

The Bulletin



Poetry Society of Texas

Founded November 5, 1921

Member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Editor:
Fred Manchester

December 2024

jdk



The Next PST General Monthly Meeting

January 11, 2025

2024 Annual Memorial

Join us in celebrating the lives and art of those we lost in 2024

2024 Annual Poem-a-thon

Bring 2 poems - Everyone will have a chance to read 1 poem - If time permits perhaps an opportunity to read a 2nd poem - To afford as many attendees as possible an opportunity to read, please bring only one page length poems (preferably 35 lines or less).



Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year"

- **Charles Dickens**





Minutes of PST General Meeting - December 14, 2024

President **Catherine L'Herisson** welcomed our 25 attendees, then introduced Betty Roberts, our new Director. She is replacing Ann Howells, who was thanked for her service. Catherine also re-introduced the other Executive board members, plus Janet Tyner, the ABOTY editor, and Fred Manchester, the Bulletin editor.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson gave the **November Membership Report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. Active Members 159, Associate 9, Life 30, Student 4, Honorary 5; Benefactor 1; Sustaining 4; Recently Deceased 0. We have one new Student Member: Annabella Griggs, Dallas. We also had 4 Renewing Members. Total Membership: 211. Current membership has gone down because if dues are not paid by November 30 (a four-month grace period since dues are actually payable on July 1), names are removed from the roster and are not included in ABOTY. That is the only record PST has of continuous membership—which determines eligibility for Life Membership. While we had no deceased members in November, we are sad to report that **Valerie Martin Bailey** of San Antonio, a Life member, passed away this morning. Doris Brogan of Dallas had a heart attack, underwent triple bypass surgery, and is doing well.

If you wish to send a donation to PST in memory of any of our deceased members, please do so before the end of December or your donation will not be listed in the 2025 ABOTY. Donations may be sent via Paypal, or sent by check to Barbara Blanks, Payable to PST. Of course, please specify who you are honoring with your donation.

Acting Treasurer Barbara Blanks gave the November Financial report. The largest incomes were from renewing memberships and 2025 annual contest sponsorships. The largest expenditures were for the 2024 annual contest prizes and the deposit to the DoubleTree Hotel for next year's awards banquet..

Librarian Barbara Blanks announced three book donations to the permanent PST collection held at the Dallas Central Library:

- Just Looking, by Susan Maxwell Campbell, 2024 Wm Barney Chapbook winner.
- The Best of Michael Guinn, DVD by Michael Guinn.
- Texas Bards Poetry Anthology, by Texas Poets.

While there is not yet a **new Poetry in Schools Chair**, several board members are stepping in to keep the program from dying. Sponsorships are still needed for several contests.

Kudos from PST to **Beth Ayers** who "did a beautiful job on the banquet." Beth created a photo collage of attendees. It is posted on our website.

Director Betty Roberts reminded us that the Summer Conference will take place in Denton, July 17-19. Details will be posted soon.

Be sure to visit the **NFSPS** website for their 2025 contest information and other news.



PST Board Members



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Our annual Memorial Program will open the January, 2025, meeting. The Poem-Athon follows, so bring one or two of your poems (or poems you like) to read (no more than one page long; shorter is better). Everyone will have a chance to read at least one, and time permitting, two poems.

Spotlight on Members Chair Catherine L'Herisson introduced our **Spotlight Poet, Nancy Gilbert**. Nancy is a member of the Mockingbird Chapter, and is a 4th generation Texan. She owns a chapbook written by one of PST's founder's, Whitney Montgomery. She read one poem from his book, then read some she had written.

Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks introduced our **Program Speaker, Stephen Schwei**. Stephen is a Pushcart-nominated poet with Wisconsin roots, now living in Houston. He has published one collection, "Bluebonnet Whispers," and has published more than 100 individual poems and some fiction. A gay man with three grown children and four wonderful grandchildren, he says he can be a mass of contradictions. Poetry helps him to sort it all out.

Stephen's program was titled, "Why Long Poems Are Unicorns." He read one long poem by David Wagoner as an example of how it was constructed and the poetic techniques it used. Different sources describe a long poem as being 60-80-100 lines or more, or 3-10 pages long. Keep in mind a Long poem is not an essay, history, prose—it must contain poetic devices. Stephen then offered several ideas, suggestions, and cautions about writing long poems. **Warm**

Up Activities: 1) Take 2 minutes to write 7-10 descriptions about that day. 2) Two minutes to write 7-10 poetic descriptions or phrases about the month, year, planet, whatever. **Advantages** of writing a Long Poem: 1) Able to follow a Narrative. 2) Able to sustain a mood. 3) Easier to build a humorous poem—more of a stand-up routine than a joke. 4) Approach a topic from many viewpoints. 5) Longer is perhaps more memorable. 6) Similarly-themed poems can be combined. **Disadvantages** of a Long Poem: 1) Sustaining interest. 2) Losing people during an oral reading. 3) Possibility of verbosity—being too wordy. Consider every word used as well as the flow and pacing of the poem. 4) Maintaining consistency of theme and style. 5) Tough to workshop them. 6) Few publishers will consider long poems. **Finding a Topic** for a Long Poem: 1) Something with multiple components—seasons, family, foods, etc. 2) Topic with many viewpoints or ambivalence. 3) Create a narrative. 4) Use multiple snapshots over time.

Long poems take time to read and require a different kind of attention from the reader and/or the listener. Minds tend to wander. But long poems are ambitious and create an intimacy that short poems don't. However, they can also be egotistical and obnoxious. Long poems are imperfect—they can embrace, reject, and re-embrace imperfection.

Sometimes that is because they are trying to describe real life, and life is imperfect and messy. **Monthly Contest Chair Lynn Roberts Grice** reminded us that monthly contest entries should be sent to the official contest email address:

monthlycontestchair@poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Please send ONLY contest entries to that address.



December PST Contests

General Contest Judge: Kathy Lohrum Cotton, Anna, IL.

1st—Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield—Amenhotep Incants His Funerary Rites

2nd—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie

3rd—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio

Laugh Lines Judge: Doris Brogan, Dallas

LL Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Book Prize winners: Popular—Michael Guinn, Irving; Badger—Fred Manchester, McKinney; Birma's Collection—JDarrell Kirkley, Quitman; Marshall—Mo H. Saidi, San Antonio; Seadog CD—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland.

Other poems were by Sheri Flowers Anderson, Barbara Blanks, Laurie Kolp, Pamelyn Casto, and Hollis Davis.

Annual Critics Judge: David Meischen, Albuquerque, NM

Annual Critics Award: Susan Maxwell Campbell, Mansfield, for her September winner, *The Market*

In Memoriam

VPST regrets to inform our membership of the passing of Valerie Martin Bailey. Valerie was a Life Member of PST. She had a long and storied career as a poet. Valerie edited several poetry anthologies, served as Second Vice Chancellor of NFSPS, and Councilor for PST. She was the recipient of both the President's Award and the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award. She chaired two PST state poetry conferences and one national poetry conference. Much in demand as a judge for poetry contests across several states, including Texas, Valerie was also a sponsor of the David Park Martin Memorial Award, the Mary Elizabeth Martin Memorial Award, and the Hugh C. Bailey Memorial Award with PST. She was also editor of the PST Bulletin. Valerie will be missed and we extend our sympathies to her family.

We have one new Student Member: Annabella Griggs, Dallas

Welcome to PST!



The Board of Directors of the Poetry Society of Texas is seeking a volunteer to lead the PST Poetry in Schools Student Poetry Program. The young poets of today are the poets who will to kindle a finer and more intelligent appreciation of poetry tomorrow. If you are interested in leading this important work, or serving on a committee that continues this important work - please contact Catherine



UP COMING

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The Denton Poets Assembly plans to host the 2025 Summer Conference in Denton, July 17-19, at the Springhill Suites. Committee members Betty Roberts, Paul Causey, and Steve Sanders are already hard at work making this happen. The theme will be *Side By Side—Together in Poetry*. Details as they become available.

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A Note from PST Monthly Contest Chair - Lynn Roberts Grice

The next contest is for the month of February.. Submissions for the February contest will be accepted from January 1 - January 15. We especially need Laugh Lines poems. Please review the complete Monthly Contest Rules on the PST website as they have changed. www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

General Contest Poems have a 28-line limit with no more than 60 characters per line, including punctuation and spaces. Laugh Lines have a 16-line limit. One-line titles and spaces between stanzas do not count as lines, but all other lines do—including second line of a two-line title, epigraphs, form identifications, etc. Submit one typewritten copy for each contest entered as a .doc or .docx attachment. (Not in the body of the email) No PDF's, JPG's, artistic fonts, or artwork will be accepted. Type General or Laugh Lines in the upper left-hand corner. Type your name, address, phone number, and email address in the upper right-hand corner.

Eligible entries will only be accepted from Life, Student, and Active members who have paid their annual dues. Please don't forget to renew your PST membership prior to submitting your entries if you haven't done so already. (*see below)

We have a new email address for submissions:

MonthlyContestChair@poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Please include – PST & "Month" Monthly Contest in the subject line

Or mail entries to:
Lynn Roberts Grice
9611 Magnolia Ridge Dr
Houston, TX 77070

Lynn Roberts Grice,
Monthly Contest Chairman
Poetry Society of Texas



A Note From Our PST Corresponding Secretary - Carol Thompson

Hello, poets! We've moved into another year of writing poetry and making plans for our writing projects - a time of creative expectation! In the midst of writing, please take time to make sure your membership with the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) is current. Annual membership dues are \$ 25.00 payable by the end of June each year (or \$ 500.00 for life.) While we send out reminders, we know life gets busy and dues payment can fall by the wayside.

You can mail your dues to Lynn Lewis, membership chair (elsquared59@yahoo.com) at

Lynn Lewis
1704 Enderly Place
Fort Worth, Texas 76104

and can even send them via Paypal ([paypal.me/PSTexas](https://www.paypal.me/PSTexas)).

You can be dropped from the rolls for failing to send dues by November 30. We know that you don't want to be dropped! Membership entitles you to enter the free monthly contests, PST annual contests - and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) for a reduced fee. Paying your annual PST dues means that you are automatically a member of NFSPS. You also receive PST's The Bulletin and A Book of the Year. Membership allows you to join the PST-For Members Facebook group to receive current information and links not available to the general public. Pay your dues and keep up with us!

Our general PST meetings are now held on Zoom, so you can attend no matter where you live. Our meetings provide current information, member-featured Spotlight poetry, program speakers, contest results - and fun! You can read about both societies at poetrysocietyoftexas.org and at nfsp.org. Take an active part in these organizations - they are well worth your time!

2024 Poetry Society of Texas Annual Awards November 9, 2024



For more photos and
information on the 2024 Awards
Ceremony see the PST website.
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org



Fort Worth Poetry Society
Since 1910

The Fort Worth Poetry Society

In Cooperation with the Poetry Society of Texas Offers

The William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest, 2025

The contest honors the late Fort Worth poet William D. Barney, one of the most distinguished poets Fort Worth and Texas has produced, a former member of FWPS, and past president of the Poetry Society of Texas. Barney won the national Robert Frost Award in 1961 and was Texas Poet Laureate in 1982-83.

The winner will receive \$50 plus 10 free copies of the published chapbook. **Deadline: March 1, 2025.**

Rules for Entry:

1. This contest is open to Texas residents and/or active PST members only. Entry fee for Members of the Poetry Society of Texas is \$15. Entry fee for Texas resident non-members of PST is \$25. Payment should be made to: paypal.me/FWPoetrySociety.
2. Contestants should email their manuscript as a (.doc, .docx, or .pdf) attachment to fwpoets@gmail.com. Please put "Barney Chapbook Contest" as the subject line. English only, no translations. The manuscript should be a minimum of 20 but no more than 30 pages of poetry with no more than one poem per page. Poems should be in 12-point Times New Roman font and have no more than 50 characters per line including spaces.
3. The manuscript may include both published and unpublished poems, but may **not** include poems from other books or chapbooks by the author. A majority of unpublished poems is preferred but not required. Do **not** include acknowledgments with the manuscript. The winner will supply an acknowledgments page, if needed, during arrangements for publication.
4. All works must be the author's original work and shall not include works generated by the use of AI.
5. The author must **not** be identified on the manuscript. Include name of author, address, phone, email, and title of the manuscript in the body of the email. **Entries will be received between January 1 and midnight, March 1, 2025.**
6. Manuscripts with poems that contain gratuitous sexual content will not be considered.
7. Fort Worth Poetry Society will assume the production costs of developing the manuscript into a market-ready, soft cover collection. This includes editing, cover design, pricing and ISBN registration. Upon publication of the finished chapbook, the author will receive 10 free copies of the chapbook, with additional copies available at the author discount of 50%.
8. FWPS reserves the right to print and sell additional copies at retail cost. Except for the rights granted to the FWPS, the winner will retain the copyright to the chapbook.
9. The winner of the contest will not be eligible to enter again for six years. Current members of the Fort Worth Poetry Society are not eligible to enter this contest.
10. A qualified, impartial judge selected by FWPS, but not a member of FWPS or PST, will select the winning manuscript. The judge's name will not be announced until the winner is announced.
11. The winner will be invited to do readings from the chapbook at a PST Conference; at a monthly meeting of PST in Dallas; and at a public poetry program sponsored by FWPS.
12. Entering the contest acknowledges agreement with these stipulations.
13. Announcement of the winner will be at the April, 2025, PST meeting and by email to entrants.
14. Address any questions about the contest to: steve.sanders@gmail.com.

NFSPS News

Your PST dues include membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. The latest issue of Strophes, the NFSPS newsletter is on their website. Strophes is no longer mailed to PST so you have to go online if you want to see it or print it if you want a copy.

Full details can be found at nfsp.net. Please share widely!



STROPHES
NFSPS

NFSPS Annual Convention is Scheduled for
July 23-28, 2025
Albuquerque New Mexico
(for details see Strophes
at the NFSPS website)

Checkout
Catherine's PST Strophes
Update (Page 5)

Details about the following contests sponsored by NFSPS are
published in the October Edition of Strophes now available at
nfsp.net

- NFSPS 2023 College Undergraduate Poetry competition, Dec 1 - Jan 31, 2025 (Details NFSPS website)
- 2025 BlackBerry Peach (Spoken word) submission period: Jan 1 - March 15, 2025 (Details NFSPS website).
- Annual NFSPS Contest Submission Period submission period: Jan 1 - March 15, 2025 (Details NFSPS website).



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About the *Bulletin* of The Poetry Society of Texas

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Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia Reporting

Our November meeting was on November 2nd. Our featured speaker was our own Antoinette Winstead who reported on Ekphrastic Poetry. She shared her poem and encouraged us to try our own ekphrastic poem. She also shared Ekphrastic Poetry Challenge and Contest at The Ekphrastic Review at www.ekphrastic.net. She also recommended Ekphrastic Poems read by American poets at the America Writers Museum, americanwritersmuseum.org. Many thanks to Antoinette for providing our workshop.

The winning poems for October were: Assigned Topic of Relationships: 1st Place: Sheila Moore; 2nd Place: Victoria McCormick; 3rd Place: Antonia Murguia; 1st Honorable Mention: Sheri Anderson; 2nd Honorable Mention: Antoinette Winstead; 3rd Honorable Mention: Susan Sabino. The Open Topic: 1st Place: Sheila Moore; 2nd Place: Antonia Murguia; 3rd Place: Carol Siskovic; 1st Honorable Mention: Rene Ornes; 2nd Honorable Mention: Sheri Anderson.

We then enjoyed our refreshments provided by Charles Jones and Antonia Murguia. Next month our Assigned Topic is *Blessings Just In Time*.

Our December meeting on the 7th began with a wonderful Christmas Luncheon with food brought by all. So nice to catch up and just enjoy the time. We had no featured speaker.

After the luncheon, we began the meeting with the winners of the November contest. Our Assigned Topic winners were: 1st Place: Sheri Anderson; 2nd Place: Carol Siskovic; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Sara Hardy. The Open Topic winners: 1st Place: Susan Sabino; 2nd Place: Shari Anderson; 3rd Place: Carol Siskovic; Honorable Mention: Antoinette Winstead.

Our January meeting will be on the 6th. Our Assigned topic is *A Journey*. Happy New Year 2025! May our poetic minds continue to flourish.

Denton Poets' Assembly

Betty Roberts Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly met Saturday, Dec. 21, 2024, at Emily Fowler Library with poets attending in person and by Zoom.

Stephen Souris presented a close read of a poem by U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limon, the poet laureate featured in December's Read and Respond series.

DPA members read original response poems to Limon's poems.

Members then shared "free" poems on PowerPoint, with one member presenting an original inspirational read.

Henri Cole, an American poet who has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and has published several collections of poetry, will be the Read and Respond poet for January. DPA will meet from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Jan. 18.

In the kudos section of the meeting, Robert Schinzel read "The Antlion: An Ambushing Insect," which won a PST contest in 2024. Ann Howells read her winning PST poem, "It's Toxins not Dachshunds."

Because DPA is committed to the hybrid meeting style to accommodate members who live too far to drive to Denton, we invite all interested persons to contact President Richard Kushmaul (richardkdpa@gmail.com). We meet the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Galen Steele Reporting

The Fort Worth Poetry Society assembled on November 26 to promote poetry and read/critique the work of fabulous up and coming poets. This dedicated band of poets meets every month to make the world a better place one poem at a time.

Quicksilver Poetry Festival is scheduled for April 26 at the Grapevine Public Library in Grapevine, TX. Mark your calendar now

William D Barney Chapbook Contest is now open. Submit your fantastic work now. Information in the link below:

<https://fwpoets.org/chapbook-contest/>

Neal Ostman, our fearless Vice President, was back with a new bionic knee, and he can now run like a cheetah and leap over small buildings.

FWpoets.com Keep your eye on our new website: fwpoets.org for local poetry news, links for poetry publication submissions, links to Texas literary journals, and the latest "Poetry for the Soul" podcasts.

Kudos and Events:

Amanda Russell's poems were accepted by Gulfstream Magazine.

Susan Ayres and Amanda Russell were the latest guest poets on the Poetry Medicine for the Soul Podcast. <https://poetry-medicine-for-the-soul.simplecast.com/episodes/amanda-russell-and-susan-ayres>

Steve Sanders put on five performances at Steampunk November, participated in the Steampunk poetry slam, and hosted a pirate poetry event in September.

Fort Worth Poetry Society (continued)

Cade Huie received a number of honors in the PST annual contests: three 1st place, 4 2nd place, and 1 3rd.

Galen Steele was 2nd in the PST Manuscript contest for his manuscript Five Things.

Members critiqued 7 poems that, quite frankly, would be the envy of many a Texas poet.

Mockingbird Chapter

Brian Cummings & Nancy Gilbert Reporting

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) met on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney. There were 13 members and two guests in attendance. The meeting followed the MPS Annual Christmas Potluck luncheon.

President Susan Mardel reported that MPS was well represented at the annual awards banquet for the Poetry Society of Texas Nov. 9. Five members took top honors in various contests including Mary Ellen Bluntzer (3) Catherine L'Herisson (2), Brian Cummings, Doris Brogan and Beth Turner.

Barry Rynk reported that there were now 26 pairings for the Art Meets Poetry event in February, with more expected as the deadline approached.

Beth gave an update on the Collin County Poetry Contest. It launched on October 15th, and she has already received an entry. She noted that she made a presentation on the contest to four different 5th grade classrooms at a local middle school.

Susan noted that Barry Rynk will be assuming the role as President in January and Nancy Gilbert, who was elected as Co-Secretary, will step in as Secretary until Doris Brogan recovers. Doris suffered a heart attack and was scheduled to undergo coronary artery bypass surgery.

Beth noted that MPS sponsors one of the PST contests and it is time to renew the sponsorship. Poems can be in any form on any subject, but no more than 28 lines. The members agreed to continue with the contest in its current form.

Poets Northwest

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

In September, we were challenged to write a scary poem for children and share it with the group. Most of our members, both in person and on Zoom, read their poems. There were trick-or-treat bags for the grown-ups, complete with spider surprises! For November,

Stephen Schwei told us to pick a poetic form we'd never tried before and write a poem to share. It was a challenge that our members enjoyed, giving their poetic reach a stretch.

Poets Northwest congratulates our members' wins in the PST Annual Contests! Terry Jude Miller won eight First Place awards; Eric Blanchard and Jeff Ward each brought home a First. Our award-winning members this year include Cheri Bell (20), Eric Blanchard (24), George Frederic Campbell (9), Daniel Hunter (17), Holly Jahangiri (11), Maxine Kohanski (14), Karen Mastracchio (4), Terry Jude Miller (43), Michael Owens (31), Steve Schwei (28), Mary Creviere Turner (15), and Jeff Ward (12). All in all, twelve of our poets placed 227 poems in ninety-three of 100 contests.

Stephen Schwei was PST's Guest Speaker in December. The topic was "long poems" - with an abbreviated workshop on how to write them and suggestions of where to submit them.

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you happen to be in the area, feel free to join one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month. Please contact PNW via social media for more information. Members and guests are encouraged to read original or favorite works during the second half of each monthly meeting. Our PST chapter is on the web at <http://www.poetsnw.com>, on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest>, on Twitter as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest. We're now on Bluesky, as well! [@poetsnorthwest.bsky.social](http://poetsnorthwest.bsky.social) Facebook at <http://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest>, on Twitter as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest.



Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On Thursday, October 24, 2024, Rusk County Poetry Society hosted its annual celebration of National Poetry Day with a light lunch and an open mic poetry reading at the McMillan Memorial Library in Overton, Texas. "Verses and Snacks," a midday break for poetry, was enjoyed by 16 poets and visitors from the East Texas area. The family of RCPS president Sue Roberts hosted a drawing for a two-night stay at Dame Fortune's Cottage Court, a boutique historic motel in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

On Thursday, November 21, 2024, eight RCPS poets and guests met in the multi-purpose room of South Main Church of Christ, Henderson, Texas. Mary Tindall presided over the afternoon due to the absence of Sue Roberts. Plans for the December Christmas gathering were finalized. RCPS members and guests will gather at the Tyler Museum of Art on December 19 at 11:30 for lunch, open mic, and a tour of the current art exhibit.

Mary T. congratulated RCPS poets who won places in the PST Annual Contests: Richard Hurzeler, Jackie McVey, Sue Roberts, Carol Thompson, and Janet Tyner. After some encouraging remarks about sharing poetry,

Mary T. hosted open mic. Readers were Donna Farmer, Richard Hurzeler, Ilenya Marrin, Mary Tindall, Janet Tyner, and Kate Vigneron.

Carol Thompson, Spotlight Poet, read her work from the 2024 Waco Wordfest Anthology and her first-place poems from the PST Annual Contests. Carol also taught a lesson on the *nocturna* poem, which was derived in the 18th century from the *nocturne*, a work of art having to do with evening or night. A traditional nocturna is three couplets linked by a nocturnal theme, a rhyme scheme of abacbcd, and written in iambic pentameter. Other nocturnas maintain the traditional theme, but are well-suited for free verse. The prompt from the lesson is to write a nocturna in any form you choose.



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

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