

The Bulletin



Poetry Society of Texas

Founded November 5, 1921

April 2024

*Spring is
in the air!*

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Editor:

Fred Manchester

PST Monthly Meeting

May 11, 2:30 pm

Anita Johnson MFA Student - Knoxville Tennessee



"Ade" Anita Johnson is an emerging Black southern poet and spoken word artist that creates modern dance on the page. Pulling from her sturdy roots, and ever-blossoming love of the natural, she explores the lyrical rhythm of phrasing while digging into themes of love, identity, justice and the divine. She is a member of the 5th Woman Poet Collective and the Knoxville Writer's Guild. As a fiction writer she strives to create diverse worlds for YA readers to see themselves in imagined magical futures. She is the founder and curator of Colors of Light Black People Write, a global online writing community for Black writers.

Colors of Light offers regular writing sessions & workshops as it seeks to build a community for Black writers of all genres to connect, write, support, and encourage each other. Ade loves to inspire all ages to tap into their creativity and write. She aims to ignite imaginations, invite critical thought, and challenge norms served with a drip of honey and a dash of humor. Her chapbook "Moving in Twilight – Searching in the Dark" was published in 2023 and she is currently working on poetry and a YA fantasy novel. She holds a BA in English and Theatre from Mount Holyoke College, and she currently resides in Knoxville, TN. Anita Johnson will be introduced by PST Speaker Committee member Michael Guinn.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"Poetry is man's rebellion against being what he is." —James Branch Cabell

PST General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2024

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 27 attendees.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the March membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 176, Associate 12, Life 31, Student 1, Honorary 5; Supporting 2; Sustaining 4; Recently Deceased 0. We have 3 new Active Members: Jonathan Peckham, Cypress; Audrey Haferkamp Towns, Lakeside; Luran Perry English, Spring. One new Associate Member: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC. Total Membership: 223.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the March Financial report. A deposit was made to the DoubleTree Hotel where we will hold our Awards Banquet in November. Other payment was for the USPS bulk mailing permit that allows A Book of the Year to be mailed at a reduced rate. Also noted: the funds for the Other Point of View contest, established in honor of Coke Brown, are almost depleted. The final contest will run in 2025 with a reduced prize amount.

April is Poetry Month. Vice President Catherine L'Herisson displayed a poster sent to her by the Academy of American Poets. AAP set April 18 as "Poem in Your Pocket Day." She reminded us that the NFSPS Summer Convention takes place in June, in Georgia. All details and registration forms are at nfsp.net. Their current newsletter, Strophes, is also available at their website.

Our election of Board officers takes place in May. This year's nominating committee consists of Catherine L'Herisson, Chair; and committee members Irene Robertson, Budd Powell Mahan, Jeannette Strother, and Barbara Lewie Berry.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson said if you are having trouble receiving emails, links, the Bulletin, and other news from PST, to be sure to let her know. Always be sure to send changes in email addresses to both Carol and Lynn Lewis. Several emails bounce back every time information is sent.

Spotlight on Poets Chair Catherine L'Herisson introduced our Spotlight Poet, Holly Jahangiri, Houston. Holly is our new webmaster and Councilor-at-Large. She has published three children's books, and says she gets her inspiration from family and her own childhood adventures—some of which were just in her own imagination. She read several of her poems.

Director Steve Sanders announced the winner of the Fort Worth Poetry Society William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest. Judge was Dr. Kathryn Artuso. Dr. Artuso a professor in the English Department of Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. The winner is Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, for her manuscript, "Just Looking." Since Susan was not present, Steve read one of her poems, "City Park in Bloom."

PST Board Members

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Continued on the next page...

Program Committee Member Michael Guinn introduced our **Program Speaker, Mervyn Seivwright**, who is currently living in Schopp, Germany. Mervyn is from a Jamaican family, born in England. At age 10 he moved to the U.S. He later joined the US Air Force, and during his 22 years of service, he took part in performance poetry, placing high or winning in several major competitions throughout the world, and wrote 7 collections of poetry. He has also been published in numerous journals across 9 countries. He completed an MFA at Spalding University's School of Writing, Louisville, Kentucky. He taught over 600 professional development students professional writing techniques for four years at Wright Patterson Air Force Base Education Facilities. For a full list of his numerous accomplishments, please visit <https://www.clippings.me/users/mervynseivwright>. His new

collection, "Stick, Hook, and a Pile of Yarn, is available on Amazon. Mervyn's first poem, "Manhood's Gambit," showed the difference between a birth-father who ignored him, a step-father who abused him, and a pseudo-father—the man who actually taught him and hugged him. He also introduced us to the Contrapuntal form, which contains two separate poems, written side by side, but they find ways to connect. It results in three poems—the two that are side by side, and then the reading that starts on the left, continues to the next line on the right, and so on, to create the third poem. He also read a villanelle hybrid, "I Cannot Keep Black Skin From My Child," where the middle lines of the tercets always ended with the same word, in an effort to show emotion within the poem, trying to change "fear" to "wisdom."

February Monthly Contest Results

Chairman Richard Weatherly

8 Entries

General Contest

Judge: Joe Cavanaugh, Ormond Beach, FL

1st—Sylvia S. Medel, McKinney—"April Songs"

2nd—Manuel L. English, Poulsbo WA

3rd—Johnnie B. Carter, Humble.

Laugh Lines

Laugh Lines Judge: Ilenya Marrin, Flint

LL Winner: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Book Prizes:

Popular—Beth Honeycutt, Denton; Badger—Stephen Schwei, Houston; Birma's Collection—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland; Marshall Prize—Galen Steele, Fort Worth; Seadog CD—Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield.

Membership Report

from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....176	Recently Deceased.....0
Associate Members....12	Student.....1
Life Members.....31	Honorary Members....5
Supporting Members...2	Total Membership...223
Sustaining Members....4	

New Active Members

We have 3 new Active Members: Jonathan Peckham, Cypress; Audrey Haferkamp Towns, Lakeside; Laurant Perry English, Spring. One new Associate Member: Prosser Stirling, Washington, DC.

Welcome to PST!

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.

Attention Volunteers!

ATTENTION!

**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.

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](https://www.paypal.com/US/merchstore)).

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](https://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org) and at [nfsps.org](https://www.nfsps.org). Take an active part in these organizations - they are well worth your time!

Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest, 2024 Poetry Society of Texas

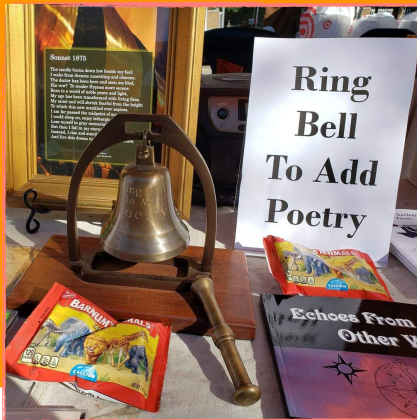
Are your poems begging to be published? Do you have poems that sparkle with heart and wit? Do they beg to become a collection so they may sing together? Are you ready to give your poems to the world? Here's a grand opportunity! The Poetry Society of Texas sponsors annually the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript 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 Poetry Society of Texas 2024

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by August 15.

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

RING THE BELL



Come ring the bell for poetry at the 2024 Winnsboro 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!**

53rd Annual Collin County Poetry Contest



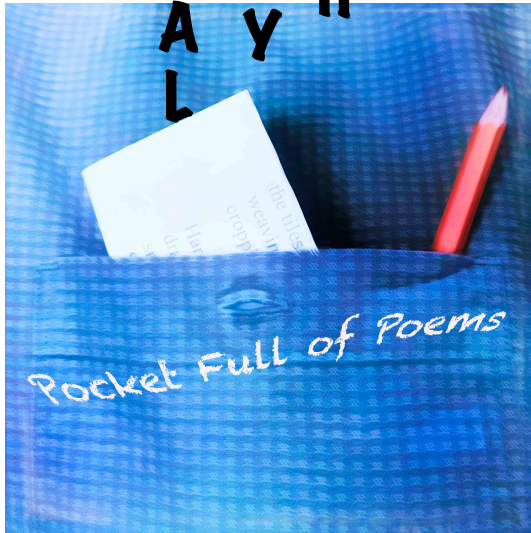
The Mockingbird Poetry Society celebrated our 53rd annual Collin County Poetry Contest with an Awards Ceremony on April 14th in McKinney. This year, we had 877 entries. Our numbers went down with Covid but are on the rise again. Our 2024 contest had 55 student winners from 28 schools in Collin County. We also have a category for adults and for Mockingbird Members (making the total number of winners 61). We had 57 winners present for the awards ceremony. So, it was an amazing afternoon of poetry with 260 attendees! Winners received a winner's certificate and a copy of the 2024 anthology of winning poems. We were especially pleased to have 13 teachers attend this year. Each received a copy of the anthology. Every teacher who attends becomes an advocate for this annual contest.

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APRIL



PST Members carried Poems in their pockets to share...

Janet Tyner

"There Is No Frigate Like A Book" by Emily Dickinson...

Ann Howells

"The Flying Cat" by Naomi Shihab Nye...

Steve Sanders

"Behind the Falls" by William Stafford...

Carol Thompson

Her poem *"Latte Jazz"* for the baristas at her Starbucks...

Fred Manchester

"The Red Wheelbarrow" by William Carlos Williams...

Doris Brogan

"Alone" by Maya Angelou...

Beth Turner Ayers

Various Poems

Holly Jahangiri

Her Poem *"Next Time"* and others from *"Behind the Rain: An Audio Anthology of Oklahoma Poetry"*

PST Winners - Lucidity Poetry Retreat March 25-27

Judged Contest Winners

Paul Causey "Of My Craft" - First Place

Patricia Ferguson "Sunflowers" - Honorable Mention

Janet Tyner "Winter Fields" - Honorable Mention

Critic's Choice Award

Patricia Ferguson "How to Operate a Wind & Solar Powered Backyard Clothes Dryer"

NFSPS News

Your PST dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The latest issue of Strophes, April 2024, 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!

June 5 - June 10, 2024

DoubleTree Hilton, Roswell, Georgia



VOICES
SET
FREE



2024 NFSPS, Inc. Conference
& BlackBerryPeach National Poetry Slam

About the Bulletin of The Poetry Society of Texas

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Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

POST CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Area Poets of Texas **Antonia Murguia Reporting**

The April AAPT meeting proved to be our best meeting yet.

Our featured guest was Joyous Windrider Jimenez. She is incredible. She spoke about the Polyvagal Chart which speaks about focusing on what is happening in the body and the nervous system. It explains how our sense of safety, danger, or life threat can impact our body. She shared the chart that shows three neuropathic steps in our nervous system. Freeze which means you are in the collapse, immobility, conservation of energy stage. It is considered a life threat situation. The next section is Fight/Flight where we find ourselves movement towards Fight or movement away Flight. The third section is Social Engagement which is connections, safety, and oriented to the environment. This is the section that we want to be in. Joy explained the chart which we found to be very interesting. She also share her poem, *Complicated Grief*. We all wrote about our safe place and she related it to the chart. Joy stated that when we have a relationship between body and safety, we are co-regulating together-we are nature and body. She left us with three questions for later to contemplate about our truth: 1. Write about your heavy topic and see if you lean into something new. 2. Write what I meant to say (the truth). 3. Write about this is what I didn't say. Write about item for three minutes. I wrote about the first item and Wow! Got a lot out! Thank you, Joy. It is always a pleasure to have her speak.

Joy shared three poetry events. Viva Poesía happening that night. Jazz poetry at the Brick on Monday nights and Lemon Girls on the second Sunday of the month.

The Assigned Topic winners for March are: 1st Place: Carol Siskovic; 2nd Place: Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; 1st Honorable Mention: Lea Fagin; 2nd Honorable Mention: Antoinette Winstead; 3rd Honorable Mention: Antonia Murguia.

The Open Topic winners for March are: 1st Place: Sheri Anderson; 2nd Place: Dee Ramdass; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; 1st Honorable Mention: Pat Gibbs; 2nd Honorable Mention: Charles Jones; 3rd Honorable Mention: Antonia Murguia.

Charles Jones brought the refreshments made by his wife, Felicia. The refreshments were very delicious and so much was brought. We really appreciate your effort, Felicia. We could feel your love. Thank you very much.

Our next meeting is our last meeting for the year and will be on May 4th. Our Assigned Topic is *Beating Boredom*. This year passed in a flash! Happy Poetry Month.

Denton Poets' Assembly **Betty Roberts Reporting**

Denton Poets' Assembly met April 20, 2024, at Emily Fowler Library with members attending in person and by Zoom. Kathryn Merry presented a close read of "Danse Russe" by William Carlos Williams, the poet laureate featured in April's Read and Respond series.

Many DPA members read original response poems on Powerpoint to William's poems. As an inspirational poet, Ann Graham explained her poem "Water."

Members then shared "free" poems on Powerpoint. Chris Boldt read and explained her poem "The Other Way."

Donald Hall will be the May Read and Respond poet, and his life was introduced in a Powerpoint.

In the kudos section of the meeting, it was announced that Susan Maxwell Campbell won the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Award. In addition, member Paul Causey was a first-place winner at Lucidity in Eureka Springs for his poem, "Of My Craft, My Art."

DPA's *Merging Visions 2024* catalog is expected to be delivered the last week in April, and the exhibit of poems and art will be shown at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center May 10 through Aug. 9.

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 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 our new location Trinity Episcopal. We learned that "wight" is a supernatural being, like a witch, ghost or sprite, and "querencia" means a place where a person feels safe, happy, and strong, just like at home. The creative spark illuminated the spirit and expanded the vocabulary of all in attendance.

Fort Worth Poetry Society

(Continued)

Opening poem: "Mowing" by Robert Frost, read by Sarah Murphy

Treasurer's report: We've welcomed two fantastic new members and a pocket full of tips from a successful poetry month event at Monkey Dog Books.

FWPS News: Susan Maxwell Campbell was the winner of the 2024 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest.

Members voted and approved officers for the 2024-25 poetry year:

President-John Bartell

Vice President- Neal Ostman

Treasurer- Steve Sanders

Secretary-Galen Steele

Historian-Denise Salerno

Due to the resounding success of Poetry Month, we voted and approved to continue poetry for the remainder of the year.

Upcoming events: On May 4, FWPS members John Bartell, Amanda Russell and Steve Sanders will be on a panel discussing poetry at the Festival of Books in Winnsboro.

Accolades: Michael Davies had 70,000 views of his poetry on a genealogy website. Neal Ostman received some rejections. Galen Steele had a number of rejections, and four poems published in *Fireflies' Light*. Mary-Margret didn't publish any poems, but did get out of the hospital for which we are grateful.

Next: FWPS next meeting is our annual social/potluck on May 25 at 3:00pm (location to be determined). There will be a contest with fabulous prizes so have poems at the ready. Susan

Mockingbird Chapter

Brian Cummings Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) met on Saturday, March 2nd at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. Attending the meeting were 17 members and two guests, Mary Ellen Bluntzer and Renee Gough. **President Susan Mardele reported** that MPS has received a \$1,000 grant from the McKinney Arts Commission. Barry Rynk reported that Arts Meets Poetry featured 34 art/poetry exhibits and raised some \$790, which was shared between three McKinney food charities. **The awards ceremony was on April 14.**

Poets Northwest

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

At our April 2024 meeting, Poets Northwest celebrated National Poetry Month by each attendee sharing two poems:

one published by a well known poet, and one in a similar style, written by the member. We took turns guessing who wrote which poem! It wasn't as obvious as you might think... a testament to the talents in our Chapter!

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 Poets Northwest 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, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest.

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On March 21, 2024, eight members of the Rusk County Poetry Society hosted a reception and poetry reading in memory of Jo Morrow, a well-loved member who passed away suddenly in February. Nine members of the Morrow family, guests of the society, were given a framed copy of Jo's poem "Green," photos of Jo with husband John, and tribute poems written and read aloud by RCPS members Donna Farmer, Richard Hurzeler, Ilenya Marrin, Jackie McVey, Sue Roberts, Carol Thompson, Mary Tindall, and Janet Tyner. The Morrow family presented a substantial contribution to the RCPS scholarship, which is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior through the Northeast Texas Poetry in Schools competition.

Following the reception, President Jo Morrow called the meeting to order. Mary T. expressed appreciation to everyone present saying she never wants to leave a meeting without sharing how special each person is to her. Carol T. encouraged everyone to attend the Poetry in Schools award day on April 19 at Region 7 Education Service Center in Kilgore.

Jackie McVey presented the lesson "Meditation and Metaphors: Finding the Music of Poetry." Jackie shared meaningful quotations about poetry from *The Poet's Dictionary: A Handbook of Prosody and Poetic Devices* by William Packard and *Creating Poetry* by John Drury. As Spotlight Poet, Jackie read her poem "Meditation," which corresponded to points made in her lesson. To conclude, she asked each person to select a small object from an assortment on each table. The assignment is to spend time simply gazing at the object and noting what thoughts and metaphors develop from this form of meditation.

The next meeting of RCPS will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024, in the multi-purpose room of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson.



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org