

The **Bulletin**

Poetry Society of Texas



Founded November 5, 1921

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Editor:

Fred Manchester

September 2023

jdk

Our October Speaker Courtney O'Banion Smith October 14, 2023



Courtney O'Banion Smith is the 2022 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest winner for her book *In Fidelity*. She will be reading and sharing insights from *In Fidelity*. Courtney has a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing-Poetry from Texas State University-San Marcos, and she is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Theopoetics and Writing from Bethany Theological Seminary. A Pushcart Prize nominee, her work has appeared in various publications including *Relief*, *Barren Magazine*, the *Texas Poetry Calendar*, and the *Ocotillo Review*. Courtney lives in Houston with her husband, four working typewriters, two feral sons, and one neurotic dog. Find her online at www.cobanionsmith.com and on social media @cobanionsmith.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

“Always be a poet, even in prose.”

- Charles Baudelaire

PST General Meeting Minutes September 9, 2023

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara

President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 20 attendees.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the August membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 213, Associate 15, Benefactor 1, Life 31, Honorary 5; Student 5; Supporting 2; Sustaining 5; Recently Deceased 0. Total Membership: 282. We have **five new Active Members**: Ellyn Tornes, Colleyville; Ilenya Marrin, Flint; Deborah Clarkson, Alba; Edmund Burke, Frisco; and Grahame Jones, Austin. PST welcomes you! Also, it has been learned that former treasurer Amy Sandberg of Mesquite passed away on February 16, 2023.

As **Librarian, Blanks** reported on 21 books donated to the permanent PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library. Thirteen of those books were listed in the August Bulletin. Eight titles have been donated since then.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the August Financial report. There were no large expenditures. Most income came from membership renewals and annual contest fees.

Vice President Catherine L'Herisson, who was also head of the Executive Board Nominating Committee, said Sarah Wood resigned as Corresponding Secretary. PST thanks her for her service. Director Carol Thompson was willing to step up to that position if a replacement Director could be found. Ann Howells, a former Director, was willing to fill the position. These options were presented by L'Herisson at the Board meeting today, and the motions passed without dissent. **Carol Thompson is your new Corresponding Secretary. Ann Howells is your new Director.**

Director Steve Sanders pointed out how accessible the PST State Meeting was to its membership via Zoom. Attendance is no longer limited to the DFW area. He challenged the membership to start attending the meetings and to even host attendance "parties" to help those members who don't know how to Zoom or can't Zoom for whatever reasons. Sanders also announced three upcoming opportunities for members to read their poetry:

Iron Horse Heritage in Mineola, 9-23.

Arts Goggle in Fort Worth, 10-21.

WordFest in Waco, Nov. 3-5.

You can contact Steve or Carol Thompson for more information.

PST Board Members

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Spotlight on Members Chair Catherine L’Herisson introduced our Spotlight Poet, Karl Smith, Amarillo. Karl has been a PST Councilor for several years. He has been a teacher and a preacher, among other things, and is now retired. He said, “Poetry is what my heart can speak that my mouth cannot.”

Michael Guinn provided our Program Speaker, Dr. Russ Livingston. He was introduced by Program Chair JDarrell Kirkley. Russ, who lives just outside Boston, MA, is an M.D., Spoken Word Artist, Psychotherapist, and Systems Consultant. He said he has always had a love for language, but had written only 10-15 poems—then Covid hit. Through Mike Guinn, he found ClubHouse, where he now hosts the “Wounded Healers Poets Brigade” room. His poems are inspired by snippets of conversation by participants who talk about self-discovery, triumphs, where it hurts, and other

aspects of living. And they write poetry. Poetry can release repressed emotions. For instance, one person commented, “parenting is an art.” From that, Russ gave us “Wheelchair,” a poem that released deep emotions about his father. He is interested in the social injustice aspect of mental health care, and believes in the healing power of the arts, especially music and poetry. Social injustice invites change. He sees mindful poetic inquiry as a compass guiding us to self-knowledge, getting in touch with spirit, and to the ability to participate in mending community. His poem, “The Thinness of Paraffin,” ends with this line: “It’s not that we fly too close to the sun, but that we fail to realize that we and the stars are already one.”

Rich Weatherly has been handling the monthly contests for the last five years and would like to step down. If you are interested in being the new Monthly Contest Chair, please contact Rich.

September Monthly Contest Results 16 Entries

General Contests

Judge—JoAn Howerton, Lexington, KY
1st—Christine H. Boldt, Temple—“ Mimicry”
2nd—Irene Robertson, Little Elm
3rd—Mo H. Saidi, San Antonio

Laugh Lines

Laugh Lines Judge—Terry Jude Miller, Richmond
LL Winner—Alicia S. Azahar, Mansfield

Book Prize Winners

Book Prizes: Popular—Nancy Bowman Ballard, Springtown; Barney—Alicia Azahar, Mansfield; Badger—Manuel English, Poulsbo, WA; Birma’s—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio.
Other poems were by: Richard P. Hurzeler, Eric Blanchard, Hollis Davis, Barbara Blanks, Catherine L’Herisson, and Susan Maxwell Campbell.

Membership Report

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members....	213	Sustaining Members....	5
Associate Members....	15	Recently Deceased.....	0
Life Members.....	31	Benefactor Members...	1
Student Members.....	5	Honorary Members.....	5
Supporting Members....	2	Total Membership...	282

5 New Members

Active Members

Ellyn Tornes, Colleyville; Ilenya Marrin, Flint; Deborah Clarkson, Alba; Edmund Burke, Frisco; and Grahame Jones, Austin. **Welcome to PST!**

PST extends our heartfelt sympathy to the family of former treasurer Amy Sandberg of Mesquite passed away on February 16, 2023.

Book Donations Report

Librarian, Barbara Blanks reported 21 books donated to the permanent PST collection at the Dallas Central Library. Thirteen of those books were listed in the August Bulletin. These titles have been donated since then:

Navigating the Old Road, by Jan Spence.
Be A Teller of Tales, by Christine Irving.
Sonnets of Love and Joy, by Paul Buchheit.
Evermore, edited by Ravens Quoth Press.
Summer Anthology, edited by Sourav Sarkar.
Ghostly Ghouls & Haunted Happenings, edited by S. AZ Press.
The Stars & Moon in the Evening, edited by S. AZ Press.
Her Texas, edited by Walker-Nixon, Burluson, Crawford, & Palmer.

Members are encouraged to donate books to the library. If you have published a collection of poems your chapter publishes an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send books to Barbara Blanks. Her address is listed with the executive board.

PST is only as strong as our members. Please review the current critical open roles listed below. Help make sure PST remains strong in our second century.

ATTENTION!

Attention Volunteers!

ATTENTION!

PST still needs an Annual Contest Awards Chair

For Next Year - 2024

Volunteer Now & Spend a Year Learning the Ropes From Experts

Budd Powell Mahan (This Year's Chair)

and Lynn Roberts Grice (Former Chair)

Individuals and Chapters are Welcome

If you are interested, please reach out to a Board Member for more information.

ATTENTION!

Attention Volunteers!

ATTENTION!

PST Needs a Monthly Contest Awards Chair

Starting Immediately

Richard Weatherly, after five years as the Monthly Contest Chair, is retiring from this role. Rich will still be available to coach the new Contest Chair. There are nine contests a year. As the monthly chair, you will collect the poems, certify them (check for participant eligibility, ensure the number of lines/characters per line requirement is met), assemble and forward the packet to a pre-selected judge, then announce the results in the PST monthly meeting. You will also conduct the process of determining the Book Prize winners with the Executive Board. One of the benefits of this role is to interact with the PST Executive Board and with judges, all accomplished poets, around the country. The Contest Chair is ineligible to enter the Monthly Contest.

If you are interested, please reach out to Rich or another Board Member for more information.

The Fort Worth Poetry Society

In Cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas Offers

The William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, 2024

The contest honors the late Fort Worth poet William D. Barney, one of the most distinguished poets Fort Worth and Texas has produced, a former member of FWPS, and past president of the Poetry Society of Texas. Barney won the national Robert Frost Award in 1961 and was Texas Poet Laureate in 1982-83.

The winner will receive \$50 plus 10 free copies of the published chapbook. **Deadline: March 1, 2024.**

Rules for Entry:

1. This contest is open to Texas residents and/or active PST members only. Entry fee for Members of the Poetry Society of Texas is \$15. Entry fee for Texas resident non-members of PST is \$25. Payment should be made to: paypal.me/FWPOetrySociety.
2. Contestants should email their manuscript as a (.doc, .docx, or .pdf) attachment to fwpspoetry@gmail.com. Please put "Barney Chapbook Contest" as the subject line. English only, no translations. The manuscript should be a minimum of 20 but no more than 30 pages of poetry with no more than one poem per page. Poems should be in 12-point Times New Roman font and have no more than 50 characters per line including spaces. The manuscript may include both published and unpublished poems, but may **not** include poems from other books or chapbooks by the author. A majority of unpublished poems is preferred but not required. Do **not** include acknowledgments with the manuscript. The winner will supply an acknowledgments page, if needed, during arrangements for publication. The author must **not** be identified on the manuscript. Include name of author, address, phone, email, and title of the manuscript in the body of the email. **Entries will be received between January 1 and midnight, March 1, 2024.**
3. Manuscripts with poems that contain explicit sexual language or expletives will not be considered.
4. Fort Worth Poetry Society will assume the production costs of developing the manuscript into a market-ready, soft cover collection. This includes editing, cover design, pricing and ISBN registration. Upon publication of the finished chapbook, the author will receive 10 free copies of the chapbook, with additional copies available at the author discount of 50%. FWPS reserves the right to print and sell additional copies at retail cost. Except for the rights granted to the FWPS, the winner will retain the copyright to the chapbook.
5. The winner of the contest will not be eligible to enter again for six years. Current members of the Fort Worth Poetry Society are not eligible to enter this contest.
6. A qualified, impartial judge selected by FWPS, but not a member of FWPS or PST, will select the winning manuscript. The judge's name will not be announced until the winner is announced.
7. The winner will be invited to do readings from the chapbook at a PST Conference; at a monthly meeting of PST in Dallas; and at a public poetry program sponsored by FWPS.
8. Entering the contest acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.
9. Announcement of the winner will be at the April, 2024, PST meeting and by email to entrants.
10. Address any questions about the contest to: Michael Baldwin at librmike@hotmail.com.



NFSPS News

Your PST dues includes membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The latest issue of Strophes, the NFSPS newsletter is on their website. Strophes is no longer mailed to PST so you have to go online if you want to see it or print it if you want a copy.



About the Bulletin of The Poetry Society of Texas

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News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. Please include the name of the Chapter in the Subject Line. The Bulletin is published monthly August through May; however, **only annual contest results are published in the November Bulletin.** Bulletin is distributed to members via e-mail through the Corresponding Secretary and posted on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org under the "Publications" tab.

PST CHAPTER NEWS

SanAntonio Poets Association

Antonia Murguia Reporting

No Update

Beaumont Chapter

Dorothy Sells Clover Reporting

Hi PST! Beaumont Chapter here! We're over here plugging away at our own projects at our own pace. Santos Hernandez just submitted his manuscript for a much anticipated book he's been toiling diligently on. I know it will be worth the wait. Lou Whitaker says she's entering contests left and right! "You got to be in it to win it!", says Lou. Darrell Hagler, Melissa Hudler and I are sharing and discussing new and thought-provoking poetry once a month at @ The Art Studio Inc. It's all good in the neighborhood!

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Galen Steele Reporting

Attendees:

John Bartell, Steve Sanders, Helen Dent, Galen Steele, Denise Salerno, Mike Baldwin, Laurel Siena, Niel Ostman, Jeffrey DeLotto, Micheal Davies, Marilyn Komechak, Doris Brogan, Mary-margaret Belota, Cade Huie and Amanda Russell.

Opening poem:

"Clouds" by Steve Sanders

Opening poem next month: Michael Davies

Accolades

Doris Brogan had work accepted to 2023 Waco Wordfest.

Cade Huie had work accepted to 2023 Waco Wordfest and was the PST monthly winner for July.

Amanda Russell had work accepted with Open: Journal of arts and letters, and she has a poetry reading September 1 (details to follow).

Steve Sanders had work accepted to 2023 Waco Wordfest and was 2nd place in the PST July contest.

FWPS News: The State of Texas has scheduled the final meeting to review the FWPS historical marker. The unveiling is likely to occur 6 months to a year after the final meeting.

FWPS next meeting is September 26. **Fort Worth Poetry Society** held its monthly meeting on July 25 at Mexican Inn on Hulen. Members in attendance were John Bartell, Steve Sanders, Mike Baldwin, Cade Huey, Denise Salerno, Galen Steele, Jeffrey DeLotto, Helen Dent, Mary Margaret Belota, and Shay Shaw.

Mockingbird Chapter

Brian Cummings Reporting

Mockingbird Poetry Society met on Saturday, August 5, at the Heard-Craig annex. President Susan Mardele presided. Attending the meeting were fourteen members. Susan noted that the \$1,100 grant from the McKinney Arts Commission had been received. Susan also reported that the possibility of MPS becoming a 501c3 charity is still being researched. A meeting with the Art Club of McKinney to discuss next year's event will be scheduled shortly. Susan and Alice gave their impressions of the Summer Conference. It was noted that 14 members of the chapter had their poems selected for inclusion in the upcoming Waco WordFest anthology. Following the meeting, members read a selection of their own poems.

Poets Northwest

Eric Blanchard Reporting

At our August 2023 meeting, Poets Northwest focused on public presentation and discussed ways to give engaging and effective poetry readings. After hearing from experienced readers, we practiced reading our fellow poets' work as well as our own, identifying strong elements of reading out loud and effective elements of oral presentation. As usual, and to practice our newly acquired knowledge, many wonderful poems were shared during the read-around portion of our meeting.

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you happen to be in the area, feel free to join one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month. Please contact PNW via social media for more information. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of each monthly meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at <http://www.poetsnw.com>, on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest>, on Twitter as [@HoustonPoets](https://twitter.com/HoustonPoets), and on Instagram as [poetsnorthwest](https://www.instagram.com/poetsnorthwest).

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On August 17, 2023, eight members of the Rusk County Poetry Society and two visitors met at the multi-purpose building of South Main Church of Christ in

Henderson. **President Mary Tindall** asked all to list 3 personal writing goals to review occasionally, cross off those achieved and add more as they come to mind. Beverly Kelly, a guest, shared her experiences of using Storyworth to write and publish a book.

Our spotlight poet, Jackie McVey, wove her poems into her lesson titled "The Sensory Level of Poetry: Using Human and Non-Human Forms and Functions as Poem Prompts." She explained how concrete things, such as eyes or hands, are often used as elements of metaphors or personification to elicit emotional responses in the reader/hearer. After the lesson, several poets shared their writing.

The next RCPS meeting will be September 21, 2023, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the multi-purpose building of the South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. The prompt for the September meeting is to identify examples of simile or metaphor in our own poetry or the work of a famous poet that match those mentioned in the lesson. Poets were also encouraged to create a new poem that produces emotional responses by using something from the lesson.

Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society

Mary Tindall Reporting

No Update



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