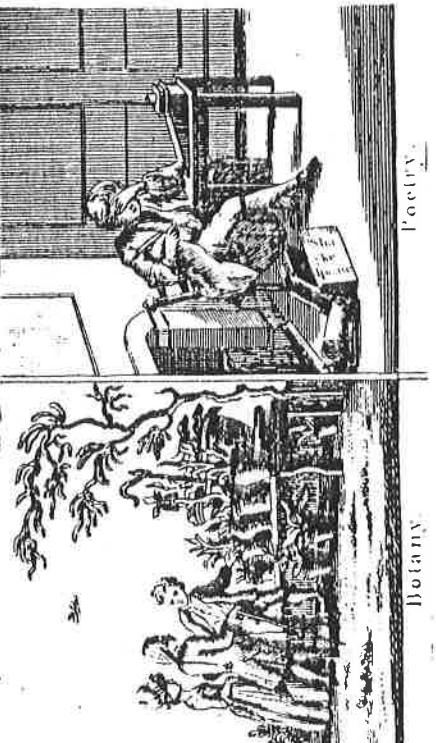
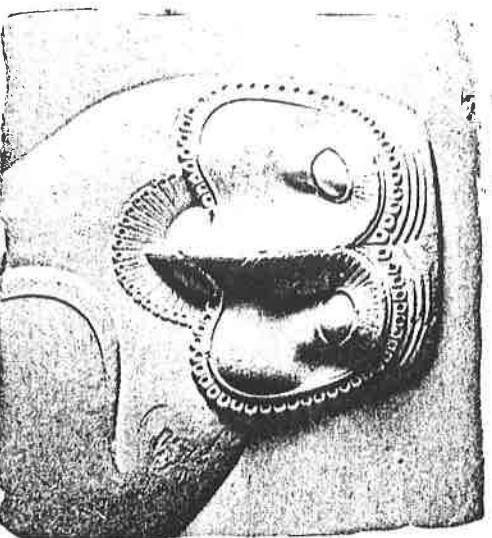


# and a journal of poetry



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Nancy Maxwell Goldberg, Ed.  
2548 Mercedes Drive NE  
Atlanta, Ga. 30545

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE  
SEPTEMBER 15th

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Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Fourth Anniversary Meeting

Atlanta Botanical Garden

Saturday, August 20, 1983

9:00 a.m. Awards Announcement

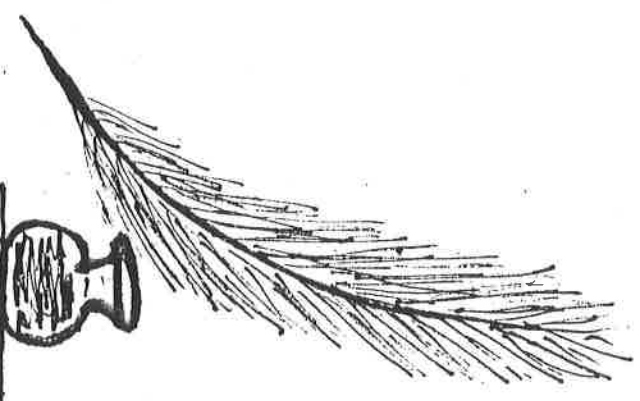
9:30 a.m. Refreshments

10:00 a.m. Open Reading

Bring: a poem or two...

Dress: cool and comfortable!

(Enter Piedmont Park on Piedmont Avenue at South Prado; continue to entrance of Garden; turn left into Garden parking lot; park; proceed to "the Gazebo in the Rock Garden")



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

IRMA SMITH DOWIS is now MRS. FRED R. EVANS as of March 19th, 1983. The ceremony was performed by Irma's son-in-law, the Reverend, Doctor Claude Y. Stewart, who is a professor of religion at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina. Irma wrote the words and music for their wedding songs: " This Is Our Wedding Day," " Oh, Golden Promise," and " Bless This Pair." The couple will reside at Baptist Inn, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281. You may call them at 474-1148.

OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY sends along its thanks to everyone who helped to make HOWARD NEMEROV'S visit to Atlanta a pleasant one. It is the hope of the President of the University that G.S.P.S. will continue what has been a positive relationship with Oglethorpe in the future.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF ALL INSERTS IN THE NEWSLETTER: it is to your advantage to do so.



## Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia  
Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

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Linda M. Segars, Treasurer  
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## WHO GIVES A BLANK

by

Leara Rhodes and Linda Segars

" Things forbidden have a certain charm, " said the Roman historian Tacitus ( 55 AD ).

I pulled Green Mansions off the shelf and took it to the check-out desk. The librarian glanced at the title and then at me.

" I'm afraid I can't let you check this book out, " she said.

" Why not? "

" It's much too sophisticated for you, " she replied.

I went home in anger. I was in the fourth grade and already learning what censoring was like. When Dad heard the story he purchased a copy of Green Mansions and gave it to me. I have been reading everything I want to read since.

I learned later that the first amendment to our Constitution states:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or ( deleted ) .

This right to be informed, to know, means that I have a choice of what I want to read. It doesn't mean that someone else makes that decision for me; along with democracy comes choices.

Along with the right to be informed is the life created in books and literature. This is the real controversy. Close your eyes and think of Alice In Wonderland and you can see Alice peeking through the keyhole. Think of The Hotel New Hampshire and you can see the stuffed dog killing the grandfather. Think of Going After Cacciato and you can see the men being blown out of the Vietnam caves. Literature often mirrors life and how individuals view life. This life-size picture in print is where the fervor arises. Can the author say this? Can the characters do this? Can just anybody read this? Should the age to read be limited? What about language? Who decides what is obscene or what is not obscene? Who gives a blank?

John Milton did when he stated in Areopagitica, a speech for the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing to the Parliament of England, 1644:

The Preciousness of a Good Book--( deleted )  
For Books are not absolutely dead things, but doe contain a potencie of life in them to be as active as that soule was whose progeny they are; nay, they do preserve as in violl the purest efficacie and extraction of that living intellect that bred them.

( Deleted )

as good almost kill a man as kill a good Book;  
who kills a man kills a reasonable creature,  
God's Image; but he who destroys a good Booke,  
kills reason itselfe, kills the Image of God,  
as it were in the eye.

( Deleted )

WILL THESE MEMBERS PLEASE STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW

MAREL BROWN conducted a One—Hour Workshop, for State School Librarians, at Jekyll Island on the subject: "How Writers Can Serve Librarians " and had two books for autographing time. She had a one-page devotional, for March 8th, in the daily devotional magazine, The Upper Room, which is published in 53 languages, in 42 countries. In addition, she has four chapters in the new book, THE STUDY AND WRITING OF POETRY : FIFTY WOMEN POETS DISCUSS THEIR CRAFT on three French forms, the Rondeau, the Triolet and the Pantoum; also another chapter, " If You Write A Poem. " For those interested, this book is available from Whitson Publishing Co., P.O. Box 958, Troy, N. Y. 12181. The price is 27.50 for hardback and 12.50 for paperback. This book has been eagerly received by State School Librarians as a must for their libraries: particularly for high school level. Perhaps Marel could have a few copies available for our Fall meeting? Marel also judged poems and prose ( 131 and 9 ) for high school students of Fannin County. Winners, plus thirty of the next best poems will appear in Spring issue of FANNIN FOLIO; this issue will feature Georgia's 250th Birthday. ( Happy Birthday, Georgia ! )

GARY BALDY will have poetry in the following presses: POETIC JUSTICE, STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSES MOUTH, PROOF ROCK, THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW, and TIOTIS POETRY NEWS. Magazines publishing Gary's short stories are: VEGA\* and SPECTRUM. It is obvious Gary has been putting forth a great deal of effort: keep up the good work, Gary.

WILL THESE MEMBERS PLEASE STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW

CAROL BIVINS won second place in a competition sponsored by The Chattahoochee Review for her poem "Disillusion."

CHARLES B. DICKSON has a poem in THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW REVIEW, Spring issue.

NANCY MAXWELL GOLDBERG has a poem in THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW, Spring issue.

PAMELA HENRY won second prize in THE NEW MEXICO STATE POETRY CONTEST for 1983; the poem is titled "BROWN JULY."

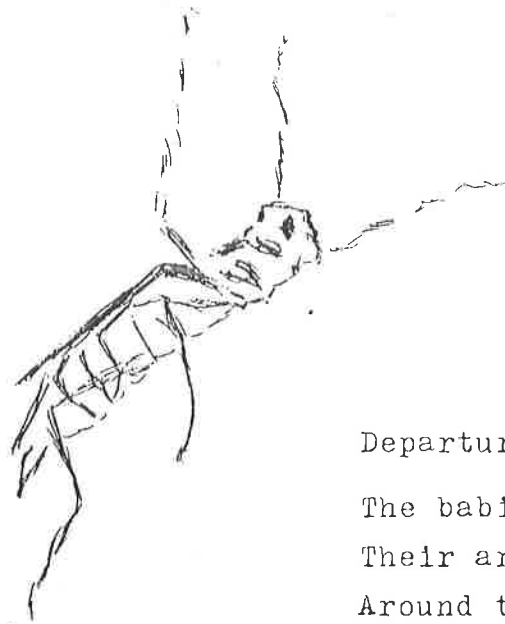
JOAN LOEB won a FIRST for the best poem to appear in THE CHATTAHOOCHEE REVIEW for 1982,83.

JIMMIE RENEE had a poem "MUSIC IS EVERYWHERE" accepted for publication by WORLD OF POETRY for WESTERNWORLDS GREATEST POEMS. It will be out in September.

MEMYE CURTIS TUCKER read in March and May on WRFG radio, in April at Kennesaw College and for the Marietta-Cobb Fine Arts Center; in she read at the Piedmont Arts Festival ( Little Five Points Arts Alliance ).

EMILY BLAKE VAIL has published three poems in THE LIVING CHURCH: an Episcopal magazine which has national coverage. Another poem has been accepted and will appear soon.

JEANNE OSBORN SHAW had poems published in LYRICAL TREASURES RHODES RUNNER, which is a First Baptist Church, Atlanta bulletin. She read her poetry as a guest of honor at a reception for Agnes Scott College authors, and she read with her husband, Harry, at Guy Webb School. She won 2nd place for contemporary poetry, Carol Brown Contest, A.W. C.



Departure

The babies stare and twine  
Their arms and legs  
Around the posts holding up  
The red tin porch roof.

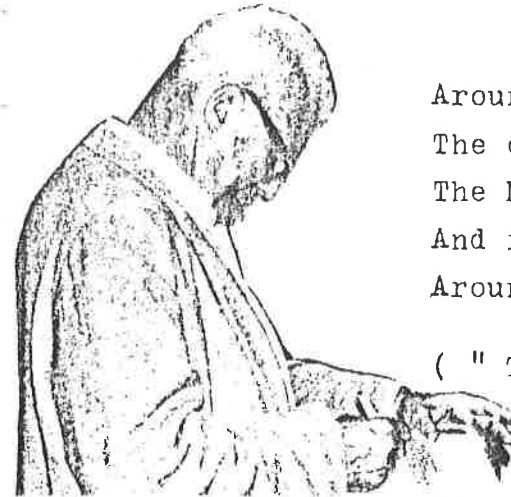
The woman stands, almost invisible,  
Behind the screen. Her grey skin  
Melts into the grey beyond.  
Her white eyes echo rags  
Futile protests against insects.

The boy howls wordlessly  
From beneath the tattered bush  
His wide mouth, a red cavern.  
His tears make silver tracks  
Then small dark stains  
On the red powdery dirt.

Joan Loeb

Meanwhile the clouds go on clowning  
 over our heads in the floodlight of  
 a moon who is known to be Artemis  
 and Cynthia but sails away anyhow  
 beyond the serious poets with their  
 crazy ladies and cloudy histories,  
 their heroes in whose idiot dreams  
 the buzzard circles like a clock.

( From " Holding The Mirror Up To Nature " )



Around the brilliant morning with the sun,  
 The dance that leads him out to bring him home,  
 The May Day dance that tramples down the grass  
 And raises dust, that braids a double thread  
 Around the pole, in the great room of the sun.

( " The May Day Dancing " )

one day...

...fair may

brought

...until in May  
 The dream transforms him with itself  
 And from his depths he rises out,  
 An exile from the brutal night.

( The Dragonfly )



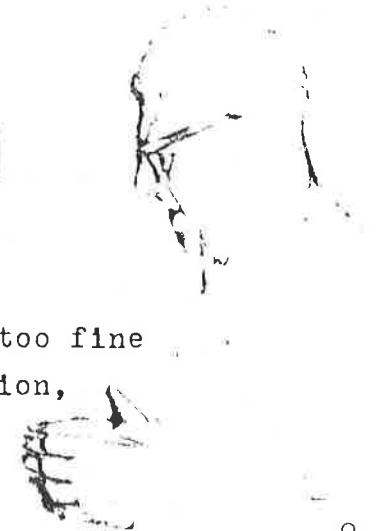
There in the china light he lay,  
 Most ancient and corrupt and grey  
 They hesitated at his smile,  
 Wondering what it seemed to say  
 To lovers who a little while  
 Before had thought to understand,  
 By violence upon the sand,  
 The only way that could be known  
 To make a world their own.

( " The Goose Fish " )

howard nemerov

No bars are set too close, no mesh too fine  
 To keep me from the eagle and the lion,

( " The Sparrow in the Zoo " )



FROM CHUCK BRUENLER: A REPORT ON THE POETRY CONVENTION

It gives me great pleasure to write about the Annual National Convention of the National Association of State Poetry Societies, held this summer in Scottsdale, Arizona.

This was my 5th convention and, as always, it proved to be a learning and caring experience. There were 200 people from all over the United States, of every age, type and demeanor. And they all had one thing in common: the love for poetry.

Poetry readings occurred at all hours, from early in the morning until late at night. Poets read in the hotel lounge, at the swimming pool, on verandas, in rooms, or wherever they found inspiration.

winning poets, of the 50 various contests, were given the opportunity of reading their poem at the dinners and banquets. Imagine the thrill of reading your prize-winning poem in front of 200 of your peers.

At the convention, there is the opportunity of developing lasting friendships; and, as I do, look forward to each convention, and the opportunity of making new friends.

Next year, in late June, the National Convention will be on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University, which is just outside of Columbus, Ohio. I'm looking forward to it already.

WILL THESE MEMBERS PLEASE STAND UP AND TAKE A BOW

EDWARD DAVIN VICKERS won three first places in poetry in the Atlanta Writers Club Spring 1983 Contests. The prizes include the Hickey Memorial Award ( \$125.00! ), the Poet Laureate Award, the AWC President's Award plus, an honorable mention in the Alex B. Brown Memorial Award. Ed was recorded reading his poetry which was aired, live, on WRFG FM radio on June 22, 1983. ( The program features Atlanta Poets and Fiction writers reading from their own work on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.; dial 89.3 FM )

Ed has been nominated to serve as Third Vice-President, 1983-84, of the National Federation Of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

DORTHY WORTH has had poems published in the Spring issue of The Chattahoochee Review and the latest issue of the dekalb literary arts journal ( Vol. xv ); she has also won the 1983 Atlanta Writers Club Caroline Wyatt Memorial Award for best poetry manuscript, as well as two 1st place and 2 second place awards for poetry in the AWC Spring contest. In the Bright Horizons poetry contest of the Denver National League of American Pen Women she won 1st and 3rd places for traditional rhymed poetry; she won a second and a third place in the Utah State Poetry Society National Contest for unpublished poems.

( Editor's note: All newsnotes will be reduced to three short lines, for the next issue and all subsequent issues, due to time and space. ) We congratulate all of you on your many honors and publications.

THINGS YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

Lamar York and The Chattahoochee Review kindly gave us permission to use Joan Loeb's award winning poem in this issue. ( Thank you Lamar. )

Harriet Kelley is leaving us. She will reside in the great city of Dallas; her address is 6816 Heather Knoll Drive, Dallas, Texas 75248. Goodbye, Harriet, we'll miss you.

Daniel Whitehead Hickey's Contest is "alive" and doing very well, but don't forget to enter the contest: We want everyone represented.

My deep appreciation to HOWARD NEMEROV for allowing me to excerpt his poems for the NEWSLETTER "centerfold."

For those of you who share my deep affection for National Public Radio: We could experience some severe cutbacks in programming due to a shortage of funds; but you will have your chance to show your support on August 1st through the 3rd, when Morning Edition and All Things Considered will have a fundraising drive. I hope all of you will show your support. ( This is not a paid announcement. )

Does everybody know that Leara Rhodes had a wonderful baby girl? I believe Paul Knowlton had something to do with it, too. ( It hasn't stopped Leara, as you can tell by the article in this "issue" . Pardon the pun, folks.)

( continued from p.4 )

The American Library Association Council gave a blank and made an official public statement about the free communication of ideas.

" The freedom to read is essential to our democracy."  
( Deleted )

...books are among our greatest instruments of freedom. They are almost the only means for making generally available ideas or manners of expression that can initially command only a small audience. They are the natural medium for the new idea and the untried voice from which come the original contributions to social growth. They are essential to the extended discussion which serious thought requires, and to the accumulation of knowledge and ideas into organized collections.

We believe that free communication is essential to the preservation of a free society and a creative culture. We believe that these pressures towards conformity present the danger of limiting the range and variety of inquiry and expression on which our democracy and our culture depend. We believe that every American community must jealously guard the freedom to publish and to circulate, in order to preserve its own freedom to read.

The freedom to read entitles us to choose subject matter, author, and language. What one person reads may not appeal to another. Everyone is different. But as a life form, literature is important in showing different life styles, different methods of handling problems, and different people.

Just as Alice in Wonderland would never utter a " four letter word, " the soldier witnessing his buddies being blown apart in Vietnam caves would never



say " War can be a pain. " War is hell and Alice  
is "peachy keen. "

Literature should never be censored. It should be  
read. The town council in Vermont did not read the  
book Making It With Mademoiselle before they banned  
it from their libraries. Had they read it, they  
would have discovered a book on how to sew by  
Mademoiselle Magazine.

Somebody needs to give a blank. I'm glad my Father  
did. I thoroughly enjoyed Green Mansions. I saved my  
copy these twenty years to give my daughter, just in  
case.

---

JESSICA BEN RHODES-KNOWLTON

MAY 3, 1983

9 lbs 4 1/2 ozs.

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THE MORNING-GLORY

Summer's earliest morning's sun,  
Impatiently waiting outside my room,  
Mischievously scratched at my window screen  
And drew me from my library of dreams.

As I turned and looked to my window,  
The fragile silhouette of young tendrils  
And delicate heart-shaped leaves, became erect  
And stood apart from the twisted cords.

Then, as if to herald the dawn of Summer,  
The first blossom to adorn my daytime shadows  
Lifted its dewy-blue throat  
And sounded its silent call.

Edward Davin Vickers