

GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

SECOND ANNIVERSARY

AN INVITATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1981

The Georgia State Poetry Society invites you to share in Celebration of its Second Anniversary and the Opening of its Library, the Harold and Doris Random Library, founded by David L. Ogletree,

At the home of Pat and George Kirby, 3907 Club Drive, Northeast Atlanta, (first traffic light past Roxboro and Peachtree Dunwoody Roads, north of Lenox Square).

A reception from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

At 4:00 p.m., announcement of winners of the Second Anniversary Awards and the Library Bookplate Competition.

The video tape of the April 11 meeting taken and edited by Herbert Denmark will be available for viewing during the reception.

The Book of the Charter Year will be ready for distribution.

MEETING DATES, 1981-82

Mark your calendar now for meetings; Saturday dates and places are:

October 17, 1981 - Atlanta

January 9, 1982 - Atlanta

April 17, 1982 - Atlanta

August 14, 1982 - Young Harris

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Larry F. Bienvenu, Ponchatoula, LA;
Diane H. Church of Dawson;
Jacqueline Faucett, College Park;
and Kathy Moore from Smyrna.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 1981 7:30 PM

2222 PEACHTREE ROAD, NW #A-8

RSVP 355-2424 OR 399-3355

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings for a Happy Summer!

I agree a good poet avoids triteness and sentimentality; however, as we approach the end of our second year, I admit to having some tender thoughts.

Honestly, there are not words to convey my appreciation for your support - your thoughtfulness, love, presence and your poetry.

GSPS reflects what we have put into it. I thank you.

I salute our new president Bettie Sellers, vice-president Jerry Zeller, Secretary Peggy Mercer Mills, Treasurer Bill Boughner, all appointed officers and chairmen, and I solicit your continued support for them. Please let them know your talents.

Bettie's Young Harris address is Box 274, (36582). Beginning fall, the newsletter will feature ACHIEVEMENTS. Send yours to Bettie early in September.

*We are now incorporated! Thank Jo Ann Adkins when you see her!
See you in August. Shake, again.*

June 17, 1981 Sincerely, Ed

QUARTERLY MEETING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1981

Poets were given the spotlight when GSPS held its Spring Quarterly Meeting in Atlanta at the Atlanta Woman's Club on Saturday, April 11. In fact, the ballroom was aglow with streaming floodlights. The illumination was necessary for GSPS member Herbert Denmark and his assistant who were filming the affair for cable television.

The day began with a meeting of the Board of Directors, open to all members, at nine. Betty Gore and Nancy Burns served coffee and "goodies"; Treasurer Jo Ann Adkins registered members and guests. Denver Stull introduced members who participated in an open reading: Chuck Bruehler, Marel Brown, Lucille Bennett, Kitty and Birl Brown, Sarah Carver, Ernest Camp, Della Cook, George Chapman, Flora Eberhart, Jeanne Gibbs, Alice Howard, Beverly Head, Pat Kirby, Bob Lowrance, Marjorie Ohrtman, Marie Ovrevik, Pat Posey, Les Rogers, Evelyn Rineer, Emilie Slyer, Bettie Sellers, Memye Tucker, Jerry Zeller, Sonja Shilling, Mona Buck, Sandra Prillaman, Peggy Mills, and Janet Habas.

President Ed Vickers gave a special introduction to Lesley E. Rogers. Les won the top award in the talent competition held at Georgia Tech as part of the Dogwood Festival. He then read one of his poems, "The Cardinal in the Thorn", for which he had received a silver bowl.

Youth Chairman Irma Smith Dowis presented the winners in the 1981 Youth Contest. She reported that 2500 entries had been received in the three categories: Elementary Middle School and High School. She introduced Bettie Sellers and Peggy Mercer Mills, who had served on the youth contest committee. All three named who their judges had been and related general comments from them. Seven Special Recognitions were announced in each category and the young poets who had placed third, second and first were introduced. Each read his or her winning entry.

Contest Chairman Roxanna Zeller announced the winners of the spring 1981 Members Awards: A CHILD'S POEM AWARD: First-Anselma B. Henderson-Floyd, "Ramblings of a Kitty," Second-Jeanie Franco Hallem, "Growing up is..." Third-Marie Wikstrom

SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING

CONTINUED...

Ovrevik, "Finders Keepers," Special Recognition-Matthew J. Robbins, "My Pet Boo," Richard D. Vanderpool, "For Three Favorites," Dorothy Williamson Worth, "Waiting." POETS' AWARD: First-Laurraine Goreau, untitled, Second-Flora Eberhart, "Georgia Diary 1," Third-Marjorie G. Ohrtmann, "Our Back Yard," Special Recognition-Jeanne Osborne Gibbs, "186,000 Miles Per Second," Jeanie Franco Hallem, "Hospital Blues: A Trilogy." FRANK STEIGLITZ MEMORIAL AWARD: First-Julia Evatt, "Leila and Benjamin: Their Story," Second-Cosmas Dokos, "The Ballad of Enoch Quinn," Third-Jess Perlman, "Tenth Anniversary."

Jeanne Osborne Gibbs offered her poem, "Prayer of Poets at Easter" as a special invocation. Lunch tables were decorated with small pots of blossoming miniature azaleas by Pat Posey. Following lunch, soloist Karen Warren of Warner Robins and Donna Blankenship of Marietta, both daughters of Julia Evatt, performed a musical program of art songs by American composers.

Jean Peacock, freelance writer, book reviewer and former teacher, shared excerpts from Herbert Denmark's recent book, Poetry Especially for Beautiful and Intelligent American Women of Color.

Guest poets from North Carolina concluded the day by reading from their own works. President Ed Vickers presented Gene Grace, a distinguished eye surgeon from Durham, who is a publisher and owner of Moore Publishing Company; Mary Carleton Sotherly, treasurer of the North Carolina Poetry Society from Raleigh who has taught creative writing at North Carolina State University; and Calvin Atwood, formerly from Chapel Hill and now Director of Corporate Relations for Emory University's School of Business. Cal is past president of the North Carolina Poetry Society and author of a collection of poems, A Squadron of Roses. Gene introduced the reading with a parody on Cal's book title, and Calvin concluded with poems from his book.

Door prizes were copies of PRESENTING Georgia Poets by Marel Brown and A Squadron of Roses by Calvin Atwood.

FRANK STEIGLITZ MEMORIAL AWARD

LEILA AND BENJAMIN: THEIR STORY

PLACE: FORT MOUNTAIN, GEORGIA

TIME: 1878 - 1945

BY JULIA EVATT

...

VIII. Ben's song to Leila

Words are minnows, Love;
they slip and slide.
Words I search for
always hide.

Words are lizards, Love;
so colorful
on your red lips,
on mine, they're dull.

Words don't last, my Love;
see, I speak, they're gone.
But what I know of love
lives on.

...

(The epic in its entirety will appear
in our 1980-81 Book of the Year.)

A CHILD'S POEM AWARD

RAMBLINGS OF A KITTY

BY ANSELMA B. HENDERSON-FLOYD

Oh, look at that lady so pretty and neat,
And a cute little boy holding her hand so sweet.
Their house looks so cozy and warm.
I think I'll sit on their porch out of the storm.
And look how they're coming over to me,
The least I can do is meet them halfway.
I love to be petted, cuddled and caressed.
He's petting me now! Easy does it kid.
Wait! Don't pick me up!
You're squeezing too hard!
Dumb little brat dropped me off in the wet yard!
But I'll show him, he'll think I'm his friend.
That's right, kid, pick me up again.
Now, if I can just get him within my reach,
I'll scratch him from his head to his feet.
I can't believe it, caught by this kitty-
killer's squeeze!
Now, down again to the wet ground, pretty
as you please.
Well, I suppose I'm off again to wander and roam.
Surely soon I'll get out of the wetness
and find a new home.

POETS' AWARD

UNTITLED

BY LAURRAINE GOREAU

Coalesced
by the thousand they
swerved the air as if some
UFO
descended, had chosen
this site of quiet
mortals for urgent
research into earthlings and
landing, split each
unit into its own sleek
atoms, mission
accomplished with swift
flick-flecks of computers,
millions of minuscule
chitterings too short to be
shrill maybe atomized
gates with the squeaks left over or
minute dolphins deployed
from an ancient home
planet, flippers flapping the
fluid air, discussing now the
human dilemmas deciding
whether any good will ensue
accrue of
grooming these hapless
inhabitants, earth-
rooted, death-starred.
Decision democratic, a
pyramid piqued to know
peaked to no
they take flight, looking
for all the whirled like
blackbirds.

BOOK OF THE YEAR, 1980-1981

GSPS members are invited to submit up to
three, unpublished, poems for consider-
ation for publication in our Book of the
Year, 1980-1981. An editorial staff will
make the selections. Poems should be
typed and should not exceed forty lines.
Please send your original poems by Monday,
August 31, 1981 to:

Associate Editor Jo Ann Adkins
2826 Evansdale Circle, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30340

NOTE TO MEMBERS: The FRANK STEIGLITZ
MEMORIAL AWARD for an Epic Poem will be
repeated in 1981-1982. Notice is being
given to allow sufficient time for prep-
aration of a work of this nature.

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY, INC.

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



YOUTH WINNERS (FIRST PLACES)
ELEMENTARY - IT'S RAINING

BY DAMON CLOUD, AGE 9

It's raining...
Rain falls down on the city.
It wets the houses.
It wets the cars.
It even wets the river more!
It wets the people, too.
The city is dark in the soft gray rain.
It's raining!

MIDDLE SCHOOL - ON A SUMMER DAY

BY TRACY ATKINS, AGE 11

I love to walk on a summer day.
Nothing else feels quite that way.
It's a quiet time when you can think,
When you can let your thoughts sink.

I love to go horse-back riding on a summer day.
Nothing else feels quite that way.
You ride through the woods
And hear the horse's hooves.

I love to walk with you on a summer's day.
Nothing else will ever feel that way.
I love to hold hands as we walk among trees.
Walking on a summer day, just you and me.

HIGH SCHOOL - PO' LITTLE BLACK GIRL

BY SANDRA DEE WILLIAMS, AGE 17

Hey,

Where that little black gal think
she going all rouged and red with
them high heels on? (Don't she know
that ain't civilized?)

I see she been staying out all
night and when she do come
home she got her nose all up in
the air -- walking proud. (Don't
she know that ain't ladylike?)

I hear them four chillen hollerin'
all the time -- but they ain't cryin'
'cause they hungry -- they don't never
be hungry. So I guess she know what
she doing.

What you say? Chile, shut yo'
mouth. That ain't changing
yo' style, that's what we old
folks call ruining your re-pu-tation.
(Reckon she ever gonna learn?)
Po' Little Black gal.