THE BULLETIN

★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 *January 2016*

A Victorian Valentine

Starring Beth & Mark Ayers in costume as they present one of Queen Victoria's favorite poems, "Curfew Must Not Ring Tonight" by Rose Hartwick Thorpe

Visit 1896—Witness the Magic

of an antique magic lantern projecting images as you have never seen them.
Enjoy music, poetry, and more at the PST monthly meeting on February 13 in Dallas.

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas
Saturday, January 9, 2016 in Dallas, Texas
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L'Herisson opened the meeting by welcoming our speakers, which included everyone present for the Poem-a-thon. She also acknowledged past presidents: Linda Banks, Budd Powell Mahan, and J. Paul Holcomb.

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

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the December financial statement. The largest expenditures were for the annual Awards Banquet, and printing and postage costs. The largest income came from sponsorships for the 2016 contests.

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported seven book donations for the PST permanent collection (see page 6 for book titles).

There was no Spotlight Poet today since all in attendance were in the Spotlight. President L'Herisson acknowledged Jessica Gonsoulin's service as Spotlight on Poets Chair, and she was given a round of applause.

The new Spotlight Chair, Susan Maxwell Campbell, will begin her duties in February. She announced that PST will take advantage of technology to include poets from around the state. Poets can record their own poems on video and submit their readings to Susan. **Please** contact Susan at (maxcamp2@att.net) for details *before* sending anything. Dr. Aman Khan will assist with the operation and coordination of videos, and the Preston Royal Library will provide necessary equipment.

Loretta Diane Walker of Odessa will be the first Spotlight Poet to visit via video.

Our Webmaster Annie Neugebauer, from the Denton chapter, sent a report on the PST Website. It was viewed 26,000 times in 2015, with the most visited pages being Home, Annual Contests, *The Bulletin,* Student Awards, and Chapters There were viewers from 99 countries. We truly appreciate everything Annie does for us.

At the December meeting, the Board proposed and presented one change to the Bylaws. It was voted on by members present and passed without dissent. This change is to Article VII, Section 1, Contests: "Only

Continued on page 2

JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Charlotte Renk, Athens
First Place: Linda Banks, Mesquite ! "Janu-Weary"
Second Place: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller
Third Place: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth

December Book Prizes

Reader: Barbara Blanks, Garland
Popular Prize: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Aman Khan, Dallas
Poetry for Poets Award: Barbara Blanks, Garland
William D. Barney Memorial: Lois V. Chapman, Denton
M. Tandy Duemke Prize: James L. True, Beaumont
Other Poems Read By: Von S. Bourland, Jan Benson, Budd Powell Mahan, James DeGaugh, and Barbara Terrell Goerdel

Laugh Lines Judge: Sylvia Medel, McKinney
Laugh Lines Winner: James L. True, Beaumont

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

active dues-paying members and life members shall be eligible to compete in the regular monthly contests" The word "monthly" was added to distinguish those from the annual contests.

The deadline for the Fort Worth Chapbook contest is February 15. See the Website for details.

Be sure to attend in February when Beth and Mark Ayers present something romantic for Valentines's Day. Both will be in 1896 costumes and "magic lanterns" may be involved. (Read about it in the promotional headline on this page or on the Website).

President L'Herisson turned the lectern over to **Vice-President Budd Powell Mahan**, who conducted a memorial tribute to three members we lost in 2015. These brief bios are from Budd's notes:

"Sheri Sue Stodghill Fowler Parks was the daughter of two PST presidents, Pat and Don Stodghill. She joined PST as a child, and was a winner in our student contests and went on to win adult contests in the annual awards. She was dedicated to the history of Rockwall County, where she had deep roots. She was a freelance writer and had been the spokeswoman for the Rockwall Independent School District. Sheri was the mother of two, and married Stacy Parks, her second husband, in November of 2014, just weeks before her death. Sheri died January 22, 2015 at the age of 47.

On February 2, the Society and Poets Northwest of Houston lost June Brown Leap. June grew up in Somerville, Texas in a "poetry-loving, poetry-writing" family, and wrote her first poem when she was nine years old. She wrote poetry throughout her life. June and her husband moved frequently while raising their two children, living briefly in California, Maryland, New York, and Washington in addition to Texas.

On April 6, we lost Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service winner Freeda Murphy. Freeda was a non-poet whose service to PST covered several decades. Brought to the society by her husband, PST president Jack E. Murphy, Freeda made some of her greatest contributions after Jack's death. For years Freeda served in Jack's shadow working long hours without official position. After Jack died she came into her own, was named to the Board and served as Society Treasurer for 10 years. Freeda was a supporter of all of us who call ourselves poets, and most of all she was a supporter of Jack. Without her long hours preparing Jack's entries, he would not have been the prolific winner that history records."

Budd ended with these words: "We honor and remember these three wonderful people today and know that they will live in their words and deeds for a long time to come."

We began the Poem-a-thon, with everyone reading or reciting one of their own poems or a poem of their choice. If you have never attended a PST monthly meeting, you should know meetings are informal, and we enjoy a lot of good-natured kidding and camaraderie.

After the break, **Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson** announced the winners for the January Monthly Contests (See the contest box on page 1).The meeting was then adjourned.

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

ALAMO AREA POETS of TEXAS

Iris Maahs, Reporting

The Alamo Area Poets of Texas had their first meeting of 2016 on January 2 in the Garden Room of Incarnate Word University. Robert and Lucy McBee and Peggy and Kim Mott were traveling and were unable to attend, but will return next month. In spite of inclement weather, a number of loyal poetry lovers gathered to read and enjoy each other's creativity and sense of humor.

The following awards were presented for the December Open Contest: HM–Sheila Moore, 3rd–Lois Heger, 2nd –Don Mathis, 1st–Linda Crow. Awards presented for the December assigned topic were: HM–Sheila Moore, 3rd–Billie Stroud, 2nd–Carol Siskovic, 1st–Lois Heger. We extend our appreciation to Terry Miller for judging the poems.

Members were invited by the San Antonio Department for Culture and Creative Development to submit poems to a project called "Love Poems to

San Antonio." The purpose is to use poetry to evoke a sense of pride, celebration, and loyalty to the City of San Antonio, while promoting poetry and the literary arts. Poems will reflect and refer to San Antonio's history, her people, art, culture and other aspects that make San Antonio a special place. The group was encouraged to go home and write their love poems. We are looking forward to some excellent entries from AAPT.

Toni Murguia will present a program of her poetry at the Schertz Library in February. Don Mathis and Lois Heger were featured at the Pan American Library in December. The monthly book raffle is an event that everyone looks forward to at AAPT gatherings. When numbers are called, the lucky ticket holder selects a poetry book to take home and enjoy. They also enjoyed croissant sandwiches and all the trimmings provided by Don Mathis.

Our next AAPT meeting will be February 6th.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

Members of the Denton Poets' Assembly returned to the Emily Fowler Public Library for our first meeting of 2016 on Saturday, January 16.

After calling the meeting to order and greeting visitors we opened the meeting to discussion.

For our January poetry assignment members read trochaic tetrameter poems in response to J. Paul Holcomb's lesson on the topic in December.

Afterward J. Paul presented his January lesson on the Rhyme Royal. Members and guests read free-choice poems.

In addition, we will put finishing touches on submissions for this year's *Merging Visions.*

In DPA News: Our *Collections VI* catalogs are now available for pre-order at $25. Sponsorships are available at $50 and up. Anyone who is interested in sponsoring *Merging Visions VI* can find the forms under the *Merging Visions* tab at htpp://dentonpoetsassembly.weebly.com/merging-visions.html.

Denton Poets' Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10AM – Noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome.For more information, visit www.DentonPoets Assembly.weebly.com

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Michael Baldwin Reporting

Fort Worth Poetry Society met January 14 at Benbrook Library as usual, with 9 in attendance. The opening poem was by former Texas Poet Laureate, Arthur Sampley, read by Steve Sanders. We discussed producing a public program with a dramatic reading of a famous poem. A committee will plan the program.

Don't forget that February 15 is the deadline for the William Barney Memorial Chapbook contest that FWPS is co-sponsoring with PST. The contest is open to Texas residents and/or active PST members only. Entry fee for PST members is $10 (non-member entry fee is $20). Checks or money orders should be made to the Fort Worth Poetry Society. No cash please. The prize is $100 plus 25 free copies of the published chapbook. The rules are posted on the PST Website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org. Click on the Contests Menu, and get your chapbook entry ready. Entries must be postmarked no later than February 15, 2016.

Editor's Note: I was sorry to hear that Anne Jones, the reporter for the Fort Worth Poetry Society broke her ankle just before Christmas and will be unable to attend FWPS for some months. My thanks to FWPS president Michael Baldwin for stepping in to send us the news from FWPS.

GULF COAST POETS

Daniel Carrington, Reporting

In January, the Gulf Coast Poets welcomed the new year in style. Our general meeting featured the acclaimed Ukrainian-born poet Elina Petrova. Now based in Houston, Mrs. Petrova is widely published in various literary journals and is the author of the 2015 poetry collection *Aching Miracle*.

Additionally, in 2015, she was runner-up in the competition to be the second Houston Poet Laureate. In striving for excellence in poetry with English as a first language, it's easy to admire her masterful use of it as a second language.

In separate news, GCP member Terry Jude Miller continued work on his Texas Poets Podcast series. The fifth installment was completed and features Cyrus Cassells reading and critiquing a poem by Sandra Cisneros. The podcast can be accessed through Facebook or via Inspiritry.com.

See related Podcast information on page 5

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

Mockingbird members are being encouraged to enter the 45th Annual Collins County Poetry Contest. If you are not a member of the Mockingbirds, you must be a Collin County resident. We will accept dues ($12 at our February 6 meeting. The deadline for entry is technically February 1, but we will accept any entry that is hand delivered at our February meeting.

Also the Mockingbirds will decorate a display case for February in the McKinney Public Library (downtown branch). Members who want to help, should e-mail Beth Ayers to set up a date to meet and develop ideas. Mockingbirds are busy about the business of poetry.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Lynn Lewis Reporting

The minutes for the January 4, 2016 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County are as follows: The meeting was called to order by President Ron Eddins. Contemporary Poet Reader, Tom McChesney read "Philosophic Que," "December in Los Angeles," and "Sapphics Against Anger" by Timothy Steele. Our Spontaneous Poetic Concept discussion continued with this theme of New Formalism poetry.

The minutes from the December meeting were accepted as read, and Chuck Poole gave the treasury report. President Eddins read the Kudos list. Announcements: J. Paul Holcomb will be featured at the upcoming Second Tuesday Poetry Series, held at the Benbrook Library. PST and PTC award winners, along with those who placed in those contests were called upon to read their poems. The readers were Naomi Simmons, J. Paul Holcomb, Angie Goin, Lynn Lewis, and Hollis Davis.

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 opened the meeting at noon on December 19th. Sixteen joyful poets were present for our annual Christmas Party and Lunch, which we enjoyed before we met for our meeting. We each brought our favorite Christmas dishes, and it was a feast. Michaud Lamrouex said a blessing for our bountiful meal. Sharon Turner, Social Chairman. covered the six tables with Christmas tablecloths and brought a lovely pot of poinsettias for each table. Wallace Vaughan, who is a talented florist, made a gorgeous Christmas centerpiece that was raffled off to help our treasury. One of our newest members, Caroline Chavez won the centerpiece to her great delight.

After we had eaten our fill, we continued with our regular meeting. John Friedland led us in a pledge to the flag. Contest chairman, Wallace Vaughan announced the winners of the November contests. The Assigned Topic was "Abundance," and the winners were: Sheila Moore (1st), John Friedland (2nd), Jean Jackson (3rd), and Loretta Vaughan (HM). Winners in the Open Topic were: Joan Seifert (1st), Sheila Moore (2nd), Wallace Vaughan (3rd), and Clyta Coder (HM). The judge for both contests was Linda Banks of Mesquite. Her expertise was much appreciated.

After the awards were given, we read our contest poems for December. The assigned topic was "Someone Knocked on the Door Christmas Eve." Our poets' imagination and creativity were evident in how they dealt with this unusual topic. Steve Sanders of Ft. Worth judged these poems, and the winners in the assigned topic are: Margaret Barret Mayberry (1st), Valerie Martin Bailey (2nd), Sheila Tingley Moore (3rd), Joan Strauch Seifert (Hm). Winners in the open topic contest are: Valerie Martin Bailey (1st), John Friedland (2nd), Joan Strauch Seifert (3rd), Margaret Barrett Mayberry (HM).

Since the New Year is celebrated and toasted with a wide variety of beverages, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic, it seemed fitting for the Assigned Topic for January to be "A Tribute to Your Favorite Beverage." The judge for both the assigned and open contests will be Michael Owens of Cypress. These winners will be announced at our February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned amid many happy greetings of Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ARE YOUR PST DUES PAID?

If you plan to enter the NFSPS Annual Contests, your PST dues must be up to date. Dues must also be paid if you want to be listed in the PST's *Book of the Year.* ***Git'er done!***

SOME "OLD" BUT IMPORTANT NEWS

Old news is a blatant oxymoron, but although the information *is* dated, it is probably new to the majority of our *Bulletin* readers because the people involved were too modest to share it. Your snoopy editor discovered it, and I'm gonna tell.

At the end of October last year, our president, Catherine L'Herisson, her husband Charles, and Linda Banks, editor of *A Book of the Year,* traveled together to the East Texas Christian Writers Conference at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall. This university is where deceased PST President John Vaughan taught.

Dr. Jerry Hopkins, Chair for the conference, as well as a PST member, offered a discount for PST members to attend the conference, and he also invited PST to have a display table to promote PST to the attendees. PST membership brochures, books, and three colorful posters created by Linda Banks showed scenes from our 2014 Annual Awards Banquet, the 2015 NFSPS Summer Convention in Florida, and our 2015 PST Summer Conference in Beaumont.

Linda entered the poetry contest and the personal essay contest and won **first place** in the essay contest. Catherine entered the poetry contest and won **third place**.

This current PST President and a former PST President stay busy representing PST and poetry in Texas. This wasn't publicized with the Poetry Day reports because it happened about two weeks after the reports were given, but our memberhip needs to know how well Catherine L'Herisson and Linda Banks represented PST at this event. They not only let people know who we are, but they demonstrated their writing excellence as well.

Catherine and Linda followed up the next month on November 21, 2015 by attending the Marine Creek Creative Writing Conference in Fort Worth. They attended to check out potential speakers for the 2017 NFSPS Summer Convention—just taking care of business to assure the convention attendees enjoy the finest in poetry presentations.

A TIP OF THE HAT TO TWO OF OUR BEST REPRESENTATIVES!

THE NEXT PODCAST EPISODES

The next two episodes in the Texas Poets Podcast series are now available. One features Texas Poet Laureate Dave Parsons discussing a poem by Edward Hirsch. The other features Cyrus Cassells discussing a poem by Sandra Cisneros.

You can find these episodes, as well as previous episodes, at: *https://soundcloud.com/stephensouris*. If you know anyone who might be interested in our podcast series, please forward this e-mail. The Texas Poets Podcast team welcomes comments!

~ Stephen Souris
Host, Texas Poets Podcast

Dr. Stephen Souris / Prof. of English / Texas Woman's Univ. / Office: CFO 903 / Dept. of English, Speech, and Foreign Languages, P.O. Box 425829, Denton, Texas 76204-5829 / SSouris@twu.edu / 940-898-2343 / Office Hours: by telephone, weekday mornings, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. and by appointment.

"If you can dream it, you can do it!"
~ Walt Disney

Has your chapter thought about hosting our Summer Conference, but you think your group is too small, or you don't know where to begin. It's not *that* hard. You *can* do it, and PST will help you. It's fun and draws your group together in a worthwhile endeavor. It generates interest in poetry in your area. You will meet new people, put your chapter on the map, and be recognized throughout the state. Afterward you will bask in a sense of achievement. It's getting late in the year, and we need you to put on your "Can Do" hat and get started. Contact President L'Herisson or Beth Ayers for information. Contact information is on page 6 in the Executive Board Box.

A Note About Birma Castle and The Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat

Our beloved Birma Castle, 2015 winner of the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award, will have a cornea transplant on January 19 in Houston. She will then recuperate at her daughter's home in Lumberton. Please keep Birma in your thoughts for a successful surgery and recovery.

Birma would also like to remind everyone that the Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat is April 19-21—a great thing to do for National Poetry Month. Get complete information about the retreat at: www.luciditypoetryretreat.com.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ DECEMBER, 2016
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....171	Sustaining Members.....9
Associate Members.....17	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....58	Renewing Members.....5
Student Members.....33	New Members 1
Supporting Members.....1	Current Member Total....289

Judy Wagnon
733 Willie Nerren Road
Lufkin, TX 75901

NEW MEMBER, WE'RE SO GLAD YOU JOINED US!

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*

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

WRITE MORE POETRY!

GET INVOLVED IN STUDENT AWARDS

Student awards are listed on the Website and they need to be sent to schools and teachers in your area so more student across Texas will be represented at the Student Award Festival in the spring. The deadline for student award entries is March 1.

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

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

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Book Donations Report from Barbara Blanks

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

Hometowns, A Poets Northwest Anthology 2015, edited by David M. Orchard.

In This House, by Loretta Diane Walker.

Birds Accidentally Caught: Verse from an Oriental Angle, by Vicki Lee.

Fruits; Vegetables, Animals; Vehicles:
A Series of four books of Childrens' Rhymes with Animal names in English, Chinese, and Spanish,
all four books by Vicki Lee.

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.

IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING

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 EXECUTIVE BOARD ★

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

Vice-President:
Budd Powell Mahan
7059 Spring Valley Rd.
Dallas, TX 75254
972-788-4944
buddmahan@att.net

Treasurer:
Aman Khan
6717 Talmadge Lane
Dallas, TX 75230
aman1963@gmail.com

Recording Secretary/ Librarian
Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
barbarablanks@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Jessica Gonsoulin
150 Enterprise Drive, #2332
McKinney, TX 75069
jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com

Director:
Beth Ayers
8117 Alderwood Place
Plano, TX 75025
bta1955@hotmail.com

Director:
Susan Maxwell Campbell
115 North Wisteria
Mansfield, TX 76063
814-473-
maxcamp2@att.net

Director:
Barbara Terrell Goerdel
7704 Velvet Antler Trail
Arlington, TX 76002-4326
817-419-3383
bgoerdel@att.net

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place • Fort Worth, TX 76104
817-921-9322 • *elsquared59@yahoo.com*