MonthlY MeEtInG RepoRt
for Saturday, December 13, 2014
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L’Herisson called the meeting to order. She welcomed our speaker from Athens, Charlotte Renk, and Dallas guests Asher Blake, Mary Ann Kennedy, and Penny Kent. Also in attendance were past presidents Linda Banks, Marilyn Stacy, Jimmey Inez Sessions, and J. Paul Holcomb.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the November Financial Statement. More than $5,800 was awarded to first place poems at the Annual Awards Banquet in November.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the October-November Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. If membership dues were not paid by the end of November, your name was removed from the membership database. We encourage you to renew your membership.

We have four new members: Diane Glancy, Gainesville; Mahlon Forman, Dallas; Michell Ramos, Allen; Stephen Souris, Denton; and one new sustaining member: Hal. C. Clark. PST is pleased to welcome you!

President L’Herisson asked those who had won a first place award in the Annual Contests to stand and remain standing. Then she asked other place-winners to stand, then those who had entered, and anyone who had attended the banquet. Almost everyone in attendance was standing at that point, and we gave ourselves a round of applause.

There will be no speaker at the January meeting since that is our annual Poem-a-thon. Be sure to bring poems to read. It is also our Memorial meeting to honor those members who died in 2014. Vice-President Budd Powell Mahan will conduct the memorial.

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson, at 3107 Marquise Court, McKinney, TX 75070. The e-mail address is Rinii@tx.rr.com
**PST’s Monthly Meeting Report (Continued)**

**Our special guest speaker** was Charlotte Renk, from Athens. Charlotte holds a PhD from LSU, and taught English and Creative Writing in Athens for thirty years. She has been a PST councilor, and has won numerous PST and NFPS awards.

In 2009, she won the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Award for *These Holy Hungers: Secret Yearnings from an Empty Cup*. Her newest book, *The Tenderest Petal Hears*, was the co-winner of the first national Blue Horse Press Chapbook Competition sponsored by San Pedro River Review, California. Charlotte does not have a Website of her own, but details and contact information can be found at [www.barbara-blanks.com](http://www.barbara-blanks.com).

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**ALAMO AREA POETS**

*Iris Maahs Reporting*

Walt Whitman (President, Don Mathis) surprised members of Celebration Circle Church with a poetry reading. It was rumored that he’d make another appearance at the December meeting of AAPT. Other members making poetry news are Sheila Moore who won first, second, and third place awards in the *Galaxy of Verse* winter contests. A poem by Don Mathis will be included in a Los Angeles poetry anthology about heartbreak in men. He will also read at La Villita in November. Peter Holland, was recently featured at Barnes and Noble. Winners of October’s assigned contest, judged by Barbara Powell were: Lea Fagin (2nd HM); Iris Maahs (1st HM); Peter Holland (3rd place); Lucy McBee (2nd place); Sheila Moore (1st place). The open contest winners were Antoinette Winstead (2nd HM); Linda Crow (1st HM); Billie Stroud (3rd place); Iris Maahs (2nd place); and Sheila Moore (1st place). Special guest at the November meeting was Mathieu McBee, son of Lucy and Bob McBee.

AAPT members met on December 6 for their annual Christmas lunch. Guests were Susan Salzman and Stelli Munnis, Iris Maahs’ granddaughter. Don Mathis presented a program about the life of Walt Whitman including some of his poetry, his philosophy of life, and Whitman’s advice on how to live our lives more successfully.

November awards were presented to winners of the open topic: Peter Holland (3rd HM), Don Mathis (2nd HM), Billie Stroud (1st HM), Dee Carter (3rd place), Iris Maahs (2nd place), Sheila Moore (1st place). Winners of the assigned topic: Toni Murguia (3rd HM), Don Mathis (2nd HM), Peter Holland (1st HM), Iris Maahs (3rd place), Lucy McBee (2nd place), Sheila Moore (1st place).

The group welcomed new member, Linda Crow and remembered Dee and Nancy Carter who were unable to attend.

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**AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY**

*Wade Martin Reporting*

This month’s meeting is our Holiday Open Mike, where the poems can be about anything and the food is always fabulous. If you’re in the area on Saturday, December 20, please drop by the Austin Academy of Music’s Northwest School of Music (8863 Anderson Mill Rd., Suite 114, Austin, TX 78729) anytime between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., and bring your favorite holiday treats and poems. This open mike, like all our meetings, is free and open to the public.

APS at-large board member Usha Akella is finishing her term as the city’s Cultural Ambassador for the final quarter of 2014. She was chosen by the Cultural Arts Division of the City of Austin Economic Development Department and is the first South Asian to hold the position.

The APS, under the direction of Usha, is hosting the second chapter of The Poetry Caravan, which began in White Plains, NY in 2003. The Caravan gives readings in retirement homes, hospitals, and women’s shelters, taking poetry to people who can’t go to poetry. The White Plains chapter has held over 1,000 readings, led workshops, and produced an anthology with a foreword by former Poet Laureate Billy Collins.

Scott Wiggerman and David Meischen of Dos Gatos Press are moving to Bernalillo, New Mexico in the near future. While Dos Gatos will continue to publish books of poetry and poetry exercises, the *Texas Poetry Calendar* will remain in Austin in the hands of APS vice-president Allyson Whipple and APS Museletter editor Wade Martin (submissions are open until February 20). They will continue to host the state-wide reading series that has made the *Calendar* a focal point for connections between poets from Houston, San Antonio, Dallas/Fort Worth and Austin, as well as other far-reaching corners of the state.

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**DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY**

*Richard Weatherly Reporting*

On Saturday November 15, Denton Poets’ Assembly met at the Emily Fowler Public Library in Denton, Texas.

Members read Minute poem assignments based on a lesson presented by J. Paul Holcomb in October. After the readings, J. Paul presented a lesson, “Roll Your Own.” During the presentation, he related an experience at Baylor University’s Beall Poetry Festival in Waco. According to J. Paul, “I asked the panel of poets if poetic forms had a place in contemporary poetry. I received excellent answers from all the poets, but the response that was written in my memory with apparently per-
manent ink was the one given by U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins. “Any device,” Collins pointed out, “that keeps a poem from falling into chaos is a form.”

DPA and PST member Angiel Kimmell announced her release of *Midnight Divination and Other Wayward Hobbies*, a book of poems.

During the December meeting, we read our “Roll Your Own” poems and shared free-choice poems.

We capped off the year with poetry submissions for *Merging Visions Collections V*, which will be published in the spring of 2015. This publication is a collaborative compilation of art and poetry pairing the talents of VAST and DPA Members.

**FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**  
*Anne Jones Reporting*

Marilyn Komochak read the opening poem, “The View,” for Derek Walcott, by Mark Strand. The minutes and treasurer’s report were given. We received $92 from Artsgoggle, which helped our coffers considerably. The rest of the business meeting concerned the chapbook contest that we would like to sponsor. Mike Baldwin has revised the rules for the contest for us to consider, keeping them very close to the manuscript contest rules. Catherine L’Herisson, president of PST, was our guest, and she presented the board’s concerns and suggestions. A lively discussion ensued.

So that our contest won’t conflict with PST’s yearly contest or the manuscript contest, we will have it between January 1 and February 30. The board is also concerned with the choice of a judge, and this was debated at length. Finally, the wording would include “a competent and fair judge” or something like that. We also did not think that the judge needed to be out of state, and discussed our reasons. Mike will correct the rules, with the suggestions made, and give it to Catherine to give to the PST board.

We also briefly discussed our December meeting, which will include refreshments. Mike will remind us by email. Don Shook reminded us of the Three Poets Return on Sunday from 4 to 6 at the Times Ten Cellar. Kudos included those who won prizes at the PST yearly contest. A very nice showing. Eight poems were critiqued.

**HI-PLAINS CHAPTER**  
*Von S. Bourland, Reporting*

October 25 marked our Annual Banquet commemorating National Poetry Day. Nine members and five guests enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast, fellowship, music, and poetry. Three members of the Southwest Cowboy Poets presented a program of western songs and poetry. Ivan Cates accompanied himself on the guitar and sang songs of cowboy lyrics. Liz Kemp, President of the Southwest Cowboy Poets, read several cowboy poems and one on politics and the government. Marianne Logan, a member of both groups, presented several of her humorous cowboy poems, bringing laughs.

Lana Velasquez, Hospitality Chair, decorated the Amarillo Senior Citizen Seminar room with fall centerpieces, contributed door prizes, and encouraged everyone present to write, then share a four-eight line poem using the words: fall, leaf or leaves, and season. Karl Smith, Katy Hupp, John Schmidt, Lana Velasquez, and Von Bourland shared their extemporaneous works, then Marianne Logan read a short poem.

Mary Yokum, President of Hi-Plains Poetry recently had surgery. Three members (Frances Clegg-Ferris, Von Bourland, and John Schmidt) reported on her condition and ongoing rehabilitation. John asked that we pray earnestly for Mary’s recovery that she might be able to return for our December meeting, which will be held December 6 at Amarillo Senior Center, 1217 S. Tyler St., in the Seminar Room.

To close the meeting, Ivan Cates led the group in singing Roy Rogers’ theme song, “Happy Trails to You.”

Visitors are always welcome.

**MOKINGBIRD CHAPTER**  
*Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting*

Seven members were present at the November meeting on the first Saturday of the month. Also present was Michell Ramos, a friend of Aman Khan, with her young son Kael.

President Irene Robertson welcomed everyone and said that she had sent emails to former members about rejoining, but had received no reply. She thanked Beth Ayers for forwarding to members the call for submissions to *FORCES* literary magazine. Sylvia Medel had sent Collin County Contest fliers to several schools, while Beth said that she had fielded email questions about the contest.

The nominating committee will announce nominations in December, then the new officers will begin their term.

We will have our Christmas party at the next meeting on December 6. Everyone should bring a gift under $10 and a luncheon dish.

Regarding Irene’s contest for a free ticket to the PST banquet, the winner was Sylvia Medel with Alice Parker, Jimmye Sessions, and David Knape receiving certificates.

The December meeting began with food. Despite the tossing of two turkeys by Irene Robertson, the feast was awesome. Inez Grimes came to the rescue with ham, and Sylvia Medel brought chicken. Besides these dishes, there were three green bean casseroles. Irene welcomed Linda Banks as a specially invited guest.

Sylvia read a letter to Irene as Chair of the Nominating Committee. Nominations were as follows: President, Aman Khan; Vice President, Alice Parker; Secretary, Jessica Gonsoulin; Treasurer, Beth Ayers. Jimmye Sessions moved that the slate be accepted and it was seconded by Sylvia Medel. All were in favor. Each new officer was asked to say a few words.
Irene was then presented with a thank-you card and a book.

The meeting was adjourned for the exchange of gifts and reading of poems. Sylvia and Irene also presented a cute skit.

**PERMIAN BASIN CHAPTER**  
*Jennifer McNeely*

The Permian Basin Chapter hosted its monthly open mic night on November 8 and the monthly meeting and writer’s roundtable took place on Oct. 25. 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. at the Ground Floor in Midland, respectively. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month.

This month’s Open Mic Night was emceed by DJ Zay. Comics and musicians also performed at the venue. Several poets are participating in National Novel Writing Month. Poets also performed at the Cerebral Rebellion Art Show on November 15.

The December monthly Open Mic Night was hosted on December 13 and the monthly meeting and writer’s roundtable took place on November 29. To celebrate the Holiday season, the poetry society raised $300 for the Permian Basin Mission Center. The group is also getting T-shirts ready to sell.

The Permian Basin chapter continues to promote poetry through its own Facebook page and through West Texas Poets. West Texas Poets is a Facebook page created by the Permian Basin Chapter.

**POETS NORTHWEST**  
*Carol Taylor Reporting*

Poets Northwest had a busy summer, hosting the PST Summer Conference in July and continuing our monthly poetry events with readings by PNW members Frances Ousley Johnson in August, Doris Ferguson in September, Carol Taylor in October, and June Brown Leap in November.

A new board of directors was elected at the November meeting: Lynn Roberts Grice—President/Newsletter/Historian, Lisa Salinas—Vice-President/Program Chair, Bob Kohanski—Treasurer/Membership, Sharon Young—Secretary, Maxine Kohanski—Events Coordinator/Fundraising, and David Orchard—Judge.

We will have our annual Christmas party in lieu of the December meeting. You can find PNW on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest, and our Website address is www.poetsnw.com. Both sites have information about our programs and events. Copies of our bi-annual anthology are on sale at meetings or can be obtained by contacting Lynn Grice.

**POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY**  
*Lynn Lewis Reporting*

The minutes for the December 1 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County are as follows: the meeting was called to order by President J. Paul Holcomb. Louin Berry III did a reading of “The Eve before Christmas” by Sophia P. Snow, and another by Anonymous. Minutes from the November meeting were approved, and there was no change in the treasury report. President Holcomb read the kudos list.

President Holcomb read a thank you note from November’s Featured Speaker, Linda Banks. The PTC member contest winners were Carolyn West, 3rd place; Ron Eddins, 2nd place; and Lynn Lewis, 1st place. Christine Irving of Denton was the contest judge.

President Holcomb presented the slate of officers for 2015. They are Patricia Ferguson, historian; Lynn Lewis, secretary; Chuck Poole, treasurer; Hollis Davis, vice-president; and Ron Eddins, president. Barbara Berry made a motion, seconded by Louin Berry III that a vote be done by acclamation. The “aye” votes were unanimous.

The Spotlight Poet was the wonderful Mona Lynn McDaniel. Assignment poems were read after the break, and the meeting was then adjourned for the Christmas party.

**RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY**  
*Vina Hathaway Reporting*

President Sue Roberts opened the meeting with prayer and read a “thank you” from Evelyn Appelbee for the honors she received at the 2014 Fall Festival of Poetry in October. No minutes or treasurer’s report were read. Attending were Sue Roberts, Richard Hurzeler, Joye Greenwalt, Mary Tindall, Reta Maxted, Carol Thompson and Vina Hathaway.

The Christmas party will be held on December 17 at the home of Sue Roberts. Members will bring a pot luck dish, a poem to be read, and a gift around $10 for a gift exchange.

Members voted, barring other suggestions, to hold the 2015 Fall Festival of Poetry at Longview’s Summit Club the second Saturday in October. Vina Hathaway will chair the 2015 contest.

Richard Hurzeler, a member of the nominating committee reported that the new officers will be: Richard Hurzeler, president; Sue Roberts, vice-president; Mary Tindall, corresponding secretary; Carol Thompson, recording secretary. A motion was made and approved to accept the slate of officers.

Sue Roberts will handle the cards of concern. She and Richard Hurzeler thanked Reta Maxted for the superb job she has done as refreshment coordinator in the past. No chaplain was selected, though prayers are always welcome.

Members voted to sponsor a $25 category in the 2015 Poetry Society of Texas annual contests. Sue encouraged all members to be active members in the PST. Paying PST dues includes membership in the national organization. Sue noted that the PST also sponsors monthly contests.

Evelyn Appelbee is encouraging the RCPS to devote more time to the critique of poetry, as well as discuss the critiques that Evelyn returns to the group each month.
Mary Tindall presented a poetry lesson on “choices” (what the poet chooses to write.) Mary passed slips of paper around the table to members to note the places they most often write. The other members then selected a slip and tried to guess which poet fit which location.

Mary discussed the writing technique of enjambment, the breaking of a clause or sentence at the end of a line of poetry. She quoted writer Mary Oliver as saying the pause is part of the dance of the written poem. A logical phrase is interrupted, and Mary explained: “We leap with more energy over a ditch than with no ditch.” The technique of enjambment also helps the writer avoid “forced rhyme.” Editing a poem and moving verse may mean a lot of rewriting when enjambment is involved, she noted, adding that Evelyn Appelbee warns against overuse of enjambment.

As an exercise, Mary asked the group to write a sentence during the meeting. The assignment for January is to use your sentence to write any style of poetry and include the technique of enjambment.

Because the November spotlight poets were not present, Joye Greenwalt shared the World War II experience of her husband. He participated in the bombing raids against the Nazis with courage and determination. Joye shared his account as it appeared in the Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel.

Mary Tindall provided delicious refreshments which were appreciated and enjoyed by all. The critiqued poems were distributed and members read the poetry aloud. The meeting was adjourned.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

At our November meeting, Valerie Bailey continued and finished her summer workshop topic on the “Music of Meter,” a study of rhythm in poetry. It was very informative, and she had us all write a brief rhyming poem during the workshop.

Winners of the October contests were announced. Both contests were judged by Doyle (Doc) Wood of Archer City. The assigned subject was “An Open Window,” and the winners were: Sheila Moore (1st place), Joan Seifert (2nd place), John Friedland (3rd place), Margaret Mayberry (HM). In the subject of choice contest, the winners were: Valerie Bailey (1st place), Charlene Plover (2nd place), Michaud Lamrouex (3rd place), and Sheila Moore (HM).

After our book raffle, we read our contest poems for November, which will be judged by Shirley Elliott Cosby of Emory. The winners will be announced at our Christmas Party/Meeting on December 20 (after this Bulletin has gone to press). We will meet for a Christmas celebration and lunch at the famous LaFogata Mexican Restaurant. We have a large party room reserved and we will eat a yummy meal and then announce November’s contest winners and read our December poems. We have always had a potluck Christmas lunch party, so this will be a new way for our association to celebrate the season. We wish all our poet friends across Texas a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

SAN JACINTO CHAPTER
Donald Graham Reporting

On Saturday, November 8, we held our monthly meeting at the Sunset United Methodist Church in Pasadena. We are a small chapter with mostly senior members. It has been a struggle this last year to keep our attendance large enough to hold meetings, but because of the love of poetry, we persevere. The only business we discussed at our meeting was the planning of our annual Christmas program and meeting on December 13. We followed with lively conversation, refreshments, and a read-around. One of the advantages of a small group, is having the time to talk about each poem that is read. If you live in the Pasadena/Southeast Houston area, you are invited to come to our meetings on the second Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m. If you would like a copy of our Christmas Newsletter, you can e-mail me at: drgraham.hou@att.net.

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY
Frances Neidhardt Reporting

We celebrated the season with a program titled “Christmas Carols as Poetry,” on Saturday, December 6, at the Sherman Public Library Community Room. The musical/spoken word coordinated program presented historical and poetic insights on carols as told by retired Sherman teacher and Bel Canto singer Gail Grigg and carols on the keyboard played by composer and concert pianist Dr. John McGinn of Austin College. “Silent Night” was highlighted by its being created originally for the guitar, and its being sung peacefully during WWI when German and Allied troops congregated on “No Man’s Land” one Christmas Eve.

Prior to the program, Susan McGinn, second prize winner of the Mildred Vorpahl Baass and Nancy Baass Award, read her narrative poem, “For M.D.A.,” on the burial of her father one winter day. Presiding was Vice-President John Creighton Miller, who stated that the year 2015 would be the 20th anniversary year for our chapter, not its 30th anniversary as we had announced.

Founder and long-time president, Leona Welch of Denison, remembered with admiration by those who worked with her, started the Texoma Poetry Society in 1995 and continues as its President Emeritus, though health demands her inactivity. We hope she’ll make a special appearance with us in 2015.

Althea Hunt was hostess for refreshments. Those who read at the “round table” at program’s end were Carol Groner, John Creighton Miller, Althea Hunt, and Frances Neidhardt, who also read a poem submitted by request from former president Peggy Silha Ritzer. Our next meeting will be on the first Saturday of February.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT, SEPTEMBER 2014
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.............168
Associate Members.........14
Honorary Members..........5
Library Members............3
Life Members...............60
Recently Deceased
Members......................1
Student Members............20
Sustaining Members......3
Current
Membership Total.........264
New Members...............Diane Glancy
                        Gainesville
                        Mahlon Forman
                        Dallas
                        Michell Ramos
                        Allen
                        Stephen Souris
                        Denton
New Sustaining Member Hal C. Clark

PST Welcomes Our New Members

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
Librarian Barbara Blanks announces three book donations:
Prize Poems 2014 ~ by the Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc.
A Galaxy of Verse, Vol. 34, No2, Fall/Winter 2014 ~ Edited by Barbara Blanks

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 collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

Attention Members-at-Large: If you are a member-at-large with no chapter in your area, consider starting one. If that’s not an option, and you want to be included in the monthly news, send your news to vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS (PST)
Meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2:30 pm at
Preston Royal Library
5626 Royal Lane
Dallas, Texas 75229
The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November when the Annual Awards banquet is held at an area Dallas hotel. The Annual Summer Conference convenes in a different area of the state each July.

Our Deepest Sympathy To...
Valerie Martin Bailey and Sharon Martin Turner upon the death of their brother, David Martin, Jr. on December 5 in San Antonio, Texas.

Family and friends of long-time member Lee Carroll of Fort Worth who passed away two weeks ago.

PST Welcomes Our New Members

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Honorary Members..........5
Library Members............3
Life Members...............60
Recently Deceased
Members......................1
Student Members............20
Sustaining Members......3
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New Members...............Diane Glancy
                        Gainesville
                        Mahlon Forman
                        Dallas
                        Michell Ramos
                        Allen
                        Stephen Souris
                        Denton
New Sustaining Member Hal C. Clark

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