



# THE BULLETIN

## Poetry Society of Texas

A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc

[www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)

PST General Meeting – February 11

2:30 p.m.

Preston Royal Library

5626 Royal Lane

Dallas, TX 75229

Editor: Budd Powell Mahan

January 2012

### MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

#### Annual Critics Award for 2011

Judge: Vivian Ramsey Stewart, Oklahoma City, OK

Winner: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth

January 2012

Contest judge: Kay Merkel Boruff, Dallas

First – J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Second – LaVern Spencer McCathy, Blair, Oklahoma

Third – Amanullah Khan, Dallas

### 10 POEMS READ AT THE MEETING

#### Book Prizes

Reader: Beth Ayers, Plano

POPULAR – David Knape, Plano

GALAXY – Barbara Blanks, Garland

LYNCH – Von S. Bourland, Happy

POETRY for POETS – Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

LIFE MEMBER – Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Other poems read by: Linda Banks, Jessica Gonsoulin,

Miriam Hasert, Patrick Marshall, and Richard Peake.

#### Laugh Lines

Judge: J. Paul Holcomb, Double Oak

Winner: David Knape, Plano

### February Program

**The February program will be Marvin Trent from the San Jacinto Chapter.**

**Programs for the rest of the society's fiscal year are:**

**March – Eakin winner & poet laureate – Alan Birkelbach**

**April – Dr. Robert Collmer – House of Poetry Baylor U**

**May – Karla Kay Morton – 2010 Poet Laureate of Texas**

### January Meeting of PST

President Catherine L'Herisson called the meeting to order, and wished a good year to those present. She introduced two guests, Catherine Perkins, and Naomi Simmons granddaughter, Heather Hughes. She recognized Barbara Luke, the new president of the Bea Land/Phoenix Chapter.

In a brief tribute to January, L'Herisson gave several facts about the month, and noted some important Americans born in in the month.

Treasurer, Amy Sandberg, gave a report on the treasury. Main expenditure in the report was the payment of NFSPS dues for PST members.

Lynn Lewis, Membership chairperson, was ill. Her report was given by Director, David Knape. The report noted 159 active

members, 3 associate, 6 honorary, 2 library, and 13 student members. Membership total: 237.

L'Herisson urged members to check their contact data in the 2011 A Book of the Year, and to report any changes to both Linda Banks, anthology editor, and Lynn Lewis, membership chairperson.

Barbara Blanks gave the librarian report. She presented three books. *From Under the Bridges of America* is an anthology containing poems by several PST members, *Baker's Dozen* a book by Naomi Stroud Simmons of Fort Worth, and *Witness* by Budd Powell Mahan, winner of the 2010 Alabama State Poetry Society's Morrison Chapbook competition.

It was announced that Jeannette Strother, due to health reasons needed to be replaced in her position as post office liaison. A volunteer came quickly from the audience. Patrick Marshall of Keller took on the responsibility.

Members were reminded of the next meeting on February 11, and were encouraged to attend.

Student Awards deadline was announced and members encouraged to promote entries in their own areas.

Remember that deadline for entries in the NFSPS contests is March 15. Be sure your dues to PST are paid so that you may enter those contests.

The Challenge, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, was brought to members' attention. Thanks were extended to Naomi Stroud Simmons for the concept and implementation of the program. Participants will be recognized at the summer conference.

A campaign to help erect a statue to Karle Baker Wilson was announced. The society hopes to have its name on the tribute to Wilson being put up in Nacogdoches. See details in a separate part of The Bulletin.

L'Herisson called on Linda Banks, 18<sup>th</sup> PST President, who did a memorial to those members lost in 2011. Banks acted on behalf of Irene Carmichael who was to do the memorial, but had to give up the honor due to a knee surgery. Banks cited five members in the order of their passing. They were Marshall Boykin, Grant E. Perry, Ann Matthews Moorhead, Marjorie Ledbetter Yelton, and Imogene Webb Ogle. Banks read poetry by some of those memorialized paying particular tribute to 13<sup>th</sup> PST President, Yelton. She closed with a poem by Ted Kooser.

L'Herisson then turned the floor over to Linda Banks who conducted the annual Poem-a-thon Program always held in January. Members present read their own or others poetry.

After a break, the monthly contests poems were read and



## *Poets of Tarrant County*

### **Barbara Terrell Goerdel**

The monthly meeting was held January 9<sup>th</sup> at the First United Methodist Church, Fort Worth, Texas. Meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month at 10 o'clock, but this month's meeting was rescheduled.

In a salute to a contemporary poet, Lynn Lewis read a poem *Bridge Over The Yellow Cat* by Jared Carter. Spotlight poet Barbara Berry talked about coming in second. She suggested checking *I Am Second* by Josh Hamilton on the web. Barbara read three of her poems which came in second at the 2011 PST Annual Contests.

Guest speaker was chapter president, J. Paul Holcomb. He discussed the *Color Of Poetry* by David Parsons, Poet Laureate of Texas 2011 and read the title poem from the book. Paul also read two of his own poems about color : *Superman's Cape* and *In A Bed of Blue Delphiniums*.

Barbara Berry presented immediate past president, Lynn Lewis, with the traveling angel award. A sympathy card was sent to member Ron Eddins. Hollis Davis is to speak at Barnes & Nobles in the Fort Worth Northeast mall on Saturday 1/14/12 at 7pm. Naomi Simmons challenged all members to enter the national contest competition this year - deadline is 3/15/12.

Assignment Haiku poems about winter were read by participating members.

For information Contact J. Paul Holcomb  
[jpaulholcomb@prodigy.net](mailto:jpaulholcomb@prodigy.net)

## *Rusk County Poetry Society*

### **Sharon Taylor**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> the Rusk County Poetry Society met at Anne McCrady's home in Henderson to celebrate Christmas. Each person brought at least one delicious dish of holiday treats. After enjoying the food and fellowship, each poet read a Christmas poem, either self-written or selected from another author. Several members shared special memories of Christmases past. Jane Cheatham recalled the smell of delicious apples permeating the house. When her parents picked apples in the fall, they stored the biggest, reddest ones to give the children on Christmas Day.

To conclude the party, white elephant gifts were auctioned to help fund Poetry in Schools scholarships the chapter presents each spring. The celebration was a lot of fun and a wonderful way to begin the blessed season.

Those in attendance were members Evelyn Appelbee, Jane Cheatham, Eleanor Eilenberger, Vina Hathaway, Richard Hurzeler, Reta Maxted, Anne McCrady, Fairon Spears, Sharon Taylor, and guests Sue Roberts, Jack Holt, and Joyce McGee.

Guests are always welcome. FMI, contact Sharon Taylor at 903-753-2354 or [Chasha@cablelynx.com](mailto:Chasha@cablelynx.com)

## **Karle Wilson Baker**

### **Poetry Society of Texas Charter Member**

Karl Wilson was born in Little Rock, Arkansas on October 13, 1878. Her parents were Kate Florence Montgomery Wilson and William Wilson. She would in 1893 add an "e" to her first name to help identify her gender. In spite of the extra letter she was often thought to be a man by followers and reviewers. Many of Baker's earlier works including short stories, essays, and children's stories were published under the name Charlotte Wilson.

Wilson received her education at Little Rock Academy followed by the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and University of California. In Chicago she studied under poet, William Vaughn Moody. She received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Southern Methodist University in 1924. In 1925 she became a member of the English faculty at Stephen F. Austin State Teachers College.

In 1900, Wilson traveled to Texas to visit her parents in Nacogdoches. She was impressed with the beauty of the area and in 1906 she moved to Texas from Little Rock, where she had been a teacher. The life changing decision led to her meeting banker, Thomas Ellis Baker. They were married in 1907.

In 1924 Baker, at the behest of the college president, began teaching contemporary poetry at Stephen F. Austin Teacher's College. Her poem "The Pine Tree Hymn" became the school song of SFA. She remained at the university until 1934 although she had planned to teach for only one year. In the small Texas town the sophisticated Baker was seen as an icon of urbanity and poise.

The Baker's had two children, a son named Tomby and a daughter named Charlotte. The home and grounds of the family in Nacogdoches were called *Tanglewood*. Baker would later express her awe at the area's beauty in a book called, *The Birds of Tanglewood*.

Wilson's poetry appeared nationally in Yale Review, Harper's Magazine, Scribner's, Atlantic Monthly, Century, The Nation, and Southwest Review, among others. She received many honors including being named the first woman and third individual to be a Fellow of the Institute of Letters. The Yale University Press published her first four books, and in 1931 she was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her book *Dreamer's on Horseback*. In addition to poetry, she wrote two novels. *Family Style* was a story set in the East Texas oilfields. *Star of the Wilderness*, was an historical novel set in mid-nineteenth century, and was a Book-of-the-Month selection for 1942.

Wilson became a life member of the Poetry Society of Texas and was named Honorary Vice President of the organization in 1958. She died in Nacogdoches on November 9, 1960 at the age of 82 and is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery of that city.

(excerpt from Budd Powell Mahan's upcoming book on PST history.)

**Poetry Society of Texas**  
**610 Circle View Drive**  
**Mansfield, TX 76063**  
[www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org)

**Nonprofit org.**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Fort Worth, TX 76161**  
**Permit # 1597**

**President:**

Catherine L'Herisson  
518 Grinnell Drive  
Garland, TX 75043  
972-270-4994  
[catherinepoet@juno.com](mailto:catherinepoet@juno.com)

**Vice President:**

Jimmye Inez Sessions  
1373 Beechwood Drive  
Lewisville, TX 75067  
972-434-2105  
[masonsessions@yahoo.com](mailto:masonsessions@yahoo.com)

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Jessica Gonsoulin  
19251 Preston Road  
Dallas, TX 75252  
[jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com](mailto:jlgonsoulin@yahoo.com)

**Recording Secretary:**

Barbara Blanks  
1518 Running River Road  
Garland, TX 75044-7254  
[Barbarablanks@aol.com](mailto:Barbarablanks@aol.com)

**Executive Board**

**Treasurer:**

Amy Sandberg  
2328 Red River Street  
Mesquite, TX 75150  
[Leftwrite83@aol.com](mailto:Leftwrite83@aol.com)

**Directors:**

Pat Randolph  
4366 Cochran Chapel Circle  
Dallas, TX 75209  
[Patranccc@aol.com](mailto:Patranccc@aol.com)

David Knape  
1405 Newbury Lane  
Plano, TX 75025  
214-601-7503  
[Dknape1969@yahoo.com](mailto:Dknape1969@yahoo.com)

**Director/Membership Chairperson**

Lynn Lewis  
1704 Enderly Place  
Fort Worth, TX 76104  
817-921-9322  
[elsquared59@yahoo.com](mailto:elsquared59@yahoo.com)

