PST 2014-2015 Prepares for September Take-Off
Flight Now Boarding: Saturday, September 13, 2014 at 2:30 p.m.
At the Preston Royal Library, 5626 Royal Lane, Dallas, Texas
Our Captain: Newly Elected President Catherine L’Herisson

Thank you, Immediate Past President Jimmy Inez Sessions, for your term of great leadership!

Your new captain and flight crew hope to welcome you aboard PST Flight 2014-2015. We are fueled for flight and look forward to a great take-off at the September meeting. Having many of our chapters represented at the meeting will encourage the leadership that you share our enthusiasm for promoting poetry in Texas during the coming year.

We are excited to welcome a delegation from the Rusk County Poetry Society, led by their president, Sue Roberts. They will travel all the way from east Texas to bring our program. We hope you will make an effort to come and meet them, make some new friends, and be a part of the fun, which will include a Spotlight Poet and our monthly contests. You can participate in voting for the winners.

We won’t serve peanuts or pretzels on this flight, but you are welcome to bring a snack to share. Come get on board.

Uplifting Summer Conference in Houston
Featured “Wings” Theme ~ by Lisa Salinas

The 45th annual PST Summer Conference was hosted by Poets Northwest at the Hyatt North Houston on July 10-12. Our theme was “On the Wings of Poetry,” and we were flying high!

Thanks to all of you who joined us for three days of uplifting poetry presentations and camaraderie with other poets.

Highlights of the conference included lively evening read-arounds, a hands-on poetry wall on which attendees added poems and drawings, a tribute to dear poets who have recently passed, and many engaging speakers, most of whom tied their presentations to the theme.

Thursday evening opened the conference with dinner followed by tributes to honor the lives and poetry of four of our Texas women poets who are greatly missed: Mildred Vorpahl Baass (honored by her daughter Nancy Baass), Roberta Pipes Bowman (honored by Naomi Stroud Simmons), Claire Ottenstein-Ross (honored by Maxine Kohanski), and Violette Newton (honored by Birma Castle, wearing violet, of course).

Friday was filled with presentations by Lisa Salinas (A Birdwatcher’s Guide to Fitting Poetry into Your Days), Terry Jude Miller (Workshop: Lifting Off Exercises), Sharon Young (When Poetry Sings), Stephen Mendonça (Flights of Fancy:
Conference Report continued on page 2
**Summer Conference Report Continued**

*When Art Meets Poetry*, and Scarlett Czarnopis (Giving Your Voice Wings: The Art of Poetry Interpretation). The conference also featured a thought-provoking panel discussion entitled *What Gives Your Poetry Wings* moderated by Michael Owens and featuring Poets Northwest members Leslie Ann Engle, Karen Mastracchio, David Orchard and Carol Taylor. Conference attendees also had great fun listening to a poetry reading presented by Dick Klein, Michael Owens, and Dale Terry entitled *Old Men Reflect on the Good Old Days*. A wonderful Friday of poetry presentations was finished up with dinner and a reading and book-signing by 2013 Texas Poet Laureate Rosemary Catacalos.

What would a PST event be without poetry contests? Friday featured two contests with nine poets ending up winners. *You Be There* contest winners: 1st place Susan Maxwell Campbell, 2nd place Sharon Young, 3rd place Carol Taylor, 4th place Beth Ayers, 5th place Catherine L’Herisson. *You Be the Judge* contest winners: 1st place tie to Valerie Martin Bailey and Barbara Lewie Berry, 2nd place tie to Lisa Salinas and Laurie Kolp.

Special thanks to the Poets Northwest members who put this year’s conference together: Lynn Robert Grice (conference coordination), Bob & Maxine Kohanski (hotel arrangements and decorations), and Lisa Salinas (speaker selection, program content, technology). Also appreciated: Michaud L. Lamrouex (book room), David Orchard (poetry wall), Mike Owens (on-site help at the conference), and Sharon Young (program design).

Much appreciation to the chapters that sent delegates to this year’s conference: Beaumont Chapter, Fort Worth Poetry Society, Mockingbird Chapter, Poets Northwest, Poets of Tarrant County, and San Antonio Poets Association.

Make plans now to join us next July for the 2015 PST Summer Conference to be hosted by Birma Castle and the Beaumont Chapter in southeast Texas.

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**Editor’s Note:**

All PST members are urged to find a PST chapter to attend regularly. Fellowship with other poets keeps us challenged and helps us grow poetically. However, if you are a member-at-large and there is no chapter in your area, consider starting one. If that’s not an option, and you would like to be included in the monthly news, send news of your publications, reading engagements, and other poetic activities, and you will be included in the news exchange. We want to know what all our members are doing. Send your news to vbailybulletin@saxr.com and indicate that you are a Member-At-Large and indicate the city, town or area in which you live.

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**From Our Member Chapters …**

Note: Many member chapters recess during summer months. Reports from these chapters will resume in September.

**THE BEAUMONT CHAPTER**  
*Barbara Green Powell Reporting*

**Sound the Trumpets and Blow the Horns!!!**  
Beaumont Chapter Will Host  
The 2015 Summer Conference.  
Stay Tuned for the Next Announcement with the Date.  
We’re Gonna Have a Great Time! Birma

Members Birma Castle and Laurie Kolp had a great time at the PST Summer Conference, *On the Wings of Poetry*, held at the Hyatt North Houston, in Houston.

Laurie Kolp, our newest member, tied for 3rd place in the “You Be the Judge” contest. This was Laurie’s first summer conference so she gets kudos from the Beaumont Chapter members. Laurie published her first poetry book, *Upon the Blue Couch*, in April 2014, and in my opinion, she has a winner.

Barbara Green Powell missed her first PST summer conference since she joined our chapter due to blood clots that traveled to her lungs. We’re all glad it happened two days before the conference instead of at the conference.

Our lesson assignment for August is to write a prose selection. Evelyn Appelbee graciously sent us information to guide us in writing prose and free verse. We would like to praise Evelyn and all poets who help chapters members by critiquing their poems to help them become better writers. Questions from members on the difference between prose and free verse prompted our August assignment. We hope our members will find time to write amid their frantic scramble to get their poems ready for the 2014 PST Contests.

We encourage everyone to make plans to attend the Awards Banquet in November, even if you do not receive the coveted banquet card saying you have a reason to attend. It is a blessing to listen to the winners read their winning poems and to greet our poetry friends and meet new ones. It is like a family reunion. See you in November.
DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY  
Richard L. Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly met on August 16 at the Emily Fowler Public Library. Members read assigned poems about Heroes, and J. Paul Holcomb presented a lesson about variations on the sonnet. Over the summer, he delivered lessons on the rondel and stretched sonnet.

Several of our members were featured in the new publication from PST, *A Texas Garden of Verses: An Anthology*. This is an e-book celebrating poems and poets from the 2013 PST Summer Conference. DPA members in this anthology include: Karona Drummond, J Paul Holcomb, Beth Honeycutt, Chris Irving, Angie Kimmell, Annie Neugebauer, Jan Spence and Jervis Underwood. Chris Irving and Patrick Marshall also helped edit the e-book along with the summer conference committee. It is now also available in paperback for $10.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of each month, 10AM – Noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201. Free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com. If you have questions or comments, contact President Richard Weatherly at 817-506-6991.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY  
Anne Jones Reporting

President Mike Baldwin opened our meeting by reading three poems. The first was “Addendum” by our new national Poet Laureate, Charles Wright. The second was “Some Questions You Might Ask” by Mary Oliver. The third was “The Caddos Mounds” by our Texas poet laureate, Violette Newton.

For a Summer conference door prize we gave a Barnes & Nobles gift card for $25 and several of our books including *Beyond the Gate*. Mike suggested that we have a calendar of events and everyone thought it a good idea. Steve Sanders reminded us of Arts Goggle in August. Hilda Mendoza announced that she can get into our Website now and she is adding poems to it. We discussed publishing poems on the Website by guest poets. Several suggestions were offered for contacting guest poets, including the schools. We will discuss it further next month.

Steve told us about *Street Zing*, a newspaper published by First Presbyterian Church. Copies are sold to street people for 25 cents. They then sell these on the street and make a profit, so they don’t have to beg. Pat Spradley is in charge and has agreed to accept poems from us if they have to do with social injustice. Steve will work out the details.

Anne announced that a former member and past president Sybil Gutkowski, passed away. She was 90 years old. Several members remember her being very active in the FWPS at one time.

Kudos included several members who participated in Poetry at Burnet Park on April 24. Don Shook won first place in the Seadog Slam Poetry Contest. Naomi Stroud Simmons and J. Paul Holcomb won several first places in the Galaxy of Verse contests.

Mike Baldwin, president, opened our August meeting by attending to old business. We are still feeling our way with the chapbook contest. Mike had spoken with Catherine L’Herisson, President of PST. PST does want to sponsor it, but has some concerns. Mike read these, and he will email them to all the members before we address them at our next meeting. We liked the idea of having the contest at a different time of the year. Mike will also check the requirements for the Eakin Press contest so that we are in sync with these rules.

Naomi Simmons was delayed by traffic, and she had the opening poems. She read two poems by Barbara Crooker: “The Fifties” and “Sparklers.” Naomi mentioned that Barbara writes of everyday happenings, in the style of Ted Kooser and others.

In new business Mike reminded members of ArtsGoggle on October 11. Steve Sanders was not able to attend, but will give details at our next meeting. Mike also is still considering the publication of guest poets, particularly young people, on our Web site. He brought up another idea of contacting area libraries about having a poet in residence. Naomi and several others thought this would be a really good thing to do. We had a lot of good kudos this time, particularly Mike and Marilyn Komechak who had a two month workshop at Second Tuesday. Paul Holcomb also announced that he has become Poet Laureate of Lewisville.

The workshop seemed extra productive this time, with some good suggestions for making the poems better. Members attending were Mike, Anne Jones, Ray Henson, Marilyn, Don Shook, Paul, Naomi, Susan Campbell and Susan Taylor.

GULF COAST POETS  
David Cowen Reporting

The July meeting of the Gulf Coast Poets featured Winston Derden, a former journalist, fiction writer, and poet who resides in Houston.

Mr. Derden is a frequent headliner at Houston-area poetry readings. He also co-produces the reading/interview series Speak!Poet. The Gulf Coast Poets are currently considering the publication of a new anthology to be edited by group founder and noted poet and teacher Mary Margaret Carlisle. More details will follow.

The Gulf Coast Poets next meeting will be September 13, and will feature Carolyn Tourney Florek (co-editor Mutabilis Press) with Carolyn Dahl introducing a new vol-
ume of poetry and art by both. It will begin at 10:30 a.m. at the Barnes & Noble on Bay Area Blvd. and U.S. Interstate Highway 45 in the Clear Lake area of Houston.

The Gulf Coast Poets will host Poetry Out of Bounds, the kickoff event for the Houston Poetry Fest, at the same location on Saturday October 4.

**Mockingbird Chapter**
*Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting*

July: President Irene Robertson opened the meeting by asking Alice Parker to report on the Poet’s Garret event held on June 22 in Dallas. It was attended by eight poets from PST, among others. Sylvia Medel was not present at the July monthly meeting because of the death of her sister. David Knape is moving to Houston with his family so we need a new treasurer. As new business, Beth Ayers displayed a CD of her poems about motherhood titled *Mother Words* and immediately sold her first two copies. President Robertson suggested we think about a dinner-dance in October as our next fundraiser.

August: President Irene Robertson announced that Beth Ayers will take the position of treasurer in the absence of David Knape. Also, in David’s absence, Sylvia Medel will be interim vice-president. A farewell card will be sent to David in September. Much discussion ensued as to how to increase membership. Three Mockingbirds attended the PST Conference in Houston July 10–12. Several Mockingbird members won prizes at the Summer Conference, and Beth Ayers had one poem in the top ten in the national contests.

**Permian Basin Chapter**
*Jennifer Adkins*

The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas hosted its monthly meeting and writer’s roundtable on July 26 at the Ground Floor in Midland, as well as an open mic night on August 9. Local poets are encouraged to attend these monthly events, which occur on the last Saturday at 2 p.m. and the second Saturday at 7 p.m., respectively. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month.

Poetry Society members Jocelyn Mosman, Kaylee Sims, and Daniel Carlo Ramos competed in the West Texas Talent Search, sponsored by West Texas Talent Entertainment. Ramos won in the poetry category and moved on to the semi-finals. Poets also participated in an open mic night on August 2 at the Black Box Theater.

In preparation for the 100,000 Texas Poets for Change event on September 27, the poetry society has finished its anthology *Permian Basin Beyond 2014, Anthology Made in Texas*. The book features both written and visual art, and includes submissions from poets across the globe, as well as from several former Texas poet laureates. Complimentary copies of the e-books will be released soon to those who submitted. Donations have been promised for anthology hard copies as well.

The local September 27 event will be held in Wagner Noel Park in Odessa. Poets, singers, and other performers will be in attendance, including Texas Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas. The theme of the event will be worldwide positive change, as well as peace and sustainability. Music will be from 2-8 p.m. at the park. A poetry slam will follow.

**Rusk County Poetry Society**
*Richard Hurzeler Reporting*

President Sue Roberts welcomed everyone and opened with prayer remembering those present and those unable to attend. Present were Mary Tindall, Carol Thompson, Reta Maxted, Marie Dixon. Kent Dixon, Jane Cheatham, Sue Roberts, Sharon Taylor, Richard Hurzeler, and guests: Betty Hall and Connie Schondelmeyer.

Brochures for the fall festival, compiled by Vina Hathaway and folded by Connie Schondelmeyer, were distributed. Sharon Taylor, presented the treasurer’s report on behalf of Charles Taylor.

Mary Tindall presented the lesson. Poets were asked to make lists of things to write poems about. From the lists, we would later write a five line poem called a cinquain. Some of these forms can be found in the Bible, and Mary presented five examples from the KJV and an RCPS award winner from 2000 by Jack Kennedy: “New Shoes” A number of cinquains on a common theme can be strung together in sets of four, five or six. We looked at examples of five set together by Mary Tindall, titled “Dry Cycle” and six set together by Naomi Stroud Simmons, titled “Travel Forecast.” The assignment is to write one or more cinquain poems.

Reta Maxted and Marie Dixon were Spotlight Poets. Reta wove in some of her family history (three generations of women who shared a love of nature and gardening) and her personal growth as an artist. Visual art is a passion for Reta. She spends hours working on it and has won numerous art awards in Texas and Oklahoma. Her paintings of white and yellow roses were shown to the group. Marie Dixon supplied the poetic words to the paintings done by Reta to make an emotional experience of the heart. Marie also combined the words from Bette Midler’s song, “The Rose” with a photo of a rose she had taken. Sue Roberts pointed out that combining the arts of painting and poetry can touch us in many ways.

Critiqued poems on the anger lesson by Richard Hurzeler were supplied by Evelyn Appelbee. A few poems from the general category were also shared.

Refreshments were provided by Reta, Sharon, Sue and Carol. Patriotic paper plates added a nice touch.
SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

The May meeting was packed with end of season activities. Wallace Vaughan led the pledge and invocation, minutes were approved, the treasurer’s report read, and President Turner made announcements concerning the NFSPS summer convention, and the PST summer conference. After announcements, Loretta and Wallace Vaughan provided a delicious meal and chocolate cake.

After the meal, Contest Chairman Wallace Vaughan presented the Poet Laureate awards. The 2014-2015 Poet Laureate Award went to Sheila Tingley Moore, who also won the Poetic Excellence Award. First runner-up was last year’s Poet Laureate, Valerie Martin Bailey. Loretta Burns Vaughan was second runner-up and Margaret Barrett Mayberry was third runner-up. After plaques were awarded. Wallace announced winners in the April contests, judged by Naomi Simmons of Ft. Worth. Winners in the assigned topic were: Joan Seifert (1st), Margaret Mayberry (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), Iris Maahs (HM). Winners in the open topic contest were: Valerie Bailey (1st), Iris Maahs (2nd), Jean Jackson (3rd), Pat Gibbs (HM).

Outgoing president, Sharon Turner, thanked the outgoing officers and chairmen and gave each an elegant rosewood clock box with an engraved message of appreciation, along with a vase of baby yellow roses. Publications Chair, Valerie Bailey presented a presidential plaque to Sharon Turner and thanked her in behalf of SAPA for her hard work as president. Wallace Vaughan presented a lovely vase of flowers to Sharon. Parliamentarian Pat Gibbs then officiated at the installation of new officers, giving each officer a different colored candle and a candy bar signifying each particular office. She congratulated and introduced the new officers for 2014–2016. They are President: Margaret Barrett Mayberry, Vice-President: Sheila Tingley Moore, Recording Secretary: Loretta Burns Vaughan, Corresponding Secretary: Valerie Martin Bailey, Treasurer: Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex, Parliamentarian: Pat Gibbs, Historian: Charles E. Jones.

President Sharon Turner then turned the meeting over to our new President, Margaret Mayberry. Margaret told members to share any new ideas or suggestions for SAPA, adding that we need to work on bringing new members into SAPA.

At a called June meeting, SAPA’s executive board made the decision to once again move our meeting place due to access problems for handicapped members at the current location. SAPA began meeting at the San Pedro Presbyterian Church on August 16 for a summer workshop conducted by Valerie Bailey and Jean Jackson. There were 13 in attendance at the three hour workshop. Regular meetings will resume at this location on September 20.

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY
Frances Neidhardt Reporting

The June 7 meeting of TPS had business as its subject. In the absence of President Peggy Silha Ritzer, due to ongoing therapy, Vice-President Frances Neidhardt presided.

An interesting 3-volume set of books given to our chapter by well known Woodstock poet Edward Sanders, titled America, a History in Verse, was perused and enjoyed. A free-wheeling and free verse quick look at America’s 20th century through 1970, the volumes fascinated as a connecting point with our dramatic, but easy-to-forget past. A display of illustrated flyers and posters used over the last decade helped us consider our forthcoming programs in view of past offerings. Certain will be an open offer to Darrah Dunn, a local acting talent who in the past two years has wowed the group with Shakespeare and Robert Frost.

The funding question was best answered by Alex Bernath’s idea that we hope to implement. He outlined ways to approach Sherman’s Fine Arts Committee with Texoma Poetry Society’s longtime cultural contributions and request a grant beginning next year, our 30th year. A slate of officers sent by President Peggy Silha Ritzer, was presented by Tohnie Hynds and accepted by the group: President, Peggy Silha Ritzer; Vice-President, John Creighton Miller, and Secretary-Treasurer, Frances Neidhardt. All present read poems for the voluntary Round Robin.

Our August 2 program featured two parts. The first was a discussion regarding Pablo Neruda and Allan Hust. The second part was TPS’s 100 contests, including the reading, critiquing and discussion of potential poem entries.

Biography and poems by the 1971 Chilean Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda were presented by TPS activist Carol Groner. Carol is a bilingual Spanish scholar with a BA and MA from Ashland U. and Case-Western Reserve. She taught at Trenton Jr. College, Ohio State U., and schools in Texas. Carol stressed the passion for all people and for life found in Neruda’s poems, and also the world leadership achieved by the great South American. Next Frances Neidhardt, who presided in the absence of Peggy Silha Ritzer, read strong and moving poems influenced by Neruda and written devotedly and in the manner of meditations by a TPS former vice-president, Allan Hust, who is now in Sherman’s Homestead. Vice-president John Creighton Miller was also absent due to a funeral.

Two Denison ladies present, Trisha Bogard and Fern Jones Boren, long-time writers, are joining PST and reading poems for the contests. Both gained interest in TPS after the Herald-Democrat’s April newspapers featured a local poem each day on the front page.

The next TPS meeting will be October 4, at which time our year-long celebration of TPS’s 30 years with PST, will begin.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT, JULY 2014
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members..........207
Associate Members........5
Honorary Members........5
Library Members..........3
Life Members...............60
Recently Deceased
Members.....................0
Student Members..........20
Sustaining Members........1

Current
Membership Total........301
New Members..............3
Renewing Members......22

New Members

Joined June, 2014
Tony Henninger, Midland, TX
Joan Mazza, Mineral, VA
Lori Janick, Baytown, TX

Joined July, 2014
Trisha Bogard, Denton, TX
Ellyn Tomes, Colleyville, TX
Laura Loughridge (Associate)

Help us keep our membership roll up to date.
Please let Membership Chair, Lynn Lewis, know if there
is any change in your contact information: address, phone, or e-mail address.
Contact Lynn at elsquared59@yahoo.com

Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

No book donations were reported during the sum-
mer. If you have book donations, please send them to Barbara
Blanks at the address listed in the Executive Board box in the
next column. They will be kept in the PST’s permanent collec-
tion at the Dallas Central Public Library.

PST’s First Poetry Anthology E-Book
A Texas Garden of Verses Now Available in Paperback

A Texas Garden of Verses is available as an e-book or pa-
perback at www.amazon.com for $1.99 and $10 respectively.
It can be purchased and downloaded to computer, PC/
Laptop, tablet, or smart phone. If you prefer you can order the
paperback from Beth Ayers.

Her contact information is in the Executive Board box.
Contact Beth by e-mail to find out the postage cost and mail
your order and check to her address. Make your check
payable to PST. All proceeds benefit the Poetry Society of
Texas.

* The Executive Board *

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Our Deepest Sympathy is Extended to the Following:

Linda Banks in the death of her sister,
Sylvia S. Medel in the death of her sister.

Family and Friends of Sylvia Gutkowski
(former president of the Fort Worth Poetry Society)

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