



Celebrate April 2025 / National Poetry Month with Highland Park Poetry's Postcard Poem Challenge

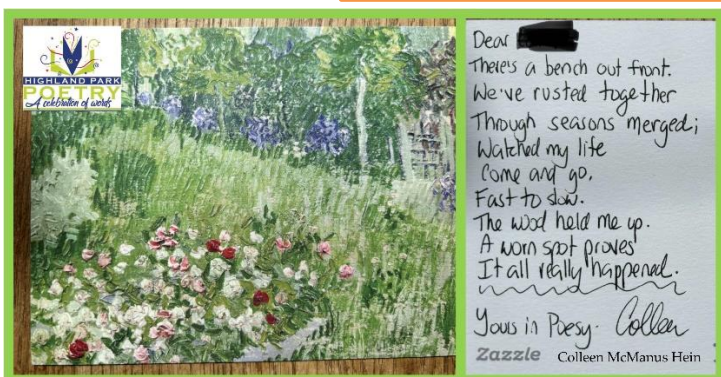
Postcard poems are short poems written on postcards. The idea is to spark spontaneity and to explore a short epistolary form (*this is a postcard, you are writing to someone – even if you don't know them*).

This opportunity is inspired by Cascadia Poetics LAB's annual Postcard Poetry Fest¹. Their excellent program is as old as Highland Park Poetry (*both begun in 2007*) but poets don't begin writing until August. Highland Park Poetry offers this smaller opportunity as an amuse-bouche for April, to whet your appetite for Cascadia Poetics LAB's big event in August.

Here's the program:

1. **Register by March 15, 2025 –**
 - a. STEP 1 = send an email to Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org including this information: Your name, your mailing address, and your commitment to write and mail ten (10) postcard poems to poets on an assigned list. *New in 2025 we are opening this opportunity to include international poets – since this involves more cost for postage and likely longer wait time to receive cards, be sure to indicate if you do not wish to be included on a mailing list with international poets.*
 - b. STEP 2 – send \$10 via PayPal – <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/HighlandParkPoetry> OR send check payable to Highland Park Poetry, 1690 Midland Avenue, Highland Park, IL 60035
2. You will receive a list with eleven (11) names and addresses (*including your own – you do not need to mail a postcard to yourself*) on March 31st.
3. During the month of April, you will send a postcard poem via U.S. mail to each person on your list. *BONUS option – you may send additional postcard poems in response to ones that you receive.*
4. No one will publish your poem without your clearly stated written permission.
5. *BONUS option – send scan or photos of the front/back of postcard poems written by you to Jennifer@highlandparkpoetry.org. Selected postcard poems will be published as Daily Poem posts on HPP's Facebook page beginning in May 2025.*
6. Wait until May before posting images of your postcard poems on social media. *Do not publish postcard poems sent to you by the other poets from your list on social media without clearly stated written permission by the poet.*

Examples of a postcard poems from 2024 participants, Colleen McManus Hein & Donita Ries.



¹ <https://cascadiapoeticslab.org/poetrypostcards/> - Cascadia Poetics LAB Poetry Postcard Fest is an annual literary event and self-guided workshop in spontaneous composition where people sign up to send 31 original poems on postcards to folks on a participation list before the end of August. The Fest was initiated in 2007 by poets Paul Nelson and Lana Ayers, and has grown to include poets participating worldwide. Registration is now open. – Highland Park Poetry encourages poets to register for this program and use our smaller program as a warm-up.