

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

February 2024

jdk

PST Monthly Meeting

March 9, 2:30 pm

Our Speaker will be Kristen Joy Hester - New Mexico



Kristen Joy Hester, also known as The Billionaire Bride, is a true testament to the transformative and restorative power of art. Writing and poetry saved her life. Kristen Joy found her calling in education working with students teaching choir, ELA, and poetry in New Mexico. Her most recent endeavor was the pilot program Write It Out Loud in Hobbs, New Mexico, where her work involved not only students, but their families and community members as well. She believes that all students deserve a safe space to pursue their creativity, and promotes students' voices in sharing their own stories. After relocating to Fort Worth in August of this year, Kristen Joy works as a Big Thought teaching artist working with students across the metroplex including Academy of Visual and Performing Arts in Fort Worth. With ten years of

writing under her belt, she performs locally as The Billionaire Bride, sharing her personal story of Hope through poetry. "No matter the darkness, no matter the struggle, there is always help, there is always Hope." Kristin Joy Hester will be introduced by PST Speaker Committee member Michael Guinn.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you"

- Maya Angelou

PST General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2024

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 28 attendees. We thank Susan Maxwell Campbell for hosting this Zoom meeting.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the **January membership report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. Active Members 170, Associate 11, Life 31, Honorary 5; Supporting 2; Sustaining 4; Recently Deceased 0. We have 8 new Active Members: Suzette Bishop, Laredo; Mary Ellen Bluntzer, Dallas; LeAnne Reaves, Decatur; Sharon Tatom, Tucson, AZ; Tyler Miloy, Austin; Ernie Lee, Canyon Lake; Michael Guinn, Irving; Christine Kohler, Granbury. Total Membership: 223.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR

MEMBERSHIP: If your dues are not current when you enter any of PST's contests, your entry will be disqualified. If your dues have not been paid by the grace period of November 30, your name is removed from the membership roles. So if you renew after that date, you are considered a "new" member. 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 and/or how long you have been a member. Membership dues were payable in June. Please contact Lynn Lewis if you are unsure of your membership status. 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 PST pays your NFSPS membership dues, which means you are eligible for the many opportunities NFSPS offers. For current information and activities from NFSPS, please visit their website www.nfspd.net. You can also download each new issue of Strophes.

VP Catherine L'Herisson reminded us about the March 15 deadline for entry in the NFSPS annual contests. Their convention will take place in Roswell, GA. There are several convention contests running right now. Details are in the January Strophes, available at www.nfspd.net.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave a brief January Financial report. Greatest income was from sponsorships for the 2024 annual contests and from renewing and new memberships. Largest outgo was payment to NFSPS for membership dues, at \$3 per member.

PST Board Members

President: Richard Weatherly
7617 Palomar Dr. • N. Richland Hills, TX 76180
817-428-8088 WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Catherine L'Herisson
518 Grinnell Dr. • Garland TX 75043
972-270-4994 • caterinepoet@juno.com

Treasurer: Neal Ostman
1104 Tinker Rd. • Colleyville, TX 76034
817-937-3922 • nealrost@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Rd • Garland, TX 75044-7254
972-495-7311 • barbarablanks@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Thompson
806 Festoon Court • Tyler 75703
903-539-0458 • btt0212@hotmail.com

Director: J Darrell Kirkley
528 Choctaw • Quitman, TX 75783
214-957-8616 • jdarrell@jdkcom.com

Director: Steve Sanders
6709 DelPrado Ave • Fort Worth TX 76133
817-896-2570 • steve.sanders@gmail.com

Director: Ann Howells
1621 Brighton Drive • Carrollton TX 75007
972-394-1580 • annhwlls@gmail.com

Continued on the next page...

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. The response indicated a hybrid conference—in person/Zoom would be preferred. A Grapevine location is being investigated. If your chapter—or several individuals—are willing to host a traditional conference, please contact Steve, Rich Weatherly or Catherine L'Herisson immediately.

Spotlight on Poets Chair Catherine L'Herisson introduced our **Spotlight Poet, James Neiswender** of Denton. He is a member of Denton Poets Assembly. He has won in both PST & NFSPS contests, and he paired with Diane Glancy in the 2020 Merging Visions Exhibit. James said he finds writing poetry "exciting, challenging, and fulfilling." He read several of his poems.

Program Chair Committee Member Michael Guinn introduced our **Program Speaker, Cordney "MAC Woods" McClain**. "MAC" is for "Man Articulating Change." "Woods" is his tribute to Laurence "Piney Woods" Jones, a man who not only survived a near-lynching by a white mob, but was so passionate about educating African-American

children that some of the crowd collected money to help support the school. McClain himself is a 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 panelist, and was voted Top 40 Black Leaders Worldwide of 2022 and 2023, among many other honors. His Spoken Word poems, as well as his acting career, inspire self-love, self-actualization, and goal execution. His poems are thought-provoking, disturbing, and honest. He said he leans on poetry—"it's been my muse and never done me any harm." McClain's first poem, *Jigsaw*, includes the line, "Being born black is assembly required—instructions not included." Because of racism in America, he couldn't fathom defending it, but because he wanted to pay off his student debts, he joined the Army, and is a seven-year combat engineer veteran. His poem *PTSD* ("Post Traumatic Slave Disease") is a letter to himself, warning him of what was ahead of him as a soldier, saying it's been proven the system thinks "the ink of politicians is worth more than the blood of its victims." McClain, who is married and has "two little divas, age 7 & 8," also speaks and writes poems about love.



ATTENTION!

Attention Volunteers!

**PST Needs a Monthly Contest Awards Chair
Starting Immediately**



ATTENTION!

Richard Weatherly, after six 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.

February Monthly Contest Results

Chairman Richard Weatherly
9 Entries

General Contest

Judge—Crystal Robbins, Santa Monica, CA

1st—Fred Manchester, McKinney—*Melopoeia*
2nd— Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
3rd— Cade Huie, Grand Prairie

Laugh Lines

Judge—Irene Robertson, Little Elm
LL Winner— Barbara Blanks, Garland

Book Prizes:

Popular— Irene Robertson, Little Elm;
Badger--Barbara Blanks, Garland; Birma’s
Collection— JDarrell Kirkley, Quitman;
Marshall Prize —Manuel L. English, Poulso, WA;
Seadog CD — Richard Hurzeler, Tyler.

Other poem was by Sylvia S. Medele.

Membership Report

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.... ..170	Recently Deceased.....0
Associate Members....11	Benefactor Members...0
Life Members.....31	Honorary Members.....5
Supporting Members....2	Total Membership...223
Sustaining Members....4	

New Active Members

We have 8 new Active Members: Suzette Bishop, Laredo; Mary Ellen Bluntzer, Dallas; LeAnne Reaves, Decatur; Sharon Tatom, Tucson, AZ; Tyler Miloy, Austin; Ernie Lee, Canyon Lake; Michael Guinn, Irving; Christine Kohler, Granbury.

Book Donations Report

Librarian, Barbara Blanks reported there were no donations. Any PST member wishing to donate a book should contact Barbara. Her contact information is listed on page 2.

A Note From Our 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!

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.

NFSPS News

Your PST dues include 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.

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

BLACKBERRY PEACH NEWS



This year for the second time the Blackberry Peach National Poetry Slam Competition will be held in conjunction with the NFSPS annual convention.

The NFSPS Convention theme this year is VOICES SET FREE, blending the usual emphasis on the literary aspect of poetry with the excitement of Performance Poetry at the National Blackberry Peach Poetry Slam Championship. The Third Annual Blackberry Peach Youth Festival will also be held during convention, with poetry workshops by previous winners of the Blackberry Peach Written and Spoken Word contest. As part of the Festival, a National Youth Poetry Slam competition with medals and cash prizes will be held.

Complete details are available on the NFSPS website at NFSPS.com.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information about this year's Blackberry Peach Written and Spoken Word Contest, which will be open for submissions from January 1-March 15, 2024 or the Blackberry Peach National Poetry Slam Competition, or the Youth Festival, both to be held as part of this year's convention scheduled for June, 2024 in Georgia or if you have ideas or input for next year's NFSPS convention, please contact me at jcavanaugh1@gmail.com. ~Joe Cavanaugh, NFSPS First Vice President and Blackberry Peach

CONVENTION MADNESS! POETRY CONTEST

Win Your Way to NFSPS Convention

June 5- June 10, 2024

Roswell, Georgia

Must attend to receive prize

1st Place— 5 nights stay at the Doubletree Hilton (\$800.00)

2nd Place—All meals (package) (approximately \$200.00)

3rd Place—Registration Fee (\$125.00)

Any form, any subject, limit one page, 12 point type. May be previously published. Simultaneous submissions acceptable.

Fee: NFSPS, Inc. Members 3 poems for \$15.00. Non-members 3 poems for \$20.00. Make payment on Submittable to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

No limit on number of submissions, so long as a new entry fee is included for each set of 3 poems.

To submit: Go to nfsp.submittable.com

Name, address, phone number, e-mail, and State Society membership to be included in Submittable information. No identifying marks or your name on actual poems. No acknowledgements for previously published; if a winner, poem will be acknowledged. No illustrations or pictures.

DEADLINE: April 6, 2024. Winners will be notified by April 27, 2024.

NFSPS ANNUAL CONTESTS

Check the October 2023 issue of Strophes for the Annual Contest Brochure. Submission period January 1-March 15, 2024!

Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest, 2024 ***Poetry Society of Texas***

Are your poems begging to be published? Do you have poems that sparkle with heart and wit? Do they beg to become a collection so they may sing together? Are you ready to give your poems to the world? Here's a grand opportunity! The Poetry Society of Texas sponsors annually the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest open to all active dues-paid and Life members of PST, writing in English. You may submit your manuscript of 45 to 60 pages of poetry between June 1 and August 1, 2024. The prize will be fifty copies of your book, ready to market, and \$100. Now is the time to start considering your entry! Read the full rules on the web page of the Poetry Society of Texas, and good luck!

Announcing The 100 Annual Contests of the Society of Texas 2024

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by August 15.

Entries in the Annual Contests are mailed to the PST Annual Contests Chairman:

Poems that contain explicit sexual language or expletives cannot be considered for recognition.

The Chairman is responsible for selecting judges, except when the sponsor names the judge. Each contest is judged by one competent judge, unless otherwise specified. Each judge selects the winning poems in a given contest, ranks the top ten poems by titles and numbers, and returns the poems to the Chairman.

The Chairman prepares a list of winners which is submitted to the Annual Contests Committee which is comprised of the President, the Vice President and the Treasurer of PST. If, in the opinion of the Committee, no entry in a contest measures up to the desired standard, the award may be withheld.

1st place winners are notified by mail.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place contest winners are announced at the Annual Awards Banquet in Dallas each year.

1st place winners who are present read their poems.

1st place poems may not be published in any media before they appear in the PST *A Book of the Year*. (Refer to Rule #6 under Eligibility of Poems in ABOTY.) Thereafter, full rights revert to the authors.

The authors retain full claim to non-winning poems and poems winning other than 1st place.

The Annual Contest Brochure is Available on the PAST Website
<https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/>



Taking Wing

Cade Huie

The sun claimed you, left his handprint on your wings: his flame-hued brand, golden auburn veined with charcoal—his signature of fire. Today, bearing his gift of ascension, with him you rise as night yields to his coming. Like burning glitter you fling yourselves upon a southbound breeze, ready for the journey you were born to begin.

Bright ones, take me with you! Carry me high on your gilded wings; flush me with your crimson! Buoy me with your sibilant voices, with tales of wonders your blood recalls: visions infused by the chrysalis into your embryonic dreams—

trailing sailing wind-ships skimming a continent; drowsing in leafy havens, your fluttering clusters like fairy lanterns swaying in blue shadows; bitter milkweed on your tongue's black filament sustaining you through long moons of journeying; delicate membranes of flame bearing you over wide plains embroidered with rivers; stroking the sky from Canada's peaks to the roiling Gulf, crossing unruly water on the salt breeze at last, drawn on by the perfume of your tropical retreat as you speed with weary wings, reaching for tall oyamel trees waiting on their mountainside for your arrival, spreading sturdy arms to welcome you to your future deathplace and the birthplace of your young, who in the spring will soar on warming winds, north to a place they recognize yet their eyes have never seen.

Let me fly with you, beings of power beyond mortal strength; sparks of soul shed by the sun, royals of the air; for mine are your wings as I send my heart aloft. In the light we will fly, you and I—we will fly.

Art Meets Poetry's Winning Combination

Doris Brogan

The 2024 Art Meets Poetry exhibit was held at The Cove Art Gallery in downtown McKinney on February 3-4. More than 280 attendees enjoyed the third annual meeting of ekphrastic art and poetry from members of The Art Club of McKinney and the Mockingbird Poetry Society in McKinney, as well as nonmember participants.

Each attendee received a ballot to vote for the best pairing of artwork and poem in the exhibit. When all votes were tallied Saturday evening, artist Juju Bartush's painting *Butterfly Prayer* and Cade Huie's poem "Taking Wing" were honored with the People's Choice Award.

Cade's first sight of Juju's painting made her feel the urge to join the magnificent butterfly. She wrote her poem to convey, "... a longing to fly with these miraculous creatures on their journey." Juju's initial reading of Cade's poem made her "... joyous because she seemed to see the painting through my eyes. Which, for an artist, is all one can ask..."

When poet and artist met at the exhibit's reception, Friday, February 2nd, "We discovered a shared vision," Cade explained, because their love of nature inspires creativity in both of them.

Cade and Juju's creative pairing will be on display at the Heard-Craig Museum in McKinney February 11-29.

Art Meets Poetry, the brainchild of Mockingbird member Barry Rynk, is a creative collaboration between The Art Club of McKinney (of which Barry is also a member), the Mockingbird Poetry Society and the Heard-Craig Center for the Arts.

For information about AMP 2025 participation, check the Mockingbird website, mockingbirdpoetry.org, under upcoming events. Notices will post in late summer/early fall.

Art



Poetry

A PST Bulletin Special

RING THE BELL



Come ring the bell for poetry at the 2024 Winsboro Festival of Books! The Fort Worth Poetry Society will have a booth at the Festival and will have our "Poetry Bell" open for business. This year's Festival is on May 4, 2024 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. If you're not familiar with the FWPS programs, here's what we do - attendees of the festival will approach our booth and RING our bell to "add poetry to their day." We need a "rotation" of poets who will respond to the ringing of the bell by interacting with the public by reciting a poem for them ON THE SPOT! The FWPS invites every poet from the Poetry Society of Texas to come and take part in this incredible, interactive event where you will share your love of poetry with the general public! This is especially exciting this year because the theme for this year's Festival is "a thread of poetry." If you are interested in being part of this event, contact Steve Sanders at steve.sanders@gmail.com. **Come out and read some poetry!**

**April is National Poetry Month
If Your Chapter is Planning Any Activities to Celebrate
Let Us Know**

About the Bulletin of The Poetry Society of Texas

Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester
fmanchester@yahoo.com

Graphics: JDarrell Kirkley

Distribution: Carol Thompson (Corresponding Secretary)

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**

Our meeting was held on the third day of February. After the pledge and a moment of silence, we were treated to a presentation by one of our featured speakers who came last year.

Alexandra VandeKamp, Director of Gemini Ink, San Antonio's Writing Arts Center was with us again. She shared a packet of poems and some prompts. She shared her poem called "Daily Survival Guide -Take #1." It is a very interesting poem. She goes through the day with each stanza. The neat thing is each stanza is not your ordinary stanza, but a stanza filled with imagery that one does not anticipate what she is going to say. She also shared "Self-Portrait as Coriander Seed" by Abby E. Murray. This powerful poem speaks to the safety of children and gun violence and voting. It has metaphors weaved in and out of the voting language. Alexandra ended her presentation by speaking about Gemini Ink and programs and classes that are provided. It was wonderful to learn from Alexandra again.

Our AAPT winners for January are: Assigned Topic: 1st Place: Susan Sabino; 2nd Place: Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Dee Ramdass. Open Topic: 1st Place: Sheila Moore; 2nd Place: Susan Sabino; 3rd Place: Rene Ornes; Honorable Mention: Sheri Anderson.

Our Assigned Topic for March is *Something Precious That was Lost and Later Found*. The judge will be Jean Jackson. Our speaker will be our own Sheila Moore, Emeritus 2023 Poet Laureate. Sheila has warned our members to bring pencil and paper and be ready to write!

I can't wait to see what she has in mind.

Denton Poets' Assembly

Denton Poets' Assembly met Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at Emily Fowler Library with 13 present and 14 additional attendees by Zoom. Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a close read of "For the Union Dead" by February's Read and Response poet Robert Lowell. DPA members then read original response poems to Lowell's poems, with Diane Glancy sharing her poem "Auditory" as a response to Lowell's poem "History."

Members then shared their submitted free poems, and Cade Huie, as the inspiration reader, read her poem "Breaking the Sod" and discussed her creative process. She said she stays alert for the arrival of an idea for a poem, and she writes that idea into her phone. The March Read and Respond poet is Charles Simic (1938-2023), who was appointed U.S. poet laureate in 2007.

President Richard Kushmaul said things are moving along for this summer's Merging Visions, an ekphrastic exhibition scheduled for this summer at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center in downtown Denton. Vice president Betty Roberts mentioned several upcoming dates, including the Tejas Storytelling Festival at the Denton Civic Center March 7-10.

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 at richardkdpa@gmail.com. We meet the third Saturday of the month 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 mutual support at Monkey and Dog Books on Tuesday, February 27. The creative spark illuminated the spirit of all in attendance.

Opening poem: John Bartell "Drowning Creek" Ada Limon
Next opening poem: Amanda Russell

Treasure Report: More than a beggar's bowl less than Fort Knox.

New Business:

- Thank you Monkey and Dog Books you are the best! FWPS is still looking for a permanent space.
- Beginning in April, FWPS will experiment with occasional weekend meetings.
- April is national poetry month, and FWPS will celebrate by hosting a poetry reading at Monkey and Dog Books April 13. Time to be determined.

Fort Worth Poetry Society *(Continued)*

- Steve is also working on scheduling an open mic night at Fort Brewery.
- FWPS will once again participate in the Winsborro festival of books on May 4.
- Nominations are open for officer positions. Current officers are: John Bartell - President; Helen Dent - Vice Presidential; Mike Baldwin - Treasurer; Galen Steele, Secretary; Denise Salerno - Historian; Steve Saunders - WebMester.

Members critiqued 8 pretty awesome poems before adjourning.

Next meeting: 6:30 pm, March 26, someplace fantastic but still to be determined.

Mockingbird Chapter

Brian Cummings Reporting

In lieu of its February chapter meeting, the Mockingbird Poetry Society co-hosted the third annual Art Meets Poetry Contest in collaboration with the Art Club of McKinney at the Cove Art Gallery in McKinney. The event on Feb. 3 featured 40 exhibit stations featuring both artwork inspired by poems and poems inspired by artworks.

The event was conceived by Mockingbird poet Barry Rynk who has spearheaded the event since its inception three years ago. He was assisted by numerous volunteers from both societies with special help from Beth Ayers who handled the; printing and blocking all the poems for display; Sylvia Medel who helped with marketing; and Doris Brogan who handled the layout, editing, and compiling of musings and bios for a possible on line anthology.

The top three People's Choice selections were:

- 1st: Butterfly Prayer (JuJu Bartush)/Taking Wing (Cade Huie)
- 2nd: Forest Poetry—Warm Moon (Daniele Jones)/Warm Moon Rising (Susan Mardele)
- 3rd: She Blooms (Leticia Herrera)/When the Woman Is a Land (Lopa Banerjee)

The event also raised \$790 which was donated to three McKinney charities that help feed the homeless.

Poets Northwest

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

Poets Northwest kicked off 2024 by featuring readings from members who had won or placed in the 2023 PST annual contests. Members of Poets Northwest won or placed in 95 of 100 contests! They

included Cheri Bell, Eric Blanchard, George Fredric Campbell, Sharon Dodd (Rose of Sharon), Lynn Roberts Grice, Daniel R. Hunter, Holly Jahangiri, Maxine B. Kohanski, Karen Mastracchio, Terry Jude Miller, Michael Owens, Lisa Toth Salinas, Don Samp, Stephen Schwei, and Mary Creviere Turner. We ended with a read-around, inviting all members to share their poems.

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 January 18, 2024, eight members and guests of the Rusk County Poetry Society met at the multi-purpose building of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. President Mary Tindall read "One Extra Day" by Joyce McGee, an RCPS member who passed away in December of 2023. Those present shared memories of Joyce.

Officers were elected for 2024 as follows: Sue Roberts, president; Jackie McVey, vice-president; Ilenya Marrin, secretary; Carol Thompson, treasurer; Janet Tyner, corresponding secretary. An installation was conducted by Jo Morrow who also presented outgoing president Mary Tindall with a milk glass bowl. Mary then read a new cento she wrote using lines from RCPS members' poems.

Sue Roberts presented "8 Tips to Improve Your Poetry." She also read poems by Li-Young Lee in the Spotlight Poet segment of the meeting.

For the next RCPS meeting on February 15, poets are encouraged to revise a poem using one or more of the tips from Sue's presentation, taking note of any improvement that was achieved.

Beaumont Chapter

Dorothy Sells Clover Reporting

Beaumont Chapter PST here!

Santos J. Hernandez is writing the sequel to his novel "SantoSaint", and submitting a manuscript to his publisher for a third poetry book. We finally persuaded Darrell Hagler to start entering. His poems are so good that it makes no sense not to.

Beaumont Chapter *(Continued)*

Melissa Gouthier still holding workshops, enhancing poets knowledge of writing. I'm still plugging diligently, trying to build our areas appreciation of the art of poetry.

My events, "Thoughtcrime Live" and "Poetry Night @ Sertino's" are gradually picking up steam with more participation every month!! Lou Whitaker writes and enters contests constantly. You gotta be in it to win it! Good for you, Lou! Happy writing !



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

jdk