Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting
Saturday, March 11 2017 – 2:30 p.m. Preston Royal Library, Dallas
Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including guests Rusty Smith and his granddaughter Phoebe Richardson, and Edmund Burke of Frisco. He also recognized past presidents: J. Paul Holcomb, Linda Banks, and Catherine L’Herisson, along with Mockingbird president Alice Parker, Dallas.

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the February Financial Statement. Director Barbara Goerdel gave the February Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis.

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced five donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library. See Membership Report and Book Donations on page 6.

President Mahan announced the appointment of Dr. Aman Khan as Councilor for Dallas.

The Student Awards will be held at the Dallas Central Library on April 22, beginning at 2 p.m.

The Mockingbird Poetry Society will celebrate Poetry Month on April 29, from 1-3 p.m., at the Heard-Craig-Carriage House in McKinney. There will be an Open Mic. All poetry writers are welcome.

Mockingbird President Alice Parker introduced Spotlight Poet Edmund Burke for Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell. Burke is a semi-retired attorney, a sitting judge for Colin County, and a Mockingbird member. He read some of his poems, including one about a jury dealing with pigeons.

Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson introduced Susan Maxwell Campbell, the winner of the 2015 Eakin Manuscript Award, with Anything You Ever Wanted to Know. Susan has degrees in French and creative writing, has been nominated for Pushcart Awards, and her poetry has appeared in several publications. She is a member of Fort Worth Poets, a Director on the PST Board, and lives in Mansfield. Her program was titled, “True Lies and Real Poems.” She began by donning a pair of shamrock-shaped frames and reading the blurb Valerie Martin Bailey, Bulletin editor, had written about her in the February Bulletin. Susan said truth can be a “circus of reality,” and “memory gives us the nugget of poems,” even though memory is not reliable. In writing, Truth and Lies range from Memory (reliable or not), to Imagination (“What If”), to Complete Invention (Whole Cloth.) Susan said the old adage, “Write what you know,” is “Blarney stone blather. Write outside yourself and who you are.” Think in metaphors, use ekphrastic methods, and be mindfully open to speculation. Susan read several of her poems, accompanied by color slides matched with the poems.

After the break, Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson announced the winners in the March 2017 Monthly Contests listed below. Afterward the meeting was adjourned.

Continued on page 2
ALAMO AREA POETS of TEXAS  
Antoinette Winstead Reporting  
At the March Alamo Area Poets of Texas meeting, Don Mathis gave a well-received, interesting, and informative presentation on “How to Make Money from Your Poetry.” He provided helpful, practical publication tips that members interested in publishing can implement immediately.  

The group also finalized its plans to have the April meeting at the Landa Library in honor of Poetry Month. Announcements regarding this special open mic event for the public have been posted on various San Antonio News/Events sites. In addition, it is being publicized by the Landa Library. AAPT has high hopes of good turnout and is planning accordingly.  


BEAUMONT CHAPTER  
Barbara Green Powell Reporting  
Beaumont poets are thrilled that Spring had decided to camp here for awhile. Brrr for the states facing the blizzards. We are equally glad that Nationals are being held in our great state. This reporter was duly upset that cancer and its complication of a blood clot brought fear of no entries from her, but Birna would not accept defeat. She threw the first ball on closing days and helped me meet the deadline. There aren’t many best friends who are so willing to help.  

Most of our members are recovering from ailments so we’ve had a slim group for the last few months. Thinking good thoughts for Valerie and her tireless struggles to get news out on time. God has a great buddy in her. Her struggles have been many, but her poems and words of praise bless all of us on Facebook.  

We hope to see lots of Texas poets in Fort Worth for the best, most exciting Poetry Nationals ever. We also hope to see some of you at Lucidity Retreat the first week of April. It’s a beautiful drive to Eureka Springs and poetry is in the air. Breath deeply and enjoy, as our own Chapter President, Birna Castle, leads this wonderful retreat.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY  
Rich Weatherly Reporting  
Denton Poets’ Assembly welcomed members and guests to our monthly meeting and critique session on Saturday, March 18. Our critique session began at 9 a.m. The regular meeting began at 10. Our discussion centered on chapter business and Merging Visions 2017. Members read Spoon River poetry assignments based on J. Paul Holcomb’s February lesson. The meeting continued as J. Paul presented his March lesson. After a break, members and guests read a free-choice poem.  

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.–noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit www.DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY  
Elizabeth Anne Jones Reporting  
Our March meeting was opened by Marilyn Komechak who read “Wage Peace” by Mary Oliver. She also told us about Ms. Oliver.  

In old business Mike Baldwin reported that we had 24 entries for the Barney Chapbook contest. We discussed Steve Sanders’ plans to record poems at the summer conference of the National Poetry Society. He will locate in a hotel room for the convenience of those who are interested. We also discussed appearing as a group at the next ConDFW which will be in February of 2018. They seem eager to have us, and we will have at least three 50 minute programs. Tricia Ferguson suggested that one should be Space Poetry. We agreed. There will also be an open mike in the evening. We will elect new officers in May and Steve and Tricia will form a committee to prepare a slate of officers.  

In new business Tricia brought up Word Fest, which will be held on April 8. She thought we ought to prepare a tri-fold hand-out so that those attending would know more about our group. She and Steve said they would do this. Anne Jones brought some of her books of poetry by various authors, and members picked out the ones they wanted. Mike will use the left overs for Second Friday.  

Kudos included Mike, Steve, Susan Campbell, and Paul Holcomb. A lively critique sessions followed. One member commented that this type of meeting promotes our growth in creating really excellent poems. They are much richer than those of twenty years ago.

HI-PLAINS POETRY CHAPTER  
Von Bourland Reporting  
Just 13 days before our February 18 meeting, Hi-Plains Chapter lost another dear friend and poet, Margaret F. Scott, a former President of Hi-Plains and Life Member of the Poetry Society of Texas. A native Canadian, Margaret was a world traveler, along with being an accomplished poet. Margaret co-authored the book, Eve’s Version in 1983. She
Hi-Plains Chapter President, Frances Clegg-Ferris stated, “Margaret was the reason I joined the Hi-Plains Chapter.”

A lively critique session followed each member’s perusal of the Hi-Plains poems which will be displayed in one of the Amarillo libraries, April, 2017. The theme for our poetry display and those of other organizations is “Family Life.”

Homework: Cinquain poems were read and critiqued. Clerihew info was given out for April homework. Workshop was postponed.

A report on the pros and cons of Hi-Plains using a Facebook page took most of our time. After a general consensus that most of the people who viewed our site might live out of our area, we voted to carefully consider other options, including a website.

Hi-Plains Chapter meets bi-monthly, February through December, 3rd Saturday, except October and December.

HOT POETS SOCIETY
Sandi Horton Reporting
The HOT (Heart of Texas) Poets Society met on Saturday, January 21 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the East Waco Library to discuss the 2017 year for our new PST chapter. We are still trying to decide on a routine date and place. We also had an open mic.

In February, the HOT poets met on Monday, Feb. 26 from 6-8 p.m. at the Downtown Waco Library meeting room to celebrate Mardi Gras! The Horton Duo (instrumentalists Jeff and Sandi Horton) opened our meeting with some New Orleans Jazz. Special guest from Austin was Lloyd Weatherspoon III. Everyone in attendance read several poems and enjoyed a variety of festive refreshments.

POETS NORTHWEST
Lisa Salinas Reporting
Poets Northwest’s February meeting featured an opportunity to write ekphrastic poetry while viewing the works on display at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Members’ poems inspired by works of art will be featured in this year’s PNW anthology to be published in Fall 2018.

Our March meeting featured a presentation on Haiku by Lynn Roberts Grice. Lynn is prolific at writing Haiku and often sponsors contests featuring the form.

Last reminder: Houston area resident poets are welcome to enter our upcoming Poets Northwest 30th Annual Spring Fling contest, postmark deadline March 28. The awards ceremony and banquet will be held on May 20. Contact us for details.

If you plan to be in the Houston area on the third Saturday of the month, please join us at one of our monthly meetings at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at http://www.poetsnw.com and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Angie Goin Reporting
President Ron Eddins called the meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County to order on March 6, by commencing with Contemporary Poet Reader Jerry Abbott who read “A Single Bird” by Raymond A. Foss and “The Cat’s Song” by Marge Piercy.

The Spotlight Poet was Lewisville’s Poet Laureate, J. Paul Holcomb. Secretary Angie Goin read the minutes for February, which were accepted as read. President Eddins gave the financial report in the absence of Treasurer Barbara Berry. Vice-President Barbara Goerdel introduced the program speaker, our very own President Eddins, whose program “Picasso the Poet” is a collection of insightful, ekphrastic poems, suggesting what Picasso might have been thinking when he painted particular pieces from his different periods of influence.

Following the break, assignment poems were read, and Secretary Angie Goin read the Kudos List. Vice President Goerdel announced the March 15 entry deadline for the NFSPS Poetry Contest.

On behalf of the Poets of Tarrant County, President Eddins accepted a gift, the current publication of descant, Fort Worth’s Journal of Fiction and Poetry, published by TCU Press. Vice-President Goerdel moved that the journal become part of our historical data. Jerry Abbott seconded the motion. The agreement was unanimous. It was given to Historian Lynn Lewis for safekeeping. President Eddins adjourned the meeting.

Mockingbird Chapter
Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting
Fifteen people were present at the meeting on March 4. President Alice Parker brought yellow flyers for members to distribute regarding our Poetry Month celebration, which will be a reading in Craig House 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, April 29.

After the meeting, the Collin County Contest adult category poems were judged by those who were willing to stay. There were eighteen entries.

The awards ceremony will be on Sunday, April 23 at the Collin County College Conference Center from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Tom Martin was appointed to be in charge of revising the bylaws with Mark Wilshire, Beth Ayers, and Jimmye Inez Sessions on the committee. As a quorum then was reached, members voted in favor of naming honorary members, the first to be Inez Grimes.
SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting
President Patricia Gibbs called SAPA’s February 18 meeting to order and welcomed 13 members and 3 guests. Jean Jackson led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. After the pledge and a moment of silent meditation. President Gibbs then wished Happy Birthday to members born in February: Clyta Coder (7), John Friedland (19), Mo Saidi (24), LaVerne Dickinson (25), Lucy McBee (26), and Jane Perdue (28). The minutes submitted by Recording Secretary Lois Heger were approved and Treasurer Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex gave the treasurer’s report.

Contest Chairman Sharon Turner was absent due to illness, so President Gibbs announced the winners of the January contests and awarded certificates and trophies. Birma Castle of Beaumont judged both contests and sent a letter expressing pleasure in judging our poems. She gave many helpful remarks and critiques. Thanks Birma for your time and talent. Winners in the assigned topic contest on the subject “whispers” were: Charles E. Jones (1st), Jean Jackson (2nd), Sheila Moore (3rd), Joan Seifert (HM). Winners in the open topic contest were: Pat Gibbs (1st), Clyta Coder (2nd), Sheila Moore (3rd), Valerie Martin Bailey (HM).

Lamrouex, Program Chairman, introduced our guest speaker Darrell Pittman, an outstanding San Antonio poet. Pittman is San Antonio’s PuroSlam “Grand Slam Champion” for 2015-2016, and is the recipient of many other honors and awards. He read six long poems that seemed short because they were so captivating. His program was perfectly balanced between tragic, poignant, and funny. Our members were well entertained.

Refreshments were provided by Joan Seifert and Elva Smith, and members enjoyed a time of food and fellowship, after which we read our February poems, both open topic and the assigned on the subject of “Bitten By A…” A delightful assortment of poems revealed that our members have been bitten by everything from a dog, a horse, a bee, bed bugs, mosquitoes, biting gnats, poison ivy, a baby, and a two-timing snake. The open poems were on a broad range of interesting topics. Marilyn Stacy of Dallas judged these poems, and we already have her report back and the winners were (assigned contest): Valerie Bailey (1st), Iris Maahs (2nd), Joan Seifert (3rd), Sheila Moore (1HM) and Loretta Vaughan (2HM). (open contest): Loretta Vaughan (1st), Valerie Bailey (2nd), Sheila Moore (3rd), Margaret Mayberry (1HM), and Jean Jackson (2HM).

Our monthly book raffle was conducted by Vice-President Jean Jackson, and after the raffle, the president conducted a brief business meeting, during which the president called on Valerie Bailey, PST councilor and editor of The Bulletin, to clear up a misunderstanding about where to send NFSPS convention poems and NFSPS annual contest poems. Valerie brought NFSPS contest brochures and printed information about the convention contest. She supplemented the printed material with an oral explanation concerning entries in these contests. President Gibbs then adjourned the meeting.

TYLER’S ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY
Mary Tindall Reporting
The Rose Garden Poetry Society met at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse on Thursday afternoon March 9 with eight members attending. Announcements were made, and Poets were invited to participate in a poetry reading event at the Overton Library on Tuesday, March 14 at noon. Some members are attending the Beall House of Poetry at Baylor University on Wednesday. Richard Hurzeler brought poetry anthologies to share with friends.

The assignment theme, “borrowed,” illustrated the creative differences of the poets. Borrowed items from...
borrowed books, borrowed love stories, heritage, and a cup of trouble to the notes of mockingbirds, were a few expressed. Forms included free verse, rhyme, and wauka. Listeners offered questions and suggestions. We enjoyed refreshments, sharing poetry, and spending time with other poets. The meeting was adjourned and all were encouraged to keep writing and reading.

**WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY**

*Linda Smith Reporting*

Eight members of the Wichita Falls Poetry Society met on Saturday, February 18 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Treasurer Webb Key provided the agenda, Geneva Rodgers gave the lesson, and President Linda Smith presided. In honor of Valentine’s Day, members introduced themselves with a short love story from their own experiences.

The minutes of the January meeting and the Treasurer’s Report from January and February were presented, discussed, and approved. The 2017 Arts Alive! Home & Garden Festival, the major fundraiser for the Kemp Center was next on the agenda. Member organizations such as the WFPS are required to provide volunteers for the H&G Festival; the WFPS volunteers this year are Doyle Wood and Monica McCawley. Members signed up for times to man the WFPS table at the Festival, and several members picked up tickets. Each ticket bought is a $4.50 profit for the WFPS. In new business, the Summer Workshop/Poetry Festival was discussed, and the possibility of having it at the Kemp Center during the time of the Kemp’s Mystery Art event was raised. Sheri Sutton will look into that with the Kemp. Members agreed by a vote that the WFPS will no longer have a monetary award to members according to points awarded in the monthly contests. Delicious refreshments provided by Rosellen Sheetz were next on the agenda.

Results of the February contest for the best poem in any form, any subject are: Lynn Hoggard (1st), Roberta Sund (2nd), Doyle Wood (3rd), Geneva Rodgers (1HM), Nicholas Schreiber (2HM), and Webb Key (3HM). Critic judge was J. Paul Holcomb.

Geneva Rodgers presented a very concise lesson on the Shakespearean sonnet in the time remaining. These sonnets are due to Treasurer Webb Key by midnight February 28.

**2017-18 NOMINATING COMMITTEE TO ANNOUNCE NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS AT THE APRIL 8TH PST MONTHLY MEETING**

Linda Banks is chair of the Nominating Committee for the 2017-18 Executive Board. Other members of the committee are: J. Paul Holcomb, Jimmye Inez Sessions, Marilyn Stacy, and Jeannette Strother. The committee will present a slate of officers at PST’s monthly meeting on April 8th.

**The Art and Soul of Poetry**

*The 2017 NFSPS Convention June 29 ~ July 2, 2017 — Fort Worth, Texas Hosted by the Poetry Society of Texas*

The Texas Hold ‘Em convention contest deadline is extended to May 1. This extended deadline is for the convention contest, open to convention attendees only. You must be present to win. **Contest Rules:** • Unpublished poems • 36 line limit • Any subject, any form • Enter as many times as you want: $10 for each group of three or fewer poems • Send two (2) copies: 1st copy: with name, address, phone, e-mail, state society membership or non-member. 2nd copy: with no ID • Make checks payable to the Poetry Society of Texas • Send your entries postmarked by May 1 to: Texas Hold ‘Em Convention Contest Chairman, J.Paul Holcomb at 235 Shady Hill Lane, Double Oak, TX 75077-8270. The winners will be announced on the opening night of the convention. Cash Prizes: 1st $100, 2nd $75, 3rd $50, 3 HM’s for $25 ea. Convention Contest Info, Convention Schedule, Speaker Bios, Excursion and Meal Info, Hotel Info, and Registration Form available at poetriesocietyoftexas.org or nfsp.com. Sign up now; Don't miss this convention!

The convention contest has nothing to do with the annual NFSPS contests. That March 15 deadline has passed.

**You Can Help the PST Host the 2017 National NFPS Convention in Fort Worth**

PST is asking members for financial help to host the 2017 NFPS convention in Fort Worth. Convention registration fees will cover most expenses. Donations will help cover additional costs necessary to have a Texas-proud event.

**Make check payable to the Poetry Society of Texas and send your donation to:**

Catherine L’Herisson, Convention Treasurer

518 Grinnell Drive, Garland, TX 75043

Send it with all your contact information: name, address, phone, and e-mail.

Donor names will be listed by category in the program.

• Bronze Star ~ $1–$50 • Silver Star ~ $51–$100 • Gold Star ~ $100 up
MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~February, 2017
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

| Active Members..............190 | Sustaining Members..............5 |
| Associate Members............11 | Recently Deceased..............0 |
| Life Members.................46 | Renewing Members..............10 |
| Student Members...............28 | New Members.............4 |
| Supporting Members..........2 | Current Member Total.... 282 |

HELP OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR keep our membership roll up to date. Notify Lynn Lewis right away if there is any change in your contact info: address, phone number, or e-mail. Lynn’s e-mail is: elsquared59@yahoo.com, and her telephone number is: 817-921-9322.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Eric Blanchard ~ Houston
Lynn Hoggard ~ Wichita Falls
Jiaan Powers ~ Dallas
Bethany Roth ~ Krum

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS
meets on the second Saturday of each month from September through May at 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library at 5626 Royal Lane in Dallas, Texas. The exception is November when the annual Awards Banquet is held at a Dallas hotel. Everyone is invited. Please come join us.

BOOK DONATIONS REPORT

From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported that the following books were donated to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library:

- A Little Kiss of the Nettle, by William Barney.
- Swift Season, by Marcella Siegel.
- The Panhandler Chapbook Series, No. 4, edited by Yots and Millet.
- 3 Savanna Blue, edited by Susan Bright.
- Not Quite Leaping Puddles, by Barbara Blanks.

If you have published a collection of poems or if your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Please send books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the box to the right.

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