

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

October 2025

jdk

The Next PST General Meeting - December 13, 2025

Our Speaker To Be Determined - Watch for Announcement and Link

Dead Author's Quote of the Month

"I get a lot of letters from people. They say, 'I want to be a writer. What should I do?' I tell them to quit writing to me and get on with it." Ruth Rendell

New! New! New!

Show off your membership in Poetry Society of Texas with the first official, authorized t-shirt displaying the PST name and logo! Go to Zazzle.com and type Poetry Society of Texas in the search box. The t-shirts come in a variety of colors and sizes for men, women, and children. Look for other items soon. Think Christmas gifts!



https://www.zazzle.com/poetry_society_of_texas_official_t_shirt-256387697952197723

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS
for Saturday, October 11, 2025, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom
by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Holly Jahangiri welcomed our 27 attendees, which included two of our new Active members,

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson gave the **September Membership Report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. Active Members 193, Associate 10, Life 30, Student 6, Honorary 5; Benefactor 2; Sustaining 5; Supporting 2; Recently Deceased 0. Total Membership: 252. We have two new Active members: Reagan S. Fair, Tyler; and Justin Lemons, San Angelo. And one new Student member: Kayli Beaudet, Murphy. PST welcomes you.

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, and we also award monetary prizes in our monthly and annual contests.

Librarian Barbara Blanks had twelve book donations to announce. These members' books would have been lost if not donated from Mary Margaret Carlisle's library.

It's Always About the Rain, by Mary Margaret Carlisle.

W.U.I: Written Under the Influence of Trinidad Sanchez, Jr., by Juan Manuel Perez.

Anew on the Shores of Time, Peggy Zuleika Lynch.

Unleavened Bread, by Mary Ann Goodwin.

Leaving the Moon, by Darla McBryde.

Fire of Thorns, by Oscar C. Peña.

Flower Dance, by Sharon E. Young.

Where Dreamers Dwell, by Sharon E. Young.

Sunset Everywhere, by Laura Peña.

Earth and Stars: Poems 2007-2012, by Richard H. Peake.

Feathering Deep, by David M. Parsons.

Museum of Parallel Art, by Robert Wynne.

These books will be added to our permanent collection at the Dallas Central Library, which preserves them for future generations. Also, because of Mary's donation, a new monthly book prize will be announced in January, 2026.

Acting Treasurer Barbara Blanks gave the **September Financial** report. Our 3-month CD matured and was renewed for five months at a higher interest rate. PST also paid for the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award acrylic award, which will be presented at the November Awards Banquet, and paid an Honorarium to the judge of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Contest.

Budd Powell Mahan will be retiring as **Annual Contest Chair** after the 2025 contest is concluded. **Laurel Davis** of Monahans has accepted the position.

President Jahangiri introduced today's **Spotlight on Members** poet, **Rich Kenney**, Tyler. Rich says he is the type of guy who stops for a discarded, roadside paperback. He is a graduate from a fifth-grade classroom that featured a mimeograph machine and a film strip projector. He read several of his poems.

President Jahangiri also introduced our **Program Speaker Chris Mikesell** for **Michael Guinn of our Program Committee** who was temporarily unavailable. Chris, who lives in Wylie, wrote his first poem in 2006, which won third place in a contest. For the next 15 years he wrote short-fiction before writing poetry again and consistently. His work can be found internationally. 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. Chris's program was about "The Difference Between Writing Poetry and Writing Fiction." Essentially, of course, fiction is generally longer and takes more time to write, whereas poetry "can't have words that aren't worth anything." For those interested in stretching their writing to include fiction, it would be helpful to write prose poetry (prose but with all the elements of poetry—more about image than story) and/or Flash Fiction, which is fiction that usually contains somewhere between 99-1,000 words, and has a beginning, middle, and end—just like any story. He suggested reading authors you like—and don't like but who write well, then isolate items in their technique that work for you and learn from them. You can find Chris online at chrismikesell.com.

Annual Awards Banquet Chair Beth Ayers said the awards banquet will take place on Saturday, November 8. The information is in the Bulletin and on the PST website. **Your registration must reach her by October 31st!** You can snail mail registration and payment check directly to Beth at her home address. You may also email the registration form to her while submitting payment via Paypal (paypal.me/PSTexas). Please add \$2 to your payment to cover Paypal's fee.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

PST Monthly Contest

Lynn Roberts Grice

Lynn announced the winners of the October contest. 13 entries.

General Contest Judge: Susan Stevens Chambers, Mankato, MN

1st—Janet R. Tyner, Wind Power

2nd—Budd Powell Mahan, Dallas

3rd—Steve Sanders, Fort Worth

Laugh Lines Judge: LeAnne Reaves, Hurst

LL Winner: Barbara Lewie Berry, Mansfield

Book Prize winners: Popular—Fred Manchester, McKinney; Birma's Collection—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland; Marshall—Eric Blanchard, Houston; Seadog CD—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie. Other poem was by Barbara Lewie Berry.

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!

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 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 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

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

The Wildflower Poetry Society met September 11 and October 9 at the Tyler Public Library. At each meeting two or three poets presented work for critique. On October 11, Ilenya Marrin shared before and after versions of one of her poems, which were quite different and led to lively discussion. We also wrote short poems using prompts. About 8 poets are attending regularly with one or two new participants joining most meetings.

The next meeting is Thursday, November 13, 2-3:30 pm, Tyler Public Library, 201 S, College.

Mockingbird Poetry Society

Doris Brogan Reporting

Brian Bowles, Shiny Wu and Doris Brogan attended an entertaining night at the Tap the Mic open mic at Trinity Cider in Deep Ellum. The readings provided an eclectic mixture of readers and interesting poetry. The open mic is sponsored by the Writer's Garret and hosted by Lyrik Hunter on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

Several Mockingbird members attended a poetry reading in Irving that featured poems written by 14 area poets to celebrate Gay Pride. The poets each read their very moving poems, which were published in the chapbook, "Say It Loud."

Beth Ayers and Jiaan Powers attended an afternoon workshop sponsored by the Writer's Garret that featured the poet Naomi Shihab Nye, whose parents live in Dallas. Workshop attendees received a complimentary copy of Nye's book

Famous.

Several other Mockingbirds attended an evening talk by Nye and her friend and co-editor, Marion Winik, about a book, *I Know About a Thousand Things*, they edited and arranged to publish written by, Ann Alejandro, a friend who passed away.

Several Mockingbirds attended a haiku workshop conducted by April Walker at the Writer's Garret. Participants were shown snapshots highlighting urban scenes in Dallas, asked to select an image and write a haiku about it. Ms. Walker collected the photos and haikus. She will use the images and poems to make a quilt. She recently sold another quilt she'd made from photos and haikus. I think this qualifies as a most unique way to have a poem published.

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia, Reporting

Our October meeting was very enjoyable. Our featured speaker was San Antonio Poet Laureate, Eduardo Vega. He is a poet, storyteller, spoken word artist, and educator. He strives to put words for the ineffable, the cosmic and vibrant life within and around them. His roots are anchored in the cultural evolution of the South Texas mestizo. Mr. Vega read from his book, *Somos Nopales*. His poems are about his experiences and childhood. He read a poem about nopales (cactus) and his grandfather and then his grandmother. He also read several other poems. We all enjoyed his poems.

The winners for the Assigned Topic for September are: 1st Place: Charles Jones; 2nd Place: Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place: Lea Fagin; Honorable Mention: Susan Sabino. The Opened Topic winners for September are: 1st Place: Sheri Anderson; 2nd Place: Susan Sabino; Third Place: Antonette Winstead; Honorable Mention: Lea Fagin. The assigned topic for November is Beans. The judge will be Cade Huie. October's mornings are finally starting to feel cooler. This is my favorite time of year when the weather cools and feels like we are indulging in hope. Until next time, keep writing, poets.

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On Thursday, September 18, 2025, eight members and one guest of Rusk County Poetry Society met at the multi-purpose building of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson, Texas. After everyone enjoyed a short visit with John Morrow, President Janet Tyner opened the meeting and Richard Hurzeler offered an invocation. Mary Tindall reported that the previous bank account for Tyler Rose Garden Poetry Society was closed by the bank due to inactivity. After a discussion regarding ways to encourage poet participation in the RCPS contest for the PST Annual Contests, Ilenya Marrin moved that we increase the prize amount from \$25 to \$50. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor of making this change. At the November meeting we will share possible changes in the contest topic.

Richard Hurzeler, Spotlight Poet, incorporated two of his recent poems as models for his lesson, titled "Constellations." Richard showed how the prompt words are like stars in a constellation, and like a magnet to other words. The assignment for the November meeting is to select another word from this list: taste, meows, yellow, vaccine, window. Make it the focus of your poem and design your own constellation, then write a poem about it. If you like, you can create your own set of words.

Following the lesson, poets Donna Farmer, Lisa Holcomb, Ilenya Marrin, and Janet Tyner read their cento poems, written in response to Mary Tindall's August lesson. At the November meeting, others who wrote a cento will have a chance to read.

The October 16 meeting of RCPS will be the annual Celebration of Poetry, held at the McMillan Memorial Library in Overton. The November regular meeting will be held 2:00-4:00 p.m., on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at the multi-purpose building at the back parking lot of South Main Church of Christ in Henderson, Texas. Carol Thompson will be the Spotlight Poet and will present the lesson.

Denton Poets' Assembly

Betty Roberts Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly shared response poems to Gary Soto's poems when the group met on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Emily Fowler Library. The group had 11 poets attending in person and 12 by Zoom. Free original poems were also shared.

Member Chris Irving began the meeting by sharing a close read by member Ann Howells of Soto's poem, "After Midnight." Howell said the main theme of the poem is how we take too much for granted in life.

Ten members shared their response poems, and member David Webb was the inspiration reader with his poem, "Does the River Go Anywhere?" Webb said he has found there are three types of poets: those who write with the intent of being published, those who are accidentally published, and those who write as therapy.

Nine members then shared "free" poems on PowerPoint, ending with Cade Huie reading and discussing the background of her free poem, "Emergence."

Beth Honeycutt read Susan Maxwell Campbell's prepared background information on November's Read and Response poet, Wallace Stevens. Living from 1879 to 1955, Wallace worked in New York law firms and was an insurance executive, as well as a poet. He is known for arguments with both Robert Frost and Ernest Hemingway.

To introduce him, Campbell read a mini close read of Stevens' poem, "The House was Quiet and the World was Calm," showing how Stevens' key device was repetition to make his poem succeed.

In the kudos section of the meeting, Neeta Nayak of McKinney shared her poem, "A 'girl' child, NO less," a tribute poem for her grandmother in India. The poem is one of seven chosen for recitation at the McKinney Literary Festival in August.

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

Holly Jahangiri Reporting

In October, Steve Schwei and Terry Jude Miller, along with their editor David Siller, gave us a presentation on the topic of collaboration. They also read from their recently published book, *Catch Me at the Carnival* and inspired us to use the first poem in the book as a prompt and write our responses to it. Poets Northwest member Holly Jahangiri and her friend Necia Campbell of Vermont talked about their past and current poetry collaborations as well - some just for fun and others published.

For our November meeting, we will hold our annual elections for the Executive Board positions. The topic for the November meeting is to write a poem about gratitude or embracing gratitude.

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. You can find us on the web at <http://www.poetsnw.com>; on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest>; @HoustonPoets on X (aka, Twitter); @PoetsNorthwest on Instagram; and, poetsnorthwest.bsky.social on Bluesky

Fort Worth Poetry Society

Galen Steele Reporting



Poetry Society of Texas
www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

jdk