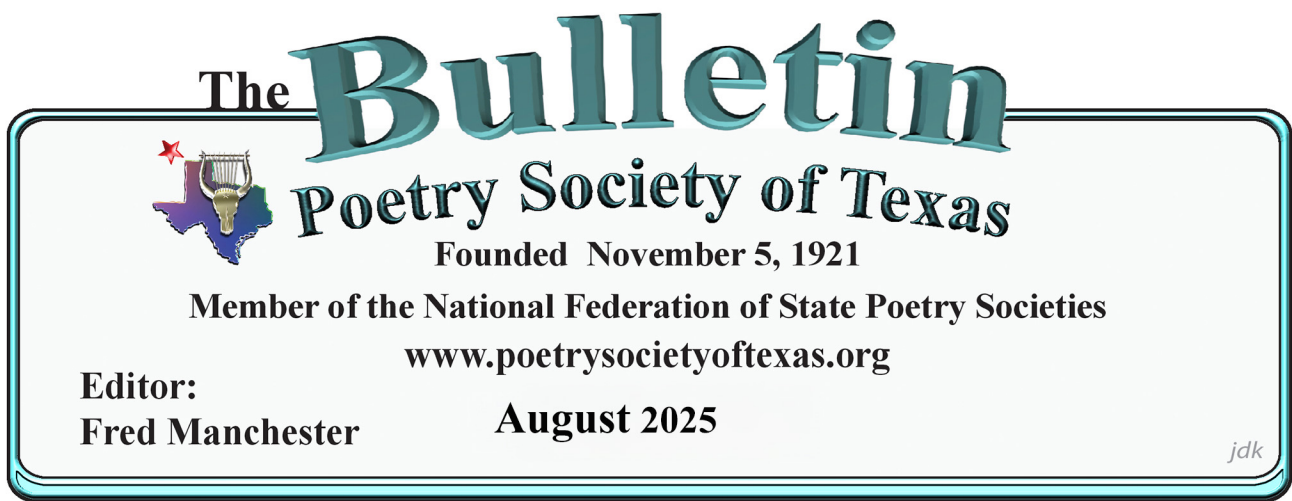




A Letter From Our New President

Holly Jahangiri

Dear friends,

Poetry lives in all of us—in the words we share, the stories we lift up, and the voices we bring to the public. Our mission is clear: to secure fuller recognition of poetry as an art form, to encourage the writing of new poems, and to spark a deeper, more thoughtful appreciation of poetry—*especially* the work of living poets who interpret the spirit and heritage of Texas.

The **Poetry Society of Texas** (PST) will turn 104 in January. To continue to thrive as a state poetry society—a member of the **National Federation of State Poetry Societies** (NFSPS)—we need every PST chapter and every member to join in. Get involved. Each of us brings something unique—our backgrounds, our perspectives, our voices—and it's when these differences meet that poetry truly shines. From sonnets and sestinas to spoken word and slam, we can learn from one another and grow as poets. Let's build a strong and welcoming community that celebrates the rich heritage and traditions of poetry while embracing new forms and

wild literary experiments. Together, we can give poetry greater visibility and inspire generations to come.

This year, we especially need leaders and volunteers to help with the following:

- The **Annual Poetry Contest** – a long-standing Poetry Society of Texas tradition that generates friendly competition and excitement among Texas poets. Budd Powell Mahan has selflessly served as Contest Chair for the past two years—please volunteer and give this fine poet a chance to enter the contests himself! I am sure that he, and past Contest Chairs like Lynn Roberts Grice, will be happy to provide you with guidance and answer any questions you may have.
- The **Statewide Student Contest** – a unique chance to ignite the spark of poetry in young writers across the state of Texas.
- Next year's **Annual Summer Conference** –an event that unites us in friendship and celebration of poetry. If you attended the conference this past July, you know that Denton Poets Assembly set the bar high, hosting a fantastic conference in 2025. I'm sure they'd be happy to share "lessons learned" and help the 2026 hosting chapter create a vibrant and energizing conference.

Your time, energy, and creativity can make a vital difference. We all have families, work, and other commitments in addition to PST. But we cannot do this without **you**. Remember: Many hands make light work. You needn't take on any of these responsibilities alone. Please contact me at president@poetrysocietyoftexas.org to let me know which of these things you could lead.

Together, let's ensure that poetry in Texas is not only written, read, heard, and celebrated, but embraced in all its richness—by every generation, in every form, and across every corner of our state.

With gratitude and excitement,

Holly Jahangiri

President, Poetry Society of Texas

president@poetrysocietyoftexas.org

<https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org>

The Next PST General Meeting - September 13, 2025

Galen Steele



Galen Steele enjoys being a proud father, a squirrely son, a weird uncle, a rambunctious friend, and a grateful husband. He amuses himself by scribbling poems into the margins of contracts, reports, and church bulletins. He writes poetry, memoir, and the occasional play. His prior work has been published in *Fireflies' Light*, the *Book of the Year* for the Poetry Society of Texas, the *Rat's Ass Review*, and the *Central Texas Writers Anthology*. His debut collection of poems *Five Things* is available for pre-sale now at *Finishing Line Press*.

***This meeting will be the first with our new Executive Board members.
Stop by and say "hi!"***

President: Holly Jahangiri, Houston

VP: Michael Guinn, Irving

Recording Secretary: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Corresponding Secretary: Carol Thompson, Tyler

Acting Treasurer: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Director: Lynn Roberts Grice, Houston

Director: Betty Roberts, Denton

Director: Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

Dead Poet's (or the occasional President's) Quote of the Month

"When power leads man toward arrogance, poetry reminds him of his limitations. When power narrows the area of man's concern, poetry reminds him of the richness and diversity of existence. When power corrupts, poetry cleanses." - **John F. Kennedy**

Poetry Society Of Texas Annual Contest Chair

Budd Powell Mahan, Annual Poetry Contest Chair, has announced his retirement. The Board thanks Budd for his outstanding service as Chair. The Annual Contests are a cornerstone activity of PST. **We are seeking a volunteer (either an individual or a team) to ensure this important program continues going forward. Don't worry, we have great past Chairs to coach you. If you are interested please contact Holly Jahangiri, Catherine L'Herisson, or Barbara Blanks.**

PST Monthly Contest

Lynn Roberts Grice

Winners of the July contest. 8 entries

General Contest Judge: Joseph Cavanaugh, Ormond Beach, FL

1st Place: Mo H. Saidi, San Antonio—*Douro River*

2nd place—Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

3rd Place—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio

Laugh Lines Judge—LeAnne Reaves, Hurst

Laugh Lines Winner—Barbara Blanks, Garland

Book Prizes—

Popular—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie
Birma's Collection—Fred Manchester, McKinney
Marshall Prize—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland
Seadog CD Prize—Sara Hardy, San Antonio
Other entry by LeAnne Reaves.

Please review the complete Monthly Contest Rules on the PST website as they have changed. The next Contest is for October - entries will be accepted until midnight September 15. send entries to 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) Monthly contest entries should be sent to the official contest email address: monthlycontestchair@poetrysocietyoftexas.org Please send ONLY contest entries to that address.

Please include – PST & "Month" Monthly Contest in the subject line
Or mail entries to:
Lynn Roberts Grice
9611 Magnolia Ridge Dr
Houston, TX 77070

A Note From Our PST Corresponding Secretary

Carol Thompson

Hello, poets! We will soon start another PST 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.

PST Membership Dues Were due Before July 1, 2025

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).

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!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, JULY 2025

Active Members...189, Associate Members...10, Honorary Members....5, Benefactor Members...2, Life Members...30, Student Members...5, Supporting Members...0, Sustaining Members...5, Recently Deceased Members...0

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP TOTAL...246

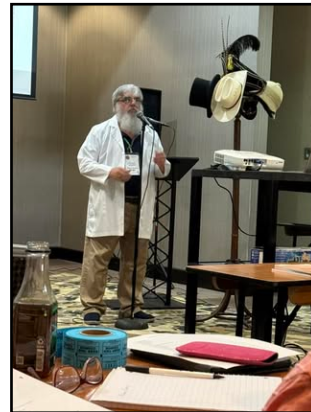
PST Welcomes our 6 New Members:

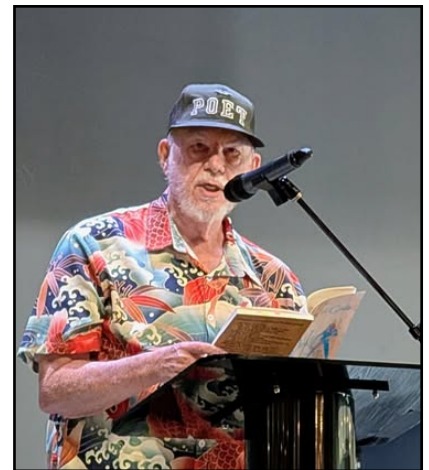
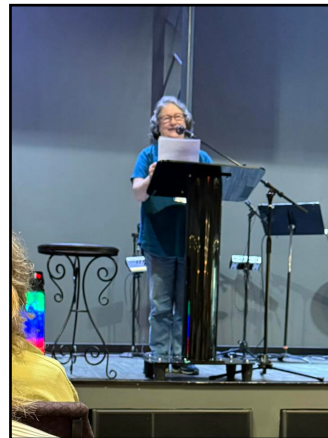
Adrienne Pamplin - Longview, Sandra McGarry (Associate) - Fort Collins, Colorado, Roger Bussell- Denton, Isaac Philo - Richardson, Victoria Carpenter - North Richland Hills, Larry Nouvel (Benefactor) - Plano

"Together in Poetry": Annual Summer Conference 2025

Thursday, July 17 through —Saturday, 19, 2025

In Pictures





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. Please make sure you are using NFSPS.net not “.com”.

The new August 2025 edition of Strophes is on the NFSPS website: NFSPS.net featuring:

- Images and information about the NFSPS Annual Convention, held in July 23 in Albuquerque New Mexico.
- Winners of the NFSPS Annual Contests - Congratulations to all PST winners
- Winners and details about the Blackberry Peach Contest.

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About the *Bulletin* of The Poetry Society of Texas

Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester
fmanchester@yahoo.com
Graphics: JDarrell Kirkley & Fred Manchester
Distribution: Carol Thompson (Corresponding Secretary)

News Deadline: 14th of each month by 8:00 p.m.
Please include the name of the Chapter in the Subject Line. The Bulletin is published monthly August through May; however, **only annual contest results are published in the November Bulletin.**
Bulletin is distributed to members via e-mail through the Corresponding Secretary and posted on our website at www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org under the “Publications” tab.

PST CHAPTER NEWS

Wildflower Poetry Society

Ilenya Marrin, Reporting

Formerly the Rose Garden Poetry Society of Tyler, the renamed and reactivated Wildflower Poetry Society met on June 12 and July 10, 2015, at the Tyler Public Library, with about a dozen participants each time.

The initial meeting focused on sharing how to critique in a helpful way, with moderator Janet Tyner presenting a poem for demonstration of the feedback process. In the second meeting, (moderator Ilenya Marrin) members Reagan Fair and Chelsea Seider shared poems for critique. The meeting also included writing and sharing poems from prompts — random words suggested by group members. Prompts for a poem (optional) for our next meeting are: destined, which, daisy, child, still, beautiful.

Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month. Next up: August 14, and September 11, 2-3;30 at the Tyler Public Library.

Mockingbird Poetry Society

Doris Brogan Reporting

The big event of the summer was the July PST Summer Conference in Denton. Some high points included the fun and informative workshops and the open mic nights. The book room offerings were a popular attraction. It's always fun to see and purchase new books PST members

have published. Perhaps the best experience was getting to interact with other PST members from around the state.

The first meeting of the AMP 2026 planning committee was in July. It takes a lot of planning and work to launch that exciting Mockingbird event each year!

Several Mockingbird members attended poetry workshops at the Writer's Garret in Oak Cliff over the summer. The June workshop was about writing poems with "Found Words" from words in newspapers, magazines and other printed sources, then reworking them into new creations. The August workshop, "The Head, The Eye, and The Heart" concerned what the poet can learn from photography by exploring the three pillars of photography and poetry; timing, composition and framing, then looking at photos and working on writing poems from their images. The Writer's Garret offers free writing workshops on the third Saturday of each month.

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia, Reporting

RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On May 15, 2025, seven members of the Rusk County Poetry Society met at the multi-purpose building of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson, Texas.

President Janet Tyner opened the meeting and Richard Hurzeler offered an invocation.

A motion was made and passed to revitalize the Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society under the new name of Wildflower Poetry Society, in partnership

with the Tyler Public Library, and retaining its status as a chapter of the Poetry Society of Texas. Meetings will continue the long-standing traditions of the founding group to share original poems and support growth as poets. Wildflower Poetry Society will meet at the Tyler Public Library each second Thursday afternoon, beginning June 12. Sue Roberts has arranged for the October poetry celebration to be held at the McMillan Memorial Library in Overton on Thursday, October 16. Ilanya Marrin was the spotlight poet and also presented the lesson “Having Fun with Prose Poetry.” She defined prose poetry and shared several contemporary examples for the group to analyze together. The lesson prompt for August is to look at a piece of visual art. Consider a past time or event and how you would relive or do it over, if you could, and then relate those thoughts to the image you looked at before. Let sentences flow, and when you are ready, edit for sound and rhythm until it pleases your poetic senses. The next meeting of RCPS will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at the South Main Church of Christ in Henderson, Texas

Denton Poets’ Assembly

Betty Robert's Reporting

Denton Poets’ Assembly shared response poems to John Berryman’s poems when the group met on Saturday, Aug. 16 at Emily Fowler Library. The group had 11 poets attending in person and 12 by Zoom. Free original poems were also shared.

Member Diane Glancy started the meeting with a close read of John Berryman’s “Dream Song 1”. Glancy said the poem had references to Berryman’s father’s suicide and his own alcoholism and depression. Glancy said Berryman’s poems remind her of Psalms in the Bible, which jump from David’s despair to glee.

Nine members shared their response poems, and member Susan Maxwell Campbell read a read and response inspiration poem called “Assurance.” Ten members then shared “free” poems on PowerPoint, with Sarah Wood reading and discussing the background of her inspiration free poem. Paul Causey read member Susan Maxwell Campbell’s prepared background information on September’s Read and Response poet, Robert Bly. Living from 1926 to 2021, Bly was famous for popularizing the “mythopoetic men’s movement” and his book “Iron John: A Book About Men.” He published more than 40 collections of poetry before dying of complications from dementia.

Campbell presented a mini close read of Bly’s poem “Driving Toward the Lac Qui Parle River,” pointing out the contrasting words he used.

In the kudos section of the meeting, Nancy deHonores read and explained her poem “Optimus Gen 3” about futuristic times.

Also during the kudos section, Vice President Betty Roberts thanked all the planning committee members for their work on the PST state conference, held July 17-19 in Denton.

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 Kushmaul (richardkdpa@gmail.com). We meet the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Poets Northwest

Lynn Roberts Grice Reporting

Poets Northwest welcomed guest speaker, David Siller from Queens, New York, via ZOOM, to our August 16, meeting. David is a poet, editor, translator, and occasional actor and director. He recently edited Terry Jude Miller and Stephen Schwei’s new book, *Catch Me at the Carnival*. His

very enjoyable, informative presentation and mini-workshop was on “Enjambment (Line and Stanza Breaks).”

Poets Northwest welcomes visitors and guests. If you happen to be in the area, we invite you to join one of our monthly meetings on the third Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 12 PM at Windwood Presbyterian Church. Please contact PNW via email or 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 <https://facebook.com/PoetsNorthests>, on X as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as poetsnorthwest. We’re now on Bluesky, as well! @poetsnorthwest.bsky.social

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Galen Steele Reporting

RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

jdk