

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

Septemeber 2025

jdk

The Next PST General Meeting - October 11, 2025

Our Speaker will be Chris Mikesell



In 2006, Chris Mikesell wrote his first poem, "Transport," which won third place in a contest (prize: bronze-plated bragging rights). After a hiatus of 15 years (during which he wrote short-fiction and survived a pandemic), he began writing poetry consistently, first published in January 2022.

Significant themes in his work include community and cooperation (and their antitheses, isolation and individualism), family, grace, and the nature of poets and poetry. A San Jose, Calif., native, he moved to the Dallas, Texas, area in 2007, started teaching high school shortly thereafter, and has lived in Wylie since 2009.

His work can be found internationally in Griffel and Verandah, domestically in The Quarter(ly) Journal, diet milk magazine, Teach.Write, Carolina Muse, Honeyguide, and Poem Alone. In late September, he was a featured poet at Poetry on the Patio, a poetry/spoken word event hosted by Mudhook Bar & Kitchen in Cedar Hill, sponsored by Mike Guinn Entertainment. Find him online at chrismikesell.com

Our Spotlight Poet: Rich Kenney

Rich Kenney is the type of guy who stops for a discarded, roadside paperback – its pages flipping restlessly in the wind. He's also been known to pull over for the butterfly that staggers out from the drunken dew of swaying grass, its direction clumsy but constant.

Rich is a graduate from a fifth-grade classroom that featured a mimeograph machine and a film strip projector. He remembers days when the grade school boiler room man threw back lost treasures from the building's rooftop at recess – things like hula hoops or balls that dodged a little too far off the mark.

Kenney suffers from occasional bouts of nostalgia.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"To be a poet is a condition, not a profession." — Robert Graves

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS
for Saturday, September 13, 2025, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

Newly seated **President Holly Jahangiri** welcomed our 23 attendees, which included three of our new Active members, former treasurer Neal Ostman, and several chapter officers and members. She also introduced the new and returning Executive Board members: Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary and Acting Treasurer; Carol Thompson, Corresponding Secretary; Director Catherine L'Herisson, also immediate past president; Director Lynn Roberts Grice; and new VP Michael Guinn and returning Director Betty Roberts, neither of whom was able to attend this meeting.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson gave the August Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 190, Associate 10, Life 30, Student 5, Honorary 5; Benefactor 2; Sustaining 5; Supporting 2; Recently Deceased 0. Total Membership: 249. We have several new Active members who joined between May and August and were not welcomed here in the Bulletin before now: Charles H. Stern, Woodway; Nick Sweet, Shepherd; Denise Bossarte, Houston; Jemma Hill, Austin; David Ruffin, Fort Worth; Kasey C. Ragan, Austin; Cameron Rabell, Richardson; Taylor Howell, Austin; Kalla Moles, Arlington; Eva Skrande, Houston; Rich Kenney, Tyler; Jackie D. Cunningham, Waco; Carie Juettner, Richardson; Rosalva Y. Ruiz, McAllen; Forrest Martino, Houston; Jerry Lovelady, Beaumont; Lisa Holcomb, Tyler; Lavanya Acharya, Allen; Kayla George, Athens; Robert E. Mallard, Kerrville; Adrienne Pamplin, Longview; Victoria Carpenter, North Richland Hills; Roger Bussell, Denton; Isaac Philo, Richardson. Also one new Benefactor/Active Member: Larry Nouvel, Plano. One new Student Member: Joanna Li, Austin. And one new Associate Member: Sandra McGarry, Fort Collins, CO. PST welcomes you all!

All new Active Members should have received a 2025 ABOTY from our membership chair. If you did not, please contact one of the board members.

Please encourage your chapter members to become members of PST to take advantage of the many things PST offers. We are one of the few societies that includes an anthology as part of our dues. Many other chapters make members pay for theirs in addition to dues.

Librarian Barbara Blanks had seven book donations to announce:

A Thread Too Slender, by Barbara Blanks.

Firefly, 2025 Anthology, Pennsylvania Poetry Society, Inc.

RVN, Poems and Photographs of the American War in Vietnam, by James Thomas Fletcher.

Sixty Thousand Silent Angels, by Isaac Philo.

The Common Language Project: Horizon, ed. by The Writer's Garret.

Streams of Verse, by Nancy W. DeHonores.

I Still Remember, by Maxine Barnes Kohanski

These books will be added to the permanent collection at the Dallas Central Library, which preserves them for future generations.

Acting Treasurer Barbara Blanks gave the August Financial report. PST is required to have general liability insurance for our in-person gatherings (only summer conference and awards banquet since Covid). Farmers Insurance rates increased to almost \$1,000/per year. State Farm offered a much more reasonable rate, saving us around \$800/year. Our highest income was from annual contest entry fees, with about one-fourth of that used for postage to mail entries to the judges.

Budd Powell Mahan will be retiring as Annual Contest Chair after the 2025 contest is concluded. If you or your chapter are interested in the job, please contact President Jahangiri. Also, Spotlight on Members Chair Catherine L'Herisson would like to retire from that position. The new chair needs to find only seven PST members to be the Spotlight Poet during the year. Please contact Catherine if interested in the position.

Per the intro provided by today's Spotlight Poet, President Jahangiri made the introduction: "We were desperate for a last minute Spotlight Poet, so we put the spot on Barbara Blanks, who hasn't been spotted anywhere since September, 2021. She also knows you don't really want to listen to any of her poetry, so she is going to subject you to actual good poetry written by real poets." Barb presented several poems, mostly from memory, by poets such as Edna St. Vincent Millay and Denise Levertov, including one about a hippopotamus by Patrick Barrington.

Director Catherine L'Herisson introduced our Program Speaker, Galen Steele. Galen, originally from Roseburg, Oregon, and now living in Fort Worth, said he "enjoys being a proud father, a squirrely son, a weird uncle, a rambunctious friend, and a grateful husband." He also learned early that "poetry was a powerful thing." He has been published in several anthologies, and has a debut collection, "Five Things," available for preorder from Finishing Line Press. He likes to make lists of five things as prompts to write his poems, while still trying to find common themes that hold them together. He read several of his generally short and humorous poems, which included such topics as memory (his being unable to memorize poems), and wearing paper clothes in the rain.

PST Monthly Contest

Lynn Roberts Grice

Winners of the September contest. 9 entries.

General Contest Judge: Kathy Cotton, Anna, IL

1st—Barbara Blanks, Garland—*The Goddess Chaos Reigns*

2nd—Fred Manchester, McKinney

3rd—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio

Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland

LL Winner: LeAnne Reaves, Hurst

Book Prize winners: Popular—Jeri Holcombe Ragan, The Woodlands; Birma's Collection— LeAnne Reaves, Hurst; Marshall—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland; Seadog CD—Victoria-Liya Carpenter, North Richland Hills. Other poems were by Sylvia S. Medel, and Sara Hardy.

Please review the complete Monthly Contest Rules on the PST website as they have changed. The next Contest is for December - entries will be accepted from November 1 until midnight November 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!

Introducing our new PST Board Of Directors

Graphics Courtesy Mike Guinn Entertainment.

HOLLY JAHANGIRI
PRESIDENT
THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026

The Poetry
Society of
Texas

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

A portrait of Holly Jahangiri, a woman with blonde hair wearing a blue t-shirt, standing against a yellow crumpled paper background.

MICHAEL GUINN
VICE PRESIDENT
THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026

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A portrait of Michael Guinn, a man with glasses wearing a blue suit and bow tie, pointing forward against a yellow crumpled paper background.

LYNN ROBERTS GRICE
DIRECTOR
THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026

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A portrait of Lynn Roberts Grice, a woman with dark hair wearing a black and white patterned jacket, against a yellow crumpled paper background.

Catherine L'Herisson
DIRECTOR
THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026
"Immediate Past President"

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A portrait of Catherine L'Herisson, a woman with glasses wearing a floral patterned top, against a yellow crumpled paper background.

BARBARA BLANKS
Recording Secretary,
Librarian, Acting Treasurer
**THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026**

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A portrait of Barbara Blanks, an older woman with glasses wearing a pink shirt, against a yellow crumpled paper background.

Carol Thompson
Corresponding
Secretary
**THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026**

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A portrait of Carol Thompson, an older woman wearing a pink and white striped shirt, against a yellow crumpled paper background.

BETTY ROBERTS
DIRECTOR
THE POETRY
SOCIETY OF TEXAS
2025-2026

The Poetry
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Texas

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

A portrait of Betty Roberts, a woman with dark hair wearing a blue and white patterned top, against a yellow crumpled paper background.

Poets in a Pumpkin Patch

Annual PST Awards Banquet Saturday, November 8th 2025

DoubleTree by Hilton
(near the Galleria)
4099 Valley View Lane
Dallas, Texas 75244



Please join us! PST's Annual Awards Banquet is on November 8th at the DoubleTree Hotel – 4099 Valley View Lane – Dallas, TX. You do not have to be a contest winner to attend. This is a chance to gather with poetry friends for a luncheon and an afternoon of award winning poetry. First, Second, and Third place winners are announced. First place winners, if present, will read their poem. Doors open at 11:00 am. Please see the PST website for more information. The Registration Form will be posted soon. Contact Beth Ayers if you have questions: beth.ayers55@gmail.com

The Registration Form will be available on the PST Website and distributed through a special edition of the PST Bulletin.

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.

Current NFSPS Contests

NFSPS Contests

[NFSPS 2024 Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition](#) (Submission period: August 15, 2025 – October 15, 2025)

[NFSPS Manningham Trust Student Poetry Contest](#) (Submission period: September 15, 2025 – November 15, 2025)

[NFSPS 36th Annual College Undergraduate Poetry Contest](#) (Submission period: December 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026)

About the *Bulletin* of The Poetry Society of Texas

Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester

fmanchester@yahoo.com

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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.

POST CHAPTER NEWS

Wildflower Poetry Society

Ilenya Marrin, Reporting

The Wildflower Poetry Society met on August 14 at the Tyler Public Library, with eight participants. Janet Tyner served as Moderator. Several read poems based on last month's prompts. Chelsee Seider, Reagan Fair and Lisa Holcomb shared poems for critique. Janet provided prompts for optional poetry writing for next month: honest, dream, sidewalk, wheel, thunder.

Our next meeting (second Thursday of the month) will be September 11, 2-3:30 at the Tyler Public Library.

Mockingbird Poetry Society

Doris Brogan Reporting

The city of McKinney held their Second Annual McKinney Literary Fest August 23-24 at the McKinney City Hall. The Mockingbird Poetry Society is located in McKinney. Beth Ayers organized the Mockingbird participation for this event. They had a book table with books for sale by club members Beth Ayers, Sylvia Medel and Isaac Philo.

There were several categories of author talks and panel discussions available for attendees during the two-day festival. Six Mockingbird members gave readings from their books in the Memoir/Poetry Authors Readings section: Lavany Acharya, Beth Ayers, Susan Mardele, Sylvia Medel and Isaac Philo gave reading from their published poetry; Kavya Beburu read her Art Metts Poetry 2025 People's Choice Award winning poem "A Vessel of Hope" while artist Anjali Golwala displayed her corresponding artwork "Strength in Fragments." Mockingbird member Lopamudra Banerjee read from her memoir "A That Jazz," which won an honorable mention at the New England book festival.

Brian Cummings had his poem "The Water's Boiling" accepted for publication in the Journal of Unpublished Poets.

Brian Bowles is going to have his sonnet, "Natural Wondrous World" published in an online anthology compiled from poems written about nature from an outing, Poetry in Place," a community writing workshop by guest contributor Alan Gann, on August 16, on the Trinity Forest Train on the bank of the Trinity River in Dallas. The event was sponsored by the Writers Garret.

Brian Bowles and Doris Brogan attended an open mic venue at Trinity Cider in Deep Ellum in Dallas sponsored by the Writer's Garret. It was hosted by Lyric Hunter and well attended with at least 30 readers. The readings were an eclectic mix; a short story, songs as lead-ins to poems, traditional poetry, hip hop and two poems read by Dallas Poet Laureate Meg Gabbert. This open mic event will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia, Reporting

AAPT has started the new year with energy. We had new guests who joined and became members. I was so excited about that. Our featured speaker was me! I introduced my new book, *Antonia's Poetic Heart*. Several poems were read and the members enjoyed the poems, especially, Little Growing Stella, A Cherished Treasure, and True Love. As the speaker, I could see many smiles on member's faces. This was especially wonderful for me. Our members who won the Assigned Topic were: Honorable Mention: Lea Fagin; 3rd Place: Charles Jones; 2nd Place: Sheila Moore; and 1st Place: Sheri Anderson. For the Open Topic: 2nd Honorable Mention: Rene Ornes; 1st Honorable Mention: Sheila Moore; 3rd Place: Raymond Spiak; 2nd Place: Carol Siskovic; 1st Place: Sheri Anderson. Next month our assigned topic will be *Improbable Found Joy*. The judge will be Jerri Hardesty. In October, we are excited that San Antonio's Poet Laureate, Eddie Vega to be our guest. We can't wait! Next month, we meet on October 4th at 2 pm at Tobin Library. Everyone is welcome. As always, sweet poetic dreams.

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

You are invited to Celebrate Poetry as a guest of Rusk County Poetry Society on Thursday, October 16, 12:00-2:00 p.m. We will enjoy a snack lunch and take part in open mic at the McMillan Memorial Library, 401 S. Commerce St, Overton, Texas. Bring a friend and some poems to read.

At our previous meeting on August 21, 2025, five members gathered 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. Plans were made for the October 16 celebration of poetry at the McMillan Memorial Library in Overton. Ilenya Marrin reported that four members of RCPS (Lisa Holcomb, Ilenya Marrin, Carol Thompson, and Janet Tyner) enjoyed a great time at the PST Summer Conference in Denton. During open mic, Richard Hurzeler, Ilenya Marrin, Sue Roberts, Mary Tindell, and Janet Tyner read some of their poems. Mary Tindall shared a Shel Silverstein poem and a goal-setting exercise that she used every year with her elementary school students. She encouraged each of us to decide on one thing we want to accomplish this year, write it down, and keep it handy to think about. Mary then presented "How to Cento," a lesson on creating cento poems from lines written by other poets. She shared two that she wrote, and gave helpful ideas for getting started. Mary also made haiku cento bookmarks for everyone. The lesson prompt is to use the instructions in Mary's lesson to create your own cento and bring it to the September meeting.

The next meeting of RCPS will be held 2:00-4:00 p.m., on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at the multi-purpose building at the back parking lot of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson, Texas. **Bring items for the gift bags we will distribute at the poetry celebration in October.**

Denton Poets' Assembly

Richard Kushmaul Reporting

The Denton Poets' Assembly met Saturday, September 20 at the Emily Fowler Library with 9 attending in person and 13 attending via Zoom. President Richard Kushmaul presided. Roger Bussell kicked off the meeting with a Power Point accompanied close read of Robert the Bly Poem "Fall". His presentation included workshop guidance and a challenge to write a three-line poem modeled after Bly's poem. He then recited his own "Fall" poem as an example response.

Respond poems inspired by some aspect of Robert Bly's work were then read by submitting members. These poems were given in response to poems by Robert Bly that Susan Maxwell Campbell had curated. PowerPoint slides, also created by Susan, accompanied the readings. Diane Glancy read the R/R inspiration selection "The Day We Drove To See The Water Trough", a poem about a family drive into the countryside on a hot summer day when she was a young girl and her father's fascination with a self-filling water trough. Free choice topic poems were then read. Gene Kusterer, Zoom attending from Charlotte North Carolina, presented the inspiration selection "aspergil" a seven-line Haiku reminiscent reflection with Zen meditation qualities, reverse perspective, and religious undertones.

The introduction of the poet to be studied in October, Gary Soto, was given by Gene Kusterer. Soto, of Mexican American descent, has had 45 books published. His works often came from observations of daily life, portrayals of working-class characters, and personal memories. Soto focused on his friends and family, conjuring up times he shared with his friends as an adolescent and more recent moments spent with his young daughter. For further introduction Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a mini close read presentation of the Soto poem "Late Confession" Chris Boldt, who recently moved to Denver Colorado, attempted to attend via zoom, but had technical difficulties. Here's wishing you better luck next time Chris.

The next DPA meeting will be Saturday, October 18.

Poets Northwest

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

In September, Poets Northwest members were treated to a presentation by Timothy Green and Katie Dozier Green about their online and print poetry magazine, Rattle (rattle.com), its history, features, contests, and more. This is a well-respected, popular journal with a circulation of 12,000. The couple co-host the podcast, The Poetry Space_ They also read from their book, *Hot Pink Moon: A Crown of Haibun*. The Greens recently moved from California to the Woodlands, so we're thrilled to have them join us in the Houston area.

At our next meeting, in October, Steve Schwei and Terry Jude Miller, along with their editor David Siller, will present on the topic of "Collaboration". They will also read from their recently published book, *Catch Me at the Carnival*. Poets Northwest members were invited to write their own response to a poem by Steve Schwei.

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/ PoetsNorthwest](https://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest), 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

Treasure's report

We have enough money for a poor person's funeral
but not enough to make a rich person blink.

The Work

International Talk like a Pirate Day on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at the Grapevine Public Library, the Seadogs will be spouting piratical versification for your auditory edification! All three shows (11:00 AM, 1:00 PM, and 3:00 PM) are open to the public and FREE! There will be a pirate costume contest at each show WITH PRIZES! Come if you dare!

ArtsGoggle: October 11, 2025 visit the FWPS booth the have a poem read to you.

"A Night of Horror Poetry": The Fort Worth Poetry Society is the official "performing troupe" for this October 30th event at Grandma's on Magnolia. There will be two shows, one at 6 PM and another at 8 PM featuring horror poetry.

Friendswood Poets featuring Terry Jude Miller and Stephen Schwei

Time: Sep 6, 2025 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83132966638...>

Meeting ID: 831 3296 6638

Passcode: 823333

PST General Meeting viewing party at Steve Sanders house September 13, 2:00-4:00.

Check out the "Medicine for the Soul" podcast by our friend in Maine, John Gillespie! There are some very interesting, informative, and FUN podcasts on this list. Go listen to one! [Episodes | Poetry Medicine for the Soul](#)

Check out Mike Guinn's Monologue Slam on September 17th in Arlington. Details can be found at [The DFW Monologue Slam \(TM\) Tickets, Wed, Sep 17, 2025 at 7:30 PM | Eventbrite](#)

The Joy

We feasted on dishes prepared by twelve poets with recipes that spanned the depths of time and plumbed the depths of our souls. They were delicious and fortifying in every way, and some even better when we finished than when we began.

Kudos

As we parted, we consoled one another's struggles, and celebrated one another's successes. Mary-margaret Belota and Cade Huie have both being asked to judge contests. Amanda Russell had a poem accepted to Descant (TCU Press Journal), John Bartell will be a featured speaker on a CAPS program, and Galen Steele's book o' poems "Five Things" is available for pre-order from Finishing Line Press.

Looking forward

With gratitude to the faithful attendees assembled tonight, affection for our guests, and a fondness for those we missed, we adjourn until we can do it all again September 23.



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www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org