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### \*THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS\*

Founded November 5, 1921 A member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc. www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



February 2018

**Editor: Valerie Martin Bailey** 

Tis the Luck of the Irish for PST on March 10 as We Welcome Our Guest Speaker MICHELLE HARTMAN, EDITOR OF RED RIVER REVIEW

Hartman's latest book The Lost Journal of My Second Trip to Purgatory is the first poetic look at child abuse and its effects on adult life. It is available on Amazon,

along with her poetry books, Irony and Irreverance and Disenchanted and Disgruntled. Hartman holds a BS degree in political science, pre-law from Texas Wesleyan University, and a paralegal cert. from Tarrant County College.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THIS EXCEPTIONAL SPEAKER!

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Poetry Society of Texas for Saturday, February 10, 2018, 2:30 p.m. at the Preston Royal Library in Dallas Submitted by Recording Secretary, Barbara Blanks

President Budd Powell Mahan opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, including Manaiya Guinn, daughter of our program speaker, Michael (Mike) Guinn. He also recognized past presidents: Jimmy Inez Sessions, J. Paul Holcomb, Linda Banks, and Catherine L'Herisson.

Treasurer Patrick Lee Marshall gave the January Financial Statement. PST continues to be in good shape.

Director Beth Ayers gave the January 2018 Membership Report for Membership Chair Lvnn Lewis. We welcome our new members. The report can be seen on page 6.

Librarian Barbara Blanks had no donated books to report.

Extension Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a brief update on the summer conference, mentioning a juried art show that will be at Springhill Marriott Hotel in Waco at the same time. The Bulletin and the PST Website will have specifics soon.

Susan also said that the Fort Worth Poetry Society conceived a "Broadsides" project, based on an idea by Paul Ford of Utah, who is on the NFSPS board. She displayed two small posters with background art and poems by J. Paul Holcomb printed down the sheet. The cost of printing these in sets of three or four is around \$2 each. The society plans to distribute them to libraries in Fort Worth for possible display.

President Mahan spoke briefly about the loss of Naomi Simmons, their friendship, and her funeral service. She was well loved.

The newly chartered Dallas Chapter will meet for the first time on March 8, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Preston

Royal Library. Dr. Charlotte Renk of Athens will direct the meeting with the focus being on learning.

Spotlight on Poets Chair Susan Maxwell Campbell introduced Poet Hollis Davis of Trophy Club. Hollis has a degree in chemistry from Texas Tech and an MBA from TCU. He is a veteran who worked for forty years in the Aerospace industry. He published five poetry books, one memoir, and has written ten songs. Hollis said he went through several poetry books and found very few rhyming poems, but he was "old school" before reading several of his poems, and all rhymed.

Continued on page 2

#### JANUARY MONTHLY CONTEST WINNERS

Critic Judge: Lisa Toth Salinas, Spring

**1st Place:** Christine H. Boldt, Temple ~ "Ven Meditation"

2nd Place: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield 3rd Place: Hilda Wales, Albuquerque, NM

#### **BOOK PRIZES**

Reader: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield

Popular Prize: Marilyn Stacy, Dallas

A Galaxy of Verse Prize: Steve Sanders, Fort Worth Poetry for Poets Award: Nicholas Schreiber, Wichita Falls William D. Barney Mem. Award: LaVern S. McCarthy, Blair, OK M. Tandy Duemke Mem. Award: Carol P. Thompson, Tyler Robby K. Mitchell Mem. Award: Kate Lacy, Fayetteville, AR Other Poems Read By: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Sheila Tingley

Moore, Angie Goin, and Richard Hurzeler.

#### **LAUGH LINES:**

Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Winner: Naomi Stroud Simmons, Fort Worth

Send contest entries before the 15th of each month to Contest Chairman, Budd Powell Mahan at 7059 Spring Valley Rd., Dallas, TX 75254. The E-mail address is: buddmahan@att.net.

Michael Guinn of Fort Worth is one of our three new program chairs. He introduced himself as our speaker. Mike's program was titled: "Free to Be Me." He mentioned that he had met Naomi Simmons around 1997 at a large bookstore. He shared how she had made a big impact on him and motivated him. One of Mike's goals is to help people be better speakers. His first poem was a performance piece titled "Wings," based on his grandmother, who took him in when he was

twelve years old. He read several of his other poems. Since his program was short, an audience member asked for an encore—one more performance piece. Since President Mahan was already at the microphone, Mike enlisted him in a brief performance duet, based on rhymes to "pinkie."

After the break, **Contest Chairman Budd Powell Mahan** announced the contest winners, after which, the meeting was adjourned.



#### NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER CHAPTERS FROM ACROSS THE GREAT STATE OF TEXAS

#### ALAMO AREA POETS OF TEXAS

#### Antonia Murguia Reporting

President Lois Heger called the meeting to order. Carol Siskovic led the pledge and moment of silence. Lois welcomed several guests: Paige Parker, Dina Smith, Lorin Smith, and Darrell and Khanthaly Pittman.

After the January minutes were approved, Lois introduced our guest speaker, Darrell Pittman, who introduced his wife. He shared that they were celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary. Darrell began his presentation by explaining that one of the best ways to break writing block or be inspired is to begin writing by playing a piece of music, especially one that produces memories or an emotional connection. He then played "You Don't Know Me" by Ray Charles. Afterward, we were asked to write freely in response, either following the theme of the song or the thoughts it invoked. After an allotted time of writing, he suggested that we continue on our own, taking whatever time needed and invited us to share with him or others whenever we felt comfortable doing so. He concluded his program with readings of some of his own poems. The group responded with vigorous applause and much appreciation.

January's winning poems were announced and read. Winners for the assigned topic were: 3rd HM, Patricia Keoughan; 2nd HM, Lou Taylor; 1st HM, Lea Fagin; 3rd place, Rene Ornes; 2nd place, Antoinette Winstead; 1st place, Sheila Moore. Winners for the Open Topic were: 3rd HM, Vivian Skinner; 2nd HM, Antoinette Winstead; 1st HM, Lois Heger; 3rd place, Sheila Moore; 2nd place, Patricia Keoughan; 1st place, Carol Siskovic.

February's contest poems were then read. The February judge is Barbara Blanks of Garland.

Lea Fagin announced the arrival of a granddaughter and happily showed a picture. Sheila Moore encouraged members to participate in poetry contests, but to be conscious of the rules for each contest. Members were reminded to see the AAPT guide book for our correct format. Also, members submitting entries should be present at the meeting to read their poems, or should arrange for another member to bring the poems and read them for the absent member.

Next month AAPT will meet on March 3 and our guest poet will be Charles Darnell.

#### **BEAUMONT CHAPTER**

#### Barbara Green Powell Reporting

Beaumont Members Birma Castle and Barbara Green Powell attended the Gift of Life Celebration at the Art Museum. in spite of heavy rains and flooding.

Our February Poetry Meeting was rescheduled to the 4th Thursday at Birma Castle's home for our meeting from 10 to noon. We always read our critiqued poems from the prior month and then read our latest poem to be sent for critiquing. The best part of the meeting is the camaraderie that we share.

The next Lucidity Retreat in Eureka Springs, Arkansas will be held April 10-12. Birma Castle, the hostess, has lined up a keynote speaker most of you know, Nathan Brown. Due to health concerns, Charlotte Renk had to decline this year. Also, one of our own renowned poets, Barbara Blanks, will give hints on how to write poems that win first place. She and Budd Powell Mahan duke it out in the Texas State Poetry Contests each year to see who wins the most first places. There will be time to tour the beautiful city and the cost of convention is only \$35 and \$18 for the Awards Banquet on Thursday night. The hotel room is only \$66 and \$5 for an extra person, so if you find a roommate, that is only \$36 plus tax each. The Convention Center is just down the hill from the rooms and they have a wonderful restaurant by the Check-in Lobby. The critiquing sessions are a favorite draw to these retreats. Each person sends in three poems they'd like help with and then each person has a say in the critiquing. There's a main speaker each day, Don't forget that person is no other than Nathan Brown who will keep you entertained while you learn more about improving your own writing skills. Hope to see you there.

#### **DENTON POETS ASSEMBLY**

#### Richard Weatherly Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly's monthly meeting was held on February 17 at the Emily Fowler Public Library, with a critique session at 9 a.m. and the regular session at 10 a.m. We welcomed guests and visitors, then discussed chapter business. Members read assigned poems from J. Paul Holcomb's January lesson on "Close Counts in Horseshoes, Hand Grenades, and Poetry." Following the assigned readings, J. Paul Holcomb presented his February lesson. During the final hour, members and guests read free-choice poems. We adjourned our meeting at noon.

Denton Poets' Assembly meets on the third Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-noon at the Emily Fowler Central Library, Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, visit http://Denton PoetsAssembly.weebly.com

#### FORT WORTH POETRY SOCIETY

#### Anne Jones Reporting

The FWPS meeting was opened by president, Steve Sanders. Hilda Mendoza read the opening poem, "Plegaria" (Prayer) by Delmira Augustini, a famous Spanish poet from Uraguay who lived in the 1800s. She did much for Spanish women. Hilda read an English translation. Tricia Ferguson, our vice president, updated our member roster, and passed it around so we could be sure everything is correct. Since we will participate this weekend in Con/DFW at the Radisson Hotel in north Fort Worth, Steve fine-tuned all the events in which our members will participate. It should be splendid. Tricia announced that we will visit the Sunrise nursing home on March 18 at 2:00 p.m. We are to bring a mixture of our own poems and old favorites that residents might remember.

In new business, Steve has a new CD for sale that features many of our members reading their poetry. Mike Baldwin presented a proposal for submitting poetry and art to an anthology about Classical Music. He will tell us more about it at our next meeting. Mike also presented members with mugs featuring our new logo. Susan Campbell brought broadsides to be displayed in the Benbrook library. They are posters of poems by members of FWPS. We critiqued ten poems, including one that was written in memory of Naomi Simmons, who recently passed away. She was a valiant lady.

#### HOT POETS SOCIETY

#### Sandi Horton Reporting

The HOT Poets of Waco have been working diligently as the hosts for PST's upcoming Summer Conference July 12–14 at the Springfield Marriott in Waco/Woodway. Chris Boldt, Program Chair for the event gives us this exciting preview: "We have exciting plans for the conference based on the theme, *Poetry: Bridge to the World.* On the first Thursday of the conference, Susan Maxwell Campbell will present a workshop on poetry as a bridge to the fine arts. Afterward, we will view an exhibit of works by the Texas Fine Artists on display in the conference hotel and then will enjoy a light dinner buffet with the artists.

"Friday's speakers will include Dwight Gray, who will bring us a military veteran's perspective through his reading and workshop, 'A Foot in Both Worlds.' Our luncheon speaker, Anne McCrady, will tell us about the annual Peace Festival in Tyler in her talk, 'A Bridge to Peace.' Baylor professor and poet, Dr. Chloe Honum, will offer a workshop that challenges us to 'Find Poetry in the Everyday.' Mike and Joyce Gullickson will present a program called 'A Poem Is a Bridge Between us.' The Horton Duo will provide musical entertainment during the Friday evening banquet.

"In addition to the workshops, we will enjoy some activites that have been favorites at other conferences: the 'You Be the Judge' contest, the bookstore, and an open mic on the hotel's outdoor patio. A new feature will be the creation of an anthology with one poem written by each conference participant.

"We will round out the conference on Saturday morning with a tour of Baylor's Armstrong Browning Library and a reading of reomantic poetry in the library's garden." We hope you will plan on attending the 2018 Summer Conference.

#### **MOCKINGBIRD CHAPTER**

#### Thomas K. Martin Reporting

MPS held its regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on February 3 in the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. President Alice Parker presided. Thirteen members and two guests attended.

Jessica Gonsoulin resigned in absentia as secretary due to health issues. MPS members expressed appreciation for her long and selfless service. Thomas K. Martin was appointed by the Executive Committee to fill out her remaining term of office through the end of 2018.

The recent passing of one of Marie Hunt's sons was acknowledged and the group extended condolences to her and her family. The recent passing of Naomi Stroud Simmons, a long time PST member, was also acknowledged. President Parker and Jimmie Inez Sessions gave moving tributes to her profound influence on them and many other PST members over the years.

MPS will host a National Poetry Month commemoration on Saturday, April 21 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at a location either in McKinney or Plano. All poets will be welcome to share their work at an open mike.

Beth Ayers is still collecting 2018 membership dues. The annual membership dues remain \$12 for 2018. She will transition the financial records to Susan Mardell, who became Treasurer on January 1, 2018. Beth Ayres also discussed ongoing plans for MPS' 47th Annual Collin County Poetry Contest. Members volunteered to judge the various student levels, and a group of members will judge the adult category following the March meeting. The 2018 Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Collin College's McKinney Campus Conference Center on the southeast corner of Community Avenue and Taylor Burk Drive. Doors will open at 1:15 p.m. MPS is grateful for the support and participation of Collin College and looks forward to the ceremony's second year in the excellent facility they provide.

## PERMIAN BASIN POETRY SOCIETY

#### Kat Copeland Reporting

March 2018 marks the one year anniversary for the Second Thursday Open Mic at Brew St in Midland. We will begin thirty minutes early, at 7:30 p.m. each month, to give more students an opportunity to showcase their talents. We had an "International Happening" in February with performers from all over the world, including Israel, Korea, and the Philippines.

Spoken Word was shared by Isaiah Mata and Sammy Torres (poetry about tough decisions), Kat Copeland (a rodeo clown's Valentine), Vince Angeles (who is excited about volunteering), and Mike, an open mic newcomer, shared his poem about gratitude (home after over a year in the military).

We are presently organizing a Poetry Slam for the end of March in Odessa. Cover charge and cash prizes for first, second, and third place are planned. Please Facebook Permian Basin Poetry Society for updates. Everyone is welcome.

#### POETS NORTHWEST

#### Lynn Grice Reporting

Our February 17 meeting was spent writing new poems

based on prompts and NFSPS contest subjects. We had a Love Poem Contest with a \$20 prize. As usual, members were encouraged to bring poems to share during our Read-Around.

We are gearing up for our 31st Annual Spring Fling, which celebrates our Houston area poets with a contest and banquet. In member news, one of Poets Northwest's founding members, Betty Kersh, has been in the hospital recently.

If you plan to be in the Houston area on the third Saturday of the month, please join us at one of our monthly meetings, temporarily, at the Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress Rd. in Houston. Poets and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of the meeting. Our PST chapter is on the Web at http://www.poetsnw.com and on Facebook at http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest.

#### POETS OF TARRANT COUNTY

#### Lynn Lewis Reporting

The February meeting of the Poets of Tarrant County was canceled so that all members of PTC could attend the funeral service of PST legend Naomi Stroud Simmons.

#### **RUSK COUNTY POETRY SOCIETY**

#### Jo Morrow Reporting

The Rusk County Poetry Society held its first meeting of 2018 on January 18. Outgoing president, Sue Roberts presided. Following welcoming comments, Richard Hurzeler offered a prayer. Minutes were read by Carol Thompson and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Charles Taylor. Old business was addressed regarding the need for a newsletter editor to follow in the footsteps of Joyce McGee who has produced outstanding publications for the past two years.

Carol Thompson conducted the installation of 2018 officers: Mary Tindall, president; Jackie McVey, vice president; Charles Taylor, treasurer; Adrianne Pamplin, recording secretary; Jo Morrow, recording secretary. Spotlight poet, Sharon Taylor, read from her collection of "Interstate Poems," including: "The Last Stand," "The Interstate Motel," and "Mother's Mantle Clock." Carol Thompson provided refreshments and Jackie McVey added "motivational cookies" with the word, "Dare," imprinted. Jo Morrow received a framed certificate honoring her as RCPS Poet of the Year for 2018. The lesson was presented by Sue Roberts, introduced by the Beatles song, "Places in My Life." Members were asked to list their memorable places to aid in writing a "place picture" poem for their February assignment. Incoming president, Mary Tindall, spoke

about setting personal and societal goals for 2018, and Richard Hurzeler noted that RCPS is now 47 years old.

#### SAN ANTONIO POETS ASSOCIATION

#### Valerie Martin Bailey Reporting

The SAPA meeting on January 20 featured a program of our members who won first places in the PST Annual Contests. The first place winners included Sheila Moore, Loretta Vaughan, and Valerie Bailey. Margaret Mayberry, who also won a first, is now residing in Florida, so was unable to read her winning poem, Sheila read her seven first place poems, Loretta read her five first place poems, plus her first place win in the NFSPS contests. In lieu of reading her three first place poems, Valerie Bailey brought our annual PST Promotion and Recruitment effort, by elaborating on "12 Reasons to Join PST." SAPA and PST both gained a new member when our first time visitor, Paige Parker, joined both organizations. We can already tell that Paige will be a great asset to SAPA.

Valerie Bailey is acting as Contest Chair during the illness and absence of her sister Sharon Turner, who by the way has defied all odds and is getting better in a rehab facility. Her recovery is miraculous. She spent 108 days flat on her back, not expected to live, and suddenly she is better and is in rehab. We look forward to the day when she can stand on her feet. She is still too weak, but that will be a victorious day. Valerie announced the January contest winners, whose poems were judged by Birma Castle of Beaumont. Winners in the assigned topic contest were: 1st–Valerie Bailey; 2nd–Clyta Coder; 3rd–Margaret Mayberry; HM–Floyd (Michaud) Lamrouex. Winners in the open topic contest were: 1st–Pat Gibbs; 2nd–Valerie Bailey; 3rd–Lois Heger; HM–Margaret Mayberry.

After awarding the winners, we enjoyed a refreshment break provided by Sheila Moore and Clyta Coder. Following refreshments, we read our February poems, had a great book raffle. A carrot cake was also raffled, Valerie won the cake.

## TYLER ROSE GARDEN POETRY SOCIETY Mary Tindall Reporting

The Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society met Thursday, February 8 at the Hanks Senior Center in Whitehouse, a lovely day of sunshine and sharing. Poets read trimerics they prepared for the day's assignment. Topics from the super blue moon eclipse to the stains on borrowed books were included. Suggestions were offered for making poems clearer and better. Announcements were made. The group enjoyed pies left for them by friends at the center. Each took away the encouragement and inspiration that poet friends bring to one another. The March assignment is to write a sonnet.

#### WICHITA FALLS POETRY SOCIETY

#### Linda Smith Reporting

Nine members of the WFPS met on Saturday, January 20, in the beautiful Texas Room of the Kemp Center for the Arts at 2:00 p.m. on an unusually beautiful day for January. Doyle Wood called the meeting to order with recollections by those present from 1900 to the present. This set the mood for his lesson on historical poetry later in the meeting.

No minutes were available, but Treasurer Sheri Sutton gave the treasurer's report and it was accepted as presented. Old business concerned the mystery art program last fall in which we participated in cooperation with the Kemp. Future participation will be discussed in subsequent meetings. In new business, members voted to contribute to the Kemp Center Fund Drive. Geneva Rodgers agreed to act as pro-tem secretary in the absence of Monica McCawley who will be out with her husband's medical situation. Sherri asked for, and was granted, permission to destroy old paperwork that has been transferred to digital media with backups. Programs for 2018-2019 were discussed and several agreed on particular months. The year-book is distributed at the May meeting, so planning was begun early.

After snack time, Doyle Wood presented a well-received program of historical events in poetic form by distributing examples, a suggested list of events and techniques, which included putting the poet in the poem. Contest topic for February is a poem about any historical event, figure, place or idea in any form, with 36 lines maximum.

January contest results of the acrostic poem as judged by Linda Banks are: 1st – Cynthia Archibald; 2nd – Linda Smith; 3rd – Lynn Hoggard; 1HM – Roberta Sund; 2HM – Webb Key; 3HM – Doyle Wood.

# DON'T MISS THE EXCITING PREVIEW OF THE 2018 PST SUMMER CONFERENCE IN THE HOT POETS SOCIETY NEWS ARTICLE—READ IT!

You may think it's too early to talk about the Summer Conference, but time flies and early planning is a good thing. The Hot Poets of Waco, who will be our hosts, have given us a taste of the wonderful things that will be available at this year's conference July 12-14, so as you shiver in February's chill, do some summer dreaming and read the HOT Poet's news article and find out just a little of all that they have planned for our enjoyment. They have it all together and in the coming months, we will tell all, and give you a registration form that they have already designed. These people are on the ball, and we have a great conference ahead.

#### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT ~ JANUARY 2018** from Membership Chair Lynn Lewis

Active Members188	Sustaining Members6
Associate Members12	Recently Deceased2
Life Members44	Renewing Members4
Student Members37	New Members2
Supporting Members0	Current Member Total 285

#### WELCOME NEW PST MEMBERS

Michael Elkins ~ Groesbeck V. Paige Parker ~ San Antonio

We are glad you joined, you will **\cong PST!** 

#### HELP OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR ...

Keep our membership roll up to date. Notify Lynn Lewis right away if there is any change in your contact information: address, phone number, or e-mail. Lynn's e-mail address is: elsquared59@yahoo.com, and her telephone number is: 817-921-9322.



#### **BOOK DONATIONS REPORT**

#### From PST Librarian Barbara Blanks

Librarian Barbara Blanks reports that no books were donated in February to the permanent collection of the Dallas Central Library: It's been a bleak winter for book donations. Help us make March a great month for our book collection. If you have published a collection of poems or your chapter has published an anthology, please consider donating a copy to this collection. Send your books to Librarian Barbara Blanks at 1518 Running River Road, Garland, Tx 75044-7254.

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## Our Deepest Sympathy Is Extended To The Following:



On February 1, PST's beloved Naomi Stroud Simmons passed away. Her funeral service was held on February 5 at St. John's Church in Fort Worth. She is survived by her children: Mike Simmons, Marcie Cummings, Judy Simmons Kirkpatrick, Kitty Blackwell, Barbara Derrick, and her 11 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren, and a host of PST friends who will miss her radiant smile. Those who attended her funeral were told by the officiating clergyman that Naomi always greeted him at the door at the end of the service with "Hallelujah, Hallelujah!" Perhaps we should say that for the gift of Naomi, we all say "Hallelujah, Hallelujah!"

#### THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS MEETS...

On the second Saturday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at Preston Royal Library at 5616 Royal Library Dallas, Texas 75229

The poetry year runs from September through May, with the exception of November, when the annual Awards Banquet is held in a Dallas hotel (TBA). The annual Summer Conference convenes

in a different area of the state each July.

#### \* THE EXECUTIVE BOARD \*

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