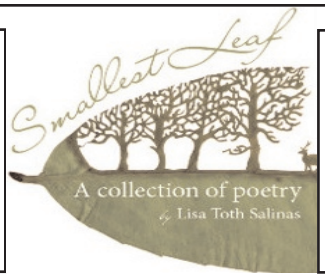
T★H★E B★U★L★L★E★T★I★N

★THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS★

Founded November 5, 1921
A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey ***February 2016***

Fun with Poetic Forms: March 12
Lisa Salinas' Eakin award-winning book *Smallest Leaf* features 55 poems in fifteen different poetic forms, some of them ekphrastic.



Smallest Leaf **by Lisa Salinas**
Lisa will present an all new reading of poems in various forms accompanied by a slideshow of visual images she created especially for our March 12 PST meeting.

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas
Saturday, February 13, 2016 in Dallas, Texas
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L'Herisson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including our program speakers, Beth and Mark Ayers. We had so many guests this time, she asked Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks to introduce them since she had recorded their names as they arrived. She asked for hands to be raised so the spotlight could fall on each. We greeted Shiny Wu, Plano; Joanna and Jim Jones, Dallas; Vangy Marino, Margaret Benson, Mary Collins, Don Sellers, Joanne Anterhaus, all from Dallas; Lisa Morris, Cliff Snell, Charles L'Herisson, all from Garland; Carmen Underwood, Oak Point; Susan McCarter, Plano; and Fred Gardner and Shirley Presson of McKinney. Also in attendance were past presidents Pat Stodghill, Jimmye Inez Sessions, Linda Banks, and Budd Powell Mahan.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the January Membership Report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis** (see page 6).

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the January Financial Statement. There were no major expenditures. The largest income came from more sponsorships for the 2016 contests.

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported on four books donated to the PST permanent collection: Note that both anthologies have poems by PST members. See page 6 for a list of the books).

Other Announcements:

- Due a conflict, the Student Awards will be held on April 16, not May 1. There were 82 contests this year for students from first grade to college level. Budd Powell Mahan, Chairman for Poetry in Schools, can always use help at the ceremonies, which will be held at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St., Dallas, TX 75201. Contact Budd for details at: *buddmahan@att.net.*
- **March 15** is the NFSPS contest deadline. Part of your PST dues pays for your membership in NFSPS, so you can enter the contests at a reduced fee.

Continued on page 2

FEBRUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Laurie Kolp, Beaumont
First Place: Dr. Aman Khan, Dallas ~ "Devotion"
Second Place: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas
Third Place: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Book Prizes

Reader: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller
Popular Prize: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Sylvia Medel, McKinney
Poetry for Poets Award: Barbara Blanks, Garland
William D. Barney Memorial: Angie Goin, Fort Worth
M. Tandy Duemke Prize: Barbara Goerdel, Arlington
Other Poems Read By: Von S. Bourland, Beth Honecutt, Jessica Gonsoulin, Naomi Simmons and T. Jervis Underwood

Laugh Lines Judge: James L. True, Beaumont
Laugh Lines Winner: Budd Powell Mahan

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chair, Irene Robertson at 1625 Gayla Creek Drive, Little Elm, TX 75068. The e-mail address is: yranie@att.net

Announcements continued:

- **The NFSPS Summer Convention** will be in Minnesota June 9-13. If you plan to attend, please let President L'Herisson know since we are still in need of delegates to the convention.
- **Spotlight on Poets Video:** Loretta Diane Walker was to be our first remote (on video) Spotlight Poet, but there was a glitch in the works, and she was un able to "attend" by video.

"A Victorian Valentine." was a rousing success. Personnel at Preston Royal Library were kind enough to help set the stage for our program speakers: Poet/Musician Elizabeth Turner Ayers and Professor Mark Warren Ayers, who presented "A Victorian Valentine." To quote from the playbill: "Since this program contains romance, humor, and time travel (that is not suitable for the faint of heart), only persons of substantial constitution who possess boundless imagination should attend."

Using a magic lantern, Professor Ayers, who sported a top hat and regency tailcoat, projected a whirling image on the screen and took us back in time to 1892. He explained this was before movies, and magic lanterns provided high entertainment. 30,000 or more people used to tour the country giving educational "lectures" about a variety of subjects. Lanterns were fueled with kerosene or limelight. A concave mirror in back of a light source directed as much of the light as possible through pictures hand-painted on glass.

A familiar tune floated through the air as Elizabeth Ayers, dressed in a long Victorian gown, played the hammered dulcimer. The audience sang along to "Daisy Bell" and her Bicycle Built for Two. Madam Ayers also gave dramatic recitations of two love poems, one by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and one by Rosa Hartwick Thorpe, both illustrated by magic lantern slides deftly handled by Professor Ayers.

All good shows must come to an end, and at last, Professor Ayers projected another whirling image to bring us all safely back to the present. They answered several questions asked by the fascinated and curious audience. Madame Ayers admitted much of her knowledge came from that renowned source, Professor W. I. Kipedia.

After the break, **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson** announced the winners for the February Monthly Contests (see Contest Box on page 1).

The meeting was then adjourned.

From Our Member Chapters ... PST *Poetry News From Across Texas*

ALAMO AREA POETS of TEXAS

Iris Maahs, Reporting

In the absence of President Iris Maahs, Vice President Antoinette Winstead opened our February meeting. Never let it be said that poets are behind the times. In the absence of an American flag, one member called up a flag on her cell phone, and members said the pledge, followed by a moment of silence.

Members had already read last meeting's minutes electronically, so Don Mathis made a motion to accept them. Nancy Carter seconded the motion and then read the treasurer's report; it was accepted unanimously.

Contest Chairman Sheila Moore announced the following winners of the January contests. In the assigned category Don Mathis won–3rd HM; Lea Fagin–2nd HM; Toni Murguia–1st HM; Peter Holland–3rd place; Iris Maahs–2nd place; Sheila Moore–1st place. Winners in the open category were: Antoinette Winstead–3rd HM; Don Mathis –2nd HM; Peter Holland–1st HM; Lois Heger–3rd place; Iris Maahs–2nd place; Sheila Moore–1st place.

AAPT's members were shocked to learn that one of their members, Carol Siskovic, and her husband were involved in a serious accident here in San Antonio. Their RV caught fire, and they were trapped inside until a good Samaritan walking by opened the door and rescued them. They both suffered smoke inhalation and serious burns. We wish them a very speedy recovery.

In 2018 San Antonio will celebrate its 300 year anniversary, so Don Mathis approached the city planners and suggested that they publish a 300 page anthology of poems celebrating the birth of San

Antonio. Don also plans to conduct a poets' walk along San Pedro Creek, which passes important historical places like O'Henry's house, the Governor's Palace, etc., to inspire our poets' muses.

After a break for refreshments furnished by Sheila Moore, members shared their new poems and participated in a free book raffle before the meeting ended.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Barbara Green Powell Reporting

Beaumont Chapter members cancelled our meetings for November and December due to illnesses, etc. but we're on the mend, so most of us attended the January meeting. It was great to get back in the groove of writing. Seeing our friends was a double reward. The critiqued poems we had written waited for us. I had completely forgotten that I had written one. It was like getting a late Christmas present, as our critiquing friend, Evelyn Appelbee, had given it a thumbs up. Smiles lit up faces and happy voices filled the air, as the poems were great story starters. Everyone had to tell her own spider tale. The February lesson was distributed first, so we could use the rest of the time to read the new poem that Lou Whitaker mailed to be critiqued for our next meeting.

Birma brought us up to date on her cornea transplant that was done in Houston on January 19. Birma said her left cornea was wrinkled, as in old age, so she assumes the right eye must be younger to match her personality. I added that last part because Birma bubbles with youthful enthusiasm. Birma's first surgery failed to heal in one place, hence a second surgery that came out fine. She goes for a check up on February 17. Birma is our President for 2016, and if you were unable to attend PST's Awards Banquet in November, Birma won the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. Congratulations, Birma! We are proud to be your friends.

Our next meeting is February 18 at Calder Wood Retirement Home. It will be good to get back to normal as Birma and I both had health issues in December and January, and in February, my brother-in-law was badly burned and I had to stay four days in San Antonio.

Our February lesson is to write a poem that weaves an ordinary object into some aspect of our lives, just as Deborah A. Akers did with her poem, "Feather on the Water."

We can inspire each other with our poems, so make a New Year's resolution to read and write more poetry. You will be blessed as your spirit is lifted to conquer your own life's challenges.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

The Denton Poets' Assembly met at the Emily Fowler Public Library on Saturday, February 20. After calling the meeting to order and greeting visitors we opened with a discussion on the final details involved with *Merging Visions.*

Members read rhyme royal poems in response to J. Paul Holcomb's lesson on the topic in January. Afterward J. Paul presented his February lesson. We capped off the meeting with free-choice poetry readings by members and guests.

Recognition: I failed to mention in the January *Bulletin* article that Bob Campbell and his wife Cheryl, along with Cindy Woods, volunteered to read poetry at a New Year's Eve celebration with residents of the Good-Samaritan Society Nursing and Assisted Living Center in Denton.

GULF COAST POETS

Daniel Carrington, Reporting

This month the Gulf Coast Poets welcomed Tria Wood as Featured Poet. An essayist and short fiction writer in addition to poet, she currently teaches creative writing. Ms. Wood presented selections of her own work as well as several pieces from students she has mentored as part of the Writers in the Schools program.

In GCP member news, Jane Wenninger recently self-published a collection of verse entitled *Bawdy and Soul.* It can be found via Amazon and other online retailers.

Weasel Patterson will release Robert Cone's chapbook *Still Life Over Coffee* through Red Ferret Press. Separately, Weasel has been invited to be a speaker at the Collegiate Publications & Journalists Conference at Salem College.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

Seventeen members and prospective members came to the meeting on February 6. Dues were collected, and the Nominating Committee presented the follow-

ing slate of offiers: President, Alice Parker; VP, Fred Gardiner; Secretary, Jessica Gonsoulin; and Treasurer, Beth Ayers. The slate passed without opposition.

Beth asked for volunteers to act as judges for the annual Collin County Poetry Contest and she will deliver packets to them next week. Alice reminded us that April is Poetry Month, and at our next meeting Wade Dyed, who puts poems into song, will be our keynote speaker. All are welcome to attend.

Alice asked new and prospective members to stand and introduce themselves. These were Joseph Pirella from Princeton, TX, who wrote *The Stopping Off Place* and was here giving a poetry slam; Ben Eajdel, who had a child in the previous Collin County contest; Jiann Powers, a story-teller and teacher who worked with Beth in the library; Ann Marie Neuman, another storyteller who is putting together an art installation; Shiny Wu, who writes Chinese poetry; and Shairi, a former member from 1990.

POETS NORTHWEST

Lisa Salinas and Sharon Young Reporting

Poets Northwest was active through the holiday season and beyond. November featured David Orchard and his interesting program on Geology in Modern Poetry and Prose. David, a professional geologist, shared on themes and influences in poetry and literature. December was a time to celebrate with families of fellow poets at Bob and Maxine Kohanski's home. A commemorative plaque was given to Lynn Roberts Grice for her service to PNW as President. The Christmas poetry contest was won by Lynn Roberts Grice and Sharon Young. Our bi-annual Poets Northwest anthology *Hometowns* edited by David Orchard was presented at the December meeting.

Our January meeting, held at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, featured members reading their winning poems from last November's PST contests. Poets Northwest had 12 winning poets who placed in 118 contests at PST this year, including 10 first places. Maxine Kohanski was our most decorated poet with 27 winning poems. Lynn Roberts Grice, Maxine Kohanski, Karen Mastracchio, Nancy Toth, and Sharon Young were present to read winning entries. The January gathering also included our monthly read-around by all in attendance, and several new visitors joined in. Read-around contest themes will continue in 2016 by popular demand. February issues a challenge to write on the subject "Why?"

This year our new Program Director Karen Mastracchio plans for many of our meetings to include a workshop element as we focus on developing our skill as poets. Also in the works for PNW in 2016: our annual Spring Fling member contests and awards banquet and a fall poetry workshop.

New officers for 2016 are as follows: Mike Owens, President; Karen Mastracchio, Vice-President/Program Chair; Lynn Roberts Grice, Newsletter/Historian; Bob Kohanski, Treaurer/Membership; Sharon Young, Secretary; Lisa Salinas, Publicity; Maxine Kohanski, Events Coordinator/Fundraising; David Orchard, Judge.

If you are in the Houston area, please join us! We meet on third Saturdays at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts in Spring (northwest Houston). Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Poets Northwest is on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest and on the Web at http://www.poetsnw.com.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The February 1, meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by President Ron Eddins. "Fast Break," by Edward Hirsch, was read by Contemporary Poet Reader, Naomi Simmons.

Minutes from the January meeting were approved and Chuck Poole gave the Treasury Report. The Spotlight Poet was Barbara Berry.

Vice-President Hollis Davis introduced our featured speaker, Don Shook. His program topic was "How to read poetry aloud to an actual audience." The Spontaneous Poetic Concept discussion centered on the same topic.

The Kudos List and assignment poems were read after the break. The meeting was then adjourned by President Eddins.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

President Sheila Moore presided over our January 16 meeting with 18 members present. After the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence, the minutes and the treasurer's report were approved as presented.

Our January program was given by Lisa Salinas

of Spring, Texas. Lisa, the 2014 winner of the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award, presented a fascinating reading from her winning book, *Smallest Leaf.* Her book with its various styles of poetry showcased Lisa's versatility in writing poetry. After Lisa's presentation, members were given an opportunity to purchase a copy of *Smallest Leaf.*

In the absence of Contest Chairman, Wallace Vaughan, winners of the December contests were announced by President Sheila Moore. Winners in the assigned topic contest were: Margaret Mayberry: 1st place, Valerie Bailey: 2nd place, Sheila Moore: 3rd place, Joan Seifert: HM. Winners in the open topic contest were: Valerie Bailey: 1st place, John Friedland: 2nd place, Joan Seifert: 3rd place, Margaret Mayberry: HM. The judge for both contests was Steve Sanders of Fort Worth. Our thanks to Steve for his time and expertise.

After refreshments and our monthly book raffle, Toni Murguia announced her poetry reading at Schertz Library on January 21. Finally, we were reminded that the assigned topic for February is an *Ars Poetica.*

WICHITA FALLS CHAPTER

Linda Smith Reporting

The WFPS met on January 23 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. The regularly scheduled meeting was cancelled due to bad weather. Rosellen Sheetz was the January Chair, and 7 members were present. December's lunch/meeting did not take place as planned, so members answered roll call by filling everyone in on events, plans, and writing accomplishments. Sheri Sutton had just come from a book signing at Hastings for her devotional book for Lent entitled *In Remembrance of Me*. Two other members, Doc Wood and Monica McCawley, are in the throes of putting a book together. Geneva Rodgers provided a nice selection of refreshments, so members took time to enjoy them before the meeting began.

Rosellen presented the lesson on "New Beginnings," and members read selected poems on the subject. The poems were thoughtful and inspiring and should be a help to members as they write poems for the February contest on this theme.

In the business meeting, November's meeting minutes were approved and the Treasurer's report was given by Webb Key. One of the expenses is the cost of the table the WFPS will have in February at the Kemp Center's fundraiser, the Home & Garden Festival. The table will be decorated by Sheri Sutton, and members will man the table for the two days of the show. Members' books will be offered for sale, and the WFPS will have information about the Society to inform community members who might be prospective members for the WFPS. The Home & Garden Festival takes place the week after the February's meeting, so details will be worked out at that meeting, including the purchase of tickets from the Kemp for $1.50 and buying/selling them for $6. This is a profit for the WFPS of $4.50 per ticket. This is our only fundraiser at this time, and is needed to fund our membership at the Kemp (which provides our meeting place) and our contest expenses.

A discussion followed regarding the best way to honor long-time member Mary Barnes who is unable to attend meetings and has offered her resignation. A decision was made to find a location suitable for presenting Mary with a certificate as an Honorary Life Member of the WFPS.

Winners in the January contest for the best poem on any subject, any form, are: 1st: Linda Smith; 2nd: Doyle Wood; 3rd: Geneva Rodgers; 1HM: Webb Key; 2HM: Rosellen Sheetz. Critic judge was Lois Chapman of Denton.

PRETTY PLEASE …WITH SUGAR ON IT

We are still in urgent need of a host chapter for our Summer Conference. It's getting late in the year, so please consider hosting the conference in your town or city. No chapter is too small to do this. Beaumont has a small group, and they hosted a fantastic conference. You can do it too, and PST will help you. Please don't make us beg...put on your "Can Do" hat and make that commitment. Contact Catherine L'Herisson or Beth Ayers for more information. Their contact information is in the Executive Board box (p.6). They are eagerly waiting for your call or e-mail, so put your chapter on the map by hosting the 2016 conference.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ JANUARY, 2016
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....179	Sustaining Members.....9
Associate Members.....17	Recently Deceased.....1
Life Members.....58	Renewing Members.....4
Student Members.....33	New Members 5
Supporting Members.....1	Current Member Total....297

Welcome! *NEW MEMBERS ~ Glad you joined us!*

Lois Heger – San Antonio
Helen Taulbee – San Antonio
Mary L. Jaeger – Fort Worth
Mark Wilshire – Plano
Melinda Zamora – Spring

Keep Our Membership Roll Up to Date.
Contact Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (*not Linda Banks*) if there is a change in your contact information: Address, Phone, or E-mail address.
Contact Lynn at *elsquared59@yahoo.com*

Contact e-mail for *Bulletin* Editor, Valerie Bailey
vbaileyBulletin@satx.rr.com.

Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported on four books donated to the PST permanent collection:

My House of Poetry, by Sandi Horton

Collected Poems from Here and There by T. Jervis Underwood

Massachusetts State Poetry Society Anthology 2015, edited by Jeanette C. Maes

Red Earth Revisited by members of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma

Please send book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed under the Executive Board. They will be kept in the PST's permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

Attend the NFSPS Summer Convention
June 9-13, 2016 at Oak Ridge Convention Center in Chaska, Minnesota.
For more information and to register, visit www.NFSPSconvention.com.
If you're never attended a national convention, you need to have this exciting experience.

The Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat is April 19-21
Get information at www.luciditypoetryretreat.com

Our Deepest Sympathy

is extended to family and friends at the recent death of **June Short Chalon** of Bellaire
and to
Lois V. Chapman at the February 1 death of her brother **Paul G. Vanderlinden, Jr**. of Dallas
and to
LaVern Spencer McCarthy at the death of her great-grandson Ethan Powers on February 14

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