The Empress has been a highly regarded figure since founding the West Chester Poetry Conference in the Philadelphia area. Last year, she was honored with a special award by the Poetry Foundation. But what does she really think about the poetry world? After all, her words have been used as evidence in courtrooms and on television newscasts. We caught up with her recently and asked for her take on the state of poetry today. Here's what she had to say:

Highly significant, House Speaker “Shakespeare” said.

Which is appropriate.

Dynamically.

There is, in fact, a real need for the Empress to spin the line. (The time)

Rickey racy.

“Fame that wins.”

Turns out that was the only work for the group.

You can read more about the new Empress — who just took over from “Fame” — on the next page.

For more on poetry, check out our new blog, “Shakespeare’s Ear.”

BY JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! JUNE 19: This year you see yourself as a leader and work to get more people to follow you. You'll be more ambitious than usual, and you might even try to take on a role of greater responsibility. You might not be as successful as you'd like, but you'll be better able to understand where your strengths and weaknesses are.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may come across as an individual on the move, and you might enjoy being the focus of attention. This could be a good time to make new connections or to pursue new opportunities.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may feel like you're unsettled, but there may be a way to find balance. You might consider taking a class or exploring a new interest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may feel like you're in a struggling phase, but there may be a way to find strength. You might consider seeking out support from others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may feel like you're in a struggling phase, but there may be a way to find strength. You might consider seeking out support from others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may feel like you're in a struggling phase, but there may be a way to find strength. You might consider seeking out support from others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel like you're in a rut, but there may be a way to break out of it. You might consider taking a trip or making a change in your life.

BY JENNIFER OAKLEY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! JUNE 11: This year you see yourself as a leader and work to get more people to follow you. You'll be more ambitious than usual, and you might even try to take on a role of greater responsibility. You might not be as successful as you'd like, but you'll be better able to understand where your strengths and weaknesses are.

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