

POETRY

OUT LOUD

NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

State of Nevada Finals

Saturday, April 22, 2006

The Governor's Mansion

Carson City, Nevada

POETRY OUT LOUD



It is my pleasure to serve as Honorary Chair of the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest in Nevada and to welcome you to the Governor's Mansion for the State of Nevada finals.

I am pleased to see that recitation and performance are major new trends in poetry. The National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation have partnered with the Nevada Arts Council and the Nevada Alliance for Arts Education to support the Poetry Out Loud program, which encourages our youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance.

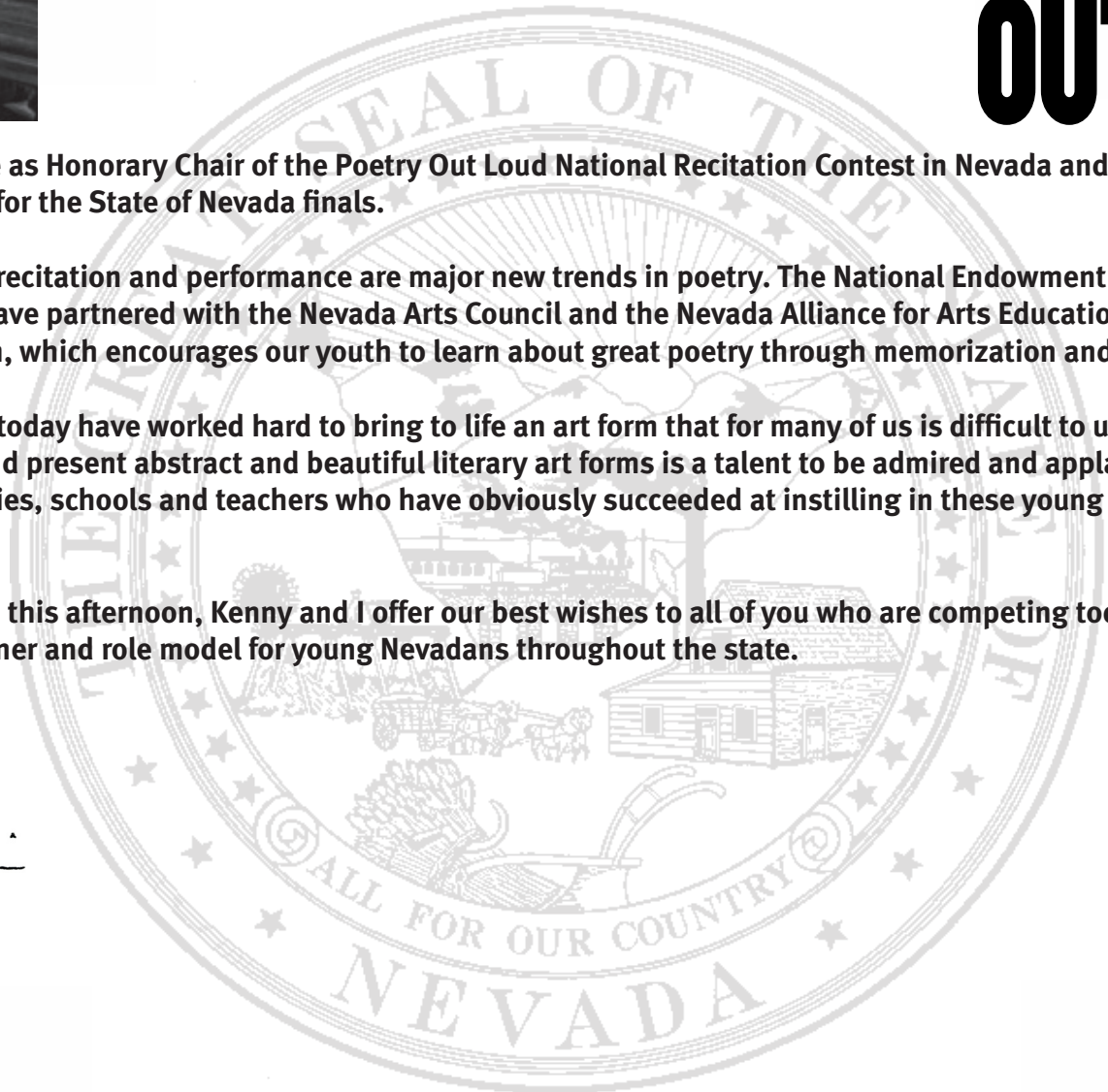
The young finalists here today have worked hard to bring to life an art form that for many of us is difficult to understand. Their ability to comprehend and present abstract and beautiful literary art forms is a talent to be admired and applauded. I commend their families, communities, schools and teachers who have obviously succeeded at instilling in these young people an appreciation for the arts.

Though we can't join you this afternoon, Kenny and I offer our best wishes to all of you who are competing today. In our eyes, every one of you is a winner and role model for young Nevadans throughout the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dema Guinn".

**Dema Guinn
First Lady
State of Nevada**



The Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest, created by the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation, encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Poetry Out Loud invites the dynamic aspects of slam poetry, spoken word and theatre into the school room. This exciting new program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

Thousands of high school students across the nation will participate in Poetry Out Loud this year. State finalists advance to the National Finals, where \$50,000 dollars in scholarships and school prizes will be awarded. Finalists will attend a welcome banquet at the Hilton Washington on Monday, May 15, with the National Finals held on Tuesday, May 16 after a special congressional breakfast on Capitol Hill.

The Nevada Arts Council, the Nevada Alliance for Arts Education and the Nevada Department of Education invited all high schools across the state – public, charter and private – to participate in the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest in Nevada. During this first year, nearly three hundred students, teachers, coaches and parents participated in ten counties throughout Nevada.

The winner of the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest: State of Nevada Finals will receive \$1,000 and his/her school will receive \$2,000 to support literary arts programs and the purchase of poetry books. First and second runners-up each will receive \$500 and each of their schools will receive \$1,000 to support literary arts programs and the purchase of poetry books. All finalists and their schools will receive a commemorative Letterpress Broadside, printed by the Black Rock Press of the University of Nevada, Reno.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest
State of Nevada Finals
Saturday, April 22, 2006
The Governor's Mansion
Carson City, Nevada

WELCOME

Candy Schneider, Nevada Arts Council Board

INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES

MAI DO, KOLO-TV, Channel 8, Reno

MICHAEL HILLERBY, Wingfield Nevada Group, Sparks

MARCUS J. MASON, Richard C. Priest Elementary School, North Las Vegas

PATRICIA MILLER, KNPB/Channel 5, Reno

GAILMARIE PAHMEIER, poet; University of Nevada, Reno

CINDY SHARP, Nevada Department of Education, Carson City

DAN STONE, National Endowment for the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Ray Tatar, California Arts Council, Sacramento, CA



INTRODUCTION TO FINALISTS

GIBRAN BAYDOUN, Green Valley High School, Henderson

JACOB BEHYMER-SMITH, Coral Academy of Science, Reno

DAREN C. BRIONES, Lowry High School, Winnemucca

STEVEN CHRISTIE, Churchill County High School, Fallon

CHARITO COOPER, Fernley High School, Fernley

ALICIA FREEMAN, Carson High School, Carson City

JD HIBBS, White Pine High School, Ely

MOLLY MCGREGOR, Virginia City High School, Virginia City

JON McMASTER, Battle Mountain High School, Battle Mountain

HILLARY MURPHY, Elko High School, Elko

RECITATION CONTEST

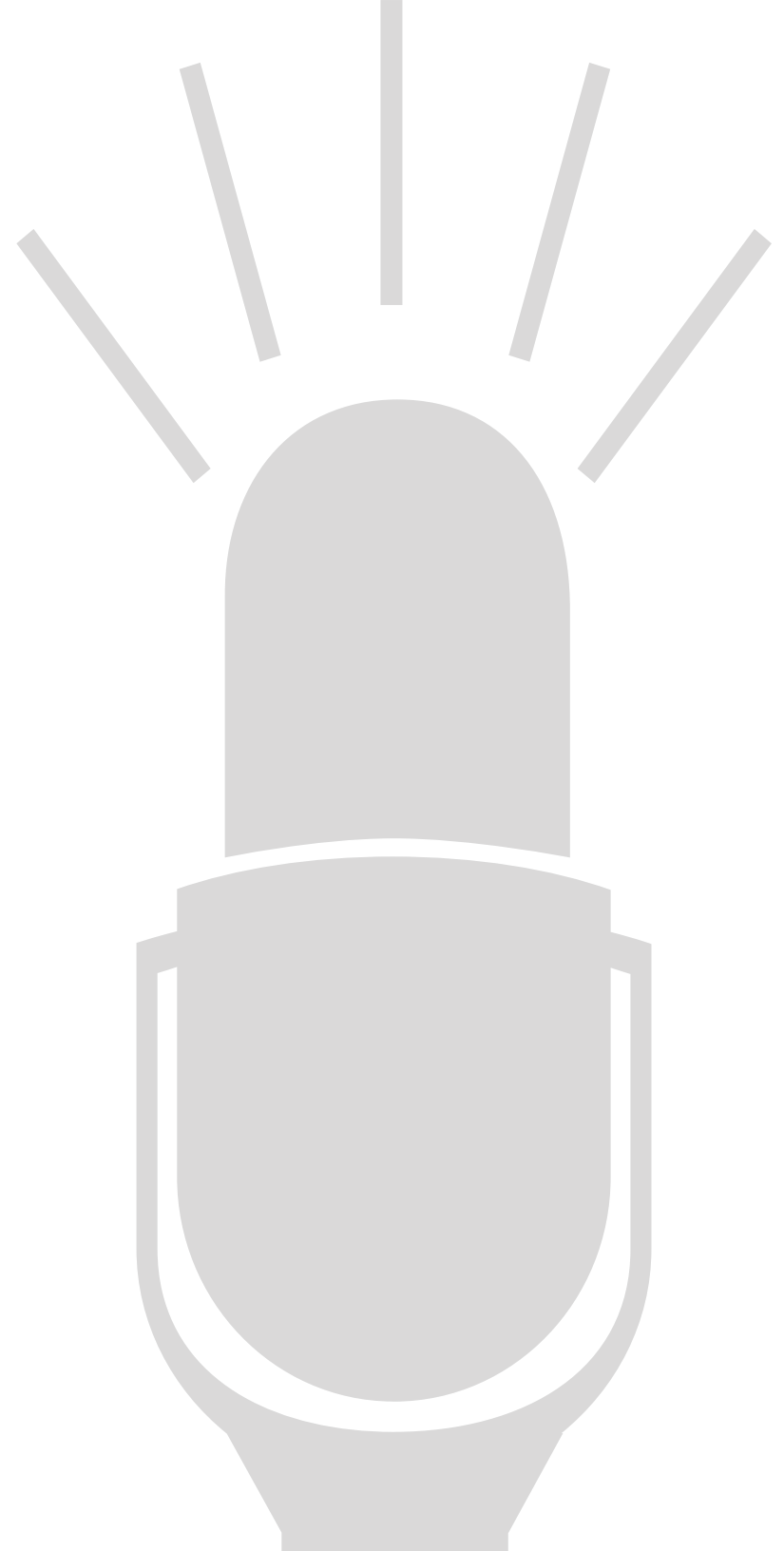
AWARDS PRESENTATION & FINAL COMMENTS

DAN STONE, National Endowment for the Arts

SUSAN BOSKOFF, Nevada Arts Council

JILL BERRYMAN, Nevada Alliance for Arts Education

RECEPTION





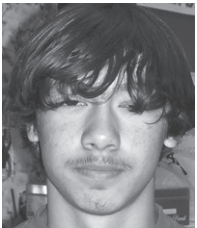
GIBRAN BAYDOUN
 Green Valley High School
 Clark County School District
 Senior

Born in Oakland, California, Gibran Baydoun moved to Henderson when he was three and considers himself almost a native Nevadan. He plays the trumpet in the Grammy Award Winning Green Valley Symphonic Band and sings in his church choir. Currently the student body treasurer, Baydoun is also President of the Future Business Leaders of America and loves to ski as a member of the cross country team. He will be attending the University of Michigan to study political science and plans to achieve his life long goal to represent Nevada in the United States Senate.



JACOB BEHYMER-SMITH
 Coral Academy of Science
 Washoe County School District
 Freshman

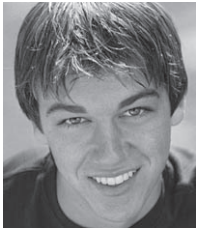
Born and raised in Reno, Jacob Behymer-Smith is the oldest sibling to two sisters and two brothers. His family has read and studied poetry as long as he remembers. Before Poetry Out Loud, Behymer-Smith planned to be a veterinarian. Now, he’s considering acting as a career. An accomplished vocalist, he spends most of his free time practicing his sport of choice - fencing. Last summer, he changed from foil to saber, and was invited to compete at the Junior Olympics in Hartford, CT.



DAREN C. BRIONES
 Lowry High School
 Humboldt County School District
 Freshman

Daren Briones was born in Oregon and raised in Winnemucca. A prolific young poet, Briones has already written more than 200 poems, won several local awards, and had one of his poems entitled “Gen, Chapter 4” published on “poetry.com.” A self taught musician as well, he plays the piano, bass and guitar. Briones is the oldest of four children and enjoys paint balling and bike riding. Briones plans to go to a yet-to-be-determined college where he would like to study journalism and writing.

“The ear is the only true writer and the only true reader.”
 – Robert Frost



STEVEN CHRISTIE
Churchill County High School
Churchill County School District
Senior

Steve Christie was born and raised on his parents’ 260 acre farm in Fallon where he works and hunts. Christie plans to move to Los Angeles after graduation to work on acting and attend college. A CCHS varsity swimmer, Christie is directing a play for the Theater IV class and is currently performing in “To Kill a Mockingbird.” Christie’s favorite activities are camping, hunting, snowboarding and skateboarding.



CHARITO COOPER
Fernley High School
Lyon County School District
Freshman

Charito Cooper’s family moved to Fernley from Modesto, California when she was in the fourth grade. Cooper has high hopes of attending the University of California at Davis and becoming a veterinarian. Her extracurricular activities include forensics, drama, track and cheerleading.



ALICIA FREEMAN
Carson High School
Carson City School District
Junior

Alicia Freeman’s family moved to Carson City from Truckee, CA when she was about a year old, so she considers the state capital her hometown. She has always wanted to be a famous actress or playwright and is considering becoming a Drama or English teacher. Freeman hopes to attend either the University of Nevada, Reno or California State University, Chico, so she may stay close to her parents. Freeman is in the drama club and admits that her life is all about drama.



JD HIBBS
 White Pine High School
 White Pine School District
 Senior

Joseph Daniel (JD) Hibbs has lived in the rural community of McGill for 16 years. He is the historian of the National Honor Society, the senior representative of troupe 5988 National Thespian Society, and is involved with both his school choir and the Northeastern Nevada Honor Choir. He also performs in the garage band Manukin Hand and makes short films with a friend in their company Korny Media Inc. Hibbs believes that he plays the best sport in the world, soccer, and he is highly into computers (breaking and fixing), reading books and taking long walks on the beach (“if I had one”). Hibbs plans to attend the University of Nevada, Reno and would like to major in Criminal Justice.



MOLLY MCGREGOR
 Virginia City High School
 Storey County School District
 Sophomore

Molly McGregor was born in New York. Her family moved to Manchester, New Hampshire when she was seven and then to Virginia City when she was fourteen, McGregor’s future plans include becoming a professor of English Literature. She plays softball and is a current member of the VCHS juggling club.



JON MCMASTER
 Battle Mountain High School
 Lander County School District
 Sophomore

Jon McMaster was born in Idaho but moved to Battle Mountain during the eighth grade. McMaster enjoys participating with the Academic Team at school and spending time on gardening, new inventions, doodling and mastering video games. His future plans include college with a major in Business and minor in Business Management.



HILLARY MURPHY
 Elko High School
 Elko County School District
 Sophomore

Hillary Murphy is a native of Elko. After college, she plans to go into the medical field as a physical therapist, an emergency room doctor or athletic trainer in sports medicine. She is currently taking an athletic training course and is a trainer for the football, basketball and track teams. A member of the pep club and the winter cheerleading program, Murphy also takes speech classes to improve public speaking skills and confidence. Her free time involves coaching an “under 10” girls’ soccer team and working the concession stand for the city junior football league. She hopes to move back to Elko after college to raise a family.

MAI DO

Mai Do anchors the news alongside Tad Dunbar for KOLO-TV, News Channel 8, in Reno at 5:00 and 6:30, and with Pat Hambright at 11:00. She comes to Reno by way of Bakersfield, California where she also anchored the evening news for the local NBC affiliate. Prior to that, she worked for the Associated Press out of the Los Angeles bureau while putting herself through graduate school at California State University, Northridge. Mai and her husband have many family ties to Northern Nevada, and are proud to make their new home here in the Truckee Meadows.

MICHAEL HILLERBY

Michael Hillerby is the new Executive Vice President of the Wingfield Nevada Group, a diversified real estate investment, development and operating company. He most recently served as Chief of Staff to Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn and before that as Deputy Chief of Staff. Prior to joining the Guinn administration as Director of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, Hillerby was the first Arts and Culture Manager for the City of Reno. Hillerby is currently a member of the Governor's Commission on Medical Education, Research and Training, a founding member and President of Nevada Citizens for the Arts and Chairman of the Washoe County Human Services Advisory Board.

MARCUS J. MASON

Marcus J. Mason is a teacher at Richard C. Priest Elementary School in North Las Vegas and coordinator and host of the Southern Nevada Writing Project Poetry Jam. Mason enjoys infusing writing and digital videography together to connect students with contemporary academic connections. In addition to writing and teaching poetry, Mason is a burgeoning motivational speaker. As the 2002 National Writing Project keynote speaker and at other events, he inspires teachers, students and community members to maximize their potential through personal development and reflection. Mason enjoys reading, creating instrumental music for poetic pieces and learning from people of all walks of life.

PATRICIA MILLER

As Vice-President for Programming, Promotion and Education at Reno's public television station, KNPB/Channel 5, Miller is responsible for the content areas of station services and management. Miller holds degrees in English and Journalism from Kent State University and Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and has more than 20 years of classroom teaching at both the high school and college/university levels. She is Vice-President of Sierra Arts Foundation, serves on the Executive Committee of Truckee Meadows Tomorrow, and performs with Bella Voce women's ensemble and the choir at First United Methodist Church.

GAILMARIE PAHMEIER

Gailmarie Pahmeier teaches creative writing and 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. Her literary awards include the Chambers Memorial Award, the Paumonok Poetry Award, a Witter Bynner Foundation Poetry Fellowship, two Nevada Arts Council Artist Fellowships and the Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. Widely published, Pahmeier's voice has been described as uniquely her own. She says of her own writing, "My hope, in all I do, is that the reader will take an associational leap from the poems and into his or her own life, carrying away some small truth."

CINDY SHARP

Cindy Sharp is the English Language Arts/Fine Arts Consultant for the Nevada Department of Education. She has taught at various levels from fifth grade to twelfth grade in her 20-year career in education. Her primary experience has been in social studies and reading. Involvement with the Northern Nevada Writing Project, a National Writing Project site that encourages teacher professional development, has been the highlight of her career. Sharp is currently instructing pre-service teachers in literacy at University of Nevada, Reno.

DAN STONE

Dan Stone is the Program Director for Poetry Out Loud at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Before joining the Arts Endowment in 2003, he taught middle and high school in Berkeley, California, and he founded and directed the nonprofit corporation, Speakeasy Literary Audio. Stone has published poetry and criticism in various national publications and has co-edited literary textbooks and anthologies. At the NEA, he produces educational materials, radio programs, and audio guides for several national initiatives.

RAY TATAR

Ray Tatar has been with the California Arts Council as an administrator for nearly 23 years. With expertise in theater and literature, he currently manages the Organizational Grants Program. In 2001, he co-authored the successful Poet Laureate Bill, a program that he also oversees. Tatar has won many awards for theatrical directing and recently received a national CINE Golden Eagle award for a documentary about artist Gregory Kondos. He currently hosts "Live Wire," a weekly cultural affairs cable TV program for the Sacramento area. Tatar received his MA from UC Berkeley's Scholar/Director Program and trained in film directing at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as well as the Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute.

PARTICIPANTS OF NEVADA'S 2006 POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

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 and participation from the teachers, coaches, principals and superintendents involved with Nevada's 2006 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest. We know that the list below is missing others who were involved in this project, and we thank you as well.

TEACHERS AND COACHES

Kristine Bell, Battle Mountain High School, Battle Mountain; Karen Chandler, Carson High School, Carson City; Robert Conner, Las Vegas Academy, Las Vegas; Patricia Fua, White Pine High School, Ely; Meredith Gardner, Lowry High School, Winnemucca; Lynn Gervais, Fernley High School, Fernley; Barbara Hansen, Mojave High School, North Las Vegas; Jamie Holladay, Churchill County High School, Fallon; Shaun Ingalls, Sierra Nevada Vocational Technical Center, Las Vegas; Jason Kern, Green Valley High School, Henderson; Karen Kreyeski, Virginia City High School, Virginia City; Andrea Ladouceur, Carol Academy of Sciences, Reno; Julie Lewis, Spring Creek High School, Spring Creek; Jayme Moreland, Desert Pines High School, Las Vegas; Kathleen O'Brian, TMCC High School, Reno; Carl Olsen, White Pine High School, Ely; Kathleen Scully, Eldorado High School, Las Vegas; W. Morgen Smith, Owyhee Combined School, Owyhee; Molly Spurlock, Boulder City High School, Boulder City; Francine Stancill, Galena High School, Reno; Kathy Tucker, White Pine High School, Ely; Shawn Ann Welton, Elko High School, Elko; Alaine Wood, Churchill County High School, Fallon; Mary Ziegler, Advanced Technology Academy; Las Vegas

PRINCIPALS

Mike Attenburg, Elko High School, Elko County School District; Patrick Beckwith, Virginia City High School, Storey County School District; Kirk Brower, Lowry High School, Humboldt County School District; Ben Karaduman, Coral Academy of Science, Washoe County School District; Jeff Horn, Green Valley High School, Clark County School District; Amy Kesfer, Battle Mountain High School, Lander County School District; Fred Perdomo, Carson High School, Carson City School District; John Riley, Churchill High School, Churchill County School District; Sue Segura, Fernley High School, Lyon County School District; Adam Young, White Pine High School, White Pine School District

SUPERINTENDENTS

Antoinette Cavanaugh, Elko County School District; Robert Dolezal, White Pine County School District; Paul Dugan, Washoe County School District; Nat Lammori, Lyon County School District; Steve Larsgaard, Lander County School District; Charlotte Petersen, Humboldt County School District; Dr. Mary Pierczynski, Carson City School District; Dr. Carolyn Ross, Churchill County School District; Dr. Walt Rulffes, Clark County School District; Dr. Rob Slaby, Storey County School District

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to the following individuals and businesses for their generosity of time and donations in support of the 2006 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest in Nevada. We couldn't have done it without you.

Sally Ahlstedt
Erich M. Albl
Randal Allen
Kurt Arnold
Jennifer Baumer
Black Rock Press
Lisa Boldman
Kim Russell
California Arts Council
Churchill Arts Council
Churchill County Junior High School
Gwen Clancy
Cold Stone Creamery
Cort Conley
Desta Collins
Judy Cox
Nycole Cummings
Vickie Davies
Larry DeVincenzi
Paul DiLella
Michael Faison
Fallon McDonald's
Fallon Theatres
Linda Ficklin
Dayvid Figler
First Independent Bank of Nevada
Firouzeh Forouzmand
Wendi Gephart
Glen and Roberta Godfrey
Grandma Hatties Restaurant
Shaun Griffin
Robin A. Hodgkin
Kevin Honcomp
Angelina Horn

Carol Johnson
Tim Jones
Jennifer Key
Lahontan Elementary
Bobbie Lazzarone
Monique Laxalt
Don Lilly
Joan Lolmaugh
Meadow Wood Courtyard - Super 8 Motel
Teresa Moiola
Dave Morgan
Fran Morrow
Nevada State Printing Office
Northern Nevada Bank
Joanne O'Hare
Hope O'Keefe
Pete Peterson
Port O' Subs
Emily Randall
Mytle Reid
Dale Rew
Marcia Robinson
Kim Russell
Candy Schneider
Steve Schneider
Siena Hotel Spa & Casino
Sierra Arts
Kathy Smales
Patrice Snead
Bill Snyder
Dan Stone
Ray Tatar
The Focus Group
Byron Tidwell

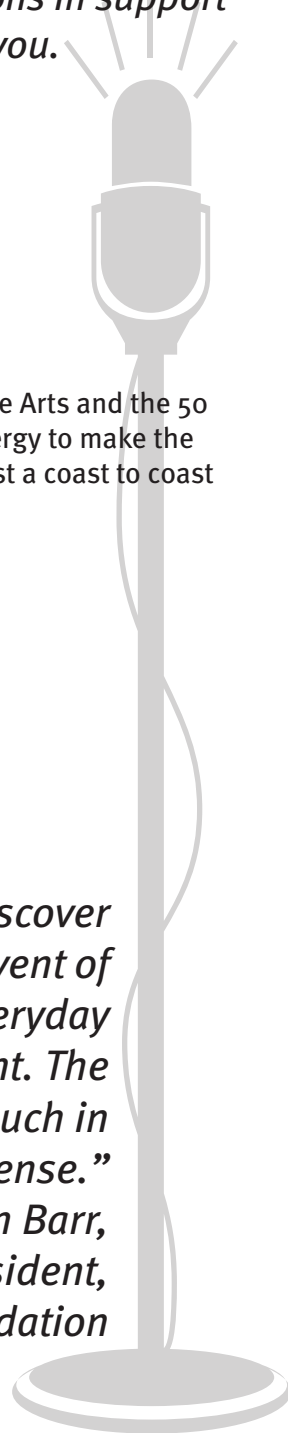
Rossitza Todorova
Trader Joes
Elizabeth Tully
University of Nevada Press
Ray Valdez
O'Alaina Ward
West Charleston Heights Library

Staff members of the National Endowment for the Arts and the 50 state arts agencies who committed time and energy to make the 2006 Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest a coast to coast success.

Designed by SmartBrand
Printed by Nevada State Printing Office

'Hearing a poem spoken aloud, we discover that a poem is before anything else an event of the ear. In the hands of the poet our everyday speech becomes a musical instrument. The meaning of the poem, we find, lies as much in the sound of its words as in their sense.'

*– John Barr,
President,
The Poetry Foundation*



**Poetry Out Loud
National Recitation Contest
State of Nevada Planning Committee**

PEGGY REW, Logistics Coordinator

**JILL BERRYMAN, President
Nevada Alliance for Arts Education**

**SUSAN BOSKOFF, Executive Director
Nevada Arts Council**

**GARY MARGOLIS, Arts in Education Program
Coordinator
Nevada Arts Council**

**CINDY SHARP, English Language Arts/Fine
Arts Consultant
Nevada Department of Education**

SPONSORS

NEVADA ARTS COUNCIL

The Nevada Arts Council (NAC) was established as a state agency in 1967 with a mission “to enrich the cultural life of the state through leadership that preserves, supports, strengthens and makes accessible excellence in the arts for all Nevadans.” NAC programs stimulate artistic and cultural activity throughout the state, and encourage public and private support for the arts. A division of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs, NAC is funded by the Nevada State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and other private sources.

NEVADA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION

The Nevada Alliance for Arts Education (NAAE) promotes arts education as an essential component of a quality education. A member of the Kennedy Center Alliance for Arts Education Network, NAAE partners with the Nevada Arts Council and other institutions and organizations to promote arts education and implement professional development for educators throughout the state of Nevada.

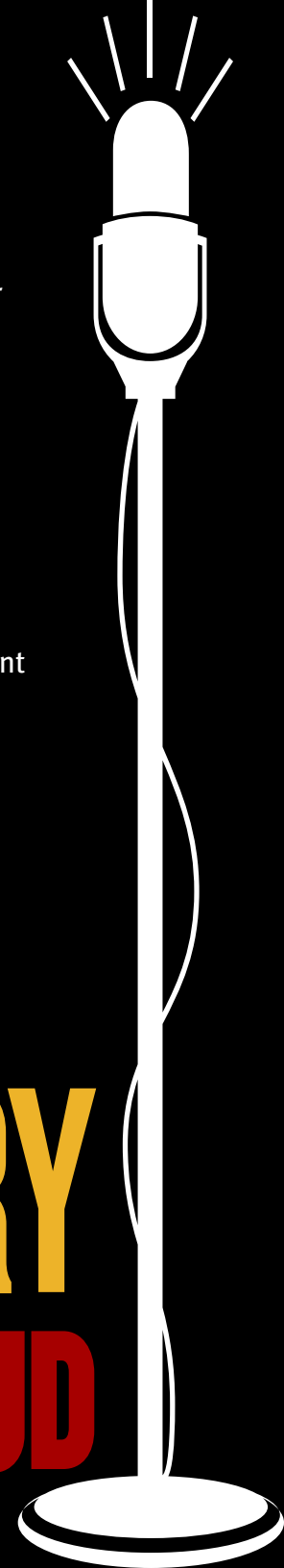
NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Endowment is the nation’s largest annual funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities and military bases.

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.

**POETRY
OUT LOUD**



It's not
an education
without the **A**rts.[™]
Nevada Alliance for Arts Education