

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

January 2014



THE PST MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

From Saturday, January 11, 2014

President Jimmye Inez Sessions called the meeting to order. She welcomed our guest, Jiann Powers of Dallas. Past presidents in attendance were Linda Banks, Marilyn Stacy, Catherine L'Herisson, and J. Paul Holcomb.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the December financial statement, and Director David Knape gave the membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis who was absent (see the report on page six).

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced books that were donated to the Dallas Central Library (see the report on page six).

President Sessions announced a new annual contest with an award of \$500, sponsored by Dr Aman Khan in honor of his mother, who read poetry to him and encouraged him to write. By tradition, PST has sponsored the #1 contest with the highest award. The Board voted today to increase the Therese Lindsey Award by \$50, to bring its value to \$500. It will remain the #1 contest, while Dr. Khan's contest will be listed second.

Vice-President Catherine L'Herisson presented the Memorial Program for those members lost to PST, their families and friends, in 2013. She spoke about the life and accomplishments of five poets and read at least one poem written by each. As Catherine concluded each memorial, she removed a candle from the grouping to represent the empty place left by each.

Claire Ottenstein-Ross, 78. She was one of three founders of the Houston Chapter.

Jessie Jo Wedgeworth, 90. She belonged to the Rusk County Chapter.

Dr. Marvin Hirsch, 82. He was a past president of PST.

Violette Newton, 100. A former Texas Poet Laureate, she belonged to the Beaumont Chapter.

Winifred Schramm, 93. She was part of the San Jacinto Chapter.

Catherine noted, "They say a lot of poets die young—but

ours don't." The memorial concluded with audience members closing their eyes to observe a moment of silence in honor of these fine poets.

After the Memorial, the annual Poem-a-thon commenced, with each person present reading or reciting a poem of his or her choice, which sometimes generated laughter.

If you have never been to a state meeting, you should try to attend. The meetings are friendly, informal, and a lot of fun.

Our speaker for the February 8 meeting will be Anne McCrady. Please mark your calendars and plan to be here for Anne. She always brings a great program.

After the break, Contest Chair, Jimmye Inez Sessions announced the winning poems for January as show in the Winner's Box below.

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

January 2014

Critic Judge: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

First Place: Linda Banks, Mesquite ~ *To Tell of Beauty*

Second Place: Budd Powell Mahan

Third Place: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK

10 Poems Read at The Meeting

Book Prizes

Reader: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

Popular Prize: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oaks

Poetry for Poets Award: Sylvia S. Medel, McKinney

William Barney Memorial: T. Jervis Underwood, Oak Point

Wendy Dimmette Memorial: David Knape, Plano

M. Tandy Duemke Prize: Annette Schwartz, Houston

Other Poems Read By: Barbara Blanks, Shirley Elliott Cosby, Tony Dickensheets, and Von S. Bourland

Laugh Lines

Judge: Aman Khan, Dallas

Winner: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

Important Note: If you are sponsoring a contest in the Annual Awards, you need to mail your contest information and the funds to Nancy Baass now, please!



From Our Member Chapters... Poetry NEWS from Across Texas

ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS

Iris Maahs

The January meeting of AAPT began with President Sheila Moore reading some welcomed comments for improving our poetry from December contest judge Anne McCrady.

Winners of the December Assigned category are as follows: 4th Honorable Mention–Don Mathis; 3rd Honorable Mention–Billie Stroud; 2nd Honorable Mention–Peter Holland; 1st Honorable Mention–Peggy Mott; 3rd Place–Lea Fagin; 2nd place–Iris Maahs; 1st place–Sheila Moore.

Winners of the December Open category are 4th Honorable Mention–Don Mathis; 3rd Honorable Mention–Peter Holland; 2nd Honorable Mention–Peggy Mott; 1st Honorable Mention–Billie Stroud; 2nd Place–Pat Walker; 1st Place–Sheila Moore.

It was decided that in the future, members will be permitted to give suggestions for contest topics. These should be submitted for consideration no later than the May meeting.

Members and guests are looking forward to the February meeting when poet/musician Rudi Harst will be the guest speaker.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

Beth Kropf

In the January meeting, members of the Austin International Poetry Festival will discuss this year’s festival. APS extends condolences on the passing of George Abikhaleh, husband of Kaye Voigt Abikhaleh. Mariann Garner-Wizard will read from and sign her new poetry collection *Didn't You Hear Me the First Time?* on Saturday, January 18 from 5-7 p.m. at Resistencia Bookstore. Please see the full Museletter at <http://www.austinpoetrysociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/January-2014-ML.pdf> for a complete list of member accomplishments and events listing.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly

Denton Poets’ Assembly met on Saturday, January 18. After the meeting was called to order, members read their Place poems. In addition to the assigned poems, members read a free choice poem.

J. Paul Holcomb delivered a presentation on how to write a poem in the French form Sestina. Our assignment for February is to write a Sestina poem.

Rebecca Hines gave an update for the Merging Visions IV project, including plans for layout and production in conjunction with members of VAST (Visual Arts Society of Texas.)

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Steve Sanders

FWPS had its monthly meeting on January 9; although the foggy conditions caused us to meet without some of our regulars, we decided not to cancel the meeting. We discussed

a number of issues and critiqued ten poems submitted by the membership. Steve Sanders, president, led the meeting and kept us on time.

Susan Maxwell Campbell opened the meeting with a reading of Jorge Luis Borges’ poem, “To the Nightingale.” We approved the minutes of the last meeting but missed our treasurer’s report because our Treasurer, Anne Jones, was ill and unable to attend the meeting. We moved on to “old business” and the first item on the agenda was the chapbook contest which we have proposed to sponsor as a part of the Poetry Society of Texas’ annual contests. Plans were made to reengage with PST to see if we could shepherd this proposal to a happy ending. We also discussed plans for the Spring 2014 ArtsGoggle and our participation in the event. We seem to be encouraging other poetry groups to try out this fun and useful event—one of our visitors, Patricia Ferguson, named several local groups who were going to try to set up booths to bring their work to the people.

One item we discussed was our Website and we have decided to make a monthly report from our Webmistress a part of the meetings. We also have a Facebook page and we encourage everyone who “facebook” to stop by our page and “like” us. Go to www.facebook.com/FortWorthPoetrySociety and see the latest news and doings.

The critiques were lively and beneficial to those poets who submitted pieces. We had a variety of poems submitted and, for once, we had a few extra minutes at the end of the meeting to sit and chat. Steve Sanders, Mike Baldwin, and Don Shook made plans to meet to discuss ideas about having another event out in the community to encourage participation and membership by other local poets. The best way to get new members is to “take our work to the streets and share it with the people of Fort Worth.” And that’s what we intend to do!

HI-PLAINS CHAPTER

Von Bourland

The Hi-Plains chapter was not able to meet in December because of bad weather. Our next meeting is on Saturday, February 3; however, historically, Amarillo’s worst weather is in February, so we can only hope to be able to have a meeting in February. Hi-Plains meets bi-monthly on the third Saturday beginning in February through August at Amarillo Senior Center. The exceptions are our annual banquet in October, TBA, and the December meeting, which is always on the first Sunday.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin

Our December meeting was postponed from the first to the third Saturday because of a snowstorm. The weather was, in fact, very rainy on December 21.

The feast began about noon, then a business meeting followed. In January, dues will be collected; a nominating committee appointed; and a vote taken on the bylaws.

PST President Jimmye Inez Sessions said that many Mockingbirds had won or placed in the November annual contests. Aman Khan won first place for his December humorous poem and was asked to read it.

CCC chair Beth Ayers said she had not received many contest entries so far, but expected that to change. A poetry reading at a nursing home was a big success.

Poems were read, gifts exchanged, and leftovers traded.

POETS NORTHWEST

Carol A. Taylor

Poets Northwest has elected its 2014 board as follows: President/Newsletter/Historian: Lynn Roberts Grice; Vice-President/Program Chair/Webmaster: Lisa Salinas; Treasurer/Membership: Bob Kohanski; Secretary: Carol Taylor; Events Coordinator/Fundraising: Maxine Kohanski; Judge: David M. Orchard.

We've changed the date and location of our monthly meetings. We'll be meeting on the third Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts at 6815 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379. The Museum is in the same Cypress Creek Cultural Complex as our previous venue, but is more accessible to members with mobility issues. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon. New members and guests are always welcome. Copies of our bi-annual PNW anthology will be available for sale at the January meeting, or can be obtained by contacting Lynn Grice. The price is \$6 per copy. The 2013 anthology is called *Friendship*, and is dedicated to Peggy Lynch and Claire Ross. PNW will host the PST Summer Conference, so we hope to see you all in Houston in July.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis

Eleven members attended the January 6 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County. The meeting was called to order by President J. Paul Holcomb. The Contemporary Poet Reader was Lynn Lewis, who read "To My Turtle: Sixty Days A Mother," by Loretta Diane Walker.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as read, and the Treasurer's report was not available. Old Business: Poets of Tarrant County anthologies were distributed to members who weren't at the December meeting. New Business: at our February meeting, Carolyn West will give an overview of her TYD Foundation's after school poetry program. It was motioned by Barbara Berry and seconded by Naomi Simmons that PTC will continue its sponsorship of a poetry contest in the Poetry Society of Texas' Annual Contests. The contest topic is "Secrets."

Thomas McChesney recommended the book, *The Man Who Was Dr. Seuss*, and Jerry Abbot, along with Naomi Simmons, recommended the movie *Saving Mr. Banks*. Ron Eddins filled in for Jeanette Strother as Spotlight Poet. President Holcomb read the kudos list. The featured program

consisted of J. Paul Holcomb and Naomi Simmons, who gave brief descriptions and examples of the poetic forms that are asked for in the NFSPS contests. Assignment poems were read, and the meeting was adjourned by President Holcomb.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey

Sixteen poets enjoyed a Christmas Luncheon on December 21. After the feast, President Sharon Turner called a brief business meeting to conduct important business for SAPA's future. In November, President Turner had appointed a search committee to investigate the possibility of moving our meeting location due to high rent. Vice-President Margaret Mayberry chaired the committee and along with committee members Valerie Bailey, Michaud Lamrouex, Dick Graham, and Sharon Turner (ex-officio), visited two churches under consideration. Michaud Lamrouex videotaped our visits and prepared a videotape with sound so our members could take the tours with the committee and cast informed votes.

Members voted overwhelmingly in favor of Beacon Hill Presbyterian Church, pastored by Tom Heger, whose wife, Lois, is a SAPA member. The Heger's gave us a warm welcome and a personally guided tour of the facility, and Pastor Heger graciously offered his church for our meetings with no charge. SAPA will express our gratitude with a donation to the church, but we will save a great deal of money by moving our location. The Hegers' friendly spirit and genuine eagerness to host our group made the choice easy. On January 18 we will meet at our new location at 1101 W. Woodlawn. President Turner thanked the committee and Michaud Lamrouex for the hours he spent creating and editing the videotape so all our members could see the churches.

Winners of the November contests were announced by Wallace Vaughn, Contest Chairman. The contests were judged by Patrick Marshall of Keller, Texas. Winners in the assigned contest were: Sharon Turner (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), and Wallace Vaughan (HM). Winners in the open contest were: Sheila Moore (1st), Karen Schneider (2nd), Wallace Vaughan (3rd), Margaret Mayberry (HM). The first place winners took home brand new trophies. The other trophies were worn out after more than 30 years of use.

SAPA's Recording Secretary, Loretta Vaughan had knee replacement surgery on January 13. She is doing well and will be taking therapy in her own home by time members receive this *Bulletin*. Get well soon, Loretta.

Our assigned topic for January is "Frozen in Time" and will be judged by Barbara Blanks of Garland. We will also have an Ekphrastic poetry contest instead of a special speaker for our January program.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many of our chapters did not report news because meetings could not be held due to extreme weather conditions and/or widespread winter illnesses such as flu, pneumonia, and bronchitis. It is hoped that these conditions will have improved in February and that the *Bulletin* can be filled with great poetry news. Thanks to all who were able to contribute.

THE DECEMBER 2013 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

(Presented by Director David Knape for Chairman
Lynn Lewis in her absence)

Active: 160; Associate: 4; Honorary: 5; Library: 3; Life: 62;
Student: 24; Supporting: 1; Recently Deceased: 0

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP TOTAL: 259

New Members: 1 • Renewing Members: 2

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBER

Joined December 2013:

Peter Valles
3 Broadweather Place
The Woodlands, Texas 77382
281-465-9769
pkvalles@hotmail.com

PST is pleased to welcome Peter into our membership.

*"In poetry, you must love the words, the ideas
and images and rhythms with all your
capacity to love anything at all."*
Wallace Stevens

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- PST Chapters, please send your monthly news reports to the *Bulletin* editor at vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com. Reports are due by the 15th of each month.
- If you are sponsoring a PST annual contest, please send your information sheet with your sponsorship funds to Contest Chairman Nancy Baass as soon as possible.
- Councilors: don't forget to recruit new members for the Poetry Society of Texas...Let's get growing!

Poetry Society of Texas
610 Circle View Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Non-profit org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Fort Worth, TX
Permit #1597

Address Label

Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

At the January meeting, Librarian Barbara Blanks reported the following six books were donated to the PST's permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library. All of the anthologies have poems by at least one PST member, which is why they are eligible for donation into the collection:

A Sensuary, by Christine Boldt.

Tennessee Voices Anthology 2012-2013, edited by The Poetry Society of Tennessee.

Peninsula Poets Contest Edition, Fall 2013, edited by The Poetry Society of Michigan.

Love Always Involves Angst, by Ted O. Badger.

Friendship, the 2013 Poets Northwest Anthology.

Mars: The Next Frontier, An Anthology of Space Poetry, published by The National Space Society of North Texas, edited by Patricia Ferguson.

*The Poetry Society of Texas
extends sincere sympathy to
Kaye Abikhaled and Family
at the death of her beloved husband,
George Abikhaled,
on December 20, 2013 in Austin, Texas*

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

President:

Jimmye Inez Sessions
1373 Beechwood Drive
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-434-2105
masonsessions@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Aman Kahn
6717 Talmadge Lane
Dallas, TX 75230
aman1963@gmail.com

Director:

David Knape
1405 Newbury Lane
Plano, TX 75025
214-601-7503
Dknap1969@yahoo.com

Vice-President:

Catherine L'Herisson
518 Grinnell Drive
Garland, TX 75043
972-270-4994
catherinepoet@juno.com

Director:

Beth Ayers
8117 Alderwood Place
Plano, TX 75025
bta1955@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Jessica Gonsoulin
105 Enterprise Drive, #2332
McKinney, TX 75069
jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com

Director/ Membership Chair

Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place
Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-921-9322
elsquared59@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:

Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
Barbarablanks@aol.com