

The New Mexico Writer

JUNE 2026

Supporting and connecting the literary community in New Mexico.

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

Santa Fe Vibrates with Literary Energy Throughout SFILF Weekend

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival (SFILF) transformed Santa Fe into a hub of literary conversation throughout the weekend of May 15–17. More than 40 featured authors and nearly 20,000 attendees gathered at the Santa Fe Community Convention Center for a packed schedule of readings and conversations. This year's lineup included Judy Blume, Ada Limón, Ocean Vuong, Rebecca Solnit, Mira Jacob, Carl Hiaasen, Lauren Groff, and Isabel Wilkerson, among many others.



At the center of the festival, the convention center courtyard acted as both a gathering place and a reprieve between sessions, where attendees could steal moments to jot down reflections or continue discussions sparked by the speakers. Bookworks served as the festival's official bookseller and offered a curated selection of works, including those by featured authors. Tumbleroot Brewery & Distillery kept festivalgoers cool during the unseasonably hot weekend with craft drinks.

Still, the SFILF atmosphere extended well beyond the festival venue. Downtown Santa Fe restaurants, shops, hotel lobbies, and the entire Plaza buzzed with conversations about authors and books, creating what can only be described as an unmistakable literary energy across the city.



During her session, Ada Limón shared that “There’s so much space between us that only poetry can fill,” and over the weekend, Santa Fe seemed eager to keep filling that space. So much so that many attendees are already looking ahead to next year’s festival, which will take place May 14–16, 2027. Min Jin Lee, Billy Collins, Roxane Gay, Stephen Graham Jones, Lily King, and Hernan Diaz are already slated to join SFILF in 2027.

NM Writers Members Gather at Exclusive SFILF Rooftop Event

New Mexico Writers Sustaining Members gathered for an exclusive rooftop terrace event during the Santa Fe International Literary Festival (SFILF) weekend. The event offered members an opportunity to connect with NM Writers board members, featured festival authors, SFILF staff and guests, and Authors Guild members in an intimate setting overlooking downtown Santa Fe.

Among those in attendance were Judy Blume, DezBaa’, Kirk Ellis, and Jake Skeets. The evening included several literary leaders sharing remarks, including Authors Guild Foundation Executive Director Deborah K. Wilson and President Emeritus Douglas Preston, NM Writers Board Chair JJ Amaworo Wilson, festival author Mira Jacobs, and SFILF Executive Director Megan Mulry.



“You could feel the love of writing on the rooftop, the writing talent in full force sharing support and advice, and the love for writers, too, coming from the party below, where hundreds of readers gathered in the Courtyard,” said Sustaining Member Angela Wilson. “A sublime event.”

“I greatly enjoyed the rooftop reception during the SFILF. I got to see some good friends and meet some new ones, including a fellow teacher who invited me to be a guest artist in her class, which led to increased attendance at my poetry workshop.



That’s the benefit of attending these gatherings— opportunities to make good connections,” said Sustaining Member Wayne Lee.

Sustaining Members can look forward to future Perk Alerts featuring similar events.

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Young Authors Partake in Special Lit Fest Event

As part of the Santa Fe International Literary Festival, New Mexico Writers Executive Director Lisa McCoy and Sustaining Member Coordinator Saleema Ishq met with Katy Hammel’s fourth grade class from Zia Elementary. The students shared an impressive accomplishment having each written, edited, designed, and published their own novels.

During the session, students asked questions about writing, editing, publishing, and marketing their works. One of the strongest discussions centered around what makes a book “good” or “bad,” ultimately leading to the consensus that, instead of evaluating writing as good or bad, writers and readers can consider if they like a book (or not) and how the same book could resonate differently with everyone. “Even as an adult, I need this reminder,” said Ishq of the sentiment.





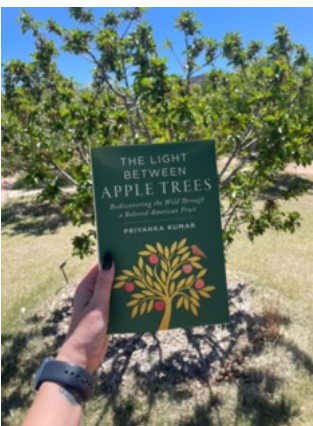
The event also included a “reverse book signing,” where McCoy and Ishq signed copies of the students’ books with words of encouragement. “This was my second year in conversation with Katy’s advanced writers at the Lit Fest, and I was once again impressed with the students’ passion for writing. It was a privilege to sign another batch of published books by these young authors.”

Author Carl Hiaasen later joined the students for an exclusive Q&A session. “You can do whatever you want,” he said about the joys of writing fiction. When asked by the class whether he’s a “planner” or a “pantser,” Hiaasen responded, “My characters drag me around.”

Literature Meets Nature at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens

The Santa Fe International Literary Festival extended beyond its main weekend programming with a collaborative event on May 18 at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. The featured speaker was author and naturalist Priyanka Kumar, who spoke about her latest release, *The Light Between Apple Trees*.

Attendees gathered for a reading and Q&A surrounded by native foliage, blooms, and birdsong. Kumar shared about “microwilds,” describing them as “fragments of nature that are just barely large enough to sustain notable biodiversity of plant and animal species.” She encouraged attendees to cherish the microwilds we have access to. “It’s becoming harder and harder for kids and younger generations to relate to nature,” she said.



During the discussion, Kumar also touched on the concept of “rasa,” which translates to “juice.” She urged attendees to consider, “What is it that animates us? What is that spring of joy deep within that sustains us during hard times? That joy, that juice, is *rasa*.”

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden will continue its Science and Conservation Speaker Series with *The Light Eaters: An Evening with Zoë Schlanger* on June 16, held at the New Mexico Museum of Art’s St. Francis Auditorium.

Where Poems Grow on Trees

Poems may not grow on trees—but the Poets Picnic in Albuquerque might convince you otherwise.

Each year, organizers Scott Wiggerman and Dale Harris coordinate a haiku submission process, with poems going into the annual chapbook as well as being exquisitely calligraphied onto brown paper strips called Weathergrams. These are dangled from trees throughout the grounds of the Open Space Visitor Center where, for the rest of the year, visitors can wander through poems like leaves.



Amaris Feland Ketcham and Zach Hively



Jonathan Reeve Price

This year’s event featured an ekphrastic haiku workshop that attendees said was “phenomenal” and “so much fun.” (Some of us had to run the small press sales tables and didn’t get to attend!) Then there was a phenomenal set of readings by poets Margaret Randall, Rene Mullen, Sharon Niederman, and Wayne Lee, as well as Wiggerman and Harris.

I hear it a lot: Who reads poetry anymore? Judging from the turnout at the 2026 Poets Picnic, there’s a whole bunch of us, as plentiful as leaves on the trees. —*Zach Hively*

Judging Begins for 2026 New Mexico Book Awards



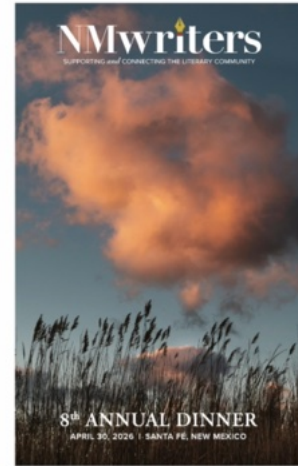
The New Mexico Book Awards Director, Lisa McCoy, has confirmed 139 entries in the 2026 contest. Books with a creative connection to New Mexico were entered by authors, designers, editors, publicists, publishers, and marketing managers from Arizona, Colorado, Washington D.C., Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Texas, Virginia, and London in the United Kingdom. Poetry was again the top category entered, followed by Autobiography & Memoir, Debut Book, and three Fiction categories: mystery, historical, and literary.

Entries are currently making their way into judges’ hands. More than 80 judges have signed up to review and score books this summer. Judges are booksellers, librarians, teachers, authors, publishers, agents, and avid readers.

Winners and Finalists for 2026 will be announced in early October, on the NM Writers website and in the October issue of this publication. Save the date for a 2026 New Mexico Book Awards banquet being planned in Las Cruces for the evening of October 2.

Eleven NM Writers Grantees for 2026

Since 2019, the New Mexico Writers Grant Program has awarded more than \$80,000 to 74 writers in a variety of literary endeavors in fiction, nonfiction, poetry, journalism, playwriting, and screenwriting. Major support for the program comes from Douglas and Christine Preston and the Captain Bob Morris Fund. Every year, the competition highlights new works or works in progress by writers from all populations and geographic areas of New Mexico and the greater Navajo Nation. Grants are awarded at the NM Writers Annual Dinner, where current grantees are honored as special guests.



Learn more about the eleven 2026 grantees on the NM Writers [website](#). Grants were awarded to writers of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction living in Albuquerque, Aztec, Rio Rancho, Santa Fe, and Taos.

Celebrate literary announcements with current and past grantees in the New Mexico Writers Grantee News section of this publication.

Know someone who might be interested in becoming a grantee? Next year's grant program will open in December 2026.

New Mexico Writers Grantee News



2026 NM Writers grantee **Victoriano Cárdenas** celebrated the publication of a short story in Fusion Theater's new literary journal, *Horizon Review*.



2020 NM Writers grantee **Khadijah VanBrakle**'s sophomore YA novel, *My Perfect Family*, was awarded the 2026 NM Press Women's Zia Award for Young Adult Books.



2022 NM Writers grantee and current Board Member **Zahra Marwan**'s solo exhibition of watercolor paintings, *Is There a Horse on Your Roof?* will be displayed at Hecho A Mano from July 3 to August 2.

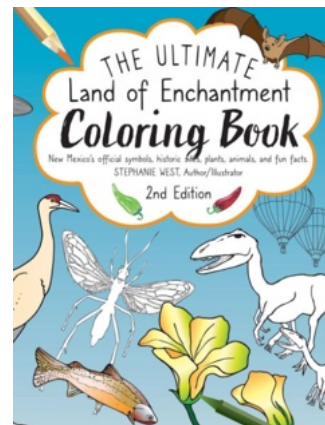
Briefly Noted



NM Writers Board Member **Carla Chung Mattix** announced the forthcoming August release of *National Parks and the Supreme Court: Groundbreaking Legal Battles* (University of Nevada Press).

Brenda Kay Beck's upcoming memoir, *Changing Woman Speaks: From Lost to Found in the Navajo Beauty Way* was named Finalist, Adult Nonfiction at the 2026 San Francisco Writers Conference.

Deborah Taffa is the recipient of a 2026 Howard Foundation Fellowship Award in the Fiction category.



Stephanie West celebrated the release of *The Ultimate Land of Enchantment Coloring Book: Expanded Second Edition* on February 14.

James McGrath Morris served as Peninsula College's Writer-in-Residence, participating in readings, interviews, and discussions at the college from May 12–14.

The Fight Across the River [a meditation on war] by **Anne Valley-Fox** will be published June 2 by **Casa Urraca Press** (Abiquiú).

In June, **Artemesia Publishing** (Tijeras) releases *The Homestead Café: Life Tastes Better at 6,559 Feet* by **Marcia Rosen** and **Jory Rosen**.

The **New Mexico Jewish Journal** published a review of *I am of the Tribe of Judah* (edited by Stephen A. Sadow, introduction by Ilan Stavans, published by **UNM Press**). This book was a 2025 New Mexico Book Awards Winner in the Multicultural category. Read the full review [here](#).

Vital Spaces announced **Shirley Edmonson** as their 2026 Poet in Residence.

Margaret Randall will participate as a special guest during Week 3 of Naropa University's Summer Writing Program.

Dr. Sherri Burr will speak at the 10th Global Meeting on Slavery at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

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

June 2 at 6 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Anne Valley-Fox** as she launches her new book, *The Fight Across the River* (**Casa Urraca Press**). She will be joined by **Betsy James**, reading from her new work of illustrated poetry *Infinite and Dangerous and Bright* (**Casa Urraca Press**). In-store and on Zoom.

June 2 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **John Fleck** in conversation with **Enrique Lamadrid** to celebrate the release of *Ribbons of Green: The Rio Grande and the Making of Modern Albuquerque*. This event is part of the Writing the Wild series in collaboration with the Leopold Writing Program.

June 5 at 5 p.m. [Quill & Quest](#) (Farmington)

Join **Margaret Cheasebro** for an author appearance and book signing.

June 6 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Dr. Nina Ross** for an author showcase with an appearance and book signing.

June 6 at 12 p.m. [Barnes and Noble Coronado Mall](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Carlene O'Connor** for a signing of *Death Wasn't Invited: A June's Journey Mystery and Murder at an Irish Session*.

June 7 at 1 p.m. [The Mountain Center](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Larry Glover** for a reading and conversation from *Wild Joy: Ecospiritual Encounters with Nature as Teacher, Healer, and Lover*.

June 7 at 2 p.m. [Barnes and Noble Santa Fe Place Mall](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Sara Hirsh Bordo** for a special event featuring her new book *Autoimmunity and the Good Girls: How Permission to Put Ourselves First Has the Power to Keep Us Well*.

June 7 at 4:30 p.m. [Collected Works](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Sarah Lovett & Ron Schultz** (*Metal Viper*) and **Colin Barker** (*Chaco: Mirrors and Murder*) for readings and a discussion.

June 9 at 5:30 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Hafeez Lakhani** for a reading and conversation around *Abundance*.

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

Join **Brian Jay Jones** to celebrate the release of his new book, *The Capitol: The Surprising Biography of an American Building*.

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

Join **Dr. Maceo Carrillo Martinet** for a reading and signing of his new book, *Healing the Land Teaches Us Who We Are: How Indigenous Cultural Resistance Can Restore the Earth, Recover Community, and Create Sustainable Futures*. This event is part of the Writing the Wild series in collaboration with the Leopold Writing Program.

June 10 at 6:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)

Join **Jennifer Pellerin** for a live reading from *Shadow Walker* followed by a conversation.

June 12 at 5:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)

Join **Daniel Ladinsky** for an evening of audience-interaction and fun with a play-reading.

June 13 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join Page 1 Books for an author showcase featuring *This Other World*, by the late **Gerald Mandell**. Copies of the book will be exclusively available during this Weekend Showcase.

June 13 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Richard Estrada** for an author appearance and signing of his first published picture book, *The Challenge*.

June 13 at 1 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Cassie Sanchez** for a signing of her new fantasy novel, *Battle Beyond the Veil: An Urban Fantasy Where Angels and Demons Collide*.

June 13 at 2 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Alexandra Diaz** and help celebrate the launch of *Camp Big Top* with a reading, Q&A, live circus performance, and light snacks.

June 14 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Jo-Lynn Herbert** for an author appearance and signing of *Jo-Lynn's Written Expressions from City, Ocean to a Mountain: A Memoir*.

June 14 at 1 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Joining **Nathaniel Tetsuro Paolinelli** for an event to celebrate *Seventh and Central: Lowriders* (**University of New Mexico Press**). Attendees can expect a lowrider car and bike show, book signing, and discussion with state senator **Leo Jaramillo**.

June 19 at 5:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)

Join **Nancy Stapp** and **Kristin Graziano** for a reading to celebrate LGBTQ+ Month.

June 20 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **O'labumi Brown** for an author appearance and signing of her debut memoir, *Hairalujah*.

June 20 at 12 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Holly Harrison** for a presentation and signing of *Death in the Land of Enchantment*.

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

Join **Deb Haaland**, gubernatorial candidate, to celebrate the release of *A Voice Like Mine*.

June 20 at 2 p.m. [The Plaza](#) (Santa Fe)

Join Sankofa Arts Alliance of New Mexico for a story slam highlighting stories told by Black writers in New Mexico during Vital Spaces' annual Juneteenth celebration. **Hakim Bellamy** will serve as Master of Ceremonies with **Darryl Wellington** as a guest judge.

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

Join **Miguel Sinnott** for an author appearance and signing of *Preston Welles* and *Preston Welles II*.

June 21 at 4:30 p.m. [SOMOS](#) (Taos)

Join **Jess Gutfreund** and **Jesse Workman** for a reading and conversation on the recently released *Seahorses: Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender-Expansive Pregnancy*. This special family friendly event will also include a Drag story hour with local Drag queens Anastasia Moon, Zia Willowflower, and Badboy Brujo.

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

Join **Miriam Horn** for a reading and signing of *Homesick for a World Unknown: The Life of George B. Schaller*.

June 25 at 6 p.m. [Bookworks](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Lynn C. Miller** (*The Surrogate*) and **Nancy J. Allen** (*A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes and Other Stories*) in conversation with **Lynda Miller**.

June 27 at 10:30 a.m. [Center for Contemporary Arts](#) (Santa Fe)

Join **Betsy James** for a reading from her new collection *Infinite and Dangerous and Bright* (**Casa Urraca Press**) as part of the program at Chatter North.

June 27 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **G.S. Harrington** for an author appearance and signing of *What We Have Tamed*.

June 27 at 2 p.m. [Placitas Community Library](#) (Placitas)

Join **Ron Fanscell** and **Anne Hillerman** for an intimate fireside-style chat centered on Ron's new mystery novel, *Deep End*.

June 27 at 3 p.m. [Narrow Gauge Book Cooperative](#) (Alamosa, CO)

Join **Marie Parks** for a reading and signing. She will be signing books in-store from 3 to 5:30 p.m., and the reading will begin at 6.

June 28 at 11 a.m. [Page 1 Books](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Shawn M. Graybeal-Sellers** for an author appearance and signing to celebrate her debut novel, *Anywhere But Here*.

June 28 at 12 p.m. [Books on the Bosque](#) (Albuquerque)

Join **Steven L. Davis** for a book signing and reading of *Beating Heart of the World: The Taos Art Colony, the Pueblo Resistance, and the Battle for Indigenous America* (**University of New Mexico Press**).

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

Join **Betsy James** for a reading and signing of her new poetry collection, *Infinite and Dangerous and Bright* (**Casa Urraca Press**).

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

Join Poet Laureate of the United States **Arthur Sze** with **Ryo Yamaguchi**, publisher and executive director at Copper Canyon Press, for a celebration of *Transient Worlds: On Translating Poetry*. This event will also feature readings by **Kareem James Abu-Zeid**, **Carol Moldaw**, **Leo Romero**, **Irina Ross**, and **Orlando White** of original poems in Arabic, Diné, Russian, and Spanish, as well as their English translations.

More Opportunities for Writers

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



SF Botanical Garden Speaker Series

This author talk at the Santa Fe Botanical Gardens on **June 16, 2026**, hosted in partnership with Collected Works Bookstore, features Zoë Schlanger, author of *The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth*. Learn more and register [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](#).

The ABQ Collective Book Fest

The ABQ Collective's Second Annual Book Fest, to be held **July 11–12, 2026**,

A Word With Writers: Deb Haaland
Former cabinet secretary, organizer, congresswoman, and New Mexico 2026 gubernatorial candidate Deb Haaland will discuss her new memoir, *A Voice Like Mine* on **June 4, 2026**. This event is hosted by Bookworks in collaboration with the Albuquerque Public Library Foundation. Find details and tickets [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](#).

‘Burque Bee Team Spelling Bee

The Annual ‘Burque Bee Spelling Bee, presented by Ethos Literacy, will take place on **June 5, 2026**. Teams of three spellbinders may register [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 **June 10, 2026**. Learn more [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 prompts will be provided. The next Prompt Night is **June 11, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

Presentation: How to Mine Family History for Literary Gold

At the SouthWest Writers meeting in person and via Zoom on **June 13, 2026**, Dr. Sherri Burr will help participants create roadmaps for crafting their own stories. Learn more [here](#).

is accepting vendors. Authors may purchase a vendor space to sell books, merchandise, and connect with readers. For more information, visit The ABQ Collective’s [website](#).

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](#).

Mesa Verde Literary Festival

The Mesa Verde Writers Conference will take place **September 2–4, 2026** in Mancos, CO, followed by the 2nd Annual Mesa Verde Literary Festival on **September 5, 2026**. Learn more and register [here](#).

Writing Excuses at Sea

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](#).

Southern New Mexico Book Festival

Save the date for the 2026 Southern New Mexico Book Festival planned by Las Cruces Writers for **October 2–3, 2026**. The event will be open to the public and held again at the Doña Ana Community College. Authors from Southern New Mexico and beyond will host writing workshops, author readings, book sales, and signings. Website and author registration is coming soon.

An Evening with Hampton Sides

Collected Works, in association with Santa Fe International Literary Festival, presents an evening with Hampton Sides on history, literature, and the 20th Anniversary of *Blood and Thunder*. The event will take place at The Lensic on **October 3, 2026**. Hampton will be in conversation with Ed Roberson, conservationist, storyteller, and creator

A Word With Writers: Andrew Sean Greer

An event featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrew Sean Greer in conversation with Emily Zipps takes place on **June 16, 2026**. Purchase tickets and find more information [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 **June 18, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

Workshop: How to Use AI Platforms to Conduct Writing Research

At the SouthWest Writers workshop in person and via Zoom on **June 20, 2026**, David F. Menicucci will demystify AI technology and explain where it can be best applied in research. Learn more and register [here](#).

Deb Haaland at the Lensic

An event featuring gubernatorial candidate Deb Haaland in conversation with former Albuquerque poet laureate Hakim Bellamy will take place on **June 21, 2026**. Purchase tickets and find more information [here](#).

Presentation: Substack for Authors

At the SouthWest Writers meeting via Zoom on **June 24, 2026**, Lisa Haneberg will provide tips and perspectives from authors currently using Substack. Learn more [here](#).

Presentation: Write to Publish

At the Write to Publish meeting on **June 20, 2026** hosted by Quill & Quest Bookstore, Monte Hill will discuss how to work with an editor to develop and polish a book. Learn more [here](#).

WOW! Creative Non-Fiction Contest

Women On Writing is accepting submissions for its quarterly creative

of the podcast *Mountain & Prairie*. Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).

Women Writing the West Conference

The annual Women Writing the West Conference taking place **October 15 – 17, 2026** in Phoenix, AZ is open for registration. The conference will feature three days of speakers, workshops, and presentations, as well as pitch sessions with editors, agents, and publishing professionals. The WILLA Literary Award, The LAURA Short Fiction Award, and The DOWNING Journalism Award will be presented. 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](#).

SouthWest Writers Book Fiesta

SouthWest Writers announced their forthcoming event, *Libros of Enchantment: The 2026 SouthWest Writers Book Fiesta*, taking place on **October 31, 2026**. Find more information and ticket sale dates [here](#).

Kauai Writers Conference

The Kauai Writers Conference, taking place **November 2–8, 2026**, offers a selection of twenty four-day master classes on all aspects of the craft and business of writing, plus one-on-one meetings with many top literary agents and editors. NM Writers members and fans may use coupon code WG789 to save on tickets. Find details and 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

non-fiction contest through **July 31, 2026**. Learn more [here](#).

WriteHive Annual Conference

The 2026 WriteHive Annual Conference, a free, virtual conference for writers, will take place **July 10–12, 2026**. Learn more and register [here](#).

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](#).



SouthWest Writers (SWW) announced the theme of their **2026 Writing Contest**. “By Human Hands” refers to writing by humans: you, your voice, your story, your passion, by your own hands. This year’s contest includes 18 writing categories across a broad array of genres. Winners will receive cash prizes and an opportunity to be included in the SouthWest Writers Contest Anthology to be published later this year.



The contest will open for submissions on **May 1, 2026** and closes at midnight on **June 8, 2026**.

SWW encourages aspiring and experienced writers of all cultures and backgrounds to enter. They welcome a diversity of creative expressions and points of view. Writers do not have to be a member of SWW or live in the Southwest to enter. Find more information about the contest [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



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

“Now more than ever we have an obligation to write the stories we were born to tell.”
—Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize winner and author

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

Contributors

- **Saleema Ishq** is the editor of *The New Mexico Writer* and New Mexico Writers' Sustaining Member Coordinator.
- **Lisa McCoy** is the Executive Director of New Mexico Writers and Director of the New Mexico Book Awards.
- **Zach Hively** is a 2021 New Mexico Writers grantee, essayist, poet, and founder of [Casa Urraca Press](#).

Interested in contributing to *The New Mexico Writer*? [Let us know!](#)

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