

# THE BULLETIN



## ★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

Founded November 5, 1921

A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

[www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

December 2016

*Happy  
New Year*



### On Saturday, January 14, 2017 PST will Celebrate Life!

We will remember and celebrate the lives of our dear poet friends who entered eternal rest in 2016, and then we will celebrate the poetry they loved—the poetry that enriches all our lives, so bring your best poems and don't miss this opportunity to share at our annual

**Poetry Society of Texas Poem-A-Thon! Poetry lives in Texas!**

#### Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting Saturday, December 10, 2016 – 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

**President Budd Powell Mahan** opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including first time visitor Susan Vogel Taylor, Fort Worth, and past presidents: J. Paul Holcomb, Marilyn Stacy, Linda Banks, and Catherine L'Herisson.

**Treasurer Aman Khan** gave the November Financial Report. The largest expense was for the annual contest awards, over \$7,000. Largest income was from contest sponsorships, which will be paid out at the awards banquet next November!

**Director Barbara Terrell Goerdel** gave the Oct/Nov Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (see page 6 for details).

**Librarian Barbara Blanks** announced three donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library (see page 6 for listing of books).

**Vice President Catherine L'Herisson** reminded us there will be no speaker at the January meeting because of our Poem-a-thon—your chance to read your poems or poems by a favorite poet. How many you get to read depends on how many attend the meeting. Linda Banks will also give the Memorial for members who died in 2016.

PST now has a Facebook page. It's a perfect place for chapters to announce activities, programs, and other news. Members can announce their new books or other awards. It's easy to find us and join the group: Just type Poetry Society of Texas in the Search box, and there we are. Or use this link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302759370105890/>.

**Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell** introduced our Spotlight Poet, **Susan Vogel Taylor**, from the Fort Worth chapter. Susan has an arts background, and hosts and/or coordinates several poetry programs, including the 2nd Tuesday series. She read several amusing poems.

**President Mahan** introduced our program speaker, Catherine L'Herisson. Catherine asked several people to do a program, but they were all "too busy," so she decided to do it herself. She presented "Christmas Poems & Carols with Catherine." Some of it was based on a book by Ace Collins titled, *More Stories Behind the Best Loved Songs of Christmas*.

She began by reading "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," which was first published anonymously in 1823. In 1837 Clement C. Moore claimed authorship—but a 100-year battle ensued because Moore had originally denied writing it. As it turned out, one of his wife's relatives, Major Henry Livingston, Jr., had written several poems in that style and meter. Moore never had. Further research indicates it was indeed Livingston, and in fact, the Poetry Foundation now credits him as author.

Catherine read two other poems, then sang the first verses of the hymns they had been converted into. This included a sing-along with those who knew the songs. She closed her interesting and informative program with her own poem, "While Christmas Shopping," which was based on a notepad cover she spotted in a Dollar Store. It read, "A soul has no color."

After the break, **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson** announced the winners in the December Monthly Contests.

*Continued on page 2*

#### DECEMBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

**Critic Judge:** Cindy Wood, Denton

**First:** Lois V. Chapman, Denton ~ "Crystal Rose"

**Second:** J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

**Third:** Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa

#### Book Prizes

**Reader:** Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

**Popular Prize:** LaVern Spencer MacCarthy, Blair, OK

**A Galaxy of Verse Prize:** Barbara Terrell Goerdel, Arlington

**Poetry for Poets Award:** Aman Khan, Dallas

**William Barney Memorial Award:** Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

**M. Tandy Duemke Memorial Award:** Angie Goin, Fort Worth

**Robby K. Mitchell Memorial Award:** Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

**Other Poems Read By:** Manuel English, Jessican Gonsoulin, Von S. Bourland, Happy, and Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield

#### Laugh Lines

Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Winner: Angie Goin, Fort Worth

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson at 1625 Gayla Creek Drive, Little Elm, TX 75068. The e-mail address is: [yranie@att.net](mailto:yranie@att.net)



### **GULF COAST POETS**

#### ***Daniel Carrington, Reporting***

In November, the Gulf Coast Poets welcomed Houston-based poet Vanessa Zimmer-Powell as our featured reader. Hot on the heels of her selection as a Juried Poet for this year's Houston Poetry Fest, Vanessa showcased her range and versatility with a set list that included personal pieces, as well as southwest persona poems and ekphrastic works.

In member news, Winston Derden, along with co-host Stephen Gros, produced a new installment of their innovative reading series Speak!Poet. The series features local luminaries reading their work and engaging in a moderated discussion followed by an open Q&A with the audience. Also in October, John Gorman hosted his annual Heat & Hurricane Expulsion Party in Galveston to banish those summer demons. (It's working, by the way!)

Just in time for Halloween, GCP President David E. Cowen had a release party for *The Seven Yards of Sorrow* (Weasel Press, 2016), a themed collection of poems centering on Galveston's cemeteries. And Weasel himself also had a book release for his new collection *A Warm Place to Self-Destruct* (WZL Productions, 2016).

On the awards front, GCP would like to congratulate member Terry Jude Miller, recipient of the 2016 Poetry Society of Texas' Mahan Award and the separate Winklebleck Choice Award. He finished first in those annual contest categories and will take home the cash prizes and laurels. Our Congrats to Terry!

Gulf Coast Poets celebrated the holiday season with our annual December Luncheon. This year's event took place at the Tradicao Brazilian Steakhouse in Webster, Texas on December 8. We were honored to announce that the distinguished guest poet for this year's luncheon was Gwendolyn Zepeda, Houston's first Poet Laureate.

We hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving.

### **HOT POETS SOCIETY**

#### ***Sandi Horton, Reporting***

The HOT (Heart of Texas) Poets Society co-founded by Cassy Burlison and Sandi Horton hosted the first meeting on Saturday, September 24 at the Art Center of Waco. More than twenty poets and friends attended the open mic in conjunction with the international event, *100 Thousand Poets for Change*. Past President of the Poetry Society of Texas Catherine L'Herisson and PST Director Beth Ayers from the DFW area attended the kick-off event for the new chapter of HOT Poets Society based in Waco, Texas. Several Baylor students and poets from the Central Texas area read

their poems and participated in the inaugural meeting. Refreshments were also served.

The second meeting of the HOT Poets Society was held at the Martin Museum of Art on the Baylor Campus on Saturday, Oct. 22. Sandi Horton gave a short presentation on ekphrastic poetry. Chris Boldt of Temple read one of her published ekphrastic poems and added to the discussion. The group then spent about 45 minutes observing the Texas Photography Society Exhibit and writing poetry about the art while in the Martin Museum.

On December 2, HOT Poets participated in the Ugly Sweater open mic at Tea2Go, a tearoom/internet café near Baylor campus.

The HOT Poets have exciting plans for 2017. More information is available on our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/HOTpoetsociety>.

### **MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER**

#### ***Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting***

President Alice Parker opened the November meeting with seventeen people present. President Parker asked visitor Deen Oates to introduce himself. He worked at a paper mill for twenty years before retiring.

From the Poetry Day festivities, a publisher has picked up a song about a painting of a train. Regarding the sonnet contest by Patrick Marshal of Fort Worth that was judged by Chris Irving, Sylvia Medel is the winner of \$100.

Dues are payable now and due in January. Officers must be elected. If you want to volunteer see Alice. The suggestion was made that college students be allowed to enter the Collin County poetry contest.

The Mockingbirds held their annual Christmas party on December 3, and thirteen people were present. Guests brought a gift and a dish. After a quick business meeting dinner was served. Guests in numerical order of a random number from a bowl, read a poem, and picked a gift.

At the business meeting, President Alice congratulated all who placed in the PST Annual contest. The ad hoc committee nominated the same officers, who were approved, except Tom Martin was tapped for VP. Tom has secured the auditorium in Collin County Community College for the poetry contest award ceremony free of charge. The rules for this contest are available on the Mockingbird site. Deadline for submission of poems is February 1.

### **PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY**

#### ***Kat Copeland Reporting***

The 2017 slate for The Board of Directors and officers are

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as follows: Board of Directors are poets: Tom Parks, retired professor of UTPB; Adaline Schelling, who worked in the biology lab at UTPB, and Loretta Diane Walker, who was 2015 Statesman in the Arts, Odessa, Texas.

Officers are poets: President Daniel C Ramos, who performs spoken word poetry throughout Texas and the nation; Secretary Bob Campbell, newspaper reporter; Treasurer Kat Copeland, who encourages everyone to express their creativity in the arts.

The poetry group will meet from 11 a.m.–1 p.m. on Saturday, November 19 at the new Midland Centennial Library. The program will be a writing circle with prompts. Everyone is welcome to attend and bring a sack lunch.

### POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

#### *Angie Goin Reporting*

President Ron Eddins called the December 5 meeting to order. Naomi Simmons officiated the installation of new officers for 2017. She presented a script to each officer, who read and accepted the responsibility to fulfill the duty as elected to serve.

Chuck Poole was the Contemporary Poet Reader, reading three poems from A. C. Greene's book *Memory of Snow: Poems*, "The Snow Came Down Early," "Fortress," and "Stopwatch." Following the readings, President Eddins disclosed two poetic concepts, misguided love and the inevitable, as food for inquiring minds.

Barbara Berry announced the winners of the Poets of Tarrant County contest: third place went to newly installed Vice-President, Barbara Goerdel, second place to President Ron Eddins and first place went to Naomi Simmons. PTC members extend a huge thank you to Valerie Bailey for judging the contest.

On the decision to renew our annual contest sponsorship with Poetry Society of Texas, the motion was made by Louin Berry and seconded by Paul Holcomb to continue our Poets of Tarrant County Prize in 2017. The vote was unanimous. Newly installed treasurer, Barbara Berry will enter the required registration information by January 2, 2017 due date. Outgoing Treasurer, Chuck Poole gave the treasury report. Lynn Lewis reported on her first entry as historian, and noted the passing of two former members, Charles McLeroy and Julia Lamance. President Eddins read the Kudos list. As Spotlight Poet, President Eddins shined the light on a few Picasso pieces as he read some of his ekphrastic poetry. There was a short executive meeting of the new officers, while the Christmas festivities got underway. Chuck Poole entertained us with a couple of Christmas songs. The assignment poems were read. After-Christmas tidings were spread, President Eddins adjourned the meeting.

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### RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

#### *Joyce Gorum McGee and Jo Morrow Reporting*

On October 15 RCPS celebrated a day of poetry along with Rose Garden Poetry Society. This Celebration of Poetry Day was filled with fun, friends, and food. The room was adorned with a flair of warm and welcoming fall colors. There was a raffle for a two-night stay for two at a new classic motel (Dame Fortune's Cottage Court) in Hot Spring, Arkansas, courtesy of President, Sue Roberts' family.

Tables place settings included programs, goodie bags for munching, and notebook and pens sets for note taking. A silent auction was set up for bidding throughout the day. RCPS President Sue Roberts welcomed everyone, and the program began with an opening prayer.

Budd Mahan, President of the Poetry Society of Texas was the speaker. He read from his new publication, *Names in a Book* and followed with hints and suggestions for writing better poetry. Poets had the opportunity for questions at his book-signing table.

RCPS members, Robert and Ginny Bowman, catered the lunch in honor of Robert's mother, Poet Roberta Pipes Bowman. Robert presented a short program about his mother and read some of her poetry before the meal. The Bowmans also provided a pot of mums, fall decorations, and a beautiful decorated cake for the afternoon break.

Dr. David Craig who sponsored the poetry contest, *The Woodroe Wiley of Pine Hills Award*, gave background information on this past friend of his. This was followed by contest awards: 1st place, Evelyn Appelbee; 2nd place, Joye Greenwalt; and 3rd place, Joe Morrow.

The Poet of the Year award was presented to Robert and Ginny Bowman by last year's winner, Carol Thompson. Raffle ticket winners were drawn and winners of the Silent Auction items were announced. An open mic session was held. and door prizes were presented all during the day.

Our monthly meeting on November 18 opened with prayer. Old business included an evaluation of the October Celebration of Poetry The consensus was that the celebration had been successful. Congratulations went to several members who had winning poems at the national level.

New business included selection of 2017 officers. According to the wishes of the membership, most of the 2016 officers agreed to serve for another year. Plans for the upcoming Christmas party were discussed .

Following lunch provided by Robert and Ginny Bowman, Carol Thompson presented a lesson on aubade poetry, a category of poetry appropriate as "a song sung in the morning." Members were asked to write an aubade for the January meeting. Richard Herzeler gave a brief spotlight, and the meeting was adjourned.

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## SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

### *Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting*

President Pat Gibbs called SAPA's November meeting to order. After the minutes were approved and Michaud Lamrouex gave the treasurer's report, he then introduced SAPA's Spotlight Poet for the month, Valerie Bailey.

Valerie read one short poem of her own and then gave SAPA members a brief history of SAPA. Valerie joined SAPA about six months after it was founded, and in January she will have been a member for 37 years. She brought some of SAPA's earliest anthologies and read poems by SAPA members of bygone years as a way of introducing current members to members who had been the foundation of SAPA, most of them now deceased. It was an interesting and pleasant poetic walk down memory lane.

Winners of the October contests were announced. Assigned topic contest winners were: 1st: Loretta Vaughan, 2nd: Elva Smith, 3rd: Antoinette Winstead. Winners in the open contest were: 1st: Valerie Bailey, 2nd: Sheila Moore, 3rd: Joan Seifert, 1HM: John Friedland, 2HM: Antoinette Winstead. The contests were judged by PST president Budd Powell Mahan. Thank you Budd for your time and attention to our work.

After the winners were awarded, we read our November poems, then took a break to enjoy yummy refreshments furnished by Sheila Moore and Charles Jones.

On December 17, our annual Christmas Lunch Party will be held, and we will impress one another with our delicious holiday cooking. John Eubanks will present a humorous holiday reading in his inimitable style and members will share their favorite Christmas memory. At this meeting our November contest winners will be announced. Both contests were judged by J. Paul Holcomb, the poet from Double Oak and Poet Laureate of Lewisville. We thank J. Paul for his time and expertise in judging our poems. The winners in the assigned topic contest were: Lois Heger-1st, Valerie Bailey-2nd, Margaret Mayberry-3rd, Pat Gibbs-HM. Winners in the open topic were: Valerie Bailey-1st, Sheila Moore-2nd, Margaret Mayberry-3rd, Pat Gibbs-HM. We are looking forward to the feasting and the fun.

## TYLER'S ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY

### *Mary Tindall Reporting*

The Rose Garden Poetry Society met November 10 at Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. Members attending were: Carol Thompson, Sue Roberts, Richard Hurzeler, Mary Tindall, Cherry Day, and Mary Wood. Health issues prevented the attendance of some regular members.

Photos and memories of the recent Celebration of Poetry were shared. Members read poems on the November theme: *table*. A discussion of haiku and its variations led to

the assignment for December to write a Robert Kelly lute: a three-line haiku in the five-three-five syllable pattern.

Plans were made to prepare Christmas favors for the seniors who use the Hanks Senior Center. The meeting adjourned with poets encouraged to continue reading and writing.

## WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

### *Linda Smith Reporting*

Six members and two guests met on Saturday, October 15 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Sheri Sutton was the monthly chairman. She introduced guest Jim Hoggard, author and Poet Laureate of Texas 2000, who accompanied his wife Dr. Lynn Hoggard, the guest speaker for the meeting. Lynn read some of her poetry, most of it from her most recent book *Motherland*, which contains stories and poems about her life in Louisiana.

The business meeting followed refreshments provided by Linda Smith. The minutes of the September meeting and the treasurer's report were approved. Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws were approved, as was an increase in annual dues from \$20 to \$25. Lynn Hoggard was welcomed as a new member of the WFPS.

Winners in the contest for the best humorous poem were 1st: Nick Schreiber, 2nd: Linda Smith, 3rd: Doyle Wood, 1HM: Rosellen Sheetz, 2HM: Monica McCawley, 3HM Sheri Sutton. Also participating were Webb Key and Daryl Halencak. Critic Judge was Linda Banks of Mesquite.

Seven members met on Saturday, November 19, at our usual place in the Kemp Center for the Arts. Doyle Wood was the monthly chairman for the meeting, and for roll call, he asked each member to tell what his or her "trigger" is when inspired to write a poem. Refreshments were provided by Monica McCawley.

In the business meeting, minutes of the October meeting were approved, and Treasurer Webb Key reported on his meeting with the Kemp Center as our liaison with that group. Members agreed that the WFPS would once again have a table at the Home & Garden Festival (sponsored by the Kemp Center). The WFPS has gained five new members since the last Festival, and nearly all had expressed an interest in the WFPS as a result of that exposure. After some discussion, the treasurer's report was approved.

In new business, the date of December 10 for the Christmas luncheon was agreed upon, and plans for food, guests, etc. were discussed.

Daryl Halencak read some of his poetry, and it was agreed that Geneva Rodgers, Sheri Sutton, and Doyle Wood will read their PST award-winning poems at future

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meetings. Geneva Rodgers won one First Place and placed in four other contests. Sheri Sutton won First Place in two contests, and Doyle Wood won a First Place and placed in seven contests.

Winners in the November contest for best poem in any form are Nick Schreiber (1st), Lynn Hoggard (2nd), and Geneva Rodgers (3rd.) Honorable Mentions are Daryl Halencak (1HM), Webb Key (2HM) and Monica McCawley (3HM). Other participants are Linda Smith, Sheri Sutton, and Doyle Wood.

The lesson on Choice and Development of subjects was presented by Doyle Wood. He read poems as examples of ideas, creative writing prompt and imagery, and offered information on "The 8 Signs You've Written a Good Poem." The contest for January is a poem on any subject, any form, with a maximum of 36 lines. Poems are due no later than December 31.

**Introducing Eleanor Berry  
Distinguished Judge of the 2016  
Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize**

Eleanor Berry has taught writing and literature at Willamette University, Marquette University, and other colleges. She is Immediate Past President of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and of the Oregon Poetry Association. Her poems and essays on poetry and prosody have been widely published in journals and anthologies. Her most recent book of poetry is *No Constant Hues*, published in 2015 by Turnstone Books of Oregon. Her first full-length collection, *Green November*, was published by Traprock Books in 2007. PST thanks Eleanor Berry for her expertise in judging the manuscripts.

**HELP PST HOST THE 2017 NATIONAL NFSPS CONVENTION  
IN FORT WORTH**



**"Forward, the Light Brigade!"**

Using this line from Tennyson's poem, in which he wrote of nobleness in supporting one's country, PST is reaching out to our noble members for financial support of our organization's plans for hosting the 2017 NFSPS convention in Fort Worth. Although registration fees for the convention will cover most expenses, Light Brigade donations will help cover additional costs necessary to have a Texas-proud event.

**Make checks payable to the Poetry Society of Texas and send the donations to:  
Catherine L'Herisson, Convention Treasurer, at 518 Grinnell Dr., Garland, TX 75043,**

along with this form, and include your name and contact information. PST is using a separate bank account for the convention in order to make bookkeeping and final reports more efficient and accurate.

Donors will be listed by category (names only) in the convention program:  
**Bronze Star** - \$1-\$50 • **Silver Star** - \$51-\$100 • **Gold Star** – Over \$100

**See you at the Hilton Fort Worth, June 29-July 2, 2017.  
Be sure you enter the NFSPS contests by March 15. Let your light shine!**

DONATION AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CASH \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ SEPTEMBER, 2016 from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis	
Active Members.....166	Sustaining Members.....4
Associate Members.....12	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....52	Renewing Members.....0
Student Members.....28	New Members .....8
Supporting Members.....2	Current Member Total....264

**Reminder Note**

Our membership count is down because many have not yet renewed for the 2016-17 membership year. Our year runs through June 30, in this case, 7/1/16 thru 6/30/17. If you have not yet renewed, you must do so before the next *A Book of the Year* is printed. Why is that important? Because achieving Life Membership status (where you no longer have to pay dues) is determined by your continuous membership. The only way that is determined is by the continuous listing of your name in *ABOTY*. If you miss a year, you start again from square one, no matter how many years you may have been a member previously. So, if you have not yet paid your dues, which were actually due in July, Lynn Lewis will be glad to receive your check, payable to PST, for \$25. Her address is in this *Bulletin* (bottom right side of this page) and on the Website.

NEW MEMBERS		
<b>W E L C O M E</b>	<p align="center">Rick Bradfield, Waco Betsy Bridges, Kingwood Donna Casstevens, Waco Mary E. Evans, Waco Jim Goin, Fort Worth Lindsey McLemore, Waco Nicholas J. Schreiber, Wichita Falls Susan Skelton, Dallas Shiny Wu, Plano (Supporting Member)</p>	<b>W E L C O M E</b>

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*Congratulations to Willie Mae Taulton, of Dallas,  
For Attaining Life Membership!  
She will receive an Award Certificate*



**BOOK DONATIONS REPORT**

from PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported that the following books were donated to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library:

*From Under the Bridges of America: Homeless Poetry Anthology* ~ edited by Judy and J Darrell Kirkley.

*Memorable Moments: Selected Poems and Other Writings*, by Sheri A. Sutton.

*A Galaxy of Verse, Fall/Winter 2016 Vol.26, No.2* ~ Edited by Barbara Blanks.

If you have published a collection of poems or if your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Please send books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the box to the right.

**THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS**

Wishes every PST member a safe, happy, and memorable Holiday Season. Don't be too busy to write poetry during the holidays!



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