

# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

## ARIZONA COWBOY POETS GATHERING NEWSLETTER



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## WELCOME TO THE NEW ACPG NEWSLETTER

*Tell the story, spread the word.*

The **inaugural Edition** of our new Newsletter is dedicated to our wonderful

committee members and volunteers. You all make the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering happen every year! We can't thank you enough for your hard work and contributions that make the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering one of the best in the nation.



Bob Burson, Newsletter Editor

## SUGGESTIONS AND ARTICLES

We welcome suggestions for new articles and are looking for some volunteers that can contribute to the newsletter. If you have suggestions or would like to submit an article, please contact Bob Burson.

Email: [acpgwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:acpgwebmaster@gmail.com)

## FEATURED PERFORMER

Every month, a performer will be featured to allow our readers to get to know the wonderful entertainers that share their unique talent at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering.

### MISKA PADGET

As a career horse woman, Dr. Paget combines a lifetime of passion for horses with over 20 years of experience as a large animal veterinarian. Dr. Paget is a 1998 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Following veterinary school, Dr. Paget completed a specialty internship in equine neonatal and perinatal medicine under the mentorship of Dr. Wendy Vaala at The Mid Atlantic Equine Medical Center in Ringoes, New Jersey. Nearly a year as a resident in Large Animal Internal Medicine at the University of California at Davis reinforced her love for private practice, and she left the university to practice as an associate veterinarian with a busy large animal practice in east San Diego County. In 2006, Dr. Paget established Giddy Up Large Animal Veterinary Practice in the small cowboy town of Ramona, California--a community she adores dearly. In 2019, Dr. Paget and her husband, Keith, relocated their ranch of 11 horses, a pet pig, a pet goat, a rescued alpaca, 5 dogs and a barn cat to beautiful Williamson Valley, and Dr Paget is excited to offer large animal veterinary expertise to the Prescott region!



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### Miska(cont.)

Dr. Paget deeply enjoys all facets of veterinary medicine. Though she admits that neonatal care is still one of her favorite endeavors, The further she has grown in her career, and as a horse woman, the more passionate Dr. Padget has become about lameness and the equine athlete.



Keith and Miska

Undoubtedly, however, she emphasizes that the most important job she has as a vet is ensuring that all creatures in her practice, from the smallest baby goat kid to the largest camel, all have access to routine, thoughtful healthcare. In her free time, you will most certainly find Dr. Paget riding, either on the trail with her husband, Keith or at a local horse show or rodeo!

At the **2019 Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering** open mike session, Miska Paget gave a very impressive recitation of a cowboy poem she had written. Committee members present all agreed we wanted to invite Miska to the 2020 Gathering and we did but we had to cancel the 2020 Gathering due to Covid. We discovered she had written poems about her experiences as a Veterinarian and her love of animals for some years but had not performed publicly at cowboy poetry gatherings. She had performed at small family and friends events. Miska performed for day sessions at the 2021 Gathering and began to make many friends in the cowboy poetry and music world. She began to receive invitations to other gatherings and her outgoing and charming personality, along with a growing repertoire of poems, gained more popularity. Miska was invited to perform on a night show for the **2022 Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering** and was loved by the audience. She also recorded a CD of her poems titled "The Best Horses in Heaven They Have No Tail" which has become a major hit. Miska is a 2022, *International Western Music Association* top five contender, nominated by her peers for "**Female Poet of the Year**" and her CD is a top five nominee for "**Cowboy Poetry CD of the year**". The awards will be given to one of the five nominees, November 12 at the **IWMA Convention Awards Show**.

The **Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering** is very proud of being a small part of bringing Miska Paget to everyone who loves cowboy poetry!

### DON AND MIKE TAKE A RIDE

Don Fernwalt teaches Mike Dunn to drive his wagons. Don invited Mike out to drive a couple of his wagons. It went pretty well.



Let's get the horses harnessed up.



Are those harnesses tight, Mike?



Hook the horses up to the wagon.



Let's drive the team out to the road.



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## Don and Mike Take a Ride (Cont.)



Giddy up, Mike!



We are on the trail!



We made it to town! Good job, Mike!



Hey Don, should we stop here?



Let's try a single horse!



Mike, I think that went pretty well!

## 2023 POSTER ARTIST

### Roselynn (Helms) Fernwalt

was born 1942 and raised, the oldest of four girls, in the small Midwest town of Buchanan, Michigan. As a child, she always loved art whether it was coloring with crayons or paint by number. In her early teens, cooking at her parents' restaurant and sewing became other avocations.



Roselynn and her painting, 'This One's For You Buddy'.

As an adult, Roselynn began painting lessons from a teacher who inspired her to look at objects from the perspective of how you would paint them—be they landscapes, florals, birds, or animals. Widowed in 1995, Roselynn sold her California home, bought a motor home and embarked on a 70,000 mile journey, discovering her love for art along the way. With different instructors, she has worked with multiple media from china painting to acrylic painting on layers of glass to oils. However by far her favorite medium has become oil. And her favorite subject Western Style art.

In the fifth grade, Roselynn wrote in a brief biography that one day she wished that she could own horses and live on a ranch. That wish came true in 2006 with her marriage to Don Fernwalt, a former high school classmate who has owned horses all his life and continues to train horses at their NOTA Ranch in Mayer, AZ. Both Don and Roselynn have been active ACPG volunteers since 2015.

Besides her talent for art, Roselynn has, for the past ten years, been licensed as a home-based baking business named Love Is Home Made, baking and decorating cakes for birthdays and weddings. But baking has now taken second place to her oil paintings. The inspiration of this year's poster painting was taken from a photo of local Dewey, AZ, Bottle Ranch owner Pat Statler, holding a calf near a loading pen. His seven year old son, Gage, watches on with his favorite Border collie, Cody, by his side.

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## POEM OF THE MONTH

### A HORIZONTAL HANGING

By Don Fernwalt 5-12-21

It all started in July of 2017,  
shortly after the Goodwin fire.  
This story is mostly true,  
cause I'm not much of a liar.

Two storms had come together  
five or six miles up the creek.  
The rapid flow and rising waters,  
was of concern, making my knees weak.

Awh, but then, the waters started receding,  
with joy I let out a shout.  
Half way to the house I heard,  
"Water's coming in. Get the horses out."

Without my wife sounding the alarm,  
the horses surely would have been lost.  
It was my sole responsibility to save them,  
no matter the cost.

With the help of my neighbor, Tami,  
the horses were taken to higher ground.  
As the water roared by at 50,000 gallons a  
minute,  
making a terrible sound.

I found myself trapped amongst some trees,  
water up to my chest.  
At age 76, climbing trees is something,  
I no longer do best.

I heard, "Get a rope. Save the Cowboy",  
who it was I do not know.  
Apparently they could not find a lariat,  
so they threw me a garden hose.

No self-respecting cowboy would stoop so  
low,  
I had my pride.  
Then I heard the Lord, "Cowboy,  
I'm trying to save your hide."

I grabbed that hose tight,  
as they jerked me off my feet.  
For ten yards, with me,  
they dredged the bottom of that creek.

Looking like a dirty drowned rat,  
with every bone in my body re-arranged,  
I was safe, grateful to be alive,  
but, upchucking charcoal water had me  
deranged.

My wife insisted that I go to that  
bone cracker, Jim Mikrut.  
Said he's known to perform miracles,  
and once again would make me strut.

Had I known what was in store for me,  
with Jim and his cronies,  
I would have chosen to continue walking,  
like a freshly gelded pony.

He strapped me in a chair,  
then tried twisting off my head.  
"Relax", Jim said. But I was not  
ready yet to be dead.

Since that did not kill me, he  
attached electrodes all around my torso.  
Then the juice was turned on,  
sending shock waves through my soul.

Totally exhausted, two big brutes  
picked me up and dropped me on a table.  
Anchored my feet to the wall  
and around my neck placed a cable.

That's when the Horizontal Hanging began  
as they turned on the machine.  
Pulling my head away from my body,  
till it heard me scream.

That caused the machine to reverse  
it's course, allowing me to relax.....  
For about five seconds, then it started  
again, stretching me to the max.

Obviously I survived the near drowning,  
and the hanging, as I am writing this story,  
I have spared you most of the details,  
cause they are just too gory.

Through it all I must admit,  
that Jim Mikrut is quite a Doc.  
Now I'm four inches taller and he's got  
me strutting like a Peacock.