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 ***May 2016***

Make Sure to Get Your **PASSPORT TO POETRY** ***Poetic Adventures Await!***

The 47th Annual Summer Conference of the Poetry Society of Texas

Thursday – Saturday, July 14–16 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Dallas/Allen

A flyer is enclosed with this Bulletin with all the details ~Don't miss this event!

Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas
Saturday, May 14, 2016 in Dallas, Texas
Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Catherine L'Herisson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including first time attendee Robert Schinzel of Highland Village, and our past presidents: Marilyn Stacy, who was also our program speaker; Linda Banks, J. Paul Holcomb, Pat Stodghill, and Budd Powell Mahan.

Director Susan Maxwell Campbell gave the April Membership Report for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**, and **Librarian Barbara Blanks** announced two donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library (see these detailed reports on p. 6).

Treasurer Aman Khan gave the April Financial Statement. Largest expenditures were for printing and the hotel deposit for our summer conference.

Budd Powell Mahan, Chair for Poetry in Schools reported on the Student Awards, held April 16, at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas. There were 82 sponsored contests drawing 3500 entries. Winners and their families and teachers filled the 170-seat auditorium to capacity. Budd was assisted by L.D. Carter, Beth and Mark Ayers, Catherine L'Herisson, and Susan Maxwell Campbell.

Budd announced the three nominees for the **Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award.** They are: **Maxine Kohanski**, Spring; **Jimmye Inez Sessions,** Lewisville; and **Sharon Martin Turner,** San Antonio. The ballot with their service bios is in this *Bulletin*.

April was Poetry Month. Be sure to let Beth Ayers, Extension Chair, and Valerie Martin Bailey, your **Bulletin** editor, know if you and/or your chapter did anything special to celebrate.

There are no state meetings in June, July or August. The NFSPS convention is held in June. PST is allowed five delegates. Four of those slots are filled. If you plan to attend and would like to be a delegate, please contact President Catherine L'Herisson.

Our summer conference will be held July 14-16 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen. Our theme this year is *Passport to Poetry*. Ayers and L'Herisson in particular are working really hard on getting speakers and programs assembled. An information flyer is included in this *Bulletin*, and will be posted on the Website. L'Herisson asked Alice Parker of Dallas, and a member of the Mockingbird Chapter, to write some articles to advertise our conference. Please note: you do not have to be

Continued on page 2

MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Lisa Salinas, Spring
First: LaVern Spencer McCarthy, Blair, OK
"Spring Storm" ~ Read by Barbara Blanks
Second: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas
Third: Angie Goin, Fort Worth

Book Prizes

Reader: Linda Banks, Mesquite
Popular Prize: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Barbara Blanks, Garland
Poetry for Poets Award: Aman Khan, Dallas
William Barney Memorial: Patrick Lee Marshall, Keller
M. Tandy Duemke Memorial: Yvonne Bodin, Riviera.
Other Poems Read By: Linda Banks, Richard H. Peake, Von Bourland, Richard Hurzeler, and Jacinta Mooney, Merrimack, NH

Laugh Lines

Judge: Budd Powell Mahan
Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

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

a member of PST in order to attend and have some fun. If you've never been, you are missing out on an exciting almost-three days of poets and poetry. And we all know poets are a rowdy bunch!

Important Deadlines:

August 1: "The Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize." Entries must be postmarked by this date. Budd Powell Mahan is the chair. Contact him if you have any questions.

August 15: PST's annual contests—100 categories!

While Laurie Kolp of Beaumont was scheduled to be our next remote **Spotlight on Members, Spotlight Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell** reported the library's audio-visual equipment was not working. Back-up poet **Barbara Blanks,** of Garland, read three of her poems instead.

President L'Herisson introduced our **featured speaker, Marilyn Stacy.** Marilyn is a past-president, breast cancer survivor, Professor Emeritus at Richland College, and continues her private practice as a psychotherapist and family counselor. She and her husband Dean lived in a lot of different places before settling in Dallas for the last 35 years. They have five children, and several grand- and great-grandchildren.

Marilyn's program, **"Writing As a Reflection of Who We Are,"** was amusing and informative. When she started writing poetry, "I found it really does help your writing to edit and revise." She read from three of her poetry books: *Along the Path*, *Dreams…and other altered states of consciousness,* and *Sometimes You Have to Laugh…a poet's look at cancer.* "The year I was elected president, I got cancer. How inconvenient!" She wound up writing that book to "smooth the way for others who might be going down this path. The title was from my mom, who would say, 'Sometimes you have to laugh, or you will cry.'" Marilyn added, "Attitude is important—it reflects on who we are." Along with general commentary, and with the reading of other poets like Billy Collins, Marilyn also talked about, *Beyond the Horizon…travels through consciousness*. "Part of my new book is about death and dying—but in a happy way." One of the book's topics is dreaming, "which takes place in an altered state of consciousness. Some of our best writing just comes to us from what seems like nowhere, especially when we are doing something else—like driving. That is an altered state of consciousness." *Beyond the Horizon,* "reflects who I am, what I've done, and what I and others have experienced."

After Marilyn's program, Linda Banks, Chair for the Nominating Committee, took the lectern. Linda said selecting candidates for the next PST Executive Board is not an easy task. Not only are those selections a huge responsibility, but being on the Board is also a huge responsibility, and a major commitment of time and energy. It should be noted that while PST members may suggest candidates, anyone elected must be able to attend the Board meetings in Dallas. Before announcing the candidates and then asking for nominations from the floor, Banks said because of PST's commitment to the NFSPS convention to be held in Fort Worth next year, and because of the work already in progress to make it a success, the Nominating Committee decided to seek a "smooth continuation" by re-nominating the current treasurer, directors, corresponding secretary, and recording secretary, while nominating Budd Powell Mahan for president and Catherine L'Herisson for Vice-President.

J. Paul Holcomb moved to accept by acclamation the slate of officers as named. There were several seconds from the floor. The new Board will take office on September 1.

President: Budd Powell Mahan.

Vice-President: Catherine L'Herisson. (she stated she would hold office for one last year—until after the NFSPS convention.)

Treasurer: Dr. Aman Khan.

Corresponding Secretary: Jessica Gonsoulin.

Recording Secretary: Barbara Blanks.

Director: Beth Ayers.

Director: Barbara Terrell Goerdel.

Director: Susan Maxwell Campbell.

News From Our Member Chapters From Across the Great State of Texas

ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS

Iris Maahs Reporting

The Alamo Area Poets of Texas held their May meeting at the home of Vivian Skinner. After voting on changes to the by-laws to include information on PST councilers and additions to the Program Chairman information, the awards for the April open topic were presented to Lois Heger–3rd HM, Sheila Moore–2nd HM, Antoinette Winstead–1st HM, Iris Maahs–3rd, Toni Murguia-2nd, Carol Siskovic–1st. Awards for the April assigned topic went to Peter Holland–1st HM, Lea Fagin–2nd HM, Lois Heger–3rd, Carol Siskovic–2nd, Sheila Moore–1st.

Information was distributed on the upcoming Monthly Literary Evening sponsored by *Voices de la*

Luna on Wednesday, May 11. The program includes a poetry workshop followed by the featured reader, Lois Heger. Lois writes poetry, short stories, and children's stories. She is a creative writing volunteer in an urban elementary school and will serve as vice-president of the Alamo Area Poets of Texas for the 2016-17 year. Everyone is invited to bring poems to read for the open mic.

Iris Maahs' son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Carol Dounson, were visiting from Florida and were guests at the meeting. Peter Holland reported that Lucy McBee is still in the hospital in Kansas City.

The meeting concluded with everyone gathered around Vivian at the piano. Members thanked Vivian for her hospitality. It was a very special gathering in her home that everyone greatly enjoyed.

BEAUMONT CHAPTER

Barbara Powell Green, Reporting

Spring is here and Mother Nature was showing off her new outfit in our final 100 miles to Eureka Springs with Dogwoods in full bloom. Newcomers seemed to be in bloom also, as we had around 13 new poets. It was good to see several Texas poets in attendance and to have two Texas poets, Patrick Marshalland Charlotte Renk presenting our program.

The Beaumont Chapter met on Thursday after our Eureka Springs trip. We critiqued our own poems as we are seeking a new critique judge. Thanks to Evelyn Appelbee for all her years of service. We already miss her special way of critiquing our poetry. God bless you, and we love you, Evelyn.

Now that the Lucidity and Galaxy of Verse contests are behind us, we are getting ready for the Poetry Society of Texas' annual contests for 2016. The contest brochure was included with our PST *Bulletin*.

We were honored that two of our chapter poets, Doretta Dover and Laurie Kolp were selected to read about their mothers from their poetry books for the 4th Annual Mother's Day Program held at the Greenberg Theater in Beaumont. Forty-two cities in the United States and Canada hosted this event. Auditions are held each year to select writers for this reading.

We hope to see you at the Summer Conference in July and then at the Awards Dinner in November.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets'Assembly met on April 16 for poetry readings by members and guests at the Emily Fowler Public Library. Members read assigned poems from the Rondeau Redoublé French form. Later in the meeting J. Paul presented a lesson titled, "Strawberry Soup." He explained: "*This month I want to tell a tale about strawberry soup, but it's really a story about how a poem develops, or maybe about how two poems develop, or a story about how one almost develops, the other one springboards off the first and becomes the first published, then the first one lies dormant and finally comes out of the shadows and also gets published*."

Following the April lesson, members and guests read free choice poems. J. Paul Holcomb was absent for the May meeting so members read two free-choice poems in lieu of his usual lesson.

In the News:

April and Poetry Month at Denton Poets' Assembly:

On April 2, Patrick Marshall visited PST's Mockingbird Chapter in McKinney, his first visit to another PST Chapter as a PST Councilor.

On April 6, three members of the Denton Poets' Assembly attended the Baylor House of Poetry in Waco: Bob Schinzel, Masood Parvaze, and Patrick Marshall.

On April 15, *Merging Visions Reception and Exhibition* started, and the Denton Poets' Assembly teamed up with artists from the Visual Arts Society of Texas (VAST) in a collaborative exhibit in celebration of National Poetry Month. *Merging Visions* exhibit poems and artwork are originals created by members of the two groups. Some of the poems are created with the artwork as inspiration, and some are inspirations for the artwork.

On April 19, 20 and 21, Patrick Marshall and Bob Schinzel attended the Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat # 24 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Patrick also presented a program titled "Ekphrastic Poetry: Variations on a Theme."

GULF COAST POETS

Daniel Carrington Reporting

In May, Gulf Coast Poets welcomed as our featured reader, the widely-published and award-winning Houston poet, Kelly Ann Ellis. Kelly shared newer selections of confessional and experiential pieces and also demonstrated her range with poems reacting to image and writing prompts as well as dreams. An open mic followed Kelly's reading with lunch afterwards.

In individual member news, on May 15, GCP founder, Mary Margaret Carlisle, hosted a workshop on the poetic devices and poems of US Poet Laureate Rita Dove. Separately, her 2015 Poetry Works anthology *Thirteen Poets* was featured at Friendswood Public Library with contributing GCP members in attendance to read their individual poems in the collection.

Mary Wemple has been working with the Writing and the Arts seminar through Rice University's School Literacy & Culture program. As part of the program's

Spring Reading, she helped to design *Impressions 2015-2016*, an anthology combining student writings with her photography.

Terry Jude Miller will be the featured reader at Houston's venerated First Fridays reading series. Also, in late April, his Texas Poets Podcast initiative released Episode #8 with Dr. James Hoggard discussing a poem by David Oliphant.

The series can be accessed via Facebook or at Anne McCrady's InSpiritry.com website.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting

On May 7, the monthly meeting was held in Heard-Craig House due to activities in the Carriage House and parking lot.

Beth Ayers was out of town, but sent a report on the Collin County Poetry Contest. The anthology of winners was well received. However, 34 of 135 books remain unsold.

President Alice Parker said that regarding Poetry Day festivities for October 15, we will have a book and art exhibit. Artists will select poems to illustrate. A forum on songwriting is planned. The actual date is still in question due to conflicting schedules of participants. In 2017 the plan is to focus on local poets rather than national ones. Alice will attend a meeting of the McKinney arts council to make decisions.

PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY

Kat Copeland Reporting

Loretta Diane Walker was the judge for the annual Leavitt's poetry award on April 28th at Midland College. She also presented selections from her award winning publications. Texas Poet Laureate Larry D. Thomas and his wife, Lisa, were in attendance. A dinner was enjoyed with the faculty of the fine arts department, thanks to Dr Billy Feeler.

Many area poets participated in the annual Forrest Fest in Lamesa, Texas.

Kat Copeland was guest poet at the Midland County Library's "Dia de los Ninos" event on April 30th, and she was a guest poet in Hobbs, New Mexico on May 12, accompanied by Ruben Baca on guitar and harmonica. The event was held at Starbucks, sponsored by the Lea County Museum and The Center for the Arts.

Daniel Carlos Ramos, one of our past presidents, has recently moved back from Colorado. He will attend the annual PST convention in July at Allen, Texas. He performed in Big Spring at the "Poetry Live" event held at Desert Flower and at the May 13 event headlining New Orleans' Jonathon Brown at KAMIPOSI, the Permian Basin's favorite visual and performing art venue.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Joyce Gorum McGee, Reporting

Society members were encouraged and inspired by April's guest speaker, renowned author Caleb Pirtle III. As the former Travel Editor for *Southern Living Magazine*, an author of 73 books, and years spent as a newspaper reporter, he gave an extraordinary presentation with a balance of information and humor that kept everyone enthralled. He shared many of his life experiences along with a wealth of writing and publishing tips.

Before he began, he personally presented to each member a copy of one of his very successful books, *Other Voices, Other Towns: A Traveler's Story*, that was written from his experiences while Travel Editor.

Members were encouraged to share poetry on "Poem in Your Pocket Day." There was a pocket inserted in our monthly newsletter that contained a removable poem that could be shared or left in an unexpected place on April 21, which was our meeting day. At our pre-meeting at a local restaurant, our President, Sue Roberts, presented a poem she had written especially for the employees and Secretary Carol Thompson left a beautiful card on the table with a poem enclosed.

The Poetry-in-Schools award ceremony in Kilgore, Texas on April 26 was attended by Sue Roberts, Carol Thompson and Joyce McGee. Anne McCrady works closely with Young Audiences of Northeast Texas to keep this tradition that began over 40 years ago by our Rusk County Poetry Society. Our society still remains a part by awarding a $500 scholarship to the twelve grade first place winner. Attending Rusk County members made the presentation to this year's winner, Jairo Tec from Henderson High School for his poem "Hope Knocking."

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

President Sheila Moore opened the meeting with 22 members present. Program chair Floyd Lamrouex announced that instead of a guest speaker we would spend the extra time sharing about the paintings or art works that inspired our ekphrastic poems. This turned out to be an enriching and entertaining experience.

In the contest chair's absence, vice-president Pat Gibbs announced the winners of our March contests. The assigned topic "A Can of Worms" and the open topic were judged by Lynn Lewis of Fort Worth. Our thanks to Lynn for her time and expertise. Assigned topic winners were: 1st–Valerie Bailey, 2nd–Jean Jack-

son, 3rd–John Friedland, HM–Loretta Vaughan. Open topic winners were: 1st–Lois Heger, 2nd–Loretta Vaughan, 3rd–Margaret Mayberry, HM–Sheila Moore.

President Sheila Tingley Moore presented the slate of candidates announced at the March meeting: president, Pat Gibbs; vice-president, Jean Jackson; treasurer, Michaud Lamrouex; recording secretary, Lois Heger; corresponding secretary, Clyta Coder.

There were no nominations from the floor, so we elected the new officers by acclamation.These officers will be installed by Valerie Martin Bailey at the May meeting on May 21. President-elect Pat Gibbs has appointed Charles Jones to continue as historian, Elva Smith to serve as paliamentarian, and she appointed the standing committee chairs: Sharon Turner, contest chair; Michaud Lamrouex, nembership/program/Webmaster; Valerie Martin Bailey, notifications/publications /publicity chair; Caroline Chavez, social chair.

We then read and discussed our April ekphrastic poems. These poems will be judged by Shirley Cosby of Emory. The book raffle was conducted by Jean Jackson. We then took our break to enjoy the delicious refreshments provided by Iris Maahs and Peggy Hill.

TEXOMA POETRY SOCIETY

Susan McGinn Reporting

The Texoma Poetry Society (TPS) met at the Sherman Public Library on May 14 for a celebration of the local poets who were published in Sherman's *Herald Democrat* newspaper during National Poetry Month in April.

All twenty poems that were featured during the month were read aloud and discussed. Several were by TPS members: Althea Hunt's "Poetic Harvest," Frances Neidhardt's "A Wordy Little Courtship," Tohnie Hynds' "The Orange Bus" and "Wishing on a Child's Magic," and Alexander Bernath's "Sweet Hannah," "Finding Bliss," and "Grandma's Love." The latter poem sparked an especially interesting discussion, as Alexander described its creation (he wrote it while experimenting with writing haiku after the April TPS haiku workshop) and then displayed the beautiful carved and painted wooden sculpture that he created after writing the poem – also entitled "Grandma's Love," it shows a grandmother embracing her grandchild.

Local poet Ann Maxwell Snedden read and discussed both of her poems that were published in the *Herald Democrat* in April, "Telephone" and "Just a Teacher," as well as several others she has written.

Frances Neidhardt shared information about Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko and his book *A Precocious Autobiography*, and Susan McGinn read aloud the first section of the book, in which Yevtushenko shares his thoughts on poets and how he believes they should lead their lives: "If a poet tries to split himself in two between the man and the poet, he will inevitably commit suicide as an artist."

The next meeting of the Texoma Poetry Society will be on Saturday, June 11, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sherman Public Library. The meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

TYLER ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY

Mary Tindall Reporting

The Rose Garden Poetry Society met Thursday, May 12 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. Eight members attended, with some missing due to illnesses.

RGPS welcomed Sharon Taylor as a special guest. Writers brought poems written on topics chosen from the 2016 PST contest list. Poets shared poems and responses to readings giving each other suggestions to encourage better word choice and clearer meaning.

Members enjoyed refreshments and visits, and took away an assignment again from the PST list for the next meeting on June 9. The Rose Garden Poetry Society welcomes members and guests who are interested in reading and writing poetry.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jan Benson of the Fort Worth Haiku Society for winning third prize for her haiku in the 2016 International OHANAMI Festival, Cherry Blossom Contest. The complete listing of winners can be seen at this website:
http://kulturninovini.info/news.php?page=news_show&nid=23405&sid=21.

How Would Shakespeare Celebrate

NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

He would write some great poems, for sure. He might collaborate with visual artists to merge their visions.

Last month was National Poetry Month. This April celebration of poetry was introduced and organized in 1996 by the American Academy of Poets as a way to increase awareness and appreciation of poetry in the USA. PST poets were asked to tell the *Bulletin* Editor about any special celebrations. To tell you of all the things our members did to celebrate would be redundant because these news reports are filled with the interesting and effective ways our members celebrated poetry. Read every report and give yourselves a round of applause for all your poetic endeavors. Good job... PST rocks the poetry world!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ APRIL, 2016
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.....192	Sustaining Members.....9
Associate Members.....17	Recently Deceased.....0
Life Members.....52	Renewing Members.....8
Student Members.....33	New Members 3
Supporting Members.....1	Current Member Total....304

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
We Are Glad You Joined PST

Frances Clegg-Ferris, Wayside, Texas
Andrea S. Marshall, Keller, Texas
Mine K. Parvaze, Fort Worth, Texas

Notice From Our Membership Chairman

Linda Smith's name was inadvertantly omitted in the transfer of information from membership to the *BOTY* editor. Please add her name and information to the membership list in the back of your *BOTY*:

Linda Smith
3513 Kessler Blvd., Wichita Falls, TX 76309
bnlsmith@wf.net

Our Deepest Sympathy

To Maxine Kohanski,
her children and the extended family
at the passing of Maxine's beloved husband,
Bob Kohanski
on Sunday, May 15, 2016 in Spring,Texas

Poetry Society of Texas
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Mansfield, TX 76063
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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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:

- *Poetry Society of Texas Student Award Winners 2016*, edited by Budd Powell Mahan.
- *The Poetry Society of Texas A Book of the Year 2016*, edited by Linda Banks.

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.

Make sure your dues are paid, so you can enter all the contests offered by PST. Entries must be postmarked by August 15.

Don't Forget to Register
For the NFSPS Summer Convention
June 9-13, 2016
at Oak Ridge Convention Center
in Chaska, Minnesota.

★ 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
792-385-8338
aman1963@gmail.com

Recording Secretary/ Librarian
Barbara Blanks
1518 Running River Road
Garland, TX 75044-7254
972-495-7311
Barbarablanks@aol.com

Corresponding Secretary:
Jessica Gonsoulin
10252 Ashburn Dr.
McKinney, TX 75070
972-832-4055
jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com

Director:
Beth Ayers
8117 Alderwood Place
Plano, TX 75025
972-747-1297
bta1955@hotmail.com

Director:
Susan Maxwell Campbell
115 North Wisteria
Mansfield, TX 76063
817-473-6314
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*