N I N T H A N N U A L
Nevada Poetry Out Loud
Recitation Competition
S T A T E F I N A L S

2014 nevada
Poetry out loud
Powering Up Poetry

March 15, 2014 • Noon–3 pm
The Siena Hotel Spa Casino • Reno

Sponsored by the Nevada Arts Council, NV Energy, Sierra Arts Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts and The Poetry Foundation
March 15, 2014

Greetings:

On behalf of the Nevada Arts Council, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2014 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Competition State Finals, and to recognize our fifteen finalists who compete today.

Each one brings to life an art form that for many of us is difficult to understand. Their ability to make knowable to us one of the most abstract yet celebrated of literary art forms is a talent to be admired and applauded.

I also want to acknowledge the families, schools and teachers who provided an extraordinary support system to the more than 2,500 student competitors in Nevada this year.

This is the ninth year that the Nevada Arts Council has shepherded this remarkable program as a statewide initiative. Encouraging participation by all high-school aged students across the Silver State, Poetry Out Loud has become a mainstay and critical element of arts learning for Nevada’s youth.

It takes partnerships based on shared priorities to maintain and enrich a statewide program. We are so appreciative of NV Energy’s ongoing support, which has insured that all students in Nevada’s rural communities may participate, and continues to fund the critical program, Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the leadership role of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in launching this beloved national program, and Sierra Arts Foundation for its co-sponsorship of the 2014 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program. Other key sponsors this year include KNPB Channel 5, Black Rock Press, Siena Hotel Spa and Casino, Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs, Nevada Department of Education, and Sindex Printing & Graphics.

Lastly, I want to thank this year’s judges—Javier Trujillo, Linda Bissett, Geralda Miller, Krista Lukas, Claudia Vecchio and Robert Reid, as well as Tim Jones, our Master of Ceremonies.

To today’s competitors, I know I speak on behalf of the NAC Board, staff and every member of your community as I offer our best wishes to you 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
The Nevada Arts Council
a Division of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs

and

The Sierra Arts Foundation

in partnership with
The National Endowment for the Arts
The Poetry Foundation
The Nevada Department of Education

proudly present

2014
Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals

March 15, 2014
Noon – 3 pm
The Siena Hotel Spa Casino | Reno

Featuring Students From
Carson City  
Clark County  
Douglas County  
Elko County  
Eureka County  

Humboldt County  
Lincoln County  
Lyon County  
Mineral County  
Nevada Statewide Virtual  

Nye County  
Pershing County  
Storey County  
Washoe County  
White Pine County
WELCOME

Tim Jones, Immediate Past Chair, Nevada Arts Council Board – Master of Ceremonies

INTRODUCTION OF JUDGES AND STUDENTS
Tim Jones – Master of Ceremonies

ROUND 1
1. Carson City
2. Humboldt
3. Nevada Virtual
4. White Pine
5. Washoe
6. Mineral
7. Elko
8. Lyon
9. Lincoln
10. Nye
11. Storey
12. Douglas
13. Pershing
14. Clark
15. Eureka

ROUND 2
1. Elko
2. Washoe
3. White Pine
4. Storey
5. Carson City
6. Humboldt
7. Nevada Virtual
8. Pershing
9. Clark
10. Douglas
11. Nye
12. Lyon
13. Eureka
14. Lincoln
15. Mineral

ROUND 3
Top three finalists

READING
Krista Lukas – Poet and Gluck Fellow, University of California, Riverside

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
Tim Jones, Master of Ceremonies
Susan Boskoff, Executive Director, Nevada Arts Council

FINAL COMMENTS
Tim Jones

RECEPTION
All are invited!
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.

Structured similarly to the National Spelling Bee, Poetry Out Loud (POL) begins in communities throughout the state as 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 of classic and contemporary poetry.

After district competitions, semi-finalists compete at the Nevada State Finals where the stakes are high. The Nevada POL State Champion receives $1,000, wins $1,000 for his or her school to support literary programs and travels to Washington, D.C. to compete for $50,000 in scholarships and school prizes at the National Finals. Those placing second and third at the Nevada State Finals each receive $500 and $500 for his or her school.

In our first year of POL in 2005, all high schools across Nevada were invited to participate. Nearly 200 students, teachers, coaches and parents in ten counties joined. The sponsors—Nevada Arts Council, Nevada Alliance for Arts Education and Nevada Department of Education—were thrilled with the turnout. In 2013, the Eighth Annual Nevada POL engaged more than 2,600 students, teachers and coaches representing thirteen of Nevada’s 16 counties with high schools. Now that’s poetry power!

2014 Nevada Poetry Out Loud Program

Thanks to the generous and continuing support from NV Energy, district semi-finals continued in Nevada’s rural counties, which insured that the 2014 POL remained a statewide program. NV Energy’s sponsorship also supported the third year of Powering Up Poetry: Poets in Residence, which provides writing and poetry interpretation workshops by published poets in rural communities. Krista Lukas personalized poetry workshops for students at Carson Valley Middle School in Gardnerville. During the 2014 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, students attended a poetry writing workshop by word wrangler and poet Paul Zarzyski, and a recitation coaching session by cowboy poets/reciters Randy Rieman and Joel Nelson. Participating students were invited to present poetry at the Gathering’s Teen Poetry Slam. In the spring, poet Carolyn Dufurrena will visit central Nevada to work with students in Ely, Eureka and Austin.

2014 Poetry Out Loud National Finals

Across the nation, more than 365,000 students, 2,200 schools and 8,300 teachers are participating in this year’s National Poetry Out Loud Recitation Competition. The Nevada State Champion and his/her chaperone will travel to Washington, D.C. to vie against extraordinary competitors from each state and territory at the National Finals on April 29–30. Finalists attend a number of events while in the nation’s capital city, with the final competition hosted by the Lisner Auditorium on the campus of George Washington University. All rounds of the National Finals will be webcast live at arts.gov.

The Ninth Annual Nevada Poetry Out Loud State Finals is a partnership between the Nevada Arts Council, Sierra Arts Foundation, NV Energy, Department of Education, National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CARSON CITY</th>
<th>TRACI THORNTON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind by William Shakespeare</td>
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<td>Alone by Edgar Allen Poe</td>
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<tr>
<th>CLARK</th>
<th>PRINCESS JACKSON</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Light the Dead See by Frank Stanford</td>
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<td>The Paradox by Paul Lawrence Dunbar</td>
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<td>On an Unsociable Family by Elizabeth Hands</td>
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<tr>
<th>DOUGLAS</th>
<th>DOMINIQUE GROFFMAN</th>
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<tr>
<td>Inside Out by Diane Wakoski</td>
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<td>Ikebana by Cathy Song</td>
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<td>On a Drop of Dew by Andrew Marvell</td>
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<tr>
<th>ELKO</th>
<th>MIKAYLA C. BATES</th>
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<tr>
<td>A Country Boy in Winter by Sarah Orne Jewett</td>
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<td>Domestic Situation by Ernest Hilbert</td>
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<td>Ovation by Carol Muske-Dukes</td>
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<tr>
<th>EUREKA</th>
<th>CRYSTAL HUBBARD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alone by Edgar Allan Poe</td>
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<td>April Love by Ernest Dowson</td>
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<td>No Moon Floods the Memory of That Night by Etheridge Knight</td>
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<tr>
<th>HUMBOLDT</th>
<th>LILLIAN MORAVEC</th>
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<tr>
<td>It Was Not Death, for I Stood Up by Emily Dickinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Listeners by Walter De La Mare</td>
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<td>Luke Havergal by Edwin Arlington Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<th>LINCOLN</th>
<th>ELIZABETH GLOECKNER</th>
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<td>The Arrow and the Song by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Listeners by Walter De La Mare</td>
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<td>The War in the Air by Howard Nemerov</td>
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<tr>
<th>LYON</th>
<th>CHRISTIAN SCHUNKE</th>
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<tr>
<td>I Am the People, the Mob by Carl Sandburg</td>
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<td>American Smooth by Rita Dove</td>
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<td>Invictus by William Ernest Henley</td>
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<tr>
<th>MINERAL</th>
<th>BRANDEN TURNER</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discrimination by Kenneth Rexrock</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Empty Dance Shoes by Cornelius Eady</td>
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<td>Dover Beach by Matthew Arnold</td>
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<tr>
<th>NEVADA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL</th>
<th>ELIZABETH LOUISE ALEGRET</th>
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<tr>
<td>Love Song by Dorothy Parker</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Poison Tree by William Blake</td>
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<td>Fire and Ice by Robert Frost</td>
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<tr>
<th>NYE</th>
<th>ANDREA SPOSATO</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Maldive Shark by Herman Melville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onions by William Matthews</td>
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<td>Abandoned Farmhouse by Ted Kooser</td>
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<tr>
<th>PERSHING</th>
<th>SAVANNAH REY CHRISTIANSEN</th>
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<tr>
<td>At Cross Purposes by Samuel Menashe</td>
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<td>Analysis of Baseball by May Swenson</td>
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<td>The Sorrow of Love by William Butler Yeats</td>
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<tr>
<th>STOREY</th>
<th>CHRISTIAN CURTIS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alone by Edgar Allen Poe</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Find No Peace by Thomas Wyatt</td>
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<td>The Snow is Deep on the Ground by Kenneth Patchen</td>
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<tr>
<th>WASHOE</th>
<th>CHEYENNE UNDERWOOD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Happiness by Paisley Rekdal</td>
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<td>The Larger by Joanie Mackowski</td>
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<td>Break of Day by John Donne</td>
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<tr>
<th>WHITE PINE</th>
<th>CHRISTOPHER CASAREZ</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beautiful Wreckage by W.D. Ehrhart</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky by Lewis Carroll</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fairy-tale Logic by A.E. Stallings</td>
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**CARSON CITY**

Traci Thornton  
**Junior**  
Carson High School  
Ron Beck, Principal

Princess was born in Pennsylvania, and grew up in New York. She is currently a senior at Green Valley High School and takes pride in her active participation in the Culinary Program. In the fall, Princess plans on attending Colorado State University to study animal technology. She has competed in Poetry out Loud for four years and admits this is one of the greatest programs she has ever participated in. Princess would like to thank her coaches, Mr. Winkler and Ms. Furmanek; her family; and the judges at the Clark County District Semi-Finals.

**CLARK COUNTY**

Princess Jackson  
**Senior**  
Green Valley High School  
Jeff Horn, Principal

Traci Thornton was born in Carson City, Nevada to Caroline and Jeremy Thornton. A great deal of her resiliency is rooted in her deep love of the arts. As an active member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Western Nevada since age five, Traci has participated in arts programming in many forms, from the visual arts to lead roles in the Club's Drama Counts program, and by helping to create a Club Glee program. Traci has always shined, but it wasn’t until she became actively involved in Brewery Arts Center programs that she began to grow in confidence and ability. Her new theatrical confidence extended into her school life and she became involved in Carson High School's musical theater and drama classes. After high school, she plans to join the United States Navy. Traci would like to thank her mother, Caroline Kusch; her Teen Director, Bridget Gordon; and her arts mentor, Tami Castillo Shelton.

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**

Dominique Groffman  
**Junior**  
Douglas High School  
Marty Swisher, Principal

Dominique was born in the Carson Valley and has lived in the area all her life. She has, however, developed an affection for international travelling from a young age. She is involved with ceramics, Speech and Debate, 4-H, and other activities, and she has a strong thirst for knowledge in all aspects of her life. Dominique is in a quandary about her future, and is striving for happiness. She would like especially to thank her mother, Anne Jeton, for serving as a continuous beacon of hope and guidance. She would also like to thank her ninth grade teacher, Mrs. Van Doren; and her advising friend, Brianna Taylor.
ELKO COUNTY

Mikayla C. Bates
Sophomore
Elko High School
Mike Altenburg, Principal

Crystal Hubbard
Junior
Eureka County High School
Ken Fujii, Principal

HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Lillian Moravec
Senior
Albert M. Lowry High School
Debbie Watts, Principal

Mikayla C. Bates, a sophomore at Elko High School, enjoys writing, theater and speech class. She has won several awards in speech and writing, placing second in the 2014 Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy speech competition and at the 2014 Elko County Writer’s Festival, and received the award for 2013 Outstanding Speech Student of the year. She has participated in many theatre productions. Her favorites include Beauty and the Beast, where she happily portrayed the Enchanted Salt Shaker in 2013, and The Crucible, where she played Mary Warren in 2012. Her other interests are singing, reading and obviously poetry! Mikayla would like to thank her parents, Kelly and Eric Bates; her Speech teacher and mentor, Emily Nielson; her Drama teacher and mentor, Kelly Moon; her aunt and role model, Jackie Murphy; and her classmates and supporters from the EHS Speech Class.

Crystal Hubbard is a junior at Eureka County High School. She was born on October 2, 1996 in Elko, Nevada and has lived in Eureka for her entire life. Crystal has a brother and sister who have both graduated from college. At school, she is involved in Future Farmers of America, Student Council, piano and dance. Crystal would like to thank her parents, Tina and Todd Hubbard; and her English teacher, Karl Watts.

Lilly Moravec is from Winnemucca Nevada, and someday hopes to go to school in Washington. She has had a love for poetry her entire life, whether it was writing it or reading it. Some of her favorite poems are “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes and “The Cremation of Sam McGee” by Robert W. Service. She would like to thank everyone involved in putting on this event, and wishes her fellow participants the best of luck. She is extremely delighted to be allowed to be part of this event. Lillian would like to thank her Poetry Out Loud coach, Mrs. Vicki Meissner; her friends and fellow Poetry Out Loud competitors, Miranda Laush and Aislinn Marsden; her friend, Amanda Scott; her mother, Rose Moravec; her grandmother, Sandra Mathews; and her great aunt, Linda Fetters.
FINALISTS

LINCOLN COUNTY

Elizabeth “Lizzy” Gloeckner
Sophomore
Lincoln County High School
Marty Soderberg, Principal

ELIZABETH "LIZZY"
Gloeckner
Sophomore
Lincoln County High School
Marty Soderberg, Principal

Elizabeth (aka Lizzy), was born on Friday, February 13, 1998 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She lived in Las Vegas and attended Elizondo Elementary until she was in the third grade. Lizzy moved to Caliente, Nevada in July, 2006. She is part of a large family (a grand total of nine). Lizzy is a 4.0 student and is in the Honor Roll Society. Her talents include dance and drill team, drama, show choir, and she competes in 4-H horsemanship. She is now learning how to play the piano and loves to tinker on the guitar. Lizzy is a wonderful performer, loves to write short stories and poems, and has been published in “Creative Communications” and the “American Library of Poetry.” She wants to attend Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, to major in English and Performing Arts. Lizzy would like to thank her mother, Anna Gloeckner; her aunt, Linda Larson-Butler; her Drama teacher, Jacob Lester; and Director, Pete Peterson.

LYON COUNTY

Christian Schunke
Senior
Yerington High School
Duane Mattice, Principal

CHRISTIAN SCHUNKE
Senior
Yerington High School
Duane Mattice, Principal

Christian was born on January 29, 1996, in Lancaster, California. He moved many times, before relocating to Yerington with his father Nicholas. He has been involved in a wide variety of activities, including drama, academic Olympics, Interact Club, varsity football, Future Farmers of America and track. He is an Honor student, and is hoping to be accepted by MIT. Christian would like to thank his parents, Nicholas and Terceira; his English teacher, Amanda Aldridge; and his best gal, Sarah.

MINERAL COUNTY

Branden Turner
Senior
Mineral County High School
Michael Domagala, Principal

BRANDEN TURNER
Senior
Mineral County High School
Michael Domagala, Principal

Branden Turner is a senior at Mineral County High School. His favorite things to do are play basketball and football, and write poetry. Branden considers himself to be a pretty outgoing and a fun guy. His favorite movies are Hercules and The Notebook. His favorite food is chicken enchiladas and he likes long walks. He has participated in Poetry Out Loud for two years now and is excited to participate in the State Finals. Branden would like to thank his mother, Brandee Martin; his grandmother, Chaletta Speight; his aunt, Arandee Marin; his teacher, Ms. Staunton; and his friends and family.
Elizabeth was born on January 6, 1996 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Elizabeth enjoys dancing, singing, painting, sketching and performing. She has performed, since the age of five, in school and community musicals and church productions. Elizabeth discovered the Poetry Out Loud Program through Nevada Virtual Academy’s new program, “The Virtual Acting Club.” She plans to attend the College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to major in Culinary Arts Management. One of her biggest dreams is to open a café in Las Vegas. Elizabeth would like to thank her club drama teachers, Jennifer Ding and Cornell Nemes.

Andrea, more commonly known as Andy, was born on July 20, 1996. She is the third of three daughters and has one younger brother. She has passions for reading and writing. Andy loves science and hopes one day to connect the scientific community with the rest of the world more seamlessly through her writing. She does not know where she wants to attend school next fall but likes the idea of attending the University of Arizona where she would major in Bioinformatics. Andy would like to thank her English teacher, Deanna Brill; her coach, Billie Polkosnik; her parents, Louis and Barbara Sposato; and her friend, Jennifer Simon, who encouraged her to compete for a second year.

Savannah Rey Christiansen is a 17-year old junior at Pershing County High School in Lovelock, Nevada. She has lived there all her life and enjoys the small town. Savannah is a varsity cheerleader for winter sports seasons, but that is not all she does. When she is not cheering, she is on the court in ready position for volleyball in the fall. She has an undying love for baseball and astronomy, which she would like to study after graduation from high school. Savannah is excited and frightened to be a senior, but also ready to start her life after high school. This is her second year competing in Poetry Out Loud. Savannah would like to thank her parents, Brandy and Chad Christiansen; her Drama teacher and Cheer coach, Julie Terry; and her employer, Patty Burke.
**STOREY COUNTY**

Cheyenne Underwood
Senior
TMCC Magnet High School
Susan Mayes-Smith, Principal

Cheyenne Underwood was born in California, and moved to Reno when she was a freshman. She loves Reno and is extremely grateful for the opportunities she has there, including Poetry Out Loud, which she heard about as a junior from her English teacher. She has been writing and reading poetry since the third grade and it’s one of her life’s passions. Cheyenne also loves photography, dance and acting. She will attend the University of Nevada, Reno in the fall of this year with a major in pre-nursing and a minor in theater. Cheyenne would like to thank her mother, Darci Underwood; her English teacher, Launie Gardner; her Poetry teacher, Lindsey Wilson; local poet, Tony Walker; and her boyfriend, Gabriel Mahomet.

**WASHOE COUNTY**

Christian Curtis
Senior
Virginia City High School
Ric Schrank, Principal

Christian Curtis was born, on the twenty-seventh day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six. Approximately four thousand and forty-eight days later, the young lad participated in a talent show and enjoyed it greatly. This one event cemented his interest in the performing arts. Christian enjoys reading, juggling, singing, acting, archery and minutiae. His goals for the future are as follows; to stop being an adolescent and to pursue a career in which he will not be bored senseless. Christian would like to thank his drama teachers Jackie Petrosky, Anthony Shank and Andie Anderson; and his mother Geri Baker.

**WHITE PINE COUNTY**

Christopher Casarez
Junior
White Pine High School
Adam Young, Principal

Christopher Casarez, is a junior at White Pine High School. He has been interested in Poetry Out Loud ever since he was a freshman. He is an actor in the high school Drama Program and also is the Activities Chairman of the Drama Board. He plays football and has been a staff member and photographer on the yearbook staff for four years. He is really excited to participate in this competition because it will be a great experience. Christopher would like to thank his parents, Shannon and Chris Casarez; and his Drama teacher, Kathy Tucker.
JUDGES

TIM JONES (Master of Ceremonies)
Tim Jones completed three terms on the Board of the Nevada Arts Council (2001–2013), serving as chair for the latter six years. His arts advocacy work continues today on the federal, state and local levels. Tim’s nearly 30-year career (1980–2009) at the University of Nevada, Reno, was highlighted by his leadership in the growth of public radio. As Director of University Arts (Emeritus) from 1994–2004, he worked with campus arts colleagues to prepare the foundation for the university’s School of the Arts. Tim is a co-founder of Reno’s nationally-recognized, month-long Artown festival. He developed several of the festival’s programming concepts, including the award-winning “Discover the Arts” hands-on series for children. He is the author of “The Work of Art: Creativity and the Work Ethic,” (Black Rock Press) and serves as a consultant for a public television series based on his book. He received the 2010 Arts Advocacy Award from the National Association of Counties.

LINDA BISSETT (Judge)
Linda Bissett has been the Local Government Strategy Executive for NV Energy for 16 years. In this position, she facilitates development of critical projects in rural and urban Nevada and resolves challenging company issues for government representatives. Linda has served on a variety of boards including Western Industrial Nevada, Reno Philharmonic, Reno Tahoe Airport Citizen’s Outreach Committee and Washoe Guardian Companionship Volunteers. Linda is licensed to practice law in Nevada and California. She provided free legal service to the Washoe Senior Center, and assists with NV Energy volunteer activities.

KRISTA LUKAS (Judge)
Krista Lukas is the author of a poetry collection, “Fans of My Unconscious” (Black Rock Press, 2013). A Lake Tahoe native and former Nevada school teacher, she is now a Chancellor’s Distinguished Fellow and a Gluck Fellow at the University of California, Riverside, where she is pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing. Her poems have been broadcast on NPR’s Writer’s Almanac and previously published in The Best American Poetry 2006, Creative Writer’s Handbook (5th Edition), and in literary journals including Rattle, 5 AM, and New Millennium Writings. She is the recipient of a Nevada Arts Council Fellowship and the Robert Gorrell Award for Literary Achievement from the Sierra Arts Foundation.

ROBERT LEONARD REID (Accuracy Judge)
Robert Leonard Reid is the author of five books, four works for the theater, and some 100 magazine articles and essays. Arctic Circle, his latest book, is a meditation on the North, inspired by his journeys to northern Alaska and Yukon on the trail of the Porcupine caribou herd. Bob’s comedy revue “None of the Above!,” which lampooned the 2012 Presidential election, was produced at Carson City’s Brewery Arts Center in October 2012. He has received two Artist Fellowships in Literary Arts from the Nevada Arts Council. In 2009, he was honored with a Silver Pen Award from the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame.
JAVIER TRUJILLO (Judge)
Javier Trujillo was appointed to the board of the Nevada Arts Council by Governor Sandoval in 2012 and currently serves as the Council’s Secretary/Treasurer. He is the manager of the City of Henderson’s Intergovernmental Relations Division, and is responsible for advocating the City’s position in all local, regional and state legislative affairs. Javier provides City of Henderson officials with high-level analyses of current issues and plays an instrumental role in cultivating strategic partnerships with community and business leaders as well as with elected officials throughout Nevada and the country. A native of Tucson, Arizona, he has served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Arizona’s School of Music, and as a music teacher at several schools in Tucson and Las Vegas. In 2002, Javier was recruited by the Clark County School District to develop and implement a district-wide mariachi program via a standards-based curriculum that he helped to write, and proudly served as the Mariachi Program Project Facilitator through January 2007. Other notable community service activities include: Chairman of the Board, Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce; Member, Leadership Council, Las Vegas Healthy Communities Coalition, United Way; Member, Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance Education Advisory Committee; former Board Member, Nevada Arts Advocates; and founding board member of the New America School-Las Vegas, Nevada’s first ELL charter high school.

CLAUDIA VECCHIO (Judge)
Claudia Vecchio brings more than 20 years in travel and tourism industry leadership to her post as the Director of the Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs. During her career, she also served as State Tourism Director for the Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism and managed domestic and international branding campaigns for a number of major consumer products. Claudia also worked with global sponsors and government organizations as a tour manager for Up With People, a nonprofit educational and cultural exchange organization.

GERALDA MILLER (Judge)
Geralda Miller is director of Art Spot Reno, a website dedicated to promoting and providing an online voice for the Reno arts community. Geralda has worked to provide a voice to unnoticed and underserved populations. Arriving in Nevada in 2002 from Detroit, Michigan, she worked as a diversity reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal and later became the arts writer. Because of her academic study for a master’s degree in History from the University of Nevada, Reno, her extensive academic research led to a master’s thesis, titled “The Biggest Little Struggle: Black Activism in Reno, 1954–1965.” She has written articles for many publications including “Bar None: Pioneer African-American Lawyers in Northern Nevada,” and co-wrote “Charles L. Kellar: Legal Trailblazer in Nevada,” in the Nevada Lawyer Magazine, February 2012 issue. She was a board member for four years for Our Story Inc., a nonprofit organization that recognized Northern Nevada’s unsung. She also was a recipient of the Youth Advocate Community Service Award from the Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society and the Reporter of the Year Award from the Martin Luther King Commission.
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 2014 Poetry Out Loud program. We know that the list below may be missing others, and we thank you as well.

CARSON CITY
Coordinator: Tami Shelton
Organization: Brewery Arts Center

CLARK COUNTY
Coordinator: Judy Myers, Clark County School-Community Partnership Program
Schools: Advanced Technologies Academy, Bishop Gorman High School, Bonanza High School, Boulder City High School, CSN High School, West, Coronado High School, Del Sol High School, Desert Pines High School, East Career & Technical Academy, Green Valley High School, Las Vegas Academy, Liberty High School, Nevada Virtual Academy, New Horizons Center for Learning, Palo Verde High School, Southeast Career Tech Academy, West Career and Technical Academy
Principals: Deborah Kral, Pattie Johnson, Northey Henderson, Kent Roberts, Dennis Brr, Lisandra Primas, Timonthy Stephans, Glenda Goetting, Jeffrey Horn, Scott Walker Milana L. Walker, Caroline McIntosh, Anne Dugue, Daniel Phillips, Kerry Pope, Monte Bay
Teachers: Mary Ziegler, Chrissy Scoville, Gary Sessa, Johan Ringen, Serrin Anderson, Sarah Barlow, Lori Jorgensen, Jeremy Carroll, Daren Steward, David Winkler, Stacey Johnson, Jessica Maleskey, Jennifer Ding, Sandra McCluney, James Lippitt, Shaun Ingalls, Kim Schmidt

ELKO COUNTY
Coordinator: Emily Nielson
Schools: Carlin Combined Schools, Elko High School, Owyhee High School, Spring Creek High School
Principals: Janice Alexander, Mike Altenburg, Joe Mirich, Keith Walz
Teachers: S. Joy Carlson, Kristi Cooley, Kelly Moon, Julie Lewis, Emily Nielson, Kathy Olson

EUREKA COUNTY
Coordinator: Karl Watts
School: Eureka County High School
Principal: Ken Fujii
Teacher: Karl Watts

HUMBOLDT COUNTY
Coordinator: Vicky Meissner
School: Albert Lowry High School
Principal: Debbie Watts
Teacher: Vicki Meissner

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

LYON COUNTY
Coordinators: Joyce Casler, Karen Kostenbader
School: Yerington High School
Principal: Duane Maticke
Teachers: Amanda Aldridge, Henry Crume, Cara Childs, Gary Stone

MINERAL COUNTY
Coordinator: Katie Staunton
School: Mineral County High School
Principal: Michael Domagala
Teacher: Katie Staunton

NEVADA STATEWIDE VIRTUAL
Coordinator: Jennifer Ding, Cornell Nemes
School: Nevada Virtual Academy
Principal: Orlando Dos Santos
Teachers: Jennifer Ding, Cornell Nemes

NYE COUNTY
Coordinator: Deanna Brill
School: Pahrump Valley High School
Principal: Max Buffi
Teachers: Mary Beth Aragon, Deanna Brill, Dalenna Craig

STOREY COUNTY
Coordinator: Kristen Scott
School: Virginia City High School
Principal: Rick Shrank
Teacher: Kristen Scott

WASHOE COUNTY
Coordinator: Kristen Moffit
Schools: Damonte Ranch High School, McQueen High School, Rainshadow Charter Community High School, Reed High School, Sage Ridge High School, TMCC High School
Principals: Denise Hausauer, Sue Denning, Steve West, Mary Vesco, Norm Colb, Susan Mayes-Smith
Teachers: Lisa Bright, Dawn Callahan, Amanda Ellison, Caroline Hatcher, Katie La Pointe Jennifer Marini, Shelly-Brewster Meredith, Jillian Merson, Amie Newberry, Kia Temple, Susan Vaughn, Pan Pantoja, Julie Dillard, John Sloyan, Laurie Gardner, Kathleen O’Brien

WHITE PINE COUNTY
Coordinator: Kelly Sturgeon
School: White Pine High School
Principal: Adam Young
Teacher: Kelly Sturgeon
State of Nevada
Brian Sandoval, Governor

Nevada Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs
Claudia Vecchio, Director
Felicia Archer, Public Information Officer

Nevada Department of Education
Dale Erquiaga, Superintendent of Public Education

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Special Thanks
Joan Shigekawa, Acting Chairman; Garrick Davis, Program Manager, Literature & Arts Education Division; and Leslie Liberato, Final Reports Officer – National Endowment for the Arts

Robert Polito, President; and Stephen Young, Program Director – Poetry Foundation

Mary Simmons, Vice President of External Strategy, and Karen Ross, Community Relations Manager – NV Energy

Stacey Spain, Executive Director; Chad Sweet, Gallery & PR Associate; and Kristin Moffitt, Development Associate – Sierra Arts Foundation

Kurt Mische, President and CEO; Brent Boynton, Vice President of News & Production; and Katie Jensen, intern – KNPB Channel 5

Nancy Martineau, Administrative Assistant III – Nevada Department of Education

Theresa Andrew, Sales and Banquet Manager; and Kylee Brooks, Advertising & Community Relations Manager – Siena Hotel Spa Casino

Sharon Seifert, Sindex Printing & Graphics
The Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows

Kunder Design Studio; Tim III, videographer; Gwen Clancy, filmmaker; Dominique Kent, grip

To all the Poetry Out Loud coordinators and teachers across the state—your dedicated and continued support makes this program a success. THANK YOU!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
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 private sources.

SIERRA ARTS FOUNDATION
Located in the historic Riverside Artist Lofts in downtown Reno, Sierra Arts Foundation (SAF) is Reno’s local arts agency whose mission is to teach, nurture and support the arts in the community. SAF provides education opportunities for artists of all ages, as well as development, training, financial support, and marketing assistance. They create programming which provides meaningful work for professional artists serving underrepresented audiences. SAF creates and manages venues throughout the community for artists to perform and display their work.

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.
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.

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

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We all have something to give—money or time, expertise or passion. Consider giving some of it to an arts organization you love.

Congratulations!
2014 Poetry Out Loud Finalists

Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words.
Edgar Allan Poe

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Congratulations Poetry Out Loud state finalists!

Nevada Humanities creates public programs and supports public projects statewide that define the Nevada experience and facilitate the exploration of issues that matter to Nevadans and their communities. With offices in Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Humanities is one of 56 state and territorial humanities councils affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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“NV Energy is pleased to enable young people from throughout Nevada to experience the power of the spoken word through poetry and verse. We support Poetry Out Loud because we believe that words transform our world.”

—MARY SIMMONS, NV ENERGY VICE PRESIDENT OF EXTERNAL STRATEGY
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