

THE BULLETIN



★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

Founded November 5, 1921

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



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

October 2014



Autumn's Poetry Palette is the theme of this year's Annual Awards Banquet, one of PST's biggest events. This is a time of celebration for everyone, even those who didn't enter the contests or win an award. Everyone enjoys watching the Academy Awards and other awards shows to share the thrill with the winners. The excitement is contagious, and fun and laughter are guaranteed. It is a time to meet and visit with old and new friends, to hear the winning poems, and celebrate with the winners. New members are encouraged to attend and get acquainted with their fellow Texas poets. The date is November 8, and the deadline to register is November 3. A flyer with all the information you need, including the banquet menu is in this issue of the *Bulletin*.

Looking Beyond the Banquet...At our December 13 meeting you will have an opportunity to hear Charlotte Renk read from her new award-winning book, *The Tenderest Petal Hears*, that was the co-winner of the national Blue Horse Press Chapbook Competition sponsored by San Pedro River Review of California.

PST's MONTHLY MEETING REPORT for Saturday, October 11, 2014

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L'Herisson called the meeting to order. She welcomed our speaker Susan McGinn and her husband John. She also welcomed and thanked Rita and Steve Doering from Garland, who brought audio-visual equipment to help Susan with her program. We were glad to welcome guest Michele Farmer from Royce City. Also in attendance were past presidents Linda Banks and Marilyn Stacy.

The program was presented first. Susan McGinn was born in Montreal, Canada, but grew up in Vermont. She is a Harvard graduate, free lance writer and editor who moved to Sherman, Texas in 2008. She is an actress and very much involved with the arts community and the Texoma Poetry Society. She has a lifelong love of poetry and especially loves British poets. Her father was from Yorkshire, England, where the PBS program Downton Abbey is set.

Susan's program was entitled "On the Poetry Shelf at Downton: British Poets of the Downton Abbey Era." She imagined the kind of poetry different characters of the TV series might enjoy and have on their bookshelves. Slides of the two libraries at the real Highclere Castle and of the different characters were shown while Susan read poems by different poets of the era: Christina Rossetti, Alfred, Lord Tennyson; Alfred Noyes, William Butler Yeats, to name a few.

After the break Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the September Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. PST is pleased to welcome our new sustaining member Alex Lemon of Fort Worth. The Membership Report is available on page 6.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the September Financial Statement. He says we are in good shape.

President L'Herisson made several announcements: Beth Ayers is the new Extension Chair. If you or your chapter did anything special for National Poetry Day (October 15), please let both Beth and Valerie Martin Bailey know. Valerie prints the news in the *Bulletin*, and Beth sends a report to NFSPS.

The Verification Committee for the PST Annual Contest
Continued on page 2

OCTOBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

First Place: Wes Vines, Dallas — "Breaking Through"

Second Place: Linda Banks, Mesquite

Third Place: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller

Book Prizes

Reader: Beth Ayers, Plano

Popular Prize: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Manuel L. English, Poulosbo, WA

Poetry for Poets Award: Barbara Blanks, Garland

William D. Barney Memorial: Naomi S. Simmons, Ft. Worth

M. Tandy Duemke Prize: LaVern S. McCarthy, Blair, OK

Other Poems Read By: Cheri Bell, J. Paul Holcomb, Jessica Gonsoulin, Allyson Whipple, Peter Valles

Laugh Lines Judge: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

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

PST's Monthly Meeting Report Continued

results planned to meet Sunday, October 12. If you won a first place, you will receive a postcard via email, or an actual postcard, or Nancy Baass, our Contest Chair, will call you.

The 58th Awards Banquet will be held November 8. The registration form and complete information is in this *Bulletin* and at the PST website.

Linda Banks has submitted an "invitation" to NFSPS for PST to host their 2017 Summer Conference, which would not

necessarily be held in Dallas. No details as yet.

Spotlight Chair Jessica Gonsoulin introduced Spotlight Poet Irene Robertson of McKinney. Irene is our new Monthly Contest Chair. She is a registered nurse who likes writing poems about God, nature, relationships, and humor.

If you would like to be a future Spotlight Poet, please contact Jessica Gonsoulin for details. If you cannot be present at the meeting, a reader will be selected for you. This is a wonderful opportunity for others to hear your work.

From Our Member Chapters ...



Poetry News From Across Texas

ALAMO AREA POETS

Iris Maahs Reporting (Oct.)

Lea Fagin was the guest speaker at our October meeting. Lea is from Peru and is well acquainted with Hispanic traditions. She spoke about the significance of the Day of the Dead celebration, describing altars she had visited where favorite meals of the deceased were offered and pictures of loved ones were displayed. Members enjoyed hearing about how the day is celebrated here and in other countries around the world. She encouraged everyone to make altars for their loved ones or to visit altars around San Antonio and write poems about their experiences. She concluded with remarks about the evolution of Day of the Dead to include remembrances of those who died in wars and the healing effects it has for those who prepare altars in memory of deceased friends and family members.

President Mathis welcomed Toni Murguia who hasn't been able to attend for a while. Billie Stroud announced with regret the closing of the Poetry Fair, local contests for students and adults held annually in S. A. for many years. The remaining assets of the Fair were donated to AAPT.

Awards were presented to the following for the September open topic contest : Margaret Cook (3rd HM), Antoinette Winstead (3rd HM), Peter Holland (1st HM), Billie Stroud (3rd place), Peggy Mott (2nd place), Sheila Moore (1st place). Awards for the assigned topic went to Sheila Moore (HM), Don Mathis (3rd place), Iris Maahs (2nd place), Peter Holland (1st place). Judge Shirley Cosby of Emory made helpful suggestions for improving poems. Don expressed his gratitude to Shirley for judging the contests.

After a break for refreshments provided by Sheila Moore, members were entertained with poems submitted for October contests.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Birma Castle Reporting

The Beaumont Poetry Society has been missing our star reporter, Barbara Powell, a lot lately. She is in Branson, MO

again staying with her grandchildren while her son-in-law is out of the country for a couple of weeks on business. She loves any chance to be with the kids. Her granddaughter was inducted in the National Honor Society and has a choir concert while Barbara is there, so she is really enjoying the time away from us.

Update on our members: Jo Ellen Fant and daughter, Sherry, attended a wedding in Houston recently and found out they were to be in the wedding pictures, so that sounds like something that will wind up in a poem someday. Emma Ellis will soon be out of her foot cast and back on her feet. Laurie Kolp has her hands full and her car on the road with three teenagers going in different directions. They all enjoyed seeing her daughter cheerleading at the West Brook football games. Lounell Whitiker says things are happening much too fast for her too.

PST SUMMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 16, 17 & 18

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

Put these dates on all the new calendars you are getting and plan to bring friends, meet friends, and make sure we have poets who want to have a good time with other poets. More news will follow in the coming months. Just know there will be purple in your future!

DENTON POETS ASSEMBLY

Richard L. Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly met on Saturday, October 18. Members read poems based on the free verse of Alan Birkelbach, the 2005 Poet Laureate of Texas and followed a series of recent lessons by J. Paul Holcomb on Barry Ballard Sonnets, and Stretched Sonnets.

In chapter news, on Saturday September 27, The City of Lewisville Texas honored J. Paul Holcomb with a proclamation naming him Poet Laureate of Lewisville. He was joined in the celebration by Texas Poet Laureate 2005 Alan Birkelbach and 2010 Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton. During the event, each of these poets took turns reading many of their favorite poems.

Denton Poets Assembly Continued

In addition, DPA members recently released new books of poetry: *Collected Poems from Here and There* by Jervis Underwood and *Second Shadow on the Wall* by Masood Parvaze.

On September 21, Patrick Marshall attended and read poetry at the Art of Peace Festival in Tyler, Texas. This was a community-wide event to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace and to encourage community spirit, and to promote a spirit of cooperation and community spirit through fellowship, dialogue, music, poetry, and art. Patrick Marshall also attended and participated in the Georgetown Poetry Festival in early October.

GULF COAST POETS ***Daniel Carrington Reporting***

In October, the Gulf Coast Poets (GCP) sets aside its traditional monthly meeting to host Poetry Out of Bounds, our annual satellite event in association with the Houston Poetry Fest. Organized by GCP Recording Secretary Laura Peña, this year's event was a resounding success. The guest poet was the fabulous Billie Duncan followed by an equally fabulous lineup of featured poets and selected invitees.

Also in October, GCP would like to congratulate the following members on their selection as 2014 Houston Poetry Fest Juried Poets: Daniel Carrington, Jane Chance, Glynn Irby, and Sandi Stromberg. In addition, GCP member Darla McBryde was Featured Poet, having earned the highest overall score last year, and Glynn Irby will have that distinction next year.

Looking ahead to November, noted poet and our group's founder Mary Margaret Carlisle will host the GCP Annual Luncheon. We are pleased to announce that our guest of honor will be the 2010 Texas State Poet Laureate Karla K. Morton. The celebration will take place on November 8 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tradicao Brazilian Steakhouse in Webster, Texas.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY ***Anne Jones Reporting***

Mike Baldwin opened the October meeting of the Fort Worth Poetry Society. Susan Campbell read the opening poem, "My Parents' Lodging Place" by Yehuda Amichai, an Israeli poet. She gave us background information about this important poet.

After the minutes were read and the treasurer's report was given, we tackled our constitution one more time. Steve Sanders reviewed the bylaws, one at a time and made any corrections that were suggested and agreed on. Then we voted unanimously to accept the corrected constitution. We thought about having a celebration since this was long overdue. Now we can get a new yearbook printed.

Mike gave us a report on the chapbook contest proceedings. The PST sent us their concerns which we discussed. Susan will attend the PST business meeting on Saturday and explain

our views in more detail. Mike will also notify them.

Steve reminded us of Artsgoggle on Saturday. We will have an inside venue, and he will provide a microphone for us. There will also be cold drinks, books to sell, etc. Everyone is encouraged to bring poems to read to passersby.

We briefly talked about the International Poetry Forum to be held in Austin since several of our members plan to attend. Marilyn Komechak and Mike will be on the program. Five poems were critiqued.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER ***Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting***

At the October 4 meeting, President Irene Robertson thanked Beth Ayers for hosting the judges of the 39 entries in the Mockingbird category of the PST yearly contest.

Irene Robertson offered a prize of \$32 good for the PST banquet for a poem on how to find God in Nature. Two copies, one without identification, should be emailed to Sylvia Medel by October 25.

Sylvia Medel read the Poetry Day Email Chain Letter on "bring a friend if handy" begun by David Knappe.

The nominating committee: Sylvia Medel, Jimmie Sessions, and Aman Khan, are collecting suggestions for officers. The vote will be in December.

The 44th annual Collin County poetry contest will contain a cash prize in the adult category to attract attention. Beth Ayers has been trying to figure out the best way to approach the schools. So far she has flyers, book marks, and posters. The contest will launch on October 15, Poetry Day, and end on February 1. The date of the awards ceremony has not yet been set.

PERMIAN BASIN CHAPTER ***Jennifer McNeely Reporting***

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas hosted its monthly open mic night on October 11. The monthly meeting and writer's roundtable did not occur because of the 100,000 Texas Poets for Change event. 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 local 100,000 Poets for Change event took place on September 27 in Wagner Noel Park in Odessa. Poets, singers, and other performers were in attendance. Acts included: Dre & Marilyn, a tribute to Pete Seeger, the reading of a tribute that was written by Dustin Pickering of Houston, an Artist's welcome by Permian Basin Poetry president Tony Henninger, Rockin' Pianoman Brant Travis, aerial dancing by Mary & Jorge, Soraida Montoya, Sisterin the Rain, C&W Texas Tree-top Flyers featuring T.J. Rabbit's Robert Cobos & Band, and Gabriel Lopez. The event got extensive local media coverage from local T.V. stations and newspapers.

Permian Basin Chapter Continued

Three special guests attended the event as well: Art Leal of Una Voz Unida, Texas State Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas, and Claire V. Camargo of the Austin International Poetry Festival. Poetry by Michelle Morzcaewski of Tennessee was read, and local poets Jennifer McNeely, PW Covington, Connie Lane Williams, Kelly Hogue, Kayla Keel, Zach Pfalzgraf, Michelle Pfalzgraf, Marisa Hale, Loretta Diane Walker, Yvonne Wood, Henninger, Da Mudville Bard, Eduardo, Josh Weir, and Daniel Carlo Ramos read original works. The event was emceed by Henninger and Ramos, and sound was provided by Reed Calder. The theme of the event was worldwide positive change, as well as peace and sustainability.

The poetry society has finished its anthology *Permian Basin Beyond 2014, Anthology Made in Texas*, which features both written and visual art, and includes submissions from poets across the globe, as well as from several former Texas poet laureates. Those who participated in the Poets for Change event were given a copy. The anthology is now available from lulu.com.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The minutes for the October 6 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County are as follows: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Hollis Davis. The minutes from the September meeting were approved as read, and there were no changes in the treasurer's report. Contemporary Poet Reader, Thomas McChesney, read two poems by Billy Collins—"Fishing on the Susquehanna in July" and "On Turning Ten."

Announcements: Deadline for submissions to "A Galaxy of Verse" is October 15. PTC member contest entries are due by the November 3 meeting. PST Awards Banquet is on November 8 with a registration deadline of November 3.

Vice President Davis read the kudos list. Spotlight Poet was Carolyn West. The Featured Speaker was Christine Irving, who read some of her poetry, then conducted a mini lecture and workshop on ekphrasis and ekphrastic poetry. Assignment poems were read after the break. The meeting was then adjourned by Vice President Davis.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Vina Hathaway Reporting

The East Texas Fall Festival of Poetry was held Saturday at the Summit in Longview, Texas. The poetry contest and awards banquet is sponsored by The Rusk County Poetry Society in Henderson and The Rose Garden Poetry Society in Tyler. The festival honored Evelyn Appelbee of Henderson with a book presentation by RCPS president, Sue Roberts of Arp and special honors by Budd Powell Mahan of Dallas, Texas who is also an officer and member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and The Poetry So-

ciety of Texas, as well as being one of the judges for the Fall Festival event.

The coveted Poet of the Year award was presented to Mary Tindall by last year's Poet of the Year, Joyce McGee and is one of the highlights of the event each year along with the revealing of the winner of the Harvest Award which was won this year by Evelyn Appelbee.

Greeters for the gala were Richard Hurzeler, Sue Roberts and Lisa Roberts. Registration was attended by Mary Tindall, Joyce McGee and Crystal Taylor. The Invocation was given by Richard Hurzeler, and the awards presentations were made by Richard Hurzeler, Sue Roberts, Sharon Taylor, Mary Tindall, and Dr. David Craig. L. D. Carter gave the banquet blessing.

The East Texas Fall Festival of Poetry winners include Richard Hurzeler; Mary Ellen Wood; Carol Thompson; Joanne Rozelle; Stephen Reistetter, Jr. and Dixie Dee of Tyler; Sue Roberts of Arp; Joye Greenwalt of Nacogdoches; Tammy Rosen of Chugiak, Alaska; Evelyn Corry Appelbee of Henderson; Adrienne Pamplin; Kaye Hart and Sharon Taylor of Longview; Mary Tindall of Whitehouse; Eleanor Eilenberger of Palestine; Joyce McGee, Jeff Marler, and Vina L. Hathaway of Gary.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

Twenty-seven poets, including five guests attended SAPA's September 20 meeting. Three of those five guests joined. The new members are: Jo Compton, Yogi Thami, and JoAnne Gershenson. We will encourage them to join PST. We hope the two other guests, Charlie and Susan Whipple will also join soon. We were happy to welcome back Antoinette Winstead after a long absence. Antoinette has been very busy as a successful playwright.

Sheila Moore, our Poet Laureate for 2014-2015 gave the annual Poet Laureate's Address. She shared several poignant poems about the tragedy of divorce and its impact on children and on grandparents who often step in to help with childcare to assist the custodial parent who must work. But mostly there were hilarious poems on the perils of being a grandmother to five adorable little stair steps who have a love for adventure as well as assorted domestic *and* wild animals.

Sheila convinced everyone, amid much laughter, that "grandmothering" can be hazardous, but also loads of fun and an excellent source of material for poems.

Wallace Vaughan, contest chairman, announced the winners of our May poems that were judged by Jimmy Inez Sessions, immediate past president of PST. The assigned topic winners with the subject "I Remember Mama," were: Sheila Moore (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), and Iris Maahs (HM). The winners in the open topic contest were: John Friedland (1st), Loretta Vaughan (2nd), Margaret Mayberry (3rd), and Valerie Bailey (HM).

San Antonio Poets Association Continued

After the winners read their poems, we all read our poems for September, which will be judged by Budd Powell Mahan of Dallas.

We are looking forward to our special speaker for the October 18 meeting, Lisa Salinas of Spring, Texas. Lisa is also a new member of San Antonio Poets Association.

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY

Frances Neidhardt Reporting

Our 30th anniversary's first celebration began with Lynn Lewis, whose reading from her Edwin M. Eakin Award book, *Somewhere To Come From, Just This Side Of Paradise*, thrilled with its purity. From the palm of her hand Lynn offered poetic memories of her remarkably large and loving family. Transported through woods to their rural east Texas 100-year-old home, we "saw" crops and flowers and pigs and sweet-talking grandparents who served children sweet potatoes baked in the fireplace and watermelon cracked open in the hills by the preacher grandfather. Though local events—Eisenhower's birthday celebration, county fair opening, etc.—competed, Lynn's enthusiastic listeners lined up to get a signed book. As gifts to those present, we offered a stack of back issues of *Poetry*, the magazine founded in 1912 by Harriet Monroe.

To show our appreciation for Peggy Silha Ritzer, Althea Hunt read Peggy's poem, "New Dawn, Shanksville, Pennsylvania," which won the 2014 Frances Ramsey Holcomb Award. Peggy recently resigned the office of president. Still recuperating from a fall, she is glad to be home.

Vice-president John Creighton Miller was introduced by Frances Neidhardt. John spoke of his "vocally talented" family and lifetime love of poetry. From a military family, he studied in England and Germany, earned a BS and M.Ed from North Texas State University. He is a Vietnam veteran, and has taught English and coached at Sherman High School.

Six persons stayed to read poetry. A welcome visitor from the Denton Poets Assembly was Patrick Lee Marshall. On November 1, Darrah Dunn will present "Humor in Verse from Shakespeare to Seuss."



STUDENT AWARDS NEWS



The 2015 Student Awards of PST will be the largest in history with 81

contests offered for first grade through college.

Thanks to the donors who have made this possible, many are donating multiple awards. It has been decided that the brochure will not be printed for inclusion in *The Bulletin* as in the past. If you would like to have a copy of the brochure, contact Budd Mahan. His address appears in the Executive Board box on page 6 of the *Bulletin*.

CONGRATULATIONS BRAVO CONGRATULATIONS

THE PUSHCART PRIZE

Best of the Small Presses series, published every year since 1976, is the most honored literary project in America

**Excitement Reigns
in the Homes of Two PST Members**

DOS GATOS PRESS HAS NOMINATED JAN BENSON AND SUSAN ROOKE FOR A 2014 PUSHCART PRIZE

- Jan Benson has been Nominated for "adobe walls at dusk," published June 2014 in the *Texas Poetry Calendar of 2015*, Week of September 13-19
- Susan Rooke has been nominated for "Like a Cotton Sheet Unfolded with a Snap." Published in the "Texas Poetry Calendar" 2015, October Overview

PST IS PROUD OF YOU!

ATTENTION PST MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

All PST members are urged to find a PST chapter to attend regularly. Fellowship with other poets keeps us challenged and helps us grow poetically. However, if you are a member-at-large and there is no chapter in your area, consider starting one. If that's not an option, and you would like to be included in the monthly news, send news of your publications, reading engagements, awards, and other poetic activities, and you will be included in the news exchange.

Send your *Bulletin* news to vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com, and indicate that you are a Member-at-Large. Also please include the city, town or area in which you live. PST wants to hear from all our members.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, OCTOBER 2014

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....213
 Associate Members.....7
 Honorary Members.....5
 Library Members.....3
 Life Members.....59
 Recently Deceased.....0
 Members.....0
 Student Members.....20
 Sustaining Members.....2

Help Us Keep Our Membership Roll Up to Date. Please let Membership Chair Lynn Lewis know if there is any change in your address, phone, or e-mail address. Contact Lynn at elsquared59@yahoo.com

Current Membership
Total.....309
 New Members.....1
 Renewing Members.....4

New Sustaining Member
 Alex Lemon
 Ft. Worth

Don't forget November 3 is the deadline to register for the Annual Awards Banquet. See the enclose flyer for information.

Our Deepest Sympathy To The Following...

Jeanette Strother, 21st president of PST, upon the September death of her beloved sister, Tina Strother.



Jan Seale, 2012 Poet Laureate of Texas, upon the October death of her beloved husband, Carl, after many years of battling Parkinson's Disease.

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Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks announces four book donations:

- The Tenderest Petal Hears*, by Charlotte Renk
- Into Every Singing Silence*, by Hilda Wales
- Beautiful Child and Other Poems*, by DeLois Duemke Whitney
- A Simple Thing*, by Susan Maxwell Campbell

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.



ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

Membership dues were due on July 1. You will automatically be dropped from the roll if you have not paid your membership dues by November 1, 2014.

Our membership year is from July 1 to June 30. This is because PST must report membership to NFSPS by January 1 in order to receive copies of *Strophes* and for members to enter the national contests, which have a March 15 deadline. Part of your membership fee goes to NFSPS to allow you to be a member and enter their contests. If you need to pay dues, send them to the Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Her contact info is at the bottom of the next column. Please do **not** send dues to the Treasurer or the Contest Chair.

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