Ann Howells edited Illya’s Honey for eighteen years. Recent books include: So Long As We Speak Their Names (Kelsay Books, 2019) and Painting the Pinwheel Sky (Assure Press, 2020). Chapbooks include: Black Crow in Flight, Editor’s Choice – Main Street Rag, 2007 and Softly Beating Wings, 2017 William D. Barney winner (Blackbead Books). Ann’s work appears Plainsongs, Schuylkill Valley Journal, and I-70 Review among others. She is a multiple Pushcart and Best of the Net nominee.

Robert Schinzel will favor us with poems from his book, “When Stone Speaks”, winner of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize

Susan Maxwell will favor us with poems from her manuscript, “Just Looking” winner of the William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest sponsored by The Fort Worth Poetry Society in cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas.

**Summer Special: Zoom Along with PST!**

Saturday
July 13, 2024
2 - 5pm *

Ann Howells - Featured Speaker
Robert Schinzel - Catherine Case Lubbe Prize Winner
Susan Maxwell Campbell - William D. Barney Winner
Announcing PST July Contest Winners
Open Mic for all PST Attendees

*Zoom Link to Follow

**Featured Speaker - Ann Howells**

READINGS

**July Contests Recognition**

🏆 General Contest
Laugh Lines

🎵 OPEN MIC
President Rich Weatherly welcomed our 23 attendees.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks gave the April membership report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 178, Associate 12, Life 31, Student 1, Honorary 5; Supporting 2; Sustaining 4; Recently Deceased 0. We have 1 new Active Member: Kollin Kennedy, Flower Mound. Total Membership: 233.

Treasurer Neal Ostman gave the April Financial report. There were minimal transactions, the largest being income from renewing memberships. He reminded us that PST’s membership year runs from July 1 to June 30. Dues for the next year are payable in June and July.

Vice President Catherine L’Herisson said no chapter has volunteered to host the Summer Conference. In lieu of it, a half-day Zoom event is being planned for July 13. In addition to the July monthly contest (June 15 entry deadline), Ann Howells will present a Workshop. Bob Schinzl, winner of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript prize, and Susan Maxwell Campbell, winner of the Wm. D. Barney Chapbook contest, will give readings from their books, and there will be an open mic so attendees can read their poems.

Poetry in Schools Chair Barry Rynk reported that almost all contest results are in. He also thanked all the contest sponsors.

ABOTY Editor Janet Tyner said the manuscript is in its final proofing, and printing quotes will be obtained next week.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson asked chapters to report any changes in board members so current information will be included in the 2024 A Book of the Year.

Several contests and upcoming events were announced:

- Pennsylvania Poetry Society is celebrating 75 years with their Diamond Anniversary contest, deadline June 30, theme—anything serious.
- WacoWordFest—theme “the sun;” deadline July 15; WordFest held Nov. 15-17.
- Central Texas Writers Society contest, with a Texas theme.
- Director Steve Sanders announced the Quicksilver Poetry Festival taking place June 15, at the Grapevine Library. Free and open to the public. Some speakers will be Jeffery DeLotto, Diane Glancy, Amanda Russell, and Juan Perez.
- Merging Visions with the Denton Poets Assembly will be held May 11 through August 3.

According to PST’s Constitution, the election of the Executive Board takes place in May. The nominating committee traditionally consists of past presidents and former board members. This year’s committee was Catherine L’Herisson, Chair, Irene Robertson, Budd Powell Mahan, Jeannette Strother, and Barbara Lewie Berry. Catherine said four of our current Board members have chosen not to serve again: President Rich Weatherly, Treasurer Neal Ostman, Director JDarrell Kirkley, and Director Steve Sanders. This leaves four vacancies, two of which remain vacant since no volunteers could be found at this time. Because we need a president, and because the president has to have served on the Executive Board at some time, and because neither Secretary was willing to be President, former president and current VP Catherine L’Herisson nominated herself for president.

Continued on the next page...
Other nominees were: Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary; Carol Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Ann Howells, Director; Lynn Roberts Grice, Director; Holly Jahangiri, Director.

Catherine twice called for nominees from the floor/Zoom attendees. No names were offered. Barbara Berry moved the current slate of nominees be elected to the 2024-2025 Executive Board; Cade Huie seconded. By show of hands, the motion passed. The new Board seats on September 1. Vice President and Treasurer positions still need to be filled. Meanwhile, Assistant Treasurer Barbara Blanks will be able to pay any bills and write other necessary checks when current treasurer steps down. Lynn Roberts Grice, Houston, as well as being your new Director, has also accepted the position of Monthly Contest Chair, beginning in July. Our thanks to Rich Weatherly for his five years of service as contest chair.

New Director Holly Jahangiri, Houston, is also your new webmaster.

Program Committee Member Michael Guinn introduced our Program Speaker, Anita Johnson, also known as Ade (A-Day.) Ade is a poet and spoken word artist who holds a BA in English and Theatre from Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, in addition to writing fiction for young adults. She is the founder and curator of “Colors of Light,” a global online writing community for Black writers. Ade suffered a critical illness, and during the time she was in the hospital and in rehab, she turned to her pen. She said what had been a curse turned into a blessing. She presented several poems from her chapbook, “Moving in Twilight—Searching in the Dark,” with strong emotion and passion. She spoke about news items, about wanting to shed light to help people think openly and differently about serious things, about what it is to be a woman—“the layers you had to pass through to reach the ever renewing insides of my trinity: my beauty, my intellect, my empathy.” One poem urged us to get moving on things that have held us back. And her final poem, “God Is a Poet,” ended with the line, “God is the poet in your and me.”

April Monthly Contest Results
Chairman Richard Weatherly
13 Entries

General Contest
Critic Judge: JoAn Howerton, Lexington, KY
1st—Dorothy Sells Clover, Beaumont—Sound Waves
2nd—Steve Sanders, Fort Worth
3rd—Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Laugh Lines
Laugh Lines Judge—Catherine L’Herisson, Garland
LL Winner—Barbara Blanks, Garland

Book Prizes:
Popular—Manuel L. English, Poulsbo, WA; Badger—Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield; Birma’s Collection—Christine H. Boldt, Temple; Marshall—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio; Seadog CD—JDarrell Kirkley, Quitman.
Other poems were by: Eric Blanchard, Barbara Blanks, Hollis Davis, Nancy Bowman Ballard, and Catherine L’Herisson.

Note: There is no June contest, but the deadline for entering the July contest is June 15

Membership Report
from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active Members</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recently Deceased</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Members</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Members</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary Members</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Members</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Membership</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Members</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Active Members
We have 1 new Active Member: Kollin Kennedy, Flower Mound

Welcome to PST!

Book Donations Report
Librarian, Barbara Blanks reported there were no donations. Any PST member wishing to donate a book should contact Barbara. Her contact information is listed on page 2.
Lynn Roberts Grice, PST member since 2004, Councilor since 2008, and PST Annual Contest Chairman in 2021 and 2022. Member of Poets Northwest since 2001. She has won many awards for her poetry, and been published in numerous anthologies (including PNW anthologies, PST Summer Conference Anthologies, Tyler Art of Peace, Waco Cultural Arts Fest and Blue & the Blues by Pisces Publishing), four PST Book of the Year, and the Texas Poetry Calendar 2004. She has two books, Poiema, 2007, and Squirrel in a Cactus Garden, 2011.

Lynn has served on the Board of Poets Northwest for 21 years, in almost every position, and currently serves as Treasurer/Membership, Event Coordinator/Fundraising, and Historian.

She lives in Houston with her husband, David and cat, Houdini, She has a son, Jason, and a grandson Christian Grice. She is a retired special education paraprofessional.

The PST Bulletin will be on hiatus for the summer. There will be no June or July edition. We will return in August. Wishing everyone a Poetic Summer!

URGENT! 2025 PST Summer Conference URGENT!

The PST Board is looking for a Chapter or Individual to volunteer to host the 2025 summer conference. The Summer Conference is a critical annual event for PST, but it is only possible with a local partner. If you are interested please connect with Catherine L’Herrison as soon as possible.

Dead Poet’s Quote of the Month

“Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance” — Carl Sandburg
Are your poems begging to be published? Do you have poems that sparkle with heart and wit? Do they beg to become a collection so they may sing together? Are you ready to give your poems to the world? Here’s a grand opportunity! The Poetry Society of Texas sponsors annually the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest open to all active dues-paid and Life members of PST, writing in English. You may submit your manuscript of 45 to 60 pages of poetry between June 1 and August 1, 2024. The prize will be fifty copies of your book, ready to market, and $100. Now is the time to start considering your entry! Read the full rules on the web page of the Poetry Society of Texas, and good luck!

A Note From Our PST Corresponding Secretary

Carol Thompson

Hello, poets! We've moved into another year of writing poetry and making plans for our writing projects - a time of creative expectation! In the midst of writing, please take time to make sure your membership with the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) is current. Annual membership dues are $25.00 payable by the end of June each year (or $500.00 for life.) While we send out reminders, we know life gets busy and dues payment can fall by the wayside.

You can mail your dues to Lynn Lewis, membership chair (elsquared59@yahoo.com) at

Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

and can even send them via Paypal (paypal.me/PSTexas).

You can be dropped from the rolls for failing to send dues by November 30. We know that you don't want to be dropped! Membership entitles you to enter the free monthly contests, PST annual contests - and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) for a reduced fee. Paying your annual PST dues means that you are automatically a member of NFSPS. You also receive PST’s The Bulletin and A Book of the Year. Membership allows you to join the PST-For Members Facebook group to receive current information and links not available to the general public. Pay your dues and keep up with us!

Our general PST meetings are now held on Zoom, so you can attend no matter where you live. Our meetings provide current information, member-featured Spotlight poetry, program speakers, contest results - and fun! You can read about both societies at poetrysocietyoftexas.org and at nfsps.org. Take an active part in these organizations – they are well worth your time!

Announcing The 100 Annual Contests of the Poetry Society of Texas 2024

Deadline: Entries must be postmarked by August 15.

The Annual Contest Brochure is Available on the PST Website

https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/
On May 4, 2024, the Fort Worth Poetry Society (FWPS) traveled back to Winnsboro, Texas, to continue its partnership with the Winnsboro Arts Council. For the past three years, members of FWPS have been involved in preparing and putting on the Winnsboro Festival of Books, a celebration of Texas literature that draws attendees from all over the State. In 2022, FWPS members presented a panel on the creation and appreciation of poetry. In 2023, the FWPS had a booth where patrons of the Festival could "ring the bell" to add some poetry to their day. This year, not only did the Society attend with their poetry bell, but the put on a panel and one of its members was the overall emcee of the entire event.

Mike Guinn, poet, spoken word artist, actor, and promoter, was selected by the Winnsboro Arts Council to be the emcee of the entire 2024 Festival of Books. In his own inimitable style, Mike opened the event, kept the crowd engaged throughout the entire day, and walked among the various authors and poets with a hand-held mic giving everyone an opportunity to speak to the crowd. He gave a workshop on writing spoken word poetry, conducted Winnsboro’s very first poetry slam, and then emceed an open mic. He rounded out the day by closing the Festival and thanking everyone who helped put on the event or attended.

The Society also continued its tradition of having a booth that featured a bell etched with "Ring Bell to Add Poetry." Members of the public, or any of the other authors and poets, could come to the FWPS booth, ring the bell, and then a member of the FPWS would recite for them a poem, either an original poem or a piece of classic literature if the "bell ringer" had a favorite piece. The Society always puts out a "tip jar" in case the listener wants to donate something to the Society’s coffers. The FWPS did pretty well this year - one appreciative listener put $14 in the jar after hearing a poem because that was "all the cash I have in my pocket"! Members also sold several books and the Society may have recruited a few new members.

Four members of the Society also presented a panel on "Writing for the Page vs. Writing for the Stage." The panel, moderated by Steve Sanders, included John Bartell, FWPS President, Amanda Russell, and Larry Atchley, Jr. The members talked about what they believed the theme of the panel meant and how they wrote for either venue. Each member recited a poem for the audience and told the listeners which "camp" they felt more comfortable in or whether they were equally adept at both. The panel was extremely well received and several members of the audience came up afterward to complement the presenters.

The Poetry Society of Texas was represented at this event - Director JDarrell Kirkley came out and was the unofficial photographer for the FWPS. In addition to joining the rotation of poets to answer the call of the bell and taking part in the open mic, JDarrell took over thirty photographs which the Society has uploaded to its Facebook page. Thank you, JDK Communications! And thank you, JDarrell, for coming out to join our happy band of poets!

The FWPS has already been invited back for next year’s Festival and members have already put the event on their calendar. This lovely little town is booming when it comes to the arts and literature and poetry are well honored among the streets of Winnsboro. More than one local expressed appreciation at the FWPS’ attendance and asked whether we would be coming back for the next Festival. Next year, expect to hear the ringing of the bell and the raising of poetic voices at the 2025 Winnsboro Festival of Books!
Welcome to Merging Visions 2024, a collaboration of art and poetry between Texas area artists and members of the Denton Poets’ Assembly.

The exhibit began May 11 and will run through Aug. 3, 2024, at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center, Denton, Texas. Then following will be an extended exhibit of a limited selection of works at the Emily Fowler Central Library August 4 through October 4.

COMING UP

Save the date: Nov. 15-17, 2024
Waco Cultural Arts Fest: WordFest
Waco Convention Center
WordFest Feature Poet for 2024 WordFest is Anne McCrady!!!!
Submission guidelines for 2024 WordFest Anthology
June 1 - July 15, 2024
Poets may submit one poem using the theme of 'sun'.

UP COMING
About the Bulletin of The Poetry Society of Texas

Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester
fmanchester@yahoo.com
Graphics: JDarrell Kirkley
Distribution: Carol Thompson (Corresponding Secretary)

News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. Please include the name of the Chapter in the Subject Line. The Bulletin is published monthly August through May; however, only annual contest results are published in the November Bulletin. Bulletin is distributed to members via e-mail through the Corresponding Secretary and posted on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org under the “Publications” tab.

Your PST dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The latest issue of Strophes, the NFSPS newsletter is on their website. Strophes is no longer mailed to PST so you have to go online if you want to see it or print it if you want a copy.

Full details can be found at nfsps.net. Please share widely!

June 5 - June 10, 2024
DoubleTree Hilton, Roswell, Georgia

VOICES SET FREE

2024 NFSPS, Inc. Conference & BlackBerryPeach National Poetry Slam

Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org
Alamo Area Poets of Texas  
Antonia Murguia Reporting

No Meeting in May.

Denton Poets’ Assembly  
Betty Roberts Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly met May 18, 2024, at Emily Fowler Library with 11 poets attending in person and 12 by Zoom. Christine Boldt presented a close read of “Digging” by Donald Hall, the poet laureate featured in May’s Read and Respond series. Boldt quoted Hall as saying poems should offer contrast and ambiguity.

DPA members read original response poems to Hall’s poems. As an inspirational poet, Betty Roberts explained the background for her poem “Stuffed Shelves,” written as a response to Hall’s poem “The Things.” Hall’s poem about things on the wall reminded her of all the many books she cannot part with.

Members then shared “free” poems on PowerPoint, with Beth Honeycutt reading her poem “At Two” and discussing first memories.

Mona VanDyin, U.S. Poet Laureate from 1992-93, will be the June Read and Respond poet. Her life, which includes receiving a Pulitzer Prize in 1991, was introduced in a PowerPoint.

In the kudos section of the meeting, Patricia Ferguson read and discussed her poem, “How to Operate a Wind and Solar Powered Backyard Clothes Dryer,” which won the Critics Choice award at Lucidity this year.

Bob Schinzel, who won the Catherine Case Lubbe manuscript contest, read his poem “Last View” from his book “Where Stone Speaks.”

DPA president Richard Kushmaul said many thanks are due to Becca Hines for her leadership in this year’s Merging Vision exhibit and catalog. The exhibit of poems and art is now on display in the Gough Gallery at the Patterson-Appleton Arts Center through Aug. 3.

Kushmaul also thanked other members who helped with the intake: Christine Irving, James Neiswender and Bob Schinzel.

Because DPA is committed to the hybrid style of meeting to accommodate members who live too far to drive to Denton, we invite all interested persons to contact President Richard Kushmaul (richardkdpa@gmail.com). We meet the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Fort Worth Poetry Society  
Galen Steele Reporting

-No Update-

Mockingbird Chapter  
Brian Cummings Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) met on Saturday, May 4th at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. There were 15 members and four guests in attendance. Beth Ayers reported that there were 259 people in attendance at the Collin County Poetry Contest award ceremony. Copies of the anthology were given to students and teachers in attendance. Copies are available to MPS members for $5.00. Lori Hawk Fyfe reported entries for the next issue of the Heard Craig Newsletter are due to her by June 6. The two themes are “Gardens” for the garden club tour of homes and “Fabric” for the fabric sale at the end of June. Format is 28 lines (not including the title) with a maximum line length of 60 characters. President Susan Mardele reported that the open mic at the John and Judy Gay Library on April 28 was a success with 27 people sharing 40 poems.

Poets Northwest  
Holly Jahangiri Reporting

Members of Poets Northwest were forced to postpone our Spring Fling Awards Banquet to June, due to a powerful Derecho and a tornado knocking out power to nearly a million homes and businesses in the Houston area - including our normal in-person meeting place and the restaurant that was to provide the luncheon! But the show must go on! A number of members whose power had been restored met on Zoom to discuss and critique poems. We’re all looking forward to Spring Fling in Summer: June 15.

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you are in the area, we invite you to visit one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month. Please contact us via social media for more information. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works of poetry during the second half of each monthly meeting.
Poets Northwest
(Continued)

Our PST chapter is on the web at http://www.poetsnw.com, on Facebook at http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest, on X (formerly known as Twitter) as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest.

Rusk County Poetry Society
Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On April 18, 2024, six members of the Rusk County Poetry Society met in the multipurpose room of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson. President Sue Roberts called the meeting to order and Richard Hurzeler gave the invocation.

Janet Tyner made a motion to house the RCPS archives with the Rusk County Historical Commission when their new building is ready. Carol Thompson seconded the motion and it was approved. Rose Garden Poetry Society will have a lunch meeting and poetry reading in June at the Tyler Museum of Art. Poets are encouraged to bring a few copies of poems if they would like feedback from the group.

Richard Hurzeler, spotlight poet, presented poems about his experiences as a volunteer visitor at hospice. He affirmed that visitation is a two-way street, with both persons helping each other. Richard then presented the lesson “CALL (vocation, role, purpose).” Using a hymn and a scripture passage, he invited those present to consider steps in hearing and responding to calls in order to discern life purposes. The writing prompt for the May meeting is to write a poem about a calling you’ve had and your response to it, or write a poem about a calling someone else had and how they responded to it.

Sue handed out poems from the 1997 RCPS year book. She closed the meeting by reading one of those poems that was written by a young person.

The next meeting of RCPS will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, in the multipurpose room of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson.