

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

jdk

January 2024

PST Meeting February 10, 2:30 pm

Our Speaker will be Mr. Cordney McClain, Mba- Oklahoma



Cordney “MAC Woods” McClain is an Army Veteran, curriculum developer, inclusion practitioner, youth professional development coach, and an organizational development consultant. He has many passions but servicing the underserved has afforded him such honors and opportunities such as being an iHeart Radio Summit Mental Health panelists, Voted Top 40 Black Leaders Worldwide of 2022 and 2023, featured in the New York Weekly, a State of Oklahoma Community Mentorship Awardee, a Cherokee Nation Public Service Awardee, an Oklahoma Journal Record’s Achievers under 40, and a recent Leadership Tulsa Graduate.

A lover of words, known as “MAC Woods” in artistic spaces, is nationally nominated and iTunes charted at Number 1 in spoken word recorded music (September 2023). A trained actor as well, he has a multitude of film and commercial credits which has earned him a Heartland Emmy Award (2023). Along with numerous publications and news coverage, Cordney has branded himself as a “MAN ARTICULATION CHANGE” while utilizing his gift of gab and pen to inspire self-love, self-actualization, and goal execution.” Mr McClain will be introduced by PST Speaker Committee member Michael Guinn.

Dead Poet’s Quote of the Month

“Hold fast to your dreams, for without them life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”
Langston Hughes

PST General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2024

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 19 attendees.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the December membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Membership dues were payable in June. Please contact Lynn Lewis if you are unsure of your membership status. Life Membership status is granted based on your name being continuously included in each edition of A Book of the Year for a certain number of years, based on your age or how long you have been a member. Also, please urge your chapter members to become dues-paying members of PST to benefit from the many opportunities offered by PST. *Being a PST chapter member does not automatically make one a member of PST itself.*

Being a PST member automatically makes you a member of NFSPS—that is, PST pays your NFSPS membership dues. For current information and activities from NFSPS, please visit their website www.nfspd.net. You can also download each new issue of Strophes.

Since Treasurer Neal Ostman was temporarily offline, she also (as Assistant Treasurer) gave a brief December Financial report, which was all normal activity. Greatest income was from sponsorships for the 2024 annual contests.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson said the Mockingbird Chapter and the Art Club of McKinney are hosting an “Art Meets Poetry” event on February 3, from 2 p.m-8 p.m. It takes place at The Cove Art Gallery in McKinney. Admission is free. Springhill Suites by Marriott McKinney has reserved a block of rooms for attendees. Call 888-236-2427 and mention the Mockingbird Chapter to get the discounted price. Visit mockingbirdpoetry.org for details.

Director Steve Sanders reminded us about the William Barney Chapbook Contest, entry deadline March 1. You may contact Steve at steve.sanders@gmail.com for more information. He also asked members to think about the possibility of a summer conference via Zoom only. There would still be a registration fee, but no cost of hotel rooms, meals, travel. However, there would not be the enjoyment of camaraderie when meeting in person. The conference would likely be for one day, with a speaker and workshop. If your chapter—or several or several individuals—are willing to host a traditional conference, please contact Rich Weatherly and Catherine L’Herisson immediately.

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Continued on the next page...

After the announcements, **Vice President Catherine L'Herisson** presented the **Memorial Program** for the four PST members lost in 2023.

Amy Sandberg, of Mesquite, was 69 when she died on February 16. While Amy's membership had recently lapsed due to illness, she had acted as Treasurer for PST for several years. She was a loving mother and grandmother with a passion for poetry, and enjoyed going on adventures with the Senior Center after she retired.

Robert G. Duochoquette, M.D. 85, passed away on March 19, 2023, in Plano. He was a Life Member and former Director of PST. He graduated from Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, and was known as Dr. Bob by his patients. After his retirement, he continued to volunteer medically through his church to help others in foreign countries. Bob wrote and published a poetry book titled "Accidental? Physician Poet".

Barbara Green Powell was 82 when she passed away in Beaumont on June 14. She was a long-time member of PST and of the Beaumont Chapter, and a prize-winning poet. She and Birma Castle were close friends, perhaps bonding over their love of the color purple. Barbara often assisted Birma with the Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat in Eureka Springs, making the journey together every year. She was well-loved by her children and grandchildren.

Mary Margaret Carlisle passed away on November 11, at age 81. She was a lapsed member due to a long illness, but while she was able, she was not only a PST member and former Councilor, but a genuine force for poetry. Poet, writer, essayist, and poetry judge, Mary Margaret has several chapbooks, and her work has been published in numerous literary journals, magazines, anthologies, and online poetry journals. She was also a member of Texas Association of Creative Writing Teachers, Texas State Historical Society, The Poetry Society of America, Gulf Coast Poets, Galveston Poets Roundtable, Gulf Coast Women Who Write, The Academy of American Poets, Women in the Visual and Literary Arts, and others. Project Director of Sol Magazine, she also chaired Ampersand Poetry Journal's board.

Program Chair JDarrell Kirkley hosted the annual **Poem-Athon**. He called on all attendees alphabetically, and each had the opportunity to read one or two of their poems.

Before the monthly contests were announced, **Book Prize Mailer Barbara Blanks** announced the addition of a new award: the **Seadog CD Prize**, donated by **Steve Sanders** of **Seadog Studios**. These are recordings of PST and NFSPS poets at a variety of venues over the years.

The PST Board is pleased to Announce that Holly Jahangiri is our new Webmaster!

Holly Jahangiri is a member of Poets Northwest, a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas located in northwest Houston. She chaired the group's anthology Committee in 2023, helping to edit and produce *Dreams + Nightmares*. She is the author of three children's books: *Trockle; A Puppy, Not a Guppy*; and *A New Leaf for Lyle*. Holly draws inspiration from her family, from her own childhood adventures (some of which only happened in her overactive imagination), and from readers both young and young in spirit. She lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband, J.J., whose love and encouragement make writing books twice the fun.

The PST Board thanks JDarrell Kirkley for his service as Webmaster. J Darrell has worn multiple hats in supporting PST, and will continue to do so, just with one fewer.

January Monthly Contest Results

14 Entries

General Contest

General Contest Judge—Lynda LaRocca, CO

1st—Eric Blanchard, Houston—“Living with You”

2nd—Galen Steele, Fort Worth

3rd—Barbara Blanks, Garland

Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland

LL Winner: Irene Robertson, Little Elm

Book Prize Winners:

Popular—Manuel L. English, Poulsbo, WA;

Badger—Fred Manchester, McKinney; **Birma's**

Collection—Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield;

Marshall Prize—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie;

Seadog CD—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio.

Other poems were by: Catherine L'Herisson,

Nancy Bowman Ballard, Irene Robertson, JDarrell

Kirkley, and Richard Hurzeler.

Membership Report

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members....	160	Recently Deceased....	0
Associate Members....	10	Benefactor Members...	0
Life Members.....	31	Honorary Members.....	5
Supporting Members....	2	Total Membership...	212
Sustaining Members....	4		

No New Members

Book Donations Report

Librarian, **Barbara Blanks** reported

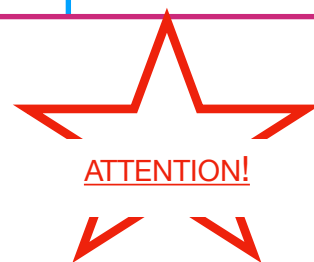
Teardrops on the Counter, by Jay Harding.

- The Really Trulys, by Susan Maxwell Campbell.
- To The Aging Woman in the Damp Lawn Chair and Note from a Southern River, by Mary Margaret Carlisle.
- Two Gulls, One Hawk, by James Hoggard.



Attention Volunteers!

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.

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.

A Note from PST Corresponding Secretary *Carol Thompson*

Hello, poets! We've moved into another year of writing poetry and making plans for our writing projects - a time of creative expectation! In the midst of writing, please take time to make sure your membership with the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) is current.

Annual membership dues are \$ 25.00 **payable by the end of June each year** (or \$ 500.00 for life.) While we send out reminders, we know life gets busy and dues payment can fall by the wayside.

You can mail your dues to Lynn Lewis, membership chair (elsquared59@yahoo.com) at

Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

and can even send them via Paypal (paypal.me/PSTexas).

You can be dropped from the rolls for failing to send dues by November 30. We know that you don't want to be dropped! Membership entitles you to enter the free monthly contests, PST annual contests - and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) for a reduced fee. Paying your annual PST dues means that you are automatically a member of NFSPS. You also receive PST's The Bulletin and A Book of the Year. Membership allows you to join the PST-For Members Facebook group to receive current information and links not available to the general public. Pay your dues and keep up with us!

Our general PST meetings are now held on Zoom, so you can attend no matter where you live. Our meetings provide current information, member-featured Spotlight poetry, program speakers, contest results - and fun! You can read about both societies at poetrysocietyoftexas.org and at nfsp.org. Take an active part in these organizations – they are well worth your time!

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.

Our 36th annual College Undergraduate Poetry chapbook contest is accepting submissions through the end of this month! Please encourage your best student/poets to submit 10 unpublished poems. Two winners will each receive \$500, publication of their chapbook with 75 author copies, and a \$300 travel stipend to read at our annual convention in Roswell, Georgia, June 5-10.

Full details can be found at nfsp.net. Please share widely!

National Federation of State Poetry Societies

36th Annual

College

Undergraduate

POETRY

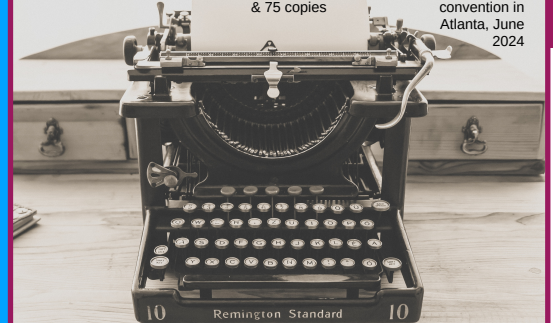
Contest

Winners Receive:

1 \$500

2 chapbook
publication
& 75 copies

3 \$300 stipend to
attend national
convention in
Atlanta, June
2024



\$10 entry fee

submit 10 original,
unpublished poems

by Jan 31, 2024

guidelines and submissions: nfsp.net

Art Meets Poetry

Art Meets Poetry is almost here! Artists and poets have collaborated to create nearly 40 pairings of visual art matched with poetry. Art Meets Poetry is a creative collaboration between the Mockingbird Poetry Society and the Art Club of McKinney. The purpose of the event is to unite greater McKinney artists and poets by inspiring creativity and seeing in new ways. As Leonardo da Vinci once said, "Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen."

You can view the installation from 2-8 p.m. on Saturday, February 3 with live poetry readings. The event will be held at the Cove, 403 N. Tennessee St., McKinney. Art Meets Poetry is free, but donations and an art raffle will benefit three food security charities in McKinney. Reserve a room at the Springhill Suites and make a weekend of it! Call 888-236-2427 for a reservation.



Forest Poetry: Warm Moon

Daniele Jones

ART & POETRY PAIRINGS
+
LIVE READINGS

FEB 3rd, 2024
2pm-8pm
at

the **Cove** McKinney
a cooperative venue for creatives

402 N TENNESSEE ST MCKINNEY 75069

ARTMEETS
Poetry
mockingbirdpoetry.org

Thank you to our supporters:



Presented by the
Mockingbird Poetry Society
and the
Art Club of McKinney

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.

POST CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia Reporting

Happy New Year from Alamo Area Poets of Texas! We began with our January 2024 meeting with Happy Greetings! After the pledge and a moment of silence, we were treated to a presentation by our Secretary, Antoinette Winstead.

Antoinette explained Artificial Intelligence (AI) to our members. This is a program that is constantly learning, however, it learns off of the information it is given. Artificial Intelligence hallucinates, meaning it creates from what it knows and this creation may not be real.

This program is just trying to please you. It is used for making commercials and it can be used to edit. One can also simply ask questions, like, 'What kind of events can you do in San Antonio?' She gave us an example of three poems that were created by AI. Discussion was held and we concluded that the poems excluded emotions.

She stated that Chatgpt is a free program of AI that can be checked out. Of course, the program can be purchased, the Chatgpt Pro, to add more features.

Antoinette stated that the Vice-President of the United States and other CEOs from companies making and using the AI program met to discuss the rules and ethics involving Artificial Intelligence. AI was given to the public before rules were established and conflicts have risen in all areas of society's occupations.

Our AAPT winners for December are: Assigned Topic: 1st Place: Pat Gibbs; 2nd Place: Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Lea Fagin. Open Topic: 1st Place: Sheila Moore; 2nd Place: Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place: Antoinette Winstead; Honorable Mention: Pat Gibbs.

Our Assigned Topic for February is *Someone Who Made a Difference in Their Lives*. The judge will be Lavern Spencer McCarthy. Our speaker will be Alexandra Van De Kamp. She is Executive Director of Gemini Ink, San Antonio's Writing Arts Center and is a wonderful presenter and I cannot wait to see her!

Denton Poets Assembly

Denton Poets' Assembly met Saturday, Jan. 20 at the Emily Fowler Library with 12 present in the room, and 17 additional attendees by Zoom.

Chris Irving presented a close read of "Flamingo Watching" by former U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, the poet featured in January's Read & Respond series. Chris found several literary devices in this amazing poem.

Response poems inspired by some aspect of Ryan's work and "free" poems were shared on Powerpoint. As Inspiration Readers, members Bob Schinzel and Gene Kusterer spoke about the process of writing their poems.

The Read & Respond poet for February 2024 is Robert Lowell, the second of the U.S. Poets Laureate series for 2024. Lowell was the sixth U.S. poet laureate, serving from 1947-48. He also was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1947 and 1974.

President Richard Kushmaul said there are 30 pairings of poetry with art for the Merging Visions 2024 exhibit, an ekphrastic exhibition which opens May 4 at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center in downtown Denton. A catalog of the poems and art is included.

Because DPA is committed to the hybrid style of meeting to accommodate members who live too far to drive to Denton, we invite all interested persons to contact President Richard Kushmaul (richardkdpa@gmail.com). We meet the third Saturday of the month, year-round, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Galen Steele Reporting

Fort Worth Poetry Society, a fierce band of dedicated poets, met for fellowship and critique at Steve Sander's house. January 23.

New business: We need a new meeting location, please send suggestions. We meet the 4th Tuesday of every month 6:30-8:30 with 12-15 members attending in person.

Treasurer's Report: reminder send FWPS annual membership dues to Mike Baldwin.

Members critiqued 6 fantastically original poems before adjourning.

Next meeting:

Date: Tuesday February 27, location to be determined.

Mockingbird Chapter

Brian Cummings Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society met on Saturday, January 6 at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. President Susan Mardele presided. In attendance were 14 members and one guest. Susan noted that membership dues of \$20 are due in January. Susan passed along a report from Barry Rynk who was unable to attend, that there were 39 entries to date in the annual Art Meets Poetry contest, one shy of the goal of 40 entries. Last year, there were 34 entries. The event is scheduled for 2-8 p.m., Saturday, February 3 at The Cove Art Gallery at 402 N Tennessee St. in McKinney. A reception for the artists and poets will be held February 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. Susan also reported that Beth Ayers is beginning to receive entries for Collin County Poetry Contest. Entries must be postmarked by February 1.

Poets Northwest

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

Poets Northwest celebrated the end of 2023 with our annual end-of-year get-together, graciously hosted by the esteemed and inimitable Maxine Kohanski. Congratulations to the holiday contest winners, Mary Creviere Turner and Stephen Schwei.

With much gratitude, Poets Northwest congratulates its new Board Members and thanks everyone who helped to make 2023 a success, including our Anthology editorial team and contributors. We are looking forward to 2024!

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you are in the area, we invite you to visit one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month. Please contact us via social media for more information. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works of poetry 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 X (formerly known as Twitter) as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest.

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On December 14, 2023, ten members and guests of the Rusk County Poetry Society met at the home of Jo and Johnny Morrow in Henderson for a holiday pot luck lunch. Ten society members and guests enjoyed the meal, followed by reading poems. A surprise activity was taking photos under a holiday balloon arch. A collection of non-perishable food items was donated to We Care Too in Arp, Texas.



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org