from *The Radiant*. On behalf of the author who was unable to attend, McCoy read an excerpt from Jeffrey M. Hills’ *My Brooklyn Bridge*. J.

Hoolihan Clayton shared her research journey to uncover accurate history for her series that includes *Discretion is Valor*.

“I’d like to extend my appreciation to Abiquiu Inn and SOMOS, who graciously hosted, and to the authors who entered their books in the NM Book Awards and shared their time and experiences with readers at these events,” McCoy said. “Attendees and authors shared positive feedback about both events.”

Another New Mexico Book Awards event celebrating 2025 winners and finalists is planned for March 21 at Scarab Design House, a downtown Albuquerque gallery space at 514 Central Ave SW (upstairs). “Poetry and art books are in the spotlight on this occasion,” McCoy said.

Confirmed authors for the March 21 event include Hosho McCreesh, Charmayne Samuelson, V. B. Price, Irene I. Blea, Elizabeth Cohen, Sy Hoahwah, Daisy Atterbury, and Valerie Martínez. Attending authors’ books will be available for purchase and inscription. Representatives from Casa Urraca Press and University of New Mexico Press will also be there to celebrate with their authors. “Plans are in the works for poetry readings by the winning and finalist authors, art on display, live music, and the DrunkSkull Sidewalk Cinema (a short movie extolling the virtues of the small press),” McCoy said. This event will take place between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and is open to the public.

In addition to events coordinated by NM Writers, 2025 honorees are celebrating at their own events. Lauren Camp, winner in the Poetry category for *In Old Sky* (Grand Canyon Conservancy, 2024), will be celebrating the launch of her new book *Is Is Enough* at Collected Works on March 12, at Chatter on March 22, and at Chatter North on April 4.

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**Independent Bookstores  
Champion Local Authors Across  
New Mexico**

Independent bookstores remain a vital part of New Mexico’s literary ecosystem. Two independently owned shops are intentionally placing local authors at the forefront.

Enchanted Books at The Block in Rio Rancho and Black Cat Books & Coffee in Truth or Consequences might differ in size and setting, but they share the common goal of creating space for local voices.



*Black Cat Books & Coffee in T or C*

“Local authors are central to the Black Cat’s identity,” said Rebecca Pomeroy, owner of Black Cat Books. “Supporting them isn’t just something we do—it’s part of the foundation of why the store exists.”

Winston Malone shared a similar sentiment about Enchanted Books. “We’d like to think that local authors are the heart of our store’s identity,” he said. Malone opened Enchanted Books after finding it difficult to get his own books into bookstores. As a writer, editor, and publisher of speculative fiction, he envisioned a store “dedicated to indies.”



*Winston Malone at Enchanted Books in Rio Rancho*

During its first months, Malone prioritized local authors, Indigenous voices, and indie presses when making stocking decisions. While the shop has since expanded into mainstream titles due to customer demand, he said, “We make sure to display our local authors as prominently as possible, whether that means facing the covers out, labeling them with special identifying stickers, or placing them on the tops of our shelves.”

The 320-square-foot store offers consignment terms and hosts indie authors for book signings. A book club and writers’ club are in development, “as well as some fun author events to reach more readers,” Malone said.

Enchanted Books also donates a portion of all purchases to Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), a children’s literacy non-profit.

In Truth or Consequences, Black Cat Books & Coffee has also taken a community-centered approach. Pomeroy reopened the closed bookstore in December 2023. “From the beginning, it was important to me that the Black Cat be a space where local writers felt supported and seen,” she said.

The bookstore and cafe serve as a gathering place for writers at all stages. Several local women writers have formed a writing group at the store, and Black Cat Books regularly hosts book signings and events highlighting local voices. “Some of these authors are publishing their first books, some have multiple, and it’s incredibly meaningful to be able to offer them a place to share their work,” Pomeroy said.

These spaces are strong reminders of the role that independent bookstores play in supporting and advocating for local writers. As Pomeroy said, independent bookstores “are cultural spaces that help writers connect directly with readers. The Black Cat exists because of stories—and New Mexico writers are a vital part of that story.”



## Cynthia J. Sylvester to be Featured in Conversation with Jennifer Givhan at NM Writers Annual Dinner

The upcoming New Mexico Writers Annual Dinner will feature two Albuquerque-based authors. Jennifer Givhan, a Mexican American and Indigenous poet and novelist, will appear in conversation with NM Writers board member and fellow writer and poet, Cynthia J. Sylvester.

For Sylvester, who is an enrolled member of the Diné born into the Kiyaa’áanii Clan for the Bilagáana Clan, narrative begins with image. “It’s all about images and scene,” Sylvester said. “For me, that’s sort of actually how I write. I see where the person is and work those little details into who the person is without actually having to say, oh, she is a card carrying liberal or something. We know this because she’s got bumper stickers on her car. Movies are so powerful because they can weave in all the images, the dialogue, a soundtrack, everything into one single moment.”



As with many writers who move between forms, Sylvester draws inspiration from multiple creative influences. Several years ago, she searched for a title for a collection of fiction, poetry, and nonfiction she was assembling for publication. “When I went to make a title for a collection that wasn’t even written yet, I only really had one or two stories,” she said. “One of those stories was called Wild Horses, named after the great Rolling Stones song. And so, when it seemed like there was another song—I think at that point it was ‘Stairway to Heaven’—I thought, Oh, I could name this something to do with music. And of course, one of the most iconic

titles of an album is the White Album. And so, since I'm half white, I thought I'd call it *The Half White Album*." The book was published by the University of New Mexico Press in 2023 and received the New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for best LGBTQ+ book.



Sylvester's work has appeared in *ABQ in Print*, *Leon Literary Review*, *Lunch Ticket*, *As Us Journal*, and *Bosque (The Magazine)*, among other publications. She is also the recipient of the Native Writer Award at the Taos Writer's Conference.

In addition to her writing, Sylvester hosts Albuquerque DimeStories, an event featuring 3-minute stories written and read by the author. The program offers writers an achievable monthly goal (about 500 words), and a receptive venue to share their work. "So much of what we writers write never sees the light of day," she said. She credits community as instrumental to her success, endurance, and joy as a writer.

Sylvester, who has worked for more than 30 years as a physical therapist, often draws from her background in medicine for her writing. She is currently at work on a novel set in Albuquerque that follows four women who met while playing basketball in high school. "They had the worst record of any team in the city, but they were really good players," explained Sylvester. "They just didn't know how to win." The novel picks up their lives when the women are 49 years old, examining how what happened in high school continued to create issues for them.

Sylvester's book, *The Half-White Album*, is available as an add-on when you buy your NM Writers dinner ticket, as is keynote speaker Givhan's *Salt Bones* (Mulholland Books, 2025). Pre-purchased copies will be available for pick up and author inscription at the conclusion of the dinner program on April 30.

NM Writers reports over half of the dinner seats have been reserved. Organizers urge writers to [buy your dinner tickets soon](#).

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## Santa Fe International Literary Festival Sees Record Ticket Demand



Demand for the 2026 Santa Fe International Literary Festival (SFILF) has been significant. For the first time in the festival's history, three of the headlining author sessions reached capacity during the early donor presale period. The rapid sellouts prompted disappointment from festival fans and would-be attendees.

"The festival has always aimed to be accessible to everyone who loves books," Megan Mulry, SFILF executive director, wrote in a statement published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. "So we understand the disappointment that three of our most highly anticipated author sessions reached capacity during our early bird presale period."

“We know there are no perfect answers when demand is so high, and we are eager to learn from this year’s experience,” Mulry continued. “We are listening to feedback and thoughtfully considering ways to improve our ticketing process for 2027 so that as many readers as possible can share in the festival.”

Already this year the festival had given nearly 2,000 free tickets to New Mexico teachers, librarians, students, and residents facing financial hardship. In addition to ticketed sessions, book signings and courtyard receptions will remain free and open to the public. Select sessions will be recorded and made available online, pending the authors’ approval.

The festival will run May 15 to 17 at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. More information and ticket availability can be found on the SFILF website [here](#).

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## An Unexpected New Mexico Writers Reconnection

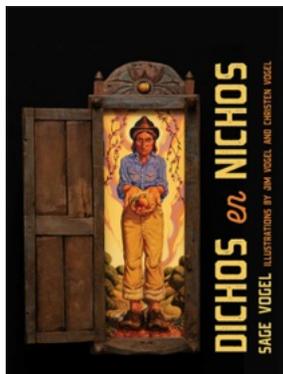
A recent issue of *The New Mexico Writer* led to an unexpected reunion for one Sustaining Member.

Shortly after joining NM Writers, Ruth E. Thaler-Carter was mentioned in the “Briefly Noted” section of the January 2026 issue of *The New Mexico Writer*. Soon after, she heard from NM Writers co-founder James McGrath Morris. He’d recognized her name from their shared years in Washington, D.C., as members of the late Washington Independent Writers.



“It was such a cool coincidence,” Thaler-Carter said. “Especially so when I learned that he founded New Mexico Writers; I had no idea he was in the area, nor that he’s written books that look fascinating—they’re on my ‘to be read’ list.” Thaler-Carter moved to Albuquerque to be closer to family in Corrales and described the reconnection as “icing on what is becoming a delicious cake.”

Morris reflected on the experience as well. “Reconnecting with Ruth reminded me that my experiences with Washington Independent helped me establish New Mexico Writers,” he said.



NM Writers Grants Committee Chair Carmella Padilla shared a connection that began at a NM Writers Annual Dinner. After striking up a conversation with Sage Vogel, who attended the event to learn more about the organization, Padilla learned that he was working on a project he hoped to submit to University of New Mexico (UNM) Press.

“I encouraged him to apply for a grant, and I introduced him that night to Stephen Hull,” Padilla said. Hull, director of UNM Press, told Vogel to submit a proposal. Vogel applied for and received a 2023 NM Writers Annual Grant. His book,

*Dichos en Nichos*, was published by UNM Press in 2025 and was the Fiction–Other

category winner in the 2025 New Mexico Book Awards. He is also a contributing writer for the *Pasatiempo*.

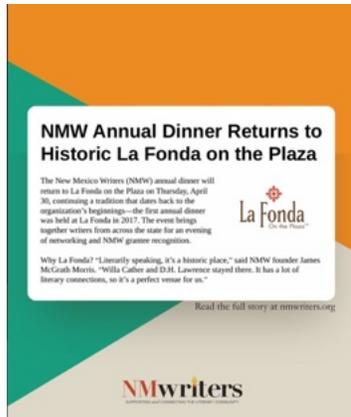
These stories of connection and reconnection highlight one of the primary pillars of NM Writers: fostering community among writers.

## Apply for a NM Writers Grant!

*The deadline to apply for a 2026 NM Writers grant is rapidly approaching. The grant program provides financial support to New Mexico and Diné writers working across genres, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, playwriting, and screenwriting. Awards typically range from \$500 to \$2,000 and may be used to support new projects or works already in progress. Writers selected for 2026 grants will be recognized at the NM Writers Annual Dinner on April 30 at La Fonda on the Plaza in Santa Fe.*

*Additional information and submission instructions are available on the NM Writers website [here](#). Applications must be received by March 6.*

## NM Writers Expands Social Media Presence



NM Writers has expanded its digital presence with new accounts on Instagram and Bluesky, along with a revived Facebook page.

The platforms will share excerpts from *The New Mexico Writer* as well as updates and announcements between issues. Writers who tag NM Writers in relevant posts may be reshared.

Follow NM Writers to connect on [Instagram](#), [Bluesky](#), and [Facebook](#).

## New Mexico Writers Grantee News



2022 NM Writers Grantee and current Board Member **Zahra Marwan's** illustration was featured in *The New York Times*, accompanying a review of Emanuela Anechoum's novel *Tangerinn*. Read the article [here](#).



2019 NM Writers Grantee **Laurel Goodluck's** book *Fierce Aunties!* was named a 2026 Picture Book Honor title by the American Indian Library Association. See the honorees [here](#).



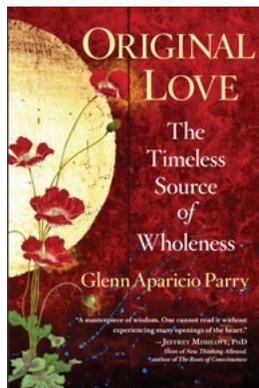
2023 NM Writers Grantee **Sage Vogel's** debut novel, *Dichos en Nichos* (UNM Press, 2025) was included in the *Albuquerque Journal's* Top Books of 2025. See the list [here](#).



2020 NM Writers Grantee **Khadijah VanBrakle** had both of her contemporary YA novels, *My Perfect Family* and *Fatima Tate Takes the Cake*, featured in the Jefferson County Public Library's list of Ramadan Reads. See the list [here](#).

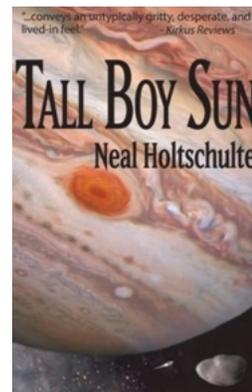
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## Briefly Noted



**Dr. Glenn Aparicio Parry** celebrated the launch of *Original Love: The Timeless Source of Wholeness* on February 13.

**Thomas W. Swetnam** celebrated winning the 2025 Southwest Book Award from the Border Regional Library Association for *The Jemez Mountains: A*



*Crew of Exiles* by **Neal Holtschulte** was named Best Science Fiction in the 2025 Bookshelfie Awards. Holtschulte also celebrated the release of his latest novel, *Tall Boy Sun*, on February 27.

**Dr. Sherri Burr's** newest book, *Living with Nephew: How I Got Voted the Meanest Parent in the World*, was

*Cultural and Natural History*, published by **UNM Press**.

reviewed in the *Albuquerque Journal*. Read the article [here](#).

**Sonja Dewing** celebrated the publication of *Daughter of the Black Flag* on February 14. Dewing will be participating as an Indie Author at the 2026 Tucson Festival of Books on March 14–15.

**Margaret Randall** celebrates the release of new work from **Casa Urraca Press** (Abiquiú) on March 10: *The Calendar's Whim* (poems), *Pages Lost and New* (essays), and the standalone essay chapbook *Writing Under Fascism: On Poetry and Creative Expression*.

**Scott Wiggerman's** *Beginning and Ending with Emily: Ghazals & Golden Shovels* will be published by **Casa Urraca Press** (Abiquiú) on March 24.

**Elaine Pinkerton** held a book signing of *From Calcutta with Love* at Barnes & Noble in Santa Fe.

**Ty Bannerman** celebrated the release of *Nuclear Family: A Memoir of the Atomic West* (**UNM Press**) on February 3. An author event was held at Books on the Bosque.

**N.J. Schrock** celebrated the release of *Morning of a Crescent Moon* on January 27.

**Casa Urraca Press** (Abiquiú) announced the launch of the *Margaret Randall Poetry Series*. The first two installments, coming March 17, are *El vuelo interminable / The Never-Ending Flight* (a bilingual collection by Eduardo Joly) and *Cloak* (by Dodici Azpadu). Casa Urraca will be participating as a vendor at the 2026 Tucson Festival of Books on March 14–15.

**Artemesia Publishing** (Tijeras) announced two upcoming releases, including *The Blue Wave* by M.G. Field and *North of Foothill (A Jimmy Sommes Investigation)* by Orlando Davidson.

**Geoff Habiger** and co-author Coy Kisse will be at Planet Comicon Kansas City on March 27–29 to showcase their latest release *Dr. Gnoll*.

**Wayne Lee's** new poetry collection, *The Beautiful Foolishness*, will be published by **Casa Urraca Press** (Abiquiú) on March 24.

**Martin Agee** read from his recently-released poetry collection, *Not a Violin*, at Chatter.

### 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

**March 3 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Meg Mullins** for a reading and signing of her new short story collection, *We Are All Having Fun Here*.

**March 5 at 5:30 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Jacob Engelsman** for a book talk around *Lactation for the Rest of Us* moderated by **Dr. Angela Lober**.

**March 6 at 6 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)**

Join **Dr. Wendy Johnson** in conversation with **Mirabai Starr** for a book talk around *Kinship Medicine: Cultivating Interdependence to Heal the Earth and Ourselves*.

**March 7 at 10 a.m. [Martha Liebert Public Library](#) (Bernalillo)**

Join **Dr. Sherri Burr** for an author talk and book signing on her newly released memoir, *Living with Nephew: How I Got Voted the Meanest Parent In the World*.

**March 8 at 2 p.m. [Fuller Lodge](#) (Los Alamos)**

Join **Sarah Rovang** at the historic Fuller Lodge for a talk about Cold War Los Alamos and its creative impacts on the postwar painting of Georgia O'Keeffe and to celebrate *Through the Long Desert: Georgia O'Keeffe and Frank Lloyd Wright*.

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

Join **Terry Tempest Williams** in conversation with **Dan Schrag** to discuss *The Glorians: Visitations from the Holy Ordinary*.

**March 9 at 7 p.m. [Entropy Gallery](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Robyn Hunt** and **Wren Propp** for The Floating Words Poetry Reading Series.

**March 10 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Garrett Peck** for a reading and signing to celebrate the launch of his new book, *The Bright Edges of the World: Willa Cather and Her Archbishop*.

**March 10 at 6 p.m. [Santa Fe Southside Library](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Margaret Randall** for a reading and signing of her new works, *Pages Lost and New* (essays) and *The Calendar's Whim* (poems).

**March 11 at 5 p.m. [Hotel Willa](#) (Taos)**

Join **Garret Peck** for a reading and signing to celebrate the launch of his new book, *The Bright Edges of the World: Willa Cather and Her Archbishop*.

**March 12 at 5:30 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Lauren C. Tefteau** for a launch event to celebrate the release of *Accelerated Growth Environment* with a reading, book signing, and Q&A.

**March 12 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Lauren Camp**, past New Mexico Poet Laureate, in conversation with poet **Carol Moldaw**, to celebrate the launch of *Is Is Enough*.

**March 14 at 5 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Jeff C. Carter** for *The Boogeyman is Real*, a folklore, history, and horror discussion.

**March 15 at 2 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Farzana Marie** for a reading and signing of *When Language Left Me: Post-Stroke Poems*.

**March 17 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Nancy Foley** for a book signing and reading from *I Am Agatha*.

**March 17 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Robin Becker** in conversation with former Albuquerque Poet Laureate, **Mary Oishi**, for a reading and signing of *Midsummer Count: New and Selected Poems*.

**March 19 at 1:30 p.m. [Thomas Branigan Memorial Library](#) (Las Cruces)**

Join **Tamar Myers** for an author talk around *Cousins from a Distant Sun*.

**March 19 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Robin Becker** for a reading from *Midsummer Count*.

**March 20 at 4 p.m. [Santa Fe Main Library](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Margaret Randall** for a reading and signing of her new works, *Pages Lost and New* (essays) and *The Calendar's Whim* (poems).

**March 20 at 6:30 p.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Dr. Iain D. Thomson** for a talk about his new book, *Rethinking Death in and After Heidegger*.

**March 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. [514 Central Ave SW \(upstairs\)](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join 2025 New Mexico Book Awards winners and finalists with their poetry and art books for poetry readings and a chance to meet and support local authors and publishers. Confirmed authors include **Hosho McCreesh**, **Charmayne Samuelson**, **V. B. Price**, **Irene I. Blea**, **Elizabeth Cohen**, **Sy Hoahwah**, **Daisy Atterbury**, and **Valerie Martínez**. Representatives from **Casa Urraca Press** and **University of New Mexico Press** will also be there to celebrate with their authors.

**March 21 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Lynn Underwood** for an author appearance.

**March 21 at 3 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Dita Dow** in conversation with **Su Lierz** to discuss Dow's debut novel *Sins in Black*.

**March 21 at 4:30 p.m. [Erna Fergusson Public Library](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Dodici Azpadu** (author of *Cloak*), **Eduardo Joly** (author of *The Never-Ending Flight*), and **Margaret Randall** for a reading to celebrate the launch of the first two books in *The Margaret Randall Poetry Series*. The event will take place in person, and attendees may also register to attend via Zoom.

**March 22 at 10:30 a.m. [Chatter](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Lauren Camp** for a reading from *Is Is Enough* and chamber music.

**March 24 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Garrett M. Graff**, author of *The Devil Reached Toward the Sky: An Oral History of the Making and Unleashing of the Atomic Bomb*, in conversation with **Jim Falk**, Program Chair at Global Santa Fe.

**March 24 at 6 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Nico Lang** for a discussion and signing of *American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in a Turbulent Era*.

**March 25 at 5:30 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Rosalie Rayburn** for a reading and signing of *Windswept: A Digger Doyle Mystery*.

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

Join **Craig Varjabedian** in conversation with **James Ayers**, Assistant Director of University of New Mexico Press, to celebrate the new paperback edition of *Into the Great White Sands*.

**March 26 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Logan Phillips** for a reading and signing of his new hybrid memoir, *Reckon*.

**March 27 at 5:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)**

Join **Dr. Charles G. Curtin** for an author reading and discussions of three decades of place-based conversation in New Mexico and across the globe.

**March 27 at 5:30 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **T. Kingfisher** to celebrate the launch of *Wolf Worm*.

**March 27 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Dorothy Denetclaw** and **Matt Fitzsimons**, authors of *The Sons of Gunshooter: A Navajo Resistance Story*, in conversation with **Dr. Jennifer Nez Denetdale**, chair of American Studies at UNM and the first Diné historian to earn a PhD.

**March 29 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Dr. Brent Jones** for an author appearance and signing of *The Confounding Case of Jean-Claude Carré*.

**March 29 at 12 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join poets **Scott Wiggerman** (*Beginning and Ending with Emily*), **Dodici Azpadu** (*Cloak*), and **Wayne Lee** (*The Beautiful Foolishness*) for a reading from their new works. Casa Urraca Press publisher **Zach Hively** will emcee.

**March 29 at 4:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)**

Join **Dami Roelse** for a book launch celebration and slide-show presentation of the Pacific Crest Trail.

**March 29 at 4:30 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Jack Ratliff** in conversation with **Hampton Sides** to discuss *Riding the White Bull: The Making of a Navy SEAL*.

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

Join poets **Anne Haven McDonnell** (*Singing Under Snow*), **Jenny George** (*After Image*), and **Kim Parko** (*The Grotesque Child*) for a reading and signing.

**March 31 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Rhea Sarason** to celebrate the launch of her debut picture book, *Little o Wanted to Know: A Fable About Finding Your True Self*.

**April 3 at 5:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)**

Join **Roberto Duran** and **Annalisa Martinez** for a reading to celebrate SOMOS' 14th year of April Poetry Month.

**April 4 at 10:30 a.m. [Chatter North](#) (Santa Fe)**

Join **Lauren Camp** for a reading from *Is Is Enough* and chamber music.

**April 4 at 1 p.m. [Los Griegos Library](#) (Albuquerque)**

Join **Neal Holtschulte** for an author event to celebrate the release of *Tall Boy Sun*.

# More Opportunities for Writers

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



## **Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color Award**

Sisters in Crime is accepting submissions for their annual Eleanor Taylor Bland Crime Fiction Writers of Color Award. Submissions must be received no later than **March 31, 2026**. Learn more and apply [here](#).

## **New Mexico CreativeCon**

Attend a CreativeCon event across New Mexico between **March 7 and June 6, 2026**. Find more details and register [here](#).

## **Workshop: The Power of Sacred Engagement**

This 90-min workshop on **March 10, 2026** is based on NM author Roxanne Howe-Murphy's latest book, *The Four Sacred Portals: Your Journey of Wholeness and Deep Kinship with Life*. Reserve your spot [here](#).

## **Los Alamos Writers Group**

Local writers meet for a writers' group at the Los Alamos Public Library every second Wednesday. The next meeting is **March 11, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

## **Workshop: The Introvert's Guide to Publishing & Publicity**

An online workshop hosted by New Mexico Book Association will take place on **March 12, 2026**. Join author Haven Lindsay for a workshop on navigating author life as an introvert. Register [here](#).

## **Prompt Nights at SOMOS**

Carrie Nassif and Christine Reed are hosting Prompt Nights every second Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome, and generative writing

## **The LAURA Short Fiction Award**

Women Writing the West members may submit short story entries to the LAURA Short Fiction Award through **May 1, 2026**. Learn more and submit [here](#).

## **Presentation: Write to Publish**

At the next Write to Publish meeting on **March 28, 2026** hosted by Quill & Quest Bookstore, editors of the Four Corners Voice anthology will discuss the selection process. Learn more [here](#).

## **Black Fox Literary Magazine**

*Black Fox* is accepting submissions for its Winter 2026 writing prize. Submissions must be received no later than **March 31, 2026** and should align with the theme of "Fairy Tale Remix." Learn more [here](#).

## **Workshop: Adding Authenticity to Your Work: Going Beyond Google**

An online workshop hosted by New Mexico Book Association will take place on **April 16, 2026**. Join author and library historian Suzanne Stauffer for a workshop on using your public library as a treasure trove of resources for non-fiction and fiction writing alike. Register [here](#).

## **Presentation: Albuquerque Science Fiction Society**

At the **April 17, 2026** Albuquerque Science Fiction Society meeting, Lauren C. Tefteau and Brian D. Hinson will be talking about their latest and forthcoming releases. Learn more [here](#).

## **WOW! Creative Non-Fiction Contest**

Women On Writing is accepting submissions for its quarterly creative

prompts will be provided. The next Prompt Night is **March 12, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

**Presentation: What's Your Genre**

At the SouthWest Writers meeting in person and via Zoom on **March 14, 2026**, Suzanne Stauffer will offer a presentation on defining formats, literary forms, and genres to help writers better categorize their work. Learn more [here](#).

**Croak & Dagger Virtual Party**

Croak & Dagger, the New Mexico chapter of Sisters in Crime, is holding a virtual cocktail/mocktail party on **March 15, 2026**. Members, friends, and fans may reach out for the Zoom link [here](#).

**Open Mic at SOMOS**

Carrie Nassif is hosting Spoken Word Open Mic every third Thursday at SOMOS Salon & Bookshop in Taos. Writers of any genre are welcome to share poetry, prose, storytelling, a capella. The next Open Mic is **March 19, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

**Workshop: How to Survive Public Speaking and Live to Tell the Tale**

A workshop hosted by SouthWest Writers will take place in person on **March 21, 2026**. Brenda Cole will teach writers how to prepare, give, and survive public speaking. Register [here](#).

**Panel: Historical Mysteries: Tips for Researching and Writing**

At the monthly Croak & Dagger meeting on **March 24, 2026**, a panel including Sue Hallgarth, Suzanne Stauffer, and Art Eisenstein will discuss tips for researching and writing historical mysteries. Learn more [here](#).

**Presentation: Writing from Trauma: How to Write and Publish Your Story of Abuse and Healing**

At the SouthWest Writers meeting via Zoom on **March 25, 2026**, Cait West will walk through the process of writing a memoir about abuse. Learn more [here](#).

**Workshop: How to Write Books that Change the World**

non-fiction essay contest through **April 30, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

**Tadpole Press Writing Contest**

*Tadpole Press* welcomes submissions for their 100-Word Writing Contest through **April 30, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

**NMPW Annual Conference**

The annual New Mexico Press Women's conference will be held Friday and Saturday, **May 1–2, 2026**, at Isleta Resort. The conference will include workshops and winner announcements of the Zia Book Award, Communications Contest, Communicator of Achievement, and scholarships. The conference theme is "Resilient Communicators – Thriving in Challenging Times." Learn more [here](#).

**Retreat: Meeting What Calls You Through the Four Sacred Portals**

A retreat based on NM author Roxanne Howe-Murphy's newest book will be held in Taos **May 2–5, 2026**. Register [here](#).

**Santa Fe International Literary Festival**

The 2026 Santa Fe International Literary Festival will be held **May 15–17, 2026** at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center. The star-studded author lineup includes Ada Limón, Jake Skeets, Kirk Ellis, Caroline Fraser, Craig Johnson, DezBaa', Priyanka Kumar, JJ Amaworo Wilson, among others. Learn more [here](#).

**Creative Expression Retreat: Poetry & Movement**

Local poet Emily Hyland is hosting National Book Award finalist Gabrielle Calvocoressi in Santa Fe for a weekend retreat **June 4–7, 2026**. Workshops and readings will be held at YogaSource Santa Fe. Register [here](#).

**Taos Writers Conference**

The 10th annual Taos Writers Conference, sponsored by and held at SOMOS, will be held **July 24–26, 2026**. Learn more and register [here](#).

**Writing Excuses at Sea**

At the Santa Fe Public Library on **March 25, 2026**, Nina Amir will help participants discover how to use a book to further their cause, mission, movement, or purpose. Register [here](#).

### **Songwriter's Showcase**

Peter Dahl-Bredine is hosting Songwriter's Showcase at Whiskey Creek Zócalo every last Thursday of the month. The next opportunity to showcase your songwriting skills is **March 26, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

### **Southwest Word Fiesta**

The 11th biennial Southwest Word Fiesta will be held in Silver City on **March 26–29, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

### **Erik Larson in Conversation with Hampton Sides**

Bookworks and the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation, in partnership with the Santa Fe International Literary Festival, present A Word with Writers, featuring Erik Larson in conversation with Hampton Sides. The event will take place on **March 27, 2026** at the historic KiMo Theatre to celebrate Larson's paperback release of *The Demon of Unrest*. Learn more [here](#).

### **Trickster Literary Journal Submissions**

*Trickster*, a publication by Northern New Mexico College, is accepting submissions through **March 27, 2026**. Submitted poems, prose, and pieces of artwork should align with this year's theme: metamorphosis. Learn more [here](#).

Sail with the hosts of the Hugo Award-winning Writing Excuses podcast from Seattle, WA to Alaska **September 3–11, 2026**. During this writing retreat, you'll hone your craft, connect with fellow writers, and make progress on your latest projects. This is the final annual cruise (for now). Learn more [here](#).

### **Abiquiú Writers Retreat**

Hosted by Casa Urraca Press, join fellow writers for an extended weekend **October 8–12, 2026** dedicated to your writing in community. Learn more and register [here](#).

### **Retreat: Writing Into the Ocean**

Join Emily Hyland, Marie Howe, and Mark Doty in Baja, Mexico for the Writing Into the Ocean retreat **October 17–23, 2026**. Register [here](#).

### **Green Fire Times Submissions**

*Green Fire Times*, a platform for regional, community-based voices, invites submissions of articles about New Mexico and the Southwest. Learn more and submit articles [here](#).

### **NM Jewish Journal Submissions**

The *New Mexico Jewish Journal*, whose mission is to connect, inform, enrich, and celebrate the vibrant and diverse Jewish communities of New Mexico and the region, invites submissions of articles, art, and more. Learn more [here](#).

## 2026 Southwest Book Design & Production Awards

The **Southwest Book Design & Production Awards** are designed to showcase excellence in book design and publishing, and to help raise the standards of book design and production, throughout the Southwest



NEW MEXICO  BOOK ASSOCIATION

The New Mexico Book Association (NMBA) is now accepting submissions for the **2026 Southwest Book Design Awards**, which recognize excellence in book design and publishing across the Southwest.

The awards honor outstanding achievement in cover design, interior design, and overall book production. The submission deadline is **June 19, 2026**.

For eligibility details, categories, and submission guidelines, visit the NMBA [website](#).

### In Others' Words

“All that you touch, you change. All that you change changes you.”  
— Octavia Butler

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



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