Poetry Society of Texas

A Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Bulletin

January, 2010 Next PST General Meeting: February 13, 2010

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas

Saturday, January 9, 2010, Both President Jeannette Strother and Recording Secretary Silvia Slaten were ill and unable to attend. Vice-President Catherine L'Herisson called the meeting to order, and Barbara Blanks filled-in for Silvia.

V. P. Catherine recognized former PST Presidents: Marilyn Stacy, 20th; Linda Banks, 18th; and J. Paul Holcomb, 17th , and Eliot Kerlin, Dallas (guest).

Lee Carroll, Membership Chair, was not present but requested that someone take over as Membership Chair. He is resigning due to ill health. Barbara Blanks gave the Membership Report: Active Members: **279**; Associate Members: **1**; Honorary Members: **6**; Library Members: **2**; Life Members: **53**; and Student Members: **7**. There was one renewed member and no new members. Membership Total: **348**. NOTE: 55 members have been dropped from the rolls due to failure to pay membership fees. Only paid members receive the monthly Bulletin, A Book of the Year, and are eligible to enter both the PST Annual Contests' and the NFSPS Annual Contests' "Members Only" Categories. (See rules under Notes of Interest)

Amy Sandberg presented the Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance: $24,142.74; Checks Paid: $544.66; Deposits: $3,405.00; Stock Dividends: $0.00; Ending Balance: $26,789.58. Amy announced PST pins for members are for sale for $15 each, and said checks for ALL PST services or functions must be made out to PST and not to her.

Current Members: please be sure your contact information is up-to-date. Any address, phone or e-mail changes should be sent to Lee Carroll and/or Linda Banks or Marilyn Stacy. **All Chapters:** Please be sure your annual reports are current with co-editors Linda Banks or Marilyn Stacy by February 1st in order to be included in the 2010 BOTY.

Barbara Blanks, Librarian/Director, had no new book donations to announce.

Announcement:

The 2010 Summer Conference still needs a chapter to come forward and take on the responsibility for hosting. A conference can't be organized in one or two months. Work needs to start now.

Michaud Lamrouex' mother, Peggy Lamrouex, passed away December 13th. Our hearts go out to Michaud in his loss. (Editor's note: I received this info in time for the December Bulletin and inadvertently left it out. My heartfelt apologies to Michaud.)

Wendy Christina Podwainy of Austin passed on January 12th. (See write-up under Austin Poetry Society)

Director David Knape conducted the Annual PST Memorial. PST members and family members honored were: Don Stodghill, Jeffrey Qualls, Helen Jones, Nova Bair, Nellie Fertig, Faye Leeper, Virginia Messer, Nancy Chinn, Jack Myers, Hazel Bourland, Oleta Hunter, Richard Neidhardt, Kitty Mobley's mother, Billie Davis Beene, and Peggy Lamrouex.

"Poemathon" was the January program. Members and guests present each read one or two poems of their own, or by other poets whose work they enjoyed.

Catherine held an "Identify the Author" contest, reading an excerpt from what was identified as Shakespeare by Jessica Gonsoulin, who won the "door prize" of a Christmas treat-filled cup.

David Bowman, Monthly Contest Chair, was also not present, nor were copies of the winning poems. January's Critic Judge: Scott Wiggerman, Austin, TX. 1st Place, J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, for *"Black Ice in Oklahoma"*; 2nd Place, David Knape, Plano; 3rd Place, Richard Peake, Galveston.

Laugh Lines Winner: Pat Randolph, for her poem titled, *"Conversation"*. **Laugh Lines Judge**: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland.

Reader: Linda Banks, Mesquite, read for the Book Awards' finalists and those present cast their votes. POPULAR: Virginia Frey, Taft; GALAXY: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland; LUBBE: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas; LYNCH: Barbara Blanks, Garland; WENDY DIMMETTE: Annette Schwartz; LIFE MEMBER AWARD: Carol Halliday, Houston.

2009-2010 PST General Meeting Program Schedule:

February - UNT Professor Gary Swaim
March - Charlotte Renk, Athens
April – Robert Duchoquette, Dallas
May – Caroline & Bob Florek, *Houston Press Anthology of Texas Poetry*

PST schedule of events for 2009

NFSPS Contest Entries: Postmarked March 15, 2010.

Donald R. Stodghill
14th President of the Poetry Society of Texas, 1991-1993
(Memorial written by Budd Powell Mahan)

Donald R. Stodghill attended Rockwall public schools and graduated in the Rockwall High School class of 1953. He was the high-ranking boy of that class. He was president of his sophomore class, and lettered in basketball three years. His activity in Future Farmers of America earned him his greatest recognition. He was Rockwall County's first Lone Star Farmer in 1952 and was Rockwall County's only state officer in FFA—serving as state vice-president, 1952-1953.

Stodghill went on to the University of Texas at Austin and earned his BBA in 1957 and his LLB in 1959. He was Business School President as a junior. He became a member of the State Bar of Texas in 1959 and was an attorney-at-law in Rockwall, TX 1959-1960. From 1960 to 1965 he was Assistant District Attorney for Dallas County serving Henry Wade who was then DA. From 1965 to 1995 he worked in the law office of Ralph M. Hall. In 1996 he established his own law office in Rockwall where he worked until his death.

Stodghill served nine and one-half years with the Texas National Guard including 16 months of active duty with the U. S. Army Infantry. He attained the rank of Captain. His duty was in the states.

Because of his wife Pat's involvement with the Poetry Society of Texas, Stodghill became a member in 1965. He served as PST's legal advisor from 1966-2005 and was legal advisor to the National Federation of State Poetry Societies from 1983 to 2004 and again beginning in 2009. In 1982 he was named a PST Director, and in 1990 became president. He served two terms.

Don died on December 20, 2009 and is buried in Heath, Texas.

Notes of Interest

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In 2010, the 51st NFSPS Annual Convention will be hosted by the Poetry Society of Tennessee, the Mississippi Poetry Society and the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, meeting in Memphis, Tennessee at the Holiday Inn on the University of Memphis campus, June 10-13, 2010.

NFSPS Rules: "Members Only" eligible if a paid-up member of a state society, listed in alphabetical membership roll sent to the Contest Chairman by January 15, 2010, and updated as required by the Contest deadline.

Non-members may enter most contests at $1.00 each (except $5.00 for each entry in Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award). Non-members may not enter Contests marked with an asterisk***, and/or "Members Only".

Members may enter up to 8 contests for $1.00 per poem or $10.00 total for entries in more than 8 contests (except for: Contest 1 – NFSPS Founders Award which is $5.00 per poem.

For **Poetry Society of Texas** "Members Only" contest rules, see the back of *A Book of the Year, 2009*, pp. 149-150, or check the PST website: www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/bulletin.html

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Von Bourland, Bulletin Editor, requests all reports and news be sent via email if possible, preferably before the "Next Meeting Date" at the top of your Bulletin. Subject Line: PST Bulletin. If you must use snail mail, please postmark between the 5th and 8th, as she lives in a rural area and receives her mail late. Thanks!
vondelita@amaonline.com
Von Bourland, 37861 I-27, Happy, TX 79042

BULLETIN BULLETIN **BULLETIN** BULLETIN

The *Bulletin* appears on the PST Website:
http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/bulletin.html
as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file. With Adobe Reader software (or Adobe Acrobat), you will be able to view and print the *Bulletin* in the very same format as you receive it in the mail. Adobe Reader is free, installs itself, and comes from one of the best names in computer software.

If you note needed corrections, additions, or deletions to the Website, contact any PST officer to convey the changes through proper channels to our webmaster. Our webmaster is a volunteer with a day job—does not claim omniscience. Your kind assistance will be appreciated in our ongoing efforts to keep the Website up-to-date.

Alamo Area Poets

AAPT meets every first Saturday, September through May, at 2:00 P.M. in the Garden Villa, UTW, unless otherwise announced. Contact info: Libby Bishop, elizbis@aol.com or Kim Mott, President: celticwarriorwom@aol.com

Austin Poetry Society

APS meets on Saturday, January 23rd, from 1:30-3:30 P.M. in the Austin History Center, 9th and Guadalupe, to hear Bryce Milligan (http://www.wingspress.com) and Dorothy Ellis Barnett of Austin Community College offer their thoughts on "Poetry in Composition".

From 11:00 to noon on Saturday, January 30th, bring poems to discuss with the APS Critique Group, hosted by Beth Knopf, upstairs dining area of Central Market, Lamar and 38th Street. Her nudge: write a poem on looking at something from different points of view.

Poets whose work appears in the APS 60th Anniversary Anthology are to be featured in the APS Fourth Thursday open mic, 7:00 P.M. on January 28th, 4101 Guadalupe. An open mic follows featured poets, so bring your poems. Ralph Hausser is the host.

We're giving a copy of the 60th Anniversary Anthology, which includes 83 poems by members, to anyone who donates $10 to replenish our publications fund.

Wendy Christina Podwainy, 51, passed on in Austin, TX, January 12, 2010. After moving to Austin in 1995, Wendy turned her attention to writing poetry. She was a published writer and was the Director of the Austin International Poetry Festival. Wendy wrote under the pen

name, Christina Sergeyevna and is honored in AIPF each year as writers are awarded the Christina Sergeyevna Award. A memorial service was held Saturday, Jan. 16th at Cook-Walden Chapel of the Hills Funeral Home in Austin.

For More Information : www.austinpoetrysociety.org apsInformation@austinpoetrysociety.org. For the APS newsletter online: send your e-mail address to poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu.

Bea Land-Phoenix Chapter

The Bea Land-Phoenix Chapter (Garland) is looking for new members. The next meeting is February 6, 2010, 10 A.M. at the South Branch Garland Library located at Oates and Broadway. The theme is Birth/Rebirth in honor of three members (or family members) having birthdays in February, not to mention two past U.S. presidents. All attendees are welcome to bring one of their poems to read.
FMI: catherinepoet@juno.com 972-270-4994, or barbarablanks@aol.com

Beaumont Chapter

Beaumont Chapter members wish every one of you a wonderful 2010. We ended 2009 by having our meeting at the Jefferson Rehabilitation and Nursing Homes in order to include Violette Newton, who was in fine form and made up a cute poem about a cookie finding her sweet tooth. No tape recorder handy, of course. She loves cookies, so when gifted with some cookies for Christmas, she immediately asked for one to eat…hence a poem was born. Not all of her days are good, but Thank God, your cards and letters help her have more good days than bad. Only 4 members attended our December meeting, but our 'guys' joined us for lunch, creating a more festive memory.

Our next meeting, January 20th, will likely be held at the Jefferson so Violette can be with us.

Birma Castle is preparing for Lucidity Poetry Retreat to be held April 20-22. Forms are in Ted Badger's Lucidity Publication, or email Birma at birmacastle@yahoo.com, and she will be thrilled to email one to you. Lucidity offers a great learning experience with Lawrence W. Thomas of Missouri leading the workshops and lectures. Included are super critiquing sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and a fantastic Buffet-style Awards Dinner on Thursday night. Gather three poems you want critiqued, and one poem to enter in the contest to be judged by Ted Badger, and mail or email them to Birma.

May poetry bloom in your garden throughout 2010. Visit us when in Beaumont.

Beaumont Chapter meets the third Wednesday of each month. Come see us. We love visitors.
FMI: Barbara Green Powell, lostlakeln@aol.com.

"Rose Garden"

Beauty
fades with fall's chill,
but fragrance graces air
with images to last til spring
renews.

Barbara Green Powell, Beaumont Chapter

Denton Poets Assembly

DPA meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, from 10 A.M. to noon. Free and open to the public.

DPA also sponsors "Basement Poetry", an open-mic poetry reading night at Recycled Books, 200 N. Locust Street, Denton, from 7:30 – 8:30 P.M. Sign-up begins at 7 P.M. This is held the third Tuesday monthly, and is also free and open to all ages. FMI: website below, or email Samika Swift, Host, at basementpoetry@yahoo.com .

FMI: www.dentonpoetsassembly.weebly.com , call Jan Spence, President at 940-206-5783, or email her at janspence@att.net .

Fort Worth Poetry Society

FWPS meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Benbrook Public Library, 1065 Mercedes Street, Benbrook, Texas 76126 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of our meetings is to critique poems written and submitted in advance by members to our secretary, who copies each poem into a handout for the group. The writer of a poem remains anonymous until after the critique, and is identified at the end of the meeting. Critiques focus on how poems are written rather than content.
FMI: Don Shook – Dshook77@aol.com

Hi-Plains Chapter

…wishes each and every one a happy and prosperous 2010!

February 20, 2010, our meeting will again consist of poetry forms presented by each member who volunteers to read one poem in a particular form, then a short explanation of that form, which may be utilized in the workshop to follow all readings.

Visitors are always welcome!

Hi-Plains Chapter meets bi-monthly beginning in February at the Amarillo Sr. Center, 1217 South Tyler Street, Amarillo. FMI: Contact Mary Yokum, President, marila13@sbcglobal.net or Marianne Logan, Membership Chair, mmmltx@nts-online.net (806) 374-4354

Houston Chapter

Houston Chapter sends greetings for 2010! The January 2nd gathering, though small, did not lack in enthusiasm as we heard new poetry. Our business meeting is postponed until February.
Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month, McGovern Library, 7405 Stella Link @ Aberdeen Way, Houston, 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. Read-arounds and questions are most welcome. Visitors are always welcome. FMI: Vice-President, Doris Ferguson, 713-722-8818

Mockingbird Chapter

Saturday, January 9, 2010, the Board met before the regular meeting to discuss several important projects, topics and issues. Topping the list was the Chapter's 39th Collin County Contests and Members contest, deadline set January 16th, and the same date for volunteer judges to meet to receive packets of poems/forms for judging. The judges are to turn-in list of winners to Chairpersons Inez Grimes and Kay Boruff on February 6th regular meeting. A new contest launched for the Mockingbirds only is about the Chapter's General Prayer. The winning prayer is for inclusion in the 2010 Membership Directory on which Don Croucher is currently working.

The Chapter's 2010 Officers are also for inclusion in the directory: President: Jim Ricks; Vice-President: Don Croucher; Secretary: Sylvia Medel; Treasurer: Edmund Burke; Membership Chair: David Knape; Awards Chairpersons: Inez Grimes & Kay Boruff ; and a newly added post: Press Relations Officers: C. J. Dunning and A. J. Chilson.

Headliner Poet, A. J. Chilson, born in Dallas, started writing poetry at age 17. His poems and haiku have appeared in numerous publications both on-line and in print. He has had a story for children published titled: *Cody and Me*. He read several poems including *"I Wish I Could Own a Suit'; "If I Could Sing a Song"; To Dorothy" "I've Made a Choice-Satan";* and *"Cheaters"*, to name a few. A. J. hosts the McKinney Poetry Slam, one forthcoming on February 13th.

For the Read-Share-A-Poem segment, all members present participated. Shannon Williams announced that her poem *"Static"* got published in FORCES, an annual publication by Collin Community College. She also reported on *Poems for the Troops* already sent to the Main Chaplain in Fort Hood. Bill Guthrie, new member from Leonard, Texas also read his poem, *"Roads Where the Saguaros Grow"*.

Don Croucher is the February 6th Headliner Poet. Sylvia Medel announced for him the upcoming "new contest for Mockingbird paid members." The contest will include personal poetry awards, door prizes, drawings, etc.---rules to be made available soon.

Other chapter activities can be found at: http://texaspoetryevents.info/
FMI: Jim Ricks, 214-548-6258 or ajntweety@tx.rr.com

Permian Basin Poetry Society

PBPS's next meeting will be a Valentine Party on Saturday, February 13, 2010, 2-4 P.M. at The CAF Airpower Heritage Museum, 9600 Wright Drive, Midland. 2010 Officers will be installed.

Wind, Sand & Sky: 2010 Texana Anthology by the Permian Basin Poetry Society will be released early in the year. Orders now being taken - $10.00/copy plus shipping. Walkerld1@aol.com , Loretta Diane Walker, Treasurer, PBPS, 4315 Esmond Drive #1605, 432-552-9934.

NEW MEMBERS & GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME! FMI, Please contact: Kat Copeland @ (432) 697-4205 or kopykat@grandecom.net

Poets Northwest

Saturday, January 9th, we showcased PNW winners on the top 10 list of 2009 Poetry Society of Texas Annual Contest winners. We are proud of our Chapter for producing so many fine poets, and enjoyed the reading of their winning poems. Those winners included: Ted Badger, Geneva Fulgham, Lynn Roberts Grice, Maxine B. Kohanski, Marianne McNeil Logan, Kitty Mobley, Claire Ottenstein-Ross, Jimmie Radliff, Lisa M Salinas, and Warren Spates. Congratulations to all!

The Poets Northwest 2010 Board of Officers:
President: Alino Alamo
Vice President: Kitty Mobley
Treasurer: Jim Hale
Membership: Kate Eriksen
Newsletter: Franchesca Alamo
Correspondence Secretary: Alina Alamo
Publicity: Lynn Roberts Grice
Historian: Claire Ottenstein-Ross
Events Coordinator/Fundraising: Maxine B. Kohanski
Judge: June Brown Leap
Web Manager: Kate Eriksen

Poets Northwest meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:00 A.M. to Noon. OUR NEW LOCATION IS CYPRESS CREEK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX 77379

FMI: Kitty Mobley (Vice-President) 281-259-7755 or bobkat3442@sbcglobal.net Web: www.poetsnw.com

Poets of Tarrant County

January 4th, President Lynn Lewis presided. Two visitors and one new member were recognized. Kudos were read.

Lynn Lewis, Spotlight Poet, read from her new book, *Somewhere to Come from Just this Side of Paradise*.

Assignment poems were read. Barbara Berry presented a writing workshop.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of projects and events for the year 2010.

Poets of Tarrant County meets the first Monday of each month at First Methodist Church, Fort Worth.
FMI: Lynn Lewis, 817-921-9322/ elsquared59@yahoo.com

Rusk County Poetry Society

RCPS ended 2009 with our Annual Christmas Party at Anne McCrady's home. Members and guests brought covered dishes and a white elephant gift that was auctioned to raise funds for the Mary Craig Scholarship. Each April the scholarship is presented to a high school senior at the Poetry in Schools Program, where children from all grades in area schools compete for poetry awards.

In addition to our hostess Anne McCrady, those attending were Evelyn Appelbee, Karen Cline, Victoria Verney, Rita Maxted, Bill Anderson, Jan Mathew, Fairon

Spears, Richard Hurzeler, Jane Cheatham and Vina Hathaway.

We will begin the New Year by President Vina Lee Hathaway opening the January meeting, and call for the installation of the 2010 officers. Anne McCrady will present the lesson and members will submit the November lesson, which was given by Evelyn Appelbee. The critiqued October lessons, presented by Richard Hurzeler, will be handed-out and read. The critiqued comments and member feedback are helpful in our process of developing into better poets.

The officers remain the same this year: President: Vina Lee Hathaway, Vice-President: Anne McCrady; Treasurer: Bill Anderson; Recording Secretary: Evelyn Appelbee; and Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Taylor.
Meetings are held in Henderson on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M. except June and July, at the First Church of Christ on South Main Activity Room, 402 S. Main, Henderson.

The Executive Committee meets at 12:00 noon to 1:30 P.M. at the Filling Station Restaurant, 303 South Main, prior to each meeting.
FMI: call Sharon Taylor, 903-753-2354,
chasha@cablelynx.com . Visitors are always welcome.

San Antonio Poetry Association

December 19th was a bright, beautiful fall day in San Antonio and 24 poets gathered for our annual Christmas Luncheon meeting. The luncheon proved that we are not only poets, we are also very talented cooks. The food was delicious and plentiful.

San Antonio poets are busily publishing their work. Peter Holland has a new book, *A Year in South Texas*, published by the Pecan Grove Press. We are all proud of Peter's accomplishments. We are also expecting the publication this month of Michaud Lamrouex' book, *Oasis in the Sky*, published by Rhyme or Reason Word Design Studio. Earlier this year, Lucy McBee published her book, *Dancing with the Magic of Words*.

Contest Chairman Gerry Rackley announced the winners of our November contests: Assigned Topic – "home cookin'," – 1st Place: Margaret Mayberry; 2nd Place: Iris Maahs; 3rd Place: Cathy Plasencia; Honorable Mentions: Karen Schneider and Sharon Turner. Open Contest: 1st Place: Sheila Moore; 2nd Place: Jean Jackson; 3rd Place: Iris Maahs; Honorable Mentions: Antoinette Winstead and Cathy Plasencia. Judge: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas.

We are looking forward to January's Assigned Topic, which will be "A Place to Remember," and the judge will be Loretta Diane Walker of Odessa.

SAPA meets in the Fellowship Hall of Bethany Congregational Church, 500 Pilgrim Drive, San Antonio. You are invited. FMI: Valerie Bailey, 210-494-2982, or vbailey@satx.rr.com

San Jacinto Chapter

SJC meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:00-3:00 P.M., Sunset United Methodist Church, 709 Allendale Road, Pasadena, Texas—please use the porte cochere entrance. Anyone who is interested in writing, reading or listening to poetry is invited to attend. Bring some of your own poems, or some of your favorites if you would like to read. We discuss the lives of poets as well as poetry styles. Our snacks are pretty good, too! We encourage poetry and arts in the schools through contests and shows.

FMI: Kathy Wieboldt—call 832-754-4041, or email at info@sanjacintopoetry.org

Texoma Poetry Society

There was no January meeting.

T.P.S. meets the first Saturday of each month, except July, at the Sherman Public Library, 2:00-4:00 P.M. All poets and poetry lovers are always welcome.

FMI: Frances Neidhardt at neidhardt@verizon.net

Wichita Falls Poetry Society

Wichita Falls Poetry Society meets at 2:00 P.M., 3rd Saturday of each month, September through May (except December) in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts.

FMI: Doyle "Doc" Wood at dr1943@yahoo.com, or 940-322-4566. Visitors are welcome!

Editor's Note

Thank you! to all PST poets who contributed to the 2009 Challenge: Adelaide Crapsey Cinquain. I have a few left over for 2010, plus other short poetry to be included in the next few months. After that, I will issue a new challenge.

The announcement below from the **Fort Bend Poets Group** is separate from the chapter reports because this is not presently a Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas; however, we wish to encourage ALL Texas poets, and hope in the near future, **Fort Bend Poets Group** will become a recognized chapter of PST, because they are most certainly welcome!

Von S. Bourland, Editor, PST Bulletin

Fort Bend Poets Group

The Fort Bend Poets Group *"Last SaturdayPoetry Reading"* will commence again on January 30th at 10:30 A.M. at Fill Your Cup Coffee Shop, 1410 East Highway 90A, Richmond, Texas. Please bring 3 poems no longer than one page each.

January's reading is hosted by Vada.

POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS STUDENT AWARDS 2010

*****SEND POEMS TO*****

Budd Powell Mahan, 7059 Spring Valley Road, Dallas, TX 75254

RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING STUDENT CONTESTS
DOWNLOAD YOUR OWN COPY
poetrysocietyoftexas.org

PROCEDURES FOR ENTERING CONTESTS

Entries must be prepared according to the rules and instructions listed on the website. **All entries must be received by MARCH 1, 2010**. Entries will be mailed to judges who will have the copy with no identification. Judges will select the top poems. The Poetry Society of Texas publishes first place winning poems in their anthology **STUDENT AWARD WINNERS 2010**, and selected poems may be entered in the Manningham Awards and Student Award of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. (NFSPS). Winning poets will be notified. Questions regarding entries should be directed to: Budd Powell Mahan, 7059 Spring Valley Road, Dallas, TX 75254, 972-233-6348 or buddmahan@att.net

Higher Ground
----------dedication poem in Higher Ground,
Winner of the Wyndragon Press 2004 Chapbook Award, Poetry Society of Oklahoma Contests
Von S. Bourland© 2005

As eagles soar to rugged mountain peaks—
adrift on thermal currents of the wind—
our hearts must float on wings of tolerance,
while poets blaze a trail to higher ground.

"Samaritan/Friend"
----------Higher Ground
Von S. Bourland© 2005

With shoes upturned at toes and heels,
and sweat-stiff pants and shirt,
he ate and slurped his hot-cooked meal
while Granny clutched her skirt

and apron far from spittle drops.
Soft-voiced, she offered food
and solace, succulent dollops
of kindness—amplitude

for time-worn neighbor's health. Divine.
For, heart is fed when love
finds ways to overcome decline
of cleanliness. Above

all else, the soul of man comes first,
and seeks bounteousness,
flood waters to quench inner thirst,
friend's courteous largesse.

At Granny's side, hunger replete,
Max uttered, "Thank you," and
quoted poetry, a rare treat,
token for helping hand.

"I Sit and Look Out"
----------Leaves of Grass
Walt Whitman

I sit and look out upon all the sorrows of the world,
and upon all oppression and shame;

I hear secret convulsive sobs from young men,
at anguish with themselves, remorseful after deeds done;

I see, in low life, the mother misused by her children,
dying, neglected, gaunt, desperate;

I see the wife misused by her husband—
I see the treacherous seducer of young women;

I mark the ranklings of jealousy and unrequited love,
attempted to be hid—I see these sights on the earth;

I see the workings of battle, pestilence, tyranny—
I see martyrs and prisoners;

I observe the slights and degradations cast by arrogant persons upon laborers, the poor, and upon negroes and the like;

All these—All the meanness and agony without end,
I sitting, look out upon,

see, hear, and am silent.

Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat #18

April 20, 21 & 22, 2010 Eureka Springs, Arkansas

Tuesday April 20 -
Registration 3-5 PM – First Session 7-10 PM

Poetry Contest Awards Banquet
Critique Workshops Poetry Lectures Poetry Workshop
Open Mikes Book Table Breaks to explore beautiful Eureka
~ Time for visiting with interesting poets from all over the United States ~

TED JUDGES THE CONTEST (BLIND), BUT HE CAN NO LONGER ATTEND
Deadline for contest poems and critique workshop poems March 15, 2010

Accomplished Poets and New Poets ~ All are welcome

Share your knowledge and learn from others

A unique experience you will never forget

Best Western Inn Of the Ozarks (479) 253-9768 * 1-800-552-3785
ROOMS $54 king or 2 queens, 2 people, {each extra person $5}(balcony & spa level $66)

REGISTRATION FEE only $35 for all 3 days

BANQUET $18
(exceptional food)

I would appreciate knowing if you plan to attend.

Birma Castle, Director
1092 Sun Meadow Dr.
Beaumont, TX 77706
birmacastle@yahoo.com, please send e-mail address for up-date information.
409-866-3219

Lucidity Retreat Registration Form ~ April 20, 21 & 22, 2010

Name _____
_Make checks payable to Birma Castle

Address _____
_____

Phone_____
Email_____

Please list as you want it to appear in the Retreat Workbook
(Please write so old eyes can read it)

Retreat Registration $35_____Banquet $18_____(or may be purchased at retreat sign in)

Contest Award Prize Donations $_____Thank you for your generosity.

Cash Prizes and number of prizes are awarded by Donations Only.

Poetry Society of Texas
610 Circle View Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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Executive Board – Committees Contact Information

President:
Jeannette Strother
610 Circle View Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063 jlstrother@sbcglobal.net
682-518-6653 (New)

Vice President:
Catherine L'Herisson
518 Grinnell Drive
Garland, TX 75043
972-270-4994 catherinepoet@juno.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Jimmye Inez Sessions
1373 Beechwood Drive
Lewisville, TX 75067
972-434-2105 masonsessions@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary:
Sylvia Slaten
1803 Eastfork Lane
Wylie, TX 75098
214-474-0241 silvia.slaten@wylieisd.net

Treasurer:
Amy Sandberg
2328 Red River Street
Mesquite, TX 75150
leftwrite83@aol.com.

Directors:
Pat Randolph
4366 Cochran Chapel Circle
Dallas, TX 75209 patranccc@aol.com

David Knape
1405 Newbury Lane
Plano Texas 75025
214-601-7503 Dknape1969@yahoo.com

Barbara J. Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
972-495-7311 barbarablanks@aol.com

Membership Chair: (Out-going)
Lee Carroll
3909 Gable Lane # 611
Fort Worth, TX 76155
817-685-1039 leecarroll.fwps@gmail.com