

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

October 2016

Falling for Poetry

Saturday, November 12, 2016

Double Tree by Hilton (near the Galleria)
4099 Valley View Lane ~ Dallas, Texas 75244
Phone: 972-385-9000

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting Saturday, October 8, 2016 – 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including our speaker and Webmaster, Annie Neugebauer of Denton, along with first time visitor and new member J Darrel Kirkley of Dallas, and our past presidents: J. Paul Holcomb, Catherine L'Herisson, and Pat Stodghill.

Vice-President Catherine L'Herisson gave the September Financial Statement for **Treasurer Aman Khan**. The largest expenditure was for postage to mail annual contest entries to the judges. Largest income was from contest sponsorships, which will be paid out at the Awards Banquet in November.

We were delighted to have **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis** herself present to give the September Membership Report, which you can see in detail on page 6.

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced five donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library. You can read the titles and donors on page 6.

Vice-President L'Herisson took the lectern to announce the annual awards confirmation committee will meet within the next couple of weeks, after which, the winning postcard announcements will be sent via e-mail or snail mail. The banquet theme is "Falling for Poetry." The celebration is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2016 at the Double Tree by Hilton (near the Galleria), 4099 Valley View Lane, Dallas, Texas 75244, phone: 972-358-9000. See the PST Website or contact Beth Ayers for more information. Please note that hotel arrangements

must be finalized by November 5, so be sure to send your registration before that date.

Congratulations to **Von S. Bourland** of Happy for attaining Life Membership. An award certificate will be sent to her.

Marilyn Stacy donated several copies of her book, *Along the Path* (1st edition), to be used as Poetry for Poets prizes.

Patrick Marshall introduced **Lynn Lewis** of Fort Worth, as our Spotlight Poet for **Spotlight on Poets**

Continued on page 2

OCTOBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Barbara Gregg, Austin

First: Barbara Blanks, Garland – "Lunch at the Assisted Living Home"

Second: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Third: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth

Book Prizes

Reader: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Popular Prize: Linda Banks, Mesquite

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

Poetry for Poets Award: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

William Barney Memorial Award: Florene Flatt, Lubbock

M. Tandy Duemke Memorial Award: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller

Robby K. Mitchell Memorial Award: Angie Goin, Fort Worth

Other Poems Read By: Barbara Terrell Goerdel, Richard Hurzeler, J. Paul Holcomb, and Annette Schwartz

Laugh Lines

Judge: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

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

Chair, Susan Maxwell Campbell. Lynn was the Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award winner in 2012 with *Somewhere to Come From, Just This Side of Paradise*. It is highly ranked on Amazon. Lynn read several short and amusing poems.

Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson introduced our speaker, **Annie Neugebauer** who is our wonderful Webmaster and a PST Councilor. She is a member of Horror Writers Association and specializes in horror poetry and fiction, with her work appearing in over fifty venues, including *Black Static*, *Apex Magazine*, and *Fireside*. Her manuscript received honorable mention in the NFSPS’ Stevens Competition and placed 2nd in the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award competition offered by PST.

Annie said, “You may have read horror poetry without even knowing it,” and cited examples by Poe, Keats, Milton, Frost, Whitman, and there are many others. There are many misconceptions and stereotypes about what

horror is, but essentially horror explores fear. It touches our most primal emotions—the emotions of fear, like discomfort and disgust. It is extremely subjective. One person’s fear of spiders might be someone else’s passionate interest. “Horror walks a fine line with comedy.”

Horror is also not an euphemism for “dark.” Grief is a dark emotion, but it is not horror—even though most of us fear death, and a lot of horror literature traces back to that. Horror poetry and stories are not necessarily graphic, slasher-types, bloody, or violent, but they can be thought provoking. Annie’s philosophy is, “If you can’t avoid it, why not just pick up the rock and turn it over?” Annie invited feedback and discussion, and her audience was glad to participate. Her presentation was interesting, informative, and enjoyable—and just a bit spooky.

After the break, Barbara Blanks filled in for **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson**, and announced the winners for the October monthly contests (see contest box on page 1). The meeting was adjourned.

News From Our Member Chapters



From Across the Great State of Texas

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Barbara Green Powell, Reporting

Beaumont poets, Dorothy Clover, Doretta Glover, Birma Castle and Barbara Powell, recently attended a Poetry Reading at Logon Café in Beaumont—a new experience for most of our group. Some members enjoyed dumplings and gumbo while waiting for the reading to begin. We are happy to report most of the readers were young people who read with flair. We hope we can attend other first Mondays.

On Poetry Day, October 15, our members had a reading at Barnes & Noble on Dowlen St. in Beaumont. We had fun, not only reading our poems, but telling what inspired us to write our poems. It beat the old way of stand up, say your name, read, and sit down. One young poet said it inspired her with new subject matter. Reading and listening to poetry is the best way to get new ideas. Shirley Richards, one of the presenters at the 2015 Summer Conference held in Beaumont recently, returned from a mission trip to Africa. We’re hoping to hear poems she creates from this experience. Laurie Kolp was missed as she was a Presenter for Poets Northwest Poetry Celebration Day. Laurie talked about ways to get inspiration for writing. Laurie has published two poetry books and recently had poems published online at Up the Staircase, Bracken, and Concis. One of her poems, “Teaching in the 21st Century” has been

nominated for Best of the Net 2016. Way to go, Laurie!

Our President, Birma Castle, has been inspiring our chapter members by using poems from PST Contests in order to encourage members to send poems to the yearly contests. October’s lesson was the Wings Award contest, won by Linda Banks in 2014 with a poem titled “Voices Rising.”

After our lesson, members have been eating lunch at the Black Eyed Pea. Much to our surprise and sorrow, the Beaumont restaurant has closed. We’ll have to locate a new eating place. Barbara is especially upset because it was her and her husband’s favorite place to eat.

Birma Castle, Laurie Kolp and Barbara Powell hope to see you at the Awards Banquet November 12. It’s like a family reunion. We enjoy the poems and food, but mostly the poets who attend each year.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly met on October 15 for poetry readings by members and guests at the Emily Fowler Public Library from 10 a.m. – noon.

Rebecca Hines shared an announcement about Professor’s Corner, A Literary Discussion on The Poetry of Texas Poets Laureate will be presented by Dr. Stephen

Souris. These discussions will begin on November 9 and continue through June 14 at the South Branch Library in Denton.

J. Paul Holcomb delivered a presentation on "Let's Talk about the Dramatic Monologue." Afterwards members and guests read two free choice poems.

In the News: J. Paul Holcomb learned recently that he will continue to serve as Poet Laureate of Lewisville. For more information, see City of Lewisville Poet Laureate.

DPA member Annie Neugebauer, published author and award winning poet, was the featured speaker at the Poetry Society of Texas' October monthly meeting.

Karla K. Morton, one of the founders of DPA, was the keynote speaker at the "Music in Motion & Rhythms of Pen & Brush" event on October 8. The event was hosted by the Mockingbird Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas at the McKinney Performing Arts Center. DPA members Patrick Lee Marshall, VP of DPA and his wife Andrea, Molly Middleton-Myer, Carmen and Jervis Underwood, Nancy DeHonores, Betty Roberts, and Bob Schinzel were in attendance.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

President Alice Parker called the October 1 meeting to order and welcomed Secretary Jessica Gonsoulin back from physical therapy.

The Poetry Festival was held on October 8. Lists were made of poems with matching pictures by painters or photographers. If members were not present to read their poems, Alice read them. Other features of the festival included music, a songwriting workshop, and Karla Morton. Alice received a letter of commendation from Naomi Simmons for the project.

Next month Beth Ayers will bring handouts for the next Collin County Poetry Contest.

Keynote Speaker, Susan Maxwell Campbell was then introduced. She spoke on the pantoum and the sestina. She had a large inventory of books for sale.

After poems were read, a banquet of foods especially suitable for diabetics was offered by President Parker.

PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY

Kat Copeland Reporting

The music and words family gathered on Saturday, September 24 for the 100 Thousand Poets for Change global event at Noël Plaza Park, Odessa, Texas. Canned foods

were donated to the West Texas Food Bank.

Performers were:

From across the pond, Yorkshire's Alexandria Krynski's poem was read.

Some out-of-towners were poets David Rombouts, Crane; Sasari Hawkins, Rankin; and Glen Walton, Lometa; music by Ruben Baca, Lee County Arts Center, New Mexico, with beautiful soul Naomi Joy.

From the Midland/Odessa area: 1949-1951 Texas Poet Laureate Carlos Ashley's work was read by his nephew, Odessa attorney Steve Ashley. Wheatley book award winner Odessan Loretta Diane Walker shared her poetry. From Midland, New York bound Teffanie Thompson read excerpts from DIRT. Host and musician Channel 2 Chase Cochran was joined by his wife Kaylee, soloist. Spoken Word Master DCR (Daniel Carlo Ramos) was also winner of West Texas Talent Show. He and Faith are awaiting their creation. Performances in France and the Kennedy Center was Mezzo Soprano Shannon Koonce. Cynthia Ruby of Germanic ancestry read from her recently published book of poetry. Ellen Goldberg shared her family story, broadcaster Jerry Rogers shared his woodpecker song. Karen Howard Winters recited Lascelles, "The Box."

Reporter Bob Campbell read from his latest published verse. Kermit's Jacob Garcia, entertained with music. The Corbell Blues Band played great music.

Andrews' Rusty Battenfield was a hit with his cowboy poetry and song. Adam Lee shared comedically of family, Adaline Schelling's poetry of nature was well received.

Mark Velazco's new found spirit of transformation in spoken word brought his family. Sammy Torres was on Day 16 of 365 of positive change by spoken word.

To culminate this great day, The SEE starring Soraida's music with dancers and RAP by Jazz brought in a new crowd.

Reed Calder, THE sound man, who made sure everyone's music and words were clearly heard hauled in massive sound equipment in a U-Haul.

POETS NORTHWEST

Lisa Salinas Reporting

Poets Northwest celebrated Fall by hosting an all-day poetry workshop on Saturday, October 15 at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts in northwest Houston. Thirteen poets enjoyed workshops given by Laurie Kolp and Terry Jude Miller, lunch at Gringo's, and an acapella performance of the song "Cold Dog Soup" (which included

lyrics newly written by PNW members).

If you are in the Houston area on the third Saturday of the month, please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at <http://www.poetsnw.com> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest>.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The October 3 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by President Ron Eddins. Jerry Abbott was the Contemporary Poet Reader. He read “The Summer Day” and “The Swan” by Mary Oliver and poems by Ivan Carswell: “A Few Kind Words” and “A Final Dream.” Chuck Poole was the Spotlight Poet. He read from his soon to be published book, *The Potter’s Poet*.

Lewisville Poet Laureate, J. Paul Holcomb, introduced our featured speaker, Richard Weatherly, who gave a survey and examples of Ekphrastic poetry. The Spontaneous Poetic Concept Discussion centered on the question of “What is the aesthetic connection between the arts?”

The minutes from the September meeting were approved as read. A motion was made by Jerry Abbott and seconded by Barbara Berry that the membership dues for Poets of Tarrant County be raised from \$8 to \$15, effective for the coming year. The “yes” vote was almost unanimous, with only one dissenting vote. Chuck Poole gave the treasury report. President Eddins appointed the nominating committee for November’s PTC officer elections: J. Paul Holcomb, Barbara Berry, and Angie Goin. Assignment poems were read, and the meeting was adjourned by President Eddins.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Joyce Gorum McGee Reporting

At our September meeting Mary Tindall presented a lesson on “Why Write?” and discussed things to do as poets to stir up our own creativity and fluency. She gave a poetry prompt to write a poem expressing why we write, which will be turned in to be critiqued.

We finalized the plans for our Celebration of Poetry Day scheduled in October. A raffle has been added to the festivities. The winner will receive a two-night stay at Dame Fortune’s Cottage Court in Hot Springs, Arkansas. It was generously donated by the family of our President,

Sue Roberts. The proceeds will go to our Poetry in School Scholarship Fund.

Eight of our members’ poems were selected for the 2016 Art of Peace anthology titled *Paths to Peace – Journey to Wholeness* and these selected members were invited to a night of open mic on September 17 to read their published poems. Five of them were able to attend.

Prayers have been requested for Evelyn Appelbee, one of our founding members. She was hospitalized in September with serious health problems.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

On October 15, President Pat Gibbs called SAPA’s meeting to order. After the preliminaries of minutes and a great treasurer’s report, she turned it over to SAPA’s PST Councilors, who in recognition of National Poetry Day, gave a program to promote PST and let members who don’t belong to PST know what they are missing.

SAPA has four active PST councilors: Valerie Bailey and Sheila Moore represent San Antonio and Michaud Lamrouex and Sharon Turner are councilors-at-large, and we have a councilor emeritus: Iris Maas. Valerie, Michaud, and Sheila brought the program. Sharon Turner was absent due to illness. Valerie had prepared a 12-point list of good reasons to belong to PST. She provided copies of the list along with membership forms and an offer to mail checks and forms for anyone wanting to join at the meeting. After Valerie presented each point, Michaud Lamrouex spoke specifically to several points. He spoke of PST’s extensive outreach to students and gave credit to Budd Mahan for being the driving force behind the entire program. He said Budd’s devotion to helping students develop their poetic potential results in Texas students leading all the states in producing winners. He spoke about the opportunity for personal recognition through the Spotlight on Poets program. He also spoke about the conferences especially the bookrooms, which he’s managed since 2006. He gave tips on how to sell more books by attending the readings and reading your poems to create interest in your work. Sheila spoke to the importance of sharing poetry at the conference and using it as a vehicle of understanding to meet the needs of someone who might feel alone and would benefit from hearing a poem about a shared experience. She gave a thoughtful and heartfelt reason for networking with other poets. The program was well received and we may do it again.

The winners of the September contests were announced. Winners in the assigned topic contest, "The Road Not Taken" were: 1st – Jean Jackson, 2nd – Pat Gibbs, 3rd – Sheila Moore, HM – Margaret Mayberry. Winners in the open topic contest were: 1st – Sheila Moore, 2nd – John Friedland, 3rd – Loretta Vaughan, HM – Pat Gibbs. The poems were judged by Linda Banks of Mesquite, and we would like to thank Linda for her time and expertise.

After we had a refreshment break and read our October poems the meeting was adjourned

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY

Susan McGinn Reporting

The Texoma Poetry Society met on October 8 at the Sherman Public Library. Frances Neidhardt began the meeting by honoring two longtime TPS members who passed away in September, John Creighton Miller and Sue Satterfield. She then gave a presentation on Texas Poets Laureate, first detailing the history of the Texas Poet Laureate program and then focusing on 2008 Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas. Frances shared information on Thomas's life and then read a selection of his haunting, bleak and vivid poems, showing how his works surround the reader with striking imagery of West Texas and create great emotional impact. Poems shared included "Of Dust Thou Art," "The Red Raging Waters," "Cotton," "Of His Presence," and more, from Thomas's poetry collections *Amazing Grace* and *Stark Beauty*.

The next meeting of the Texoma Poetry Society will be on Saturday, December 10, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sherman Public Library. We will continue this year's theme of Poets Laureate of Texas. The meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

TYLER'S ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY

Mary Tindall Reporting

The Rose Garden Poetry Society met Thursday afternoon October 13 at Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. Attending were Sue Roberts, Carol Thompson, Cherry Day, Mary Tindall, Jackie McVey, Jimmie Horton, Kent Dixon, and Sharon Taylor, special guest from the Rusk County Poetry Society.

The group prepared table favors for the Poetry Celebration Day to be held on Saturday, October 15 sponsored by the two societies annually. Budd Powell Mahan will be the speaker at this year's event.

Cherry, Jackie, and Carol read their poems included

in the *Paths to Peace – Journey to Wholeness*, from the recent "Inner Peace" events. Contributors to Baylor's Word-Fest publication: Sharon, Carol, and Sue shared their poems from that book.

After fellowship, refreshments, and fun the group left looking forward to the upcoming Saturday celebration

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

Linda Smith Reporting

WFPS members met on September 17 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts to enjoy a lunch generously provided by member Sheri Sutton. In years past, now deceased member, Leta Hedrick, had provided lunch at her home to start off the new year. Members agreed it is a nice tradition to revive. Nicholas Schreiber, a prospective member was among us.

Geneva Rodgers chaired the meeting and began with a roll call in which members were to answer with an adjective and their names, both beginning with the same letter. Several were humorous, no doubt in anticipation of the lesson on humorous poetry to follow.

President Linda Smith presided over a brief business meeting. The treasurer's report was accepted and copies of the revised Constitution and Bylaws were given out. Committee members Linda Smith, Sheri Sutton, and Doc Wood had met in June to make revisions. A vote will be taken in October. A discussion of the need to raise dues from \$20 to \$25 to meet Society obligations followed, and a vote on that issue will also take place in October.

Members who attended the First Annual Rolling Plains Poetry Festival in Crowell in August enjoyed hearing WFPS members read their poetry and pushed the idea of hearing more colleagues read their poetry. Dr. Webb Key read some of his humorous poetry. New member Daryl Halencak of Crowell will read for members in November, as Dr. Lynn Hoggard will read in October.

Geneva Rodgers presented the lesson on Humorous Poetry Writing, touching on style, techniques, and language, with resources for research, and several humorous poems used as examples. Humorous poems, 24 lines maximum, in any form, are due to Webb by midnight of September 30 for the October contest.

Winners in the September contest for best free verse poem are Sheri Sutton (1st), Doc Wood (2nd), Linda Smith (3rd), Webb Key (1HM), Susan Raymond (2HM) and Geneva Rodgers (3HM). The Critic judge was Catherine L'Herisson.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ SEPTEMBER, 2016
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....216	Sustaining Members.....8
Associate Members.....16	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....51	Renewing Members.....6
Student Members.....28	New Members0
Supporting Members.....1	Current Member Total....320

Reminder

If your chapter does something special for National Poetry Day, or if you individually do something special for National Poetry Day,

Please report it to the following:

Beth Ayers, Extension Chair at:

bta1966@hotmail.com

so she can report it to NFSPS.

Valerie Martin Bailey, Bulletin Editor at:

vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com

so she can publicize it in the *Bulletin*

MEET YOUR PST FRIENDS ON FACEBOOK!

PST now has a Facebook Group Page.

There are already at least 33 members. If you would like to join us, go to your own Facebook page and type Poetry Society of

Texas in the search box, or you can use this link to find it:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/302759370105890/?pnref=story>

Poetry Society of Texas
 610 Circle View Drive
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www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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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:

Cattlemen and Cadillacs – Edited by Ann Howells

All of Me – by Hal C. Clark

Ribbon Tree – by Hal C. Clark

New Texas: A Journal of Literature and Art, 2003 – Editors Shelburne, Poulter, and Lee

Aliens and Strangers – by Mary Ann Godwin

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 annual Awards Banquet
 is one of PST's most
 "rewarding" experiences,
 so don't forget to make your banquet
 reservations!**

★ THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

President:
 Budd Powell Mahan
 7059 Spring Valley Rd.
 Dallas, TX 75254
 972-788-4944
buddmahan@att.net

Corresponding Secretary:
 Jessica Gonsoulin
 10252 Ashburn Dr.
 McKinney, TX 75070
 972-832-4055
jlgonsoulin@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
 972-747-1297
bta1955@hotmail.com

Treasurer:
 Aman Khan
 6717 Talmadge Lane
 Dallas, TX 75230
 792-385-8338
aman1963@gmail.com

Director:
 Susan Maxwell Campbell
 115 North Wisteria
 Mansfield, TX 76063
 817-473-6314
susanmaxwellcampbell@gmail.com

**Recording Secretary/
 Librarian**
 Barbara Blanks
 1518 Running River Road
 Garland, TX 75044-7254
 972-495-7311
Barbarablanks@aol.com

Director:
 Barbara Terrell Goerdel
 7704 Velvet Antler Trail
 Arlington, TX 76002-4326
 817-419-3383
bgordel@att.net

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis
 1704 Enderly Place • Fort Worth, TX 76104
 817-921-9322 • *elsquared59@yahoo.com*