

THE BULLETIN



★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

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

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

January 2015



A True PST Love Story Will Be Shared on Valentine's Day, February 14

Everybody loves a Love Story, and PST has its own wonderful story of true love that changed the poetic history of Texas. Linda Black, our speaker for February, will tell this amazing Love Story at our February meeting. It's about two people who met through the Poetry Society of Texas, fell in love, married, and how that affected the promotion of poetry in Texas and beyond. Linda Black is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and has nearly completed a Master of Art in Teaching from Texas Woman's University. She will use a Power Point presentation to enhance the fascinating story, and she will reveal the identity of the real couple. Don't miss this meeting.

MONTHLY MEETING REPORT

for Saturday, January 10, 2015

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L'Herisson called the meeting to order. She thanked those in attendance, including past presidents Linda Banks and J. Paul Holcomb, for braving the cold weather. She was pleased to report Valerie Martin Bailey is doing well after her heart catheterization. Our next meeting will be on February 14.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the December Financial Statement. One expense was for the re-order of PST lapel pins and tie tacks. These gold-plated blings sport the PST emblem, and are only \$15. Contact President L'Herisson if you would like to purchase a lapel pin.

Dr. Khan reported that he has sent in current member dues to NFSPS. Late renewing members and/or new members' dues will be sent at the end of February. After that, you will not be able to enter the national contests at the member rate.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the December Membership Report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. This report is on page 6. If your membership dues were not paid by the end of November, your name was removed from the membership database. If your name is not in the database, it doesn't get listed in *A Book of the Year*. Since *BOTY* is how PST tracks continuous membership, if your name is missing even once, you start over from square one, no matter how many years you have been a member. This means you hinder your chance to become a Life Member (no dues status). Linda Banks was acknowledged and thanked for once again taking on the task of Editor of *Book of the Year*.

If you are sponsoring an annual contest this year, you must get your forms and funds sent to Nancy Baass now. She must send this information to Linda Banks so it can be included in

the new *BOTY*.

The news from Billy Huckaby, of Wild Horse Media Group, is the Eakin Publishing Award book is in the works, and he has been in contact with winner Lisa Salinas. He also said TCU Extended Education is offering a class in February about traditional vs. self-publishing. It runs Feb. 10-19, from 7-9 p.m., and the four sessions cost \$98. The link to the class is <https://lifelong.is.tcu.edu/wconnect/CourseStatus.awp?&course=15SWP29>

PST lost four members in 2014. Vice-President Budd Powell Mahan said, "It was a great honor to prepare and

Continued on page 2

JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Jeannette Strother, Mansfield

First Place: Sylvia Medel, McKinney~"In a Village by the Sea"

Second Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Third Place: Jan Benson, Fort Worth

Book Prizes

Reader: Sylvia Medel, McKinney

Popular Prize: James DeGough, Center

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller

Poetry for Poets Award: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

William D. Barney Memorial: LaVern S. McCarthy, Blair, OK

M. Tandy Duemke Prize: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Other Poems Read By: Annette Schwartz, Jessica Gonsoulin, Linda Banks, Von S. Bourland, and Manuel English

Laugh Lines Judge: David Knape, The Woodlands

Winner: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

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

present this memorial. For those who knew these individuals the memory will be brighter, we may even see and hear again that capsule we hold in our mind's eye, the remembered vision that animates our past. A part of the reason those of us who write do so is to leave a specter of ourselves for those who come after, and that is the very reason we should always write with a sense of self-truth."

Harvey Maahs, 96, was a member of PST, as is his wife, Iris. Harvey was active in the San Antonio Poets Association and served as its president from 2000-2002. He was also a founding member of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas, and he and Iris were generous donors to the student award program. Harvey, a retired Lt. Col., was buried with full Air Force Honors at Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

We lost **Lee Carroll** of Fort Worth in December. Lee was PST Membership Chair from 2007 to 2010. He was active in the Fort Worth Poetry Society and served as president until ill health forced his resignation. Budd read, "The Fire at the Center" to represent Lee's legacy, saying, "This poem is an encapsulation of boyhood, and it shows the depth and strength of his talent."

Sibyl Neely, was probably better known as Sibyl Nichols Gutkowski, and then as Sibyl Gutkowski Graham. Sibyl was born in the Hill County and eventually made her home in the Fort Worth area. She survived two husbands, Frank Gutkowski and Oliver Graham, and is survived by her husband John Neely. Sibyl was a long-time sponsor of an annual PST award that had various names but began in 1980, so she sponsored for 34

years. She was a life member of PST and was living in Colleyville at the time of her death.

On April 29 we lost one of the greatest stars of our firmament with the death of **Roberta Pipes Bowman**. Roberta was 98, and the only person who had personally known all 24 presidents of PST. Roberta's father became blind, and as a child, she read every word of the newspaper to him—even the ads. She began writing then also. She joined PST in the early 40s and helped reestablish the Fort Worth Poetry Society after World War II. She would ride the bus from Fort Worth and walk from the bus stop to the PST meetings. She married Elton Bowman in 1948. She published 12 books including her memoir. Roberta Pipes was first listed in *A Book of the Year 1945*. Budd said, "Her poetic legacy is great, and it was difficult to choose a single poem to represent Roberta. So, I returned to the first and last poems of Roberta's poems published by PST." "Angles" was published in 1947. Her last one, "At Last," in 2011: "The light in your eyes beams of love./Rays of adoration sweep over me,/remove all doubt that shadowed my years./I lift the adoring four-year old / great-grandson up . . ."

Following the memorial, we enjoyed the annual Poem-A-Thon with those present taking turns reading their poems. It was a poetry feast just as promised. These meetings are informal and fun, and always snacks magically appear on a side table.

After the break, Monthly Contest chair Irene Robertson announced the winners for January, 2015. Winners can be seen in the Monthly Poetry Box on page 1.

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

ALAMO AREA POETS

Iris Maahs Reporting

Fourteen members and two guests attended the January meeting of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas. The group welcomed new member Elizabeth Mc Dougle. Everyone was pleased to see Toni Murgui who had returned after a long absence.

Awards for the assigned topic for December went to "Don Mathis—3rd place, Peggy Mott—2nd place, Peter Holland—1st place. Awards for the open topic for December went to: Peggy Mott—3rd place, Don Mathis—2nd place, and Peter Holland— 1st place.

After the awards for December were presented, members enjoyed delicious Mexican food provided by President Don Mathis.

Programs planned for the future include readings by Toni Falls, Darrell Pittman, and Corrigan Morgan, former student of Antoinette Winstead, who teaches at Our Lady

of the Lake University. Corrigan has recently published a poetry collection and will have a book signing at Barnes and Noble.

The monthly raffle provided poetry books to those who held the lucky numbers. Dee and Nancy Carter and Lucy and Bob Mc Bee were unable to attend due to illness.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Barbara Green Powell, Reporting

The flu bug has bitten quite a few Southeast Texas people including this reporter's family. Here's hoping all of you avoid this virus.

Beaumont Chapter members: Birma Castle, Laurie Kolp, and Barbara Powell attended the Awards Banquet in November. All three, including member, Jo Ellen Fant, placed with poems. Birma and Barbara were excited to read their first place winning poems. If you were unable to attend you missed a poetry reading by da Voo-Doo Queen,

Marie La Vo. The Queen of Voo-Doo placed beads around the necks of men only and gave them big hugs, which raised suspicions about the vixen with the long dark hair. After reading her poem written in Cajun dialect (We ask all real Cajuns to please forgive her.) Queen Marie La Vo handed out copies of her poem along with an invitation for all poets to attend the Poetry Society of Texas Summer Conference 2015, **PARTYING WITH POETRY MARTI GRAS STYLE** on July 16,17, and 18 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Beaumont, TX.

This reporter is thinking we need a King to place beads on all the ladies at the conference, but you know Birma, she may have something really good up her sleeve. So be sure and attend so you can see who is the real Queen of Voo-Doo.

Beaumont poets are looking forward to seeing the critiquing of their shape poems at the January meeting. Thanks again to Evelyn Appelbee for critiquing our poems each month. We invite poets to attend our meetings the third Thursday of each month at Calder Wood Retirement Center on Calder Street in Beaumont. We hope to see you at the Summer Conference, partying with us in the Mardi Gras style.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly met at the Emily Fowler Branch Library for our first meeting of the New Year on January 17. During this meeting, members voted to approve Patrick Marshall to fill a much-needed vice-president officer vacancy.

Following announcements and a welcome to visitors, participating members shared Blank Verse poems based on J. Paul Holcomb's lesson, "Blank Verse Is Not Free Verse."

After the assignment readings, J. Paul shared his lesson, "The Limerick."

Following the lessons, 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

Mike Baldwin, president, read the opening poem. Our main business remains on the flier for the Chapbook Contest that we want to sponsor in cooperation with PST. Mike had made the changes that we suggested in previous meetings and had copies for us to look over. Quite a few new suggestions were made. For instance, we needed to specify that the entry fee should be by check or money order. Susan Campbell and Steve Sanders both had valid correc-

tions and we voted on those we accepted. Mike will give us a revised flier in February.

Mike also suggested that we have a calendar of events drawn up so that it can appear on our Facebook, as well as in other places. Anne Jones said she would draw up a calendar and give it to Steve. She had done this for past presidents. We thought it might be good to contact members who don't attend a meeting and Mike said he would do that. Hilda Mendoza has missed quite a few meetings and he said he would contact her. Susan brought up the idea that we might want to sponsor a booth at the Pickle Parade in Mansfield on St. Patrick's Day. Since our treasury isn't large, it behooves us to choose venues we can afford and those which give us the most exposure. She will find out the cost for us. We will decide in February if we can do it. Even if we can't, several members said that they would try to attend the parade. We had one visitor, Beth Neely. She seemed most interested in our group and had several helpful comments to offer during our critique session. We hope she will come back. We have such a good group of poets, but it continues to shrink, and we want so much to get some new members. Eight poems were critiqued. Several poems had the same theme of birds. We often seem to be on the same track. Also, one poem was about the "Ode to Joy" while another was about an approaching death by cancer. Such contrasting, strong poems.

HI-PLAINS CHAPTER

Von S. Bourland Reporting

First Vice-President Frances Clegg-Ferris opened our December 6 meeting in the absence of President, Mary Yokum. Nine members attended.

During the business meeting, Von Bourland suggested that we compose a list of subjects and/or forms for the Hi-Plains Chapter Award, a category we sponsor in the Poetry Society of Texas Annual Contests. A lively discussion followed a general consensus to choose topics about our local area. Everyone pitched ideas as John Schmidt recorded them.

Nine topics were chosen, and the subject with the most votes for the 2015 contest was: "Windmills or Wind Machines." The other topics will be kept by Von, brought to each December meeting, and one will be "drawn out of a hat," so to speak, for the following year.

After the break for delicious refreshments brought by Brian Hampton and Frances Clegg-Ferris, plus spiced apple cider furnished by Von Bourland, the workshop began.

Frances handed-out homework, which we began in the October meeting, on the Beymorlin Sonnet for silent critique. After each poet's work was returned, Frances introduced the Brook Sonnet. As we munched goodies and drank hot cider, everyone started their poems. A few had at

least one stanza to read aloud. Following the workshop, a Round Robin followed. Most poems read were about Christmas or the season.

Brian Hampton showed a video incorporating his poetry with beautiful scenery. Everyone was in awe.

Our February, 2015 meeting will be Saturday, February 21 at the Amarillo Senior Center, 1217 South Tyler Street, in the Seminar Room. Visitors are welcome.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

Beth Ayers collected the yearly dues of \$12 before the January 3 meeting. Checks should be made out to the ancient name of the Mockingbird Poetry Society. It is also acceptable to make them out to the Mockingbird Chapter (of PST).

President Aman Khan asked members what they wished to accomplish in the next year. Alice Parker said that she would like to repeat last year's poetry month celebration, an open mike presentation at Barnes and Noble on a Sunday in April. Participants get a discount on books. Sylvia Medel was willing to do the PR. A planning committee was formed with Alice as its chair and Beth, Sylvia, Ed Burke, and Irene Robertson as members.

Beth Ayers sent out reminders to the schools about the Collin County poetry contest. She also was appointed Refreshment Chair for the coming year.

PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY

Jennifer McNeely Reporting

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas hosted its monthly open mic night on January 10, and the monthly meeting and writer's roundtable took place on December 27. Local poets are encouraged to attend these monthly events, which occur on the last Saturday at 2 p.m. and the second Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Ground Floor in Midland, respectively. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month.

The poetry society found some new venues this month with a slam on January 3 at Tea2Go in Midland. The event featured West Texas Talent Entertainment founder Daniel Ryan as the emcee, and Jocelyn Mosman took home the \$75 grand prize. West Texas Talent will be hosting monthly poetry nights on the first Saturdays of February and March at the venue.

The group has also made Permian Basin Poetry Society T-shirts, which are free with membership dues and \$15 for students and teachers. The poetry society is also planning a "Poetic Spatacular" poetry slam and open mic night for January 24 at Kamiposi in Midland. The night will be hosted by Vanessa Hope and will feature DJ Zay.

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.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Eddins.

The minutes for the December 2014 meeting were approved as read. A collection of poetry by Ted Kooser was presented to Past President J. Paul Holcomb, along with a limerick by President Eddins that began "There once was a man named J. Paul..."

Chuck Poole gave the treasury report. It was motioned by Barbara Berry, then seconded by Louin Berry III that PTC should reimburse J. Paul for his payment of the prize money for The Poets of Tarrant County Award in the PST annual contest. The "aye" votes were unanimous.

This announcement was made: NFSPS is now accepting entries for their annual contests. The deadline for entry is March 15.

Contemporary Poet Reader was Barbara Goerdel, who read "Of History and Hope," by Miller Williams. Spotlight Poet was Tom McChesney. Recent winners of the PST annual contests read their winning poems, and our new Spontaneous Poetry Discussion centered on the "disenfranchised deceased." Assignment limericks were read after the break.

RUSK COUNTRY POETRY SOCIETY

Vina Hathaway Reporting

Rusk County Poetry Society's Christmas Party December 17 at President Sue Roberts home in Arp was a festive event with abundant food and desserts. Christmas poems were read, gifts exchanged, and carols sung. Those attending included Lisa Schoonover, Andrea Roberts, Sue Roberts and her neighbor, Joyce McGee, Tommy Lyons, Mary Tindall, Marie and Kent Dixon, Carol Thompson, Jack Holt, Joye Greenwalt, Vina Hathaway and Kande Johnsen.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

President Margaret Mayberry welcomed 21 members to the combined annual Christmas party and meeting held at the La Fogata Mexican Restaurant. The plan was to socialize and enjoy the food, and the meeting would follow. We would announce the winners from the previous month's contests, present certificates, and read the entries for the current month. There would be no book raffle and

the treasurer's report would be held over until January. We welcomed back to membership a former member, Dr. Mo Saidi, who was accompanied by his wife Brigitte.

The best laid plans often have to be changed. President Margaret Mayberry said we would not be able to read our poems because the noise in the restaurant made it impossible to hear, and the restaurant would not allow us to set up our sound system. Even though we were a large group, we were allowed to order our individual choices from the menu. The food was excellent, and we enjoyed mariachi music and each other's company instead of poetry, but winners' certificates were presented and new contest poems were collected.

Our contest chairman Wallace Vaughan, who is a busy florist, could not attend because he had to work the Christmas rush for flowers. In his absence, Pat Gibbs presented the certificates to the winners. The contest judge was Shirley Elliott Cosby of Emory, Texas, and we send our thanks to her for judging our contests. Shirley selected the following winners in the assigned topic of "Missing": Clyta Coder (1st place), Sheila Tingley Moore (2nd place), Lucy Armijo McBee (3rd place) Valerie Martin Bailey (HM). The open topic winners were: Sheila Tingley Moore (1st place), Valerie Martin Bailey (2nd place), Charlene Plover (3rd place), LaVerne Dickinson (HM).

After the awards, the party continued with many smiles, animated conversations, and good wishes for the Holidays.

SAN JACINTO CHAPTER

Donald Graham

On Saturday, January 12, we held our regular monthly meeting. Although the weather outside was frightful, inside it was warm and delightful, and we had a very good attendance.

The meeting was very enjoyable with an extra long read-around. We started with our president, Marvin Trent, reading two Robert Burns poems in his authentic Scottish accent, and then talking about Robbie's life and times. Our newest member, Dr. Paul Bruder, read the first poem he has ever written, (I think he has a future as a poet). We had one visitor who has been writing and teaching poetry for many years, and I think she will be back.

We have had many guest poets in the past, and as part of our rebuilding, we will be renewing that tradition by having guest poets in the near future. In next month's report, I hope to tell you who our first guest will be.

Anyone living in the Southeast Houston/Pasadena area who is interested in poetry, is invited to attend our meetings held the second Saturday of each month at the Sunset United Methodist Church at 1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS AT LARGE

News from Gail Denham, a member-at-large in Sunriver, Oregon : My latest news are many encouragements with

wins and acceptances. Poems were accepted by *Sandcutters* (Arizona); won 3rd in a Massachusetts contest; Festival Writers used "Pete's Demise"; Highland Park is using "Grandma's House" and "Ways to Bless Your Garden" on their Website; Oklahoma is using "Semi-Sestina"; *Mocassin* anthology is using "Boy on Dock"; two honorable mentions won in Indiana; won 2nd prize and an honorable mention in Mississippi; Illinois is using "Heading Home" (a favorite poem of mine); won 3rd in a Florida State Poets Association contest; a war poem won honorable mention in *Diplomat*; 2nd honorable mention in Alligator Park; *Pennesence* is using one of my poems. This is since late October 2013.

Also I will lead a poetry workshop at a small writing conference (Writers Weekend at the Beach) in Washington in March, 2015.

Attention Members-at-Large: If you are a member-at-large with no chapter in your area, consider starting one. If that's not an option, and you want to be included in the monthly news, send your news to the *Bulletin* editor at: vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com.



KEEP TEXAS NUMBER ONE!

Don't forget the deadline for the NFSPS annual contests is March 15. Entries must be postmarked by that date, so get busy writing those prize-winning poems, and let's put Texas on the map with the most winners in the nation. Texas has the best poets, so let's prove it. Start writing now and start making plans to attend the NFSPS Summer Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida. Let's show up to read our First Place poems and beat our biggest rival—Utah—and fill the *Encore* with poems "Made in Texas!" Yee-Haw!

"I like Texas and Texans... When Texans win, they win big. And when they lose, it's spectacular. If you really want to learn the attitude of how to handle risk, losing and failure, go to San Antonio and visit the Alamo. The Alamo is a great story of brave people who chose to fight, knowing there was no hope of success against overwhelming odds. They chose to die instead of surrendering. It's an inspiring story worthy of study; nonetheless, it's still a tragic military defeat. They got their butts kicked. A failure if you will. They lost. **So how do Texans handle failure? They still shout, 'Remember the Alamo!'**

"That's why I like Texans so much. They took a great failure and turned it into a tourist destination that makes them millions. Texans don't bury their failures. They get inspired by them. They take their failures and turn them into rallying cries. Failure inspires Texans to become winners...It is a formula for all winners."

~ Robert T. Kiyosaki, *Rich Dad, Poor Dad: What the Rich Teach Their Children About Money that the Poor and Middle Class Don't*

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, JANUARY 2015
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....170	New Members.....1
Associate Members.....14	Renewing Members.....2
Life Members.....60	
Recently Deceased Member..1	
(Lee Carrol, Ft. Worth, TX)	
Student Members.....20	
Sustaining Members.....3	
Current Member Total...267	

**Welcome to Our
New Member**

Margaret Hathorn
 403 Henrietta Street
 Center, TX 75926

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

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Linda Banks will continue as our *BOTY* Editor. There will be an earlier cut-off date for people to have their names listed as members in the membership list. This is a reminder to join or renew as soon as possible or you will not be listed as a member in the Book of the Year.

In January by Ted Kooser

Only one cell in the frozen hive of night
 is lit, or so it seems to us:
 this Vietnamese café, with its oily light,
 its odors whose colorful shapes are like flowers.
 Laughter and talking, the tick of chopsticks.
 Beyond the glass, the wintry city
 creaks like an ancient wooden bridge.
 A great wind rushes under all of us.
 The bigger the window, the more it trembles.

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Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces that there were no book donations this month:

If you have book donations, please send them 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 pm at
 PRESTON ROYAL LIBRARY
 5626 ROYAL LANE
 DALLAS, TEXAS 75229

The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November when the Annual Awards banquet is held at an area Dallas 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 currently accepting submissions for the New Southern Voices poetry prize. The contest will award \$1,000 and publication to the winner. Submissions opened January 1, 2015 and will close April 15. For full information about submissions, visit the contest web page at www.hubcity.org/prize.

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