

Gulf Coast Poets Chapter
Of The Poetry Society of Texas
March 10, 2012 – General Meeting



Gulf Coast Poets
Is proud to present
Dave Parsons
Texas State Poet Laureate 2011



Dave Parsons (pictured here with Larry D. Thomas) holds many honors and awards. Among them are a National Endowment of Humanities Dante Fellowship to the State University of New York and a 2006 Baskerville Publisher's Prize from TCU as well as six writing awards from the Lone Star College System.

Dave Parsons graduated from The University of Texas (Austin) and Texas State University with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree. He worked for many years in business, advertising, as well as coaching baseball and basketball at Bellaire High School. Dave Parsons attended the University of Houston's Creative Writing Program where he received his MA in Creative Writing and Literature in 1991. He is the founder and co-director of The Montgomery County Literary Arts Council Writers in Performance Series and Chairman of Conroe Arts Alliance. After serving seventeen years (fourteen of those as chairman) on The Conroe Commission on the Arts and Culture the city honored him by proclaiming October 7, 2010 as **Dave Parsons Day in Conroe**. He is the author of three collections of poetry: *Editing Sky*, *Color of Mourning*, and *Feathering Deep*.

I WOULD GIVE YOU THE SINGLE STRAWBERRY

From Feathering Deep

Not because it is the end of May: the season—
or that in the 17th Century William Butler said,

*It is doubtless God could have made a better berry,
but doubtless God never did;* or that the delicate

uniquely heart-shaped berry has been heralded
through the ages as a symbol of purity, passion

and healing; or because of Shakespeare's adornment
of Desdemona's hankie; or that Madame Tallien

of Napoleon's court would crush 22 pounds in a fine
basin and bathe in the glory of the luscious ruby juices;

nor because of its shape and color, it was the symbol
for Venus: Goddess of Love; or that it was widely held

by Romans to alleviate symptoms of melancholy, fainting,
kidney stones, halitosis, attacks of gout, liver and spleen;

not even the legend that if you are lucky enough
to have a double berry and share it with one

of the opposite sex, surely true love will follow;
not even that they are the only fruit carrying their seeds

boldly on the outside like the regality of knights of olde.
I would give you the single strawberry as a kind of communion

offered in recognition, remembrance and celebration of our brotherly and sisterly spirits;
moreover, as a reminder: strawberries are not harvested

with machines, their small bodies being so very delicate, human hands must carefully harvest each berry; and as we savor it, let us meditate together on the visions

of the multitude of pickers—people like you and me—bending under brutal sun in the rote of work, taking each unique berry

with measured grace, with reverent aplomb—I would give you a single strawberry because, despite all that has perished

and been lost the past year, we have lived to see...to taste another glorious spring!

GULF COAST POETS MEMBERS

Send Venue Information to: GulfCoastPoets@gmail.com

Visit us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/gulfcoastpoets>

Find a GCP membership form at our website:

<http://GulfCoastPoets.info/>

To contact the President of GCP, write to:

Laura Peña <iselapena@hotmail.com>

Gulf Coast Poets membership runs from January 1st through December 31st. Our dues are \$15.00 a year. While our chapter is part of PST, if you wish to be an individual member of PST, you must pay state dues as well.

To contact the Membership Chair of GCP, write to:

Membership <gulfcoastpoets@gmail.com>

Are you a member of PST? If so, remember to renew in June!

Poetry Society of Texas membership runs from July 1st through June 30th of each year.

Membership dues for PST are \$25.00 a year for Active and Associate members and are payable in advance on an annual basis from July 1 to June 30. Members, unless specifically exempt, must have their dues current before submitting contest entries.

To be listed in the current A Book of the Year, dues must be received by November 30.

The status of a member's dues is shown on the address label of The Bulletin.

A brochure giving full requirements for membership may be obtained from the Membership Chairman. Send dues, correspondence relating thereto, change of address and/or corrections to:

Lynn Lewis, Membership Chairman

1704 Enderly Place

Fort Worth, TX 76104

E-Mail: elsquared59@yahoo.com

**The 20th Anniversary of the Austin International Poetry Festival
will be held September 27th-30th, 2012**

On-line registration opens officially on April 1st, 2012. For more information please visit www.aipf.org

**Poetry at Round Top
May 4th-6th, 2012**

Featured guests will include Pattiann Rogers, Reginald Gibbons, Naomi Shihab Nye - Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets, Ed Madden, Cyrus Cassells, Joseph Campana, Ken Fontenot, and Rustin Larson

There will be readings, workshops, panel discussions, craft talks, and a souvenir anthology of the event. For registration and more information please visit <http://festivalhill.org/poetryatroundtop/2011/10/13/2012-poetry-at-round-top/>

**NaPoWriMo
2012**

In April National Poetry Writing Month or NaPoWriMo will once again launch for a month of daily poetry writing prompts. The website will soon be up and running so check it out. <http://www.napowrimo.net/>

Mutabilis Press and Brazos Bookstore

Calling Houston area poets: bring your poetry books & chapbooks to Brazos Bookstore before March 15th to be included in a community display of poetry books during the Month of April for National Poetry Month.

Reception and reading will be held on Thursday, April 5 beginning at 7 PM.

Guidelines:

- Brazos Bookstore will accept your poetry books & chapbooks through March 15 for the event.
- All authors must bring a printed consignment agreement with their books.

See Brazos website for consignment form.

<http://www.brazosbookstore.com/consignment>

*Please write **April 5** big and bold at the top of your form to make sure Brazos knows what they're for.*

- Brazos is waiving the \$25 fee for these books!
- The books will be featured on a local poets table or display in the store through the month of April for **National Poetry Month**.

A reading and reception hosted by Brazos Bookstore and Mutabilis Press will be held on Thursday, April 5 at 7 PM.

If you would like to be included in the reading please contact Carolyn T. Florek by email at mutabilispress@aol.com

Gulf Coast Poets Minutes – 02/11/12
Recording Secretary: Daniel Carrington, Jr.

10:46am – Meeting called to attention

Announcements:

- A. Postmark deadline for Texas Poetry Calendar submissions is Feb. 21ST.
- B. 2012 National Federation of State Poetry Societies convention is June 14TH-18TH. Link available at PST website; announcement will be emailed to PST members.
- C. GCP member announcements for the PST website can be directed to Laura Peña (PST Liaison).
- D. Art that Heals deadline is coming up in March.
- E. Kay Cox and Barbara Carle are reading at the Friendswood Library on Feb. 29TH at 7pm.
- F. There is a reading at the Mod Coffee House in Galveston tonight (Feb. 11TH) from 5-7pm.
- G. Richard Peake (Lifetime) will be the featured reader for the Coffee Oasis Reading Series in Seabrook on Monday, March 5TH, start time: 7pm.
- H. Luran Perry English's photos and digital art are being featured at Tommy's Restaurant in Clear Lake through end of March. Theme: Seashells & Reflections.

10:51am – Featured Readers:

- A. **David Meischen** (Owner/ Editor of Dos Gatos Press) – David led a 10 minute workshop in which the audience wrote a childhood memory poem using a “Rube Goldberg” technique designed to infuse the poem with imagery and variety. Participants were then invited to share. David closed with a memory poem about his mother.
- B. **Scott Wiggerman** (Owner/ Editor of Dos Gatos Press) – Scott read a selection of poems from his poetry collection *Vegetables and Other Relationships* and his second volume *Presence*.

11:38am – Open Mic Readers:

- 1. Laura Peña – Ruin
- 2. Melanie Davis – Open to Love
- 3. Jean Mahavier – Under the Fig Trees
- 4. Kay Cox – Night on the Colorado
- 5. David Cowen (Lifetime) – Afternoon Tea with Mrs. Miller
- 6. Daniel Carrington – Love in Ones & Zeros
- 7. Luran Perry English – Love's Alchemy
- 8. Richard Peake (Lifetime) – Honoring Ancestors
- 9. Mary Margaret Carlisle (Lifetime) – Unfinished Ode
- 10. Carolyn Thorman – Immigrant

12:00pm – Additional Announcements:

- A. 4TH Monday Critique Group at Coffee Oasis in Seabrook. Bring extra copies of poems to be critiqued.
- B. Poetry Works Workshop, 1ST Sunday each month at 1pm at King Food in Webster. Speak with Mary M. Carlisle.

12:02pm – Meeting adjourned

Lunch afterwards at Lupe Tortillas

Poetry Society of Texas-Gulf Coast Poets Chapter-2012 Members

Ted Badger, Honorary Lifetime Member
Alan LeeBirkelbach, Honorary Lifetime Member
Thomas Bridges, Chapter Member
Diana Dettling Buckley, Lifetime Member
Barbara A. Carle, Chapter Member
Mary Margaret Carlisle, Lifetime Member - Membership Chair
Daniel Carrington, Chapter Member - Recording Secretary
Robert Clark, Honorary Lifetime Member
David E. Cowen, Lifetime Member - Vice-President
Kay L. Cox, Chapter Member
Winston Derden, Chapter Member
Patricia Dixon, Associate Lifetime Member (lives in New Orleans, LA)
Susan Ellis, Lifetime Member
Lauran Perry English, Chapter Member
Edith Escalante, Chapter Member
Dr. Sybil Pittman Estess, Chapter Member
Ann Fogelman, Lifetime Member - Greeter/Hospitality
Ada Marie Fuller, Chapter Member
Sharon Goodwin, Chapter Member
Mary Ann Goodwin, Chapter Member
Dede Fox, Chapter Member
John Gorman, Honorary Lifetime Member
Jerry Hamby, Chapter Member
Glynn Monroe Irby, Chapter Member
Nancy Johnson, Chapter Member
Peggy Lynch, Honorary Lifetime Member
Jean Mahavier, Chapter Member
Cherie McBride, Chapter Member
Glenn Nelson McBride, Chapter Member
David Meischen, Chapter Member
Terry Jude Miller, Chapter Member
Richard Peake, Lifetime Member
Laura Peña, Chapter Member - President - PST Liason
Oscar C. Peña, Chapter Member
Sharman L. Speed, Chapter Member
LuLynne Streeter, Lifetime Member
Sandi Stromberg , Chapter Member
Larry D. Thomas, Honorary Lifetime Member
Rebecca Hatcher Travis, Chapter Member
William Turner, Chapter Member
Adriana Babiak Vázquez, Chapter Member
Luis Vázquez, Chapter Member
Leo F. Waltz, Chapter Member - Treasurer - Web Master
Scott Wiggerman, Chapter Member

Gulf Coast Poets

Treasurer Report for Mar 10, 2012 General Meeting
Report Period: Feb 1 – Feb 29, 2012 -- with 2012 YTD totals
This report covers the one month period since last report

	Cash Flow: Feb 1 – Feb 29, 2012	2012 Totals
Contests.....	0.00	0.00
Dues.....	15.00	85.00
Speaker Expense.....	-135.83	-188.41
Honorarium	-100.00	
Speaker Lunch	-35.83	
Lodging	-.00	
Donations.....	.00	20.00
Interest/Dividend.....	.18	.37
Other.....	.00	.00
Net Cash flow, Feb 1 – Feb 29	-120.65	-83.04

	Account Balances: Feb 1 – Feb 29, 2012 –	Total for 2012
Checking Ledger		
<i>Beginning</i>	2051.49	2149.24
Transfer from Cash	50.00	(1/1/2012)
Checks written (2)	-100.00	
Debit card (1)	-35.83	
Dividend	.18	
Ending	1965.84	1965.84
<i>Outstanding checks (3)</i>	45.00 <i>Bank chk bal=2010.84</i>	
Cash (undeposited checks, cash)		
<i>Beginning</i>	35.00	10.00
Received	15.00	
Transferred to Checking	-50.00	
Ending	.00	.00
Savings (int. posted quarterly)		
<i>Beginning</i>	5.33	5.33
Ending	5.33	5.33
All accounts		(1/1/2012)
Beginning	2/1/2012	2091.82
Ending	2/29/2012	1971.17

Treasurer Reports will normally end on the last day of the month preceding the meeting and cover the month(s) since the previous report.

Notes:

1. Many members paid dues for 2012 in December, so do not appear on a 2012 report.