

THE BULLETIN



★ THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS ★

Founded November 5, 1921

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

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey

August 2021



Our Guest Speaker for September is Michael Minassian

Michael Minassian was born in New York City and grew up in New York and New Jersey. In addition to living in Florida, California, Connecticut, North Carolina and Texas, he lived and taught overseas in England, Jamaica, Saudi Arabia, and South Korea. He earned a BA in Political Science at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey and an MA in English with a certificate in Creative Writing at California State University at Dominguez Hills. He also studied and served as a guest tutor for ten years at Cambridge University's Summer Study Program in the UK. His poems and short stories have appeared in a number of periodicals and anthologies, both online and in print, including *Chiron Review*, *Comstock Review*, *Evening Street Review*, *Live Encounters*, *Loch Raven Review*, *Main Street Rag*, *Poet Lore*, *Stoneboat*, and *Third Wednesday*. Minassian is a contributing Editor for *Verse-Virtual*, an online poetry journal. His chapbooks include poetry: *The Arboriculturist* (2010) and photography: *Around the Bend* (2017). His poetry collections: *Time is Not a River* and *Morning Calm* were both published in 2020. A member of the Poetry Society of Texas and the Denton Poets' Assembly, he lives in Flower Mound with his wife, and is currently working on a new book of poems and a blog devoted to current and classic cinema. Find more information at: <http://michaelminassian.com>

There was no general PST Meeting in August,
This is an abbreviated Bulletin

See Membership Chair Lynn Lewis's reports for June and July on page 6.

Reminder: Membership dues were up for renewal beginning July 1, which is when our fiscal year begins. Dues can easily be paid via Paypal now, using poetrysocietyoftexas@gmail.com OR [paypal.me/PSTexas](https://www.paypal.me/PSTexas). And, of course, dues can be sent to Lynn Lewis, as always. If you are not sure your dues have been paid, contact Lynn Lewis at elsquared59@yahoo.com

PST Officer and Board elections are held each year in May. Traditionally, past presidents and/or past board members are on the Nominating Committee. This year we had Catherine L'Herisson as Chair, and committee members Jeannette Strother, Budd Powell Mahan, Aman Khan, and Barbara Lewie Berry.

We had four retiring board members this year: Steve Sanders, Treasurer; Susan Maxwell Campbell, Corresponding Secretary; Domingo Rodriguez, Director, and Beth Honeycutt, Director. PST thanks these retiring board members for their service. The proposed slate presented for the new board was:

Irene Robertson – President
Rich Weatherly – Vice President
Barbara Blanks – Recording Secretary
Betty Roberts – Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer – to be voted on in September
JDarrell Kirkley – Director
Valerie Martin Bailey – Director
Carol Thompson – Director

Catherine L'Herisson twice asked for nominations from the floor, There were none, and there was no dissension. Dillon McKinsey moved we accept the new board; Barbara Goerdel seconded. The new Board was accepted by acclamation.

They will not seat until September 1. Meanwhile, we will vote on a new treasurer in September.

Extra copies of PST's *A Book of the Year* were ordered since this year was our 100th Anniversary. If anyone wants one, they are \$8, plus \$3 for postage. Anyone who is interested in having more than one copy should contact Catherine L'Herisson at catherinepoet@juno.com. She can probably save the cost of postage for you by sending several in one envelope. E-mail (not phone) is the best way to contact Catherine. Checks for the books and postage should be made out to PST.

Future board meetings will be conducted via Zoom. PST will be acquiring its own account.

Monthly Contest Chair Rich Weatherly announced the winners of the July contests, which can be seen in the box below. There was no monthly contest in June.

JULY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

13 Entries

Critic Judge: Gail Denham, Award winning Oregon Poet, Sunriver Oregon

First: Richard P. Hurzeler, Tyler ~ "Please Ease Up"

Second: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

Third: Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

Laugh Lines

Judge: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Winner: Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio

Book Prize Winners

Popular – Juan Perez, Corpus Christi

Wm. D. Barney – Daniel Hunter, Houston

M. Tandy Duemke – Anna Rosa, Wake Forest, N.C.

Naomi Stroud Simmons – Manuel English – Poulsbo, WA

Other Poems were by:

Vicky Li, Birma Castle, JDarrell Kirkley, Johnnie B. Carter, Irene Robertson, and Hollis Davis

Submissions are now open for the September contest.

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

Our Sincere Sympathy to the family and friends of Lucille Morgan Wilson who passed away on June 21. Lucille was the long time Treasurer of NFSPS. Lucille lived in Des Moines, Iowa and lived into her late nineties, always as sharp as a tack, keeping up with all the finances of a national organization. She was an amazing woman and all who knew her will sadly miss her.

PST's 100 YEAR CELEBRATION AT POETRY, TEXAS

June 27 was a special day. A day to rusticate, breathe fresh air, mix and mingle. Poets from three states came to celebrate the Poetry Society of Texas's 100th Anniversary: The theme: "I read poetry in Poetry, Texas." The farthest traveled was 311 miles.

The PST Board was there early to kick-off the day. Poets began to pour in at 9:30 a.m. The Springs, a wedding venue; an indoor big room with 17 large round tables set up and decorated with table tents, and grab bags full of goodies, (thanks to President Irene Robertson). The emcee, JDarrell Kirkley, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. with a warm greeting, then turned the meeting over to President Irene to welcome the room full of poets and visitors. Past Presidents Budd Powell Mahan, Linda Banks, Marilyn Stacy, and Catherine L'Herisson were introduced and thanked for their stellar service. To honor our past presidents, they were first to read one poem. Due to a short time frame and the many poets present, one poem or 3 minutes was the designated time for each. The main purpose, besides celebrating PST's 100th birthday was to give every poet present an opportunity to read one poem, and they did!

During several breaks, there was good camaraderie, book sales, snacks, etc. We had great fun when we played a game in which each table of poets had to write a humorous poem within 15 minutes.

Our photographer for the day was volunteer, Sir Charles Taylor. He captured every moment of the day. The photos could not be included as they added too many megabytes to the *Bulletin*. The highlight of the day was our guest speaker during lunch, the newly elected and first time ever, Mayor of Poetry, Texas, Tara Senkevich. She welcomed us with some history of her community. Poetry, Texas was founded the year that Texas became a state: 1845. It remained a ranching community until last year. Poetry was incorporated in 2020.

After lunch, we were honored with a brief history of PST by three time Past President, Budd Powell Mahan. The rest of the day was enjoyed with poets reading. The day was a huge success, and to think that two months earlier, reading poems in Poetry, Texas was just a whim of an idea!



ROUNDING UP THE CHAPTER NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE OF TEXAS

PST

ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS

Sheila Tingley Moore Reporting

Our next meeting will be on September 4, and we hope to be back to meeting in person at the Incarnate Word location. After good wishes for a wonderful, restful summer, the meeting was dismissed.

AUSTIN POETRY SOCIETY

Jeffrey Taylor Reporting

No summer meetings were reported.

DENTON POETS' ASSEMBLY

Richard Kushmaul Reporting

The Denton Poets' Assembly held their regular Zoom meeting on Saturday July 17. President Richard Kushmaul welcomed guests Tobias Gibson and Neal Ostman.

Betty Roberts introduced the "Spotlight Poet of the Month," **James Neiswender**, who presented eight of his poems: "A Forewarning," "Blue Butterfly," "One Day on the Trail," "Questions in Tidal Pools," "Quicksand," "Journey of Self," "Singer's Song," and "Ocean Sand Waves."

Read/Respond poems were presented from the work of the subject poet of the month, Lawrence Ferlinghetti. Roger Bussell presented his R/R inspiration poem, "and they were fierce," responding to Ferlinghetti's work and a Goya etch print of Los desastres de la guerra. Ann Howells then gave a close read of Ferlinghetti's "Constantly Risking Absurdity." Free Choice poems were read, followed by Masood Parvaze's inspiration poem, "Illusion,"

Richard announced the (now past) July 29, "Poets' Hour" Zoom meeting, featuring Michael Minassian reading from his 2020 Catherine Case Lubbe manuscript contest winning book, *A Matter of Timing*.

FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

Steve Sanders Reporting

No summer meetings were reported.

HI-PLAINS CHAPTER

Tom and Frances Ferris Reporting

The Hi-Plains Chapter met on June 14. Members present were: John Schmidt, Bryan Hampton, Pandora Keeling, Katy Hupp, Frances Ferris, and Barbara and Leonard Merchant. Unfortunately, not present was longtime member and good friend, Von Bourland, who passed away on June 8, a few days before our meeting

Before the meeting, Frances met with the lady in charge of operations that day at The Grill. She told her we would need to meet there three more times in the year 2021, so once again we have a permanent meeting location indoors.

The meeting started with a critique of poems written by the members present. A new (to us) poetry form, the Pantoum, was presented by the president. The form proved to be more complicated than expected, so Frances suggested that instead of learning about this new form, we start the business meeting because Katy might have to leave early. The minutes were read and approved by a motion from Katy, seconded by Bryan. Karl Smith was not present to give a treasurer's report, but Frances said he has been taking in club dues. Before the business meeting started, Katy asked John if he had any ideas for a memorial for Von Bourland. He wrote down his ideas, which he presented when requested by Frances. He presented these main ideas, with a contest description: Through the Poetry Society of Texas, create a Von Bourland Memorial Contest in the annual contests. First, the poem would be in any form (because Von wrote a in wide variety of poetic forms). Second, the poems should be informative, entertaining, and spiritual (or at least uplifting). Perhaps also historical because Von had a talent for researching topics thoroughly before writing

about them. Third, the poem should be a celebration of the life of Von Bourland and creative expression in Texas. First prize in the contest would be \$50. No money for second, third, or honorable mentions. Of course this proposal can be changed and the \$50 prize amount can be changed as our chapter determines. Another idea is to perhaps pay the contest judge and offer the contest for at least three years.

Another idea is to hire someone at \$10 per hour (\$60 maximum each month) to continue the work of Von Bourland. This is to continue correspondence with other members of the society and do work that most of us don't even know about — to compile, finish, or enter her poems into contests or submit to book publishers. The reason for hiring an administration director is to alleviate the problem that occurs after a talented person leaves or passes away; a great deal of work that the person has been doing is never fulfilled by those left behind.

Bryan wondered how much this would cost, and should we obligate ourselves to a contest that might go on for years? Frances said she is willing to give a personal donation and not use club money. Frances asked John if he would be interested in taking over some of the work that Von has been doing. The response was a resounding “No.” He already has a list of promises to fulfill. He has a publishing company to run and cannot take on anything else at this time.

John proposed that we table this topic and discuss it at our next meeting.

Bryan said he needed to present what Barry Bourland, Von's surviving husband, suggested in an e-mail: that we work with the Arbor Foundation and pay a one-time fee to have a tree planted in a national park in Von's name.

After continued discussion, John made the motion that we table this topic and discuss it at the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Katy. Anyone associated with this organization who did not attend the meeting can offer suggestions by e-mailing Frances, Bryan, or John.

The meeting continued with John telling about Joan Hunter, healing evangelist, coming to Friends & Family Worship Center-Cornerstone Outreach on June 25 and the two days following. He also mentioned that Accelerate Church and School was hosting a golf tournament on July 9. Teams of four were needed.

Members then went back to work on their Pantoum poems, which they would have to finish at home.

Next came a round-robin, where John read “Winter Sun,” a memorial to Marianne McNeil Logan. Pandra read an untitled poem, which she said was the first poem she had ever written. The members thought it was excellent, were greatly entertained, and vigorously applauded. Leonard Merchant also read a poem, which members enjoyed. Then the meeting was adjourned. The minutes were prepared by John Schmidt and Frances Ferris.

HOT/LIVE POETS OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Christine Boldt Reporting

We regret that the HOT/Live Poets of Central Texas will no longer be a PST chapter. Chapter president, Dwight Gray has let his membership lapse and is entering seminary in the fall to prepare for church ministry.

Christine Boldt will continue her membership in PST as a Member at Large. We hope she will continue to submit news of her poetic activities as a Member at Large.

MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER

Barry Rynk Reporting

No summer meetings were reported.

POETS NORTHWEST

Eric Blanchard Reporting

No summer meetings were reported.

POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Barbara Goerdel Reporting

The poets of Tarrant County met on Monday, June 7 at 10 a.m. President Ron Eddins called the meeting to order. The Spotlight Poet was Barbara Berry, who read three poems from her *Up Up and Away* book that is in the works for publication. The three poems were about Mars, lessons learned, and comfort for grief. The minutes for the May meeting were circulated by e-mail from Barbara Goerdel, and no corrections were needed. The treasurer's report had no changes from last month. Ron Eddins

volunteered to pay for future zoom expenses.

The meeting was interrupted by technical difficulties and had to be reopened with a new password.

Susan Maxwell Campbell announced that the winner of the PST Catherine Case Lubbe Book Award for 2020 is Michael Minassian's *Matter of Timing* and is being produced by Mike Baldwin. It will be available through Amazon.

Masood Parvaze was Contemporary Reader, reading Ayana Farooq's poetry. He presented three of her poems. She is also Masood's niece.

Lynn Lewis e-mailed a link to a video of Laura Ann Guerrero's reading for a program presentation she was unable to attend due to her mother's illness.

President Ron Eddins discussed Kurt Vonnegut's article about practicing any art to make your soul grow, not for fame or fortune. Discussion followed. No reported kudos.

It was voted by majority (4 yes; 2 no) to continue our September meeting by Zoom. The September program will be presented by Christine Irving, the Spotlight Poet will be Hollis Davis and the Contemporary Reader will be Ron Eddins. The topic for read-around will be "magnification." Poets of Tarrant County do not meet in July and August.

RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

No summer meeting was reported

SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

No summer meeting was reported

WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

Linda Smith Reporting

No summer meeting was reported

MEMBERS AT LARGE

None reported



set Valerie Martin Bailey...

announces her retirement as editor of the *Bulletin*. She has been producing the monthly *Bulletin* for nine years and would love to continue, but a disability is forcing her to give up this job she loves. Diabetic neuropathy is causing her hands to cramp painfully and become numb. This makes the extensive typing required extremely difficult. Valerie hopes the next editor of the *Bulletin* will enjoy the job as much as she has. It was with great reluctance that she tendered her resignation to President Irene Robertson.

Valerie notes that the editor of the *Bulletin* is also responsible to keep the mailing list up to date. The *Bulletin* is e-mailed, and Valerie will make the digital mailing list available to the new editor, along with other guidelines and tips. It's a big, but rewarding job, and one Valerie wishes she could continue, but realizes the time for her retirement as the *Bulletin* editor has come.

Valerie suggests that if necessary this job can be made into two jobs. A *Bulletin* editor can receive the news and create the *Bulletin* and then immediately send it to a *Bulletin* distributor who would then e-mail it to the mailing list that he or she is responsible to keep updated and accurate. This is only a suggestion in case both facets of this job are too much for one person to handle.

Skills needed: In addition to design skills, excellent English grammar knowledge, as well as excellent punctuation and spelling skills are needed. The most common punctuation error, Valerie notes is putting periods and commas outside quotation marks. Punctuation marks are part of the sentence and come before quotation marks are closed and that includes quotation marks around poems that come at the end of a sentence. Poems have quotation marks and books, magazines, and publications are set in italics, not quotation marks. You will need some kind of design software on your computer. Someone needs to step up to the plate before the September *Bulletin* is due



Which of you is the new editor of the PST Bulletin? Tell President Robertson that you would like to be the one!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
June 2021 / July 2021

Active Members.....198	Active Members.....202
Associate Members.....16	Associate Members.....16
Life Members.....32	Life Members.....31
Student Members.....13	Student Members.....13
Supporting Members.....2	Supporting Members..... 2
Sustaining Members.....2	Sustaining Members..... 1
Recently Deceased.....1	Recently Deceased 0
New Members.....10	New Members..... 3
Renewing Members47	Renewing Members..... 30
Membership Total.....262	Membership Total,,,,..... 265

WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS

- Tarrik Ahmed ~ Allen, Tx (June)
- Mary-Margaret Belota ~ Burleson, Tx (June)
- Mark Evans ~ Tomball, Tx (June)
- Melissa Frye ~ Elkins, Arkansas (June)
- Holly Jahangiri ~ Houston, Tx (June)
- Adrienne Montgomery ~ San Augustine, Tx (July)
- Neal Ostman ~ Colleyville, Tx (June)
- Jonathan Peckham ~ Cypress, Tx (July)
- Saniya Pendharkar ~ Allen, Tx (Student - (June)
- Christine Prater ~ Spicewood, Tx (July)
- Rie Sheridan Rose ~ Austin, Tx (June)
- Barry Rynk ~ Allen, Tx (June)
- H. Jeanette Willert (Associate member - (June)

You Will  *PST*



Book Donations Report
From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports no new book donations to the PST collection at the Dallas Central Library. No general PST meeting in August, so the book donations will be announced at the September general meeting.

Members are encouraged to donate books to the Library. If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter publishes an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send the books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Rd., Garland, TX 75044-7254.



Our Sympathy to Barry Bourland and the family and friends of Von S. Bourland.

Von died on June 8. She was a long-time member of PST and belonged to the Hi-Plains chapter. She was a prolific and creative poet and a frequent winner in PST's monthly contests and also in the annual contests. Von and her excellent poetry will be missed by her host of friends at PST.

★ **THE EXECUTIVE BOARD** ★

Note: The new Board members will be seated in September
President: Irene Robertson
1625 Gayla Creek Dr. • Little Elm, TX 75068 • 972-849-5690
yranie@att.net

Vice President: Richard Weatherly
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News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m. *The Bulletin* will be published in all months except July; however, only annual contest results are published in the November *Bulletin*. **Note:** Your *Bulletin* is now sent to you via e-mail, Notify the Editor if your e-mail address changes to prevent missing an edition of the *Bulletin*. If you do miss an edition you can request a copy from the editor or see it on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org. Click on Publications.

NOTE: The new Bulletin Editor can change these requirements to meet his or her needs.

Membership Chairman: Lynn Lewis

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817-921-9322 • *elsquared59@yahoo.com*
Please notify the Membership Chairman promptly if your address, phone, or e-mail address changes.

THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS
on the second Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m.
by Zoom until the Pandemic passes and
we can once again meet in person.