

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



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

February 2015

Breezy March is Capricious ... Always "Up in the Air"



It's hard to believe that our March meeting will be just five days before the first day of spring. With all the snow and ice this winter, a lovely spring day is a tantalizing image. We all know March is the most temperamental month in the calendar. She may kiss you with a soft fragrant breeze or she may slap you in the face with a stinging cold wind. But whatever the weather on March 14, the breezes that blow at the monthly PST meeting will be filled with poetry and camaraderie. Like the month of March, we may surprise you, but it will always be a good surprise. So save your kite for another day and come share a pleasant afternoon with us. And since March 14 is National Potato Chip Day, we might even serve potato chips...or we might not, who knows? Come enjoy our March surprises.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

for Saturday, February 14, 2015

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L'Herisson opened the meeting by reading a love poem in honor of Valentine's Day. She challenged the audience to identify the author. After two hints, Barbara Blanks and J. Paul Holcomb almost tied by naming Carl Sandburg. Barb won a bright red Lips chip-clip, and Paul won a heart-covered pencil. Catherine passed out valentine cards, and Director Beth Ayers had made a variety of heart-shaped cookie magnets for everyone. L'Herisson welcomed our speaker, Linda Black and one of her sons, Matthew, who was there to assist her. Past presidents Jimmie Inez Sessions, Linda Banks, J. Paul Holcomb and Budd Mahan were in attendance.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the February Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (see report on page 6).

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the January financial statement. Our largest expenditure was to NFSPS for PST membership dues.

Vice-President, and Poetry in Schools Chair, Budd Powell Mahan, said the Student Awards program is scheduled for April 18, 1-3 p.m. in the main auditorium of the downtown Dallas Central Library. Students come from all over the state to read their poems. They and their families are excited about being recognized for their poetry. Budd needs your support: People are needed to greet attendees, to sign them in, and to hand out the

student anthologies. if you would like to volunteer your help PLEASE contact Budd at buddmahan@att.net. He cannot do it all by himself.

Budd, who is also the PST Archivist, has been working on a book about the history of PST. If you have any old (early) photos from PST events, meetings, persons, etc., he asks that you either scan the pictures/information and send

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FEBRUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Birma Castle, Beaumont

First Place: Linda Banks, Mesquite – "Eve's Choice"

Second Place: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

Third Place: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth

Book Prizes

Reader: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller

Popular Prize: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Von S. Bourland, Happy

Poetry for Poets Award: Jessica Gonsoulin, McKinney

William D. Barney Memorial: Cheri Bell, Tomball

M. Tandy Duemke Prize: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

Other Poems Read By: Sylvia Medel, Budd Powell Mahan, LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Barbara Lewie Berry, and Patrick Lee Marshall

Laugh Lines Judge: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Winner: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson, at 3107 Marquise Court, McKinney, TX 75070. The e-mail address is Rinii@tx.rr.com

them to him, or send him the originals—because he will be able to store them for posterity.

Director Beth Ayers, who is also Extension Chair, gave a brief update on the status of our Summer Conference, to be hosted by the Beaumont Chapter, with Birma Castle as Chair. The theme is *Party Like It's Mardi Gras*, to be celebrated July 16, 17, and 18.

Linda Banks, editor of *A Book of the Year*, is currently working on the new edition, which should be ready in April. It is also now official that PST will host the 2017 NFSPS Summer Conference, in Fort Worth. Linda is in charge of the hosting committee.

Pictures from the November Awards Banquet have finally been selected from more than 200 photos taken by Aman Khan, Barbara Blanks, and Irene Robertson. They should be up on the PST website by the time you receive this *Bulletin*.

March 15th is the deadline to enter the NFSPS annual contests.

Congratulations! Loretta Diane Walker of Odessa has received the 2014 Community Statesman Award in the field of ARTS, presented to her by the Heritage of Odessa Foundation. This foundation “recognizes individuals each year who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Odessa, and who have made a difference in the lives of individuals.” We are proud of Loretta!

Spotlight on Members Chair, Jessica Gonsoulin, introduced our Spotlight Poet, Linda May of Richardson.

Linda is a new member who said, “I love poetry, and I love to write.”

President L’Herisson introduced our program speaker, Linda Black of Lewisville. Linda is a graduate of Notre Dame and is currently attending Texas Woman’s University. She hopes to teach high school English this fall. Linda’s program was appropriate for Valentine’s Day. It was titled, “*Vaida and Whitney Montgomery: A Love Story*.” It included a power point presentation of photos and early publications by the pair.

Vaida and Whitney met at the first PST meeting in November, 1922. Vaida, nee Stewart, had divorced her first husband, then moved to Dallas with her two daughters and started a typing business. Whitney, who was a charter member of PST, began sending Vaida his poems to type. When he moved to Dallas in 1927, they married in June of that year. They operated a small printing press from their garage and produced the *Kaleidoscope Magazine* (later renamed *Kaleidograph Magazine*), which was founded in 1929, and published for the next 30 years. The magazine focused on new poetic talent and had subscribers from all over the world.

Between the two of them, they produced six books, and were published in hundreds of magazines and newspapers. PST still sponsors four student awards in honor of Vaida and Whitney, and the two daughters. Thank you, Linda, for a fascinating program.

After the break, Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson announced the winners for February, 2015.

From Our Member Chapters ...  **Poetry News From Across Texas**

ALAMO AREA POETS

Iris Maahs Reporting

There was celebration in the air at the February meeting of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas. To celebrate Black History month, Vivian Skinner read “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” by Maya Angelou. Don Mathis brought a king cake to celebrate Mardi Gras. The word *celebrate* popped up again when guest reader Darrell Pittman read poems celebrating the family, poems about parenthood, fathers and daughters. He also read poems with a humorous twist on the classics.

Winners of the January contests were announced. Open topic winners were: Iris Maahs (HM), Linda Crow (HM), Antoinette Winstead (HM), Don Mathis (3rd), Kim Mott (2nd), Sheila Moore (1st). Assigned

topic winners were: Elizabeth McDougall (HM), Toni Murguia, (HM), Don Mathis (HM) Vivian Skinner (3rd), Peggy Mott (2nd), Sheila Moore (1st). We extend our thanks to Birma Castle of Beaumont for judging the January poems. During the break, we enjoyed fellowship and delicious refreshments provided by Vivian Skinner.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

Wade Martin Reporting

The speaker at the APS monthly meeting in January is a long-time APS member. Dr. Brad Strahan has begun hosting a reading series under the auspices of his journal, *Visions International*. This month’s features were Carrie Fountain and Tomas Q. Morin, both of whom

teach at St. Edward's University and have won numerous nationally recognized awards for their poetry. Next month's main feature will be Irish poet Gene Barry, Founder and Director of the Fermoy International Poetry Festival.

This month's APS meeting featured speaker is Joe Brundidge (Element615), who has been Director of the Austin International Poetry Festival for the past two years. Joe will give attendees an in-depth look at the festival, its many highlights, and some insider information about this year's nationally known featured poet, Nikki Giovanni. We hope to see you at 1:30 p.m. on February 21 at the Yarborough Public Library, but if you can't make it to our monthly meeting, you can find more information about the AIPF at www.aipf.org.

Also, our Annual Awards are open and accepting submissions until March 31. The prize money is greater than ever this year, and we look forward to reading the wonderful and weird poems to be born from the contest prompts. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes, and first place winners are published in *Best Austin Poetry* and are welcome to read their poem(s) at the Awards Banquet. Our judges this year hail from all over, so enter as many contests as you can—you never know who will choose your poem as a winner!

Finally, Austin is love-poetry central this month! The V-Day Erotica Reading at BookWoman on February 13 was a raucous success, and the annual Love Poems for Austin, hosted by the Austin Quantum Artists at St. George's Episcopal Church, which is coming up on February 28 at 7 p.m., promises to be an equally fun evening of poetry and other art.

This month's APS Open Mike on February 26, 7 p.m. at NeWorlDeli will feature Neil Meili, Sara Hutchcraft, Dora Robinson, Robin Barratt, Louise Richardson and Pete Sebert. They, along with host Linda Marie Cossa, will provide a fantastic evening of entertainment, art, and a friendly, open space to share your love poems with a willing audience.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

The Denton Poets' Assembly met at the Emily Fowler Branch Library on February 21 from 10 a.m. till Noon.

Following announcements and a welcome to visitors, members read assigned Limerick poems based on J. Paul Holcomb's January lesson, "The Limerick."

In related news, as Lewisville Poet Laureate, J. Paul was asked to write a poem celebrating Lewisville's 90th anniversary as an incorporated city. He wrote the poem and presented it Monday night, February 2 at 7 p.m. to the City Council at the Lewisville City Hall.

After the assignment, J. Paul shared a lesson for February.

Later in the meeting members and guests were invited to share free-choice poems.

Final preparations continue toward the next release of Merging Visions Collections, a collaborative venture between DPA and the Visual Arts Society of Texas, VAST.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Anne Jones Reporting

President Mike Baldwin read the opening poem. Because our meeting was on February 12 and Abraham Lincoln's birthday, he read a poem by President Lincoln, "My Childhood's Home I See Again." Discussion on Abraham Lincoln followed, and we felt the poem was surprisingly good.

The minutes and the treasurer's report were given, and we welcomed a new member, Beth Neely. Beth submitted a poem to be critiqued. We feel very lucky to have her in our group. For old business, we continue to tweak the flier for the chapbook contest that we plan to sponsor. Susan Campbell mentioned a need for a correction in Section 2 concerning acknowledgements and when to submit them. A change of language was suggested that fixed the problem. We also discussed honorariums for the judge, as well as other matters.

Steve Sanders gave a list of festivals and flea markets coming up in which we might participate. He will have to check the cost and see if we can afford it.

Kudos were read. Poems critiqued were by Don Shook, Beth, Steve, Mike, Anne Jones, Susan Campbell, and Susan Taylor.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

At the February meeting President Aman Khan called for a report of the Planning Committee.

Alice Parker reported that fliers with coupons on them had been printed for the Barnes and Noble event at 2 p.m. on April 18.

Ed Burke said that the Frisco library had a contest concurrent with the Collin County Poetry Contest, and an effort would be made to hold them simultaneously.

Sylvia Medel scheduled a poetry reading at Pioneer

Ridge on Saturday, March 21 at 3:30 p.m. Sylvia also suggested a book of contest winners be published and sold to raise money. She volunteered to be editor.

Irene Robertson suggested a dinner-dance as a fundraiser. Her husband will manage the event, and the society will get ten percent.

Jessica Gonsoulin recommended a monthly workshop to improve our poetry skills.

Beth Ayers brought a sign-up sheet for refreshments for our monthly meetings and also passed out envelopes of poems to be judged for the Collin County Contest.

PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY

Jennifer McNeely Reporting

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas participated in an open mic night on February 14 at Tea2Go in Midland. The monthly meeting and writer's round table took place on January 31 at the Ground Floor in Midland. Local poets are encouraged to check the Permian Basin Chapter, Poetry Society of Texas to check for event announcements. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month. Poets will perform at Kamiposi in Midland on February 18.

As always, the Permian Basin chapter continues to promote poetry through its own Facebook page and through West Texas Poets. West Texas Poets is a Facebook page created by the Permian Basin Chapter, Poetry Society of Texas. This page is a collection of poets of all ages, male and female, who want their voices heard throughout the community. Poets who participate on the page are from a wide range of cities in West Texas, including Odessa, Midland, Gardendale, Big Spring, Lamesa, and Lubbock. Poetry styles, age, race, gender, and sexual orientation are all diverse.

POETS NORTHWEST

Sharon Young Reporting

Poets gather on the third Saturday of the month at the Pearl Fincher Museum in Spring, Texas. There is always an opportunity for members and guests to share original poetry during the second half of the meeting.

At the January 17 meeting of Poets Northwest we welcomed one new member and a first time guest.

The program featured member winners of the PST Awards. Cheri Bell, Lynn Roberts-Grice, Maxine Kohanski and Karen Mastracchio shared poems that

placed in the top ten.

It was announced that Karen Mastracchio will serve as 2015 Publicity Chair.

The February 21 program will be presented by Poets Northwest member Karen Mastracchio. She will introduce and briefly discuss several poetic forms, facilitate a short round table discussion about form, and lead attendees in a writing exercise related to form.

We were sorry to hear of the recent passing of June Brown Leap, an active and beloved member of Poets Northwest. She recently presented a program at our local chapter and will be missed by all. A colorful and endearing 90+ year old, she kept us smiling and appreciative to call her our own.

We invite you to visit Poets Northwest on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest or online at www.poetsnw.com. Copies of our bi-annual anthology are on sale at meetings or by contacting Lynn Grice.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The February 2 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by President Ron Eddins. The minutes from the January meeting were approved as read. The treasury report was not available.

Contemporary Poet Reader was J. Paul Holcomb, who read "Imperative" and "Laughter" by Scott Cairns. President Eddins read the Kudos List. The Spotlight Poet was Lynn Lewis. J. Paul Holcomb introduced our Featured Speaker, Budd Mahan, who discussed the different methods for putting together a book of poetry. The topic for our Spontaneous Poetry discussion was the question of "maintaining authenticity when using another persona." Assignment poems were read after the break. The meeting was then adjourned by President Eddins.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

Vice-president Sheila Moore presided at the January meeting in the absence of president Margaret Mayberry, who has been ill for six weeks and will probably also miss the February meeting. We all wish her a speedy recovery. After the minutes were approved and the treasurer's report was given, Jean Jackson continued her program from our summer sessions on "The Sounds of Words." It was a fascinating presentation. She also gave out material from a

Website called DescriptiveWords.org. We all learned a lot from this informative and entertaining program.

Contest Chair Wallace Vaughan announced the December contest winners. Winners in the assigned topic contest on the subject "On the Edge" were: John Friedland (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Jean Jackson (3rd), and Elva Horton (HM). Winners in the open topic contest were: Loretta Vaughan (1st), Jean Jackson (2nd), Richard Graham (3rd), and Pat Gibbs (HM). The poems were judged by Terry Jude Miller of Richmond. We thank Terry for his time and expertise.

After a cookie and coffee break, we entertained new business. Jean Jackson suggested that we add "books for sale" to our "book raffle" feature. These would be high quality, like-new, hardbound books of general interest (not personal philosophy). The person donating the book will set the price and put the price on a sticky note on the book's cover. These will be sold on a first-come, first served basis, and all proceeds will go to the SAPA treasury just as the book raffle proceeds do. A motion to do this was made by Floyd Lamrouex, seconded by Wallace Vaughan, and the affirmative vote carried unanimously.

Members then read their January poems, and we held our book raffle. Historian Charles Jones made an appeal for contributions of photos and articles for our scrapbook, after which a very enjoyable meeting was adjourned.

SAN JACINTO CHAPTER

Donald Graham Reporting

Our regular monthly meeting was held on Saturday, February 14. Our special guest artist was Charles "Smokey" Culver; cowboy poet, song writer, singer, cowboy, horse rescuer, and railroad engineer. Smokey entertained us with cowboy poetry, animal poetry, and a love poem for Valentine's day. We had visitors who came just to hear Smokey, and I think that some of them will come back and join our group.

After Smokey's presentation, we had refreshments, a read-around and a short business meeting. Next month, our guest speaker will be poet Linda Polk. Hope to see you then.

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY

Frances Neidhardt Reporting

The daring 19th Century French poet, Charles Baudelaire, was the subject of our Saturday, February 7 meeting at the Sherman Public Library's Community Room. Presiding was TPS vice-president John

Creighton Miller. There were ten in attendance.

After a member spoke briefly about Baudelaire's life and his poetry's impact, Miller introduced presenter Nik Adanho, a Grayson College student from Gabon, Africa, by engaging him in a public dialogue.

Adanho, who claims to "love the art of language," has studied English, French, Dutch and Spanish, and is familiar with the two dialects spoken by his parents. Adanho read several poems, each one first in English, then in French, the latter language particularly mellow and appealing to the group.

A brief discussion was followed by guitarist Peggy Houlihan, who at the "roundtable" chose to sing and play several of her original poems. The "roundtable" closed with Frances Neidhardt reading three of her poems from her book *Things Seen and Seen Again*. Our next meeting is slated for March 7.

CONGRATULATIONS

PST is Proud of You, Loretta Diane Walker

The Heritage of Odessa Foundation recognizes individuals each year who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Odessa, and who have made a difference in the lives of individuals.

A blue-ribbon, community-wide panel selects local individuals, living or deceased, for extraordinary contributions or exceptional public service.

Recipients and their families are honored at an annual awards presentation which spotlights their civic involvement as worthy examples for future generations.

Loretta Diane Walker

was selected to receive the 2014

Community Statesman Award in the field of ARTS.

She will be honored along with 12 other recipients in various fields at an awards banquet and presentation on February 26, 2015.

PST MEMBERS ON THE PROGRAM AT THE ANNUAL WINDHOVER WRITERS' FESTIVAL

Two PST members will be on the program at the annual Windhover Writers' Festival (Feb.18-20) on the campus of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Chris Boldt of Temple will serve on a poetry panel and Charlotte Renk of Athens will serve on a panel reading from *Her Texas*. Congratulations to these fine poets who represent us well and make us proud!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, FEBRUARY 2015
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....175	Renewing Members.....4
Associate Members.....14	New Member.....1
Honorary Members.....5	
Life Members.....60	
Student Members.....20	
Sustaining Members.....3	
Recently Deceased.....2	
Current Member Total...270	

Sandra Boike Cobb
 418 Independence Creek Lane
 Georgetown, TX 78633



*Welcome
 New Member*

Help us keep our membership roll up to date.

Please let Membership Chair Lynn Lewis know if there is any change in your contact information: Address, Phone, or E-mail address.
 Contact Lynn at elsquared59@yahoo.com

FLASHING RED LIGHT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please do NOT send address updates to *BOTY* Editor, Linda Banks. These **MUST** be sent to Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Lynn keeps the master list and sends it to Linda to publish in *Book of the Year*.

Sympathy to Family and Friends of the Following:

Sheri Stodghill Fowler Parks, life member from Rockwall and daughter of two PST presidents, Pat Stodghill and the late Donald Stodghill. Our sympathy to Sheri's mother Pat, husband Stacy, her brother, two children, and friends. Sheri died Jan. 22.

June Brown Leap, active and beloved member of Poets Northwest died Feb. 2. She lived in Spring, but was buried in Somerville, the place of her birth more than 90 years ago. Our sympathy to her daughter Nancy, her family, and many friends.

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Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces four book donations for February:
Water Wind Words: When Words Take Flight (07), edited by the Mockingbird Chapter.
Inkwell Echoes (08-09), (12-13), (13-14). The San Antonio Poets Association's Anthology, edited by Valerie Bailey. Please send your book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the Executive Board box in the next column. They will be kept in the PST's permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS (PST)

Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library • 5626 Royal Lane • Dallas, TX 75229. The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November when the Annual Awards Banquet is held at a Dallas area hotel. The Annual Summer Conference convenes in a different area of the state each July.

A \$1,000 Regional Book Prize Accepting Entries

The Hub City Press in Spartanburg, SC is accepting submissions for the New Southern Voices poetry prize. The contest will award \$1,000 and publication to the winner. Submissions will close April 15. For full information, visit the contest web page at www.hubcity.org/prize.

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

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