

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

March 2026

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The Next PST General Meeting - April 11, 2026

Program Speaker: Kevin Prufer



Kevin Prufer's newest books are *The Fears* (Copper Canyon Press, 2023), winner of the 2024 Rilke Prize, and *Sleepaway: a Novel* (Acre Books, 2024), a finalist for the Society of Midland Authors Award. Among his eight other books are *Churches*, which was named one of the best ten books of 2015 by *The New York Times*, and *How He Loved Them*, which was long-listed for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize and received the Julie Suk Award for the best poetry book from the American literary press. Prufer's work appears widely in *Best American Poetry*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, *The Paris Review*, and *Poetry*, among others. He is the 2026 Texas Poet Laureate and Professor of English at The University of Houston, where he also directs The Unsung Masters Series, a book series devoted to rediscovering great, long forgotten authors. His next books are *Good People: Poems* (Copper Canyon, 2027) and the novel *Summer of Shooting Stars* (Slant Books, 2028).



In The Spotlight:

Michael Guinn is a social worker turned activist who now uses the power of spokenword storytelling to share truth & transparency in a courageous display healing and inspiration. He holds a masters degree in Social Work and has become an internationally renowned award winning Spoken Word artist/actor/poet and workshop presenter. Michael is also a voting member of the recording academy and the NAACP image awards.

Dead Poet's Quote of the Month

"Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time."

-Thomas Merton

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

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

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

President Holly Jahangiri welcomed our 19 attendees, including new member Jerry Lovelady of Beaumont, and our program speaker, Amanda Johnston. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Librarian Barbara Blanks had no book donations to report, but gave the **February** Financial report as **Acting Treasurer**. The NFSPS membership dues for our newest members have been paid. The required 990N ePostcard for non-profits was filed with the IRS. And almost \$2,000 in contest sponsorships was deposited in the general account.

Corresponding Secretary Carol Thompson gave the **February Membership Report** for **Membership Chair Lynn Lewis**. Active Members 152; Associate 10; Life 27; Student 2; Benefactor 2; Sustaining 2; Supporting 2; Library 5. Recently Deceased 0. Total Membership: 201. We have four new Active members: Pat Hauldren, Grand Prairie; River Beall, Beaumont; Dorothy Clover, Beaumont; and Sherry Morgan, Port Arthur. PST welcomes you all! We are also delighted to welcome the 61st Texas Poet Laureate as an Honorary member of PST.

Please note: If your membership was not renewed by Nov. 30, 2025, your name was dropped from the roles. Renewing after that designates you as a new member.

April is Poetry Month! If you or your chapter do anything to celebrate, please report it to Fred Manchester for publication in the Bulletin, and to Catherine L'Herisson for her report to NFSPS.

Our summer conference will be a one-day event, held on Zoom on July 11. We will have speakers, possibly a workshop, an open mic, and winners of the July Monthly contest will be announced. More details as they become available.

Vice President Michael Guinn introduced our **Spotlight on Members** poet, **Fred Manchester**, of McKinney. Fred is our Bulletin editor. In 2024 he published his 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." He displayed one of his images with each of the three poems he read.

VP Michael Guinn also introduced our **Program speaker, Amanda Johnston** of Austin. Amanda 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*, which can be ordered through <https://hostpublications.com/>. Her work has appeared in numerous online and print publications. She has received fellowships, grants, and awards from several places including the Academy of American Poets. She is a former Board President of the Cave Canem Foundation and the founder of Torch Literary Arts. Amanda's program was about, "Poetry as Praise"—praise for people both known and unknown. Amanda asked attendees to make a list with two columns—one with people we knew, and one with people we didn't know—all those who made an impact on our lives. Praise can be complicated by the layers of our humanity. Praise expresses admiration, gratitude, gives homage or tribute to someone, proclaims positive attitudes. She talked about how precious even the seemingly small moments of connection are. Praise poems converse, connect, and document our community, because in spite of the billions of people on this earth, we are all closer than we think. "Choose kindness, choose grace." She said a poem can speak to a universal human truth indirectly, through nuance. Amanda's website link: <https://www.amandajohnston.com>

A Note From Our PST President

Holly Jahangiri

Happy National Poetry Month!

April is all about poetry - and so are we! We have a very special meeting planned.

The Next PST General Meeting - April 11, 2026

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.

Don't forget that we will be holding elections for Officers at the May Meeting. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring or suggest a candidate other than our current slate of officers, please contact a member of the nominating committee:

- Holly Jahangiri
- Catherine L'Herrisson
- Budd Mahan
- Marilyn Stacy
- Steve Sanders

We are currently planning to hold the Annual Summer Conference on July 11, 2026 online via Zoom. More details to come...

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. You needn't take on any of these responsibilities alone. Please contact me at president@poetrysocietyoftexas.org to let me know what projects you would like to lead or participate in.

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

PST Monthly Contest

Lynn Roberts Grice

Winners of the March contest. 13 entries.

General Contest Judge: Julie C. Cummings, Frederick, CO

1st—Jerry Lovelady, Beaumont—*The Bones of Winter*

2nd—Catherine L'Herisson, Garland

3rd—Cade Huie, Grand Prairie

Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Blanks, Garland

LL Winner: Cade Huie, Grand Prairie

Book Prize winners: Popular—Sara Hardy, San Antonio; Birma's Collection—Sheila Tingley Moore, San Antonio; Marshall—Barbara Blanks, Garland; Seadog CD—Wanda Jennings, Grand Prairie; Carlisle—Michel-Vincent Corbeaux, Groesbeck. Other poems were by Irene Robertson, Nick Sweet, and Richard Hurzeler.

Entries for the May contest should be sent between April 1 and April 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, 2026

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

- Convention Madness Submission Window (January 1 - April 30)



Fort Worth Poetry Society

Since 1910

The Fort Worth Poetry Society and
The Friends of the Grapevine Library present

Quicksilver III Poetry Festival

May 30, 2026 - 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM

At the Grapevine Public Library
1201 Municipal Way, Grapevine, TX

Featuring - Suzanne Rhodes, Poet Laureate of Arkansas

Plus - Cade Huie, Winner of PST Lubbe Manuscript Contest

A panel on publishing

A workshop on critiquing

Shakespeare Dallas will be joining us again this year

And we will have time for an open mic!

Open to the Public

AND IT IS ALL FREE!!!

If you are a poet, you do NOT want to miss this event!

Watch our website - fwpoets.org and our Facebook page
(www.facebook.com/FortWorthPoetrySociety) for more information!

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 Birthday gifts!

About the *Bulletin* of The Poetry Society of Texas

Bulletin Editor: Fred Manchester

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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

Wildflower Poetry Society met Thursday, March 12, at the Tyler Public Library, with five regular attendees and one guest, discussing several member poems and writing one from a prompt. Prompt words for next month (always an optional exercise) are: basket, wild, mine, clover, fireplace, swim.

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2-3:30 p.m. at the Tyler Library. All poets welcome.

Mockingbird Poetry Society

Stay Tuned

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Antonia Murguia, Reporting

Our March meeting came quickly. Our featured speaker was Carol Siskovic. She presented a wonderful presentation on the Haiku. She covered the structure, content, style, key elements, goal and the history of the Haiku. She shared many example of the poetry form. Carol suggested as an exercise to capture a moment and write in haiku form. She also stated that this also can be an idea for a longer poem. Everyone enjoyed her presentation.

The winners for the February Assign Topic were: 1st Place: Lea Fagin; 2nd Place: Antoinette Winstead; 3rd Place: Susan Sabino; Honorable Mention: Christina-Maria Spiak.

The winners for February Open Topic were:

1st Place: Dee Ramdass; 2nd Place: Carol Siskovic; 3rd Place: Charles Jones; Honorable Mention: Pat Gibbs.

We thanked Sara Hardy and Charles Jones for bringing the refreshments.

Our April meeting will be on April 4th which is the beginning of Poetry Month. YaY!

Rusk County Poetry Society

Lisa Holcomb Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly

Betty Roberts Reporting

Denton Poets' Assembly shared response poems to Ingeborg Bachmann's poems when 25 members met on Saturday, March 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 held entirely by Zoom rather than our usual hybrid meeting. The April 18 meeting will be back to a meeting both in person and by Zoom.

To begin the meeting, member Diane Glancy presented a close read of Bachmann's poem, "Nebelland," contrasting two English translations she found from the author's original in German. Glancy said her work taught her a lot about translation, saying she realized how difficult it is to translate a poem.

Twelve members then read their response poems to one of Bachmann's poems.

Member Corbett Buchly gave an inspiration read of his response poem "we forest," saying the poem used one of his frequent themes of human connectedness. He used an extended metaphor of people being pine trees in a forest.

Fourteen members then read their original free-choice poems.

Member David Webb discussed his poem, "Sometime After 1 A.M.," which presented a character named Paul, whom he said was a compilation of several of his university friends. In the scene in the poem, the friends stayed up late and tore apart everything happening in the world around them, Webb said.

Member Paul Causey read Susan Maxwell Campbell's prepared information about the April read and response poet Ha Jin, a Chinese-born poet who has spent most of his adult life in the United States. Jin teaches at Boston University, and he has taught at Emory University in Atlanta. Causey suggested that when responding to Jin's poems we should remember that if we are not Native Americans, we are all immigrants to the United States, just as Jin is.

In the kudos section of the meeting, Bob Schinzel read a humorous poem, "The Sting of Words," which won Contest #75 of the PST 2025 contest. He said he wrote the poem when DPA was responding to Ogden Nash's humorous poetry. Also during the kudos section of the meeting, Beth Honeycutt read, "After My Work in the Garden," which won Contest #26 of the 2025 PST contest. That contest, offered by DPA member Diane Glancy, required poets to use the word ruffle in a poem.

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 on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon.

Poets Northwest

Lynn Roberts Grice, Reporting

Poets Northwest's March meeting was a discussion of Prose Poetry. Members were asked to bring examples they'd written, a good prose poem they'd run across, or a bad example (such as more prose than poetry.) Afterwards we had our Read-Around where attendees read one or two of their original poems. April's meeting will be members and guests writing poems using two or more of the prompts that member, Karen Mastracchio, provides on our website each April for National Poetry Month.

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 Is All About Quick Silver!!



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