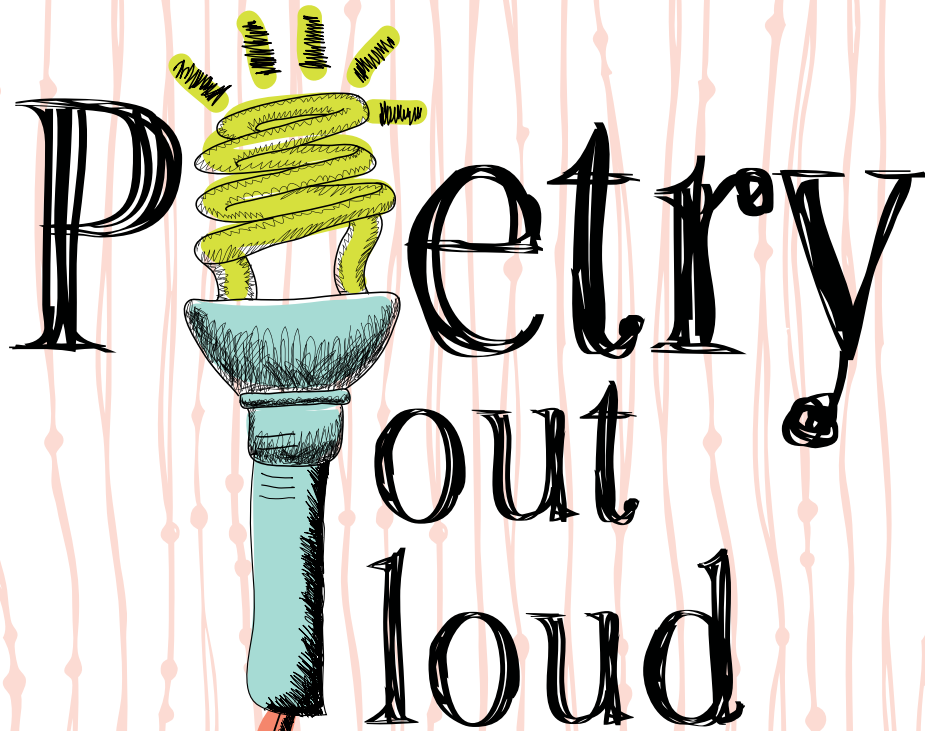


ELEVENTH ANNUAL

**Nevada Poetry Out Loud
Recitation Competition**

STATE FINALS

2016 nevada



Powering Up Poetry

**March 19, 2016 Noon-3 pm
KNPB Channel 5 Reno**

A program of the Nevada Arts Council and co-sponsors
NV Energy Foundation, Cultural Alliance Nevada, Nevada Department of Education,
National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation

Paul Caudill

Honorary Chair

2016 Nevada Poetry Out Loud



March 19, 2016

Greetings:

Welcome to the 2016 Nevada *Poetry Out Loud* State Finals. During this school year, nearly 3,000 students from across our great state have been working with teachers, coaches, family members, friends and poets-in-residence, as part of the 11th Annual Nevada *Poetry Out Loud* Program. Their hard work, talent and outstanding effort has brought them to today's State

Finals, where a champion will be selected to represent Nevada at the *Poetry Out Loud* National Finals competition in Washington, D.C.

NV Energy and the NV Energy Foundation have been long-term supporters of the arts in Nevada and we're proud to be a part of the Nevada *Poetry Out Loud* program. Support for the arts contributes to communities that thrive and grow. As I like to say, support for the arts is also good for business!

The skills these students have already learned as they prepared for school and district competitions will serve them for the rest of their lives. They set themselves apart by studying, memorizing, reciting and interpreting poetry for an audience—whether they live in one of Nevada's metropolitan areas or rural communities. Words are a powerful tool and, as audience members, you can now sit back and enjoy as these talented and exceptional young people bring poetry to life.

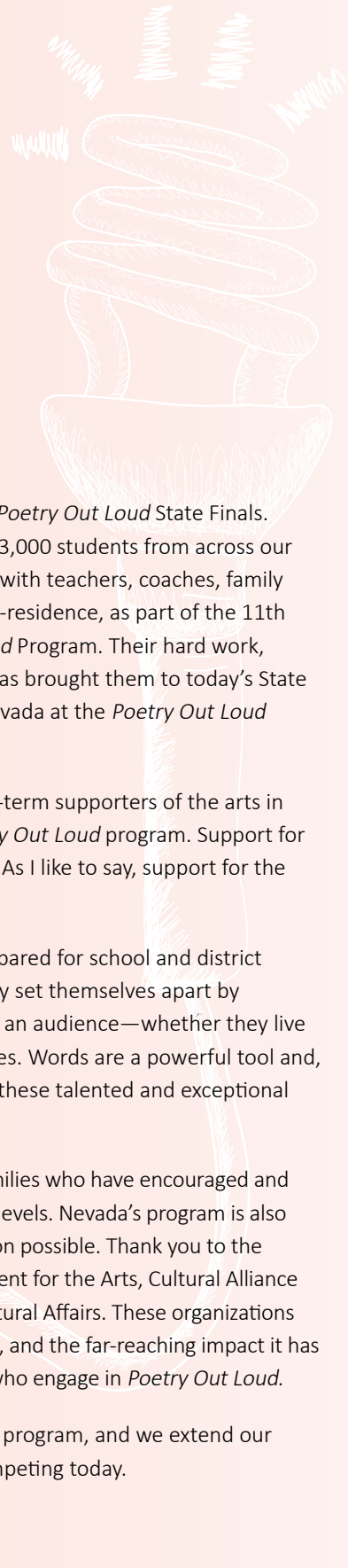
I'd be remiss if I didn't also recognize the educators and families who have encouraged and supported students to participate in *Poetry Out Loud* at all levels. Nevada's program is also supported by many organizations that make this competition possible. Thank you to the Nevada Arts Council, Poetry Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Cultural Alliance Nevada, KNPB and Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. These organizations recognize the power of creative exploration and expression, and the far-reaching impact it has on all of our young people, and in particular, the students who engage in *Poetry Out Loud*.

On behalf of NV Energy we hope you will enjoy this year's program, and we extend our congratulations and much admiration to the students competing today.

Sincerely,

Paul Caudill

NV Energy President and CEO



NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

In partnership with

Cultural Alliance Nevada
Nevada Department of Education
National Endowment for the Arts
Poetry Foundation
Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

proudly present



2016 NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD STATE FINALS

**March 19, 2016
Noon – 3 pm
KNPB Channel 5 Reno**

FEATURING THE 2016 NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD FINALISTS:

Shaylin Segura, Carson City
Christopher Alvarez, Clark County
Vanessa Blackwell, Douglas County
Mikayla Bates, Elko County
Stephen Watts, Eureka County
Allyssa Wadsworth, Lincoln County
Gabrielle Hunt, Lyon County
Erik G. Jett, Nevada Virtual
Summer Taylor, Nye County
Loree Brimage, Pershing County
John “Dexter” Yago, Storey County
Natalie Rodriguez, Washoe County

Nevada Poetry Out Loud – CELEBRATING ITS 11TH YEAR

“...In the hands of the poet, our everyday speech becomes a musical instrument.”

—JOHN BARR. FORMER PRESIDENT. POETRY FOUNDATION

2016 NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD PROGRAM

The literary arts have always been a figure in the western landscape, so it is no surprise that the Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program continues to power up enthusiasm and excitement.

Nevada has experienced exponential growth since the first year in 2005, when 200 students, coaches, teachers and parents were involved. This year, Nevada Poetry Out Loud engaged more than 2,700 students, 53 teachers and 31 schools across the state. Now that’s poetry power!

A POEM IS A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Poetry Out Loud is a distinctive arts education initiative that begins in communities throughout the state. High school-aged students in public, private, charter and home schools master public-speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage through the memorization and recitation of classic and contemporary poetry.

By making the words of great poets literally come to life, semi-finalists advance from school and district competitions to compete at the Nevada State Finals where the stakes are high. The Nevada POL State Champion receives \$1,000 and \$1,000 for his or her school for poetry books and literary programs, and travels to Washington, D.C. to compete for \$50,000 in scholarships and school stipends at the National Finals, May 2-4. Those placing second and third place at the Nevada State Finals each receive \$500, and \$500 for his or her school.

POWERING UP POETRY!

Generous support from NV Energy is fueling the *Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence Program* for the fifth year in a row. In 2016, three poet/educators worked with 550 students and 29 teachers in four high schools and one K-12 school in Yerington, Boulder City, Smith Valley, Beatty and Zephyr Cove. The poets worked with several classes during the school day on a range of topics, such as *Finding the Meaning of a Poem*, *Demystifying the Creative Process*, and *How to Convey Meaning through Oral Interpretation*.

2016 POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL FINALS

The National Endowment for the Arts reports that three million students, 10,000 schools, and 45,000 teachers have experienced Poetry Out Loud since the program’s inception. Nevada’s State Champion and his/her chaperone travel to Washington, D.C. to vie against extraordinary competitors from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico at the National Finals in May. Finalists attend a number of events while in the nation’s capital city, with the national competition at the Lisner Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University. All rounds of the National Finals will be webcast live at arts.gov.



2016 Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals

WELCOME

Julia Arger, Chair, Nevada Arts Council

COMMENTS

Paul Caudill, CEO, NV Energy | 2016 Poetry Out Loud Honorary Chair

MASTER OF CEREMONIES | INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES AND STUDENTS

Gailmarie Pahmeier, Poet Laureate, City of Reno

Round 1

1. Nye
2. Eureka
3. Pershing
4. Douglas
5. Clark
6. Carson
7. Lyon
8. Elko
9. Storey
10. Washoe
11. Virtual
12. Lincoln

Round 2

1. Storey
2. Virtual
3. Elko
4. Lincoln
5. Washoe
6. Nye
7. Pershing
8. Douglas
9. Clark
10. Eureka
11. Lyon
12. Carson

Round 3

Top three finalists

READING

AWARDS PRESENTATION

RECEPTION

All are invited!

Poems + Poets

For the Nevada State Finals, each student is required to prepare three poems for recitation that have been selected from an anthology prepared by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation. The poems chosen by each student are

listed below in the order in which they will recite them. Deciding on the recitation order is a strategic decision that the students must make. All students will recite one poem in Round 1 and one poem in Round 2. Only three students will advance to Round 3.

CARSON CITY | Shaylin Segura

When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer by Walt Whitman
A Birthday by Christina Rossetti
Blackberrying by Sylvia Plath

CLARK | Christopher Alvarez

Eros Turannos by Edwin Arlington Robinson
El Olvido by Judith Ortiz Cofer
Blow, Blow Thou Winter Wind by William Shakespeare

DOUGLAS | Vanessa Blackwell

Ecology by Jack Collom
Solitude by Ella Wheeler Wilcox
Israfel by Edgar Allan Poe

ELKO | Mikayla Bates

Country Boy in Winter by Sarah Orne Jewett
Domestic Situation by Ernest Hilbert
For the Young Who Want To by Marge Piercy

EUREKA | Stephen Watts

The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson
The Statesmen by Ambrose Bierce
The Tyger by William Blake

LINCOLN | Allyssa Wadsworth

The Author to Her Book by Anne Bradstreet
The Death of Allegory by Billy Collins
Writing by Howard Nemerov

LYON | Gabrielle Hunt

Israfel by Edgar Allan Poe
The Nail by C.K. Williams
Spanglish by Tato Laviera

NEVADA VIRTUAL ACADEMY | Erik G. Jett

Idea 20: An evil spirit, your beauty, haunts me still
by Michael Drayton
Eating Poetry by Mark Strand
Fairy-tale Logic by A.E. Stallings

NYE | Summer Taylor

The Children's Hour by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Auto-Lullaby by Franz Wright
The Lake Isle of Innisfree by William Butler Yeats

PERSHING | Loree Brimage

The Bones of My Father by Etheridge Knight
The Idler by Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson
My Papa's Waltz by Theodore Roethke

STOREY | John "Dexter" Yago

Let it be Forgotten by Sara Teasdale
I Find no Peace by Thomas Wyatt
No Coward Soul is Mine by Emily Bronte

WASHOE | Natalie Rodriguez

Novel by Arthur Rimbaud
To The Desert by Benjamin Alire Saenz
Greed by Philip Schultz

CARSON CITY

Shaylin Segura

Junior

Carson High School

Tasha Fuson, Principal



Shaylin Segura has lived in the bustling community of Carson City, Nevada's state capital, since the day she was born in July of 1998. For 17 years she has enjoyed sledding in the white mountains of winter. The summer heat drives Shaylin, her older sister and younger brother up to Lake Tahoe for hiking and camping. Her family members, including her new Doberman puppy, are her biggest supporters. As a junior at Carson High School, she has very high hopes for the future. Shaylin would like to thank her father and mother, Pedro and Laura Segura and Patrick Mobley, her debate coach.

CLARK COUNTY

Christopher Alvarez

Senior

Las Vegas Academy of the Arts

Scott Walker, Principal



Christopher Alvarez was born on August 8, 1998. He is 17 years old and has resided in Las Vegas for the majority of his life. Since he was a child, he has always had a significant passion for the arts. At the age of eight he began to sing, and had his first performance in a little restaurant called "La Sirena". Shortly after, he enrolled at a studio school for modeling and acting. At the age of 10, he was one of the winners in a news anchor competition for the Hispanic news channel "Univision Noticias 15". That competition led to another opportunity to study modeling, dancing, and acting and to perform in various venues. Throughout all of this, despite doing other things, he never abandoned singing. He continues to sing and perform in countless community venues and events. Christopher attended Woodbury Middle School, and is currently attending Las Vegas Academy of the Arts. He would like to thank his mother, Irene Aguilar, his sister, Elizabeth Aguilar; his brother, Mauro Alvarez; his friend, Anali Macias; his teacher, Stacey Johnston; and God.

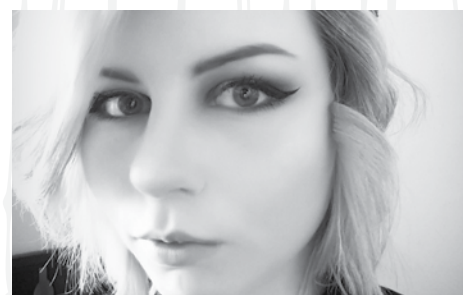
DOUGLAS COUNTY

Vanessa Blackwell

Senior

Douglas High School

Marty Swisher, Principal



Vanessa Blackwell is a senior at Douglas High School where she is an honors and AP student. This is her third year competing in Poetry Out Loud, and her first time making it to the State competition. After high school, Vanessa hopes to go to MUD, a beauty school in Los Angeles, to pursue special effects and bridal makeup. Her dream is to work on the set of a movie as the lead makeup artist. As a long-term goal, she hopes to create her own makeup brand and has already started to design the products. Vanessa would like to thank her mother and father, Diane and Curtis Blackwell; her grandfather, Ronald Brill; her boyfriend, Austin Tildea; and her English teacher, Karen Heine.

Finalists

ELKO COUNTY

Mikayla Bates

Senior

Elko High School

Tim Wickersham, Principal



Mikayla Bates is a senior at Elko High School. She is very involved in Student Council, Young Life, Drama Club, and competitive public speaking. She also enjoys writing, photography, making short films and videos, and organizing events for her peers. Mikayla loves the stage and spotlight. Her mantra is “Others will watch, make it worth their while!” She has placed in many speech competitions during high school, her favorite being Poetry Out Loud. Mikayla is happy to be returning to Reno for this year’s state competition! Her future plans include majoring in film and acting. Mikayla would like to thank her parents, Kelly and Eric Bates; her brother, Ryan Bates; her speech coach, Emily Nielson; her drama teacher, Kelly Moon; and her classmates at Elko High School.

EUREKA COUNTY

Stephen Watts

Senior

Eureka County High School

Dan Wold, Principal



Stephen Watts is a senior at Eureka County High School where he plays football, basketball, and runs track. He also plays the fiddle, piano and bass in a rock band. This is his second year participating in Poetry Out Loud, but his first time attending the state competition. Since his dad is an English teacher, there was never a way for him to avoid poetry so he had to learn to love it. Stephen is super excited to be able to compete at this event and share some beautiful poetry—pieces of art—with everyone. He would like to thank his father and English teacher, Karl Watts, and his teachers Abby Sweet and Ralph Cuda.

LINCOLN COUNTY

Allyssa Wadsworth

Senior

Lincoln County High School

Marty Soderborg, Principal



Allyssa Wadsworth wrote her first story when she was six years old, and has wanted to spend her life writing ever since. She is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and her religion has influenced every part of her life, including her writing. She grew up in Lincoln County, Nevada. Allyssa would like to thank her mother, Kelly Wadsworth; her sisters, Chelsey, Cami and Rachel Wadsworth; her cousin and best friend, Joy Wadsworth; and her friend Lizzy Glockner.

LYON COUNTY

Gabrielle Hunt

Sophomore

Yerington High School

Duane Mattice, Principal



Gabrielle Hunt is a sophomore at Yerington High School. She is involved in many extracurricular activities including Student Senate, Interact Club, Academic Olympics and theater. She also enjoys playing the tenor saxophone in her school's concert, jazz and pep bands. When she graduates, she hopes to be accepted to Stanford University, and plans to study Engineering and Creative Writing. This is her second year participating in Poetry Out Loud, and attending the state competition. She would like to thank her English teacher, Mrs. Aldridge, and her parents for their support in both past and present competitions.

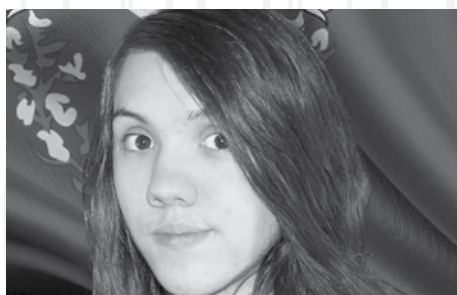
NEVADA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL

Erik G. Jett

Senior

Nevada Statewide Virtual

Orlando Dos Santos, Principal



Erik Jett was born in Anchorage Alaska. He is a gamer that seeks challenges and adventure in everything he plays including his favorite game *Magic: The Gathering*. His new interests include Drama Club and poetry. Erik would like to thank his parents, Juliana and James Jett, and his Drama Club teachers Cornel Nemes and Brian Fleischer.

NYE COUNTY

Summer Taylor

Freshman

Beatty High School

Gary Flood, Principal



Summer Taylor is a freshman at Beatty High School. She has played volleyball since the 6th grade. Summer's other interest includes clarinet. She believes in doing her best in school while volunteering and being active in the Student Council. Summer would like to extend a thank you to her mom, two brothers and her English teacher, Mrs. Mary Beth Aragon.

Finalists

PERSHING COUNTY

Loree Brimage

Junior

Pershing County High School

Tom Brooks, Principal



Loree Brimage was born in Fallon, Nevada and raised in Lovelock. She attends Pershing County High School as a junior and maintains a high GPA. Being successful is her main goal while maintaining a simple life. Her favorite hobbies are drawing, hanging out with friends, managing the basketball team and reading. This is her second year attending the state competition. Loree is very appreciative of her mom and grandparents for their love and support.

STOREY COUNTY

John "Dexter" Yago

Freshman

Virginia City High School

Patrick Beckwith, Principal



John "Dexter" Yago is a freshman at Virginia City High School. At the age of three, his family moved from the Philippines to the U.S. He has an array of hobbies, such as karaoke, dancing, listening to music from the 80s and reading Marvel comic books. John likes eating pizza while watching his favorites shows Supernatural, WWE, and Arrow. John would like to thank his mother, Maricel, stepfather Michael; and his English teacher, Kristen Scott for their continued support.

WASHOE COUNTY

Natalie Rodriguez

Senior

Wooster High School

Leah Keuscher, Principal



Natalie Rodriguez is a senior at Earl Wooster High School. This is her first year participating in Poetry Out Loud. She is a spoken word poet with the Spoken Views Youth Collective (SVC), and has been involved in her school's cheer squad for four years. Natalie is graduating with honors and will attend the University of Nevada, Reno this fall. She hopes to graduate college with a degree in secondary education and become a high school English teacher. Natalie wants to thank her mother, Mayra Quiroz; her teachers, Mr. Reid and Ms. Ubando; her friend and life coach, Whitney Reyes; all of her wonderful friends and family; her poet Goddess, Elisa Garcia, and the rest of the SVC community.

Master of Ceremonies

GAILMARIE PAHMEIER

The City of Reno's first Poet Laureate, Gailmarie Pahmeier, has been a Nevadan for more than 30 years. She teaches creative writing and literature at the University of Nevada, Reno, and is a faculty member of the low-residency MFA Program at Sierra Nevada College. The author of two poetry collections, *The House on Breakaheart Road* and *The Rural Lives of Nice Girls*, Pahmeier has also published three chapbooks with Black Rock Press. Her work has been featured in literary journals and anthologies, including Poetry, Booth, the Autumn House Anthology of Contemporary Poetry, and New Poets of the American West. Her awards include a Witter Bynner Foundation Poetry Fellowship, 2009 Coal Hill Chapbook Award, Chamber Memorial Award and Paumonok Poetry Award. Pahmeier has been recognized as an artist and educator with the Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame, the Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award, University Distinguished Teacher Award, and two Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowships. In 2007, she was honored with a Governor's Arts Award for "Excellence in the Arts."

Judges

LINDA BISSETT

Linda Bissett has been the Local Government Strategy Executive for NV Energy for 18 years. She facilitates development of critical projects in rural and urban Nevada and resolves challenging company issues for government representatives. Bissett has served on a variety of boards including Western Industrial Nevada, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Tahoe Airport Citizen's Outreach Committee, Washoe Guardian Companionship Volunteers and Sparks Chamber of Commerce. Licensed to practice law in Nevada and California, Bissett provided free legal service to the Washoe Senior Center, and assists with NV Energy extensive volunteer activities.

BRUCE ISAACSON

Bruce Isaacson, Clark County's first Poet Laureate, has been a Las Vegas resident since 1995. Isaacson studied at Brooklyn College under the renowned American poet, Allen Ginsberg, who guided his MFA thesis. A finalist in the first season of the poetry slam at the Nuyorcan Poets Café in New York City, he sponsored a series of Poetry Meltdown readings, and was featured in the "Poetry in Motion" series at Tommy Tang's in New York and Helena's and Largo in Hollywood, a series that featured poets and actors, such as Alec Baldwin, Harry Dean Stanton, Robert Downey, Jr. and Ed Begley, Jr. A San Francisco Bay Area organizer and poet in the 1980s and 1990s, he co-founded Zeitgeist Press in 1986. He remains publisher and co-editor of Zeitgeist, which has produced more than 100 titles, including notable Las Vegas books. Isaacson has brought nationally known writers to Las Vegas in addition to presenting readings throughout his community. His work has appeared in a number of Las Vegas journals and magazines, including the Red Rock Review.

VICKI MEISSNER

Vicki Meissner began her education career as a substitute teacher in the Cariboo-Chilcotin area of British Columbia. After graduating from University of Nevada, Reno in 1987, she moved to Winnemucca to teach English Language Arts at Albert Lowry High School, and over the years, creative writing, poetry, speech and debate, and journalism. A Poetry Out Loud coach from 2007–2015, Meissner has seen the program inspire students who sometimes have no other outlet for their own creative expression; she grieves the loss of creative writing classes due to budget cuts. Meissner has a variety of experiences in addition to education, including vegetable and alfalfa farming, delivering mail for the U.S. Post Office, accounting for a satellite internet business, and typesetting for Feather Publishing in Quincy, California.

LARRY L. OLLIVIER

Larry Ollivier has been writing and publishing poetry for over forty years. He is the author of two poetry collections, *The Voice of all Things Singing*, and *Albert Einstein in Las Vegas*. His poems have appeared most recently in the *Atlanta Review*, *California Quarterly*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, and *Spillway*. In addition to poetry, Ollivier is active in the Theater, primarily as a director, and is currently attempting to learn the art of nature and landscape photography.

VOGUE ROBINSON

Vogue Robinson will always have an appreciation for human beings who find ways to put truth and heart into words. Since graduating with a BA in English, she has dedicated herself to expression. Spoken Word brings a new element to her writing. Currently a Las Vegas resident, Robinson was a member of the 2013 and 2014 Battle Born Slam team. Vogue has also lent her talents to performing as a cast member of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" in 2009. She loved the show so much, she returned to honor women's stories by directing the show in 2013. Robinson's first collection of poetry, *Vogue 3:16*, was released in February 2014 and the feedback she has received from readers has been "uplifting and wonderful."

Accuracy Judge

ANN L. BLACK

Ann L. Black joined the Nevada Arts Council as its Grants Program Coordinator in 2012, although she has "played" a variety of supporting roles at the agency since 2000. Black earned her B.A. from the University of Nevada, Reno in English Literature with a focus on Secondary Education, and taught music and reading at Capital Christian School in Carson City before joining the Council. In her other life, Black is an actress, musician, singer and lover of all things theatrical. She was recipient of the Musical Theater Student of the Year Award at Western Nevada College in 2002, performing in more than 25 productions in just 10 years.

Acknowledgements

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the school and district levels! We are grateful for the enthusiastic support of their parents, families, friends, teachers, coaches, principals and superintendents. We know that the list below may be missing others, and we thank them as well.

Participating Districts

CARSON CITY

Coordinator: Patrick Mobley
School: Carson City High School
Principal: Tasha Fuson
Teacher: Patrick Mobley

CLARK COUNTY

Coordinator: Judy Myers, Clark County School-Community Partnership Program
Schools: Advanced Technologies Academy, Boulder City High School, CSN High School West, Basic High School, Coronado High School, Bonanza High School, East Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas Academy, Palo Verde High School, Biltmore Continuation School, Centennial High School
Principals: Barbara Collins, Debbie Kral, Neddy Alvarez, Mike Piccininni, Glenda Goetting, Scott Walker, Amy Wagner, David Bechtel, Michael Englert, Trent Day, Darren Sweikert
Teachers: Mary Ziegler, Serrin Anderson, Lori Jorgensen, Daren Stewart, Stacey Johnston, Gary Sessa, Kristin Pohl, Amy Reed, Julie Murray, Cynthia Farmer, Cindy Campbell

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Coordinator: Susan Van Doren
School: Douglas High School, Whittell High School
Principal: Crespín Esquivel, Marty Swisher
Teacher: Robin Reyes, Karen Heine

ELKO COUNTY

Coordinator: Emily Nielson
Schools: Elko High School, Spring Creek High School, Wells Combined School, Owyhee Combined Schools, Jackpot Combined School
Principals: Tim Wickersham, Keith Walz, Chris McAnany, Steven Cook, Brian Messmer
Teacher: Emily Nielson, Julie Lewis, S. Joy Carlson, Steve Young, Kelly Moon, Cindy Middleton, Annie Lineberry

EUREKA COUNTY

Coordinator: Karl Watts
School: Eureka County High School
Principal: Dan Wold
Teacher: Karl Watts

LINCOLN COUNTY

Coordinator: Pete Peterson
Schools: Lincoln County High School
Principal: Marty Sodeborg
Teacher: Pete Peterson

LYON COUNTY

Coordinator: Amanda Aldridge
Schools: Yerington High School
Principals: Duane Mattice
Teachers: Amanda Aldridge, Alexa Clausen

NEVADA VIRTUAL STATEWIDE

Coordinator: Cornel Nemes
School: Nevada Virtual Academy
Principal: Orlando Dos Santos
Teachers: Cornel Nemes, Carla Worden

NYE COUNTY

Coordinator: MaryBeth Aragon
School: Beatty High School
Principal: Mr. Gary Flood
Teachers: MaryBeth Aragon

PERSHING COUNTY

Coordinator: Julie Terry
School: Pershing County High School
Principal: Tom Brooks
Teacher: Julie Terry

STOREY COUNTY

Coordinator: Kristen Scott
School: Virginia City High School
Principal: Ric Shrank
Teachers: Kristen Scott

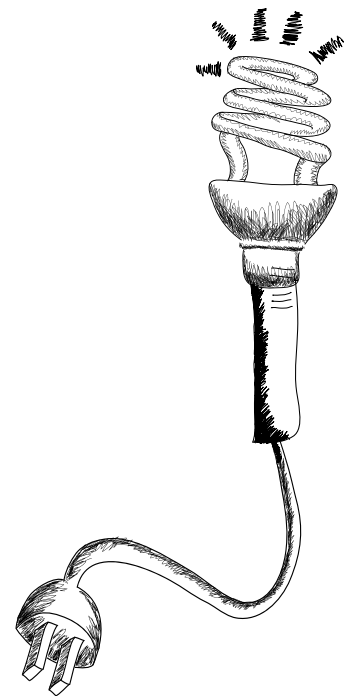
WASHOE COUNTY

Coordinator: Julian Guy-Holland Project
Schools: Spanish Springs High, Reno High School, McQueen High School, TMCC High School, The Davidson Academy, Reed High School, Sage Ridge School, Wooster High School, Coral Academy of Science
Principals: Tammy Hart, Kris Hackbusch, Leah Keuscher, Sue Denning, Norman Colb, Josh Rosenbloom, Colleen Harsin, Melissa Olsen, Feyzi Tandogan
Teachers: Carolyn S. Valle, Brent Busboom, Mary Jane Ubando, Kira Temple, Shelly Brewster-Meredith, Caroline Hatcher, Lindsey Lavelly, Jen Marini, Katie La Pointe, Jillian Merson, Amie Newberry, Dawn Callahan, Betty Tusio, Sue Vaughn, Timothy Lust, Launie

Gardner, AnnElise Hatjakes, Julie Dillard, John Sloyan, Andrew Highison

SUPERINTENDENTS

Richard Stokes, Carson City
Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Churchill County
Pat Skorkowsky, Clark County
Teri White, Douglas County
Jeff Zander; Elko County
Rodriguez Broadnas, Esmeralda County
Dr. Greg Wieman, Eureka County
Dr. Dave Jensen, Humboldt County
Jim Squibb, Lander County
Steve Hansen, Lincoln County
Wayne Workman, Lyon County, interim
Walt Hackford, Mineral County
Dale A Norton, Nye County
Russell Fecht, Pershing County
Robert Slaby, Storey County
Traci Davis, Washoe County
Robert Dolezal, White Pine County



Acknowledgements

Without the passion, support and dedication of so many individuals, organizations and donors, the 2016 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program would not have been possible. To all those noted below, and others that we may have missed—thank you, thank you, thank you!

Special Thanks

National Endowment for the Arts – Jane Chu, Chairman; Eleanor Billington, Program Manager; Nancy Daugherty, Arts Education Specialist; and Maryrose Flanigan, Division Coordinator, Literature & Arts Education Division

Poetry Foundation – Henry Bienen, President; Stephen Young, Program Director; and Justine Haka, Program Associate

Nevada Department of Education – Steve Canavero, Ph.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction; Nancy Martineau, Administrative Assistant III

NV Energy | NV Energy Foundation – Paul Caudill, President and CEO; Mary Simmons, Vice President of External Strategy; and Karen Ross, Community Relations Manager

Cultural Alliance Nevada – Judy Harris, President

KNPB Channel 5 – Kurt Mische, President/CEO; Tony Manfredi, Senior Vice President for Content and Marketing; Dave Santina, Director of Local Programs; Don Alexander, Studio Production Technician; Megan Myers, Director of Content Strategy & On-Air Marketing; and Michelle M. Joyce, Marketing & Community Events Manager

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State of Nevada

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Claudia Vecchio, Director

Felicia Archer, Public Information Officer

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Kelli Du Fresne*

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Rebecca Snetselaar

Shoshana Zeldner

*denotes contractors supported, in part, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

2016

NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD PROGRAM

Planning Committee

Maryjane Dorofachuk – Arts Learning Coordinator, Nevada Arts Council

Susan Boskoff – Executive Director, Nevada Arts Council

China Hudson – Arts Learning Program Assistant, Nevada Arts Council

Jackie Shelton – Jax Marketing & Communications

Remembering Our Friends



EMILY ORELLANA

Emily Orellana, Nevada's Poetry Out Loud State Champion in 2009, 2010 and 2011, and one of nine national finalists in 2010 and 2010, died in late November. She was living and writing in Portland, Oregon. A graduate of Reno's Rainshadow Community Charter High School, Orellana was active with Spoken Views Reno and The Holland Project. Orellana's presence on stage was unforgettable; her interpretation of poetry or presentation of her own words was singularly arresting. "I've always held an interest in literature, and from the time I was young, I have loved to write," said Orellana, prior to her second trip to the National Finals. In her short life, she was an inspiration to all those she touched.

For Tim

by Steven Nightingale

It was as if you held within all
The spectrum of kindness, and it made

Our world radiant. We saw fresh colors
Come forth, we saw our chance, we

Saw what beauty could do here
In this city we share, that shines
As never before, because you loved
This place. Because you loved us.

We would ask now for your trust.
We carry on, knowing you are with us.

You were called away, not to die—
But for blessed work in the cities of the sky.



TIM JONES


Tim Jones, Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals' master of ceremonies for ten years, beloved colleague and friend, died in September. A co-founder of Reno's Artown festival and chair of the Nevada Arts Council for half of his twelve year appointment, Jones was most recently president of the Nevada Cultural Alliance. He spoke eloquently and tirelessly on behalf of the creative industry and public funding for the arts. Jones' passion for the arts and arts education—not just for a few but for everyone—is sustained through Nevada's arts advocacy movement.



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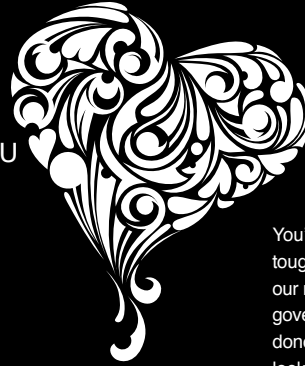
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You've probably noticed, times are tough. Tough on everyone, including our non-profit arts community. With government funding evaporating, and donors tightening their belts, times look to be tough for a while.

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- RENOSSANCE MAN



I have a big love for poetry, so **CONGRATULATIONS** to all who made it to the Poetry Out Loud State Finals. All of us at Silver Legacy would like to wish each and every one of you the best of luck.

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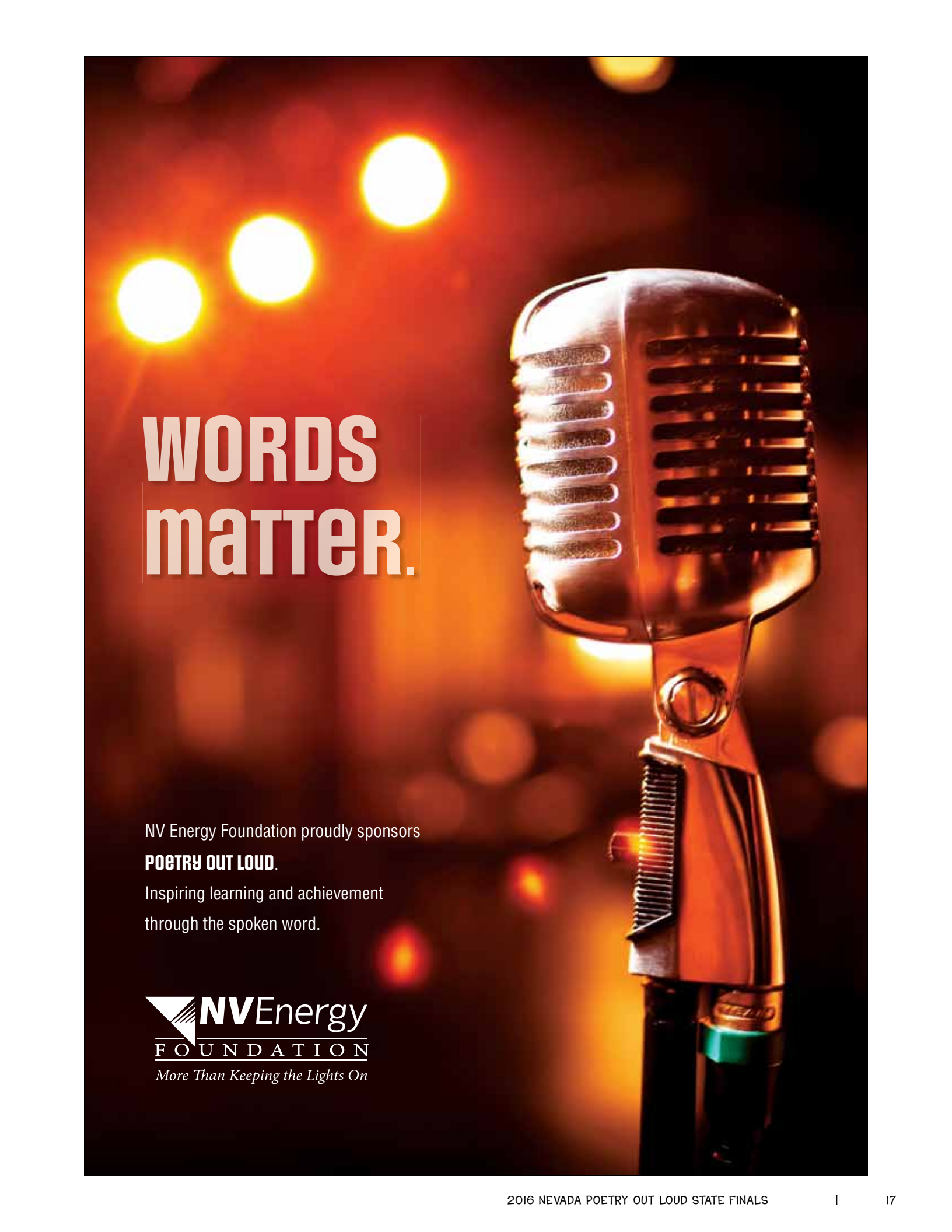


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NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

Established as a state agency in 1967, the Nevada Arts Council is charged with ensuring that state and national funds support cultural activity and encourage participation in the arts throughout Nevada. In addition to providing hundreds of grants to arts and community-based organizations, schools, artists and local municipalities throughout the state, the Nevada Arts Council (NAC) coordinates a variety of statewide programs and activities such as traveling exhibits, artist residencies, workshops and cultural assessments. A division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, NAC is funded by the Nevada State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other public and private sources.

CULTURAL ALLIANCE NEVADA

Cultural Alliance Nevada, formerly the Nevada Alliance for Arts Education (NAAE), is a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of arts, culture and arts education through advocacy education and partnership. Cultural Alliance Nevada continues and expands upon the work of NAAE and its two decades of grassroots arts and arts education advocacy on the local, state and national levels; and successful partnerships and initiatives.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Congress established the National Endowment for the Arts in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

THE POETRY FOUNDATION

The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry Magazine, is an independent literary organization committed to a vigorous presence for poetry in our culture. It has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring the best poetry before the largest possible audiences.