

Newsletter

February 2026



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Saturday, February 21st

Monthly Meeting

In person at Windwood Presbyterian Church
10555 Spring-Cypress Rd. Room A128
Houston, TX 77070
10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
and on ZOOM

Meeting ID: 819 5320 8641

Passcode: 527588

Sonnets

The topic for February's meeting is sonnets, with a brief overview/review of the most common types. You are encouraged to write one or two to share, but if you bring two, please try to write them using different sonnet forms. There are many online articles about the types of sonnets, but if you write one other than Petrarchan, Shakespearean, Spenserian, Miltonic, or Alexandrine, please be sure to share its unique qualities so that we can all learn!

Read-Around

Everyone is invited to read one or two original poems (with a one page limit each).

Door Prize

Poets Northwest News

2026 Dues are now OVERDUE!

You may bring them to the February 21 meeting, mail them to Lynn Grice, or pay by Zelle. This will be the last reminder.

39th Annual Poets Northwest Spring Fling

Saturday May 16

10:00 AM - 2:30 AM

Details to be announced at a later date

Spring Fling Silent Auction

This year we're having the Silent Auction during our Spring Fling again. If you would like to donate a gently used or new item, please contact Lynn Grice (texaspoet53@gmail.com or 713-249-5935) with the following information: Item name and description, approximate value if known, your name, and whether you will be bringing it with you to Spring Fling, or give to Lynn before then. Please let her know between now and before May 14. Thanks so much for considering a donation.

New for 2026

Entries can be emailed or sent through the Post Office!

Postmark/email deadline is midnight March 21

See the Instructions in the Category List pdf included with this Newsletter

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.

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.

Poetry Society of Texas

Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Our Spotlight Poet in February is Joshua Kight of Austin. Our Program Speaker is Immanuel A. Garcia, winner of last year's William D. Barney Chapbook Contest with *Purple-Eyed Heirlooms*.

The 2026 PST Annual Contest Brochure has been posted! See: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/>

We have a great lineup of speakers in the coming months, including two Texas Poets Laureate, so mark your calendars now and plan on attending - you won't want to miss these meetings!

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.