CARLOS T. MILLER IS PST’S DYNAMIC SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY

Carlos T. Miller is an American author, speaker and spoken word poet whose literary efforts and moving messages continually emphasize a rededication to commitment of positive male presence in homes all over the country. A native of Jackson Mississippi, his career choices and military service led him to his wife of 23 years and landed them in Texas after completing his service. You will hear faith-fueled expressive speaking and transparency as Carlos communicates the necessity of male vulnerability in the healing process. In his book, *Phantasmagoria: Poetic Translations*, he shares personal male emotions common to most men as they relate to parenting, marriage, unresolved childhood struggles, and the challenges of functioning in society under the umbrella of pre-conceived notions called manhood. Carlos studies at the University of Dallas, where he is pursuing a degree in creative writing/journalism. His voice inspires, informs, and impacts, leaving every audience recharged.

DON’T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THIS AMAZING PRESENTATION

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Poetry Society of Texas for Saturday, January 11 2020, 2:30 p.m.

at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Barbara Blanks

President Irene Robertson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including our guests Andrew Baldwin, Dallas; Christina Hill, Allen; Brian Bowles, Oak Cliff; and Jacinta Mooney, Fort Worth. She also acknowledged past presidents Catherine L’Herisson and Aman Khan; Rich Weatherly, president of Denton Poets Assembly; Domingo Rodriguez, president of the Pegasus Chapter; and Alice Parker, past president of the Mockingbird Chapter.

Treasurer Steve Sanders gave a brief financial report for December. PST is in good shape, and there were no major expenditures.

Director Domingo Rodriguez gave the December Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. This report can be see on page 10. We have two new members: Kendra Preston Leonard, Humble; and Janet McCann, College Station. PST welcomes you both.

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced one book addition to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library. This book is listed on page 10.

President Robertson made these announcements:

- J. Paul Holcomb’s Memorial Service will be held January 24, at 11 a.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Farmer’s Branch. See the Sympathy announcement (page 10) for more information.
- The Beall Poetry Festival and Baylor House of Poetry will be held on March 25 – 27. See website for details: https://www.baylor.edu/beall/.
- NFSPS 2020 Convention will be held in Kansas City, MO, June 11–14. See details at their website.
- The Fort Worth Poetry Society William D. Barney Chapbook Contest has a deadline date of February 15.
- Be aware of scam emails purported to be from PST or NFSPS Board members. Hold your cursor underneath an email address, the real address will appear.

Past President Catherine L’Herisson presented the Memorial Program for PST members lost in 2019. While Catherine knew most of them personally, she acknowledged informational assistance from Linda Banks, Budd Powell Mahan, Patrick Marshall, and Ann Howells.

Mary Yokum, Lubbock, died on March 1 at age 88. Born in New Orleans, she was a Life Member of PST. She worked with the Amarillo School system as...
a counselor in special education for 33 years. Mary served as president of the Hi-Plains Chapter, as well as being a member of several other organizations.

Leona Welch, Pottsboro, died on March 5 at age 80. A truck driver for more than 30 years, Leona composed much of her poetry via voice recorder while she drove. A Life Member of PST, she served as corresponding secretary and treasurer; was the founder and first president of Texoma Poetry Society, was honored as the 1998 Poet Laureate of Texoma, once edited *A Galaxy of Verse*, and was head of “Poetry in Schools” before Budd Mahan took the reins.

Dr. Webb Key, Wichita Falls, died on March 13 at age 74. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from SMU in Dallas. He graduated as a Doctor of Osteopathy from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, College of Osteopathic Medicine. Webb served as a US Navy Journalist in Vietnam and as a physician in the US Air Force, receiving several awards and medals. He was a member of Texas Master Naturalists, among other groups. He served as treasurer of the Wichita Falls Poetry Society, and he loved to design clever greeting cards for family and friends.

Ruth Hudson Savage, Arlington, died on May 31, at age 87. She was born in Childress, one of eleven children. She won Miss Congeniality in the 1982 Mrs. Alabama Pageant. Her talent was reading a poem she wrote, which is now read at each pageant. A Life Member of PST, Ruth briefly served as its recording secretary, and was founder and president of the New Millennium Poets chapter. She spent 12 years giving book reviews throughout Texas and wrote poetry for The Arlington Arts Advocate for seven years.

Jan Benson, Fort Worth, died on October 31 at age 67. Jan focused on Japanese poetry. She was a member of the Fort Worth Haiku Society and several other haiku organizations. A Pushcart nominee, she was widely published in some of the world’s leading haiku journals and magazines, and was translated into seven languages.

Jo Ellen Fant, Groves, died on November 27, at age 94. She and her identical twin Dorothy (Dot) were born in Port Arthur. They co-published *Walk Softly on the Autumn Leaves*. A poet all her life, she and Dot were featured on Texas Country Reporter as the Granny Poets. Jo was a Life Member of PST and a member of the Beaumont Poetry Chapter. She regularly sponsored “On Being A Twin” in both the PST annual contests and *A Galaxy of Verse* contests.

James Paul Holcomb, better known to us as J. Paul or Paul, the Poet from Double Oak, recently downsized in a move to Flower Mound with his wife Sue Ann. Paul died December 16, at age 78. An Air Force veteran, he earned a Master’s degree in Computer Science from SMU. Native Texan, Life Member of PST, he joined in 1990, served on the board in several positions, including 17th president, sponsored several categories in the annual contests, and by 2003, he received the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. He not only became president of the Fort Worth Poetry Society, but was one of the founders of Denton Poets Assembly. He presented “Paul’s Poetry Pointers” at their monthly meetings for ten years. Paul was also Poet Laureate of Lewisville for three years.

Program Committee Chair JDarrell Kirkley kicked off our *January Poem-Athon* with one of his poems. All willing attendees were on the program. Almost everyone read one of their own poems, or read/re-cited poems by other poets.

After the break, Contest Chair Rich Weatherly announced the winners of the January Monthly Contests: See below. The meeting was then adjourned.

**ALERT:** Monthly Contest Chair Rich Weatherly always acknowledges receipt of contest entries. If you enter the Monthly Contests and do not hear from him, please re-send your entries.

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### JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

**20 Entries**

*Critic Judge:* Lynda La Rocca, Twin Lakes, Colorado

**First:** Catherine L’Herisson, Garland ~ “Snow Comes Softly”

**Second:** Terry Jude Miller, Richmond

**Third:** Beth Honeycutt, Denton

**Laugh Lines**

Judge: Irene Robertson, Little Elm

Winner: Barbara Green Powell, Beaumont

**Book Prizes**

Reader: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

Popular Prize: Loretta Diane Walker, Odessa

Poetry for Poets Award: Ann Howells, Carrollton

Naomi Simmons Mem. Award: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring

Wm. D. Barney Mem. Award: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Tandy Deumke Mem. Award: Manuel L. English, Poulusbo, WA.

Cliff Roberts Mem. Haiku Award: Richard Hurzeler, Tyler

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Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to Contest Chair, Richard Weatherly at 7617 Palomar Dr., N. Richland Hills, TX 76180 • 817-428-8088 • WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net.
The first AAPT meeting for 2020 was held on January 7. President Lois Heger led the pledge and then read “No Matter What,” a poem by Mary Oliver. We then observed a moment of silence.

Our featured speaker was Eddie Vega. He is a nationally recognized poet and spoken word artist. His poetry has appeared on VIA buses and in downtown San Antonio windows. His first full-length book of poetry, *Chicharra Chorus* was published in 2019 by FlowerSong Books. Eddie writes about food, Tejano culture, and social justice. He read some of his poems and told us about the Grand Slam Poetry Competition. It was very interesting to learn about the rules and procedures. He also spoke of the Haiku Death Match and the Compliment Death Match in which he participates.

The December winners were announced as follows: Assigned Topics: 1st HM–Carol Siskovic; 3rd place–Antonia Murguia; 2nd place–Sheila Moore; 1st place–Lou Taylor. Open Topic: 1st HM–Antoinette Winstead; 3rd place–Patricia Keoughan; 2nd Place–Carol Siskovic; 1st place–Sheila Moore. The December judge was Christine Boldt of Temple. February’s poem topics are *Ocean and Sand* or *My First….* February’s judge will be Budd Mahan.

Our featured speaker will be John Eubanks on February 1st at 2 pm at the Retirement Center Garden Room at Incarnate Word University. John is a great poet and theatre performer. We certainly look forward to his presentation.

All members were encouraged to bring new members. Happy Valentine’s Day to all poets!

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**BEAUMONT CHAPTER**

*Barbara Green Powell Reporting*

Beaumont members have been out of the loop for December, and January’s meeting is coming up soon. It will be a sad time as it will be the first without our dearest Jo Ellen Fant who went to be with her Lord in November. She was always the life of the party and kept us all in a great mood. Her daughter, Sherry Morgan, is taking a leave to reassess her goals about poetry. Life is sometimes too hard, but we have to keep moving forward. Sherry plans to change the topic of her mother’s PST contest about twins to a poem to honor the memory of our sweet Jo Ellen Fant.

Next on our poetry way, we need to recruit more members as life and illnesses are taking their toll. I will be unable to attend any more meetings or conferences, as my husband and I are struggling with mental and physical issues. That means Lucidity too, which breaks my heart as the attendees are like my family, and I’ll miss them so much. If you’ve never gone to Lucidity, it’s a great conference to improve your poetry and to just have fun.

Signing off this beautiful day, as bad weather with rain is predicted and I need to finish taking down Christmas decorations.

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**DALLAS PEGASUS CHAPTER**

*Domingo Rodriguez Reporting*

Dallas Pegasus members are reminded that we have our monthly meeting on Thursday, January 9. We will meet at the Preston Royal Public Library at 6:00 p.m. I know the meeting seems to have snuck up on some of us, but this month started midweek. Also a reminder that we will workshop any poem that is brought, specifically those you hope to submit soon. So please bring 10 or 11 copies of your poems. We will also take a little time to discuss the future of Pegasus Poetry Society Can’t wait to see ya’ll there.

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**DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY**

*Richard Weatherly Reporting*

The Denton Poets’ Assembly plans to meet January 18 at the Emily Fowler Public Library in Denton, Texas. Our meeting begins at 10 a.m. After greeting visitors and conducting a short business meeting, members will read assigned poems.

January assignments will be based on the poetry and work of Diane Glancy, fellow DPA member and nationally known poet.

Our January speaker is Susan Maxwell Campbell who will speak on Diane Glancy’s writing process.

Following the break, members will be given an opportunity to read free-choice poems.

We adjourn our meetings at 12:00 noon.

The meeting room remains available for a critique session and workshop from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

The Denton Poets’ Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. – noon at the Emily Fowler Public Library.
Fowler Central Library, 502 Oakland Street in Denton. Meetings are free and open to the public. Everyone is welcome. For more information, visit http://DentonPoetsAssembly.weebly.com.

**FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY**

*Anne Jones Reporting*

Happy New Year everyone!

At our January meeting, Kate Huie read the opening poems by Rainer Maria Rilke (1875-1926): “Black Cat,” and “Put Out My Eyes.” Kate spoke at length about Rilke, who is considered to be the greatest lyric poet of modern Germany. Other members added to her information. He was a truly gigantic poet.

In old business, we have agreed on a judge for the William Barney Chapbook Contest in 2020. Mike Baldwin announced that we already have one entry.

In other old business we made important decisions concerning the Summer Conference for PST, including the keynote speaker, the entry fee, and the registration form.

In new business Steve Sanders says we are starting the new year with a tremendous bang—we have been asked to appear at the 2020 Texas Council of Teachers of English Language Arts convention in Frisco, Texas on January 24, 25, and 26. Our participation will include a poetry reading followed by a “question and answer” period, and a table in the Convention vendor’s room. Last year’s convention was attended by several thousand Texas teachers, and we are hoping that we can make some meaningful connections on this weekend to help promote poetry in Texas, particularly in the schools.

In announcements, there will be a memorial for J. Paul Holcomb at 11:00 a.m. on January 24, at Christ United Methodist Church in Farmer’s Branch, Texas. Hilda Mendoza has obtained an offer for a free room at the Botanical Gardens in Fort Worth, whenever we choose. She will get more details. There were no kudos. Some fine poems were critiqued and some excellent suggestions were offered.

**HI-PLAINS CHAPTER**

*Tom and Frances Ferris Reporting*

At our December meeting, members present were given critique time for the Visser poems from August. There was some confusion but that was corrected.

Von Bourland read eight of her 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winning poems for the 2019 year.

Karl Smith read his winning poem that he had rewritten.

Our program was Inspirational Poems, and the handout was on the Best Loved Inspirational Poems.

Karl Smith gave a treasurer’s report and discussed the need to find a new meeting place.

We will have a topic for the PST contest on the Ogalla Aquifer. At our April meeting we will work on Marianne Logan Sonnets.

Von Bourland plans to sponsor a children’s contest for 4th graders.

Our meeting place for February will be at the Jackson Street Grill from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

John Schmidt discussed his books, and after a round robin we left our meeting place at the Kingswood Methodist Church for the last time.

**HOT/LIVE POETS OF CENTRAL TEXAS**

*Christine Boldt Reporting*

Poets from Waco, Temple, Salado, and Austin met Thursday January 9 at the Belton Public Library for the monthly meeting of the HOT/Live Poets of Central Texas. In round-robin style we read the emblem poems we had created in response to our November challenge and, then, other poems we have created recently.

Tom the World Poet reminded us of the upcoming Tablerock Poetry Festival in Salado. The event will be held Thursday, February 6, at 6:00 p.m. The theme for the reading is Animal Tales. At the event, each poet can submit clean copies of up to 3 poems for possible inclusion in the Festival Anthology. Poems should be no longer than 26 lines. Haiku welcomed! Contact Tom for more information at (worldpoet@rocketmail.com).

We are also looking forward to the Windhover Writers’ Festival hosted by the literary journal, The Windhover at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor on February 12–14.

Our challenge for next month comes from the Poetry Foundation: Write a one-sentence poem that is at least 12 lines long.

The HOT/Live Poets meet the second Thursday of every month from 6:30–8:00 p.m. at the Belton Public Library. For information about our February 13 meeting, Please contact Chris Boldt at pacboldt@sbcglobal.net.)
M P S held its regular monthly meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, 2020 in the Heard–Craig Carriage House in McKinney. President Thomas Martin presided. A total of twelve members and two guests attended.

The minutes from the December meeting were approved, and incoming treasurer, Tarik Ahmed, provided an update on the finances including the checking balance and the savings account balance. Members began paying dues ($20) to the new treasurer.

President Martin provided a PST update from Richard Weatherly, Chairman and Director: The Monthly Contest deadline is the 15th of each month at midnight and includes two categories: Laugh Lines (16 line limit) and the General Contest (28 line limit). Open to submissions from PST members. Members and non-members may share poetry at the upcoming meeting Saturday, January 11 at 1:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library.

Beth Ayers provided an update on the annual poetry contest that MPS has sponsored since 1970. See details on the web page at www.mockingbirdpoetry.org. Announcements about the contest have been sent out and responses are being received. The contest is open for submissions October 15 – February 1. The awards ceremony will be held April 19 at Collin College Spring Creek campus in Plano. Susan Mardele is working on art for the anthology.

Beth also shared that the January MPS event featuring the Paint Chip Poetry game will be held at her home on January 25 at 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

President Martin indicated that other events for the year are in the planning stages and the board is open to ideas.

Ann Marie Newman informed the group of an upcoming workshop by the award-winning poet Michael Guinn, hosted by the North 40 Storytellers, at the Heritage Farmstead Museum on January 20 at 7:00 p.m. She will send the details in an email. Let her know if you plan to attend so she can plan accordingly.

A. J. Chilson reminded the group of the Open Mic event at the Barnes and Noble Kitchen on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The January event is on the 15th.

Tarik Ahmed shared that he will be reading a poem at the Collin County Diversity Council event, Sacred Stories of Light Reception, January 23 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Blue House Too in Allen.

After the group’s business and sharing was completed, members and our visitor were invited to share a poetry reading. Always a pleasure to enjoy poetry from our group.

After the meeting, the group enjoyed visiting and a time of refreshments.

October’s meeting featured a presentation by Karen Mastracchio, “A lesson from Academy of American Poets – poem to teach.” November’s meeting featured a presentation by Lisa Toth Salinas, “Poetry in Motion – How to revise and rev up our writing to move a poem to the next level.”


Poets Northwest 2020 Board: President – Mary Creviere Turner; Vice President/Program Chair/Webmaster – Karen Mastracchio; Treasurer/Newsletter/Historian – Lynn Roberts Grice; Secretary/Publicity – Eric Blanchard; Events Coordinator/Fundraising – Sharon Young; Judge – Daniel Hunter.

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 (except May & December) at the Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress Rd, Room 126, in Houston. Members 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, on Facebook at http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest, on Twitter at @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram Poetsnorthwest.

Our January 6th meeting opened with Ron Eddins, president, reading some of J. Paul Holcomb’s published poems. These poems were received by all members with appreciation. J. Paul Holcomb was Poet Laureate of Lewisville. He was a member of the Poets
of Tarrant County and served as president from 2012–2014. J. Paul Holcomb died this past December. He was stolen from us. I can personally say that he was a kind Christian man, and a caring, accomplished poet.

This month’s spotlight poet was Lynn Lewis, she read a few of her published poems, two of which were favorites of Susan Maxwell Campbell. Lynn’s verse, a pot of pinto beans on the stove, expressed how southern Texas heritage is rich, alive, and well.

Barbara Berry, Barbara Goerdel, and Susan Maxwell Campbell, members of Poets of Tarrant County read three of their contest winning poems. These ladies all won 1st places for these entries in the 2019 annual Poetry Society of Texas contests.

During the remaining portion of our meeting assignment poems were read, and an accompanying comment was made by each contributing poet, giving a brief explanation of how their poem came into being. This was enlightening and edifying.

Angie Goin our 2019 vice president has been absent recently, she is at home with her husband Jim. Angie is fighting cancer; she is missed at our meetings. Angie is in our prayers for complete healing and a soon return to once again to share her poems with us.

We had one visitor, a sonnet writer, and we hope that he will return to our meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by Ron Eddins.

**ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY’**

*Mary Tindall Reporting*

Eight members of the Rose Garden Poetry Society met Thursday, January 9, 2020 in the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse. We celebrated the new year with a fun time according to Mary Wood. We shared poetry and the last of holiday cakes. We discussed recent experiences, challenges, and expectations. Some thoughts of upcoming anniversary dates were mentioned. Anthology deadlines were announced.

Poets read poems written for assigned topics: secrets, dilemma, and voice. Other general poems of choice were read. Poets made suggestions for possible revisions.

Reading and writing poems is always the emphasis of the Rose Garden Poetry Society. We accept the ideas of other members to improve our poems. “Fragrance” is the assigned prompt for February when we look forward to being together again.

**RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY**

*Janet Tyner Reporting*

The Rusk County Poetry Society met Thursday, December 19, 2019, in the home of Jo Morrow in Henderson.

Nine members and two guests celebrated the Christmas season with an afternoon of relaxed conversation while sharing finger foods and poems.

Poets also donated canned or packaged food to the food pantry of the Henderson Church of Christ.

The climax of the event was the announcement that John Boney is the Rusk County Poetry Society Poet of the Year. President Mary Tindall shared a tribute to John and his contributions to the society, and then presented him with a framed certificate.

**SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**

*Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting*

Our December meeting, which was planned as our annual Christmas celebration and also as a celebration of our 40th anniversary as an organization, ended up being the smallest meeting SAPA has ever held. Our meeting date of December 21 was so close to Christmas there were too many family conflicts for our members to attend as had been hoped. Some members were traveling, others had housefuls of company, and two were ill, so we only had seven members who joined in at the T.G.I. Fridays Restaurant to enjoy their large menu of delicious foods.

The seven who attended enjoyed a cozy time of fellowship that had the warm feeling of family. In attendance were: President Michaud Lamrouex, Clyta Coder, Antoinette Winstead, Iris Maahs, Sheila Moore, Mary Cervantes, and Valerie Bailey. We had the party room to ourselves and did not need the sound system, as we were able to remain seated around the table and read our poems aloud face to face.

President Lamrouex led us in a blessing for the food, and then we spent a moment remembering our two members who had passed away: Sharon Turner and Charlene Plover. He also mentioned the two who were ill: Loretta Vaughan and Joan Seifert. We also turned our thoughts to our non-resident members that we always wish could be with us: Margaret Mayberry, Adrian Johnson, and Jane and Roland Perdue.

After we enjoyed our meal, President Lamrouex
dispensed with the minutes and treasurer’s report, and we went directly to awarding the trophies and certificates for November’s poems.

Our judge was scheduled to be J. Paul Holcomb, but we received the very sad news that PST’s beloved J. Paul Holcomb had died unexpectedly from a heart attack. Barbara Blanks who had judged our October poems graciously volunteered to judge the November poems as well.

Clyta Coder was happy to discover that she had won first place in both of our contests. She took home the two traveling Poet of the Month trophies and first place certificates for both contests. What a nice Christmas surprise for Clyta. Second place in the assigned topic “A Storm” went to John Friedland, third place went to Valerie Bailey, and Honorable Mention to Margaret Mayberry. In the Poet’s Choice contest, second place went to Carol Siskovic, third place to Sheila Moore, and Honorable Mention to John Friedland.

We then read our December poems—assigned topic contest: “O Christmas Tree” and our Poet’s Choice poems. These will be judged by Terry Jude Miller of Richmond. Just before we were ready to adjourn, Bruce Davis showed up. He had been delayed by a family emergency.

After the meeting was adjourned, we spent a little more time visiting with each other, and then, refreshed by our calming dose of poetry, we went out to join the hordes of Christmas shoppers.

**WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY**
_Cynthia Archibald Reporting_

The Wichita Falls Poetry Society has had no activity since our lengthy report in December’s *Bulletin*. Therefore, having nothing new to report, our Society would instead like to send out to all the other PST chapters, our sincere wishes for a very Happy New Year. We’ll be back on track after our January meeting. We look forward to sharing our activities once again.

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**WHEN WE THINK OF 2020 WE THINK OF VISION AND FOCUS**

Set your Sights on Being Poetry ON

The Best Poet You Can Be!

**To Those Who Go Above and Beyond**

In an organization like the Poetry Society of Texas, there are so many volunteers who give their time and energy to make things run smoothly that we sometimes take their efforts for granted. They work behind the scenes and are seldom recognized for the help they give our organization.

In 2020, let’s change that and recognize the folks that help us be the best Poetry Society in the nation. If you have noticed someone who should be thanked for his or her contribution, please notify the Bulletin editor so we can say a collective “Thank You.”

I would like to start by thanking Patrick Marshall for service above and beyond. When the decision was made to go digital with the *Bulletin*, there were approximately 35 members who did not have a computer or access to e-mail service.

These people would no longer be able to read the *Bulletin*, but Patrick Marshall stepped up and volunteered to take care of getting the *Bulletin* printed and mailed to those few, but important, members who would be left out. He did this when he already had many duties as Treasurer of PST.

When Ann Howells became PST’s Recording Secretary, Patrick turned the paper *Bulletin* over to her after sharing with her his procedures for doing it. Now that Susan Maxwell Campbell is the Recording Secretary, he is working with her to share with her how he was getting this done.

PST says “Thanks” to Patrick Marshall and to Ann Howells and Susan Maxwell Campbell for seeing that all our members have the opportunity to read the *Bulletin*.
**WONDERFUL NEWS!**

**WE HAVE A NEW BOTY EDITOR**

Our new *A Book of the Year* editor has been approved by the PST Executive Board, and the new editor is our talented and versatile President, Irene Robertson. Irene is small in stature, but mighty in ability and willingness. She now has two big jobs, but she can do it, especially with book editors like Linda Banks, Barbara Blanks, and others who have promised to help when needed. Our winning contest poems will continue to be in capable hands, and we can look forward to PST’s *A Book of the Year* continuing to be one of the best poetry anthologies in the country.

**UPDATE ON OUR PROGRESS**

Ann Howells announces that the Youth Poetry Writing Competition will continue through 2020 with ten contests. New sponsors for contests are coming in slowly, but since teacher notices were sent out in October, the new sponsors will wait until next year to sponsor their contests. This gives us all of 2020 to build on this foundation. Ann continues to seek contest sponsors, so if you as an individual or your chapter would like to sponsor a contest next year for only $25, please contact Ann at dpcer@msn.com.

Our success not only depends on contest sponsors, but also on teachers’ interest in getting their students to participate. If you are a teacher or know a teacher or teachers, do your part to encourage them to get their students to participate. If we don’t create an interest in the youth, poetry will decline and we cannot let that happen. Both contest sponsors, interested teachers, and student participation is vital for the success of this program. Ann is willing to give her time and organization skills. Will you help her create an interest among sponsors, teachers, and students? The future of poetry in Texas depends on it. Remember you can contact Ann at dpcer@msn.com.

**SEE YOUR CHAPTER FEATURED IN THE FEBRUARY BULLETIN**

In order to feature a chapter, a group photo of the chapter is needed, along with names of the officers and a left to right identification of poets in the group photo. Include a list of members who were not able to be in the group photo. We also need a brief write up about what you do at your meetings. Do have critique sessions, contests, workshops, readings? Do you participate in or sponsor community activities, host open mics? Just tell us what you are doing with poetry. The *Bulletin* has been running a Featured Chapter of PST each month. So far only four chapters have been recognized: Mockingbird Chapter, Rusk County Poetry Society, Tarrant County Poetry Society, and Rose Garden Poetry Society.

We want to continue this feature to help us all to know each other better. Whether your chapter is large or small, each one is important to PST, and we want to feature each one, but this project will need your cooperation. The first chapter that sends a photo and other information needed will be featured in the next *Bulletin*. We can’t continue this feature until we hear from one of you.

Please help us continue this interesting and informative feature.

**NEW YEAR'S MORNING**

*(Excerpt~ last stanza)*

Always a night from old to new!
Night and the healing balm of sleep!
Each morn is New Year's morn come true,
Morn of a festival to keep.
All nights are sacred nights to make
Confession and resolve and prayer;
All days are sacred days to wake
New gladness in the sunny air.
Only a night from old to new;
Only a sleep from night to morn.
The new is but the old come true;
Each sunrise sees a new year born.

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)
The Fort Worth Poetry Society  
In Cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas Offers  
The William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, 2020

The contest honors the late Fort Worth poet William D. Barney, one of the most distinguished poets Fort Worth has produced, a former member of FWPS, and past president of the Poetry Society of Texas. Barney won the national Robert Frost Award in 1961 and was Texas Poet Laureate in 1982-83.

The winner will receive $50 plus 15 free copies of the published chapbook.

Rules for Entry:

1. This contest is open to Texas residents and/or active PST members only. Entry fee for Members of the Poetry Society of Texas is $10. Entry fee for Texas resident non-members of PST is $20. Make your check or money order payable to the Fort Worth Poetry Society. No cash please.

2. Contestants should submit a single copy of their manuscript in English only, which should be a minimum of 20 but no more than 30 pages of poetry, and no more than one poem per page. Poems should have no more than 50 characters per line including spaces. The manuscript may include both published and unpublished poems, but may not include poems from other books or chapbooks by the author. A majority of unpublished poems is preferred but not required. Do not include acknowledgments with the manuscript. The winner will supply an acknowledgments page, if needed, during arrangements for publication. The author must not be identified on the manuscript. Include a separate identification sheet with name of author, address, phone, email, and title of the manuscript. Please retain a digital copy of your manuscript; the paper contest copies will be destroyed by the judge.

3. Manuscripts with poems that contain explicit sexual language or expletives will not be considered.

4. Fort Worth Poetry Society will assume 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 finished chapbook, the author will receive 15 free copies of the chapbook, with additional copies available at the author discount of 50%. FWPS reserves the right to print and sell additional copies at retail cost, with a 10% royalty to the author. Except for the rights granted to the FWPS, the winner will retain the copyright to the chapbook.

5. The winner of the contest will not be eligible to enter again for six years. Current members of the Fort Worth Poetry Society are not eligible to enter this contest.

6. A qualified, impartial judge selected by FWPS, but not a member of FWPS or PST, will select the winning manuscript. The judge’s name will not be announced until the winner is announced.

7. The winner will be invited to do readings from the chapbook at the PST Summer Conference, at a monthly meeting of PST in Dallas, and at a poetry program at Benbrook Public Library, Benbrook, Texas.

8. Entry in the contest acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.

9. Entries will be accepted with postmarks between January 1 and February 15, 2020.

10. Announcement of the winner will be at the April, 2020, PST meeting and by email to entrants. Entries should be mailed to: FWPS Chapbook Contest, 10148 Fieldcrest Drive, Benbrook, TX 76126. Include your email or SASE to be notified of delivery.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT DECEMBER 2019
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members.............168  Sustaining Members...........1
Associate Members..........16  Recently Deceased............1
Life Members...............38  New Members................2
Student Members.............5  Renewing Members.........4
Supporting Members.........1  Current Member Total.....227

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS
Kendra Preston Leonard, Humble, TX
Janet McCann, College Station, TX

You will ❤️ Love PST!

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports one new book donation to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library. A Year on the Train to Dallas, by Stephen Sanders

Members are encouraged to donate books to the Library. If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter publishes an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send the books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Rd., Garland, TX 75044-7254.

Sincere Sympathy is Extended to the Family and friends of J.Paul Holcomb.
Especially to Sue Ann and their children we send our heartfelt condolences. J.Paul Holcomb, former president of PST, extraordinary poet, beloved poetry teacher, and mentor to many, will be sadly missed by all who knew him. J.Paul suffered a heart attack and died on December 16. A memorial service will be held January 24 at 11 a.m. at Christ United Methodist Church in Farmer’s Branch, Texas. Prior to the service, a coffee reception will be held at 10 a.m. in the narthex of the church. In lieu of flowers, you may donate to the Poetry Society of Texas or the charity of your choice in J.Paul’s name. Christ United Methodist church is located at 2807 Valwood Parkway in Dallas, TX 75234.

Sincere Sympathy is Extended to the Family and friends of Pat Randolph.
Pat was a long time member of PST who was unable to be active for the last few years, but she was well known and loved by PST members, and she will be missed. We share Patrick Randolph’s sorrow in the loss of his mother. Her funeral mass was held January 6 at Calvary Hill Chapel in Dallas. Interment was in their mausoleum, where her husband Bev is interred.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS ON THE SECOND Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at Preston Royal Library at 5626 Preston Royal lane in Dallas,

* THE EXECUTIVE BOARD *

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News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. The Bulletin may be published in June but only annual contest results are published in the November Bulletin. Note: Your Bulletin is now sent to you via e-mail. Notify the Editor if your e-mail address changes to prevent missing an edition of the Bulletin. If you do miss an edition you can request a copy from the editor or see it on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org. Click on Publications

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817-921-9322 • elsquared59@yahoo.com
Please notify the Membership Chairman promptly if your address, phone, or e-mail address changes.

Welcome Baby…
Congratulations!
This is a belated, but most enthusiastic welcome. This editor just heard about it and thought all of you would like to know that our dear former Webmaster, Annie Neugebauer and her husband were blessed with a baby girl last summer on July 11. Her name is Veronica (Ronnie). She has just turned 6 months old and is happy and healthy. We all send our best wishes to Mom, Dad, and little Ronnie.