Juan Manuel Pérez, Guest Speaker for December


Mr. Perez, award-winning poet, history teacher, and Pushcart Nominee, is also a member of the Poetry Society of Texas, the San Antonio Poets’ Association, the Horror Writers Association (HWA), the Science Fiction & Fantasy Poetry Association, the Horror Authors Guild, the Baseball Bards, and the Military Writers Society of America.

The former migrant worker and recent HWA Diversity Grant Recipient (2021) worships his Creator and chases chupacabras in the South Texas Coastal Bend Area. Learn more about him at [https://juanmperez.weebly.com/](https://juanmperez.weebly.com/).

**Perfect**

In any world, zombies are perfection
They don't attack each other just because
They don't seem to mind sharing all their food
They don't cheat each other in anything
They don't fornicate and cause divisions
They don't discriminate one single bit

In any world, zombies are perfection
They don't try to hide what they really are

They don't even lie to anyone's face
They don't worry about what they look like
They don't hurry to where they are going
They don't waste time "getting to know you" well

Yes, in any world, zombies are perfect
Much better than most live humans I know
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING, THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS
for Saturday, October 9, 2021, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Irene Robertson welcomed our twenty attendees, thanks to Neal Ostman hosting the meeting on his personal Zoom account.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave two reports. The first was the September membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 208, Associate 16, Life 31, Student 13; Supporting 3; Sustaining 1; Recently Deceased 0. Total Membership: 272. We have three new Active members: Louise Taylor, San Antonio; Jay McMillen, Woodway; and Rose of Sharon, Houston. PST welcomes you!

As Librarian, Barbara announced seven donations to the PST Collection held at the Dallas Central Library, all by Juan Manuel Perez, who will also be our December speaker:

*Planet of the Zombie Zonnets; Sex, Lies, and Chupacabras; The Call of the Chupacabra; O’ Dark Heaven; Screw the Wall and Other Brown People Poems; Space in Pieces; Live From La Pryor; and Poetic History: Remembering 9/11*, edited by him.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the September Financial report. There were no major expenditures, and our finances are in good shape.

Bulletin Mailing Chair Sarah Wood emailed PST’s 100th Anniversary Celebration registration forms to members, which is also available on our website. The November 5 Friday night celebration will feature our speaker, Julie Cummings, NFSPS President, who will be driving in from Colorado for this event. We will also be entertained by Marty Ruiz, Dallas singer and comedian.

The celebration will continue Saturday, November 6, with our Annual Awards Banquet, where the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award winner, Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript contest winner, and annual contest winners will be announced.

Beth Ayers must have your registration forms by October 28. Mail registration forms and checks (payable to PST) directly to her address (on the form), or if you pay via Paypal (poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com), you may scan the form and email it to her. Be sure you note what your Paypal payment is for so confirmation can be sent to Beth.

The annual contest Verification Committee plan to meet Weds., Oct. 13, after which Contest Chair Lynn Roberts Grice will email “postcards” to first place winners.

Past President Catherine L’Herisson announced the Spotlight Poet for Spotlight on Poets Chair Valerie Martin Bailey. Antoinette Winstead, a professor at Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, is a member of SAPA and president of Alamo Area Poets. She read seven of her poems.

Program Chair JDarrell Kirkley introduced our speaker, G. Dillon McKinsey Robinson. He is president of Robinson Enterprises, Inc.; CEO of Brothers Smoked BBQ in Bismarck, ND; and owner of Austin Postal International. He was a founding member of the Austin Poetry Slam; three-term president of Austin Poetry Society; past editor the Bulletin; and editor of Ardent, the poetry journal of Poetry in the Arts, Inc. For nearly a decade he was the co-host, engineer, and programmer of record for Writing on the Air on KOOP Radio, 91.7 FM, and served on their board of directors for seven years.

Dillon gave eight guidelines to
“facilitate and enhance your success as a poet. 1) Study the famous poets. 2) Develop your language skills. 3) Appreciate and steward the power of words. They have significant mystical potential and power. 4) Know your audience. 5) Improve your poetic skills. Learn the language of poetry; learn the different forms. 6) Appreciate poetry’s power. It can say things that are normally hard to express. 7) Expand your inspirational resources. Read thought-provoking books, deepen your observational skills. 8) Develop your own style. Free verse doesn’t mean no rules or structure. Poetry is a well-exercised craft. His final advice: Keep writing.

**Monthly Contest Chair Rich Weatherly** announced the winners of the October contest.

19 entries.

October Critic Judge: JoAn Howerton, Lexington, KY.

1st—Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield—“Measuring the Landscape”

2nd—Manuel English, Poulsbo, “WA”

3rd—Johnnie B. Carter, “Humble”

Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield

Laugh Lines Winner: Terry Jude Miller, Richmond

Popular Prize—Fred Manchester, McKinney; Wm Barney—Barbara Blanks, Garland; M. Tandy Duemke—Richard Hurzeler, Tyler; Naomi Simmons—Sylvia S. Medel, McKinney.

Other poems entered were by: Catherine L’Herisson, Terry Miller, Irene Robertson, Juan Perez, JDarrell Kirkley, and Hollis Davis.

Doris Brogan, Editor (Image: Portrait of Doris Brogan)

Sarah Wood, Mailing Chair (Image: Portrait of Sarah Wood, smiling)

**Your New Editor and Mailing Chair**

Hi. I’m Doris Brogan. I was employed in the newspaper industry for 25 years. I worked at the *Omaha World-Herald*, the *Abilene Reporter-News*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and the *Richland Chronicle*.

When my newspaper career ended, I enrolled in college and graduated from Richland College in 2015 with an Associate in Arts degree.

While at Richland College, I was the editor of six volumes of Parallax, Richland’s literary journal. I wrote for the *Richland Chronicle*, the Richland student newspaper, as well as serving as its editor-in-chief for a semester.

Sarah Wood attended the University of Texas at Austin and received a B.A. in Plan II Honors Program, 1984, and an M.A. in English Literature from the University of North Texas, 1987.

As a technical writer, Sarah worked for Raytheon E-Systems, Alcatel, Alltel, and other corporations. She taught college English at the University of North Texas, Texas Woman’s University, Collin College, and other schools in the DFW metroplex. She served as Copy Editor of The Lasso, the weekly student newspaper at Texas Woman’s University.
Ode to My Piano

My old upright piano
has never seen better days.
Since 1892,
the ivory still plays.
with roots as old as Joplin,
Octaves fire with a roar.
It can take a beating,
regardless of the score.

With all original strings,
some notes are out of tune.
Given it’s a Kimball,
it sounds like a saloon.
Though new pianos are better,
they lose a sense of spark.
Steinways and Yamahas,
absent of a heart.

My childhood is flooded,
by memories of good.
Keys with a chip,
and cracks in the wood.
As I grow older,
I’ll know I must depart.
My old upright piano,
for me it left a mark.

Julian K. Seghers

Julian K. Seghers, 1st Place winner of the Mahan Award, 2021, judged by Budd Mahan, is 16 years old and a junior at Heights High School in Houston.

He is a musician, as well as a poet. His devotion to music encouraged him to write his 1st place award-winning poem “Ode to My Piano.”

The text of his poem describes Julian’s relationship to his 1892 upright piano throughout his life.

National Federation of State Poetry Societies Manningham Competition 2021

JUNIOR DIVISION  Judge: Deborah Goschy, Eagle Lake, MN

2nd Place haiku  “We are still locked down”
Morgan Hacker, Levine Academy, Dallas, Texas  Teacher: Joanie Geffen

1st HM  “Mouthful of Joy”
Avi Cohen, Levine Academy, Dallas, Texas  Teacher: Joanie Geffen

4th HM  “Time Hasn’t Changed”
Ariella Weisman, Levine Academy, Dallas, Texas  Teacher: Joanie Geffen
President Antoinette Winstead opened the October meeting by introducing and welcoming our newest member, Catherine Lee, a much-published poet. Welcome, Catherine!

The president led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. She called for any corrections to September’s minutes; there being none, Lou Taylor moved to accept; Iris Maahs seconded; they passed.

The treasurer gave her report and thanked the members who generously donated extra to the account.

The program chairman announced our day’s presenter, Antoinette Winstead, who is a professor at Our Lady of the Lake University, a well-known playwright, and a prolific poet. Ms. Winstead gave a power point presentation about the Etheree poetry form. It consists of ten lines with the first line containing one syllable, the second line two syllables, etc. The Etheree form can also be reversed, and you can use the double Etheree structure.

After the group viewed several example poems, she gave instructions for everyone to write a standard-structure Etheree poem about fall leaves. Then she said to try a reverse standard structure with the subject as fall colors. Even though it was challenging, every member present wrote and read a poem to the group.

September’s contest winners, judged by Budd Mahan, were as follows: Open Topic: Third Place, Antoinette Winstead; Second Place, Sheila Moore; First Place, Carol Siskovic. Winners for the assigned topic: Third Place, Iris Maahs; Second Place, Lea Fagin; First Place, Antoinette Winstead.

Old business was discussed: We will vote online whether to have a Zoom meeting Christmas party or to have it in person at a chosen restaurant.

For new business, the members were encouraged to join PST, if they haven’t already. PST offers many opportunities for learning more about the process of writing good poetry; they offer two monthly contests; and they offer a once-a-year annual contest for publication and prize money for the first places.

There being no more business, Antoinette Winstead wished everyone a good new month and good health before she dismissed the meeting.

AAPT October, 2021, PST Bulletin Report, acting secretary, Sheila Moore reporting

The Austin Poetry Society
Jeffery Taylor reporting

Austin Poetry Society (APS) continues to hold its meetings on-line. Barbara Gregg was the feature at the September Monthly Meeting. She covered responding to the pandemic, both her personal response and lessons learned. The October Monthly Meeting (October 16th) feature will be Marian Haddad. The APS Annual Contest is now closed. Results will be announced at
the November Monthly Meeting.

**Beaumont Poetry Society**
Birma Castle reporting

Birma Castle reported that she has stepped down as the Beaumont Poetry Society president due to health issues. The chapter elected Dorothy Clover as their new president, depoet2645@yahoo.com.

**The Denton Poet’s Assembly**
Richard Kushmaul reporting

The Denton Poets’ Assembly held their monthly chapter meeting 10:00 am Saturday September 18 via ZOOM. President Richard Kushmaul welcomed members and guests Sylvia Medel and Imeine Ukhun.

Betty Roberts introduced the “Spotlight poet of the month”, Bob Schinzel who presented six of his 2021 NSFPS award winning poems: “Transmutation” (an Ottava Rima), “Views Fore and Aft”, “Tupelo Honey”, “Sycamore’s Revenge”, “El Faro” (a pantoum), and “Sum of the Parts.”

Read/Respond poems were presented from the work of the subject poet of the month, César Vallejo. Chris Boldt read her Read/Respond inspiration poem “Death of a Poet” responding to Vallejo’s poem “Black Stone White Stone”.

Free Choice poems were read followed by Roger Bussell’s free choice inspiration poem “The Eagle” Susan Maxwell Campbell introduced the October Read/Respond poet Octavio Paz.

**The Fort Worth Poetry Society**
Patricia Ferguson reporting

The Fort Worth Poetry Society met on September 28 at the Benbrook Library. Steve Sanders read the opening poem, “Fast Break” by Edward Hircsh.

Patricia Ferguson reported on the Society’s participation in the Deep Ellum Arts Festival. Mike Baldwin reported that he had sent in the information on the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest. John Bartell gave an update on the convention sponsored by DFW Writer’s Workshop October 23. Steve Sanders, Mike Guinn, and Patricia Ferguson from FWPS will be on a poetry panel. The members chose *Beneath Fort Worth Skies* as the title of the new members anthology being edited. Patricia Ferguson gave an update.

Mike Baldwin and Steve Sanders will give a presentation at Waco Wordfest, October 15-17. Steampunk November has been cancelled. Eight poems by members were read and discussed.

**MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER**
Barry Rynk Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) regular Saturday, Oct. 2nd meeting was replaced by an open mic Zoom event honoring National Poetry Day. Attending the virtual meeting were ten members and five guests. Two rounds of original poetry readings and 38 gems!

The highlight of the day were poems shared by our youngest guests.

On Sept. 18th, several Mockingbirds met for an outing at the Texas Discovery Gardens in Dallas, including a tour of the two-story butterfly house and gardens.

The Mockingbirds are working in tandem with McKinney Art House and Art Club artists on a combined, pandemic-themed, art/poetry project. The project will culminate with an Heard-Craig Museum Carriage House ART MEETS POETRY exhibit on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2022. A food drive for the homeless will accompany the event.

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

The Rusk County Poetry Society invites everyone to its Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, October 23, 2:00-4:30 p.m., in the multi-purpose building of the South Main Church of Christ, 402 South Main, in
Henderson. In honor of this milestone, members of both the Rusk County Poetry Society and the Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society have published a chapbook of members’ haiku and other poems. Copies of the book, *Celebration: 50 Years of Poets and Their Poetry*, will be available to purchase for $10.00 at the event (exact cash or check).

On September 16, members of RCPS met at the South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. President Mary Tindall called the meeting to order and Richard Hurzeler offered a prayer.

Jackie McVey, spotlight poet, shared some of her own poems, as well as two handouts she created: “Characteristics of Wisdom Self-Assessment Quiz,” and “STOP -GO Mini Meditation.” Plans and publicity for the October celebration were finalized.

After a break for refreshments, provided by Jo Morrow and Richard Hurzeler, Janet Tyner presented a lesson on seguidilla, a traditional form with roots in Spanish folk dance. Members may write their own seguidilla for the November meeting.

Sue Roberts, Jackie McVey, and John Boney read narrative poems they wrote in response to the August prompt. 

**Poets of Tarrant County**  
Barbara Goerdel reporting

Contemporary reader, Ron Eddins, presented Alexandra Huynh, the 18-year-old National Youth Poet Laureate from Sacramento, CA.

Spotlight poet, Hollis Davis, read his poems about life.

Kudos to Barbara Berry for winning the monthly PST laugh lines.

Barbara Goerdel has a poem published in Waco Wordfest anthology.

Minutes of the September meeting were previously circulated by email.

Treasurer: Same balance as September

Announcements: PST to have 100 anniversary party second Friday in November and awards luncheon on Saturday.

New Business: Voting to approve in person meetings or to continue with Zoom to be emailed to everyone. Christine to chair nominated committee for 2022 officers.

Program: Christine gave the program Up Close and Personal using Robert Frost’s poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” as an example.

Assignment Topic: magnification poems were read

November 1st. meeting will have Ron Eddins as Program, Barbara Goerdel as contemporary reader, monthly topic poem is discrimination.

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**In Memoriam, Patricia (PAT) Peek (1923-2021)**

Patricia Peek was a Life Member of the Poetry Society of Texas, and a Permian Basin Chapter member. She passed away on February 1, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, her memorial service will be held at a later date. Here's the link to her obit:

[https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/mrt/name/patricia-peek-obituary?id=6998440&fbclid=IwAR3kDUcSdOPKv_Pr0PXisd7iOJnI60v-31X0yvr8KcV2_CxUsJmrheRjvU](https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/mrt/name/patricia-peek-obituary?id=6998440&fbclid=IwAR3kDUcSdOPKv_Pr0PXisd7iOJnI60v-31X0yvr8KcV2_CxUsJmrheRjvU)
Girls, Beware of Texas Cowboys

I have learned since I was a chiquita,
My mama learned when she was a chiquita,
Always beware of them Texas cowboys. But I didn’t listen.
I fell for the sweet talkin’
“You’re prettier than a yellow rose of Texas!”
I believed every word of it.
Texas cowboys can put you under their spell with their dark eyes
that draw you to them like a baby calf to his mama.
They whisper with their enchanting country draw,
“There has never been another woman like you that can drive me
so coyote crazy!” They will court you with flowers and candy,
ride their horses all night to see you,
and they will always take you to a hoedown just to show you off!
And while you are square dancing the night away,
you will fall in love so deep like falling into a well of sweet honey.
Yep, I have known since I was a chiquita,
But did I listen? No, But then again,
Neither did my mama!
The Fort Worth Poetry Society

In Cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas Offers

The William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, 2022

The contest honors the late Fort Worth poet William D. Barney, one of the most distinguished poets Fort Worth and Texas 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 $15. Entry fee for Texas resident non-members of PST is $25. Make your check or money order payable to the Fort Worth Poetry Society. No cash please.
2. Contestants should submit a single paper copy of their manuscript in English only, which should be a minimum of 20 but no more than 30 pages of poetry with 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 a PST Conference; at a monthly meeting of PST in Dallas; and at a public poetry program sponsored by FWPS.
8. Entering the contest acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.
9. Entries will be accepted with postmarks between January 1 and February 15, 2022.
10. Announcement of the winner will be at the April, 2022, 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.
REGISTRATION FORM Due by **Thursday, October 28th — Mail or Email** completed form to: Beth Ayers—7404 Townsend Blvd., McKinney, TX 75071 (Phone: 214-856-4990)
Email: beth.ayers55@gmail.com

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State ____________ Zip: ________
Phone: ____________________________ Email: ____________________________

**Payment:** Your payment for this event is the amount to cover the cost of your meals.
If you have a PayPal account, payment may be made with PayPal using:
poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com
Checks made out to **Poetry Society of Texas** may be mailed to Beth Ayers (address above) with this registration form.
Please check the appropriate spaces:

**Friday Night Banquet Meal:**
$40.00 per plate. Indicate the number for each menu selection:
Regular _______ Vegetarian _______
Dessert: Fruit _______ Cake _______

**Saturday Annual Awards Luncheon Meal:**
$36.00 per plate. Indicate the number for each menu selection:
Regular _______ Vegetarian _______
Dessert: Fruit _______ Chocolate Torte _______

Total payment: $__________

We are working with the DoubleTree to minimize contact by providing extra space between tables and using 8 settings at each table (rather than the standard 10). Hand sanitizer will be available.
The DoubleTree asks for masks to be worn when not eating, drinking, or at the podium.
**Membership Report, Oct. 2021**

- Active Members...208
- Associate Members..16
- Life Members…31
- Student Members...13
- Supporting Members..3
- Sustaining Members…1
- Recently Deceased…1
- New Members...3
- Membership Total...271

**The Executive Board**

**President:** Irene Robertson  
1625 Gayla Creek Dr., Little Elm, TX, 75068  
972-849-5690  yранie@att.net

**Vice President:** Rich Weatherly  
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817-428-8088  WeatherlyR@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer:** Neal Ostman, CPA CM&AA  
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1-817-937-3922  neal@nealostman.com

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**Director:** Valerie Martin Bailey  
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**Board Advisor:** Catherine L’Herrison  
517 Grinnell Dr., Garland, TX 75043  
972-270-4994  catherinepoet@juno.com

**Welcome New PST Members**

- Louise Taylor (N22_ San Antonio  
  Rose of Sharon Houston
- Jay McMillen (N22) Woodway  
  *Name Correction* Lori Hawk Fyfe

**REMEMBER TO RETURN Registration Forms to Beth Ayers by OCTOBER 28!**  
(Contact info on Registration Form, Page 10)

I’m Doris Brogan, your editor of *The Bulletin*. Please feel free to contact me with thoughts and suggestions anytime at dlbrogan27@yahoo.com. This is YOUR newsletter, so I’d like to hear from YOU!

**A BOOK OF THE YEAR**  
has a new editor!  
**Mary Creviere Turner** of Houston will take the helm. She is the current president of the Poets Northwest Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas.

**THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS**  
on the second Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom until the pandemic passes..