PST’s Program Speaker for March is Catherine L’Herisson
Catherine was born in Baton Rouge, while her father was continuing his education at LSU after being a POW in China and Japan. She spent most of her growing-up years in Coushatta, LA. After marrying Charles L’Herisson, they moved to Dallas and then to Garland. She joined PST in 1978, and was active in the Garland Chapter, serving as president on several occasions. In 2007, she was asked to join the Executive Committee, and served in various positions until she became PST’s 22nd President from 2010-2012. Catherine served again as the 24th President from 2014-2016. During this second term she was heavily involved with the Fort Worth Poetry Society Chapter helping with the formation of requirements and rules for the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest. It was approved by the PST Executive Committee under her leadership on February 14, 2015. She remained on the Executive Committee until the end of August 2018, and received the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award in 2019. Over the years, she’s won a number of contests, and her poems appear in numerous publications. Catherine’s chapbook, *The Limping Mermaid*, was the winner of the 2020 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest offered by the Fort Worth Poetry Society in cooperation with PST. In her program, she will offer a few suggestions for putting together a chapbook, tell how her chapbook came about, and read a few poems from *The Limping Mermaid*.

Many questions about the various aspects of PST, including information about our contests, can be found on the PST website and in *A Book of the Year*. You can also e-mail poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com.

Please remember that membership dues can easily be paid via Paypal now, using poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com OR paypal.me/PSTexas.

**Barbara Blanks** announced that there is a new Facebook page just for PST members and members of our chapters. Type “Poetry Society of Texas –for Members” in the Search area on Facebook. Unlike the original PST page that is open to the general public, this new group is private. It means PST news isn’t lost among all the other posts.

**Birma Castle** reported that the Lucidity Retreat in Eureka Springs has been rescheduled to August 23-25. Please contact Birma for more details at Birma12@juno.com.

**Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell** introduced **Legacy/Spotlight Poet**, Continued on page 2
Lisa Toth Salinas, who presented her video titled *Unexpected Roads: a Journey in Poetry*. Lisa won the 2015 Eakin Manuscript Award with *The Smallest Leaf*.

Michael Guinn, part of the Program Committee, introduced our speaker, Al-Tariq Roberson, a poet, activist-educator, doctoral candidate at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Teaching Instructor at East Carolina University. His academic research encompasses 20th Century African American Literature, Medical Humanities, Trauma Studies, and Masculinity Studies. His forthcoming volume of poetry is a meditation on motherhood, mothering, trauma recovery, and bloodline healing. Al-Tariq said his philosophy is, “Find the metaphor and feed it.” He marinates inside the images born from his experiences with his mother and her two sisters, the stories they told, the lives they led, the hardships they endured.

Contest Chair Rich Weatherly announced the winners of the February contest, which can be seen in the Winner’s Box below. After his announcement, the meeting was adjourned.

NEW PST WEBMASTER
JDarrell Kirkly is the new PST Webmaster and he says, “I’m trying to add some little creative touches and updates to our Website. Please visit Home for some animation; Podcast to listen to great interviews; Bulletin for latest news; Programs for who is speaking; Leadership/Officers for who is running what and to review data updates. Comment, gripes, and fusses are welcome. I invite you to visit the Website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org.”

JDarrell Kirkley
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JDarrell Kirkley
PST Webmaster

PST STILL NEEDS AN ANNUAL CONTEST CHAIRMAN
Someone needs to step up to the plate; Is it YOU? The January Bulletin featured a letter from Nancy Baass who has faithfully served PST as the Annual Contests Chairman for 14 years. She has done an exemplary job all these years; however, serious eye disease (glaucoma) and eye surgery, resulting in low vision makes it impossible for her to continue in this important job.

If you are detail oriented and have good organization skills, you may be the one who can handle this special job. Nancy has offered to go over the things you need to do to fulfill the duties of the Annual Contests Chairman. This a big job and it will require effort, but it is a challenging and rewarding position of service that will be much appreciated by all who enter the annual PST contests. Why not send Nancy Baass an email and let her describe the duties, and if you feel that you are right for the job, let President Irene Robertson know that you are willing to take this important job.

FEBRUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS
21 Entries

Critic Judge: Crystal Robins, N. Hollywood, CA
1st: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie ~ “Winter Rain”
2nd: Beth Honeycutt, Denton
3rd: Dorothy Sells Clover, Beaumont

Laugh Lines
Judge: Birna Castle, Beaumont
Winner: Catherine L’Herisson

Book Prizes
Popular: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield
Wm. D. Barney Award: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas
M. Tandy Deumke Award: Anna Rosa, Wake Forest, NC
Naomi Simmons Award: Sara Starks, Southlake

Other poems up for Book Prizes were: Richard P. Hurzeler, Fred Manchester, Steve Sanders, Eric Blanchard, Sheila Tingley Moore, and LaVern Spencer McCarthy.

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to Contest Chair, Richard Weatherly, at 7617 Palomar Dr., N. Richland Hills, TX 76180 • Phone: 817-428-8088
WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net
Happy Valentine’s Day to All

The Good Book says,
“A Merry Heart does good like medicine.”
Proverbs 17:22

So here are several doses of laughter to keep your heart merry!

What did the marble countertop say to the kitchen sink?
“Im tired of being taken for granite!”

My wife is in the house singing.
I’m sitting on the front porch so my neighbors will know I’m not beating her.

Wife: Did I get fat during Quarantine?
Husband: You were never really skinny!

The fact that Jellyfish have survived for 650 million years despite not having brains gives hope to many people

Time of Death: 4/25/20 11:25 pm
Cause of Death: Corona Virus

FUN FACT
Women spend more time wondering what men are thinking than men actually spend thinking.
ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS  
Sheila Tingley Moore, Reporting  

President Antoinette Winstead opened the meeting with a welcome to all members, several guests, and especially to member Rene Ornes, who has recovered from the Covid virus. A moment of silence followed for all the caregivers and first responders.

The president made a request to accept January’s minutes with no corrections. The motion was made by Sheila Moore and Iris Maahs seconded. It passed. The treasurer’s report was then read.

Our speaker for the day was Charles Darnell, who is a member of the Sun Poet’s Society in San Antonio. He began writing poetry seriously in 2009, and his work has appeared in many journals, magazines, and anthologies, including The Texas Observer, The Texas Poetry Calendar, The Ocotillo Review, Voices de la Luna, and Still Crazy. He is currently seeking a publisher for his full volume of poetry Toward Human, a collection of personal poems derived from characters found in the Bible and other Judeo-Christian writings.

Charles presented a program called “Love on the Slant” and opened with a quote from Emily Dickinson: “Love dazzles gradually, or all would be blind.” He then read Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s poem, “How Do I Love Thee,” explaining that the poet used hyperbole as her main figure of speech to express her devotion to her husband.

In studying different techniques a poet uses to express ideas, Charles read “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning” by John Dunn, which is an indirect declaration of love using metaphors. To give a more personal example Charles read his own poem “Linger,” using metaphors.

As a challenge to members, he gave a list of ten nouns, everything from avocados to ink pen, and asked the group to use metaphors to construct a love poem, or part of a poem in ten minutes. When time was up, we shared our love poems and promised to refine and finish them in the weeks to come.


Members then read their new February poems. There was no old business, and for new business, President Winstead will keep us us informed about all the poetry events available for our participation for the April Poetry Month, since everything will be virtual this year. The president then adjourned the meeting.

DENTON POETS’ ASSEMBLY  
Richard Kushmaul Reporting  

Denton Poets’ Assembly met via Zoom on Saturday, January 16. Betty Roberts introduced the Spotlight Poet of the month, Beth Honeycutt, who read a J. Paul Holcomb favorite, “The Apothecary’s Wife 1453 AD” from her book Finding Direction. Beth graduated from the University of North Texas with a double major in English and History. While in college, Beth wrote poems that were later published. Beth built a career as a paralegal and offers local hypnosis and energy healing services. Beth loves to travel and is proud to have been a founding member of the Denton Poets’ Assembly.

DPA poet, Roger Bussell, provided a studied close reading of “The Hospital Window” by the featured poet of the month, James Dickey. DPA members then read submitted “Read and Respond” poems from their prior month’s reading of James Dickey.

Susan Maxwell Campbell discussed her inspirations in writing “Animals That Die,” which was written in response to Dickey’s poem “The Heaven of Animals.”

During the second half of the meeting free choice poems were read. To round out the meeting, Susan Maxwell Campbell introduced the Read and Respond poet for January, Linda Pastan.

On February 4, Masood Parvase was the featured artist in a special “One Hour One Poet Zoom program entitled “Expressions.” This program featured a collection of poetry and artwork with background commentary, and a Q&A by Masood.

There will be a second program on March 4, at
7–8 p.m., featuring Christine Irving and her soon to be published “Sun Strokes, An Illuminated Pastiche of Collage, Poetry. and Prose.” RSVP to richardkdpa@gmail.com if you would like to attend this Zoom meeting.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY
*Michael Baldwin Reporting*

The Fort Worth Poetry Society convened with six members on Zoom. President Patricia Ferguson began the meeting by reading a poem by Edgar Allan Poe. We then critiqued six member poems.

HOT/LIVE POETS OF CENTRAL TEXAS
*Christine Boldt Reporting*

After January’s intimate gathering of five poets, the Live/Hot Poets’ February Zoom meeting exploded with ten poets from Central participating, as well as a visitor from New York City.

In January, our chair, Dwight Gray, led us in a discussion of the poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks.

For February, in celebration of Black History Month, Dwight presented background on Ama Bontemps, Countee Cullen, Jesse Redmon Fauset, Charles McKay, Jean Toomer, and Angelina Weld Grimke. Poets were invited to read poems written in response to these writers. We then enjoyed our usual round-robin read.

In March, Dwight will lead us in a comparison of early and later U.S. Poet Laureates using Robert Penn Warren and Natasha Trethewey as examples.

If you would like to join our Zoom meeting, which is held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Central Time, please contact Chris Boldt at pacboldt@sbcglobal.net.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER
*Barry Rynk Reporting*

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) met on Saturday, February 6th in a virtual (Zoom) format. Twelve members, plus one guest attended. Member poetry readings followed the MPS business report. Several original and published poems were shared by the group.

During the member sharing time, Beth Ayers reported that the Denton Public Library hosted a UNT Professor’s Corner virtual (Zoom) event with Dr. Stephen Souris, featuring poems by Texas poet, Naomi Shihab Nye, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 8. The event was recorded and more information is available on the Denton Public Library Professor’s Corner Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/professorscorner.

Due to the pandemic, the Mockingbirds will hold regular monthly meetings in the Zoom format at least through April. The 50th annual Collin County Poetry Contest closed on February 6, and there are enough entries to produce an anthology of winning poems. The format and details for a Zoom awards ceremony are being researched.

An MPS group outing is planned at the Oak Point Nature Preserve in Plano, Texas from 2:00–4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20. Masks and safe social distancing are required. This follows our plan for monthly outdoor activities on the third weekend of every month at poetry-inspiring locations in the Dallas–Fort Worth area. We hope the pandemic is over before we run out of parks.

POETS NORTHWEST
*Eric Blanchard Reporting*

Poets Northwest has been meeting monthly via Zoom since March 2020. During our January meeting, our members who placed in the top ten in any of the Poetry Society of Texas’ 2020 contests were invited to read up to four of their contest entries. Poets Northwest had fourteen members who placed in the top ten of at least one contest, and several were first place winners. There were a lot of impressive poems shared. Congratulations to all!

If you like, you can join us on Zoom, until further notice, at one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the Month. Please contact PNW via social media. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of each monthly meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest, on Twitter as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poets northwest.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY
*Barbara Goerdel Reporting*

The Poets of Tarrant County met on Monday, February 1. President Ron Eddins called the Zoom meeting to order. There were eight members present. Ron
started the meeting with a discussion about an article he read: “Greatest Poets of All Time.” Who they were, what made them famous, and do we agree with the article?

Vice president Lynn Lewis introduced our program speaker. The program was presented by Susan Maxwell Campbell about Glamorous Grammar Girls, fun with word placement in sentences. Hollis Davis was Spotlight Poet using banter poetry; Contemporary Poet Reader was Barbara Goerdel, who read “The Secular Night” by Margaret Atwood.

The January minutes had previously been emailed to all members and the January treasurer’s report was read by secretary/treasurer Barbara Goerdel. The February read-around was “lyric” poetry. Members discussed each poem with the explanation of what defines a “lyric” poem. There was also a discussion about the function of poetry in society today.

The next scheduled March meeting will feature Ron Eddins as Spotlight Poet, Christine Irving as Contemporary Reader, with the program to be determined. The monthly assignment topic will be a political poem similar to Amanda Gorman’s “The Hill We Climb.”

**RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY**
*Janet Tyner Reporting*

The Rusk County Poetry Society did not meet in February, but members continue to stay in touch through phone calls, emails, and texts. President Mary Tindall challenged members to write about Texas roadways. In response, Richard Hurzeler shared his poem about a drive through East Texas. Congratulations to Carol Thompson on the inclusion of her poem and photograph on the website of Texas authors Caleb and Linda Pirtle. RCPS poets are encouraged to share more poems using the January and February prompts, as well as suggesting a new prompt for March.

**SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION**
*Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting*

The San Antonio Poets Association met via Zoom on January 16. Our program speaker was a former member of SAPA, Juan Perez.

Juan read a selection of his unique poetry, including many of our favorite poems, including the poem about a macho man doing the laundry. Juan is well known for his poems about the chupacabra. We were delighted that his wife Malia also attended our Zoom meeting.

Winners in our January contests in the assigned topic “Circle of Life” were: Sheri Anderson, 1st place; Margaret Mayberry, 2nd place; Antoinette Winstead, 3rd place; Sheila Moore, Honorable Mention.

Winners in the Poet’s Choice topic were: Valerie Bailey, 1st place; Jean Jackson 2nd place; Carol Siskovic, 3rd place; Sheila Moore, Honorable Mention.

The poems in both contests were judged by Ann Howells of Carrollton. We appreciate Ann’s time and expertise in judging our contests.
MEMBERSHIP REPORT JANUARY 2021
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members...........178  Sustaining Members.............1
Associate Members..........13  Recently Deceased.............0
Life Members...............35  New Members.................8
Student Members.............12  Renewing Members.........4
Supporting Members.........2  Total Membership........240

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS

John Alexander ~ Frisco, Texas
Sheri Anderson ~ San Antonio, Texas
David Holder ~ War Acres, Oklahoma (Associate)
Mark Jodon ~ Houston, Texas
Daniel Garcia Ordaz ~ McAllen, Texas
Paige Parker ~ San Antonio, Texas
Rosalva Ruiz ~ McAllen, Texas
Carol Siskovic ~ San Antonio, Texas

Our Deepest Sympathy to the Family and Friends of Patricia Randall Peek
Patricia (Pat) Randall Peek, 97 of Midland passed away on February 1, 2021. She was born in Pendleton, Indiana on November 4, 1923. She attended public school in Indiana and met Charles Peek, the love of her life and future husband in the 8th grade. They were married on April 20, 1946, and were married for almost 55 years until Charles’ death in 2001. They lived in several places before settling in Midland in 1954, where they lived the rest of their lives. They had six children and thirteen grandchildren. Patricia loved writing and was a published poet. She was a leader in the Permian Basin Poetry Society for many years and a lifetime member of the Poetry Society of Texas. She honed her craft with writing courses at Midland College and received recognition for her work, including Hilda Simmons Levitt Poetry Award and many Poetry Society of Texas awards.

Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports 2 new book donations to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library.

The Limping Mermaid, by Catherine L’Herisson (2020 Wm Barney Chapbook Award Winner)
Metaxe: Transcendent Journey, by Joan Canby

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, Texas 75044-7254.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

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News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. The Bulletin will be published in all months (June & July only when necessary. 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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Please notify the Membership Chairman promptly if your address, phone, or e-mail address changes.