



THE BULLETIN

The Poetry Society of Texas's Monthly Newsletter

August 2026 Edition



www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Edited by: Moon Abbas

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Chapter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

Dead Poet Quote:

"One must read poetry with one's nerves."

— Wallace Stevens

Editor's Note:

Howdy everyone! As you can see (read), I am not Fred. My name is Moon Abbas, and I'm super excited to serve as your Bulletin Editor for the 2026-2027 term. These first few editions will be pivotal in becoming comfortable with a language, style, and architecture that I want The Bulletin to serve, as well as hearing from you all about what you've come to love about this editorial project.

A little about me: I'm originally from Iraq, and have lived in the Denton area for a decade now. My first publication was at age 11, where I erroneously submitted a haiku to a floating poetry project that came to our elementary school. I choose to believe they thought I was being innovative. Since then, barring a hiatus for teenager angst, I've continued to write poetry and share it with my community. I served as the Poetry Editor for The North Texas Review, the undergraduate literary journal for UNT from 2023-2024. I currently serve as the VP of Outreach for the DFW Writer's Workshop, and have been a member of Fort Worth Poetry Society for the past year. For me, this editorial project should be an efficient way for member to learn about the lengths and widths of their local chapters, as well a consistent place we can return to, to make sure we are as up to date on meetings, events, contests, and more.

Now, I'd like to hear from you. Many of you have been in this scene for longer than I, and while I charge you to anticipate wonderful change, I understand that we have our loves. If there was a specific edition of The Bulletin that stuck out to you, or a certain energy that you appreciated from this project, I'd like to know. I've included my email in my sign off, and so any commentary you have that fits the bill, I'd appreciate. I look forward to being your editor for the coming year.

Sincerely,

Moon Abbas

corresponding.secretary@poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Introducing the Board:

- Holly Jahangiri, President
- Michael Guinn, Vice President
- Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary
- Barbara Blanks, Treasurer
- Moon Abbas, Corresponding Secretary/Bulletin Editor
- Lisa Holcomb, Director
- Yolanda Wright, Director
- Joe Grace II, Director

President's Letter:

I hope that everyone has been having a terrific summer! I know that a good number of entries into our Annual Contests have been received, but there's still time to enter! Don't let that deadline pass while you're soaking up the sun - come in out of the scorching heat and send us your best work before August 15 (really - it has to be postmarked by August 15, so unless you're planning to beg a USPS agent to hand-cancel your envelope after you've stood in line for who-knows-how-long, pretend the deadline's August 10, or something)!

We had a terrific Summer Conference in July, with presentations by Terry Jude Miller, Yolanda Wright, and Katie Dozier Green & Timothy Green of Rattle. Terry, Katie, and Tim have made their slides available to us - you'll find them on our website:

<https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/2026-summer-conference/>

When prompted, enter summer2026conf

I would like to thank all the members of the Poetry Society of Texas Board of Directors 2025-2026 for supporting our organization throughout the year and me, personally, as its newbie President. I have called Barb the Keeper of My Sanity - PST would run just fine without me, but y'all better learn all you can from her in the coming year, because we're both retiring at the end of the next term and she could run the place all by herself. I thank you all for being so kind and encouraging throughout the year, so welcoming to our new members, so inspirational with your creativity - I was terrified to take on the role of President a year ago, and now I'm excited and looking forward to the year ahead! Thank you!

I will be on vacation during the month of August and I will see you all on September 12 at 2:30 PM, if not on Facebook or email before that! I will send out the next meeting notice and link when I get back to the States - meanwhile, write some fresh new poetry even if you're wilting in the Texas heat! I look forward to hearing it in the coming months, should you choose to share.

Holly Jahangiri
President, Poetry Society of Texas

NFSPS News:

Currently, the Barbara Stevens Poetry Book Manuscript Competition is the next upcoming contest from NFSPS. This contest is open to any poets writing in English, as long as they have not previously won this contest. For more information, click here:

<https://nfspss.net/barbara-stevens-manuscript-contest>

The Manningham Student Poetry contest (grades 6-8 and 9-12) will open after that, on September 15th. For more information, visit: <https://nfspss.net/manningham-student-poetry-contest>

The August 2026 issue of "Strophes," is posted at <https://nfspss.net/current-strophes>

The August 2026 issue of Strophes highlights new leadership, convention successes, poetry contests, state society activities, and upcoming opportunities for poets across the U.S.

The Annual Contest Brochure will be published in September and included with the October Issue.

Congratulations to the members of PST who won or placed in the annual NFSPS contests. Our members earned over 70 awards this year!

Corresponding Secretary Memo:

Howdy! It's me again, Moon Abbas. I'm here to remind you to check your annual membership. 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.

Dues must be current to enter the Annual Contest as a member, and they must be current before November 30 to remain on the roll as a member and to remain a member of NFSPS. PST Membership dues were due by July 1, 2026. Make sure to review the "Join PST" page online for more information: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/join/>

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!

Monthly Contest:

Monthly Contest Chair Lynn Roberts Grice announced the winners of the July contest:

General Contest Judge: Russell Strauss, Memphis, TN

1st--Catherine L'Herisson, Garland--Summer Ritual

2nd--Barbara Blanks, Garland

3rd--Nick Sweet, Shepherd

1HM--Joe Grace II, Richmond

2HM--Janet R. Tyner, Tyler

3HM--Holly Jahangiri, Houston

Laugh Lines Judge: LeAnne Reaves, Hurst

Laugh Lines Winner: Barbara Blanks, Garland

We also have some donations to the PST permanent collection. Kudos!

- A Sense of Stars, by Cade Huie, Winner of the 2025 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize.
- Purple-Eyed Heirlooms, by Immanuel A. Garcia, Winner of the 2025 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest.
- The Common Language Project: Time/2026, ed. by The Writer's Garret.
- People of Ink and Bone, by Terry Jude Miller.
- Catch Me At the Carnival, by Terry Jude Miller and Stephen Schwei.

And while there is no contest for this month, make sure to review the rules and requirements for the monthly contests, come September, at: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/monthly-contests/>

Reminder:

The Hilton Ross Greer Outstanding Service Award is still open for votes! Check the April 2026 Bulletin for the ballot:

<https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/PST-Bulletin-April-2026-.pdf>

Next PST General Meeting: September 12th, 2026, at 2:30 pm CST.

Program Speaker:

Cade Huie of Grand Prairie, Texas, spends much of her time as a retiree indulging her lifelong poetry habit. She believes that as poets, and as human beings, we should never stop learning, should remain open-minded to new ideas, and always seek to express the truth. Her poems have won numerous awards from the Poetry Society of Texas and the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Her poetry appears in the Texas Observer, and in a number of anthologies including The Poetry Society of Texas' Book of the Year. She is the recipient of the 2025 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize for her book, A Sense of Stars.

Spotlight Poet:

Moon Abbas (he/him) is an Iraqi poet living in Denton, TX. At the University of North Texas, where he earned his BFA in Creative Writing, he served as the Poetry Editor for the North Texas Review, and currently serves as the VP of Outreach for the DFW Writer's Workshop, and the Bulletin Editor for the Poetry Society of Texas. His work has been featured previously in the New Croton Review, The Black Fork Review, and Progenitor Art and Literary Journal. All information regarding future projects will first appear on Instagram, "@mooniscurrentlywriting."



Program Speaker



**Moon Abbas
Spotlight Poet**

CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Area Poets of Texas

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Austin Poetry Society (Contributor: Benjamin Nash)

The Austin Poetry Society had its monthly meeting in July. Brad Strahan led a discussion of 250 years of poetry in the United States. We also announced our contests winners and read our own poems.

Beaumont Poetry Society

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Denton Poets' Assembly (Contributor: Betty Roberts)

Denton Poets' Assembly shared response poems to Mary Oliver's poems when 26 members met on Saturday, July 18. The meeting included 13 members in person at the Emily Fowler Library and 13 members via Zoom. Free original poems were also shared, along with close reads and inspiration reads.

To begin the meeting, member Susan Maxwell Campbell presented a close read of Mary Oliver's poem, "Gannets," showing photos of the bird and maps of where gannets are in the summer. In this poem, as in others of Oliver's, she shows that all life is connected, Campbell said. Oliver believed that nothing is inherently evil, and in "Gannets" she says that death is an imposter because it deceives mankind that it is final, Campbell said.

After poets read their response poems, Sebastian Penalillo, one of the Zoom attendees, gave an inspiration read of his poem, "god Be With You." The poem reflects how Penalillo recently moved from Denton to Arlington, Virginia, where he will attend graduate school. Club members then read their original free choice poems. Ginger Sheppard was the inspiration reader for her poem, "A new obsession" about her love for the tile game Mahjong. Sheppard said her second grandson is her muse.

Member Corbett Buchly read Campbell's prepared information about the August read and response poet Yusef Komunyakaa. Born James William Brown in 1941, Komunyakaa changed his name to use his grandfather's last name and his grandfather's African name for his first name. Komunyakaa served in the Army during the Vietnam War, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1994, and taught creative writing at Princeton and New York University before retiring.

Campbell presented a mini close read of Komunyakaa's poem, "We Never Know" about an experience when a soldier was killed in Vietnam.

During the announcements, Campbell said the anthology "When Poets Meet Again" is complete. This is the second collection of read and response poems from DPA members, and it can be ordered from Amazon for \$10.

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.

Fort Worth Poetry Society (Contributor: Galen Steele)

Come see Fort Worth Poetry Society in action on August 16 at Farr Best Theater in Mansfield 3-5pm. Check out the FWPS website for more information: <https://fwpoets.org/sample-page/>

Hi-Plains Chapter

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Mockingbird Poetry Society (Contributor: Barry Rynk)

The Mockingbirds met on Saturday July 4, at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney, TX. Attending the meeting were thirteen members plus two guests. Member poetry readings followed business reporting. Welcome new Mockingbird member: Chris Wenk-Harrison to the nest! Congratulations are in order for these club member and visitor accomplishments:

- Lopa Banerjee, who recently published a new poetry collection: How Does it Matter?
<https://www.amazon.com/How-Does-Matter-Lopamudra-Banerjee/dp/1645608751>
- Bradley Samore, the 2026 winner of the Choeofpleirn Press Chapbook Contest. His soon-to-be-released chapbook is called The Sky is Always Finishing.
<https://www.choeofpleirnpress.com/poetrychapbook-contest>
- Tuesday Thomson, who recently published a sci-fi short story in the anthology called Search For the Any Key by WolfSinger Publications.
<https://www.wolfsingerpubs.com/search-for-the-any-key>

Permian Basin Poetry Society

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Poetry of Johnson County

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Poets Northwest (Contributor: Lynn Roberts Grice)

Poets Northwest's June meeting was all about space, the cosmos, and constellations, as members shared their poems for our upcoming anthology. July's meeting was a constructive critique session, where our poets could have an unfinished poem critiqued by the group. Lots of great suggestions, and lively discussions during both meetings. Our August meeting will be about translations. Poets are invited to bring a poem, and its translation from another language, to share. They can also bring a poem that they have translated.

Please note that our September meeting will be the fourth Saturday of the month instead of the third. 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/PoetsNorthwests>, on X as @HoustonPoets, and on Instagram as @poetsnorthwest. We're now on Bluesky, as well! @poetsnorthwest.bsky.social

Rusk County Poetry Society

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Wichita Falls Poetry Society

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Wildflower Poetry Society (Contributor: Ilenya Martin)

Five participants enjoyed the Wildflower Poetry Society on Thursday, July 9 at the Tyler Public Library. Several poems were shared for critique.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 13, from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Tyler Public Library. Bring a few copies of a poem to share for thoughtful feedback, and enjoy learning among dedicated local poets from East Texas.