

NFSPS 2017 CONVENTION SPEAKERS

Carmen Tafolla will deliver the keynote presentation. She is an award-winning poet and children's author, storyteller, performance artist, motivational speaker, scholar and university professor. Named Poet Laureate of the State of Texas in 2015, Dr. Carmen Tafolla is loved throughout the world for her moving performances and poetry readings. The author of more than 20 books and a Professor of Transformative Children's Literature at UT San Antonio, she holds a Ph.D. in Bilingual Education from the University of Texas and a B.A. in Spanish and French, an M.A. in Education, and a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Humane Letters of Education from Austin College. Tafolla's work appears internationally in high school and university textbooks, newspapers, journals, magazines, elementary school Big Books, posters on city buses, and engraved on sidewalks and museum walls. Chosen in 2012 as the first Poet Laureate of the City of San Antonio, Tafolla has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Americas Award, presented to her at the Library of Congress in 2010, five International Latino Book Awards, two Tomas Rivera Book Awards, two ALA Notable Books, a Charlotte Zolotow Award, the Art of Peace Award, a Junior Library Guild Selection, the Tejas Star Listing, the Texas 2 by 2 Award, Top Ten Books for Babies, and has been recognized by the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies for work which "gives voice to the peoples and cultures of this land."



Doc Gibbs is a multitiered entertainer – a singer, pianist, comedian, impressionist, songwriter, and author who provides his own brand of motivational and musical presentations that entertain and inspire. He has traveled around the world, provided musical accompaniment for many well-known singers and entertaining audiences with his witty humor and ear-catching musical impressions. Doc's life goal: "Using my God-given talents to lift people up and encourage." His motto is DOC MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD!



Scott Wiggerman is the author of three books of poetry, *Leaf and Beak: Sonnets, Presence and Vegetables and Other Relationships*; and the editor of several volumes, including *Wingbeats: Exercises & Practice in Poetry*, *Lifting the Sky: Southwestern Haiku & Haiga*, and *Bearing the Mask*. Recent poems have appeared in *A Quiet Courage*, *Naugatuck River Review*, *Red Earth Review*, *bosque*, *shuf*, *Yellow Chair Review*, as well as such anthologies as *Far Out: Poems of the 60s*, *The Doll Collection*, and *Texas Weather*. He is an editor for Dos Gatos Press of Albuquerque, NM, former publisher of the popular Texas Poetry Calendar, now in its 20th year.



Urania Fung is an English professor at Tarrant County College, Northeast campus. She earned her MFA in Creative Writing from Texas State University, and her MA in English from Sam Houston State University where she saw a power in poetry that she employs in her fiction to this day. Her short stories have been published by DAW in the anthologies *Ages of Wonder* and *The Dragon and the Stars*. She has also been a panelist at Polaris 24 and ArmadilloCons 34, 36, and 38.



Anne McCrady's writing appears in her own poetry collections, *Along Greathouse Road*, *Under a Blameless Moon* and *Letting Myself In*, as well as in literary journals, newspapers, magazines, and anthologies. Among her honors are the top prizes of both PST and NFSPS, as well as PST's annual book award. Anne has editorial, review and critique publication credits and is a frequent poetry judge, contest sponsor and workshop presenter. Anne posts on social media, at her website InSpirity.com, and at PoetwithaPressPass.com, where she writes news-related poems. Her other endeavors include storytelling, inspirational speaking, peace advocacy and grandmothing four little girls. Anne lives in Tyler, Texas, with her physician husband, Mike.



Diane Glancy won the first Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize from the Poetry Society of Texas for *QWERTYUIOPASDFGHJKLZXCVBNM, The Keyboard Letters*, which acknowledges the different letters of the alphabet that enable our search for meaning. In 2106, she also published *The Collector of Bodies, Concern for Syria and the Middle East*, and co-edited an anthology, *The World Is One Place, Native American Writers Visit the Middle East*. Glancy's 2014 book, *Report to the Department of the Interior*, won the Willa Poetry Award from Women Writers of the West. Glancy is professor emerita at Macalester College. She has lived in Gainesville, Texas, since 2014. She also visits Kansas.



Nathan Brown is an author, songwriter, and award-winning poet living in Wimberley, Texas. He holds a Ph.D. in English and Journalism from the University of Oklahoma where he taught for seventeen years. He served as Poet Laureate for the State of Oklahoma in 2013/14 and mostly travels now, performing readings and concerts, as well as speaking and leading workshops in schools, libraries, and community organizations on creativity and creative writing. Nathan has published thirteen books. Most recent is *Don't Try*, a collection of co-written poems with Austin Music Hall of Fame songwriter, Jon Dee Graham. *Karma Crisis: New and Selected Poems*, was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize and the Oklahoma Book Award. His earlier book, *Two Tables Over*, won the 2009 Oklahoma Book Award. He has taught memoir, songwriting, performance, and creativity workshops for the Sisters Folk Festival in Oregon, the Taos Poetry Festival, the Woody Guthrie Festival, the Everwood Farmstead Foundation in Wisconsin, as well as Blue Rock Artist Ranch near Austin, Texas.



Karla Kay Morton, the 2010 Texas Poet Laureate and a member and Councilor of the Texas Institute of Letters, is a celebrated poet, author, speaker and photographer. A Betsy Colquitt Award Winner, Eric Hoffer Award Winner, Montaigne Medal Finalist, two-time Indie Book Award Winner, North Texas Book Festival Award Winner, nominee for the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and a Pushcart Prize nominee, Ms. Morton has been widely published in literary journals and is the author of eleven books of poetry. Her 12th book, *Wooden Lions* (Texas Review Press) is scheduled to be released in April of 2017. Described as “one of the more adventurous voices in American poetry,” Ms. Morton has been featured on Good Morning Texas, NPR, ABC News, CBS News and in countless newspapers, blogs and magazines. An avid photographer, Morton has also had many showings of her black and white artwork, has been nominated for the honor of the Texas 2D Artist, and loves to mix poetry with other art forms. Morton holds a Journalism degree from Texas A&M University and currently resides in Fort Worth, Texas.



Mark and Beth Ayers started collecting Magic Lanterns a couple of years ago, after seeing a Magic Lantern show. This antique slide projector is their perfect shared hobby. Beth appreciates the history and Mark likes to work with gadgets. Together, they enjoy bringing history to life. In real life, Mark is a geologist and Beth serves on PST's Executive Board and is the 2017 NFSPS Convention registrar. She is also a talented storyteller and musician.



Pat Stodghill received degrees from the University of North Texas and the University of Texas. She taught for 34 years in the Dallas and Rockwall Independent School Districts, at Yavneh Academy, and at Southern Methodist University. She is a former Poet Laureate of Texas, was the first woman to serve as president of the Poetry Society of Texas, and is a former president of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her book *Mirrored Images* won the first Nortex Book Publication Award and *Kaleidoscope Pieces* won the William E. Bard Memorial Book Award. Her children's book is *Jake's Snapping Catastrophe*.

