Minutes of the Poetry Society of Texas Meeting
Saturday, September 9, 2017 ~ 2:30 p.m.
at the Preston Royal Library 5626 Royal Lane in Dallas
Submitted by Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming our guests, Susan Mardel, McKinney and Mike Guinn, Fort Worth. He also recognized past presidents: Linda Banks and Catherine L’Herisson and Mockingbird president Alice Parker.

The new Executive Board seated for the first time since May. Board members are: President Budd Powell Mahan, Vice-President Aman Khan, Corresponding Secretary Jessica Gonsoulin (absent), Recording Secretary and (temporary) Assistant Treasurer Barbara Blanks, Directors: Beth Ayers, Susan Maxwell Campbell, and Irene Robertson. Patrick Marshall has not yet officially accepted the position of Treasurer.

VP/Treasurer Aman Khan gave the August Financial Statement. New expenses include payment to the library for our meeting room, and the now-required liability insurance for PST gatherings.

Director Beth Ayers gave the August Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (report on p. 6).

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced four donations to the PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library (donations listed on p. 6).

Extension Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell reported that she mailed a letter to PST councilors, letting them know what other chapters were doing and about various awards. She asked to be contacted with that kind of information, so ideas can be circulated among the chapters. She also stated the Heart of Texas (H.O.T.) Chapter will host the next summer conference in Waco.

President Mahan announced Jenna Pashley Smith of Richmond is the new editor of A Book of the Year. He thanked Barbara Blanks for her help with the PST audit. He also thanked Barbara Terrell Goerdel, “without whom we would not be meeting here.” She expedited the process of acquiring liability insurance.

Also announced: Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson is resigning in December. A new Program Chair is needed. The chair does not have to live in the Dallas area, but should be able to contact and acquire speakers for at least six Dallas meetings—Speakers for February, March or April, (depending on which of these two months the Lubbe Memorial Award winner can come to read), May, September, October, and December.

A Publicity Chair is also needed. Please contact President Mahan if you are interested in either position.

Continued on page 2

SEPTMBER MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS
Critic Judge: Carie Juettnet, Austin
First: Barbara Blanks, Garland ~ “Every Summer”
Second: Alexis Tapp, Wylie
Third: Catherine L’Herisson, Garland

Book Prizes
Reader: Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
Popular Prize: Linda Banks, Mesquite
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: JDarrell Kirkley, Dallas
Poetry for Poets Award: Florene Flatt, Lubbock
William D. Barney Mem. Award: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas
M. Tandy Duemke Mem. Award: Hollis Davis, Trophy Club
Robby K. Mitchell Mem. Award: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Ft. Worth

Other Poems Read By: Tony Dickensheets, Richard Hurzeler, Shirley Elliott Cosby, and Angie Goin

Laugh Lines
Judge: Budd Powell Mahan
Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to the Contest Chairman, Budd Powell Mahan at 7059 Spring Valley Rd., Dallas, TX 75254. The E-mail address is: buddmahan@att.net.
Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell presented former Director Barbara Terrell Goerdel, Arlington, a member of Poets of Tarrant County, as our Spotlight Poet. Barbara wrote her first poem for a friend in Vietnam, and then did not write another poem for 45 years.

Program Chair Catherine L’Herisson thanked Beth and Mark Ayers for all they did behind the scenes at the NFSPS convention, and for all they donated. She also brought several copies of the beautiful and impressive program that Convention Chair, Linda Banks, designed for the NFSPS convention that she so masterfully chaired for us in Fort Worth this past summer.

Catherine then introduced our speaker, Ann Howells, of Dallas. Ann won the 2017 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, sponsored by the Fort Worth Poetry Society, with her book Softly Beating Wings. Ann served as president and treasurer of Dallas Poets Community, is co-editor of Illya’s Honey, editor of Cattlemen and Cadillacs, and has four Pushcart nominations. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including three of her own books. She was named “Distinguished Poet of Dallas” by the City of Dallas.

Ann’s program was “How to Assemble a Chapbook Manuscript.” She said, “I’ve had a lot of practice putting them together.” Here are some of her suggestions: If poems are biographical, chronological progression is probably the best way to arrange them. If you’ve written a lot of poems on similar topics, gather them together, then trim them down, and put them in order. If there are gaps, fill them in. How do they fit together? Theme? Subject? Form? Pick an image from the first poem that is echoed in the second, then an image from the second that will echo in the third, etc. Find that connecting link. Open with one or two of your strongest poems to draw in the reader. Then end with a couple of strong poems, because that is what the reader leaves with, and might lead them to your next book.

Think about the placement of the poems—especially if a long one must be continued on the next page. Arrange so the poem is on facing pages, rather than on the front and back of a page. Poems can be written specifically for a chapbook, or from published and unpublished work, depending on your market or manuscript contest rules. If you want to include a prologue, Ann likes the idea of a “proem”—that is, a prologue poem—which would come before the Table of Contents. It’s the poem that sets the general tone.

About 14 poems constitute a mini-chapbook. Twenty–thirty poems make a chapbook, and anything with 48 pages or more is considered a full-length book.

Ann read several poems from her book Softly Beating Wings. She answered questions and then signed copies of her books.

After the break, Contest Chair Budd Powell Mahan announced the winners in the September Monthly Contests (contest results are in the Contest Box on page 1).
been severely inconvenienced, but their group had no permanent damages or injuries in spite of the fact that there was a citywide loss of water in Beaumont, as well as severe flooding. Fortunately they had bottled water to drink, but there was no water to flush commodes for a while, and although Birma’s home was not flooded, she and other Beaumont poets were isolated in their homes because of flood waters around them.

Birma asked to me to thank everyone who has been praying for them and all who have been concerned for their safety. Barbara Green Powell and Laurie Kolp also express their appreciation for your prayers and concern.

In spite of difficulties and inconveniences, they all count themselves blessed compared to those who suffered injuries and overwhelming loss during Hurricane Harvey.

DENTON POETS ASSEMBLY
Richard Weatherly Reporting
Denton Poets’ Assembly welcomed members and guests to our monthly meeting on September 16.

Our critique sessions resumed this month after a three-month suspension for the summer. The critique session began at 9 a.m. We held our regular meeting 10 a.m. through noon.

After welcoming visitors and some chapter business, members read assigned poems from J. Paul Holcomb’s August lesson, “If you can’t visit England, write an Englyn.” Following the readings, J. Paul Holcomb delivered his lesson for September.

During the last hour of our meeting, members and guests read free-choice poems.

Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.–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 info, visit http://DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY
Anne Jones Reporting
Marilyn Komechak opened the FWPS meeting at 6:30 p.m. on September 12 with a poem by one of her young relatives. In old business we discussed our program for the Sunrise on September 12 with a poem by one of her young relatives. We will use for stationery, tee shirts, mugs, etc. Fil Peach also presented us with the logo that we will use for stationery, tee shirts, mugs, etc. Fil Peach showed us one that his group in New Mexico used on a tote bag.

In announcements, we were urged to attend Buffalo West on September 20 at 6:30 p.m. and to be ready with some of our poems. There will be a guest host as well as a guest poet.

We had a large group of members present this time and a lot of kudos. We had our critique session, and there were some long poems, but it was very enjoyable, and we were able to finish by 8:30 p.m.

GULF COAST POETS
Daniel Carrington Reporting
In September, Gulf Coast Poets emerged from the wake of Hurricane Harvey—like much of the gulf coast itself—battered but determined to dust ourselves off, to rebuild, and to get back to business. We did so by coming together to celebrate the healing power of poetry. Even still, we’d like to take a moment to send our thoughts and prayers to all those affected and to also thank everyone who did the same for us.

This month, GCP welcomed an ensemble of Weasel Press poets, including Chris Wise, Carolyn Dahl, Sendokidu, Lulynne Streeter, Ken Jones, and David Cowen. Weasel Patterson introduced the line-up, and each poet read from their contributions to a variety of Weasel Press publications as well as poems hot off the presses exploring the impact of Harvey.

In late August, member Matt Riley and Friendswood Public Library hosted the finale reading for their Ekphrastic Poetry Contest. GCP President David Cowen scooped one of three top honors prizes, and members Jane Chance, Winston Derden, Glynn Irby, Carrie Kornacki, John Milkereit, and Daniel Carrington received honorable mentions.

Also in the news, member LuLynne Streeter announced the upcoming publication of her book Frozen Lives (Schiffer Publishing, 2017). It tells the true story of Karl and Anna Kuerner, their farm, and their decades long relationship with the artist and painter Andrew Wyeth. The book will be available from October 28. Congrats, LuLynne!

HOT POETS SOCIETY
Sandi Horton Reporting
The Hot Poets Society met on Saturday, September 2 from 3–5 p.m. at the Waco Hippodrome (upstairs dining room) for an afternoon of poetry. Chris Boldt opened the meeting reading some of her original poetry.

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Darden of the Baylor School of Journalism spoke about his Black Gospel Music Restoration Project in a presentation titled, “Deep River: Enduring Words of the Slave Poets.” He shared the power, beauty, and dark historical truth behind Slave Poetry. Many Spirituals were written long ago by women, children, and men who were slaves across the South and other parts of America. These spiritual songs were used not only to encourage one another, but also to offer an eternal hope, a guide for survival, and a message of freedom during various hardships and trials during slavery.

An open mic was held after Professor Darden’s program.

In October, the HOT Poets will not have a formal meet-
ing since the first weekend is also the WordFest event sponsored by the Waco Cultural Arts Fest. Anyone interested in poetry is invited to the free festival starting Friday, October 6 and ending on Sunday, October 8 at the Waco Convention Center. The complete three day schedule is available at http://www.wacoartsfest.org/wordfest.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER
Jessica Gonsoulin Reporting
On September 2, a discussion of President Alice Parker’s book preceded the regular monthly meeting.

Aparna Hemanth came as a guest. She is a Collin College Poetry Contest Winner who now wants to join.

Poetry Day this year is September 30, modified from September 28. Sylvia needed six volunteers to read at the Villas at Stonebridge located between Custer and Eldorado.

She asked poets to bring poems on freedom.

Tom Martin reported on a Bylaws Committee meeting earlier in the afternoon. In three weeks he will have handouts to discuss.

Tom also said he had received an appreciative note from Professor Toni McMillan about the Collin County contest. She suggested we add a college student category comprising students who either live in Collin county or go to school there. All were in favor.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Angie Goin Reporting
Following a three-month summer break, members of Poets of Tarrant County were eager to meet September 11, President Ron Eddins presiding. As Contemporary Poet Reader, Eddins read “A Far Cry from Africa,” by Derek Walcott. Vice-President Barbara Goerdel introduced the program speaker, our very own PST President, Budd Powell Mahan, a man of many talents: actor, editor, public speaker, poet, and presidential leader, having served as president of both the Poetry Society of Texas and the National Federation. Of his numerous awards, Budd Mahan was winner of the first William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest in 2016 for Names in a Book. Mahan continues to spread his influence and foster his love of poetry as Chair of Poetry in Schools.

PST President Mahan was asked to speak on the subject of judging a poem; specifically, what does he look for in a poem. To paraphrase his response, he answered:
1. Write a poem, not a short story.
2. Write until you find your own voice.
3. Write about your own experience and connect it with another experience, and write it with beautiful language.
4. Match rhyme to what you are trying to say.
5. Avoid clichés.
6. Take the challenge of writing in form. For him, Mahan describes it as an unpredictable journey.
7. If writing in form, OBEY the rules.
8. Choose a subject matter with meaning. Write about “something.”

Mahan was direct, informative, and funny. He gave details on each point, and read a poem (not his) as an example of beautiful language. We are grateful for his presentation and hope that he will come again.

Secretary Angie Goin read the minutes and gave an update on the NFSPS Convention. In the absence of Treasurer Barbara Berry, President Eddins gave the treasury report. Announcements were made regarding the absences and illnesses of PTC members. Next up, Hollis Davis entertained the group as Spotlight Poet. Following a short break, Eddins read the Kudos list. Last on the agenda, assignment poems were read on the subject of LABOR, using the words long, afford, blush, ordinary, and radiate. Before President Eddins adjourned the meeting, many thanks were extended to PST President Mahan for his insightful program and to his guest L. D. Carter for making the trek west.

POETS NORTHWEST
Editor Reporting
Poets Northwest, located in Spring, Texas, did not send a report this month. Spring is located in the metropolitan area of Houston in Harris County, so I’m sure it was difficult or impossible to have a meeting this month. We will continue to remember the poets in Spring and wish them the very best, as well as all those in the former Houston Poetry Society.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Jo Morrow Reporting
The Rusk County Poetry Society met on August 17 after a brief summer recess. There were twelve members present despite rainy conditions. The meeting was called to order by President Sue Roberts who called on Richard Hurzeler for an opening prayer. The minutes were read by Secretary Carol Thompson and approved. The treasurer’s report was given by Treasurer Charles Taylor. Old business, consisting of ongoing plans for the October Poetry Festival, was discussed. New business centered around ideas for encouraging interest among potential new members. Previously submitted and critiqued poetry was returned and other poems were submitted to be critiqued and returned next month.

The August spotlight poet was Robert Bowman. He read two of his love poems that he described as possibly radical, but they were well received by the group.

Mary Tindall provided great refreshments that included pear bread (made with pears from Mary’s more than 40-year-old tree), accompanied by a poem by Mary King entitled, “The Parable of the Pear Tree.” Following refreshments, Jo Morrow presented the lesson from Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry. The poems, “The Eagle” by Alfred
Lord Tennyson and “Winter” by William Shakespeare, were read and discussed. Members were challenged to gather from “felt, observed, or imagined experiences” ideas to “select, combine, and reorganize” into new experiences to present in poetic form for their readers.

Thanks to Vina Hathaway for providing the new year-book for members. Her work is much appreciated. The meeting closed with members being asked to return in September with complete project ideas for inclusion in October’s Poetry Festival.

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting
President Pat Gibbs presided at SAPA’s meeting on September 16. Fifteen members were present to hear Susan Maxwell Campbell of Mansfield give a PowerPoint presentation on her latest book, Summer’s Back. She also brought her Eakin Award winning book, Everything You Ever Wanted to Know.

After Susan’s presentation, the contest winners from May were awarded. The contests were judged by Michael Baldwin of Benbrook. Our thanks to Michael for his time and expertise. Winners in the Assigned topic contest (old clothes) were: 1st: Valerie Martin Bailey, 2nd: Margaret Mayberry, 3rd: Loretta Burns Vaughan, HM: Lois Heger. Winners in the Open topic contest were: 1st: John Friedland, 2nd: Pat Gibbs, 3rd: Sheila Moore, HM: Valerie Martin Bailey.

Members received their 2017 anthology, Inkwell Echoes, and their annually updated Member’s Handbook.

We took a break for a generous and delicious spread of refreshments provided by Sharon Turner. During the break our members were able to purchase Susan’s books and CDs.

After the break, we read both September poems. September’s assigned topic is Obsolete. This topic produced some interesting poems, which will once again be judged by Michael Baldwin.

After our book raffle, we again thanked Susan Maxwell Campbell for her wonderful presentation and for making the trip to us all the way from Mansfield. The meeting was adjourned.

TYLER ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY
Mary Tindall Reporting
The Rose Garden Poetry Society met September 14 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse, Texas with seven members attending. Carol Thompson shared news of her experiences at the NFSPS Convention in Fort Worth this summer. She suggested that we create our own poetry tree in this community, similar to an activity from the summer events. Carol announced an open mic night at the Unitarian Church on Old Omen Road on Saturday night at seven. Poets are invited to bring peace poems. The group plans to prepare favors for the October Celebration of Poetry.

Poets read poems around the table, including the assignment theme “success.” The group discussed having a bread pudding tasting event in December, inspired by John Boney’s poem. Members enjoyed the afternoon of sharing poetry, visits, and refreshments.

The October assignment, a minute poem, came from the NFSPS contest list. As the year goes by, it is our goal to have a collection to consider for submission.

THE MAGIC OF WORDS
The 61st Annual Awards Banquet
November 11 ~ Check-in and Seating: 11a.m.
Double Tree by Hilton (near the Galleria)
4099 Valley View Lane ~ Dallas, Texas 75244
Phone: 972-385-9000
A flyer with complete information and registration form will be enclosed in the October Bulletin.

Note: Banquet information and registration form will be on the Website before you receive it in the mail, so check the Website, and get your registration in early.

IS IT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT TO PAY YOUR DUES ON TIME?
You may not realize it, but if your dues aren’t paid on time, our Membership Chair has no option but to remove your name from the roll until dues are paid. If you hope to be a Life Member someday, remember, if your name is removed from the roll, even for a short time, all accrued time toward Life Membership is lost. You must start marking time again when you renew your membership with dues. PST cannot function without funds, so keep us rolling by paying dues on time. Your renewal month is printed at the top of the address label. Check it and keep your membership constant. The years roll by quickly and once you make Life Member status, you no longer have to pay dues. It is worth the effort to reach that goal.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ AUGUST 2017
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members...........219  Sustaining Members...........5
Associate Members........13  Recently Deceased...........0
Life Members...............46  Renewing Members.........47
Student Members..........36  New Members ...............1
Supporting Members......1  Current Member Total.....320

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBER

Jane Chance ~ Houston
We are so happy you joined PST

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

Bulletin Reporters
Please remember! The deadline for Bulletin news is now the 14th of each month by 6 p.m. Send your news to: vbaileybulletin@att.net

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks
Librarian Barbara Blanks reported that the following books were donated in August and September to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library:
The Reach of Song ~ Edited by the Georgia Poetry Society.
Images of Life ~ by LaVern Spencer McCarthy
Summer’s Back ~ by Susan Maxwell Campbell
Two Lilies, Poetry by Susan Maxwell Campbell and Susan Vogel Taylor (on CD)

If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send your books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Road, Garland, TX 75044-7254.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING:

To Catherine and Charles L’Herisson at the death of Catherine’s sister-in-law, Karen Townsend Gordy, on August 31 in Houston where she had been in hospice care. The funeral service was held in Natchitoches, Louisiana, and Catherine and Charles traveled there to attend, and they have returned safely through this flooded area.

Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To The Following:

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Pamela Gordon

The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November, when the annual Awards Banquet is held in a Dallas hotel (TBA). The annual Summer Conference convenes in a different area of the state each July.

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

Vice-President:
Aman Khan
6717 Talmadge Lane
Dallas, TX 75230
972-385-8338
aman1963@gmail.com

Treasurer:
Treasurer’s duties are being done by VP Aman Khan, assisted by Barbara Blanks, until the nominee for this office has officially accepted the office.

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
susanmaxwellcampbell@gmail.com

Director:
Irene Robertson
1625 Gayla Creek Drive
Little Elm, TX 75068
972-849-5690
yranie@att.net

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

The poetry society of Texas
610 Circle View Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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