

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 2017

*Valentine's Day will Come Early At
the Poetry Society of Texas
There could be Chocolates...
There might be Flowers
or even Love Poems*

Love
Love is in the Air

*Cupid's Arrows Will Be Flying, so
You Had Better Wear Body Armor
You will never know what
happened here unless you attend
the February 11th Meeting*

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting Saturday, January 14 2017 – 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including former Hilton Ross Greer award winner Lois Chapman and her guests Martha Belcher and Heather Wilson, both of Little Elm. He also recognized our past presidents: J. Paul Holcomb, Marilyn Stacy, Linda Banks, and Catherine L'Herisson, along with Mockingbird president Alice Parker, Dallas; and Councilors Irene Robertson of Little Elm, and Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the December Financial Statement. The largest expenditures were for the Awards Banquet in November and the awarded contest prizes. The largest income was from contest sponsorships, which will be paid out at the Awards Banquet next November.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the December Membership Report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. See the report on pg. 6. Membership dues were payable in July of 2016. Have you renewed?

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced four donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library (see pg. 6).

Linda Banks updated us on information about the 2017 NFSPS conference being hosted by PST, which is also available on both Websites. Those planning to attend can go ahead and reserve their rooms. The April issue of *Strophes* will have our complete schedule. Hosting this convention is expensive. If you wish to donate, you will receive recognition in the convention program. Donations are payable to PST and should be sent to Catherine L'Herisson (see pg 5 for more info).

Susan Maxwell Campbell gave some details about the Wm. D. Barney Chapbook Contest, offered by the Fort Worth Poetry Society. Deadline for entering is February 15. The winner will receive \$50 plus 25 free copies of the published chapbook. Details are at the PST Website.

President Mahan announced that Director Susan Campbell has accepted the position of Extension Chair, since Director Beth Ayers wished to resign from that position. Beth received a round of applause in thanks and appreciation for her long service, and for taking on the task of the 2016 Awards

Banquet on short notice. She will also chair this year's banquet.

Notice: The Executive Board proposed two changes to the Bylaws. Those present at the February 11 meeting will vote on the proposed changes.

1. Article VI—Elections, page 172 of the 2016 *A Book of the Year*: to be inserted after the sentence, "At the Annual Meeting further nominations for elective offices may be made from the floor." **Proposed addition:** "An individual nominated for President of PST by either the nominating committee or from the floor must have previously served as an elected officer or member of the Board of Directors, also known as the Executive Committee of PST."

2. Article II, Section 7. Extension Committee, page 174: Current description of this position is not accurate.

Continued on page 2

JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Sheri Sutton, Wichita Falls

First: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas ~ "*The Bass Angels*"

Second: Linda Banks, Mesquite

Third: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

Annual Critic Judge for 2016 Winners: Jim Barton, Huttig, AR

Annual Winner: Susan Maxwell Campbell ~ "*The Queen Sat Black*"

Book Prizes

Reader: Alice Parker, Dallas

Popular Prize: JDarrel Kirkley, Dallas

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Poetry for Poets Award: Samantha Gonzales, Kingsville

William Barney Mem. Award: Florene Flatt, Lubbock

M. Tandy Duemke Mem. Award: Manuel L. English, Poulosbo, WA

Robby K. Mitchell Mem. Award: Sylvia S. Medel, McKinney

Other Poems Read By: Von S. Bourland, Valerie Martin Bailey, Miriam Hasert, and Barbara Blanks

Laugh Lines

Judge: Angie Goin, Fort Worth

Winner: Valerie Martin Bailey, San Antonio

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

Proposed change: The Extension Committee shall enlist and assist chapters in hosting the annual PST summer conference, and will facilitate communication between chapters, councilors, and the PST Board. The Extension Committee shall encourage the formation and sustaining of chapters of PST.

President Mahan introduced **Linda Banks**, who presented the Memorial for members lost in 2016. She began, “A new year is like setting out on a journey. As we drive away, we look ahead, but cannot resist glancing back through the rear-view mirror at what we are leaving behind. So, today, as the new year starts and the old one ends, we pause to remember good poems and dear friends.”

June Short Chalon, Bellaire, was a member of Poets Northwest and the Houston chapter, for which she served as president for two years. Since Linda was unable to locate any of her poems she read an excerpt from June’s short story, “The Man with Two Magnolias.”

Marianne McNeil Logan lived in Amarillo, was a member of the Hi-Plains Chapter, a Councilor, and Life Member of PST. She was also a Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award winner and frequent contest sponsor—most recently the Marianne Sonnet category. Her list

of awards, accolades, and activities fills several pages. Humorous poetry was her trademark.

Evelyn Corry Appelbee was a native Texan who lived in Henderson. She served as a Corporal in the US Women’s Marine Corp, and yet “she was such a Southern belle.” A member of the Rusk County Poetry Society, she was also a Councilor, Life Member, contest sponsor and judge, and winner of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. She was a prolific poet and prize winner in PST and NFSPS contests. She was also teacher, mentor, and friend. “She had every reason to be proud, but was one of the most humble people I have ever known.”

Linda ended by reading “The Layers” by Stanley Kunitz, which contains the line, “How shall the heart be reconciled to its feast of losses?”

Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson segued us into the Poem-a-thon. Everyone present had the opportunity to read twice—either their own poetry, or poems by others. Poems ranged from serious and touching to humorous. Three or four people recited from memory.

After the break, **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson** announced the winners in the January 2017 Monthly Contests (see the winners in the contest box on pg.1).

News From Our Member Chapters



From Across the Great State of Texas

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Barbara Green Powell Reporting

Beaumont poets hope that each of you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We’re also hoping that 2017 will find more poets creating books of their own poetry. I know I plan to step up my efforts because my poems will probably be lost on my computer [Editor’s Note: Store your poems on CDs to keep them safe until you can get them in a book.] In a book they can live on. Birma, has told me repeatedly she needs someone with a big stick to get her going on a book of her own. So when you see or hear from her make a lot of noise with your stick drumming a poetic beat in her head.

Due to Christmas holidays, we did not have a meeting in December. We resumed with a meeting on January 19 at Calder Woods Retirement Home. After reading our poems critiqued by Anna Wells, we did a little of our own critiquing and then read our January poems. Our meetings always end up at a restaurant where friendship continues. Please feel free to join us any month. We’d love to see you.

Birma and Barbara had a great time visiting friends and listening to first place winners read their poetry at the Awards Banquet in November. Congratulations to all of you who won and to those who got to hear their names read for 2nd and 3rd places. Birma got her share of attention with her name being called several times. Congratulations, Birma!

Remember the National convention is in Fort Worth this year, so we all need to make an extra effort to enter. Remember, you can’t win if you don’t enter.

Don’t forget April in Eureka Springs. Lucidity poets meet each year in one of the most beautiful settings in Arkansas. We will bring you more news in future issues about this wonderful event put on by Birma Castle.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

November Meeting: Denton Poets’ Assembly met on November 19 for poetry readings by members and guests at the Emily Fowler Public Library. We start early with a critique session beginning at 9 a.m. and the regular meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Rebecca Hines announced a January 18, 2017 deadline for members to review final copies of poems to be used in the next Merging Visions exhibition. This will be the last chance to make corrections and adjustments.

J. Paul Holcomb presented a lesson on adding color to express emotions associated with that color. Members read Ekphrastic poems from artwork provided by Susan Maxwell Campbell in September, then he read dramatic monologue poems based on his lesson in October.

DPA members excelled in this year’s PST Annual

Awards. Members won a combined total of 136 awards from wins to the total 10 places of recognized places. Members received 11 First Place awards. Diane Glancy won the 2016 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize, 50 copies, soft cover poetry book (Formerly the Eakin Award).

DPA Vice-President Patrick Marshall was the “Bright Star” in the November publication of *A Galaxy of Verse, Fall/Winter 2016*. Patrick has 14 poems published in this edition: 10 in the Bright Star section, 2 in the member section, and 2 in the contest section.

December Meeting: Denton Poets’ Assembly met on December 17 at the Emily Fowler Public Library and continued with the addition of the critique session at 9 a.m.

J. Paul Holcomb presented a lesson on the Ottava Rima form. Members read poems based on the use of color to express emotions recalling past events. Afterward we spent time in fellowship celebrating the holiday season followed by readings of free choice poems by members and guests.

January Meeting: Denton Poets’ Assembly kicked off 2017 with our first meeting of the year on January 21. During the announcements DPA Merging Visions Coordinator, Rebecca Hines, briefed members on final preparations for Merging Visions Collections 2017. Members were reminded to continue preparing submissions to meet the March 15 deadline for the NFSPS Annual Contests. The 2017 NFSPS Convention will be held June 29-July 2 in Fort Worth. (see more information on pg. 5).

Following announcements, we read Ottava Rima poems from J. Paul Holcomb’s December lesson. J. Paul followed up with his lesson for January. Each member and guest was then given an opportunity to read any poem of their choosing.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 A.M. – Noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com.

GULF COAST POETS

Daniel Carrington, Reporting

In December, the Gulf Coast Poets set aside our regular monthly meeting to host our annual end-of-year Luncheon, celebrating another great year of poetry and fellowship. This year’s event featured Gwendolyn Zepeda, Houston’s first Poet Laureate (2013-2015), as the guest of honor. Tradicao Brazilian Steakhouse in Webster, Texas served up many delicious churrasco style selections, and we served up our own dessert of poetry, revelry, and seasonal door prizes.

After ringing in the new year, GCP returned to business as usual with our January meeting. This month we welcomed Gabrielle Langley as our featured reader. Gabrielle presented

the assembly with a wonderful selection of her work and gave us all something to look forward to this October. She received top honors at the 2016 Houston Poetry Fest as the highest scoring Juried Poet and, as tradition has it, will now be the Featured Poet for the 2017 Fest.

Later this month (Saturday, Jan. 28th), GCP members Choonwha Moon and Eloisa Perez-Lozano will join Varsha Shah as featured readers for Matt Riley’s Off the Page poetry series hosted at Friendswood Public Library. Congratulations to them both!

HI-PLAINS CHAPTER

Von S. Bourland Reporting

October 22: Hi-Plains members met at the Jackson Street Grill in the Park Place Towers Campus, ordering meals individually and visiting in the side room of the Grill. Following lunch, we moved to the Park Place Board Room for our meeting.

It was brought to our attention that Amarillo Senior Citizens will increase our rates for bi-monthly meetings in 2017 to \$65 per meeting. A former member’s anonymous donation will cover that charge for our five meetings in 2017, so we voted unanimously to hold our 2017 meetings there as planned. Karl Smith, Treasurer, will write a contract outlining our agreement with ASCA for 2017. Plans for 2017 include continuing to meet at the Jackson Street Grill for our October meeting.

Von Bourland’s Poetry Lending Library: one book returned and one renewed. Von forgot to bring the books today; but will bring them in December. John Schmidt will encourage Stephanie Milam to attend the December 3 meeting to present information for the Facebook page she is considering setting up for our chapter.

Round Robin poems were read by: Bryan Hampton, John, Karl, and Von, who read the 4th grade PST winner Harper Tagg’s poem: “Prayer of the Complaining Horse.”

December 10: Meeting was postponed from December 3 because of bad weather. Our proposed speaker, Stephanie Milam, had the flu, so her presentation on setting up a Facebook page for Hi-Plains Chapter was postponed until February.

John Schmidt outlined the guidelines for our chapter’s display in April at one of Amarillo’s Public Libraries. One-page poems must follow their April theme: “Family,” and be appropriate for all ages.

Frances Clegg-Ferris, President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Program Chair, etc., was presented a Texas Poetry Calendar 2017, and Von Bourland read a Cameo poem about Frances’ unflagging service as part of the presentation. The poem, taped inside the calendar, shows everyone’s appreciation for her many years of service.

Our December meeting always includes readings from poets’ winning poems for the year. Von read eleven of her thirteen First Place poems, plus a First Place six-word short story. Von also displayed her Lifetime Membership Certificate from

the Poetry Society of Texas. Following refreshments provided by: Frances-Clegg Ferris, Paula Harms, Katy Hupp, John Schmidt, Bryan Hampton, and Von and Barry Bourland, the workshop opened with our homework poems: Cameo form, being critiqued by those present. Frances introduced the Cinquetyun [Cinquetin] form as our challenge for the meeting, with time allowed for writing rough drafts, which were read aloud.

John Schmidt reminded us about his newest book, *Winner's Wisdom – Eight-Week Devotional Using Poetry and Journaling to Express the Real You*, combining poetry, selected Bible verses, insightful commentary, and variety, available at Amazon.com.

Frances drew the 2017 PST Contest topic for the contest our chapter sponsors out of Von's tin box. The topic for 2017 will be: "Wings." Von's Poetry Lending Library: 2 books checked-out, one renewed.

Hi-Plains Chapter meets bi-monthly, February through December. Contact: Frances Clegg-Ferris – (806)764-3458 tomfrancesferris@gmail.com.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Angie Goin Reporting

The Poets of Tarrant County met on Monday, January 9. Presiding Vice-President Barbara Goerdel called the meeting to order and introduced Susan Campbell as the Spotlight Poet. Susan read several poems from her book, *Anything You Ever Wanted To Know*.

Contemporary Poet Reader, Lynn Lewis, shared Marge Piercy's poem, "The Meaningful Exchange," from the book, *Ain't I A Woman*, a collection of women's poetry from around the world.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved as read. The program featured the following members as they read their poems that either won or placed in the PST Annual Contests: Naomi Simmons, Barbara Goerdel, J. Paul Holcomb, Barbara Berry, Angie Goin and Susan Campbell. Barbara Berry's poem proffered dialogue for the Spontaneous Poetic Concept, "the mystery of morning." Following the break, the assignment poems were read. Vice President Goerdel read the Kudo's list, made announcements regarding upcoming events and adjourned the meeting.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

The San Antonio Poets Association will meet on January 21 and our president Pat Gibbs will preside. After the minutes by Secretary Lois Heger are approved and the treasurer's report given by Michaud Lamrouex is accepted, Michaud will put on his Program Chairman hat and introduce our members who placed in the annual PST Contests, and will invite them to read their winning poems. We expect poems to be read by Valerie Bailey, Sheila Moore, Loretta Vaughan, Mo Saidi, and some-

one will be designated to read for Margaret Mayberry, our non-resident member in Florida who won a third place and five honorable mentions.

Sharon Turner, our Contest Chair will announce the December contest winners and award them with certificates and trophies. We will announce these winners in the February *Bulletin*. These contests were judged by Barbara Blanks of Garland, and we appreciate her time and expertise in judging our contests. We will then read our new January poems, which will include open topic poems and the assignment poems on the subject "Whispers." These poems will be judged by Birma Castle of Beaumont.

Our Vice-President Jean Jackson will conduct our monthly book raffle which is always a favorite activity with our members. Our refreshments will be provided by Loretta and Wallace Vaughan, and they always bring something yummy.

We were saddened by the news that our anthology editor, notifications chairman, and former president, Valerie Martin Bailey lost her son, Benjamin Bailey to pneumonia on December 18, just eight days after his 55th birthday on December 10. He was buried on December 22 and his memorial service was the day after Christmas. Our former member, Richard Graham also lost his beloved wife, Gerri, after 15 years of suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

TYLER'S ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY

Mary Tindall Reporting

The Rose Garden Poetry Society met on Tuesday, December 13 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse to prepare Christmas favors as a "thank you" for those who regularly use the center. Those who attended were Lynn Horton, Sue Roberts, Cherry Day, Richard Hurzeler, and Mary Tindall. Refreshments were served. Members left looking forward to the Christmas lunch on Thursday.

The Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society met again on Thursday, January 12 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. Members in attendance were Mary Wood, Jackie McVey, Sue Roberts, Carol Thompson, and Mary Tindall. The meeting opened with prayer. Members shared memories of Evelyn Appelbee who died in December. We read selected poems from her book *Hill House To the 4th Generation*.

Our poets then read abecedarian poems written for the January assignment as well as one from Evelyn's book. The group brought news from those unable to attend. We enjoyed refreshments and left inspired to enjoy reading and writing poetry.

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

Linda Smith Reporting

Four members and two guests attended our December Christmas potluck luncheon/meeting in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts.

Continued on page 5

Wichita Falls Poetry Society, continued

Geneva Rodgers, as usual, offered a fun game, with prizes, for those who were present. In addition to the food and game, members read their own and some favorite poetry written by others. There was an opportunity for visiting, and learning about and discussing poetry.

In a short business meeting, those present voted to change the Leta Hedrick Memorial Award contest to the Mary Barnes Award, in honor of our Honorary Life Member. Members who

were not present had expressed their approval of this change via email.

Dr. Lynn Hoggard and Nicholas Schreiber agreed to serve as judges for the two contests offered by WFPS in the annual PST contests.

Treasurer Dr. Webb Key reminded members that their January, 2017 contest poems in any form, any subject, with a maximum of 24 lines are due to him by midnight on December 31.

**YOU CAN HELP THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS HOST
THE 2017 NATIONAL NFSPS CONVENTION IN FORT WORTH**

June 29–July 2, 2017



“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 members for financial support of our plan to host the 2017 NFSPS convention in Fort Worth. Registration fees for the convention will cover most expenses. Your donations will help cover additional costs necessary to have a Texas-proud event.

**Make your check payable to the Poetry Society of Texas and send your donation to:
Catherine L’Herisson, Convention Treasurer**

518 Grinnell Drive, Garland, TX 75043

Send it along with the form below with all information completed. PST is using a separate bank account for the convention in order to make bookkeeping and final reports more efficient and accurate.

Donor names will be listed by category in the convention program:

- **Bronze Star** ~ \$1– \$50 • **Silver Star** ~ \$51– \$100 • **Gold Star** ~ \$100 – up

Let your light shine!

Be sure you enter the NFSPS contests by March 15.

Send your NFSPS contest entries to:

**Emory D. Jones
608 N. Pearl St.
Luka, MS 38852**

See you on June 29 – July 2 at the Hilton Fort Worth

DONATION AMOUNT _____ **CHECK #** _____ **CASH** _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address _____

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ DECEMBER, 2016
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....167	Sustaining Members.....4
Associate Members.....12	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....52	Renewing Members.....1
Student Members.....28	New Members0
Supporting Members.....2	Current Member Total....264



Our Deepest Sympathy
To The Following



† Valerie Martin Bailey (Bulletin Editor) and family at the death of her son, Benjamin David Bailey (Ben) of San Antonio on December 18, 2016. Ben was also the nephew of Sharon Martin Turner.

† The family and many friends of Evelyn Corry Appelbee of Henderson at her death on December 20, 2016. Evelyn was one of PST's finest poets ~ a treasure to us all.

† Jeanette Strother (Past PST President) at the death of her beloved brother, John West, on December 29, 2016.

† Russell Strauss (Current President of the Poetry Society of Tennessee) at the death of his sister, Sheron Strauss, on December 30, 2016 in Memphis, TN.

HELP OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR keep our membership roll up to date. Notify Lynn Lewis right away if there is any change in your contact info: address, phone number, or e-mail. Lynn's e-mail address is: elsquared59@yahoo.com, and her telephone number is: 817-921-9322.

Members: Have you paid your dues? Dues should have been paid by July, so if you are late, your name will have been removed from the roll. Pay your dues and be reinstated before the *A Book of the Year* is published so you can still be eligible for Life Membership.

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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:

The Moccasin, Vol. LXXIX, 2016 ~ by League of Minnesota Poets

Waco Cultural Arts Fest ~ Wordfest Anthology 2016,
 Edited by Sandi Horton and Cassy Burseson

Where Is Yonder ~ by Sandi Horton

Roads Less Traveled ~ CD recorded by the poets of the Fort Worth Poetry Society.

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

meets on the second Saturday of each month
 from September through May at 2:30 p.m.
 at the Preston Royal Library
 at 5626 Royal Lane in Dallas, Texas.

The exception is November when the annual Awards Banquet is held at a Dallas area hotel.

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

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