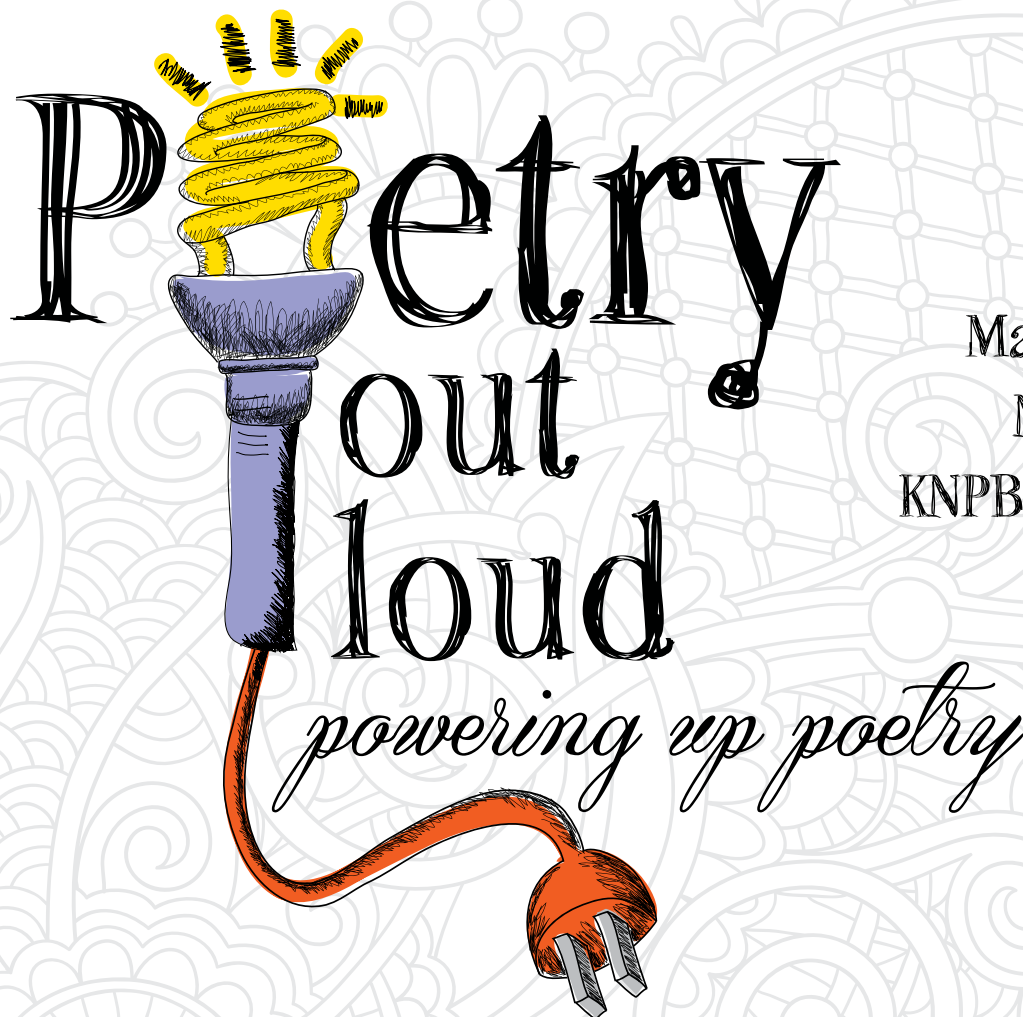


TWELFTH ANNUAL

# Nevada Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition

STATE FINALS

2017 NEVADA



March 11, 2017

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

*Julia Arger*

Chair, Nevada Arts Council Board



March 11, 2017

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to the Twelfth Annual Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Final Competition, and in particular, our special guest speaker, National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu.

All our young finalists have diligently worked to bring to life an art form that for many of us is challenging to understand. Their ability to bring us the most beautiful of literary art forms is a talent to be admired and applauded. This afternoon we celebrate the revelation, creativity and beauty of language—and the power of the spoken word.

So many individuals and organizations work throughout the year to make Nevada's Poetry Out Loud Program, one of the agency's most treasured programs, a success. From families and friends, local teachers and district coordinators, to today's facilitators, judges and sponsors—each has contributed time, expertise and passion to ensure that Nevada is powered up by poetry.

Poetry Out Loud would not be possible without the Nevada Arts Council's remarkable staff and my fellow board members' steadfast commitment to lifelong learning in the arts for Nevadans of all ages and abilities. I also want to acknowledge our partners today—the Nevada Department of Education, Poetry Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Cultural Alliance Nevada and the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Best wishes to everyone competing today. In our eyes, each and every one of you is a winner and a role model for young Nevadans throughout the state.

Sincerely,

*Julia Arger*

CHAIR, NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL BOARD

# NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

In partnership with

Nevada Department of Education

National Endowment for the Arts

Poetry Foundation

Cultural Alliance Nevada

Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

proudly present

## 2017

# NEVADA POETRY OUT LOUD STATE FINALS

March 11, 2017

Noon – 3 pm

KNPB Channel 5 Reno

Featuring the 2017 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Finalists:

Emily Matuska, Carson City

Gillian Lajda, Clark County

Lea Gifford, Douglas County

Cache Black, Elko County

Tanner Ames, Humboldt County

Nathanael Wayne Lovelady Frehner, Lincoln County

Gabrielle Hunt, Lyon County

Erica Jean Peterson, Nevada Virtual

Octavio Jesus Maldonado, Nye County

Christopher J. Wilbur, Pershing County

Pandora Arredondo, Storey County

Skye Matuzak, Washoe County

# Nevada Poetry Out Loud - CELEBRATING ITS 12<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

*"...In the hands of the poet, our everyday speech becomes a musical instrument."*

—JOHN BARR, FORMER PRESIDENT, POETRY FOUNDATION

## 2017 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 in participation since the first year in 2005, when 200 students, coaches, teachers and parents were involved. This year, Poetry Out Loud engaged more than 2,810 students, 40 teachers and 29 schools across the state. Now that's poetry power!

## A POEM IS A FRIEND FOR LIFE

Poetry Out Loud (POL) 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.

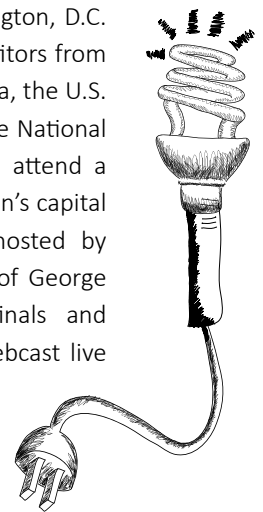
By making the words of great poets literally come to life, semi-finalists advance from school and district competitions to the Nevada State Finals where the stakes are high. The Nevada POL State Champion receives \$1,000 and \$1,000 for his or her school to support literary programs, and travels to Washington,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

## POWERING UP POETRY!

Generous support from NV Energy Foundation continues to fuel the *Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence Program*. Last year, four poet/educators worked with 263 students and 14 teachers in four high schools, one elementary school and one community arts organization in Eureka, Yerington, Silver Springs, Beatty, Tonopah and Incline Village. The poets worked with several classes during the school day on a range of topics, including the use of poetic techniques such as theme, style and questioning; the techniques of polished writing; the techniques of reading a poem or narrative; and the process of creating a unique piece of writing.

## 2017 POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL FINALS

This year, across the nation more than 310,000 students, 2,300 schools and 8,000 teachers are participating in the Poetry Out Loud Program. 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, April 25–26, 2017. Finalists attend a number of events while in the nation's capital city, with the final competition hosted by Lisner Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University. All semifinals and finals of the National Finals are webcast live at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).





# 2017 Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals

## WELCOME

Julia Arger, Chair, Nevada Arts Council

## COMMENTS

Jane Chu, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts

## MASTER OF CEREMONIES | INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES AND STUDENTS

Gailmarie Pahmeier, Poet Laureate, City of Reno

### ROUND 1

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

### ROUND 2

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

### ROUND 3

Top three finalists

## READING

Shaun Griffin, Writer and Poet

## AWARDS PRESENTATION

Jane Chu and Julia Arger

## 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 | Emily Matuska

*Ex Machina* by Linda Gregerson  
*Broken Promises* by David Kirby  
*Much Madness is Divinest Sense* by Emily Dickinson

## CLARK | Gillian Lajda

*I Remember, I Remember* by Thomas Hood  
*Pity the Beautiful* by Dana Gioia  
*Dear Reader* by Rita Mae Reese

## DOUGLAS | Lea Gifford

*Discrimination* by Kenneth Rexroth  
*The Chimney Sweeper: When my mother died I was very young* by William Blake  
*The Bookshelf of the God of Infinite Space* by Jeffrey Skinner

## ELKO | Cache Black

*Beautiful Wreckage* by W.D. Ehrhart  
*Degrees of Gray in Philipsburg* by Richard Hugo  
*The Children's Hour* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## HUMBOLDT | Tanner Ames

*Be Music, Night* by Kenneth Patchen  
*Mad Song* by William Blake  
*Ah! Why, Because the Dazzling Sun* by Emily Bronte

## LINCOLN | Nathanael Wayne Lovelady Frehner

*The Speakers* by Weldon Kees  
*Ozymandias* by Percy Bysshe Shelley  
*When I Have Fears* by John Keats

## LYON | Gabrielle Hunt

*The Nail* by C.K. Williams  
*The Mortician in San Francisco* by Randall Mann  
*The Children's Hour* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## NEVADA VIRTUAL ACADEMY | Erica Jean Peterson

*Mezzo Cammin* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
*America, I Sing You Back* by Allison Adelle Hedge Coke  
*A Certain Kind of Eden* by Kay Ryan

## NYE | Octavio Jesus Maldonado

*Eating Poetry* by Mark Strand  
*The Glories of our Blood and State* by James Shirley  
*On Quitting* by Edgar Albert Guest

## PERSHING | Christopher J. Wilbur

*We Wear the Mask* by Paul Laurence Dunbar  
*Song of the Powers* by David Mason  
*Introduction to the Songs of Innocence* by William Blake

## STOREY | Pandora Arredondo

*Give All to Love* by Ralph Waldo Emerson  
*A Barred Owl* by Richard Wilbur  
*Battlefield* by Mark Turcotte

## WASHOE | Skye Matuzak

*The Definition of Love* by Andrew Marvell  
*Dear Reader* by Rita Mae Reese  
*Every Single Day* by John Straley

## CARSON CITY

**Emily Matuska**  
*Sophomore*  
*Carson High School*  
 Tasha Fuson, Principal



Emily Matuska has lived in the small town of Carson City her whole life and is now a sophomore at Carson High School. She is an Honors Student and participates in Link Crew, National Honor Society, and is the treasurer of Key Club. She still cannot answer the question "What do you want to be when you grow up?", but has always loved reading and writing. This is her first time participating in Poetry Out Loud, and she is excited to hear all the wonderful poems. Matuska thanks her parents and her school for their support.

## CLARK COUNTY

**Gillian Lajda**  
*Sophomore*  
*East Career and Technical Academy*  
 Darlin Delgado, Principal



Gillian Lajda is a sophomore who attends East Career and Technical Academy (ECTA). She is currently in the medical program at ECTA and plans to work towards a career related to her studies in one way or another. She is a simple girl who enjoys reading the classics, such as William Golding's novel *Lord of the Flies*, as much as playing games like "Dishonored." At school, she is in the speech, debate and chess clubs. Lajda joined the Henderson Police Explorer program, and hopes to connect law enforcement with her medical studies. She would like to thank her mom Laura Lajda and her public speaking teacher Mr. Stewart.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY

**Lea Gifford**  
*Junior*  
*Douglas High School*  
 Marty Swisher, Principal



Lea Gifford is a junior at Douglas High School. Speech and debate has been a huge part of her life and has found great love in humorous interpretation as well as storytelling and poetry. When Gifford is not doing homework for her AP classes, she likes to draw, dance and write short stories. Gifford has played the piano for the last six years and enjoys playing classical music. She loves listening to Kpop and music from the 80's. Gifford would like to thank her mother Alecia Gifford, her coach Karen Heine, and her teachers Cheyenne Contreras, Mena Dedmon and Mark Kuniya.

# Finalists

## ELKO COUNTY

### Cache Black

*Junior*

*Elko High School*

Tim Wickersham, Principal



Cache Black was born on July 13, 1999 in the small town of Panguitch, Utah. He has been living in Elko, Nevada for about 16 years and is currently a junior at Elko High School. His favorite things to do are playing football, golf and talk about sports. He is a “straight A” student, takes honors classes, and his favorite subject is history. Black was first introduced to poetry when he was a freshman and has been reciting ever since. With all his sports talk people are usually surprised when they hear him recite poetry. You can say he’s a poet and you didn’t even know it. Black would like to thank his English and speech teacher Emily Nielson, his teacher Kelly Moon, and his parents Chad and Michelle Black.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY

### Tanner Ames

*Senior*

*Albert Lowry High School*

Ray Parks, Principal



Tanner Ames was born on April 2, 1999 in the town of Winnemucca, where he still lives. He is a senior at Lowry High School, Vice President in both his band and Swing Choir classes, and an actor in the school Drama class. He’s been invited to Honor Choir three times, Honor Band twice, Small State Band twice, and Allstate Choir once, to which he has been accepted a second time. He plays more instruments than most could name. His goal is to be either an English teacher or a music teacher after attending the University of Nevada, Reno. Ames would like to thank all of those around him who support his dreams, and who make his life more interesting, whether that be negatively or positively. He would also like to thank his mother Debbie Ames, his English teachers, Rene Hill and Vicki Meissner, and his girlfriend Ali Wirthlin.

## LINCOLN COUNTY

### Nathanael Wayne

*Lovelady Frehner*

*Senior*

*Lincoln County High School*

Marty Soderborg, Principal



Nathanael Wayne Lovelady Frehner was born July 26, 1999 in Reno, Nevada. He has three younger brothers and one sister. He moved nine times before the age of 10 and ended up in Panaca when he was in the first grade. Freher is currently a senior at Lincoln County High School where he is a member of the Show Choir and the Drama Club. He loves to tell stories, draw and play games. He is a little antisocial, but likes to spend time with his friends and family, whom he loves. He always has a smile on his face. Frehner would like to thank his friend Lizzy Gloeckner, who participated in Poetry Out Loud during her senior year, for being a good example. And he would also like to thank Pete Peterson, his wonderful drama director, without whom he never would have discovered the joys of acting, music, and creativity.



## LYON COUNTY

**Gabrielle Hunt**  
*Junior*  
*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 Hunt's third year participating in Poetry Out Loud. She would like to thank her English teacher Mrs. Aldridge, and her parent, Todd and Kaylene Hunt for their support in both past and present competitions.

## NEVADA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL

**Erica Jean Peterson**  
*Sophomore*  
*Nevada Virtual Academy*  
 Janine Calhoun, Principal



Erica Jean Peterson is 14 years old and resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with her two sisters, pet dog yorkie, longhaired cat, chinchilla and cockatiel. In addition to poetry, Peterson loves ukulele, drawing, theater and writing. She is thankful for the support of her parents, family and friends that inspired her to get into poetry. She is grateful for her teachers who inspired her to continue poetry and reciting poetry, especially Mr. Nemes at Nevada Virtual Academy.

## NYE COUNTY

**Octavio Jesus Maldonado**  
*Junior*  
*Beatty High School*  
 Robert Williams, Principal



Octavio Jesus Maldonado is 17 years old and a junior attending Beatty High School. His motto is to give 110% to the task at hand. This philosophy was instilled in him by his parents. He believes if you do not give 110% then you shouldn't be doing it at all. While focusing more on his academics, Maldonado discovered the world of literature through his writing. After graduation from Beatty High School he intends to continue his academics. Maldonado would like to thank his dad Armando Maldonado, his best friend Christian Donaldson, his English teacher Anne Vineyard and his teacher aide Sherrie Eltrevoog.

# Finalists

## PERSHING COUNTY

**Christopher J. Wilbur**  
*Junior*  
*Pershing County High School*  
Tom Brooks, Principal



Christopher Wilbur was born in California but was quickly whisked away to Dayton, Ohio where he lived for 13 years before moving to Nevada. Although Nevada is not what he was used to, he loves it for what it is. Wilbur would like to thank the many people who have gotten him to the Poetry Out Loud State Finals, including his parents Mike and Donna Wilbur, his drama teacher Julie Terry, his geography teacher Martha Carlson and his always supportive friend Veronica Mapson.

## STOREY COUNTY

**Pandora Arredondo**  
*Junior*  
*Virginia City High School*  
Patrick Beckwith, Principal



Pandora Arredondo is a junior at Virginia City High School. She loves to write, perform and take pictures. Arredondo takes both drama and choir classes, which has helped her come out of her shell and become more vocal and boisterous. That led to her interest in Poetry Out Loud. This is her second year competing in the school competition, and she has come to rather enjoy it. Poetry Out Loud isn't the only literary competition Arredondo has competed in. While in middle school, she won a cash prize for a Patriot's Pen writing competition. Arredondo dreams of being an author one day. She would like to thank her mom and dad Promise and Chico Arredondo, her English teacher Kristen Scott and her fellow Poetry Out Loud competitor Dextor Yago.

## WASHOE COUNTY

**Skye Matuzak**  
*Sophomore*  
*Truckee Meadows Community College High School*  
Melissa Olsen, Principal



Skye Matuzak is a sophomore at Truckee Meadows Community College High School. She enjoys ballet, tap and contemporary dancing, as well as reading, skiing and traveling. She is a fifth-generation Nevadan and loves spending time with her family and friends at Lake Tahoe. Matuzak aspires to attend University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas School of Dental Medicine after graduating high school with an associate's degree. She would like to thank her mom Heather Matuzak, her English teacher Launie Gardner, and her best friends Zoe Bloom and Rachel Bronk.

# Master of Ceremonies

## GAILMARIE PAHMEIER

Gailmarie Pahmeier is Reno's first Poet Laureate. She has been a Nevadan for more than 30 years. She currently teaches creative writing and contemporary literature courses at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she has been honored with the Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award and the University Distinguished Teacher Award. She is also on the faculty of the low-residency MFA Program at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village. Pahmeier's work has been widely published in literary journals and anthologies, including *Booth*, *Passager*, *Interim*, *Mudfish*, *New Poets of the American West* (for which she won the Editor's Choice Award), *Literary Nevada* and the *Autumn House Anthology of Contemporary Poetry*. She is the author of the poetry collection, *The House on Breakaheart Road*, and two chapbooks from Black Rock Press. Her most recent chapbook, *Shake It and It Snows*, won the 2009 Coal Hill Chapbook Award; poems from this collection were nominated for Pushcart Prizes. She is a former *National Literary Panelist for the YoungArts Foundation*. Her collection of new work, *The Rural Lives of Nice Girls*, was released in spring of 2014 and is now in its second printing. Pahmeier's literary awards include a Witter Bynner Poetry Fellowship and two Artist Fellowships from the Nevada Arts Council. In 2007, she received the Nevada Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

## Guest Speaker

### JANE CHU

Appointed as the eleventh chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in 2014, Jane Chu has an extensive background in arts administration and philanthropy, and is also an accomplished artist and musician. The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Chu was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and raised in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. She studied music as a child and earned bachelor's degrees in piano performance and music education from Ouachita Baptist University; master's degrees in music and piano pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, and in business administration from Rockhurst University; and a PhD in philanthropic studies from Indiana University. In addition to awarding more than \$240 million in grants to date through the NEA, Chu is committed to scholarly research as well as to the impact of the arts in our daily lives. From 2006 to 2014, Chu served as the president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri, overseeing a \$413 million capital campaign. Previously she was a fund executive at the Kauffman Fund for Kansas City, vice president of external relations for Union Station Kansas City, and vice president of community investment for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation.

## Judges

### REBECCA EWART

Rebecca Ewart is a first year English Language Arts teacher at Churchill County High School and former participant in Nevada's Poetry Out Loud Program and Competition. Ewart represented Churchill County in 2007 as a Poetry Out Loud semi-finalist. She graduated from University of Nevada, Reno with a dual Bachelor degree in English Writing and Art with an emphasis on Photography and Digital Art in 2012. Currently, Ewart is working toward a Master's degree in Learning and Technology.

## SHAUN GRIFFIN

Shaun Griffin is a poet, a writer, and a teacher. He is the co-founder of Community Chest, a non-profit agency that has served children and families in northwestern Nevada since 1991, and has taught a poetry workshop at Northern Nevada Correctional Center for more than two decades. He has worked as a teaching poet at colleges, at Frost Place in New Hampshire, and at writers' conferences in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Griffin's most recent chapbook is *Driving the Tender Desert Home*, published by Limberlost Press in 2014. His volume of poems, *This Is What the Desert Surrenders*, was released by Black Rock Press in 2013, and *From Sorrow's Well*, his edited volume about the poet Hayden Carruth, was published by the University of Michigan Press in 2013. *Bathing in the River of Ashes* was published by the University of Nevada Press in 1999, and *Death to Silence* (translations from the Chilean poet Emma Sepulveda) was released by Arte Publico Press in 1997. Griffin has received numerous awards for his work including the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1995, the Mike O'Callaghan Humanitarian Award in 2004, and the Rosemary McMillan Award for Lifetime Achievement in Art from Sierra Arts Foundation in 2006. In 2014 he was inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada, Reno.

## GEORGE PERREAULT

George Perreault grew up in rural New England but has lived primarily in the West since 1973. He earned a doctorate at the University of New Mexico, where he studied poetry with Gene Frumkin and Leslie Silko. He taught at the University of Nevada, Reno from 1999-2015. Perreault has published poetry and creative nonfiction in numerous journals and anthologies both in the United States and internationally, and has worked as a writer-in-residence in New Mexico, Montana and Utah. He has written three collections of poetry, the most recent being *All the Verbs for Knowing*, which was published by Black Rock Press in 2006. Perreault is a recipient of the Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowship in 2008.

## ELIZABETH QUIÑONES-ZALDAÑA

Elizabeth Quiñones-Zaldaña first fell in love with poetry as a high school student when she was introduced to Las Vegas' intimate poetry community. Since then, Quiñones-Zaldaña has earned a B.A. in English from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, co-hosted weekly poetry readings, and has been a featured reader and contributor at the Vegas Valley Book Festival and the Nevada Humanities Gallery. She currently strives to cultivate the love of art and literature to children in a local homeschooling cooperative. Her poems have been published in *Meet Your Monster*, *From Snowcaps to Desert Flats: An Anthology of Latino Writers in Nevada*, and the literary journal, *300 Days of Sun*.

## ERICA VITAL-LAZARE

Erica Vital-Lazare teaches creative writing at the College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas where she is the editor-in-chief of the *Red Rock Review* literary journal. She is a past recipient of grants and awards from the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Foundation, the Virginia Commonwealth University's Hilliard Endowment, the Virginia Council of the Arts and the Nevada Arts Council. Her work has been featured in *Catalyst*, *Sojourner* and the *Richmond Afro-American*, and appears in the University of Nevada Press fiction collection *The River Underground: An Anthology of Nevada Fiction*.

## Accuracy Judge

## REBECCA SNETSELAAR

Rebecca Snetselaar joined Nevada Arts Council (NAC) in 2006 as the Folklife Program Associate. She works with artists and organizations statewide to identify, develop, support and document traditional arts and artists in Nevada. As one of two NAC staff in the Las Vegas office, Snetselaar works to extend the reach of agency programs and services throughout southern Nevada, and documents the diversity and vitality of Clark County's many cultural communities. She manages the Nevada Folklife Archives – folk art objects, recorded interviews and photographs that document the development of Nevada's rich and varied folk art traditions over the past 25+ years. Snetselaar graduated from Sonoma State University and worked in the field of community history in California for ten years before moving to southern Nevada in 2003.

# Acknowledgements

Congratulations to all the students who competed at the school and district levels, and many thanks to their parents, families and friends. We are indebted to the enthusiastic support of and participation by the teachers, coaches, principals and superintendents involved with Nevada's 2017 Poetry Out Loud Competition. We know that the list below may be missing others, and we thank you as well.

## Participating Districts

### CARSON CITY

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

### CLARK COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Shana Venenga, Clark County School-Community Partnership Program  
**Schools:** East Career & Technical Academy, Las Vegas Academy, New Horizons Center for Learning, and Del Sol Academy  
**Principals:** Scott Walker, Gregory Misel, Darlin Delgado, and Barbara Bidell  
**Teachers:** Daren Stewart, Stacey Johnston, Paul Tatum, and Sandra McCluney

### DOUGLAS COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Karen Heine  
**Schools:** Douglas High School  
**Principal:** Mary Swisher  
**Teacher:** Karen Heine

### ELKO COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Emily Nielson  
**Schools:** Elko High School, Spring Creek High School, Wells Combined School, and Owyhee Combined Schools  
**Principals:** Tim Wickersham, Keith Walz, Chris McAnany, and Steven Cook  
**Teacher:** Emily Nielson, S. Joy Carlson, Kelly Moon, Cindy Pearson and Barbara Pete

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Rene Hill  
**School:** Albert M. Lowry High School  
**Principal:** Ray Parks  
**Teacher:** Rene Hill

### 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

### Home School (Lyon County)

Sierra & Jake Kremer-Parents

### Nevada Virtual Statewide

**Coordinator:** Cornel Nemes  
**School:** Nevada Virtual Academy  
**Principal:** Janine Calhoun  
**Teachers:** Cornel Nemes and Brian Fleischer

### NYE COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Anne Vineyard  
**School:** Beatty High School  
**Principal:** Robert Williams  
**Teachers:** Anne Vineyard

### 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:** Patrick Beckwith  
**Teachers:** Kristen Scott

### WASHOE COUNTY

**Coordinator:** Britt Curtis-Holland Project  
**Schools:** McQueen High School, TMCC High School, The Davidson Academy, Reed High School, Sage Ridge School, Encompass Academy and Sparks High School  
**Principals:** Sue Denning, Norman Colb, Josh Rosenbloom, Colleen Harsin, Bri Thoreson, Melissa Olsen, Toby Wiedenmayer  
**Teachers:** Mary Jane Ubando, Kira Temple, Shelly Brewster-Meredith, Lindsey Lavelly, Katie La Pointe, Betty Tusso, Amanda Solem, Susanne Cann, Sue Vaughn, Sabrina Adkins, Alicia Mustard, Jillian Merson, Launie Gardner, Amanda Guffey, AnnElise Hatjakes, Julie Dillard, John Sloyan, and Ryan Smith

### SUPERINTENDENTS

Steve Canavero, State of Nevada Superintendent of Public Education, Richard Stokes, Carson City School District, Dr. Sandra Sheldon, Churchill County School District; Pat Skorkowsky, Clark County School District; Teri White, Douglas County School District; Jeff Zander; Elko County School District; Rodriguez F. Broadnax, Esmeralda County School District, Dan Wold, Eureka County School District; Dave Jensen, Humboldt County School District; Jim Squibb, Lander County School District; Pam Teel, Lincoln County School District; Wayne Workman, Lyon County School District; Walt Hackford, Mineral County School District; Dale Norton, Nye County School District; Russell D. Fecht, Pershing County School District; Todd Hess, Storey County School District; Traci Davis, Washoe County School District; Adam Young





# Acknowledgements

Without the passion, support and dedication of so many individuals, organizations and donors, the 2017 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; Ayanna N. Hudson, Arts Education Director, Eleanor Billington, Division Coordinator, and Nancy Daugherty, Arts Education Specialist, Literature & Arts Education Division; and Meredith Raimondi, Director of Scheduling, Office of the Chief of Staff; Elizabeth Auclair, Public Affairs Specialist; and Judith Kargbo, Press Secretary, Public Affairs.

**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 Education; Nancy Martineau, Administrative Assistant III

**NV Energy** – Katie Nanini, Community Relations Manager, and Mary Simmons, Vice President of External Strategy

**Cultural Alliance Nevada** – Judy Harris, President/Chair, Pam Alvey, Vice-Chair, Tia Flores, Treasurer

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

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### State of Nevada

Brian Sandoval, Governor

### Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

Claudia Vecchio, Director

Guy Clifton, Public Information Officer

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Gail Rappa, Tuscarora

Jerry Schefcik, North Las Vegas

Eric Strain, Las Vegas

Ryrie Valdez, Reno

Annie Zucker, Reno

### Nevada Arts Council Staff

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



## 2017 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

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Nevada Arts Council: [nac.nevadaculture.org](http://nac.nevadaculture.org)

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**For more information contact:**  
Victoria Royeton  
victoria.royeton@washoeschools.net



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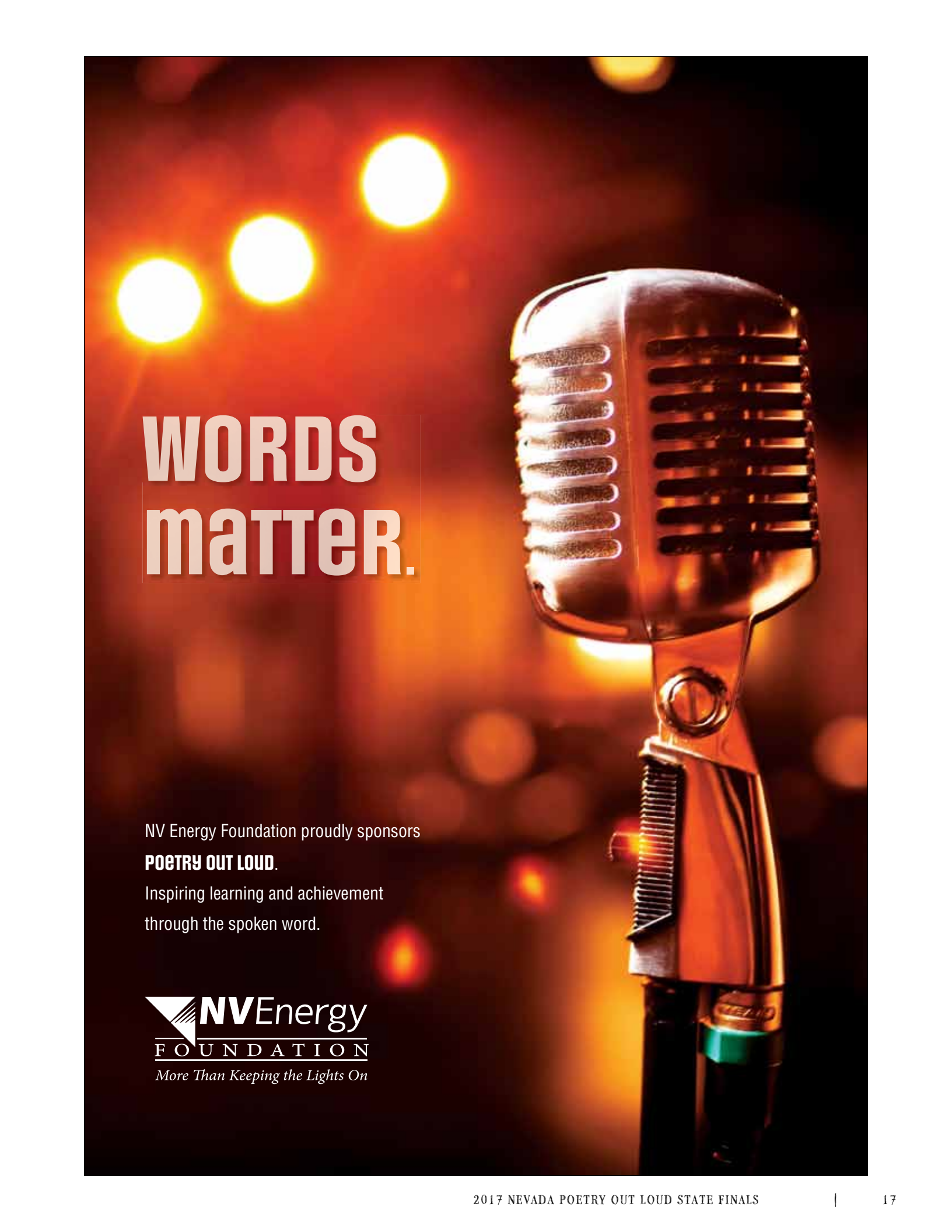
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## NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2017, the Nevada Arts Council was established as a state agency in 1967. The 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) designs and coordinates a variety of statewide programs and activities such as traveling exhibits, artist residencies, workshops and cultural assessments to serve the state's rural and urban communities. A division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, NAC is funded by the State of Nevada, the National Endowment for the Arts, and other private sources.

## 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.

## 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.