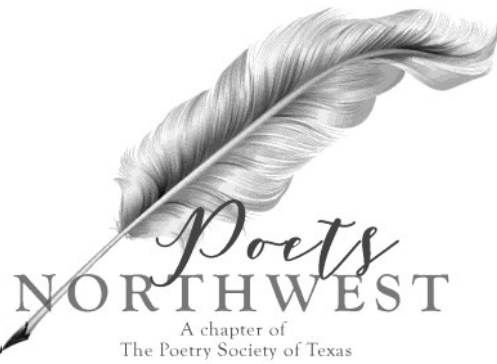


# Newsletter



January 2024

**Poets Northwest  
Board Members**  
*Congratulations to Our  
Newly-Elected Board for 2024!*

**Mary Creviere Turner**  
President  
281.731.1655

**Stephen Schwei**  
Vice President  
Program Chair  
262.784.4022

**Lynn Roberts Grice**  
Treasurer  
Membership  
Events Coordinator  
Fundraising  
Historian  
713.249.5935

**Holly Jahangiri**  
Secretary  
Newsletter  
Publicity  
281.435.4413

**Eric Blanchard**  
Judge  
832.368.7272

**Karen Mastracchio**  
Webmaster



## Welcome Back to a New Year!

### Saturday January 20, 2024

In person at Windwood Presbyterian Church

10555 Spring-Cypress Rd., Room A128

Houston, TX 77070

and on ZOOM

Meeting ID. 880 6930 0418 Passcode: 146627

**10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**

January's program features readings of five minutes per poet for anyone who placed in any of the top ten positions in the Poetry Society of Texas (PST) Annual Contests. During your reading, please share briefly any contest tips or strategies that might be helpful to your fellow poets.

Our poets placed in 95 out of 100 contests in 2023! Winners are: Cheri Bell, Eric Blanchard, George Fredric Campbell, Sharon Dodd (Rose of Sharon), Lynn Roberts Grice, Daniel R. Hunter, Holly Jahangiri, Maxine B. Kohanski, Karen Mastracchio, Terry Jude Miller, Michael Owens, Lisa Toth Salinas, Don Samp, Stephen Schwei, and Mary Creviere Turner. Congratulations!

### Read-Around

Everyone is invited to read 1 or 2 original poems (no longer than one page each)

January Door Prize provided by – Holly Jahangiri

# Poets Northwest News

## 2024 Dues are Due!

You may bring your 2024 dues to the January 20 meeting, or send them to Lynn Grice by check or Zelle payment. A 2024 Membership form is included with this Newsletter.

## Congratulations to our 2024 Membership Winners:

- **Mary Creviere Turner** for the Christmas/Holiday/Winter poem, *Holiday Mania*
- **Steve Schwei** for the Light Verse poem, *Santa's Crew*

## Door Prize Donors Needed!

Please contact Lynn Grice or Holly Jahangiri or sign up at the meeting.

## Spring Fling

Spring Fling Sponsorship forms were emailed this year (to those with email), or mailed, on January 8. Please check your inbox.

## Member News

- **Stephen Schwei** received the **2023 Kenan Ince Memorial Prize for Poetry** offered by Table//FEAST Literary Magazine for his poem "People You Don't Want to Run into in a Gay Bar."
- **Holly Jahangiri's** poem, "Tornado Alley," will be published in "Behind the Rain: An Audio Anthology of Oklahoma Poetry, Volume 7" releasing on January 15, 2024. (Listen to all episodes at <https://www.okiebookcast.com/behindtherain>)

If you have any publishing or personal (illness, death, marriage, baby etc.) news you would like to share, please e-mail it to Holly Jahangiri at [poetsnw.news@gmail.com](mailto:poetsnw.news@gmail.com) by the 1st of each month. **Please specify whether you would like this news shared privately with current club members or in the newsletter and on social media.** The newsletter is typically posted on our website and good news may be shared on social media unless you request that it not be.

### Connect with Us on Social Media!

[www.poetsnw.com](http://www.poetsnw.com)  
[facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest](https://facebook.com/PoetsNorthwest)  
[@HoustonPoets](https://twitter.com/HoustonPoets) on X (aka, Twitter)  
[@PoetsNorthwest](https://instagram.com/PoetsNorthwest) on Instagram

### 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 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.

## Poetry Society of Texas News & Information

Courtney O'Banion Smith, a member of Poets Northwest, won the 2023 Catherine Case Lubbe Manuscript Prize with her book, "In/Fidelity"

Diane Glancy won the 2023 William D. Barney Memorial Chapbook Contest with "Jawbone"

All members of Poets Northwest are encouraged to join the Poetry Society of Texas (PST).

Dues are only \$25/year (year runs July–June). 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. 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 [nfsp.com](http://nfsp.com) for more information.

## National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS)

The latest issue of Strophes is now available at <https://nfsp.com/Strophes2024-Jan.pdf>

NFSPS is looking for poets to take on leadership roles within the organization. Please consider volunteering! The people currently holding these roles will be thrilled to mentor you.

## Summer Writers Institute

Applications are now being accepted for the [Summer Writers Institute at the University of St. Thomas](https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Division-of-Liberal-Studies/Graduate/Master-of-Fine-Arts-in-Creative-Writing/Summer-Literary-Programs/Index.aqf). See <https://www.stthom.edu/Academics/School-of-Arts-and-Sciences/Division-of-Liberal-Studies/Graduate/Master-of-Fine-Arts-in-Creative-Writing/Summer-Literary-Programs/Index.aqf> for more information.

## Upcoming Contests and Challenges

Poetry Society of Texas offers two free-to-enter monthly contests for PST members:

- **General Contest** – 28 Line limit, any subject, any form. The General Contest is judged by a Critic Judge, who is selected by the Monthly Contest Chairman. The Critic Judge selects the winners of the Critic's Award. 1st place (\$25), 2nd place (\$9), 3rd place (\$5), and ten unranked additional poems to be read for audience vote in the regular meeting.
- **Laugh Lines Contest** – For the best humorous poem, 16-line limit, \$7.50 award. The previous winner judges the Contest.

See <https://poetrysocietyoftexas.org/contests/monthly-contests/> for eligibility and entry rules.

(Continued on page 4)

*(Upcoming Contests and Challenges, Continued from page 3)*

**National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) - open and approaching contest deadlines:**

- **College Undergraduate Poetry Competition** Submission Period: December 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024
- **BlackBerry Peach (Spoken and Written Word)** Submission Period: January 1, 2024 – March 15, 2024
- **Annual Contest** Submission Period: January 1, 2024 – March 15, 2024

For more information and entry rules, see <https://nfsp.com/contests.html>



See <https://www.nfsp.com/State Contests.html> for **State Poetry Societies** that have contests open to all.



If you prefer a free, no pressure, personal poetry challenge, join **The Stafford Challenge** (<https://staffordchallenge.com/>) which begins on January 17. The goal is to write a poem a day throughout the year, but you're on your honor to simply do your best. By joining, you also gain access to **Monthly Guest Poet Zoom events** featuring accomplished poets; **Bi-weekly inspirational emails**; a **moderated Facebook group** for connecting and sharing; and the opportunity to join **small writing groups** if you wish.

Make checks payable to **POETS NORTHWEST**

Regular Membership \$15

Junior Membership (12 years and younger) \$7

**2024 PNW MEMBERSHIP**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ST/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I want my Newsletter by:     \$15 Dues Paid Cash \_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Zelle \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_                      Mail \_\_\_     \$ 7 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

Pay by Zelle to poetsnorthwesttx@gmail.com—note what the payment is for, please!