

Newsletter

December 2025



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Saturday, December 20th

Holiday Party!

Where: Carol Taylor's House

What time: 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

What to bring: Yourself; Two Poems (for the contests described below, if you wish to enter); "Finger Foods", Dessert, or Wine to Share; a Gift (suitable for anyone and please don't spend more than \$15!)

Contests

We will be holding two poetry contests at the December Holiday Party, with the winner of each contest entitled to a complimentary Poets Northwest membership for 2026. Although we sincerely hope you can attend, if you can't make the party, you can send your poems to stephen.schwei@gmail.com by 9:00 PM on Friday, 12/19/25 and he will print them for the group to consider. As all poems will be evaluated anonymously, do not include your name or other identifying information on the poems themselves.

Contest # 1 - Write a **holiday** poem using the form that Carol Taylor proposed and the group adopted at an earlier meeting this year. It's called "Hetmet", which is short for heterogeneous meter. Stanzas should follow an ABBA rhyme scheme and be four lines each, with lines containing 5, 2, 5, 3 metrical feet. The meter can be any type, but be sure to count metrical feet, not syllables. It can be anywhere from one stanza to eight stanzas.

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Contest # 2 - Write a poem on any topic (not necessarily holiday-themed) of no more than 30 lines using the slinky form, where the end of each line repeats as the beginning of the next line throughout the poem. Ideally, the end of the last line also repeats the first word(s) of the first line, but that's optional. Here is an example of a slinky poem - <https://masticadorescanada.wordpress.com/2025/07/14/neighbors-and-fences-by-steve-schwei/>

NOTE: There will be no Zoom option. If you cannot attend the party in person, we hope to see you in person or on Zoom in January! Happy holidays!

Poets Northwest News

Congratulations to the Winners of the Annual PST Contests!

Once again, the poets of the Poets Northwest Chapter have won a significant number of awards in the 2025 Poetry Society of Texas Annual Awards. Congratulations to all!

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2025 PST Annual Contest - PNW Winners

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	Total
Cheri Bell	2	1	1	4	5	5	1	4	1		24
Eric Blanchard	1	3		3	5	3	3	2	1		21
Lynn Grice		2		1	3				3	2	11
Holly Jahangiri	2		3		1	1	1				8
Maxine B. Kohanski	1			1	2	4		4	3	2	17
Forrest Martino	2	2	2	1	1	2	3	6	2		21
Karen Mastracchio			1				1			1	3
Terry Jude Miller	4	3	6	2	4	4	3	2	3		31
Michael Owens	1	1	3		3	5	3	2	1	2	21
Don Samp							2	1	1		4
Stephen Schwei		3	1	3	4	2	4	2	3	3	25
Mary Creviere Turner	4	5	2	5	5	3	5	1	2	4	36
Total for PNW	17	20	19	20	33	29	26	24	20	14	222

we placed in 91 out of 100 contests

Connect with Us on Social Media!

www.poetsnw.com

facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest

[@HoustonPoets](https://twitter.com/HoustonPoets) on X (aka, Twitter)

[@PoetsNorthwest](https://instagram.com/PoetsNorthwest) on Instagram

poetsnorthwest.bsky.social on Bluesky

The Mission of Poets Northwest

Founded in 1986, by Susan Daubenspeck, Betty Kersh and Claire Ottenstein-Ross, our main objective is to facilitate and inspire poets to write more poetry. We provide information about current poetry contests, feature guest poets on a regular basis, study the masters of creative verse, and encourage members. Poets are also encouraged to read their poems at each meeting. Membership is \$15 annually (Jan-Dec) & \$7 for 12 & under. Meetings are held the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10 AM to noon at the Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress., Houston, TX 77070, and on ZOOM.

Congratulations to Our 2026 Board

Our elected Officers (Executive Board) and Appointees remain the same for 2026, with Lynn Roberts Grice assuming the position of Secretary along with all her other responsibilities. Thank you to everyone for helping Poets Northwest thrive!

2025 Dues are Due!

You may bring them to the January 17 meeting, mail them to Lynn Grice, or pay by Zelle.

A 2026 Membership form is included with this Newsletter (see last page - separated from the newsletter for easier printing for those receiving this as a PDF).

Upcoming Events of Interest

Poetry at Round Top will be held on April 17-19, 2026, and registration opens February 16. Poetry at Round Top features readings and panel discussions with exciting established and emerging poets; small-group workshops led by experienced poets to explore and generate new work; open mics for everyone; 1-on-1 consultations with an accomplished poet to discuss your work, and more.

See <https://poetryatroundtop.org/> for more details.

Poetry Society of Texas

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Our speakers for December are Joshua Kight (Spotlight Poet) and Cade Huie (winner of the Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Award and program speaker).

NFSPS

The 2026 National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) Annual Convention and

BlackBerry Peach SLAM will take place in Overland Park, Kansas, and will be co-hosted by NFSPS and the Sunflower Poets of Kansas! Check NFSPS.net for updates.

In the meantime, now's a great time to prepare for upcoming opportunities available at NFSPS.Submittable.com/submit

- BlackBerry Peach Spoken and Written Word Contest Submission window: January 1 – March 15
- Annual NFSPS Poetry Contests Submission window: January 1 – March 15



Poetry Society of Texas News & Information

All members of Poets Northwest are encouraged to join the Poetry Society of Texas (PST). The most recent copy of “The Bulletin” is posted on the PST website.

Dues are only \$25/year (\$30 for Associate Members, \$12.50 for students). The year runs July–June, and you must be paid up before entering any members-only contests! The PST Annual Contest and Awards Banquet, Summer Conference, and “The Bulletin” will keep you in contact with other Texas poets and offer opportunities you won’t want to miss. Your membership also includes a copy of the PST anthology, “A Book of the Year.” Membership in PST also means that you are a member of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) and eligible for their annual contest.

Go to www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org and nfsp.net for more information.

Membership form on the next page.

Make checks payable to POETS NORTHWEST

Regular Membership \$15

2026 POETS NORTHWEST MEMBERSHIP

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/ST/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I want my Newsletter by:

E-Mail ___

Mail ___

\$15 Dues Paid Cash ___ Check # _____ Zelle ___

Make checks payable to Poets Northwest

Mail completed form/check to:

Lynn Grice, 9611 Magnolia Ridge Dr, Houston, TX 77070

Or, pay by Zelle to poetsnorthwesttx@gmail.com

If paying by Zelle, please note that it is for a new / renewal membership, and email any change of contact information to Lynn Grice.