

## QUARTERLY MEETING

### WINTER QUARTERLY MEETING

### CONVERSATIONS IN POETRY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1981

Atlanta Woman's Club Building  
1150 Peachtree Street, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Free Parking -- National Linen Service Lot  
(Enter from 14th Street)

- 10:00 a.m. Conversations with Poets  
Coffee and Registration
- 10:15 a.m. Readings: Christmas Poem Winners,  
Rhymes for Reasons #2 Entries,  
MareI Brown Award Winners; Open  
Readings (bring one or two poems)
- 12:00 noon Lunch -- \$5.00  
Reservations must be made by  
Wednesday, January 7, 1981  
Call (404) 939-1924 or contact  
Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins  
2826 Evansdale Circle, NE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30340
- 1:00 p.m. Music by Cheryl Tarkington
- A CONVERSATION WITH A POET: "A  
Writer's Look -- Progress of a Poet"  
Dr. John Stone, author of The  
Smell of Matches & In All This Rain



### RHYMES FOR REASONS CONTEST #2

Nursery rhymes or poems for/about children.  
Any subject; any form; no line limit.  
Entry fee of \$3.00 per poem (no limit on num-  
ber of poems) for support of Youth Program.  
Must be received by January 10 meeting.  
Winners will receive Certificates of Merit  
and poems will be read at Winter Meeting.  
Thanks for your participation!

### RULES FOR ALL GSPS CONTESTS:

Submit two(2) clear, typed, 8½x11 copies.  
Name, address, telephone on one copy only.  
Poems must be unpublished. GSPS reserves  
1st rights to publish prize-winning poems.  
Send to: Chairman Roxanna Zeller  
3045 Hathaway Court  
Chamblee, Georgia 30341

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,  
Greetings! It's time for  
making "writing" resolutions again...  
or still time to honor those we  
made about a year ago.

How about an entry for our  
Second "Rhymes for Reasons" Contest?  
Your participation last meeting was  
gratifying. The fees help to fund  
our Spring 1981 Youth Contest. Please  
provide your local newspapers,  
schools and libraries with information.

Thank you for your continued  
support of GSPS. I appreciate  
your patience with my answering  
your correspondence. I am very  
pleased with reports from contests  
and publishing. Congratulations!

Selections for the book of our  
charter year are in progress. If  
you did not receive the entry  
form, contact me or Editor Sandra  
Pillaman immediately. You are  
invited to be listed as a donor,  
but please act promptly.

Personally and on behalf of  
your Board, I wish you Merry  
Christmas and Happy New Year!  
12/12/80 Sincerely, Ed

## FALL 1980 MEETING

### FALL MEETING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1980



A poet-satisfying day of reading, exhibiting, learning about, and reviewing poetry, as well as communing with others of like mind was enjoyed by the Georgia State Poetry Society at its Atlanta meeting, October 11. It was conducted by Edward Davin Vickers, Charter President, who was unanimously elected Poetry Day Chairman for the State of Georgia.

Reading their own poetry to an appreciative audience, the following poets were introduced by Lesley Rogers, Master of Ceremonies: Ruth Hale Weaver, Denver Stull, Irma Smith Dowis, Lucille Bennett, Dr. James Rowland Burgess, Jeanne Osborne Gibbs, Anne Holland, Dr. Bill Holland, Marel Brown, Edward Davin Vickers, Dorothy Williamson Worth, Robert Lowrance, Della Cook, Beverly Head, Chuck Bruehler, Bill Boughner, and Lesley Rogers. During and after the reading, Hospitality Chairman Dorothy Worth and Jeanie Hallem hosted a coffee while Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins was in charge of registration.

Richard Beyer, 1978 Alabama Poet of the Year and winner of many honors, conducted a workshop "On Becoming Better Bards, Basically," in which he emphasized tolerance for all types of good poetry and suggested helpful criteria for writing poems that show insight, wide experience, imagination, sense of form, and look at "the other side of the coin." The workshop concluded with a poem in motion -- Anne V. Holland, mime, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, who evoked the spirit of the creative arts.

Luncheon followed at tables decorated with berries, gourds, mums, and roses, furnished by Rowland Burgess and Jannelle McRee. Pat Kirby was in charge of artistically arranged exhibits of members' books and poems. Dr. Jerry Zeller read poems that had been submitted in the "Rhymes for Reasons" contest for or about children to support the GSPS Youth Program, chaired by Irma Dowis. Members selected the three winning poets by ballot -- Marie Ovrevik, Bettie Sellers and Ruth Cox Lantz.

Provocative reviews upheld the high level of interest generated by all events of the day. Richard Beyer read from Threads from Silence, by the late Marjorie Lees Linn, which he and others of her friends are helping to publish. For Kindred Hearts, by Alice Howard, was reviewed by Emilie Slyer.

--continued--

## ATLANTA, GEORGIA

### FALL MEETING

#### CONTINUED

Speaking about "the voice heard beyond the mountains of North Georgia and the land of the Dancing Rabbits," David Ogletree gave an empathetic review of MOUNTAIN SINGER The Life and The Legacy of Byron Herbert Reece, a recent book by Raymond Cook. He eloquently interwove Reece's life of contrasting loneliness and exaltation with his poetry that followed the "ways of rust and flame" and "cleaved the heights of Heaven." He narrated the moments of his death with the poignant conclusion that "somehow mortality and immortality were linked together" in this eminent Georgia poet.

Books of poetry written and donated by Irma Smith Dowis, Lesley E. Rogers, and Poets' Roundtable of Arkansas were door prizes won by Stephanie Zeller, David Deaton and Sarah Carver.

Julia Eubanks Evatt closed a memorable meeting with her poem, "A Place for Wanda," in tribute to Wanda Ast.

Reported by Jeanne Osborne Gibbs

---

## SPRING 1981 YOUTH AWARDS

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer announcing our upcoming Youth Poetry Contest. Please provide the schools in your community, the libraries and your local newspapers with this information. Thank you very much.

---

## NATIONAL POETRY DAY, 1980

Students were invited to share their poetry at an open reading at North DeKalb Mall on National Poetry Day, Wednesday, October 15, 1980. GSPS hosted the affair. In addition to students who read, the following GSPS members participated: Les Rogers, Moderator, Poet Laureate of Georgia Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr., Jo Ann Adkins, Marel Brown, Chuck Bruehler, Martha Burgess, Rowland Burgess, Jeanne Gibbs, Leara Rhodes and Ed Vickers.

Peggy Mercer Mills conducted a "Celebration of Poetry" including workshops, readings and contests for Coffee County school children. Awards were presented at a reception. She received over 200 entries in the contest. Our congratulations and appreciation to Peggy for work and success with this project. Thanks!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1980

## RHYMES FOR REASONS CONTEST #1

Our special thanks to all who entered our first "Rhymes for Reasons" contest for support of GSPS Youth Program. On behalf of GSPS, Contest Chairman Roxanna Zeller expresses our appreciation to poets Lucille C. Bennett, MareI Brown, James Rowland Burgess, Sarah M. Carver, Virginia H. Daniel, Irma Smith Dowis, Ruth Cox Lantz, Robert S. Lowrance, Jr., Micki G. Morris, Marie Wikstrom Ovrevik, Matthew J. Robbins, Bettie Sellers and Jerry Zeller.

## RHYMES FOR REASONS WINNERS

### FIRST PLACE — GRANDMOTHER'S SPOON

BY MARIE WIKSTROM OVREVIK

The spoon rack that hangs on my dining room wall  
Apportioned no places of honor at all,  
Yet I center one spoon so that to this space  
Each other spoon bows from its lesser place!  
Grandmother's spoon etched in fine filligree  
Was her Mother's spoon, and my spoon-to-be.  
Its handle designed with such consummate art  
Had spiralled its way to my little girl heart.  
Those dents in the bowl now worn fragilely thin  
Were put there by babies when small teeth came in.  
She used it for coffee... I do now myself...  
(But most of the time it shines from the shelf.)  
Yes, she drank her coffee and I had milk-tea  
The day that she smiled and gave it to me.  
Though Grandmother left us long years ago,  
Still somehow today I think she may know  
I polish our spoon and smile for the day  
My own small granddaughter may bear it away!

### SECOND PLACE — CUSTARD

BY BETTIE SELLERS

My brontosaurus knows I cry,  
somewhere inside his furry self  
he understands that Mama wants me,  
Papa too. Custody--a word I hear  
them say that should be something  
in a bowl that's good, but isn't.

So I belong to Miss Calhoun,  
but I am not her little girl.  
Bronty knows I get enough to eat,  
all vitamins and spinach on my plate,  
and fresh-washed dresses for wearing  
to the park on every sunny afternoon  
where I see Mamas (they don't dress  
like Miss Calhoun) with their children  
by the swings. They push. And I  
won't go, but sit against a tree  
and tell my brontosaurus stories  
about a little girl who lived in  
a house with a Mama and a Papa....



WELCOMES, WINNERS, WORKSHOPS

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Calvin Atwood of Chamblee; Matt Bennett of Lithonia; C. R. Blackwood of Albany; Birl Randolph Brown, Sr. and Ethelene W. Brown of Forest Park; Geraldine Crocker and James E. Warren, Jr. of Atlanta; Flora Eberhart of Alpharetta; Laurraine Goreau of Carrollton; Anne V. Holland and Dr. William H. Holland, Jr. of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Dorothy J. Krieger of San Anselma, California; and W. Henry Williams of Decatur.

## VICKERS AND BROWN RECEIVE AWARDS

GSPS President Edward Davin Vickers received the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists, Inc. 1980 Author of the Year Award in Poetry for his book, Echo in the Woods. The Council presents awards in fiction, non-fiction, inspirational, juvenile and poetry annually. GSPS member MareI Brown was given a "Special Award" for her service and inspiration to the Council and writers everywhere. The Awards Dinner was held October 17, 1980, in Atlanta.

## WORKSHOPS

Beginning January 6, 1981, for six weeks on Tuesdays, 6-8 p.m. CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP taught by Julia Evatt at Mercer University, Atlanta. Call 451-0331 for details.

Weekend of January 30-February 1, Appalachian Writers Workshop with Poets Bettie Sellers & Jim Wayne Miller and Editor Shirley Williams. Register before January 10; contact The John C. Campbell Folk School Brasstown, NC 28902 (704) 837-2775

---

## THIRD PLACE — WASHDAY MORNING

BY RUTH COX LANTZ

His bluejean pockets yielded up  
Their motley treasure store:

Two bottle caps,  
A dirty piece of string.  
A safety pin, a rusty nail,  
One aggie, round and clear.  
A crumpled book of matches, bent.  
Five beebees and a stone.

And there amid the trashy stuff  
Upon the table lay

A tiny cross of gold.

I caught my breath in one brief prayer:  
"Oh, thank You, God, for this bright spot  
That grows within each little life  
And blossoms forth into Thy Plan Divine."

**RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED**

President Edward Davin Vickers  
GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY  
Peachtree Commons, #A-8  
2222 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309



**GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY**

**CHRISTMAS POEM AWARDS**

**FIRST PLACE — JANET HABAS**

Janet Habas, who won first place in our First Anniversary Awards — Contemporary, has taken top honors again. The Christmas Poem Award was sponsored by Poet Ellis Atkisson McDonald and judged by Dr. John Via, Mercer University, Atlanta. The prize was a copy of Christmas Poems from GEORGIA MAGAZINE; all winners will receive Certificates of Merit. Titles of all winning poems and the poets are:

First: "The Promise", Janet A. Habas  
Second: "Comparison", Dorothy Worth  
Third: "Christmas Morning", Marie Ovrevik  
H.M.: "Christmas Eve, 1977", Leara Rhodes  
H.M.: "Nativity", Pat Kirby

**THE PROMISE BY JANET A. HABAS**

A vacant mood  
among the hills  
proclaimed in mystic  
overtones -  
unearthly auras - present  
stilled - the song  
of bird - the winter  
wood --  
Across an ultra  
silence - stole -  
an expectation -  
of the soul -  
some quiet piece  
of me has known --  
Like ancient stirring  
deep in bone -  
this tender visitation  
near -  
midnights promised  
time is here.



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Peachtree Commons, #A-8  
2222 Peachtree Road, NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
February 10, 1981

Edward Davin Vickers,  
Charter President

Dear GSPS Members and Friends,

Greetings! This letter is enclosed in an envelope containing lots of poetry news and information. I hope these materials bring you much inspiration! To avoid using the word, "enclosed" every other sentence, I offer these comments:

Charter Membership Certificates, hand lettered by Shirley Spears Carroll, a friend of GSPS from Atlanta. Names were copied from applications; if your does not read correctly, please return to me. Mrs. Carroll very graciously offered to re-do any that are necessary. Aren't they nice?

January 1981 STROPHES. Program for NFSPS 1981 Convention, June 25-29, Albuquerque, New Mexico. A once in a lifetime experience which will probably become a habit! Anyone can attend but if you would like to be a GSPS delegate, please let me know.

NFSPS 22nd Annual Contest. Rules! Deadline: March 15, 1981. GSPS annual dues must be paid to qualify for minimal fee to state members. If you are not certain about your status, contact Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins immediately, (404) 939-1924.

GSPS Spring Contests. Rules! Deadline: March 15, 1981. Winners will be named at our Spring Meeting in Atlanta on Saturday, April 11, 1981. Make your plans now to attend. Youth Winners will be announced then, also. Surprises, always!

GSPS Officers for 1981-1982. Please mark the election ballot and return to GSPS Secretary Leara Rhodes by March 15. Thank you.

Charter Yearbook. Submissions received immediately will be considered depending on space available. We will do our best to have it completed by the April Meeting.

Well, here I am with all this space! I could have made complete sentences above. I feel like writing one giant THANK YOU. Because that's what I feel. In less than two years, GSPS is... I'll let you say it for you have made it what it is and it's good! Say THANK YOU to and for yourselves.

Please enter some of the contests. Good luck! You won't lose. Believe me.

I prefer that you didn't write lots of sentimental poetry, but it's all right this month. Happy Valentine's!

Sincerely,

*Ed*



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

## SPRING 1981 MEMBER AWARDS

Contests open to Members of the GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY:

FRANK STEIGLITZ MEMORIAL AWARD given by Gene and Jo Ann Adkins for an epic.  
One prize.....\$25.00.

A CHILD'S POEM AWARD given by Jerry and Roxanna Zeller specifically for a poem to be read simply for the delight of a child under the age of eight.  
First Prize.....\$15.00.  
Second Prize.....\$10.00.  
Third Prize.....\$ 5.00.

POETS' AWARD given by Edward Davin Vickers in honor of all poets everywhere for a poem on any subject, in any form, of any length.  
First Prize.....\$25.00.  
Second Prize.....\$15.00.  
Third Prize.....\$ 5.00.

MANUSCRIPTS: Manuscripts should be typed and double-spaced on one side of 8½ x 11 paper. Submit two (2) copies (clear xerox copies, acceptable) of your entries with name, address and telephone number on one copy only. Both copies must show the contest entered in the upper left hand corner.

Poems submitted must be unpublished and must not have won an award.

Members may enter all three categories but are asked to enter only one poem in each contest. Please do not submit the same poem in more than one contest.

RIGHTS: GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY shall have first rights to publish (or not to publish) prize-winning poems under its imprint in any way deemed advisable. Following such publication, rights shall revert to the poet. Keep copies of poems submitted, since positively no manuscripts will be returned.

DEADLINE: Entries must be received by March 15, 1981.

SEND TO: Chairman Roxanna Zeller  
3045 Hathaway Court  
Chamblee, Georgia 30341

WINNERS will be announced at GSPS Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 11, 1980.



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.  
Edward Devin Vickers, Charter President  
Peachtree Commons, #A-8 2222 Peachtree Road, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30309

## BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF GSPS OFFICERS FOR 1981-1982.

The GSPS Nominating Committee presents the slate of officers below. Write-in votes are welcome; prior consent to serve is required for candidates.

Vote for one person per position. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Bettie Sellers

VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. E. Jerome Zeller

SECRETARY: Patricia P. Kirby

TREASURER: William P. Boughner

Return by March 15, 1981 to: Leara Rhodes, Secretary  
1041 Latham Road  
Decatur, Georgia 30033



# Georgia State Poetry Society

Organized and Chartered, August 30, 1979, Atlanta, Georgia  
Affiliate, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.  
Edward Devin Vickers, Charter President  
Peachtree Commons, #A-8 2222 Peachtree Road, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30309

## BALLOT FOR ELECTION OF GSPS OFFICERS FOR 1981-1982.

The GSPS Nominating Committee presents the slate of officers below. Write-in votes are welcome; prior consent to serve is required for candidates.

Vote for one person per position. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Bettie Sellers

VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. E. Jerome Zeller

SECRETARY: Patricia P. Kirby

TREASURER: William P. Boughner

Return by March 15, 1981 to: Leara Rhodes, Secretary  
1041 Latham Road  
Decatur, Georgia 30033