



Poetry Society of Texas

A Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Bulletin

August, 2010

Next PST General Meeting: September 11, 2010
Preston Royal Library, 5626 Royal Lane, Dallas

Hello Members,

It was wonderful to see you at the 2010 Summer Conference. I always feel like it is a family reunion with benefits. I want to thank Budd and Nancy for being our hosts this year. These directors led the show to extra-ordinary heights.

I have had a marvelous reign as the President of PST. I passed my crown to Catherine L'Herisson at the Friday night banquet. She so enjoyed the tiara she wore it to breakfast on Saturday. She is chomping at the bit to become your next gracious leader.

Thank every one of you for working with me on all our tasks we needed to accomplish. I look forward to seeing you at PST functions and other poetry affairs.

Your President until September,
Jeannette L. Strother

Passing on the Crown

by Barbara Blanks

Jeannette, our Prez, is stepping down,
retiring on her laurels;
she served us well, she made us laugh;
like Solomon—solved our quarrels.

Hail and Farewell! But—
welcome to our brand-new head-of-state:
our former VEEP is now the Prez—
she's "Catherine the Great!"

NFSPS Convention

The 51st Annual Convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc., was hosted by the Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas, the Mississippi Poetry Society and the Poetry Society of Tennessee in Memphis, Tennessee, at the Holiday Inn on the University of Memphis campus, June 10-13, 2010. The theme of this first multi-hosted convention was "Heart of the South Convention."

Appointed PST Delegates to the NFSPS Plenary Sessions were Head Delegate Catherine L'Herisson, Naomi Stroud Simmons, Linda Banks, Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex, and Mildred Vorpahl Baass. Alternates were Valerie

Martin Bailey and Sharon Martin Turner. NFSPS President Nancy Baass held Delegate status because of her presence on the NFSPS Executive Board.

Nancy Baass, NFSPS President for 2008-2010, who served as Strophes Editor for 2009-2010, presided over the State Presidents' Meeting and the 1st Plenary Session on Friday, "Arkansas Day." She called the 2nd Plenary Session to order on Sunday, "Tennessee Day," when Elections were held for the NFSPS Executive Board for the two-year term, 2010-2012, the slate selected by the three person Nominating Committee, named by her, on which PST member Budd Powell Mahan served as Chairman. Russell H. Strauss of Memphis, Tennessee, was elected President. Nancy Baass will serve on the Executive Board as Immediate Past President, acting as Chairman of the Presidential Advisors, comprised of all NFSPS past presidents including PST members Pat Stodghill and Budd Powell Mahan. Valerie Martin Bailey was elected 2nd Vice Chancellor and will serve in the Appointive Board position of Encore Editor. Other PST members appointed to NFSPS Appointive Board positions for the one-year term, 2010-2011, were Sharon Martin Turner as Contest Sponsors/Brochure Chairman, Peggy Zuleika Lynch as Librarian, Budd Powell Mahan as Manningham Trust Poetry Competition Chairman and Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamrouex as Legal Advisor and as Parliamentarian. At the 2nd Plenary Session, Nancy Baass was honored to receive the only print made of the 2009 Encore cover photograph from the Cover Art Contest winner, Sam Zook. Those arriving in Memphis on Wednesday were invited that evening to a cocktail party at the home of Convention Registrar Sarah Hull Gurley. The Convention welcoming event on Thursday evening was dinner at Central Barbecue where the winners of the Convention Poetry Contest were announced. PST member Shirley Elliott Cosby won 3rd Place (\$50) and Linda Banks won an unranked Honorable Mention. Winners of the Convention Invocation Contest were announced at the start of each of the six meals, reading their invocational poems, if present. PST member Peggy Silha Ritzer was a winner and her poem was read by Nancy Baass, at the author's request, before Dinner on Saturday, "Mississippi Day;" the author also won an unranked Honorable Mention. Optional tours included visiting Elvis Presley's Graceland, and sightseeing in Downtown Memphis with a

stop to see the famous Peabody Hotel ducks and another stop allowing time to explore Beale Street.

Speakers presenting varied programs/workshops throughout the Convention were Harding Stedler, Cathy Moran, John W. Crawford, Peggy Vining, Randy Smith, Jonathan Randle, Betty Heidelberger, Jim Barton, a panel comprised of Ann Carolyn Cates, Brenda Finnegan and Elva Avara, and Lola Haskins, the Keynote Speaker at Sunday's Dinner. At a Reception prior to Sunday's Dinner and Installation of the NFSPS Executive Board, Elva Avara played favorite tunes on the piano and PST member Von S. Bourland, attending with husband Barry Bourland, led attendees in singing along. Nancy Baass showed her Texas pride when installing the Board by wearing a black chiffon skirt and sparkling beaded top, representing the Texas "stars at night" that "are big and bright"—she proudly wore a wrist corsage of yellow roses, a gift from her mother, Mildred Vorpahl Baass.

During the Convention, PST received an NFSPS Youth Award Certificate for its youth participation activities, as well as an NFSPS National Poetry Day/Poetry Month Award Certificate for its activities in that regard. An NFSPS Special Award Certificate was awarded PST for working at making clear the connection between how its bylaws and its procedures in action reflect each other, exemplifying Hercule Poirot's phrase: "Order and Method." PST received a star on the Directory page of the NFSPS "Histories of Member Societies" project binder located in the Convention Book Room for attendee perusal; PST has participated every year since project originator Nancy Baass debuted the project in 1997, with Budd Powell Mahan writing the original brief history called for, updated versions submitted thereafter.

Student winners of the Manningham Trust Poetry Competition were announced at the Convention and their poems read. Texas student winners were: Junior Division – 1st Place: Jordan Thomas and 2nd Place: Nikita Agarwal; Senior Division – 3rd Place: Julia Enthoven and 4th Place: Krista Oehlke.

Winners of the 2010 NFSPS Annual Contests, including Honorable Mentions, were announced after each of the six meals. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Prize winning poems were read by the authors, if present, or by Readers. Nancy Baass served as a Reader. PST members who served as Judges were Nancy Baass, Valerie Martin Bailey, Linda Banks, Alan Birkelbach, Lee Carroll, Jerri Hardesty, J. Paul Holcomb and Naomi Stroud Simmons.

TEXAS/PST WINNERS

2010 NFSPS ANNUAL CONTESTS

WINNERS OF CONTESTS #1 – 49:

1ST PRIZE (Total:13) – Evelyn Corry Appelbee, Barbara Blanks, Susan Maxwell Campbell, Lee Carroll, Elzy Cogswell, Shirley Elliott Cosby, Sara Gipson, Marianne McNeil Logan, Budd Powell Mahan (2), Janet McCann, Annie Neugebauer, Lisa Salinas

2ND PRIZE (Total: 6) – Susan Maxwell Campbell (2), Lee Carroll, Shirley Elliott Cosby, Beverly Monestier, Lisa M. Salinas

3RD PRIZE (Total: 5) – Linda Banks (2), Lee Carroll, Shirley Handley (2)

HONORABLE MENTION (Total: 64) – Margaret Anderegg, Evelyn Corry Appelbee, Mildred Vorpahl Baass, Valerie Martin Bailey (3), Linda Banks (6), Barbara Lewie Berry (2), Barbara Blanks, Von S. Bourland (3), Susan Maxwell Campbell (3), Lee Carroll (2), Elzy Cogswell (2), Jeanne Couvillon-Powell, Joanne Faries, Sara Gipson, Alice King Greenwood, Shirley Handley, Jerri Hardesty, Marian Knesek, Maxine B. Kohanski, Catherine L'Herisson, Dory Maguire, Budd Powell Mahan (9), Beverly Monestier (7), Annie Neugebauer, Susan W. Peters (2), Lisa M. Salinas (3), Naomi Stroud Simmons (3), Marilyn Stacy, Loretta Diane Walker (3)

(TOTAL WINS: 88)

TEXAS WINNERS OF CONTEST #50, Student Award:

1ST PRIZE: Krista Oehlke

2ND PRIZE: Taylor Hendrix

3RD PRIZE: Franchesca Alamo

Honorable Mention: Alysia Chen, Will Hollerman, Kaitlyn Hunter, Megan Tucker, Alok Vaid-Menon, Dayla Wittie.

In 2011, the 52nd NFSPS Annual Convention will be hosted by the Poetry Society of Michigan in Dearborn, Michigan, at the Dearborn Inn – A Marriott Hotel, June 16-19, 2011.

Poetry Society of Texas Summer Conference

The Poetry Society of Texas 42nd Summer Conference was held in Dallas in the Bistro Room of the Crowne Plaza Suites – Dallas Park Central, on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 8, 9 and 10, 2010. "The Show Must Go On!" was Produced and Directed by Conference Hosts Budd Powell Mahan (NFSPS President, 2004-2006) and Nancy Baass (NFSPS President, 2008-2010). Starring as the Keynote Speaker, at the Friday evening Red Carpet Banquet, was Pat Stodghill (NFSPS President, 1990-1992) whose presentation was entitled "Poetry at Center Stage."

Presenting a variety of programs throughout the many Scenes of the 3 Act Production was a star-studded Cast: J. Paul Holcomb – "Recipe for Strawberry Soup, a Story (From Free Verse to Form and Back)," Loretta Diane Walker – "Donor Poems," Anne McCrady – "Earthy Pleasures: The Natural Images of Carol Frost, Robert Wrigley and Barbara Crooker," Valerie Martin Bailey, - "Awaken the Sleeping Poet (Promoting Poetry in Your Community)," Lynne Cagle Cox and Rebecca Hines – "Merging Visions: A Collaboration Between the Poet and the Artist," Marilyn Stacy – "Evoking Emotion Doesn't Mean Planting Corn," PST Student Member Franchesca Alamo – "Promoting the Love of Poetry in Texas Schools," Dillon McKinsey – "Lessons >From the Radio," Frances Neidhardt – "The Star Spangled Charm of Assonance," Linda Banks – "A Measure of Splendor," Gary Swaim – "At the Stage Door," and Billy Bob Hill – "Texas Poet Laureates." "A Tribute to Eakin Publishing" was presented by past winners of the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication Award who read from their winning books: J. Paul Holcomb, Budd Powell Mahan,

Anne McCrady and Charlotte Renk. The Life Member Fund Workshop, entitled “How to Write Song Lyrics – and Improve All of your Poetry – Even if You Can’t Read Music” was conducted by Vivian R. Stewart, past president of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma, with Von S. Bourland lending her singing talents to the workshop. PST Extension Chairman Catherine L. Herisson conducted the Councilors’ and Chapter Presidents’ Meeting.

The Conference Hosts sponsored two competitions that offered a Thalia, a star-shaped trophy, to the Winner of each. The Conference Performance Poetry Contest performers were voted on by the Audience at the event and all were announced as Nominees at the Red Carpet Banquet: Barbara Lewie Berry, Jimmie Inez Sessions, Dillon McKinsey, Samika Swift, Beth Ayers and Catherine L’Herisson, with Jeannette L. Strother voted the Winner for Best Performance. The Conference Poetry Writing Contest entrants’ poems were judged prior to the Conference by Lucille Morgan Wilson of Iowa and those selected by her in unranked alphabetical order were announced as Nominees at the Red Carpet Banquet: Valerie Martin Bailey, Roberta Pipes Bowman, Pat Randolph and Naomi Stroud Simmons with Jeannette L. Strother chosen the Winner for Best Poetry Writing. The PST sponsored You Be the Judge Poetry Contest was held, as always, with Nancy Baass and Marilyn Stacy serving as Readers of the poems submitted at the Conference, attendees at the event voting as follows: 1st Place – Donald R. Graham, 2nd Place – Sharon Martin Turner and 3rd Place – Charlotte Renk, the Winners being announced and receiving their monetary awards at the Banquet. Also taking place at the Banquet were the drawings for the PST Life Member Fund donated raffle items conducted by PST Life Member Fund Chairman Sharon Martin Turner, assisted by J. Paul Holcomb and Barbara Blanks; Birma C. Castle helped with ticket sales. For that special evening, a real red carpet was rolled out in front of the doorway to the Bistro Room.

Mildred Vorpahl Baass was the Angel behind the Production for her monetary support. Floyd (Michaud) L. Lamroux served as Manager of the Book Room, the hotel’s Churchill Room, aided by Valerie Martin Bailey. Jeannette L. Strother, Catherine L’Herisson, Barbara Blanks and Kay Merkel Boruff volunteered to see that Audience members picked up their Swag Bags and Set Passes at the Casting Call table starting at Noon on Thursday. All that day, bags of popcorn were available from a popcorn wagon stationed nearby. Talented singer Alexis Tapp provided entertainment after the Opening Night Dinner on Thursday. Dallas souvenir items were given as Meal Attendance Door Prizes at that meal and Friday’s Matinee Lunch and Red Carpet Banquet. On Saturday morning, there was an invitation to Breakfast at Budd’s. The Audience had the opportunity to visit during the meals and during the Intermissions listed on their Playbills.

When the Curtain rose on the Prologue, the opening ceremony, on Thursday, the Audience was welcomed by

Hosts Budd Powell Mahan and Nancy Baass along with the hotel’s Crowne Meeting Director, Karen Buta, and PST President Jeannette L. Strother responded. Before the Hosts took their Curtain Call to a standing ovation and the Set was struck on Saturday, PST President Strother presided over the Finale, the simulated PST Monthly Meeting, where Nancy Baass formally presented her with the Youth Award, Poetry Day/Poetry Month Award and Special Award certificates awarded to PST at the 2010 NFSPS Annual Convention held in Memphis, Tennessee, in June, while Nancy Baass was NFSPS President; a brief report on the Convention was also made. PST Monthly Contest Chairman David Bowman revealed that the Critic Judge for the July General Contest was Anne McCrady, who selected as Winners: Critic’s Award – Linda Banks, for her poem “At Cape Cod.” 2nd Place – Naomi Stroud Simmons and 3rd Place – Catherine L’Herisson. Marilyn Stacy was the Reader of the ten additional poems selected by the Critic Judge to be judged by those in attendance, who voted as follows: Popular Prize – Annie Neugebauer, Galaxy Award – Barbara Blanks, Lubbe Award – David Bowman, Poetry for Poets Award – Von S. Bourland and Life Members Award – Geneva Fulgham. The July Laugh Lines Contest Judge was revealed to be Naomi Stroud Simmons, who selected as Winner: Von S. Bourland.

“The Show Must Go On” was a Hit, receiving rave reviews from those in attendance. The Spotlight was on Poetry, and a lot was learned while having a lot of fun.

Correction to the May Bulletin: Page 1 – Left Column, next to last paragraph should have read:

Congratulations to Barbara Berry, who won 1st Place in the 2010 Lucidity Poetry Retreat Contest, and to Barbara Goerdel who won Honorable Mention. Awards were presented by Birma Castle on behalf of Ted Badger at the Lucidity Ozark Poetry Retreat #18 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas on April 22, 2010. The Retreat, founded by Ted O. Badger in 1991, is sponsored by the Lucidity Poetry Journal. The conference has been produced and directed by Birma Castle since 2008.

Prayers and Condolences for families of the following:

Dorothy Miller Birdwell: March 2, 1926 – May 10, 2010, member of Rusk County Poetry Society.
Mary Winklebleck: October 13, 1922 – June 30, 2010, member of Bea Land-Phoenix Chapter, and mother of Barbara Blanks.
DeEtta Love (Swinehart) Sayers: December 12, 1919 – July 13, 2010, a founding member of Austin Poetry Society.
Coke Brown, Jr.: November 24, 1964 – August 6, 2010 – member of Poets of Tarrant County and Fort Worth Haiku Society.

Please Read this Note from our Treasurer:
Membership checks: Anyone holding uncashed checks from Poetry Society of Texas – please cash them ASAP so PST can complete the transfer to a new checking account.

Thank you – Amy Sandberg, Treasurer

PST schedule of events for 2010

November 13, 2010 PST Annual Awards Banquet
Crowne Plaza Suites, Dallas, Texas

2010 Book of the Year

As the Poetry Society of Texas' Bulletin Editor, I must apologize if I inadvertently implied that those other than the two I listed in the May Bulletin whose poems contained misprints did not have the right to send me their corrected poems. I'm certain everyone would agree that not only do we love to see our work in print, but we long for our work to be printed correctly—and our names spelled correctly! The following poem by Peggy Silha Ritzer is the correct version as it should appear on page 99:

“Creativity”
(to Leona)

*Poems appear to fly
from my friend's pen...
words scattered like grains of salt
from a frantically wielded shaker
hurry-scurrying across the blank white page
while I—oh, I labor to produce one
or, at best, perhaps two a week—
or even within a month's stretch
of creative agony...
brow-furrowing...
end-of-pen gnawing...
such a delightful pastime
shouldn't be such a chore—
should it?
Why can't my cramping fingertips
that clutch my writing instrument so desperately
be able to produce
similar seeming—airy—fairy creations
on demand the way she does?
I sigh. And scratch my head...
suck on my pen some more...
reaching the inevitable conclusion:
she can't be real.
She must be a hell-bent rhyming robot
from another planet,
sent to torture me
into admitting all too reluctantly
in one more hackneyed old cliché
that—in reality—
I can't begin to hold a candle to her!*

Notes of Interest

Barbara Blanks, PST Librarian, sends this note:

Authors: If you have had a book published, let me know so I can announce it at the monthly meeting. If you would like to donate a copy for the PST permanent collection at Dallas Central Library, let me know.

Include your email address when you donate a book for archives and I will notify you of its arrival. **Send** purchase information, i.e., your website, Amazon, via email, etc. for anyone who is interested in making a purchase.

Please remember to add the “L” in Blanks in my email address. BarbaraBlanks@aol.com
www.barbara-blanks.com

Von Bourland, Bulletin Editor, requests all reports and news be sent via email if possible, preferably before the “Next Meeting Date” at the top of your Bulletin. Subject Line: PST Bulletin. If you must use snail mail, please postmark between the 5th and 8th, as she lives in a rural area and receives her mail late.

Thanks! Please note my new address for POETRY NEWS ONLY: poetryorbust@amaonline.com
Von S. Bourland, 37861 I-27, Happy, TX 79042

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The Bulletin appears on the PST Website:

<http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org/bulletin.html>

as an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file. With Adobe Reader software (or Adobe Acrobat), you will be able to view and print the Bulletin in the very same format as you receive it in the mail. Adobe Reader is free, installs itself, and comes from one of the best names in computer software.

If you note needed corrections, additions, or deletions to the Website, contact any PST officer to convey the changes through proper channels to our webmaster. Our webmaster is a volunteer with a day job—does not claim omniscience. Your kind assistance will be appreciated in our ongoing efforts to keep the Website up-to-date.

Alamo Area Poets

AAPT meets every first Saturday, September through May, at 2:00 P.M. in the Garden Villa, University of the Incarnate Word (UIW), unless otherwise announced. Contact info: Libby Bishop, elizbis@ppc.com or Peter Holland, President: pholland64@gmail.com

Austin Poetry Society

Austin Poetry Society (APS) opens the year with a presentation by Katherine Durham Oldmixon on “The Alchemy of Poetry.”

Austin Poetry Society will miss De Etta Sayers (see above mention under Prayers and Condolences), a good

friend and life-long supporter of poetry who served as President of APS in 1967 – 1968.

In preparation for the 10th Anniversary of EXPRESSIONS, a monthly First Saturday Program at Austin's Baha'i Centre, Kaye Voigt Abikhaled and Thom Woodruff (worldpoet@rocketmail.com), participated in a 60-minute live interview conducted by Khotam Shahbazi-Harmon, Producer & Host of "Idea Lounge" at KOOP 91.7 FM on Thursday, June 17, 2010 on the subject of poetry world wide for all ages.

We meet on third Saturdays, September through May. This September 18th, we will be in the Austin History Center, 911 Guadalupe, Austin, beside the downtown public library, from 1:30 to 3:30 P.M.

The APS Fourth Thursday Open Microphone meets all year, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the NeWorldDeli, 4101 Guadalupe, this month on September 23rd. The readings always include a round-robin reading, open to all poets, in this family-oriented setting.

The APS Poetry Critique Group also meets all year, the last Saturday of each month, 11:00 A.M. in the upstairs dining area of the Central Market, 38th and Lamar (up the stairs beside the coffee bar). Susan Rogers is guest host (covering for Beth Kropf, on sabbatical to bring a new baby into the world). All poets (including non-members) are encouraged to bring eight copies of one of their poems for supportive discussion by other friendly poets.

For more information: www.austinpoetrysociety.org For the APS newsletter online: send your e-mail address to: poetryplease@mail.utexas.edu

Bea Land-Phoenix Chapter

On August 7, 2010, members agreed to sponsor a 2011 Student Contest, any form, any subject. \$25.00 from the treasury will be sent to Budd Powell Mahan.

Noted by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks, the death of her mother, member Mary Winklebleck.

Challenge for October meeting: Write a Triolet.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2010, 10 A.M. at the South Branch Garland Library located at Oates and Broadway.

Members and guests are always welcome.

FMI: Catherine L'Herisson at catherinepoet@juno.com; 972-270-4994, or Barbara Blanks: barbarablanks@aol.com

Beaumont Chapter

Beaumont Chapter members are excited about the upcoming 42nd Summer Conference. Some members have signed up for "The Show." Hopefully others will follow suit and attend. It is always a blessing to be with other poets and share our love of poetry. We are looking forward to another great conference and with Budd Powell Mahan and Nancy Baass at the helm, how can it be anything else?

Our members are still meeting at Calder Woods Retirement Center so we can share our poetry with Violette Newton. Violette was her feisty self at the last meeting. She participated with gusto and even cracked a

joke or two. Her son Reece (also a writer) is visiting with her as I write this news, so she is all smiles. He is currently working on a novel and reads to Violette from his book. She loves when someone reads to her—her whole countenance takes on a spirit of joy.

Chapter members have been working diligently on poems for this year's PST contest, and we are looking forward to entering our poems. Deadline is the middle of August, so it is time to start pairing poems to the 100 different contests. Last year, everyone in our group placed with at least one poem, so we are eager to 'up' our winning rate this year.

Beaumont Chapter members celebrated Violette Newton's 98th birthday by having their regular meeting moved from its regular date to August 11th, Violette's birthday. Wow!—to live that long and to have contributed so much to poetry is unbelievable. Violette has lived and breathed poetry all her life. No bingo for her—she was too busy writing. She has been a Hall-of-Famer for the Beaumont poets and other poets around the United States. We are praying for a good day for Violette, who still can compose a poem in her head and recite it. That is what we need to hear on her birthday this year. Her daughter Erin came to visit Violette and attended our July poetry meeting. Erin honored us by being our official poetry reader.

Congratulations to Barbara Green Powell for placing first in the San Antonio Poetry Fair 2010 Contests. She is looking forward to reading her poem at the Fair and having her poem, "Will Love Bring You Back to Me" published in their anthology, *Voices Along the River*.

Lots of hugs and kisses to Nancy Baass and Budd Powell Mahan for their Oscar winning performance at the PST Summer Conference. We had a blast and really enjoyed all of the speakers and performers. It is great having STARS of their quality directing the Greatest Show on the Galaxy. Thank you! Thank you!

See you in November at PST Awards Ceremony. Hope you receive a letter saying you have a reason to attend. You do have a reason, letter or not.

Come join us on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Calder Woods Retirement Center, 10 A.M. to 12 noon. We would enjoy introducing you to our members and invite you to read one of your poems. We have a great time writing and reading our assigned lesson poems. Poetry takes us on journeys of pleasure and knowledge. See you in Dallas at the PST Summer Conference in July.

FMI: Barbara Green Powell, lostlakeln@aol.com.

Denton Poets Assembly

DPS elected officers for the 2010-2011 year:
Co-President: Christina Smith
Co-President: Samika Swift, Director of Basement Poetry
Vice-President: Annie Neugebauer, DPA Publicity
Secretary: Beth Honeycutt
Treasurer: Jan Spence
Director: Karla K. Morton
Director: Teresa Hill

On July 17th, DPA met and shared their poetry challenge from June: to write a blank verse poem. After sharing all of our attempts, J. Paul Holcomb gave a short introduction to next month's challenge. For the remainder of the meeting, we read more members' poetry in any subject, any form. Other upcoming events include:

August 4th – "Basement Poetry." Open-mic poetry reading at The Hydrant Café, 208 West Oak Street, Denton, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M., first Wednesday, monthly. Free and open to all ages.

FMI: www.dentonpoetsassembly.weebly.com, or email Samika Swift, Host at basementpoetry@yahoo.com

Fort Worth Poetry Society

FWPS meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Benbrook Public Library, 1065 Mercedes Street, Benbrook, Texas 76126 at 7:00 P.M. The purpose of our meetings is to critique poems written and submitted in advance by members to our secretary, who copies each poem into a handout for the group. The writer of a poem remains anonymous until after the critique, and is identified at the end of the meeting. Critiques focus on how poems are written rather than content.

FMI: Don Shook – Dshook77@aol.com

Hi-Plains Chapter, Amarillo

July 7, 2010, Hi-Plains Chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas donated 75 published books of poetry by regional authors to the Amarillo Public Library.

Library Director Donna Littlejohn stated, "The books will be added to the library's reference collection and will be shelved at the Downtown Library." Further, she added, "This is a very generous donation by the Poetry Society, and we are happy to have these poetry volumes by local authors available to poetry lovers and regional enthusiasts." As part of the reference collection, the books will not be available for check-out, but may be read upon request at the Reference Desk.

The donated volumes included published works by chapter members: Paula Britt, Pauline Durrett Robertson, Margaret F. Scott, and Frances Dolcater (4 of the chapter's original 22 Charter Members).

Chapter President Mary Yokum said the inspiration to donate published works came from long-time member and Chapter Historian, Doris Saunders. "Placing books in our library rescues a unique heritage," stated President Yokum. "Now they will be preserved and enjoyed by all generations."

Those members present at the presentation included: Pauline Durrett Robertson, Mary Yokum, Bryan Hampton, Marianne Logan, and Doris Saunders, all of whom displayed copies of their donated works for the Amarillo Globe News photographer. Donna Littlejohn joined them for the picture.

The article appeared in the Our Town section of the Amarillo Globe News, July 28, 2010.

Our next meeting is Saturday, August 21st, 2:00-4:00 P.M. at the Amarillo Senior Center, when we will continue

workshops on different poetry forms. Our homework assignment is: Triolet.

Visitors are always welcome!

Hi-Plains Chapter meets bi-monthly beginning in February at the Amarillo Sr. Center, 1217 South Tyler Street, Amarillo. FMI: Contact Mary Yokum, President, marila13@sbcglobal.net or Marianne Logan, Membership Chair, mmmltx@nts-online.net (806) 374-4354

Houston Chapter

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month, McGovern Library, 7405 Stella Link @ Aberdeen Way, Houston, 1:30 – 3:30 P.M. Guests are always welcome! Critiques available.

FMI: Vice-President, Doris Ferguson, 713-722-8818

Mockingbird Chapter

Saturday, June 5, 2010, Jim Ricks presided over our board meeting at 12:30 P.M. and our regular meeting at 1:30 P.M.

The focal point of discussions was the Chapter's forthcoming Ruby Jubilee to celebrate the anniversary and hold at the same time, the 40th Collin County Annual Poetry Contest. Envisioned to have more participants than the 1,500 who joined last year's contest, the Mocks brainstormed on ways and means to fund the contest, and to locate a larger hall to hold the award ceremony.

Don Croucher and C. J. Dunning announced the "Games that Kids Play, the first part of "It's Great to Be a Kid Again" program. The games were meant for the members to feel like kids again as we played golf, paddleball, baseball, darts, 3D bubbles, big jax, etc. While the members were playing, Jim Ricks was judging the poems collected from the members for the June poetry contest.

At 3:00 P.M., Jim Ricks announced the winners in the contest: Ed Burke – 1st Place: "*One, Two, Three*" (prize: a painting set); Don Croucher – 2nd Place: "*To Be With You in Glory*" (he donated his prize to the 2nd Honorable Mention); Lynn Loughry (new member) – 3rd Place: "*Message from Mother Nature*" (prize: a Biblical book); C. J. Dunning – Honorable Mention: "*Trees*" (prize: coffee grinder); Irene Robertson – Honorable Mention: "*Religion*" (prize – marker set). Don Croucher donated and awarded all of the prizes.

For the Read-Share-a-Poem segment, all members present read their poems with varied forms and lengths. The next regular meeting will be on Saturday, July 3rd, at the Carriage House in McKinney.

Saturday, August 7, 2010, Jim Ricks presided over both the board meeting at 12:30 and the regular meeting at 1:00. A new set of officers for the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and public relations will be confirmed at the next meeting, September 4th. The outgoing officers are: President: Jim Ricks; Vice-President: Don G. Croucher; Treasurer: Edmund Burke; Secretary: Sylvia Medel; and Public Relations and Co-Chairman of the Annual Collin County Poetry Contest: C. J. Dunning.

Bill Guthrie, a member/speaker, talked about creative writing. He said that his writings tell about himself, his feelings—even the most simple and primitive. “Our poetry defines us,” he said. To prove his point, he placed a lighted white candle on a glass holder, and instructed the members to write about it, describing their thoughts and feelings. He timed the writing exercise to three minutes. Thereafter, he asked the members to read what they wrote, starting with his poem. He concluded his mini-workshop with a question: “Isn’t it wonderful how we poets can create so many views of the same thing?”

For the Read-Share-a-Poem segment, all members who were present, including Daniel McMillen, a new member, read poems on varying subjects. Some were humorous, short and simple, absurd, serious, and light. Jimmy Inez Sessions read a poem from Mike Ramsey who was unable to attend the meeting.

The 2011 40th Annual Collin County Poetry Contest was discussed at great length. The Mockingbird Chapter has challenges which need to be resolved at the next regular meeting, scheduled on Saturday, September 4th at the Carriage House in McKinney.

FMI: Jim Ricks, 214-548-6258 or ajntweety@tx.rr.com

Permian Basin Poetry Society

Order your copy of over one hundred poems by sixty poets: *Wind, Sand, and Sky*, 2010 Texana Anthology by the Permian Basin Poetry Society. \$15.00 includes shipping and handling, payable to PBPS. Mail to: Loretta Diane Walker, Treasurer, Permian Basin Poetry Society (PBPS), 4315 Esmond Drive #1605, Odessa, TX 79762.

August 14th – Saturday, 2-4 – REGULAR MEETING – Sharing poems – Ector County Library.

No regular meetings set for May or June.

New Members & Guests Always Welcome!

FMI, Please contact: Kat Copeland @ (432) 697-4205 or kopykat@grandecom.net

Poets Northwest

You won’t want to miss J. Paul Holcomb, “The Poet from Double Oak,” as he brings his wonderful poetry to our meeting on Saturday, August 14th at 10 A.M.

Poets Northwest meets the 2nd Saturday of each month from 10:00 A.M. to Noon, at Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX Annex room 23/25 (2nd floor).

FMI: pnwnewsletter@hotmail.com

Web: www.poetsnw.com

Poets of Tarrant County

June 7, 2010, President Lynn Lewis called the meeting to order and Mona Lynn McDaniel read two contemporary poems from Ted Kooser’s book *Winter Morning Walks: One Hundred Postcards to Jim Harrison*. Kudos were read. Spotlight Poet, Hollis Davis read several of his poems from books he has published. Vice-President David Bowman introduced featured speaker, Robert Wynne author of *Remembering How to Sleep* and *Museum of*

Parallel Art. His presentation included an interactive discussion with the audience as he focused on techniques for writing a new book. He then read several poems from his new book which is currently in publication. After a break, assignment poems were read. President Lewis reminded the members of the PST Convention in July. Poets of Tarrant County will not meet in July or August. The next meeting of this group is the 2nd Monday in September. Number present: 11.

FMI: Lynn Lewis, 817-921-9322/

elsquared59@yahoo.com

Rusk County Poetry Society

May 20, 2010, following lunch at the Filling Station, members met for regular meeting at South Main Church of Christ Activity Building. President Vina Hathaway called the meeting to order; invocation was offered by Fairon Spears. New member Gene Nolan was welcomed, and asked to tell members a little about himself. Welcome, Gene! Other members who have rejoined are Dwight Stanfield, and Shirley Carmichael. Our membership was saddened by the death of poet Dorothy Birdwell.

The president reminded members about contest closing dates: PST Book Manuscript – August 1st; PST Annual Poetry Contests – September 15th (PST Bulletin Editor noted the incorrect date); and East Texas Fall Festival of Poetry, poems received by September 1st.

Birthdays were recognized, and Certificates of Merit presented to Jan Mathew for the Youth Anthology work; Bill Anderson for RCPS Yearbook; Anne McCrady for Poetry in Schools; and a star pin to Evelyn Appelbee for inviting a friend who became a member. Justin Robinson’s Honorable Mention in the Calendar was recognized.

Sharon Taylor reported on the Youth Awards Day, mentioning the exceptional readings, the audience, the good work of members, especially Reta Maxted, Bill, Richard, Patsy and Peggy (Jo Wedgeworth’s daughters). Sharon and her daughter, Crystal also helped. Vina was commended on handling the job of Master of Ceremonies.

Anne reported on Austin International, where she hosted a workshop, and read during the daily readings; and also reported on the 5th year of the UT-Tyler Student Poetry program; speaker, Poet Laureate Karla Morton, which Anne and Vina attended.

After refreshments furnished by Richard and Jan, we at last got down to the joy of poetry. Spotlight Poet Fairon Spears was introduced, and read two of his inspiring poems. Richard presented this month’s lesson on “The Lint in Our Lives,” catching our attention by ‘picking’ lint from shoulders and arms then reading a poem titled “Lint” by Gary Metras, and asked us to write a poem about how we handle the ‘lint’ in our lives.

Those attending were Vina Hathaway, Jane Cheatham, Jan Mathew, Bill Anderson, Fairon Spears, Gene Nolan, Richard Hurzeler, Sharon Taylor, Anne McCrady, and Evelyn Appelbee.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 2:00 P.M. except June and July, at the First Church of

Christ on South Main Activity Room, 402 S. Main, Henderson.

The Executive Committee meets at 12:00 noon to 1:30 P.M. at the Filling Station Restaurant, 303 South Main, prior to each meeting.

FMI: call Sharon Taylor, 903-753-2354, chasha@cablelynx.com. Visitors are always welcome.

San Antonio Poets Association

Among the twenty-five poets that attended our meeting on May 15, we had one visitor, John Friedland, and one new member, Adrian Johnson. Adrian, originally from Indiana, is new to Texas. He is in the army, stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, and he has been here only eight months. He found us when he just happened to be in Barnes & Noble one evening and came across Michaud Lamrouex's open mic venue. We invited him to SAPA and he was eager to join. He is going to make a terrific member.

The April contests were judged by Lee Carroll of Fort Worth. Winners in the open topic contest were: 2nd HM – Sheila Moore; 1st HM – Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex; 3rd Place – Jean Jackson; 2nd Place – Karen Schneider; 1st Place – Corinna Kelley. Winners in the assigned topic contest (“On the Run”) were: HM – Wallace Vaughan; 3rd Place – Gerry Rackley; 2nd Place – Iris Maahs; 1st Place – Valerie Bailey.

Contest Chair, Gerry Rackley, was in charge of the annual awards ceremony and announced the winner of the Poetic Excellence Award, which goes to the poet who earned the most points by placing in the most contests in SAPA, PST, and NFSPS. The winner of this award was Valerie Bailey. The Poet Laureate runners-up were announced: 4th runner-up – Peter Holland; 3rd runner-up – Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex; 2nd runner-up – Juan Perez; 1st runner-up – Sheila Moore, and SAPA's Poet Laureate (2010-2011) for the eighth time is Valerie Bailey.

The big event was the installation of new officers for the 2010-2012 term. It was a “Famous Poets” installation with President Valerie Bailey officiating. She gave cards printed with advice to the incoming officers from famous poets such as Frost, Shakespeare, Tennyson, etc. Engraved paper weights were given to each outgoing officer and Certificates of Appreciation were given to all outgoing committee chairmen. At the conclusion of the installation, Valerie handed an engraved gavel to our new President, Wallace Vaughn, and turned over the meeting to him. Wallace is full of enthusiasm and plans and will lead SAPA in continued growth in both attendance and poetry quality. Then Wallace surprised Valerie and four other women who were outgoing officers and chairmen: Sheila Moore, Gerry Rackley, Peggy Hill, and Margaret Mayberry with gorgeous bouquets for their service. Wallace is a florist and the bouquets were spectacular.

Our new officers are: Wallace Vaughan, President; Jean Jackson, Vice President; Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex, Treasurer/Membership Chairman; Laura Davis, Secretary; Peter Holland, Parliamentarian; and Charles Jones, Historian. The new committee chairmen are: Sharon Turner, Contest Chairman; Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex,

Program Chairman/Webmaster; Valerie Bailey, Publications/Notifications Chairman; and Margaret Mayberry, Social Chairman.

We are now looking forward to our Summer Sessions with plans for workshops and other poetic fun.

SAPA meets in the Fellowship Hall of Bethany Congregational Church, 500 Pilgrim Drive, San Antonio. You are invited. FMI: Valerie Bailey, 210-494-2982, or vbailey@satx.rr.com

San Jacinto Chapter

For our June program, Brenda Myers presented “Poetry: Healing and Wholeness”

A collection of Brenda Myers' poetry can be seen at <http://www.houstongriefsupport.org/Brenda.pdf>

Our program for July was an extended read-around with an invitation for all members to bring and read poems that they have entered in PST contests, and to read any of their poems or one by a favorite poet.

For the August meeting, our President, Marvin Trent, will discuss Lord Byron and his works. There will be an extended read-around after the presentation.

SJC meets the 2nd Saturday of each month, 1:00-3:00 P.M., Sunset United Methodist Church, 709 Allendale Road, Pasadena, Texas—please use the porte cochere entrance. Anyone who is interested in writing, reading or listening to poetry is invited to attend. Bring some of your own poems, or some of your favorites if you would like to read. We discuss the lives of poets as well as poetry styles. Our snacks are pretty good, too! We encourage poetry and arts in the schools through contests and shows.

FMI: Kathy Wieboldt—call 832-754-4041, or email at info@sanjacintopoetry.org. Our website has been updated for August: <http://www.sanjacintopoetry.org>.

Texoma Poetry Society

Reading and remarks on John Donne's “*Holy Sonnets*” were the highlight of our June 5 meeting on Saturday afternoon at the Sherman Public Library. The eloquent 17th century metaphysical poet who became the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral was celebrated in youth for witty love sonnets with startling metaphors. His spiritual awakening in maturity led to a subject shift from earthy to spiritual. His sonnet style, a magnet to 20th century writers, gained depth and made remarkably bold and intimate demands on God.

Our guest reader was Dr. Tom Nuckols, Professor Emeritus of Social Ethics and Humanities at Austin College. A hand-out on the sonnet for and Donne's sonnet “*Batter my heart, three person'd God*” was distributed.

Don Mathis was re-elected president by acclamation. Frances Neidhart will remain vice-president and Sue Sappenfield, secretary-treasurer.

After a lemonade break we had our usual round-robin reading of original poems. Our next meeting will be the first Saturday in August. Final preparations will then be made for contest poems due in mid-August.

Our next meeting is Saturday, September 4th.
T.P.S. meets the first Saturday of each month, except
January and July, at the Sherman Public Library, 2:00-4:00
P.M. All poets and poetry lovers are always welcome.
FMI: Frances Neidhardt at neidhardt@verizon.net

Wichita Falls Poetry Society

The April 10th meeting was a first for Open Mic for the
WF Society. Members read their own poetry or a poem of
a favorite poet. A microphone was provided and delicious
refreshments were served. Members were able to preface
their readings with explanations of their inspirations for
the poems, which enabled those present to enjoy them
more.

WFPS met on Saturday, May 16, at 2:00 P.M. in the
Kemp Center for the Arts. Rosellen Sheetz chaired the
meeting, and, after the business meeting, presented the
lesson on the Nursery Rhyme.

Officers for 2010-2011 are:
President: Doyle Wood
Vice-President: Nona Bailey
Recording Secretary: Genie Ratliff
Corresponding Secretary: Leta Hedrick
Treasurer: Sheri Sutton

Winners in the May contest for the best poem in Blank
Verse are: 1st Place – Linda Smith; 2nd Place – Leta
Hedrick; 3rd Place: Doyle “Doc” Wood; 1HM: Mary
Barnes; 2HM: Sheri Sutton; 3HM: Nona Bailey.

The next meeting will be on September 18th.
FMI: Doyle “Doc” Wood at dr1943@yahoo.com, or
940-322-4566. Visitors are welcome!

Editor’s Note

Please note my new email address which is for poetry
news only: poetryorbust@amaonline.com All email of
personal interest should still be directed to my other
address: vondelita@amaonline.com This should enable
me to expedite the Bulletin news more quickly.

HAVEN’T RECEIVED YOUR BULLETIN?

Contact Membership Chair
Lynn Lewis
at
elsquared59@yahoo.com
or
(817) 921-9322

Would you like to see your poem published in the
Poetry Society of Texas Bulletin?

**Please send ONE AND ONLY ONE poem via email or
snail mail, 12-line limit, any form/ any subject
(Keep it clean, please!)**

**Please include permission to publish, as your poem will
be considered published after having appeared in the
PST Bulletin, and may only be entered in contests
accepting ‘previously published poetry.’**

**Email: poetryorbust@amaonline.com
(Subject: poetry for Bulletin)**

**Snail Mail: Von S. Bourland, Editor
37861 Interstate 27
Happy, TX 79042**

California State Poetry Society 2010 Monthly Contests

For information, send SASE to:

CSPS Monthly Contests

P. O. Box 7126

Orange, CA 92863

Or email Kate Osborn, CSPS President

At

kateosborn@yahoo.com

Postmark Deadline: end of each month

Palette & Quills

2nd Biennial Poetry Chapbook Competition Open to all Writers

<http://www.palettesquills.com>

Prize: \$200 cash award + 50 copies of your published
book

Postmark Deadline: September 1, 2010

The 2009 Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication
Award recipient, *What the House is Made of* by Beverly
Monestier, is now available! 67 pages, \$12.95 (plus
approximately \$3.00 postage). Order from the author
directly at beverlymonestier@hotmail.com

REVIEWS

“hauntingly powerful”, “consummate poetic artistry”

-----Larry D. Thomas, 2008 Texas Poet Laureate

“This book gleams with wisdom, insight, and, above all, an
encompassing compassion for all people. Its imagery and
metaphor are astounding in their depth and freshness. The
author is a true poet. Her poems move seamlessly from
memories to landscapes as rich and varied as Moscow,
Calcutta, Beirut, and San Antonio to issues that confront
humanity and touch the heart as well as the mind. *What
the House is Made of* is a collection to savor, to read, and
to re-read. It is simply beautiful in its language, content,
and voice. I wished the world community could live in
this house and what it is made of---we would find
ourselves in rooms filled with light.”

-----Kathryn E. Clement, Award Judge

A Letter from Beverly Monestier, 2009 recipient of the Edwin M. Eakin Memorial Book Publication – [This is being published after the 2010 deadline.]
Dear Poet Friends,

I won the last Eakin Award, and I want to encourage you to enter! Encourage your friends to enter, too. If they're not PST members, maybe this is a great time for them to join! It's great that Eakin offers this to us, but I know that in recent years, they've considered discontinuing. That would be a real pity. Let's keep it going strong! Let's give the judge lots of entries from which to choose the one they feel is best. We want a high quality manuscript selected every time. If contest participation grows, so will the prestige of the award. It is a great honor to compete with 30 of the best poets in the state and have your manuscript recognized, whether it is the one published or not! Remember, it's a different judge every year, so even if you didn't place at all last year, this year's judge may feel your collection is the very best!

No contest, no publisher is perfect, including Eakin, but here are some good things I found out about the award, and a few tips:

- *It's the only such contest in the state (that I know) judged double-blind, so everyone has a fair chance each time.
 - *Despite delays, Eakin was still a lot faster to get my book out than most publishers (most take a full year).
 - *As a proper publisher, Eakin has professional distribution channels that bookstores want, and you, as an individual poet, don't have.
 - *Eakin is good about letting the poet pick cover art, etc. Many other publishers dictate that.
 - *Eakin's manager is pleasant to work with, flexible, stands behind his work, fixes his mistakes.
 - *If you are a poet who will get out there and really promote poetry, the award will help open the doors you knock on.
 - *You shouldn't change content after you win, so enter what you will feel truly confident promoting in book form.
 - *Be prepared to proof/edit your own manuscript after it wins; Eakin does NOT offer editing services at all (although stated in contest ad).
 - *Be prepared to promote your own book; Eakin won't. But Eakin may put it on Amazon for you, which is good.
 - *Eakin does NOT send out review copies for you (although stated in contest ad), but does provide you with copies to do so yourself.
- All in all, a great opportunity! Good luck this year!
Your fellow poet,
Beverly Monestier

Barbara Blanks – from my Storefront at Lulu:

Poetry is not a curse word. Poems can be full of pun and nonsense—and *I've Heard Verse* is certainly full of something. Barb's word play is strangely amusing, slightly twisted, and simply fun. Suitable for young and old adults alike, these light-hearted and delightful poems may make you see the light—that is, if you think you don't like or understand poetry, this book will either change your attitude or...Poof! Barb will change you to a pigeon. (see page 29 in the preview)

Contact Barb at www.barbara-blanks.com

You can preview *I've Heard Verse: awfully good poetry* at www.lulu.com/content/8696799 or at my website. If you decide to order, please order directly from me! Not only will I inscribe the book if you want, but postage for one book through me is only \$2.50 first class, so the total for one book would be \$12.50 (Paypal, check, or money order).

Rebirth of a Galaxy

A Galaxy of Verse Literary Foundation is a non-profit, 501-c (3) tax exempt entity, which publishes member-submitted poems, offers cash-prize contests, and aims to produce two issues of its poetry anthology each year. Your new Editor is Barbara Blanks.

Here is the short version:

1. Membership is \$20.00/year
2. **GOV** publishes two member-submitted poems (usually) by each member. Submissions must be your own work.
3. Members receive one copy each of those two issues at no additional charge.
4. Members may enter contests and win cash prizes at no additional charge.
5. Non-members may enter contests for \$3.00 each; a winning poem is published and prize is awarded, but prize does not include a copy of the anthology. Anthologies will be available for purchase after publication—check the website for information.
6. Members, Non-members, and Patrons may sponsor contests.
7. Patronage is greatly appreciated to help fund printing, mailing and other expenses. Patronage donations (tax-deductible) begin at \$20.00. If not already a member of **GOV**, patrons will receive one copy of current issue.
8. You do not have to be a member of any poetry society to be a **GOV** member.
9. If you paid membership in 2007, sponsored or won a contest in 2007, please contact me.

For more complete information, go to:
www.barbara-blanks.com/galaxyofverse.aspx
Questions? galaxyofverse@gmail.com

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