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Robbi K. Nester, M.F.A., Ph.D.

- rknester1@outlook.com
- <http://www.robbinester.net>

- **Education**

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine
- M.F.A. Poetry, University of California, Irvine
- M.A., English, Hollins College
- B.A. English (cum laude), Hollins College

Doctoral Dissertation

Doubling and Discovery: Vladimir Nabokov's Literary Games

Committee: Professor Wolfgang Iser, Chair; Professor John C. Rowe

Professional Organizations

- Academy of American Poets
- Associated Writing Programs
- Poets and Writers

- **Teaching Experience**

California State University, Fullerton, Irvine Campus

- Liberal Studies, "Inquiry and Composition"

Irvine Valley College

- Introduction to Creative Writing
- Creative Writing: Poetry

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- Research and Writing
- College Writing
- Basic Writing
- Developmental Writing
- Instructor, writing lab

University of California, Irvine

- Fundamentals of Composition
- Argument and Research
- Advanced Expository Writing
- Lyric and Epic
- Romance and Realism
- Humanities Core Course

California State University, Long Beach

- Basic Writing
- English Composition

Santa Ana College

- Basics of English Writing

Hyperlearning

- Graded practice MCAT essays and tutored students for a testing instruction service.

Tarbut V'Torah

- Taught SAT Vocabulary at a private school

Educational Testing Service

- Faculty Consultant, AP English

Fullerton College

- College Composition

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Kwon's SAT

- Writing
- Vocabulary
- Tutor, writing, literature, and advanced ESL

Administrative, Writing, and Editorial Experience

- **Poemeleon Poetry Journal, Developed and edited e-anthology of poetry, soliciting, choosing, organizing the book and marketing the book; also am currently serving as a contributing editor for the journal.**
- **Nine Toes Books, Developed and edited anthology of poetry, soliciting, choosing, and collecting material**
- **Shmoop, Content Writer, writing material for an online educational site on literature and literary theory.**
- ***Slippage*, journal of literature and science: Executive editor of journal, reading and choosing material for issues.**
- ***Life and Legend*, contributing editor, reading and choosing material for issues.**

E lance

- Freelance writing, editing

O-Desk

- Freelance writing, editing
- **"Each One, Teach One," Santiago Hills Elementary School, Irvine, CA : Ran volunteer program assigning tutors to parents who need to improve their English language skills.**
- **Inquarta, Newport Beach, CA: Wrote and edited web-page copy for a professional school consultant.**
- **Orange Ocean Press, Long Beach, CA: Copy Editor**
- **UCI, Irvine, CA: CO-Director, Poetry Reading Series. Raised over \$5000. for readings and lectures. Wrote proposals and organized readings.**
- **Grad Times, Irvine, CA: Contributing Editor of graduate student magazine**

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- **University of Massachusetts, Amherst:** Career Librarian. Ordered and maintained a substantial collection of career materials for the use of University students and staff, singlehandedly developing it into a professionally organized and maintained collection.
- **Cargoes, Hollins College:** Co-editor of undergraduate literary magazine

Honors

- Poem selected for Ekphrastic exhibition, **Poetic License, 2022**
- Editor's Prize, **MacQueen's Quinterly**
- Finalist, Best of Net, 2020
- Featured poet in **Negative Capability**
- Elected to the Academy of American Poets
- Second Prize, Ekphrastic Challenge, **Free State Review, 2018**
- Received Grants for Readings for the Inlandia Institute, Riverside, CA
- Third Prize and Honorable Mention in Soul-Making Keats Poetry Competition, 2017
- Second Prize and Honorable Mention in Soul-Making Keats Poetry Competition , 2016
- Featured Poet, **Houseboat**
- Featured Poet, **3Elements Review**
- Winner, Sidecar 34 and 35, monthly poetry contests, **The Painted Bride Quarterly**
- Winner, Spring Poetry Contest, **Prompt and Circumstances, 2014**
- Listed in Marquez' **Who's Who in The West**
- Nominated for Pushcart Prize in Poetry and Best of Net several times
- Second Prize in the Urban Ocean Poetry Contest, Aquarium of the Pacific, 2013
- Two Honorary Mentions in Soul-Making Keats Poetry Competition, 2013
- Honorable Mention in the Wick Center's Peace Poetry Prize, 2020

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- Nomination for Best of Net by *McQueen's Quinterly* for "After Blossom"
- First prize for best lineated poem in issue, *MaQueen's Quinterly*, for "Hot"

Professional Activities

- "Double or Nothing: Parody and Translation in Nabokov's Onegin," Conference on Nabokov and Discourse, Texas Tech University
- "Constructing the Self as Text in Vladimir Nabokov's Speak Memory!" American Literature Association, San Diego, CA, Session on Nabokov chaired by Dr. Ellen Pifer
- "Speak, Memory!: Performing the Patterner," Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada, Special Session on Nabokov and Religion
- "Throw Me a Trope!: Metaphor and Control in Nabokov's Ada," Pacific Philological Society, Portland, Oregon

Publications

Encyclopedia Articles

- Article on the work of Lev Grossman in Critical Surveys in American Literature

Reviews

- Review of Jane Rosenberg LaForge's *My Aunt's Abortion* (Blaze Vox, 2023), *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of Susan Rich's *Gallery of Postcards and Maps: New and Selected Poems*, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of Judy Kronenfeld's *Groaning and Singing*, *Valparaiso Poetry Journal*
- Review of Tim Seibles' *Voodoo Dreams: New and Selected Poems*, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of Aviya Kushner's *Wolf, Lamb, Bomb*, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of Kari Gunter-Seymour's *A Place So Deep Inside America it Can't Be Seen*, *Cultural Weekly*

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- Review of Luke Johnson's *:boys*, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of Marly Youmans' novel, *Charis in the World of Wonders*, *The Hollins Critic*
- Review of Jeffrey Levine's book, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of *25 Trumbull Rd.* by Christopher Locke, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of *Letdown* by Sonia Greenfield, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of *The Book of Kells*, by Barbara Crooker, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Review of *The Buddha Wonders if She is Having a Mid-Life Crisis*, by Luisa Igloria, *North of Oxford*
- Review of *Her Heartsongs*, by Joan Colby, *Rhino Poetry Journal*
- Book Review, *Selected Poems*, by Barbara Crooker, *New York Journal of Books*
- Book Review, *Greenhouse*, by Lisa Gluskin Stonestreet, *New York Journal of Books*
- Book Review, *The Savagery of Bone*, by Timothy Matthew Perez, *New York Journal of Books*
- "Play Those Funky Banjos: Dave Bonta's *Breakdown Banjo Poems*," *Switchback*
- Book Review, *Beast in the Apartment*, by Tony Barnstone, on *New York Journal of Books*
- Book Review, *Why Do Dogs Hump and Bees Get Depressed*, by Marc Bekoff, *New York Journal of Books*
- Book Review, *Becoming Judas*, by Nicelle Davis, *New York Journal of Books*
- Book Review, *The Saints of Streets*, by Louisa A. Igloria, *New York Journal of Books*
- "Alone Together: A Review of David Landrum's *The Impossibility of Epithalamia*," *Switchback*
- "Do You Believe in Magic?: the novels of Lev Grossman," *The Hollins Critic*
- Book Review, *The Agitator* (Los Angeles, CA)

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Interview

- “Poetry Performance and Communication: An interview with Poet Judy Kronenfeld,” *Switchback*

Poetry

Collections

- Balance, White Violet Press (chapbook, White Violet Press)
- The Liberal Media Made Me Do It! (edited)—Nine Toes Press
- A Likely Story—poetry collection, Moon Tide Press
- Over the Moon: Birds, Beasts, and Trees—celebrating the photography of Beth Moon (edited), available at <http://www.poemeleon.org/over-the-moon-birds-beasts-and>
- Other-Wise—poetry collection, Kelsay Press
- Narrow Bridge—poetry collection, Main Street Rag

Poems in Anthologies

- The Poetry of Yoga, Volume II
- Poised in Flight
- Point Mass
- In Gilded Frame
- Dads of Disability
- Attack of the Poems: A Poet is a Poet, No Matter How Tall, V. II

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- Safe to Chew
- Short Poems Ain't Got Nobody To Love
- Driftfish
- Collateral Damage
- True Truth Serum, Volume 1
- Dark Ink
- Poets Facing the Wall
- Unsheathed
- Is it Hot in Here or is it Just Me?
- Aeolian Harp 6
- Shit Men Say to Me (Moon Tide Press, 2021)
- Dear Vaccine
- Zooanthology (Sweetycat Press, 2022)
- Black Sunflowers
- When the Flowers Sing

Individual Poems in Journals

- “Practice,” Schuykill Valley Journal
- The Common Senses Series, Journal of Radical Wonder
- “My Mother’s Purse,” One Art
- “Watching Pins,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Ark,” Gyroscope Review
- “Testament,” “Some Real Animals That Could Pass as Pranks,” Spillway
- “Feast,” One Art
- “Wrapped,” “Bad Advice,” Verse Virtual
- “Fireworks,” “Centralia is Burning,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Focus,” New York Quarterly
- “The Shop Within,” Sheila-Na-Gig
- “Wilderness,” “Aspiration,” Verse Virtual
- “In the August of my Eighth Year,” One Art
- “Nothing Disappears,” “Law,” Minyan Magazine
- “Space Talk,” Open: Journal of Arts and Letters
- “Postcard,” “Emily Dickinson in the Virtual World,” “Change of Mind,”
“Urban Fantasy,” The Journal of Radical Wonder
- “What I Loved,” One Art
- “Microcosm,” Artemis
- “Dear Mom,” “Dangerous,” The Journal of Radical Wonder
- “Inheritance,” One Art
- “Interspecies Face Off,” MacQueen’s
- “Unzipped,” Sheila Na Gig
- “Great Garbage Patch from Outer Space,” The Journal of Radical Wonder
- “Man Smoking,” Imposter
 - “Beekeeper,” “Composed,” “California,” “Under the Metal,”
MacQueen’s

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- “Lesson from the Meadow” and “It’s Fire Season All Year Long,” Verse-Virtual
- “What We Made of Them,” One Art
- “Singed,” “History,” “Uncle Bill,” Live Encounters, Volume 3
- “The Consolation of Trees,” “The Strangers Beside Us,” The Schuylkill Valley Journal
- “Rhinoceros,” “In Praise of Earthworms,” “Silk Floss Tree,” “Living Rocks,” “Wildflower Abecedarian,” Live Encounters
- “Gray Shanked Douc,” Zoanthology, Sweetycat Press
- “Aye-Aye Encounter,” Mindfull
- “Morning Walk,” “New Moon,” “Rage Storm,” Verse Virtual
- “Ghost of a Deliman,” Naugatuck River Review
- “Migration,” Sheila Na Gig
- “BBG,” “Closet,” One Art
- “Bird of Prey,” Book of Matches
- “Greedy,” “Imagining the Invisible,” “Games we Played,” The Journal of Radical Wonder
- “In the Beginning,” One Art
- “Listen,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Picnic,” “Hindsight,” “Portrait,” “To Betty Nester,” Live Encounters
- “Jai Fai,” One Art
- “Cloudfarming,” “Face,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Bread,” Minyan
- “Wind,” Gyroscope Review
- “After,” Artemis
 - “Inquest,” Mac Queen’s Quinterly
- “Naughty Bits,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Broken,” Silver Birch Press
- “Rot,” “Chastened,” Verse-Virtual

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- “The Price of Lies,” “Research,” “Same Old Darkness,” “Connecting,” Live Encounters
- “Here There Be Dragons,” California Quarterly
- “Magic Loaf,” “The Old World,” Minyan Magazine
- “Where is Home?” “After *The Large Blue Horses*,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Home and Beyond,” SWWIM
- “In Memory,” “Confrontation,” “Blast,” “Refuge,” “The Stranger,” Live Encounters
- “Hot,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Philosophy on a Plate,” “Toyo,” Book of Matches
- “On a Leonardo Drawing,” Verse Virtual
- “Cook’s Tour in the Pandemic,” Spillway
- “Travelogue,” “Summer on a Plate,” Sheila Na Gig
- “Celebration with Mirror,” “Regret,” “After the Plague,” Verse Virtual
- “Tu B’Shvat in the Pandemic,” North of Oxford
- “First Death,” Tampa Review
- “Cooking Eggplant Croquettes with the NYT Food Page,” Silver Birch Press
- “Van Gogh’s Ear,” Inflectionist Review
- “Paleontology,” Tiferet
- “Story of Survival,” “Death Happens,” “Ramen Chef,” “The Gift,” Live Encounters
 - “On Chaos,” “After *Kazakh Winter, 1965*,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Scrabble in the Time of Social Distancing,” SWWIM
- “Dream Before the 2020 Election,” “Sanctuary,” Verse Virtual
- “Disquiet,” “Her Complaint,” Negative Capability Press
- “On Adaptation,” “Summer: Sheltering in Place,” MacQueen’s Quinterly
- “Seeing,” “Southpaw,” “First Job,” Live Encounters
- “Instruction,” “52 Hertz Whale,” North of Oxford

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- “Field Trip,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “Consequence,” [Muddy River Review](#)
- “Cooking My Way Home,” [Verdad](#)
- “The Maker,” “Home Grown,” [PoetryX Hunger](#)
- “In Madagascar,” [Gargoyle](#)
- “Why I Write About Whales,” “Haven,” [Verse-Virtual](#)
- “America,” “A Gift of Words,” “Listening In,” [Live Encounters](#)
- “The Demon Speaks,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “After Blossom,” “Juxtaposition,” [MacQueen’s Quinterly](#)
- “Whistler,” [Verse Virtual](#)
- “In the Balance,” [The Ekphrastic Review](#)
- “The Smallest Whale,” “Allegory,” [Redshift](#)
- “In the Garden,” [Gnashing Teeth Press](#)
- “Where the Mind Goes,” [Fiction Week Literary Review](#)
- “Screen Door,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “Blueprint” and “Lament of the Midnight Kitchen,” [Cultural Weekly](#)
- “LP” and “Fried Egg as Philosopher,” [Perspectives](#)
- “Dangerous Dreams” and “Book,” [McQueen’s Quinterly](#)
- “Diplomacy,” [Academy of American Poets’ Website](#)
- “Peasant Wedding,” [Artemis](#)
- “Perspective,” [North of Oxford](#)
- “Gogol’s Dream,” [The Ekphrastic Review](#)
- “For R,” “Dream,” “Camouflage,” [Verse-Virtual](#)
- “Uniform,” [Praxis](#)
- “Benediction to the Earth,” [London Review](#)
- “My Bison,” [Tiferet](#)
- “Taking up Space,” [Visual Verse](#)

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- “1959,” “Mezuzah,” “What She Wore,” Writing in a Woman’s Voice
- “Field Notes,” Sheila-Na-Gig
- “Monarch Grove,” Pilgrimage
- “Creation Story,” Visual Verse
- “Secret,” Negative Capability
- “Orthography,” Ghost Town
 - “Poem on Demand,” Tipton Poetry Review
 - “Echo,” Artemis
 - “The Harem Speaks,” SoFloPoMo
 - “Family Portrait with Guns,” Rise Up Review
 - “Privilege,” Rise Up Review
 - “October is Burning,” SWWIM Everyday
 - “Ties,” Cimarron Review
 - “Veils,” “Mold,” Cultural Weekly
 - “Sea Bed,” Visual Verse
 - “Looking at Jupiter,” The Hummingbird Review
 - “Secret,” Negative Capability
- “Questions,” Pirene’s Fountain
- “Binturong,” Verse-Virtual
- “War Rug,” “The Lives of Rivers,” The Light Ekphrastic
- “Labor Day,” Silver Birch Press
- “Postcard from the Future,” “At the Root,” The Rise Up Review
- “Standing Rock,” LummoX
- “Old Religion,” Verse-Virtual
- “Parting the Veil,” “Birds With No Name,” 3Elements Review
- “New Year,” Rat’s Ass Review
- “Valentine’s Day,” Verse-Virtual
- “Night Painting,” Artemis
- “Art Shrine,” Silver Birch Press

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- “Apocalypse,” “Making Do,” Verse-Virtual
- “Artist as Diplomat,” with artwork, Panorama
- “Fog and Moonlight,” with artwork, “Kashmiri Mystery,” Peacock Journal
- “To Be Continued,” with artwork, Life and Legends
- “Imaginary Chef,” Silver Birch Press
- “Backstory,” “July,” “Late Summer in the Wheatfield,” Verse Virtual
- “Mockingbird,” Verse-Virtual
- “The Flyway,” Artemis
- “Driving Lesson,” Silver Birch Press
- “Night Tunnel,” Ekphrastic Review
- “Invader,” Verse-Virtual
- “Safe as Houses,” Verse-Virtual
- “American Gothic,” Visual Verse

- Feature poet in Houseboat, “Myth,” “Evolution,” “Mysteries,” “Medusa: An Unnatural History,” “Consolation,” “Instructions For a Life”
- “Chasing Away the Blue Devils,” Verse-Virtual
- “Vacuum,” “Barcode 16,” “El Jaleo,” Ekphrastic Review
- “Juxtaposition,” “Odysseus Exposed,” Ekphrastic California
- “Evolving Sirenian,” “The Locusts,” Ekphrastic Review
- “Repair,” “Tradition,” Verse Virtual
- “Trick or Treat,” Silver Birch Press
- “Evocation of the Ancestors,” “The World is a Sound,” “Settubanda Sarvangasana,” Levure Litteraire
- “King’s Canyon Vacation,” Silver Birch Press
- “In a Name,” Silver Birch Press
- “Body Knowledge,” “Getting Lost, Being Found,” Verse Virtual

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- “Sounding,” “Succulents,” [Life and Legends](#)
- “Lament: June 15, 2015,” [Lament for the Dead](#) website
- “Animal Husbandry,” [LummoX](#)
- “Musical Chairs,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “Faux Spring in Southern California,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “At the Turn of the Year,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “Night Visitors,” [The Painted Bride](#) website
- “Ebola,” [Broadsided](#)
- “Another Statistic,” [Poetry Storehouse](#)
- “October Wish,” [The Painted Bride](#) website
- “Medusa--An Unnatural History,” [Silver Birch Press](#)
- “The Wrong Job,” [3Elements Review](#)
- “Yartzeit,” [Poetic Diversity](#)
- “After a Self-Portrait by Isaac Rosenberg,” [Cimarron Review](#)
- “Sea Angel,” [Cadence Collective](#)
- “Leavings,” [Prompt and Circumstances](#)
- “How to Get There,” “Paradox,” “Ancestor,” [Danse Macabre](#)
- “8 Notes to Myself at Twenty,” [Boston Literary Magazine](#)
- “Feather and Flock,” “Evolution,” featured author on [Prompt and Circumstance’s](#) website
- “Fistulated Cow,” [Three Elements Review](#)
- “Lemon,” [Poemeleon](#)
- “Reading the Signs” and “The World to Come,” [The Light Ekphrastic](#)
- “Victim,” “March 2013,” [Poetic Diversity](#)
- “Louisiana From the Train,” [Prompt and Circumstance](#)
- “Duet,” “Fire,” “Weir Canyon Afternoon,” “Woman in White,” featured in [Edwin J. Smith Journal](#)
- “Heron,” [Prompt and Circumstance](#)

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- “An Outsider Looks At Proffitt’s Old Place,” LummoX
- “What they Found,” part of a collaborative project at Spark 18
- “Watching Sandy on the Weather Channel: Oct., 2012,” Broadsided
- “Making Whole Hive Mead,” Annapoorna
- “Night Patrol,” Jenny
- “Pranayama Lesson,” “Insomnia,” Victorian Violet Press
- “My Body Becomes the World,” “My Memory Palace,” part of a collaborative
- “What They Found,” “Woman in White,” Spark 17 & 18
- “Decoy,” LummoX
- “For Jennie Ketler, 1902-1982,” Philadelphia Stories
- “Southern California Apocalypse,” Inlandia
- “Note to Self,” Poemeleon
- “The Frankford Elevated Train,” Northern Liberties Review
- “The Hive: A Parody,” Imitation issue, Qarrtsiluni
- “Savasana: Corpse Pose” and “Still Life,” Victorian Violet Press (Torrance, CA)
- “Harvest,” Inlandia (Riverside, CA)
- “Will’s Ridge,” Floyd County Moonshine (Floyd, VA)
- “Taking Tea,” Caesura (San Jose, CA)
- “At the Jamboree,” Insecta issue, Qarrtsiluni
- “Picnic at the Big Lady,” Water issue, Qarrtsiluni
- “Headstand,” Health issue, Qarrtsiluni
- “My Memory Palace,” Imprisonment issue, Qarrtsiluni
- “The World Is A Sound,” Qarrtsiluni
- “Progress,” Prodigal Sun (Irvine, CA)
- “Public Transport,” Grad Times (Irvine, CA)
- “The Escalator: A Phobia,” The Greenfield Review (Greenfield, NY)

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- "My Grandmother's Feet," W.I.P. (Providence, RI)
- "Letter to the Editor," The Hollins Critic (Hollins, VA)
- Four poems, Cargoes (Hollins, VA)

Essay

- "Gaining Balance," Yoga Vidya
- "A Poet/Yogi on Balance" in an e-book, The Write Balance, Smashbooks
- "Nester Chooses Blake," guest blog, The Lydian Stones, <http://thelydianstones.blogspot.com/>
- "A Village," in an anthology, Easy to Love, but Hard to Raise, DRT Press
- "Confessions of a Book Addict," in an anthology, Flashlight Memories,

Silver Boomer Books

- "Passing it On," website, Easy to Love, but Hard to Raise
- "On Orientation," Grad Times (Irvine, CA)
- "Rejection Slips," The Word Guild Magazine (Boston, MA)
- Article (no title), Reconstructionist Today (Accord, NY)