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## Submission Guidelines

*Voices de la Luna* is a quarterly publication dedicated to the artistic expression of a wide range of perspectives and topics. In the service of that goal, we welcome diverse, well-written submissions from every quarter. To submit material for publication in *Voices de la Luna*, go to [voicesdelaluna.submittable.com](http://voicesdelaluna.submittable.com).

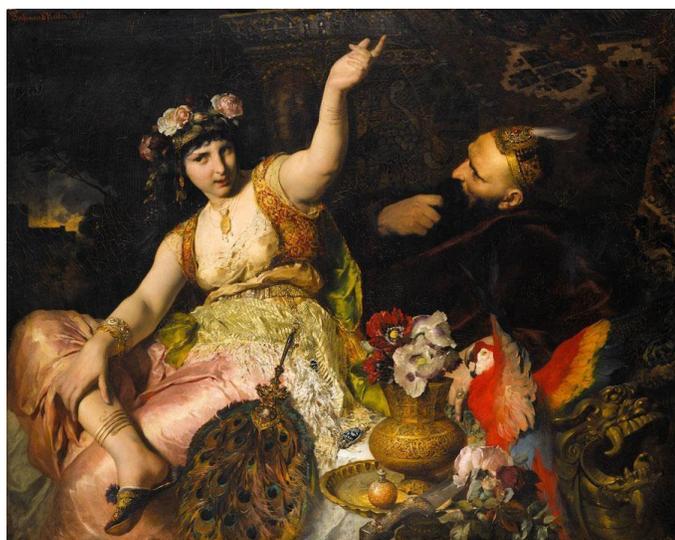
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***Voices de la Luna* Monthly Literary Evening**  
 Poetry and Arts Presentation  
 Every Second Wednesday, January through June  
 and September through December  
**Poetry Workshop at 6:00**  
**Featured Poet at 7:00**  
**Poetry, Music, & Open Mic at 7:30**  
 Lyn Belisle Studio  
 1824 Nacogdoches Rd  
 San Antonio, TX 78209

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## Voices Mission Statement

*Voices de la Luna* inspires and promotes poetry and arts and serves as a platform for all poets and artists to share their work with others. It further uses poetry and arts for both educational and healing purposes in the community.



**Scheherazade und Sultan Schariar**  
*Ferdinand Keller*

### Themes for future issues of *Voices de la Luna*:

August: Young and Old

November: Fantasy and Gothicism

## Poetry Editor's Note

*Carol Coffee Reposa*

Few legends express more memorably the redemptive power of art than that of Scheherazade. As the story goes, a young king, embittered by his first wife's infidelity, decrees that he will marry a new virgin each day and have her executed the following dawn to prevent her betraying him. One thousand women die as a result of this edict before he meets the courageous and talented Scheherazade, who against her father's wishes agrees to wed the vengeful ruler. She requests, however, that her beloved sister Dunyazade be permitted to visit the royal chamber during the wedding night to say a last farewell. The king consents. Acting on a secret agreement with her sister, Dunyazade appears at the appointed time and asks the doomed bride to tell a story. Scheherazade immediately launches into a tale of high adventure and hairbreadth escapes but breaks off at daybreak before revealing the ending. The king, spellbound by her narrative, spares her life for one day so that he may hear the conclusion. On the second night, Scheherazade finishes the story and begins another but again breaks off at dawn. The king again postpones her execution. This pattern continues for 1000 nights. On the 1001st, Scheherazade tells her husband that she has no more tales to relate, but by this time he has fallen in love with her. Enraptured by her artistry, the king rescinds his decree, calling her the liberator of her sex. These details of course establish the frame for the *Arabian Nights*, a saga read and revered the world over.



Scheherazade's ability to create art literally saves her life and transforms a tyrant. For the rest of us the stakes may not be so high, but they are real nonetheless. Luckily, signs of our prospective salvation are everywhere, ubiquitous as the Indian paintbrush and pink evening primrose that brighten roadsides these days, and in this issue of *Voices de la Luna* we call attention to many of them. San Antonio's exuberant observance of National Poetry Month, for example, included over seventy readings, book-signings, panel discussions, slams, and exhibits. Another springtime highlight was the annual San Antonio Book Festival on April 2, a celebration which brought eighty featured writers to the Alamo City and attracted hundreds of visitors. A good thing got even better on April 10, when *Voices* hosted a gala benefiting Gemini Ink and honoring Wings Press director Bryce Milligan in an outpouring of art and energy that those who attended will long remember. In the midst of May's abundance and bonhomie, though, we are aware of their opposites, of want and strife, and we acknowledge these as well. The featured poet for this issue, Sarah Cortez, examines close-up the gritty and often dangerous life of a Houston street cop. Additional poems and articles explore a related topic, the impact of poverty and its depiction in literature, while the continuing "Stone in the Stream/Roca en el Rio" series offers glimpses of Mother Nature at her best—and worst. The contents of this issue run the gamut of human experience, conveying whimsy and rapture, opulence and destitution, and we at *Voices* hope that you read these pages with the same sense of renewal that we felt in putting them together. After all, as with Scheherazade, our lives just might depend on it!