

# Newsletter

March 2026



## Poets Northwest Board Members

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Karen Mastracchio  
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Events Coordinator  
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**Saturday, March 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: 823 7088 0439  
Passcode: 185759

### Prose Poetry

The March meeting will include a discussion of Prose Poems, essentially poems without line breaks determined by the poet, so appearing in paragraph form. Bring an example you've written, a good prose poem you've run across, or a bad example (such as way more prose than poetry).

### Read-Around

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

### Door Prize

This month's door prize will be provided by Mike Owens.

# Poets Northwest News

## 39th Annual Poets Northwest Spring Fling

Saturday May 16

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

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 Spring Fling

Contest 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

### Anthology 2026

On our site, we claim to publish an anthology every two years. We have not done this, and our last was in 2023. All contributors received a copy thanks to a generous, anonymous donation – but if you did not receive a copy, you can still purchase one:

- [Dreams + Nightmares by Poets Northwest, Paperback | Barnes & Noble®](#)
- [Dreams + Nightmares: Northwest, Poets: 9798215594896: Amazon.com: Books](#)

We will create a new anthology together in 2026.

### 2026 Anthology Committee

- Holly Jahangiri
- Forrest Martino
- Lynn Roberts Grice

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Connect with Us on Social Media!

[www.poetsnw.com](http://www.poetsnw.com)

[facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest](https://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest)

[@HoustonPoets](#) on X (aka, Twitter)

[@PoetsNorthwest](#) on Instagram

[poetsnorthwest.bsky.social](https://poetsnorthwest.bsky.social) on Bluesky

The Mission of Poets Northwest Continued on next page

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10 AM to noon at the Windwood Presbyterian Church, 10555 Spring Cypress., Houston, TX 77070, and on ZOOM.

## 2026 Theme and Title

Our first step is to decide on a “unifying theme” and a title for the anthology. Please submit ideas to [pnwanthology@gmail.com](mailto:pnwanthology@gmail.com) with the Subject line: **2026 Anthology Theme/Title**

Include both your suggested theme and one or two title ideas that you believe fit well. You may submit more than one potential theme - but please suggest one or two title ideas for each theme you suggest.

Consider:

- **Is it unique?** (For search on Amazon or bn.com – how easy will it be for people to find the book?)
- **Is it broad enough** to encompass a variety of poems, forms, and viewpoints?
- **Does it pique interest?** Once readers find the book, will they be intrigued and tempted by the title to buy it?
- **Is it memorable?**

The 2026 Anthology Committee will narrow the suggestions to three or fewer and put it to a vote at the March meeting. If you do not attend the meeting, you will miss the opportunity to vote, but you will still be invited to contribute your poems!

## NEW for 2026 Anthology

In October 2025, Stephen Schwei, Terry Jude Miller, and their editor David Siller talked about collaboration. and their book *Catch Me at the Carnival*. Holly Jahangiri and guest Necia Campbell also discussed some of their collaborations over the years.

During our meeting in February, members and guest Joe Grace III were randomly assigned to four teams and asked to write a Shakespearean Sonnet - each team working independently from the others on each quatrain and the final couplet on the topic "coming of age." Did anyone expect this to turn out well? No. Did it, though? Absolutely - surprise!

The 2026 Anthology Committee would like to encourage collaboration among Poets Northwest members and we plan to publish the sonnet, as well as other collaborations among members, in the anthology. Please consider teaming up with one or more members to add to this special section!

## Upcoming Events of Interest

Poetry at Round Top will be held on April 17-19, 2026, and registration opened 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 Spotlight Poet in February is Fred Manchester of McKinney, Texas. Fred is Editor of the monthly PST Bulletin. Our Program Speaker is Amanda Johnston, 61st Texas Poet Laureate in 2024.

The 2026 PST Annual Contest Brochure has been posted! See: <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/annual-contests/> Several errors were corrected on January 24, 2026. You can see a summary of changes at this URL as well.

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](http://Submittable.com/submit)

- BlackBerry Peach Spoken and Written Word Contest - Submission window: January 1 - March 15, 2026
- Annual NFSPS Poetry Contests - Submission window: January 1 - March 15, 2026
- Convention Madness Contest - Submission deadline: April 30, 2026

## 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](http://www.poetrysocietyoftexas.org) and [nfsps.net](http://nfsps.net) for more information.

