



THE BULLETIN

The Poetry Society of Texas's Monthly Newsletter

September 2026 Edition



www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org

Edited by: Moon Abbas

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Chapter of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies

Dead Poet's Quote:

"I write because it is while I'm writing that I feel most connected to why we're here. I write because silence is a heavy weight to carry. I write to remember. I write to heal. I write to let the air in. I write as a practice of listening."

-Andrea Gibson

President's Letter:

Please make plans to attend the **Annual Awards Banquet** on November 14 at the Doubletree Dallas near the Galleria (luncheon - no tux or evening gown required!). This year, your menu choices include a tasty pan-seared chicken breast with honey citrus glaze and sides, or a delicious house-made vegetarian lasagna (seared squash, zucchini, button mushrooms, carrots, bell peppers, red sweet onions, creamy ricotta and mozzarella cheeses, San Marzano tomato and Chianti sauce) and sides. Dessert is a sweet surprise - or fruit - your choice.

You must register and choose your lunch if you plan to attend! You will find the registration form here: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/2026-Registration-Form-for-Website.pdf>

Your registration is not complete until Beth has the completed form and payment has been made. PST is covering part of the cost of attending, this year, in order to keep prices reasonable and increase attendance, so please make every effort to come join us - to celebrate and enjoy the in-person camaraderie with your fellow poets and PST members.

If you would like to make a weekend of it, the Doubletree is offering a discounted room rate (good while it lasts and subject to price increases as the date gets closer, so make arrangements as soon as possible). Do check your other discount programs, as they may offer even better rates.

Every one of you is 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, such as next year's contest (we need sponsors, judges, and anyone who isn't planning to enter can help coordinate!); Summer Conference; nominees for President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary; and more. Volunteer early and often!

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Holly Jahangiri

President, Poetry Society of Texas

president@poetrysocietyoftexas.org

<https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org>

September General Meeting Minutes:

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING OF THE POETRY SOCIETY OF TEXAS

for Saturday, September 12, 2026, 2:30 p.m., via Zoom

by Recording Secretary Barbara Blanks

Returning President Holly Jahangiri welcomed our 23 attendees, including our most distant new member, Laurel Grevel, formerly of Texas, now residing in Austria. She re-introduced the new Executive Board for the new PST term: Michael Guinn, Vice President; Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary and Treasurer; Moon Abbas, Corresponding Secretary and Bulletin Editor; Lisa Holcomb, Director; Yolanda Wright, Director; and Joe Grace II, Director. Holly also thanked our outgoing board members for their service to PST: Carol Thompson, Lynn Roberts Grice, Betty Roberts, and Catherine L'Herisson.

Corresponding Secretary Moon Abbas gave the August Membership Report for Membership Chair Lynn Lewis. Active Members 180; Associate 11; Life 28; Student 2; Benefactor 1; Sustaining 3; Supporting 2; Library 1; Honorary 6. Recently Deceased: Dr. Aman Khan, Dallas. Life Member John McCommas of Waco passed away in 2000, but his death was not reported to PST until recently. Total Membership: 233. We have seven new Active members: Sharon Young (now in Kentucky), Belinda Terro Mooney, Daniel Hunter, Johnnie B. Carter, Jr. Amanda Russell, Jim Rambo, and Nancy Liu, all in Texas. PST welcomes you!

Librarian Barbara Blanks had seven book donations to report. These will be added to the PST permanent collection at the Dallas Central Library:

A Sense of Stars, by Cade Huie, 2025 Catherine Case Lubbe winner.

Purple-Eyed Heirlooms, by Immanuel A. Garcia, 2025 Wm. D. Barney Chapbook Contest winner.

Catch Me At The Carnival, by Terry Jude Miller and Stephen Schwei.

People of Ink and Bone, by Terry Jude Miller.

Where Rainbows Are, by Lee Smith.

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

African Safari, by Mary Creviere Turner.

Treasurer Barbara Blanks reported that Neal Ostman, who was Treasurer for four years, and donated two years of his time after that as Bookkeeper, is stepping down as Bookkeeper. He investigated several bookkeeping companies, and based on his extensive research, narrowed it down to the best option for PST: Micon Tax and Bookkeeping Services in Grand Prairie. PST has adequate funds to pay for the monthly service, which will provide our monthly Financial reports. Micon will have Read Only access to the Chase bank account. The Board voted today to sign a contract for their services. Blanks will continue as treasurer, handling deposits, bill payments, and other actions. Our CD matures on Sept. 17, and Blanks will meet with Kim at Chase to determine the best interest renewal options. October 15 is Poetry Day. If you or your chapter do anything special to celebrate, please contact Moon Abbas for publication in the Bulletin, and Catherine L'Herisson, so she can send the report to NFSPS.

Spotlight on Members poet was Moon Abbas, who introduced himself. Moon was originally from Iraq, and has lived in the Denton area for about 10 years. He is our new Corresponding Secretary and Bulletin editor. He has numerous publication credits, and read several of his poems.

September General Meeting Minutes (cont.):

Our Program speaker was Cade Huie, the 2025 winner of PST's Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize, for her manuscript, "A Sense of Stars." Cade is a native Texan, and a member of the Fort Worth Poetry Society, the Denton Poets Assembly, and the North Texas Speculative Fiction Writers Workshop, as well as PST. When her name was announced as the winner of the contest, she said she "felt like somebody it me over the head." She also expressed her appreciation to Richard Kushmaul for his work in preparing her manuscript for publishing. Cade's book is divided into three sections: I. Bonds and Breakings; II Thresholds of Change; III The View From Here. She read a selection of poems from each section.

Lynn Roberts Grice will be retiring as the Monthly Contest Chair after the December 2026 contest. If you are interested in assuming that position, please contact Lynn directly. Monthly Contest Chair Lynn Roberts Grice announced the winners of the September contest. 6 entries. monthlycontestchair@poetrysocietyoftexas.org Please read and follow submission rules!

General Contest Judge: Steven Concert, Harveys Lake, PA
1st — Cade Huie—The Last Saturday in August
2nd — Leanne Reaves
3rd — Laurie Kolp
Honorable Mention — Barbara Blanks
Laugh Lines Judge: Barbara Blanks
LL Winner: LeAnne Reaves

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Blanks, Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary Memo:

Congratulations to the following poets for their appearances in the Texas Bards 2026 Anthology - Poetry By Texas Poets: Brian Cummings - *Where Did I Find This?*, Laurel Davis - *Over Yonder*, Ann Howells - *Potato Salad Wars*, Lavern Spencer McCarthy - *Behold The Raging River*, Anne McCrady - *The Blue Hour*, Terry Jude Miller - *Falling in Love Before Twilight*, Stephen Schwei - *Fair Fight?*, Galen Steele - *No Birds, Only Math*, Carol Thompson - *Deciding to Move*

Please make sure to pay your 2026-2027 dues and renew your annual membership if you haven't done so!

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/>

Paid membership in the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) automatically makes you a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS). This entitles you to enter PST's free monthly contests as well as the annual PST and NFSPS contests for a reduced entry fee. You also receive PST's Bulletin and *A Book of the Year*. Membership allows you to join the Poetry Society of Texas - For Members Facebook group to stay in touch with your fellow members between monthly meetings. Our general PST meetings are now held on Zoom, so you can attend no matter where you live. Our meetings provide current information, a "Spotlight Poet" featuring a brief reading by a member, program speakers, monthly contest results - and fun!

Next General Meeting: October 10th, 2026, at 2:30 pm CST

Zoom room opens at 2:15 to socialize.

<https://zoom.us/j/98910700062?pwd=GxJflkx2S2nUxgsJxA6Pev6VC4lv1I.1>

Meeting ID: 989 1070 0062

Passcode: poetrytime

Spotlight Poet: Lisa Holcomb

Lisa Holcomb graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in English. She has spent the last quarter century writing about adoption and reunion, parenting while chronically ill, and about families, both ones born into and those that are found. When not writing, she is still parenting her (now adult) three kids and lives in Tyler, Texas with her Aggie Engineer husband and their two cats. She also does fiber arts, teaches writing at her weekly public library group, and helps run both the Rusk County Poetry Society and the Wildflower Poetry Society. She has also served as president (among many other offices) and is a Lifetime Member of the East Texas Writers Guild.



Program Speaker: Holly Jahangiri

A retired technical writer, Holly Jahangiri is the author three children's books: *Trockle*; *A Puppy, Not a Guppy*; and *A New Leaf for Lyle*. She draws inspiration from family, childhood adventures (some of which only happened in her overactive imagination), and from readers both young and young at heart. Holly is 2025-2027 President of the Poetry Society of Texas, a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, and serves on the Board of Poets Northwest, a chapter of PST. She lives in Houston, Texas.

This month's program is "Creating Frankenstein" - just kidding. You will learn how to create an effective AI critique partner (trust me, absolutely no generative text or images will be created and you will not be training AI or using obscene amounts of resources - I promise). Human readers can't be beat, but they can be exhausted - AI is indefatigable.



CHAPTER NEWS

Alamo Area Poets of Texas (Contributor: Sheri Anderson)

Our meeting on September 5th brought us back together after our summer break with eleven members in attendance and one guest. It was nice to see everyone again and catch up!

Our featured speaker was Terry L. Armstrong, a San Antonio poet and publisher of Lone Star Magazine. He presented from his two newest poetry collections entitled *The Star Never Shown* and *The Story Never Told*, reciting several poems from memory. He's an advocate for self-publishing. He discussed how he self-published his books and some mechanical ways to do so, letting us know there are creative ways to get your written collection in book form on your own. He also discussed Lone Star Magazine, which was established in 1991 and offered to publish self-interviews from our members as well as poems.

We encourage the regular practice of writing poetry by having friendly monthly contests. The May winners for our Assigned topic were: 1st Place, Susan Sabino; 2nd Place - Sheila Moore; 3rd Place - Sara Hardy; HM - Sheri Anderson. And for our Open Topic: 1st Place - Susan Sabino; 2nd Place - Sheri Anderson; 3rd Place - Antoinette Winstead; HM - Dee Ramdass.

We enjoyed refreshments--because poetry is great but poetry with snacks is even better--and did our usual roundtable reading of our new poems for September's contests.

Our next meeting will be Oct 3, 2026. Cheers to poetry!

Austin Poetry Society (Contributor: Benjamin Nash)

Ricardo Acevedo led a discussion about the Beat poets. We also read our favorite poems from these poets at our monthly meeting. A contest winner also read her poem.

Beaumont Poetry Society

Nothing to report, see you next month!

Denton Poets' Assembly (Contributor: Betty Roberts)

Two members of Denton Poets' Assembly, Roger Bussell and Kathryn Merry, gave a special presentation of "The Wasteland: The Burial of the Dead" by T.S. Eliot at the chapter's Sept. 19 meeting. Also included was a recording by Irish actress Fiona Shaw reading the same part of the poem.

In the Kudos section, member Diane Glancy read her poem "The Short History of a Long Afternoon," which won Contest #31 at this summer's NFSPS conference. The subject was poetry for children, any form, 50-line limit. Glancy said the poem was a concrete poem written like lightning, and she had revised it several times for the NFSPS contest. Donald Justice will be the October read and response poet.

DPA meets the third Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Emily Fowler Library in downtown Denton. 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 president Richard Kushmaul (richardkdpa@gmail.com).

Let me know if you have any questions. If you still live in Denton, you are welcome to attend our October meeting or any meeting!

Fort Worth Poetry Society (Contributor: Charlie Gaines)

We met on September 22 with 12 members present. Next meeting is October 27 at 6:30 Trinity Episcopal Church in FW.

Calendar -

- 10/10 Two or more Saturday - workshop your poems at Central Market 10:30 - noon in the patio area.
- 10/17 Lunch box Confetti at the Grackle 8pm-9:30
- 10/27 Monthly meeting
- 10/31 Spooky Poetry at Grandma's bar 7-9pm

Deadline = 10/1 - In progress - FWPS Anthology is being assembled by Steve Sanders and Charlie Gaines.

Kudos -

- Moon Abbas is teaching a workshop at The DFW Writer's Workshop DFWCon.
- Seadog Slam performed last Saturday 9/19 at Grapevine Library to celebrate "Speak Like a Pirate Day"
 - 80 visitors attended their 3 performances.
- Steve Sanders had 2 poems accepted by Aftershock.

Hi-Plains Chapter

Nothing to report, See you next month!

Mockingbird Poetry Society (Contributor: Brian Cummings)

The Mockingbird Poetry Society (MPS) met on Saturday, September 5, at the Heard Craig Carriage House. President Barry Rynk called the meeting to order. Twenty-four members and one guest attended. Beth Ayers announced that Poetry Society of Texas contest entries have been sent to judges, and she is seeking volunteer judges for the Mockingbird contest; details will follow by email. Members noted with sadness the passing of Dr. Aman Kahn, a past MPS president and prolific published poet who also served as president of the Poetry Society of Texas. Barry announced he is stepping down after five years of leading the Art Meets Poetry event and invited any member interested in taking on the role to contact him. Officer elections will be held at the November meeting; those interested in running should notify Barry. The deadline to enter Forces Magazine, the annual publication sponsored by Collin College's Humanities, Communications, and Fine Arts divisions, is October 11. In member news, Brian Bowles's poem placed second in the MedWell Senior Activity Center talent contest (singing, dancing, and poetry divisions), and Aby Law has a show opening the first week of November at McKinney High School Theater, a production of "Hello, Dolly!". Twenty-five members shared their poems during the reading portion of the meeting.

Permian Basin Poetry Society + All Arts

Nothing to report, See you next month!

Poetry of Johnson County

Nothing to report, See you next month!