



## Membership

SOMOS welcomes members from all over the country. We value your support and participation. Opportunities abound for members to take an active role in the creation of programs. **Members** receive discounts on events, quarterly issues of our newsletter, the Muse News, and weekly email announcements. **Patrons** also receive two complimentary copies of the current issue of CHOKECHERRIES. **Benefactors** are entitled to all the above, plus free admission to all of our programs.

### We offer six levels of membership:

<b>STUDENT/SENIOR - \$10</b>	<b>REGULAR - \$25</b>
<b>FAMILY - \$40</b>	<b>BUSINESS - \$75</b>
<b>PATRON - \$100</b>	<b>BENEFACTOR - \$500</b>
	<b>and more</b>

We also welcome pledges on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis. One-time gifts of any amount are, of course, greatly appreciated as well. **For Ways of Giving**, please see our web page ([www.somostaos.org](http://www.somostaos.org)). For your convenience you can use Paypal.

To become a SOMOS member: Send a check or money order and mail to the address below, or online use Paypal.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SOMOS**  
P.O. Box 3225, Taos, New Mexico 87571

## Excerpt from Ismith Khan in the Jemez Mountains®

When Ismith and Betty came to the Jemez  
The mountains bowed.  
The majestic cliffs of the cañon shuddered.  
Este es un hombre poderso, the mountain said.  
The aspen tremble when Ismith and Betty walk by.

- Rudolfo Anaya  
From CHOKECHERRIES



## \* SOMOS Publications

**Muse News:** The SOMOS quarterly newsletter was first published in the winter of 1994. It reflects the diversity, talents and voices of the Northern New Mexico literary community. Members are invited to submit ideas, topics of interest and brief articles.

**CHOKECHERRIES**, a SOMOS annual anthology.  
Current issue: \$14  
All other issues: \$6

A \$3 Fee is charged for postage and handling of each book ordered.

For more information, visit the SOMOS website:  
**[www.somostaos.org](http://www.somostaos.org)**



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Society of the Muse of the Southwest



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## Writers and Supporters of Literary Arts

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## \* Message from SOMOS

**Taos, with its snow covered mountains and turquoise skies, chamisa and sage-covered mesas, silent deserts, bustling plaza and pueblo lands, brings together people of varied heritage. SOMOS, the Society of the Muse of the Southwest, honors the literary inspiration of Northern New Mexico and enhances the creative atmosphere with readings, workshops and conferences. Writers and supporters of writing come together for education, entertainment and personal connection. We invite you to join us in answering the call of the Muse of the Southwest.**



### \* Literary Arts in Taos

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Mabel Dodge Luhan, D.H. Lawrence, Frank Waters and Willa Cather were among the first wave of writers inspired by Taos. In the 1960's and 1970's, the gathering of writers in our community continued when people came together to read their own work to each other. Rather than holding formal salons like Mabel Dodge Luhan and her friends, poets and writers, artists and musicians met in the open air sharing their work to the strains of jazz music. These happenings were the beginning of SOMOS. We were incorporated as a non-profit membership organization in 1983. We look forward to a future of creative collaboration with musical and visual arts, with writers and writing centers all over the country.



### \* Youth Programs

Reaching our youth - and learning from them - is a vital part of our work. In addition to our Youth Mentorship Program, which pairs teens with mentors in a variety of oral and written literary traditions, we sponsor special events featuring young, dynamic visionaries and leaders. In February 2006, we hosted author and activist Chesa Boudin, who spoke at various schools in Taos County, as well as the Taos Center for the Arts.

In these difficult political and personal times, the voices of youth, as expressed in their creativity and art, can make all the difference in the world.



### \* Winter and Summer Writer Series

SOMOS literary evenings pair up-and-coming writers with nationally and internationally recognized writers, including those from the Taos area. The eight-week programs take place in January and February, and July and August. Past presenters have included Jimmy Santiago Baca, Sophie Cabot Black, Magdalene Smith, Veronica Golos, Summer Wood, Max Evans, Natalie Goldberg and John Nichols.



### \* Storytelling Festival

Experience the sheer enjoyment of listening to the ancient art of storytelling. The Taos Storytelling Festival has made its mark by hosting award winning national and Southwest storytellers. This two-day event includes storytelling concerts, story swaps, a children's concert and workshops, all of which cover a rich array of folklore and myth, rites of passage and love stories, multi-generational native tales and more. Presenters have included Michael Parent, Jay O'Callahan, Charlotte Blake Alston, LaRon Williams, Susan Klein, Cisco Guevara, Pearl Sunrise, Carmen Agra Deedy, Willy Claffin, Dovie Thomason Sickles, and Tamarind King. Entertaining hundreds of students with their charm and enthusiastic educational tales, storytellers also perform in the local public and public schools.



### \* Special Events

SOMOS sponsors programs that focus on freedom of expressions and human rights with writings by authors who have been imperiled, imprisoned or silenced by political censorship. Presenters have included former Ambassador Joe Wilson and former C.I.A. agent Valerie Plame Wilson, Chilean Wellesley Professor Margorie Agosin, recipient of the United Nations Humanitarian Award, award winning investigative journalist Greg Palast, Cambodian exile U Sam Oeur and Fernando Garavito, Colombian diplomat, poet and columnist of political commentary.

SOMOS offers programs that express our connection to the world around us and deepen our perception of nature. Past presenters have included William deBuys and Terry Tempest Williams.



### \* Writing Workshops

SOMOS workshops are designed to assist both novice and experienced writers. They offer a variety of genres and address the creative and practical aspects of being a writer. Workshops presented throughout the year are open to non-members. Writing topics have included nature and travel, political expression through art, legal issues for writers and personal memoir. Past workshop leaders have included Lise Goett, Jenny Goldberg, Denise Chavez, John Logghe and Levi Romero.



### \* Chokecherries

The SOMOS annual anthology is a compilation of the writers, storytellers and local photographers who have performed and shared their artistic talent over the previous years. Featured contributors have included such notables as Erin Bad Hand, Rudolfo Anaya, Lorraine Ciancio, Rick Collignon, Francesca Marciano, Marabai Starr, Bruce Gomez and Meibao Nee, Robert Bly, Martin Prechtel, Geraint Smith, Larry Bell and Charles Strong.