

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

February 2026

jdk

The Next PST General Meeting - March 14, 2026

Program Speaker: Amanda Johnson



Amanda Johnston is a writer, visual artist, and the 61st Poet Laureate of Texas. She earned an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Southern Maine. She is the author of two chapbooks, *GUAP* and *Lock & Key*, as well as the full-length collection *Another Way to Say Enter*. She is also the editor of the anthology *Praisesong for the People: Poems from the Heart and Soul of Texas*. Her work has appeared in numerous online and print publications, among them *Callaloo*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Moth Radio Hour*, *Bill Moyers*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships, grants, and awards from Cave Canem, Hedgebrook, Tasajillo, the Kentucky Foundation for Women, The Watermill Center, American Short Fiction, and the Academy of American Poets. She is a former Board President of the Cave Canem Foundation and the founder of Torch Literary Arts.



Spotlight Poet: Fred Manchester first began writing poetry and taking photos in high school and college. As the demands of family, career, and life increased he managed to keep a camera in his hand, but let poetry slip away. His landscape and still life photography has won several awards, while his product photography has earned few dollars. In 2018 he retired from a 35 year career in the beverage industry. Early in 2019, finding he still had things to say, he began to again compose poetry. Since then he has joined PST and in 2022 became editor of the PST monthly Bulletin. His work has garnered Several PST monthly and Annual Prizes in PST contests as well as a Collin County Poetry Award. He has had several poems PST's ***A Book of the Year***, ***Laugh Lines Anthology***, and a ***Collin County Poetry Anthology***. In 2024 Fred published a chapbook, *Postcards From a Small Town: Untold Myths of Texas* combining his love of creating images with his love of composing poetry in works he calls Visual Poetry.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"Poetry is the rhythmical creation of beauty in words."

-Edgar Allan Poe

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

for Saturday, February 14, 2026, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Holly Jahangiri welcomed our 21 attendees, including brand new member Coco Seney of Houston. Happy Valentine's Day!

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson gave the **January Membership Report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. Active Members 148; Associate 10; Life 27; Student 2; Benefactor 2; Sustaining 2; Supporting 2; Library 5. Recently Deceased 1. Hollis Davis, Trophy Club. Total Membership: 197. We have five new Active members: Daniel Garcia Ordaz, McAllen; Nephtali De Leon, San Antonio; Coco Seney, Houston; Thomas Smith, Austin; and Charles Gaines, Fort Worth. One new Associate Member: Mary Alice Higgs, Roxie, MS. PST welcomes you all!

Librarian Barbara Blanks had two book donations to announce:

Heraclytean Bird-Songs, by Michel-Vincent Corbeaux.

The Simplicity of Life, by Sheri A. Sutton.

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

Acting Treasurer Barbara Blanks gave the **January Financial** report. The sponsorship fees for the Perpetual Awards in the Annual Contests were transferred into the General checking account. The 5-month CD matures on Feb. 17. BB will meet with the banker on that day to determine what the best interest-rate option will be. The initial NFSPS dues for our members have been paid. A second payment will be made in early March to include new PST members. If you are planning on entering the NFSPS contests, that deadline is March 15. Your name must be included on the rosters sent to NFSPS in order to enter at membership rates.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Nominations for the Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award are now open. Nominations must be sent by letter or email to Budd Powell Mahan, the HRGOSA Chair. (buddmahan@att.net) before April 1, 2026. Nominations can be made by individual PST members or by PST members within a chapter. Nominees must be current PST members. No one on the PST Executive Board is eligible. Please summarize your basis for nominating an individual before sending to Budd.

Criteria for nomination includes:

1. Volunteer work, both time and effort, in support of PST at state or local level. (This includes Councilors and individuals who aren't chapter members.)
2. Someone who supports and encourages poets and poetry across the state.
3. Financial support to PST as in monetary awards, benefactions, and the like.
4. Regularity of attendance at state or local meetings. (Zoom now allows regular attendance of state meetings!)
5. Outstanding service to a local chapter.
6. Consideration should be given to cumulative service.

Once nominations are closed, a ballot will be included in the May Bulletin for voting by the entire membership. Complete details can be found on p.149-150 in the 2025 A Book of the Year.

Since no chapter or group has stepped up to host an in-person summer conference, the Board elected to hold a **one-day Zoom conference on July 11**. We need volunteers to help organize it, to line-up speakers, to perhaps host a workshop, and other activities. Please contact President Jahangiri or VP Michael Guinn if you are willing to help.

Vice President Michael Guinn introduced our **Spotlight on Members** poet, **Joshua Kite**, of Austin, and President of the Austin Poetry Society. Josh comes from a "blue-collar family of story tellers and jokesters." He

has a Bachelor of Science in Art Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, and a master of Fine Arts in painting from the University of Texas at Austin. He has been teaching, painting, and writing poetry ever since. Josh read several of his poems.

Vice President Michael Guinn also introduced our **Program Speaker, Immanuel Garcia**, winner of the 2025 William D. Barney Chapbook, sponsored by the Fort Worth Poetry Society, in cooperation with PST. His winning chapbook is titled, "Purple-Eyed Heirlooms." Immanuel describes himself as a Queer and Latino spoken-word artist and full-time recovering optimist, currently living in Lewisville. He has won multiple poetry slam and story slam competitions, and his pieces have been adapted for regional theatre productions. He not only has been published in such notable journals as *Mad Swirl*, *Yellow Dog Poet Society*, and *North Texas Review*, but he also has two collections of poetry: *Pèace De Résistance* and *Under Wannabe Moonlight*, available on Amazon. Immanuel says when he's not in poet flow, he's "likely bawling uncontrollably to slice-of-life manga, or hyper-fixating on a niche factoid about Ireland." He adds, "All work created by (me) is meant to be performed at some point, especially when your grandest audience is yourself." Immanuel read/performed several of his poems. One began, "Breathing is never a waste of time." He said that memories can be painful to look back on, but memories are also a gift that can be shared down the generations.

A Note From Our PST President

Holly Jahangiri

2026 PST Annual Contest Brochure has been (re)posted! Ready, set...GO!

Download your copy here: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/>

Note that there were several contest descriptions changed since the initial posting - there is a summary of changes posted at the web page above.

Your time, energy, and creativity are absolutely crucial to a thriving Poetry Society of Texas. We all have families, work, and other commitments in addition to PST. We cannot do this without you. Remember: Many hands make light work. Please contact me at president@poetrysocietyoftexas.org to let me know if you are looking for opportunities lead.

Hope to see you at our next meeting - it promises to be an exciting program!

PST Monthly Contest

Lynn Roberts Grice

Winners of the February contest. 13 entries.

General Contest Judge: Lynda LaRocca, Salida, CO

1st—Coco Seney, Houston—*And If She Knew*

2nd— Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

3rd—Betty Roberts, Denton

Laugh Lines Judge: Sara Hardy, San Antonio

LL Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

Book Prize winners: Popular— Barbara Blanks, Garland; Birma's Collection—Manuel English, Poulsbo, WA; Marshall—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie; Seadog CD—Nick Sweet, Shepherd.

Entries for the April contest should be sent between March 1 and March 15 review the complete Monthly Contest Rules on the PST website as they have changed. 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 Are 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 January 2026 edition of Strophes is on the NFSPS website: NFSPS.net

The 2026 National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Annual Convention and the BlackBerry Peach SLAM which will take place July 23- 26 in **Overland Park, Kansas at the DoubleTree Hotel and will be co-hosted by NFSPS and the Sunflower Poets of Kansas!** Check NFSPS.net for updates.

The theme will be Advocacy! Activism! Community! Hopefully this theme creates space to explore the importance and influence of poetry as an effective tool for shaping the internal and external landscapes of our world. It is our hope that the 2026 convention will be lifted in the optimism and spirit of poetry as community.

Current NFSPS Contests

NFSPS Contests

- BlackBerry Peach Spoken & Written Word Contest (Submission period: January 1, 2025 - March 15)
- 50 Annual NFSPS Poetry Contests (Submission period: January 1, 2025 - March 15)
- Convention Madness Submission Window (January 1 - April 30)

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!

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.

POST CHAPTER NEWS

Wildflower Poetry Society

Ilenya Marrin, Reporting

The Wildflower Poetry Society met on Thursday, February 12, with Janet Tyner as moderator and a small but very engaged group sharing poems for discussion and suggestions.

This group meets each second Thursday at the Tyler Public Library, 2-3:30 P.M.

The next meeting is March 12. One aspect of each meeting is critique (optional). If you would like gentle feedback on a poem, please bring 8-10 copies which will be returned to you with written notes from other members.

Mockingbird Poetry Society

Stay Tuned

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia, Reporting

Our February meeting was wonderful. Our featured speaker, Lea Fagin, did a great job with her presentation on Memoirs. Lea explained that a memoir is not an autobiography, but focuses on events, relationship, or period in a person's life. It is deeply reflective, and focused narrative.

The nuances of a memoir is important by focus on a specific event or theme, emotional truth, introspect and reflective. It also is effective with vivid scenes and sensory details and has personal voice and style. They are not perfect recordings of the past, but reconstructive, shaped by time, emotions, and perspective. Lea had the members write something that came to mind to start our own memoirs. We learned a lot of writing a memoir. For myself, it does not appear as difficult to start as I have once believed.

Our winners for the January Assigned topic are: 1st Place: Antoinette Winstead; 2nd Place: Charles Jones; 3rd Place: Sheila Moore; Honorable Mention: Carol Siskovic. The winners of the January Opened Topic are: 1st Place: Sheri Anderson; 2nd Place Sheila Moore; 3rd Place: Susan Sabino; Honorable Mention: Lea Fagin.

We enjoyed our February Valentine refreshments thanks to Antoinette Winstead and Vivian Skinner. Our March meeting will be on the 7th at 2 pm.

Until then, Happy Valentines, Black History Month, and President's Day!

Rusk County Poetry Society

Janet R. Tyner Reporting

On December 18, 2025, seven members and guests of Rusk County Poetry Society met at Tia Juanita's Fish Camp restaurant in Henderson to celebrate Christmas with lunch and sharing poems. Everyone enjoyed a great meal, and it was good to see some friends we had missed recently. A few people shared poems, either their own or some by well-known poets from the past. The next meeting will be at South Main Church of Christ in Henderson and will include installation of the 2026 officers, open mic time, and a lesson by Carol Thompson. On October 16, 2025, thirteen members and guests of Rusk County Poetry Society met in Overton, Texas, in the McMillan Memorial Library for "Verses and Snacks," an annual celebration of poetry. Those present enjoyed a light lunch, drawings for prizes, and hearing a variety of poems from the Jacksonville Poetry Group, Wildflower Poetry Society, and Rusk County Poetry Society. One lucky guest left with a coupon for a two-night stay at Dame Fortune's Cottage Court in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which was donated by Sue Roberts and her family.

Denton Poets' Assembly

Betty Roberts Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly shared response poems to Natalie Diaz's poems when the group met on Saturday, Feb. 21, via Zoom. Free original poems were also shared, along with close reads and inspiration reads. Because the Emily Fowler Library's meeting room was not available, the meeting had to be totally by Zoom rather than our usual hybrid meeting. The March meeting will be the same.

To begin the meeting, member Nick Lanier presented a close read of one of Diaz's poems. Several members then shared their response poems to one of Diaz's poems, and then members read original free-choice poems.

Member David Webb presented an introduction to our March poet, Ingeborg Bachmann, an Austrian poet and writer regarded as one of the major voices of German language literature in the 20th Century. Bachmann, who lived from 1926 to 1973, was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1963. Bachmann's somber, surreal writings often dealt with women in failed love relationships, the nature of art and humanity, and the inadequacy of language. Along with poetry, Bachmann published two radio plays, three volumes of short stories, and a novel. Susan Maxwell Campbell gave a mini close read of one of Bachmann's poems.

Poets Northwest

Lynn Roberts Grice, Reporting

Poets Northwest's January meeting was our annual reading of members poems that were submitted and/or won in the 2025 PST Annual Contest. Our February meeting was a brief overview of the most common types of Sonnets. And we paired up to write stanzas for a 10- minute collaborative Shakespearean sonnet. We brought one or two sonnets we had written, to share. Afterwards we had our Read-Around where attendees read one or two of their original poems.

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

It was commented during our read and critique that a particular word was “aggressively romantic” and I wondered what else might be inadvertently aggressive.

Upcoming Events (aggressively open to the public):

February 13, “A Night of Romantic Poetry” 7:00-10:00 pm
Romantic poems read by members of FWPS
at Grandma’s on Magnolia, 715 W. Magnolia Ave, Fort Worth

March 15, “An Evening of Poetry” 3:30-5:30 pm
Mike Guinn Entertainment and Mansfield Commission for the Arts
First hour FWPS read their work
Second hour tales of adventure
Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St, Mansfield

Save the Date :

May 5, Stage West celebrates Freedom and Independence with music and poetry.

May 30, Quicksilver III

Fort Worth Poetry Societies annual conference at the Grapevine Public Library details to come.

Kudos (aggressively humble):

Charlie Gains and Steve Sanders received Honorable Mentions from the Earth Amulet Poetry Prize, and will be published in the anthology.

Our next meeting: February 24, 2026, 6:30 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church, 3401 Bellaire Dr. Fort Worth (aggressively looking forward to seeing you there.)

