Minutes of the General Meeting of the Poetry Society of Texas for Saturday, April 14, 2018, 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas
Submitted by Recording Secretary, Barbara Blanks

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including first time visitors Jim and Angie Goin of Fort Worth, and Shannon and Todd Hawkins of Crowley. He also recognized past presidents Catherine L’Herisson and Linda Banks.

Treasurer Patrick Lee Marshall gave a March 2018 Financial Statement: “We’re doing great.”

Director Beth Ayers gave the March 2018 Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis (report on p. 6). Librarian Barbara Blanks reported 5 donated books (listed on p. 6).

President Mahan made the following announcements:
• Several books from Naomi Stroud Simmons’ collection were free for the taking. They could not be used as book prizes since they had been inscribed to her. The remaining books were donated to the upcoming Preston Royal Library book sale.
• “I am sad to announce the death of Shirley Elliot Cosby on April 13.” Shirley lived in Emory and was a long time member of PST. She was a frequent winner in the annual contests.
• The Student Awards will take place on Saturday, April 28, at the Dallas Central Library.

Michael Baldwin of Benbrook, announced the winner of the 2018 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest offered by The Fort Worth Poetry Society, in cooperation with PST. Judge Diane Glancy of Gainesville selected What Happens When We Leave by Todd Hawkins of Crowley. He received a check for $50 and will also receive 25 copies of his published chapbook. Todd will read from his book at the Summer Conference in July and at a future PST meeting.

Treasurer Patrick Marshall filled in for Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell. He introduced Remote Spotlight Poet, Sharon Young, of Spring. She is a member of Poets Northwest in Houston. She has written a couple of chapbooks, and has been published in A Book of the Year.

Do not miss the opportunity to hear this outstanding poet and musician.

APRIL MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Elzy Cogswell, Austin
1st Place: J.Paul Holcomb, Double Oak, “Our Morning with the Heron”
2nd Place: Barbara Blanks, Garland
3rd Place: Nicholas Schreiber, Wichita Falls

LAUGH LINES:
Judge: Christine H. Boldt, Temple
Winner: Birma Castle, Beaumont

BOOK PRIZES

Reader: Beth Ayers, McKinney
Popular Prize: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield
A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Ann Howells, Carrolton
Naomí Stroud Simmons Award: Miriam Hasert, Pasadena
William D. Barney Mem. Award: Aman Khan, Dallas
M. Tandy Duenke Mem. Award: Hugh P. Burke, Temple
Robby K. Mitchell Mem. Award: Barbara Terrell Goerdel, Arlington
Other Poems Read By: Richard Hurzeler, Dillon McKinsey, Richard Peake, and JDarrel Kirkley

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to Contest Chairman, Budd Powell Mahan at 7059 Spring Valley Rd., Dallas, TX 75254. The E-mail address is: buddmahan@att.net.
The program today was conceived by Diane Glancy. “Ten Poems, Ten Judges.” The same ten poems contributed by ten anonymous poets were sent to ten different anonymous judges. The results showed not only the subjectivity of judges, but also showed how good poems still rise to the top. The results were compiled by Patrick Marshall, who printed handouts containing all ten poems, the comments by each of the judges, and a table of the resulting composite rankings.

After Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks read each of the ten poems, President Mahan presented the program. Some of the critiques were brutal, but the comments ranged from positive to negative—often within the same poem: for instance, “Lovely simple idea expressed in a truly poetic way...” to “Read it 3 times, and I’m still lost.”

Comments on the most highly ranked poem ranged from, “I appreciate the crafting...but the language is stilted...” to “Convoluted, but I like it a lot.” Nine out of ten judges ranked it between first and third place. Only one ranked it in 6th place. The lowest ranked poem did not score above 5th place, with six of the judges scoring it either 9th or 10th place. Comments ranged from: “Admire the brevity,” to “…it wasn’t well written,” to “uneven,” and “self-absorbed.”

The second and third ranked poems were very close: composite scores of 3.8 and 3.7. The “winner” had a 2.2 score. The other scores ranged from 4.8 to 8.1. The lower the score, the higher the ranking. There was stronger agreement than expected, despite the subjectivity of the judges. Their participation in this study is very much appreciated.

....After the break, Contest Chair Budd Powell Mahan announced the winners of the April Monthly Contests (listed on p. 1 in the Contest Box), then the meeting was adjourned.

Sheila Moore reminded members of the importance of carefully following all contest or publication rules, particularly as to length of poems and lines, to avoid disqualification.

Octavio Quintanilla is the next San Antonio Poet Laureate for 2018-2020.

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AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY
Barbara Gregg Reporting
The Austin Poetry Society met Saturday, March 17 at the Little Walnut Creek Library in Austin. Twenty–two members were present. APS President Barbara Gregg called the meeting to order and introduced our guest speaker, Ken Hada, a poet and professor from the Cross Timbers region of Oklahoma. Hada read and talked about his poetry and books. That natural order provides much of his inspiration. His anecdotes and answers to members’ questions were both informative and enjoyable.

Following his presentation, Barbara reviewed old and new business including the upcoming April 1 submission deadline for the APS Annual Awards Contests, the need for more volunteers for board tasks, and the upcoming APS Fourth Thursday Open Mic on March 22 at 7 p.m. at NeWorlDeli, with featured speakers: Claire Vogel Camargo, Lori Coker, Gordon Magill, Greg Robinson, Valérie Inman, and Preston Kirk. Reminders were given about the Austin International Poetry Festival during the first week of April. The meeting was adjourned.

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DALLAS CHAPTER
Aman Khan Reporting
The recently organized Dallas Chapter of PST met at 6:00 pm, on April 12 (second Thursday) at the Preston Royal Library. Dr. Charlotte Renk presented a scholarly program that included; (1.) A review of workshop process; (2) Critique
“Before/After” poems that have been revised to include more
metaphors for imagery and repetition for music; (3) Examine
two (2) or three (3) model poems that illustrate a tech-
nique to be included in the next assignment.

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DENTON POETS ASSEMBLY
Richard Weatherly Reporting
For the month of April only, Denton Poets’ Assembly met on
the 1st Saturday of the month, April 7, due to a scheduling
conflict at the Emily Fowler Public Library. Our 45 minute
pre-meeting critique session went well, and we kicked off
our regular meeting at 10:00 am.

After greeting visitors, members discussed chapter busi-
ness and related chapter activities, and following the discus-
sion we read a round of free choice poems.

Following the free choice poetry readings, Patrick Lee
Marshall delivered a presentation and facilitated an exercise
on poetry judging. Then after reading another round of free
choice poems, the meeting was adjourned.

Denton Poets’ Assembly normally meets on the third
Saturday of the month at 10 am at the Emily Fowler Central
Library. The meetings are free and open to the public. Every-
one is welcome. For more information, visit http://Denton
Poets Assembly.weebly.com.

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FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY
Anne Jones Reporting
Marilyn Komechak opened the meeting by reading “Lost
Scripts” by the Irish poet, Seamus Heaney. Tricia Ferguson
reported a very satisfying poetry reading at the Sunrise Nurs-
ing Home. Several other nursing homes were suggested for
future readings. In old business we were reminded of May
5th at Buffalo West for our yearly luncheon and officer in-
stallation. Steve Sanders urged members to get their poems
to him for our FWPS contest. In new business, Steve dis-
cussed with us the possibility of a monthly cultural night at
Hulen Mall. He has been talking with Ken Davey who is
spearheading this project and wanted our group to be part of
it. Steve had a great many ideas that we could use for pro-
grams. A lot of kudos. Our members have been busy.

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HOT POETS SOCIETY
Sandi Horton Reporting
The Hot Poets Society met with the Waco Poets Society on
Thursday, April 12 from 6-8 pm for a joint meeting. More
than 20 people attended the open mic on the outdoor covered
patio at our regular meeting place, ‘Cultivate 7twelve’ lo-
cated in Downtown Waco.

The PST summer conference committee has started
receiving registration forms and poems for the anthology.
The deadline for the anthology is June 1 and you must be
registered for the conference to submit a poem. Details and
forms are available in this issue of the Bulletin and on the
PST website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org.

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MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER
Thomas K. Martin Reporting
MPS held its regular meeting on Saturday, April 7 in the
Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. President Alice
Parker presided. Nine members and one guest attended.

Beth Ayres discussed progress on MPS’ 47th Annual
Collin County Poetry Contest. The judging has been com-
leted, and the printed anthology is ready to present to award
recipients. Beth presented certificates of appreciation to all
the members who participated in the judging. The Awards
Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 from 2–4 p.m.
in Collin College’s McKinney Campus Conference Center.
Doors open at 1:15 p.m. MPS is grateful for the support and
participation of Collin College and looks forward to the cer-
emony’s second year in this exceptional facility.

Beth shared a photo of MPS’ National Poetry Month dis-
play in the McKinney Public Library. Everyone was very
pleased with the spring rain theme and complimented Beth
on her fine work. At Beth’s request, several members con-
tributed original poems that appear in the display on rain-
drops.

Alice reminded members that MPS will host a 2018
National Poetry Month celebration on Saturday, April 28—
1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Café Bohemia at 2320 Los Rios Blvd.
in Plano. Since the owner is giving us free use of her facility,
Alice encouraged members to support the establishment by
buying a beverage and/or something to eat. The microphone
will be open to anyone who wishes to share a poem.

Susan Mardele continues to work on locating a venue
for MPS’ National Poetry Day commemoration scheduled
for Saturday, September 29.

Beth Ayres distributed copies of a lovely 2018 MPS
Membership Directory to all members who attended the
meeting. Alice invited everyone to her book signing where
she will read excerpts from her book titled Choices, Changes
& Friends: 1970s after Divorce. It will be held at the Barnes
and Noble store in Dallas at Preston and Royal from 2–4
p.m. on Sunday, April 15.

Susan Mardele invited everyone to McKinney’s Arts in
Bloom Festival on April 13, 14, and 15, where her band will
perform on the square in the old McKinney downtown.

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PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY
Kat Copeland Reporting
Welcome new members Amanda Rudloff (she and her
daughter both write poetry) and Yaswant Maharaj, who
writes in English and Sindhi. Congratulations to State Coun-
cilor Loretta Diane Walker for being chosen Volunteer of the
Year by the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center. Our huge
Poetry Slam held in Odessa on March 23rd had sixteen per-
formers. Our thanks to Emcee Ryan McGuire of CBS 7 and
musicians/songwriters Kristal Wight and Kyle Trueblood for
your entertainment. Congratulations to cash winners first,
second, and third place: Joselyn Espinoza, Shaobeny John-
son, and Isaiah Mata; to all competitors including two
additional second round competitors Michaela Anang and Lorrie Norris (very appreciated help at the front door, Lorrie). Thank you, Dee’s Bistro, for working with us to have our event at your wonderful venue. Rob Matthews got some great shots of the winners. Door prizes were received by four ticket holders. The Odessa American did a great write up about our slam authored by Bob Campbell, our secretary. President Daniel Carlo Ramos was our expert for the slam rules. On April 12th we had a full house, standing room only with 26 performers at open mic night in Midland, Texas. Musician/Songwriter Kyle Trueblood was our expert emcee. Music, poetry, and comedy were shared, including a solo in French, and a musician from Columbia. Very appreciated is Yaswant, who was our photographer at both the slam and open mic, and our scorekeeper. Thanks to slam competitor Nayeli Madrid for some great video at the open mic. We are currently signing up visual and performing artists for our September 29th event, 100,000 Poets for Change. Locally we will be in Odessa, Texas. Everyone, everywhere is welcome. We are happy to announce that Michael Guinn of DFW is on the program. Tom Parks, Board of Directors, is helping with grant correspondence. The Permian Basin Poetry Society (PBPS) received notification of our 501(c)3 status as of December 2017. PBPS was founded in 1967.

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POETS NORTHWEST
Lynn Grice Reporting

Our April 21st meeting celebrated National Poetry Month with attendees bringing in poems by their favorite national contemporary poets and telling a bit about that poet. As usual, members were encouraged to bring poems to share during our Read-Around.

Mike Owens had his poem, “Thank You,” accepted for the Austin International Poetry Festival’s anthology, di-vêrsé-city. He read it at the anthology Launch at Huston-Tillotson University.

Our 31st Annual Spring Fling, which celebrates our Houston area poets with a contest and banquet, will be held on May 19, in lieu of our regular meeting.

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, temporarily, at the Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress Rd, in Houston. 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://facebook.com/POETSNorthwest.

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POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
Lynn Lewis Reporting

The April 9 meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was called to order by President Barbara Goerdel. Richard Weatherly was the Contemporary Poet Reader, and he read poems written by former Texas State Poet Laureate Jan Epton Seale. Jeannette Strother, the one and only, was the Spotlight Poet. The treasury report had been previously emailed to each member, and the minutes from the March meeting were accepted with one correction.

President Goerdel read a note of thanks from the family of Naomi Stroud Simmons and a letter of thanks that will accompany our donation to our venue, the First United Methodist Church.

Announcements: •April is also National Library Month. •The Poetry Society of Texas’ summer conference will be July 12-14th in Waco, Texas. •The Mansfield Activity Center will host a poetry reading in honor of National Poetry Month. •Dr. Charlotte Renk conducts a poetry writing session on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas. It is open to the public.

Assignment poems were read before the break. Vice President Angie Goin introduced our Featured Speaker, Charlotte Renk, whose topic was the usage of catalogs for writing a poem. The meeting was adjourned by President Goerdel, then Dr. Renk and her daughter Claire were our guests for lunch at Milano’s Italian Restaurant.

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RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY
Jo Morrow Reporting

The Rusk County Poetry Society met on March 15th at the Church of Christ Community Building in Henderson. The opening prayer was offered by Richard Hurzeler. In a small change of format, the informative spotlight presentation by Jackie McVey was given at the beginning of the meeting. No minutes were read and the treasurer’s report was given by Charles Taylor. Copies of the report were distributed and a recommendation for a slight change in the form was made.

The date of October 20th was decided upon for our annual Celebration of Poetry and it was decided to request use of the building for the 19th and 20th of October to allow for set-up and the event. It was announced that the Poetry in Schools winners presentation would be held soon at Region 7 in Kilgore. RCPS has a long history of involvement with this program. Also announced was an upcoming open mic event.

After a break for tasty refreshments of finger food prepared by Adriane Pamplin, members enjoyed a lesson concentrating on women in literature, especially women poets, presented by Sharon Taylor. An assignment was made for the April meeting and members then read poems that had been critiqued and returned to the authors.

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SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION
Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

President Pat Gibbs called the April 17th meeting to order with an Irish Blessing in honor of St. Patrick’s Day. Eleven members attended, and after the pledge and a moment of silence, Secretary Lois Heger’s pre-emailed minutes were approved and Treasurer Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex gave the treasurer’s report. SAPA is in good financial shape.

The nominating committee: Floyd Lamrouex, Clyta
Clerk, and Jean Jackson announced the slate of officers for 2018-2019. The nominees are: President: Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex; Vice President: Paige Parker; Recording Secretary: Valerie Martin Bailey; Corresponding Secretary: Clyta Coder; Treasurer: Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex. The election will be held at our April 21st meeting and nominations will also be taken from the floor at that time.

We welcomed a new member, Bruce Davis, who has been attending as a visitor for quite a while. We were all delighted that he has joined us at last.

Program Chair Lamrouex, then introduced our Spotlight Poet, our own John Eubanks, who is an excellent performance poet. As usual, John entertained us with his witty, pithy, and often hilarious poems. We thank him for taking time off from his country living to come into the city and read for us.

Acting Contest Chair, Valerie Bailey announced the February contest winners, judged by Loretta Diane Walker. Thanks Loretta for your time and expertise. Assigned topic winners were: Carol Siskovic (1st), Margaret Mayberry (2nd), Loretta Vaughan (3rd), Sheila Moore (HM). Open topic winners were: Clyta Coder (1st), Sheila Moore (2nd), Carol Siskovic (3rd), Loretta Vaughan (HM).

Our refreshment break was a spectacular production provided by Wallace and Loretta Vaughan, who did it up “green” with green and white themed refreshments and green and white floral arrangements for each table and green shamrock necklaces for each member. The Vaughns threw a real St. Patrick’s Day party.

In a festive mood, we read our March poems that will be judged by J. Paul Holcomb of Double Oak. After our book raffle, President Pat Gibbs ended the meeting with an Irish poem to send us on our way.

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TYLER ROSE GARDEN POETS
Mary Tindall Reporting

The Rose Garden poets had a great meeting celebrating poetry by writing haiku to hang on a tree on the Whitehouse Community Library Lawn. We will have a more detailed report in May.

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WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY
Linda Smith Reporting

The WFPS met on Saturday, March 17 in the Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts. Sheri Sutton greeted nine members and five guests. Three of the guests had visited the WFPS table at the February Home & Garden Festival and visited our meeting as a result of that effort. Members then enjoyed refreshments provided by Daryl Halencak.

Sheri presented the lesson on the Vondelet Sonnet Variation, which was a form conceived by Von S. Bourland. Instead of the standard 14 line sonnet, the Vondelet has 15 lines with an interesting rhyme scheme. Members read samples of Italian and English sonnets for comparison, and then read two Vondelets that had won PST annual contests. The April contest Vondelet is due to Sheri by midnight on April 1.

In the business meeting, minutes of the February meeting and the treasurer’s report were approved. Sheri reminded members that the WFPS realized $4.50 from each ticket to the Home & Garden Festival that was sold/bought. She also thanked Cynthia Archibald and Nick Schreiber for working as the WFPS volunteers at the festival. A thank-you note was received from the Kemp Center for the $50 contributed by the WFPS to the Kemp Center’s annual campaign.

A discussion followed regarding the participation of the WFPS in an exhibit of poetry at the Kemp in October and the possibility of a poetry festival. All agreed that the exhibit might best be done in conjunction with an exhibit by the Kemp. Sheri will get more information and report at the next meeting.

In new business, officers for 2018-19 were chosen. They are Nick Schreiber, President; Linda Smith, Recording Secretary; Doyle Wood, Corresponding Secretary; and Sheri Sutton, Treasurer. Geneva Rodgers will handle the programs and yearbook, with assistance from Nick Schreiber. Lynn Hoggard will be the Kemp Center Liaison and will send WFPS information to the Times Record News. The new officers will take office in September. Nick Schreiber offered information about the After Hours Art Walk in downtown Wichita Falls from April through October. The membership approved the idea of WFPS participation, which Nick will organize.

Contest results for the March contest for the Haiku, judged by Loretta Diana Walker of Odessa are: Sheri Sutton (1st), Cynthia Archibald (2nd), and Geneva Rodgers (3rd). Honorable mentions are Nick Schreiber (1HM), Roberta Sund (2HM), and Webb Key (3HM).

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YOUTH NEWS
Shiva Sharma Reporting

Women’s Day 2018 has already come and gone, but there is no day when we shouldn’t celebrate the wonderful women of the past and present. In 2017 alone, the world has watched more and more women share their stories and stand up for their rights. Their words speak volumes, but their actions spur a young generation to realize they too must take up this torch.

Every woman I look up to has a different story. In school we learn about women in history, alive only in text and the effects of their actions that show us how far we have come. Particularly in the last year, I’ve been inspired by the stories women tell in television, film, and music: their art and expression portrays wit, struggle, and humanity. The use of such mediums allows people to connect and draw meaning uniquely, and assess their own realities.

WE MISSED YOU!
We regret not hearing from the following chapters:
Beaumont, Gulf Coast, Hi-Plains,
San Jacinto, Texoma, and Trinity Valley
We look forward to hearing from you in May.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ MARCH 2018
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

- Active Members...........194
- Associate Members..........12
- Life Members...............42
- Student Members.........38
- Supporting Members......0
- Sustaining Members........6
- Recently Deceased.........0
- Renewing Members..........6
- New Members...............4
- Current Member Total....292

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.

NOTICE TO BULLETIN REPORTERS
Please remember! Bulletin Reporters should send their Bulletin news as soon as possible after their monthly meetings. The absolute deadline for Bulletin news is now the 14th of each month by 8 p.m. Send your news to the special Bulletin e-mail address at: vbaileybulletin@att.net.

Our Deepest Sympathy
Is Extended To The Following:

Robert L. Cosby and family, at the death of Robert’s beloved wife, Shirley Elliott Cosby of Emory, who died on April 13. Shirley was a long time member of PST and a frequent winner in our annual contests. Shirley will be missed by her many friends in the Poetry Society of Texas.

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports that five books were donated in March to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library.

- The Lonely Tourist’s Guide to Urban War Zones, by Jenna Pashley Smith
- Softly Beating Wings, by Ann Howells
- Letters to My Daughter: Poems by Ann Howells
- Under a Lone Star: Poems By Ann Howells, Illustrations by JDarrell Kirley
- Khiar Gayian Nain Rawaan (Trails Are Scattered), by Amanullah Khan M.D., Ph.D.

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.

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS
Rebecca Burroughs ~ San Antonio, Texas
Karen L. Ellis ~ Belton, Texas
Lauren Moor ~ Lantana, Texas
Karen Schneider ~ Houston, Texas

We are glad you joined, you will ❤️ PST!

- Poetry Society of Texas
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  Mansfield, TX 76063
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- Non-profit org.
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