

## *PROCLAMATION*

*WHEREAS, the Town of Silver City is incorporated to provide public services and opportunities for cultural enrichment to the community; and*

*WHEREAS, the Town's effectiveness in the provision of these services and opportunities is often dependent upon the independent vision and efforts of the local citizenry; and*

*WHEREAS, the steering committee for the Southwest Festival of the Written Word (SWFWW), with the endorsement of the Town of Silver City's Mayor and Town Council, has initiated and completed a search for the Silver City area's next official Poet Laureate; and*

*WHEREAS, that search has been completed, resulting in the selection of an excellent candidate to hold the honorary post of Silver City Poet Laureate;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, on behalf of the Silver City Town Council, I, Ken Ladner, Mayor of the Town of Silver City, Grant County, New Mexico, hereby formally acknowledge, endorse, and proclaim **Eve West Bessier** as the "Silver City Area's Poet Laureate for 2019-2021.*

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused this official seal of the Town of Silver City to be affixed this 14th day of May 2019.*

*(Seal)*

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*Ken Ladner, Mayor*

*Attest:*

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*Ann L. Mackie, Town Clerk*

**Media Release**

**Date: April 2019**

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**Silver City and Grant County Have a New Poet Laureate**

The Selection Committee is delighted to announce that the next Poet Laureate of Silver City and Grant County will be Eve West Bessier.

This honorary role is awarded to a person who has established a presence in the world of poetry, demonstrated a commitment to the literary art form, and embraces the opportunity to engage in civil discourse. Following the tenure of co-poets laureate Beate Sigriddaughter and Jack Crocker, the committee received several applications for the role and after interviewing all applicants, the committee offered Bessier the position.

Eve West Bessier was born in the Netherlands. When Eve was seven, she and her mother immigrated to San Francisco. Eve holds a Master of Education from the University of California, Davis as well as a Bachelor of Arts in English from San Francisco State University. She moved to New Mexico almost five years ago, and is the new host and coordinator of the monthly *Just Words* Literary Reading series. Eve is an award-winning author of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction whose latest poetry collection, *Roots Music: Listening to Jazz*, has just been published, and novel, *New Rain*, was just released in paperback. Eve is a retired social scientist, studio musician, jazz vocalist and voice coach, and visual artist. A nature enthusiast, Eve hikes on the Continental Divide Trail daily and enjoys the many cultural events Silver City offers.

The poet will serve a two-year term, beginning May 1, 2019, with an option for a third year if mutually agreed. The Poet Laureate program is run by the Southwest Festival of the Written Word.