

# The **Bulletin**

Poetry Society of Texas



Founded November 5, 1921

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

[www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)

Editor:

Fred Manchester

March 2024

jdk

## PST Monthly Meeting

April 13, 2:30 pm

Mervyn DeepCobra Seivwright - Germany (MFA)



Mervyn Seivwright writes to balance social consciousness & poetry craft for humane growth. He is a nomad from a Jamaican family, born in London, England, & left for America at age 10, now residing in Schopp, Germany. His performance poetry highlights include events in 9 countries, with features at The Jazz Café, & a finalist at the UK's Word-for-Word National Poetry Slam. Mervyn completed a writing MFA at Spalding University & has appeared in AGNI, American Journal of Poetry, Salamander Magazine, African American Review, & 64 other journals across 10 countries, receiving recognition as 2021 & 2023 Pushcart Nominee & Voices Israel's Rose Ruben Poetry Competition Honorable-Mention. His new collection, "Stick, Hook, and a Pile of Yarn, is available through Broken Sleep Books (Wales/September 2023).

Mervyn Seivwright will be introduced by PST Speaker Committee member Michael Guinn.

## Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

**"Poetry has never been the language of barriers, it's always been the language of bridges"**

- Amanda Gorman

# PST General Meeting Minutes January 13, 2024

Submitted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 24 attendees.

**Treasurer Neal Ostman** gave a brief February Financial report. Greatest income was from sponsorships for the 2024 annual contests. There were no major expenditures. He reminded us that membership dues could be paid through Paypal ([paypal.me/PSTexas](https://www.paypal.com)) or ([poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com](mailto:poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com)). Also, please note what payment is for—new or renewing membership.

## 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 dues have not been paid by the grace period of November 30, your name is removed from the membership role and will not be included in the next ABOTY. Renewing after that date means you will be considered a "new" member, which then sets you back to square one if you are working toward Life Membership. Dues are always payable by June 30. The new membership years begins July 1. 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 means PST pays your NFSPS membership dues, which makes you eligible for the many opportunities NFSPS offers. For current information and activities from NFSPS, please visit their website [www.nfspd.net](http://www.nfspd.net). You can also download each new issue of Strophes.

**Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson** said if your contact information changes, please notify her, Lynn Lewis, or anyone on the PST Board. Also, if your chapter is hosting an event, please notify **Fred Manchester, Bulletin Editor**, so it can be included in the next Bulletin. April is Poetry Month. Be sure to let Fred and Carol know if you or your chapter does anything special to celebrate.

**Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks** gave the **February membership report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**.

**VP Catherine L'Herisson** reminded us about the NFSPS Convention from June 5-10 in Roswell, GA. There are several convention contests running right now. Details are in the January Strophes and at their website, [www.nfspd.net](http://www.nfspd.net).

**Spotlight on Poets Chair Catherine L'Herisson** introduced our **Spotlight Poet, Marilyn Stacy**, Dallas. Marilyn was the 20<sup>th</sup> PST president (2006-2008), and served while undergoing treatment for cancer. A PST Life Member, she is also a Professor Emeritus of Richland College, and retired psychotherapist/family counselor. Marilyn is the author of several books which are available on Amazon. She read several of her poems.

## PST Board Members

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Continued on the next page...

**Program Chair Committee Member Michael Guinn** introduced our **Program Speaker Kristen Joy Hester, The Billionaire Bride**. Kristen, formerly of New Mexico, grew up as a musician, and found her calling in education working with students, teaching choir, ELA (English Language Arts), and poetry. She relocated to Fort Worth in August of this year, and works as a Big Thought teaching artist working with students across the Metroplex, including Academy of Visual and Performing Arts in Fort Worth. She didn't start writing until her life fell apart. In her first poem, she said, "Death is the only path to life." She wrote almost all of her poems in second person, rather than first person, saying, "Writing in a one-removed point of view doesn't send you into trauma-response mode." Even in writing what she called her "stories of shame," slivers of hope would come through. Kristen performs locally as "The Billionaire Bride." That name

comes from a poem, written after playing Sally Bowles in "Cabaret" at a community theater. She created a better second ending for Sally—as a woman who got it together and was finally aware of her own worth—just as Kristen did. She is a testament to the transformative and restorative power of art, and shares her personal story of Hope through poetry. "No matter the darkness, no matter the struggle, there is always help, there is always Hope."

**Fred Manchester**, McKinney, read his February monthly contest first place winner—*Melopoeia*.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks reminded everyone that Rich Weatherly is retiring as Monthly Contest Chair as of June 30. A volunteer for that position is needed before July—someone who does not enter the contests. Rich will help with the transition. Please contact him if interested.

### February Monthly Contest Results

*Chairman Richard Weatherly*

#### General Contest

Judge— Susan Stevens Chambers, Good Thunder, MN

1st—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie—*The Beauty of Slow Things*

2nd—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

3rd—Lynn Roberts Grice, Houston

#### Laugh Lines

Laugh Lines Judge—Barbara Blanks, Garland

Laugh Lines Winner—Ilenya Marrin, Flint

#### Book Prizes:

Popular—Galen Steele, Fort Worth; Badger—Steve Sanders, Fort Worth; Birma's—Terry Jude Miller,

Richmond; Marshall—Dorothy Sells Clover, Beaumont; Seadog CD—Christine Boldt, Temple.

Other poems were by Sylvia S. Medel, Barbara Blanks, Manuel English, and JD Kirkley.

### Membership Report

*from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis*

Active Members.....173	Recently Deceased.....0
Associate Members....11	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: Carol Taylor, Tomball; Rodney Appleby, Corpus Christi; Bonnie J. Resley, Midland. And one new Student Member: Siena Dickey, Denton.

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://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](http://poetrysocietyoftexas.org) and at [nfsp.org](http://nfsp.org). Take an active part in these

## **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.

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/>

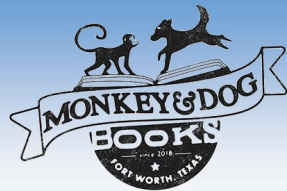


### The Ides of March

When the Roman calendar, was in use the midpoint of each month was referred to as the Ides. The Ides of March came on the 15th and this date was marked with religious ceremonies and supposed to correlate with the first full moon of the year.

The month of March was named for Mars, the Roman god of war. The zodiac signs of Pisces and Aries both fall in the third month. There are numerous adages, sayings, idioms, expressions, quotes, and weather proverbs, that apply to March and these traditional springtime sayings have rich cultural heritage related to their meaning.

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**APRIL**



To celebrate 2024 National Poetry Month  
**Monkey & Dog Books welcomes**  
**The Fort Worth Poetry Society**  
 To share a day of poetry with the people of Fort Worth  
 On April 13, 2024, between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM  
 At 3608 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107  
 Come and Ring the Bell to add some poetry to your day!!

**Permian Basin Poetry Society**  
**National Poetry Month Event**  
 Poets will be at Louies—CAFE & Native American Art Gift Shop  
 in Odessa TX  
 Saturday, APRIL 13th from 2-5 pm!  
 Come meet UK TREV the ROAD POET!  
 And SIGN UP for OPEN MIC!!!

# 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](https://nfsp.net). Please share widely!

\*\*\*\*\*  
 CONVENTION MADNESS! POETRY CONTEST  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
**Win Your Way to NFSPS Convention**  
 June 5- June 10, 2024  
 Roswell, Georgia  
*Must attend to receive prize*  
 1<sup>st</sup> Place— 5 nights stay at the Doubletree Hilton (\$800.00)  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—All meals (package) (approximately \$200.00)  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.  
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 To submit: Go to [nfsp.submittable.com](https://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.  
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# 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](mailto:steve.sanders@gmail.com). **Come out and read some poetry!**

## About the Bulletin of The Poetry Society of Texas

**Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester**

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**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](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org) under the "Publications" tab.



**Poetry Society of Texas**  
[www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)

# POST CHAPTER NEWS

## **Alamo Area Poets of Texas**

### **Antonia Murguia Reporting**

**We began our meeting** with a pledge. Our featured speaker was our own Sheila Moore. She is our Treasurer and Contest Chair. Sheila's workshop was about memories. She said to remember the street where we lived and had the most memories. She gave us this set of words to help us recall. Observation, Claims, Memories, Descriptions, Family, Neighbors, and

Animals. We began to write. This brought back a memory of sweeping the sidewalk as a child.

I don't know why I loved it so much, perhaps because I was outside and at those time felt safe. Many of the members wrote great stories of their memories. Thank you to Sheila for a wonderful presentation.

**The winners for the Assigned Topic:** 1st Place: Lea Fagin; 2nd Place: Jazz Phillips; 3rd: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Sheri Anderson. Open Topic: 1st Place: Carol Siskovic; 2nd Place: Antoinette Winstead; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Dee Ramsdass.

Congratulations to all of our winners.

**Sheila Moore and Antoinette Winstead** brought delicious snacks. Thank you to them.

We had a few Announcements: March 12, 2pm to 4pm Lea announced the Woman's Club of San Antonio will have their annual Tea. She invited everyone.

**Charles Jones announced** in Bulverde at a business called "That Place," he would be playing with his band on March 8th at 9 pm. He invited everyone.

**For April's Meeting, the assigned topic** is Time Brings About a Change with Barbara Blanks to judge our contests, Our guest speaker for next month is Joyous Windrider Jimenez. She is a great featured speaker.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## **Denton Poets' Assembly**

### **Betty Roberts Reporting**

**Denton Poets' Assembly met March 16, 2024**, at Emily Fowler Library with 12 present in the room and 17 attending by Zoom. Ann Howells presented a thorough close read of "The Partial Explanation," by Charles Simic, the poet laureate featured in March's Read and Respond series.

**Many DPA members read original** response poems on Powerpoint to Simic's poems. As an inspirational poet, Lydia Alexander explained her poem "Empathy"

written in response to Simic's poem "To the One Upstairs".

**Members then shared "free" poems** on Powerpoint. Corbett Buchly discussed his poem "bobcat in suburban yard," saying most of it was true. Buchly works as a copywriter in advertising, but he also has written fiction and has 45 poems ready to be published.

**Christine Irving presented the April read** and response poet, William Carlos Williams, for Susan Maxwell Campbell, who researched and prepared the Powerpoint.

**DPA Vice President Betty Roberts** announced upcoming dates, including Poetry at Round Top on April 19-21, Winnsboro Festival of Books May 4, and the NFSPS Convention June 5-9 in Roswell, Georgia.

**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](mailto:richardkdpa@gmail.com)). We meet the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

## **Fort Worth Poetry Society**

### **Helen Dent Reporting**

**The Fort Worth Poetry Society met** in a hybrid meeting, in person and via Zoom, on the evening of March 26, 2024 at Trinity Episcopal Church. In attendance were John Bartell, President; Helen Dent, Vice-president; Mike Baldwin, Treasurer; Steve Sanders; Neal Ostman; Denise Salerno; Doris Brogan; Susan Ayres; Sarah; Amanda Russell; and four guests. The meeting opened with a poem by Ellen Bass, "Asking Directions in Paris," read by Amanda Russell. Mike gave the treasurer's report - the Society has \$4,219.20 in current funds.

**Old business: The state of Texas is still reviewing** our application for a FWPS historical marker.

**New business: For National Poetry Month**, the FWPS will have a "Ring-the-Bell-for-Poetry" table at Monkey and Dog Books in Fort Worth on April 13 from 10-4. Ponder Elementary School has requested a visit from a poet for a 3rd grade classroom; date TBD.

**The FWPS will have a booth at** the Winnsboro Book Festival on May 4th and also a panel: "Writing for the Page vs. Writing for the Stage." A poetry day in is the works for June at the Grapevine Public Library.

**A committee to nominate officers** for 2024-2025 was formed: the committee will be Steve Sanders, Denise Salerno, and Amanda Russell.



## Fort Worth Poetry Society

*(Continued)*

**Announcements: The May Social** will be held Saturday, May 25 at the home of John Bartell; time TBD.

**Kudos: Steve was the judge** for the Utah State Poetry Society Contest and will be the judge for the Frisco Poetry Contest in April. Mike's unpublished novel has been shortlisted for a contest. Neal had a poem accepted for the Willawaw Poetry Journal. Susan had a poem accepted for Lily. John and Amanda had poems accepted for the CAPS Anthology. Helen has a novel coming out through Enclave Publishing in September.

**Members critiqued 9 poems** before adjourning. The society's next meeting will be April 23, 2024 at Trinity Episcopal Church.

## 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. Beth Ayers reported that there was an overall increase in entries in the Collin County Poetry Contest this year and that the quality of the poetry was better than in previous years. There were no entries from college students and only six entries from adults. She thanked Susan for her work in securing the donation and John Alexander for his work in editing the anthology for the contest. Susan noted that six covers for the anthology have been developed and will be used in the coming years. **The awards ceremony will be on April 14.**

## Poets Northwest

*Holly Jahangiri Reporting*

**In February, Stephen Schwei encouraged** members to try their hand at a ballade. A few intrepid souls took up the challenge of this notoriously difficult form, which originated in France. Since French has more rhyming words than English, it is a special torture, challenge--to write the ballade in English, but poets are always game to learn and to try. We followed that with our usual free-form read-around, and encouraged members to share their poems on-screen so that Zoom participants, as well as those

meeting together in the same room, could read along as pomes are read aloud.

**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 February 15, 2024, ten members** of the Rusk County Poetry Society met at the multi-purpose building of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson.

**President Sue Roberts opened the meeting** remembering the recent passing of Jo Morrow, saying there is "one more silent quill among us."

**Donna Farmer presented "It Is What It Is,"** a lesson on effective, intentional use of passive voice in poems. She illustrated her message with two poems from the 2010 PST *A Book of the Year*. As Spotlight Poet, Donna shared a tribute to her father.

**Several poets read for the group,** including Donna Farmer, Ilenya Marrin, Sue Roberts, Sharon Taylor, Carol Thompson, and Janet Tyner.

**For the next RCPS meeting on March 21,** poets are encouraged to bring a response to the lesson. First, write a poem using being verbs, and then rewrite it, eliminating as many as possible. Bring both to turn in.

Also, for the March meeting, bring two copies of an original poem remembering Jo Morrow. We would like to give a set to Jo's family.

Sue closed the meeting with a poem about spring.

## Beaumont Chapter

*Dorothy Sells Clover Reporting*

**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.

**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](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)