MONTHLY MEETING REPORT
for Saturday, May 9, 2015
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Catherine L’Herisson opened the meeting by wishing us a Happy Mother’s Day. Since we don’t meet in June, she also wished us a Happy Father’s Day… adding, “because without fathers, there wouldn’t be any mothers.” She welcomed our speaker, Diane Glancy, who is also a new member of PST. Past presidents Linda Banks, Budd Powell Mahan, J. Paul Holcomb, and Marilyn Stacy were also present.

Because of a bad weather threat, Diane Glancy began our program, so she could leave early. She was introduced by VP Budd Powell Mahan, who admitted, “I’m one of her biggest fans,” and added, “When she reads a poem, it just comes alive.”

Diane is a professor emerita at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. According to the Native American Authors Website, “She [Diane Glancy] is known for works in which she uses realistic language and vivid imagery to address such subjects as spirituality, family ties, and her identity as a person of mixed blood. She is a poet, short story writer, playwright, essayist, and educator.” Diane has received several awards, including the NFSPS Stevens Award for “Stones for a Pillow,” and just received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Circle of Native Writers of the Americas. She currently lives in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and Gainesville, Texas.

Diane likes working with lists, colors, cities, and places—but she stressed, her poems are never about those things, but about what is underneath. “Whole worlds are in your head, and you have to work to get them out. We are all these ten-year-olds moving through a sea of chaos.”

While Diane read poems from several of her books, she also spoke about writing poetry, emphasizing, “Start with what is at hand—don’t understate the plainness of what is before you.” After reading one poem with a particularly poetic ending, she said she wasn’t sure what it meant, but “throw in that beautiful line, even if you are not sure you know the meaning yourself.” It certainly gives you something to think about.

After the break, Treasurer Aman Khan gave the April Financial Statement, and Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the April Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (see membership report on page 6).

Librarian Barbara Blanks reported on seven books donated to the PST permanent collection (see page 6 for books donated).

Good News! Barbara Lewie Berry is out of the hospital and on the road to recovery.

The Student Awards took place on April 18 at the downtown Dallas Central Library. Poetry in School Chair Budd Powell Mahan said the auditorium was standing room only, with 170 seats and more than 200 attending. He was assisted by L.D. Carter, Patrick Lee Marshall, Catherine L’Herisson, and Susan Maxwell Campbell and her husband.

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President L’Herisson gave it right back to him. PST students received a certificate acknowledging student participation in the Manningham Awards. Because Budd Mahan is also the Archivist, Mahan presented President L’Herisson with a framed NFSPS and HM in the Junior level.

April was National Poetry Month. If you or your chapter did anything special, please report to both Beth Ayers, extension chair, and Valerie Martin Bailey, the Bulletin editor.

Summer Conference information and registration sheets are on our Website, and are included in this Bulletin. The conference will be held in Beaumont, July 16, 17, 18. Birma Castle is in charge. Don’t miss the fun.

Notice: There are no state meetings in June or August, but an abbreviated meeting is held at the Summer Conference.

Reminders: Deadline for the annual PST contests is August 15. Deadline for the next PST monthly contests is June 15, for awards in July.

In April, the Executive Board elected to continue sponsoring both our PST contests in NFSPS. One is the regular PST contest. The other is renamed each year in memorial to a deceased member. The 2016 contest will be named for Roberta Pipes Bowman.

J. Paul Holcomb, chair for the Board nominating committee took the lectern. Other committee members were past presidents Marilyn Stacy, Linda Banks, Jeannette Strother, and Jimmy Inez Sessions. Nominated to the Board was the complete slate of current officers to continue into next year. Paul moved, and Marilyn Stacy seconded to accept the slate as presented, and it was approved by acclamation.

Treasurer Aman Khan introduced our Spotlight Poet for Spotlight on Members Chair, Jessica Gonsoulin. Masood Parvaze, a retired engineer, was born in Pakistan and writes poetry in two languages. A member of the Denton Poetry Assembly, he and has published a poetry collection titled, “Second Shadow on the Wall.”

Monthly Contest Chair Irene Robertson announced the winners for May, 2015. Posted in the Contest Box on page 1.

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From Our Member Chapters …

ALAMO AREA POETS
Iris Maahs Reporting

The May meeting of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas began with guest speaker, Corrigan Moran, who is a student of Antoinette Winstead, Our Lady of the Lake professor and AAPT member. Corrigan entertained members with readings from his first book of poetry, Characters of Age. He talked about how his travels first inspired him to start writing poetry in a journal. He found this to be very therapeutic.

Corrigan has a reading scheduled on May 29 with background music provided for his poetry. After staying to hear everyone read, he decided to become a member of AAPT. He received a warm welcome into the fold.

Winners of the April Open Topic contests were HM: Leah Fagin, 3rd place: Billie Stroud, 2nd place: Peter Holland, 1st place: Antoinette Winstead.

There were two assigned topic contests: Blood Moon and Once Upon a Time. Winners of the Blood Moon contest were HM: Kim Mott, 3rd place: Lucy Mc Bee, 2nd Place: Antoinette Winstead, 1st place: Elizabeth Mc Dougall. Winners of the Once Upon a Time contest were HM: Leah Fagin, 3rd place: Don Mathis, 2nd place: Peggy Mott, 1st place: Sheila Moore. We wish to express our appreciation to Rod Stryker for judging the April contests.

After the awards were presented, everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by President Don Mathis.

Nineteen members attended the meeting, which will be the last gathering of the 2014-2015 year. Meetings will resume in September at The Garden Room of Incarnate Word University.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY
Richard Weatherly Reporting

The Denton Poets’ Assembly, DPA met on May 16 at the Emily Fowler Branch Library from 10 a.m. until noon.

Following announcements and a welcome to visitors, members read Englyn poems based on a March lesson by J. Paul Holcomb. J. Paul’s April presentation featured a discussion of resources and procedures used to submit poetry to state and national competitions.

After J. Paul’s presentation, members and guests shared free-choice poems.

As a way to promote National Poetry month, Patrick Lee Marshall, J. Paul Holcomb, Masood Parvaze and Richard Weatherly participated in a taste and talent event on April 25 from 6–9 p.m. at Byron Nelson High School to benefit their scholarship program.

On April 23, The Merging Visions, Collections V, poetry and art catalogs were distributed at a reception in the Meadows Gallery, Patterson-Appleton Center for the Visual Arts, 400 E. Hickory, Denton, Texas. VAST collaborates with the Denton Poets’ Assembly, the Greater Denton Arts Council, and the Denton Public Library to create an annual exhibit of paired original art work and poetry in celebration of National Poetry Month. Parts of the exhibit will travel to various library locations in Denton after leaving the Center for the Visual Arts.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. till 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.DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com

GULF COAST POETS
Daniel Carrington, Reporting
In May, GCP welcomed poet, translator, and University of Houston (Downtown) associate professor Robin Davidson as featured reader. Author of chapbooks Kneeling in the Dojo (Finishing Line Press) and City that Ripens on the Tree of the World (Calypso Editions), she treated us to a selection of pieces from her book Luminous Other (Ashland Poetry Press). Highlights included poems in celebration of Mother’s Day, ekphrastic poems, and works from her time of living in Poland.

GCP would like to congratulate the following members for acceptance of their work in the Austin International Poetry Fest’s anthology Diversity: David Cowen, Glynn Monroe Irby, Terry Jude Miller, Choonwha Moon, Weasel (Larry) Patterson, Laura Peña, Oscar Peña, Eloisa Perez-Lozano, and Dustin Pickering. We’d especially like to recognize member LuLynne Streeter, first place winner for her poem “Lakota Woman.”

In other news, Weasel Patterson has announced the publication on May 31 of his full length poetry collection The Hell Inside Us (Earl of Plaid). The book focuses on living through bullying and discrimination and addresses themes such as hunger and poverty. In the words of Weasel Patterson, it is written “for anyone sharing in hardship,” and we wish him success with his latest release.

MOKINGBIRD CHAPTER
Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting
The Mockingbird Chapter met on May 2 with four new members attending.

VP Alice Parker reported that at our Barnes and Noble event about 30 people were present, 20 of whom read, and two of whom were complete strangers. Beth Ayers decorated with a beautiful display board. Sylvia Medel said that she had given the receipts for printing 100 books to Beth. Society members were each to be given a book. Fifteen books have been sold to date. Photos were taken of proxies for Jeanette Jordan Hibbs and Inez Grimes receiving copies of the book, which was dedicated to them.

The 44th annual Collin County Poetry Awards Ceremony was to be the next day. About 42 students and their families were expected. Beth was busy tying ribbons on programs and framing certificates.

PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY
Jennifer McNeely Reporting
The Permian Basin Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas hosted a writer's roundtable on April 25 at the Ground Floor, and poets performed at a poetry slam on May 9 at Tea2Go. Both venues are located in Midland. Jocelyn Mosman, who organized the event, came in second at the slam, and Jennifer McNeely came in first. The slam was sponsored by West Texas Talent.

A new venue has been made available to Permian Basin poets on the third Wednesday of each month at Kamiposi, where performers of all kinds are encouraged to participate. The Permian Basin Chapter, Poetry Society of Texas Facebook page posts regular event announcements so that poets can join in. Writing circles are also scheduled at various times throughout the month.

Local poets participated in the 15th annual Forrest Fest in Lamesa. Daniel Ramos hosted a poetry slam at the event. Plans are also underway for a poetry and music festival on Sept. 26.

Chapter president Tony Henninger has two poetry books available on Amazon.com and Kindle, A Shower of Butterflies and A Journey of Love: Two Souls into One. Both books were published by Innerchild Press.

Jocelyn Mosman recently had poems published in the Silver Birch Press, Harbinger Asylum, and Yellow Chair review. She is also planning to participate in the National Poetry Slam in Oakland, California. She is currently raising money for the trip through gofundme.com.

As always, 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, Poetry Society of Texas. This page is a collection of poets of all ages, male and female, who want their voices heard throughout the community. Poets who participate on the page are from a wide range of cities in West Texas, including Odessa, Midland, Gardendale, Big Spring, Lamesa, and Lubbock. Poetry styles, age, race, gender, and sexual orientation are all diverse.

POETS NORTHWEST
Sharon Young Reporting
Nancy Leap was the featured guest at the PNW April meeting. She shared pictures, amazing stories and poetry by her mother, June Brown Leap. June passed away in February, and her encouraging words will be missed by all. She was a regular at our PNW meetings and a past member of PST. The most memorable stories of her life revolved around her connection to Texas A&M and the use of her poetry in their publications.

The read-around prize was sponsored by Maxine Kohanski on the subject “Procrastination.” The $10 prize was shared by Lynn Roberts Grice and Sharon E. Young. There were only two entries this month due to the absence of a number of members who were at the Festival Weekend in Round Top, TX.

The May meeting will be the 28th Annual Spring Fling and is scheduled at Clementine’s Restaurant in Houston from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. First place winners will read their poems, and all other place and honorable mention winners will receive a certificate.

Meetings are scheduled for every third Saturday of the month at the Pearl Fincher Museum in Spring, Texas. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during
the second half of the meeting. Poets Northwest is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest and on the Web at www.poetsnw.com.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Lynn Lewis Reporting

The minutes for the May 4 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County are as follows: The meeting was brought to order by President Ron Eddins. The Contemporary Poet Reader was Mona Lynn McDaniel, who read “Connie” by Nikki Giovanni.

Spontaneous Poetry Discussion topic dealt with the question of whether fiction can work in poetry. The minutes from the April meeting were approved as read. Chuck Poole gave the treasury report.

Announcements: Barbara Berry is recovering at home with six weeks of rehab. Patricia Ferguson reported that the annual student poetry contest and winners’ reception, sponsored by Poetry in Johnson County, was a success.

President Eddins read the Kudos List. Naomi Simmons was the Spotlight Poet. Vice President Hollis Davis introduced our featured speaker, J. Paul Holcomb, who gave a lecture and demonstrations of prose poems. Assignment poems were read after the break, and the meeting was then adjourned by president Eddins.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Mary Tindall Reporting

Graduating senior Alyssa Masters of Elysian Fields is this year’s winner of the $500 Rusk County Poetry Society (RCPS) Scholarship. Alyssa read her first place poem, “Stronger than Fear,” at the 2015 Northeast Texas Poetry in Schools awards ceremony April 27 at the Region 7 Educational Service Center in Kilgore.

Anne McCrady conducted the program, which featured young writers, first grade through 12th grade, reading their original poetry to the audience. RCPS members attending were Evelyn Appelbee and her daughter, Sue Duran; Sharon Taylor with guest Connie Schondelmeyer; Sue Roberts; and Carol Thompson. Vice-president Sue Roberts presented a congratulatory letter from RCPS to Alyssa Masters.

The winning poetry was published in the May/June County Line Magazine. According to the magazine introduction, “The winners of this year’s poetry contest produced exceptional poems evoking a full range of emotions from light-hearted to dismal despair. Each cleverly written word penned by children and teens expressing their creative individuality is celebrated.” Carol P. Thompson, Tyler, TX

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

The May meeting was conducted by our new president, Sheila Moore, who is back home after a vacation trip to Paris, France. A total of 18 members attended. Many were attending graduations and weddings that always abound at this time of year.

Karen Schneider, a SAPA member who moved to Houston and is now a non-resident member, submitted poems to the Texas Poetry Calendar, and she recently heard that they have chosen to publish one of her haikus. Karen is excited, and we are pleased and proud of her. She now lives in Houston and we hope she will check out Poets Northwest.

Our former president, Margaret Mayberry, who now lives in a retirement community in Florida, has been upgraded to independent living instead of assisted living. She is getting stronger every day and has begun writing poetry again.

We are proud of long time member and former president of SAPA, Antoinette Winstead, who has been named Associate Dean at Our Lady of the Lake University. Kudos!

The 2015-2016 Poet Laureate and three runners-up were announced at the May meeting. The SAPA Poet Laureate is selected by a point system. The point system includes contests won, poems and/or books published, offices held, speaking engagements, attendance at conferences, contests sponsored and contests judged and other criteria. For the eleventh time, this honor went to Valerie Martin Bailey. The runners-up for Poet Laureate were: 1st runner-up: Sheila Tingley Moore, 2nd runner-up: Michaud L. Lamrouex, and 3rd runner-up: Loretta Burns Vaughan.

The winners of the April contests were announced. These contests were judged by Jerri Hardesty of Brierefield, Alabama. We appreciate her time and effort on our behalf. Winners in the assigned topic contest on the topic of “Fire” were: 1st place: Clyta Coder, 2nd place: Pat Gibbs, 3rd place: Sheila Moore, HM: John Friedland. Winners in the open contest were: 1st place: Sheila Moore, 2nd place: LaVerne Dickenson, 3rd place: Pat Gibbs; HM: Mo Saidi.

We took a break and munched on a large assortment of delicious cookies provided by Michaud Lamrouex.

We read our May poems, assigned and open, with the assigned topic being “Something Grand.” These poems will be judged by Michael Baldwin of Benbrook. After our book raffle, we parted for summer vacations. If we have a summer session it won’t be until August to permit our members to attend the PST conference and the NFSPS convention if they wish to participate. See you at the conference in Beaumont.

WICHITA FALLS CHAPTER
Linda Smith Reporting

Six members of the WFPS met on Saturday, April 18, in the beautiful Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Doc Wood was April Chair, and he began Roll Call and Brag Time with questions and answers from our pasts, such as the make and model of our first vehicles, our first loves and our first phone numbers. The purpose was to show how memories can spark ideas for poetry. In keeping with the new practice of offering time to bring original poetry for sharing and critique, Doc Wood and Linda Smith each read a poem.
In the business meeting, the March minutes and the Treasurer’s report were accepted as amended. Doc went over an Amendment to the bylaws regarding membership status, specifically allowing for Honorary Life Membership. It will be brought to a vote at the May meeting in accordance with the bylaws. There was a discussion of ways to publicize the WFPS in order to acquire more members. In new business, it was decided that refreshments responsibility would fall to the previous month’s chairman. However, at the May meeting, the refreshments will be a meal! BBQ, potato salad, etc.

Doc presented the lesson, which was on the Cento, also known as “patchwork poetry.” This form involves making a poem from lines of poetry from different authors. Something new is always interesting, and the Cento is a new form for the WFPS. The May 16 meeting will be chaired by Monica McCawley who will present a program on Poetic Journaling.

Winners in the March wordplay contest are: 1st–Linda Smith; 2nd–Doyle “Doc” Wood; 3rd–Webb Key; and 1HM–Rosellen Sheetz. The Critic Judge was Linda Banks of Mesquite.

MEMBER AT LARGE
Annette Schwartz ~ Houston. Annette’s reading on April 28, as part of a National Poetry Month celebration, was so successful that she has been asked to do another reading on June 26 at the Bayou Vista Theater in Eagles Trace Retirement Community in Houston.

**The Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Manuscript Competition~ 2015**

Offered by Wild Horse Media Group of Fort Worth, Texas is open to active dues-paid and Life Members of the Poetry Society of Texas (PST)

Contestants should submit a single copy of their manuscript, which must fit into a sixty-four-page format. The length of the manuscript can vary depending on the length of individual poems (45–80 poems expected) and the way they are placed on the pages, but the maximum number of poetry lines must not exceed 1,500. The manuscript may include published and unpublished poems, but may not include poems from other books by the author. Manuscripts should have a title page and be bound in book form with pages numbered. No identification should appear on the submitted manuscript. Include the following four things separate from the bound manuscript:

1. A title page.
2. Identification sheet with name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and title of manuscript.
3. A single copy of one poem from the manuscript to be used in *A Book of the Year* if the manuscript is named the winner.
4. A list of acknowledgments for previously published poems.

Manuscripts with poems that contain explicit sexual language or expletives cannot be considered for recognition.

Wild Horse Media Group assumes the production costs of developing the manuscript into a market-ready, soft cover collection. This includes editing, cover design, pricing, and ISBN registration. Upon publication of the book, the author will receive 50 free copies, with additional copies available at an author discount. Authors may choose the number of books to order with delivery times conforming to the production schedule of the printer. Wild Horse Media will place the book with its distributors, list the book in catalogues and flyers, send the book out for review and offer promotional assistance; all other responsibility for marketing the books rests with the author. For books sold through its press, its distributors or trade retailers, authors will receive a standard royalty.

The winner of this award will not be eligible to enter again for six (6) years. A judge chosen by the Society will select the winning manuscript. The judge’s name will not be announced until the winner is announced. Winner must agree to three public readings from the book: one for a PST monthly meeting, one at PST’s annual summer conference, and one arranged by the author. Entry acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.

Contact information for Wild Horse Media Group will be provided to the winner. The winning manuscript will be announced at the PST Awards Banquet in November 2015.

Entries must be received by August 1, 2015. A $10 entry fee is required. Manuscripts with a check payable to PST should be mailed to: Eakin Manuscript Competition Chairperson, Budd Powell Mahan • 7059 Spring Valley Road • Dallas, TX 75254.

**COMING SOON ~ PST’S ANNUAL RAFFLE TO BENEFIT THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND**

The Life Membership Fund supports the PST’s effort to honor members who achieve Life Member status. Every year at summer conference a raffle is held to raise funds for this endeavor. Chapters and also individual members are asked to donate items to raffle. It’s time to start gathering items for the Beaumont summer conference raffle in July. Items will be displayed at the conference to arouse interest in ticket sales. We have raffled all kinds of prizes: gift cards, art objects, quilts, books, gift baskets, even week-end vacations. Send a notice of your item(s) to Life Membership Chairman, Sharon Turner at sdmtturner@aol.com. Put your name on the item, so we know who to thank. Donors are responsible to get their item(s) to the conference. Knowing what items are coming helps the chairman organize the raffle, but last minute donations are always most welcome. If you need more information, contact Sharon at the e-mail address above.

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE**

Jan Benson’s contact information was not listed in the recent *A Book of the Year*. It is listed here for those who want to add it to the back of their books.

Jan Benson
6137 Bianca Circle, #74 • Fort Worth, TX 76132
E-mail: wordsmythwmn@yahoo.com
Librarian Barbara Blanks announces seven book donations for May:

- A History of the Poetry Society of Texas, authored and donated by Budd Powell Mahan.
- The Day I Killed Superman, by Terry Jude Miller.
- What If I Find Only Moonlight?, by Terry Jude Miller.
- The Butterfly Canonical, by Terry Jude Miller.
- Codicil, by Julia Hurd Strong, donated by her daughter.
- Song of the Mockingbirds, 2015, by The Mockingbird Poetry Society.

Please send book donations to Barbara Blanks at the address listed in the Executive Board box, next column. They will be kept in the PST’s permanent collection at the Dallas Central Public Library.

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