



Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

Founded August 30, 1979 Incorporated June 11, 1981 Atlanta, Georgia

Member, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Affiliate, The Academy of American Poets

THE NEWSLETTER

Volume 10, Number 2

January, 1989

GSPS WINTER MEETING JANUARY 14

AT MERCER UNIVERSITY, ATLANTA

9:30 - 10:00 Registration
Coffee and Pastries
Members' Book Displays and Sales

10:00 Business Session
Dr. Frank McKemie, Presiding
Short Session of Member Readings
Herbert Denmark, Chairman

10:30 - 12:00 Poetry Workshops

I. "Making Good Poems" led by
Memye Curtis Tucker, Ph. D.

II. "Exploring Family Heritage through
Creative Writing" led by
Jacquelyn Markham, Ph. D.

12:00 - 1:00 Luncheon

1:00 - 2:30 Address
Dr. Larry Rubin
Department of English
Georgia Institute of Technology

2:30 - 3:00 Contests Announcements
Neal Fraser, Chairman

Cost of Luncheon - \$7.95 per person.
Last day for making reservations, January
10, 1989. Call 404-297-9030 to make reser-
vations, or write Dr. Frank McKemie, 37
Fairfield Avenue, Avondale Estates, GA
30002 so correspondence will reach him
by January 10.

A full day of helpful workshops, an
address by a noted poet, and business
fill the agenda for Saturday, January 14,
1989. Plan to attend this important
quarterly meeting of GSPS. Get involved
in activities of the Society and benefit
from a day a quarter with poetic
emphases.

DR. LARRY RUBIN TO SPEAK

AT JANUARY 14, 1989 MEETING



Dr. Larry Rubin was born in Bayonne, NJ and grew up in Miami, FL. He attended Emory University from 1947 through 1956. In 1956 he began his teaching career at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, where he has remained except for terms of teaching abroad on the Fulbright Exchange Program at the University of Krakow (1961-62), University of Bergen, Norway (1966-67), Free University of West Berlin (1968-69), and the University of Innsbruck (1971-72).

Three published volumes of poetry are The World's Old Way (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1962); Lanced in Light (Harcourt, 1967); and All My Mirrors Lie (Godine, 1975). A fourth collection is currently under submission. Since 1956 some 790 poems have appeared in prestigious literary magazines. His work appears in about forty anthologies including A Geography of Poets (Bantam, 1979) and The Norton Introduction to Poetry (1986). In 1961 he received the Poetry Society of America's "Reynolds Lyric Award" and in 1973 the annual award. Twice the Dixie Council of Authors and Journalists named him "Georgia Poet of the Year" in 1967 and 1975.

**GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY
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This newsletter is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through an appropriation from the Georgia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Newsletter Information Deadlines:

by February 28 (Spring issue)
 by May 30 (Summer issue)
 by August 30 (Fall issue)
 by November 30 (Winter issue)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Many great literarians and philosophers have sought to define poetry. A much-quoted favorite is Wordsworth's which sees poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquillity." Shelley viewed poetry as "the record of the best and happiest moments of the best and happiest minds." Dylan Thomas declared poetry to be "the rhythmic, inevitable narrative movement from an overclothed blindness to a naked vision." Edwin Arlington Robinson observed that "poetry is language that

tells us, through a more or less emotional reaction, something that cannot be said. All poetry, great or small, does this."

Reading what others have written about poetry caused some mind-searching. My life-long love affair with the genre of poetry elicited these thoughts about this literary form:

Poetry is

- a facet built of words, honed and polished to a concise brilliance.
- a spontaneous reaction to a remembered incident, caught in a web of insight, then shaped delicately.
- an approach to unveiling distinctive truths in the shortest possible format.
- the language of the heart married to the keenest expressions of the mind.
- a suggestion, a whisper, a revelation.

Poetry occurs when

- the mind searches for the proper metaphor to make a diaphanous thought a tangible word picture.
- thoughts are fashioned into tactile word patterns.
- pen and experience record a poignant recollection.

Poetry requires

- fresh new approaches for expressing age-old messages.
- keen insight and critical hindsight.
- willingness to discard mediocre mouthings for meaningful metaphors.
- fastidious attention to the elements of language comprising the poetic genre.
- a journal of ideas readily accessible to provide the raw materials of poetic composition.

Poetry becomes

- the language of the soul,
- the expression of the heart,
- the work of the mind,
- and the gift of the poet.

Poetry is therapy and pleasure, joy and pain. Once the penchant for it strikes, it is seldom overcome. The love of poetry lingers like a sweet aura in the mind, the filaments pulling and binding its captive in a life-long grip. Poetry leads the mind through gates of splendor to the soul of thought.

INTRODUCING JANUARY WORKSHOP LEADERS

I. "Making Good Poems Better: Critique and Revision" will be led by GSPS member Memye Curtis Tucker, Ph. D.

After the wings of first inspiration, can you walk and not faint? The workshop will present ways to analyze and rework your compositions so that your strongest poems emerge. Bring a poem to think about.

Dr. Tucker holds degrees in English from Agnes Scott, Columbia, and Emory University. Since 1982, her poems have appeared in over three dozen journals and anthologies, including Southern Poetry Review, Confrontation and Anthology Magazine Verse & Yearbook of American Poetry (1984-1988). A chapbook, Holding Patterns, was published by Poetry Atlanta Press, 1988. Some of her recent awards are: first in poetry, Sandhills Conference (1988) and Chattahoochee Review (1983) and the Sullivan Award for Leadership in the Arts (1988). She received an Artist-Initiated Grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts (1987-88) and now serves on its Artists' Advisory Panel.

II. "Exploring Family Heritage through Creative Writing" led by Jacquelyn Markham, Ph. D.

The workshop will combine Dr. Markham's poetry from her latest collection, The Moon Ripens, with practical suggestions for exploring heritage through writing, offering the opportunity during the workshop for members to begin their own explorations.

Jacquelyn Markham is a 1988-89 recipient of a grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts for a series of talks on exploring Georgia Heritage. Dr. Markham teaches English at the University of Georgia. She holds an M. A. and a Ph. D. in Creative Writing from Florida State University. Her poems have appeared in Georgia Journal, Bitterroot, The Old Red Kimono and elsewhere. Her chapbook, Today This Jar of Pickles Is My Poem, was published in 1988 by Armstrong State College Press.

Plan to attend a workshop January 14.

MEMBERSHIP DUES OVERDUE REMINDER

Membership chairman Virginia Dickson reminds 1987-88 members that dues for the 1988-89 fiscal year are much past due. The Georgia State Poetry Society depends on its members for strength and stability. Your continuous membership year after year means that the programs sponsored by GSPS can be implemented. At this point, only about half the previous membership has renewed for 1988-89.

What is the problem? Are you not pleased with the Society's purposes? Do you not like the programs at quarterly meetings? Or, have you, like most of us on occasion, just forgotten to renew your membership?

What are some benefits of membership? First, you can be a supporter of GSPS objectives to encourage and enhance the craft of poetry throughout Georgia. You can encourage youth and children to be interested in poetry through the annual Youth Poetry Competitions. The yearly anthology of member poems published by the Society helps to showcase contemporary poets. The various contests sponsored by GSPS throughout the year encourage better writing. The quarterly meetings bring information and inspiration to members with an address by a noted poet or teacher of poetry and periodic workshops to enhance members' knowledge of crafting poetry.

And what are some benefits? The Reach of Song annual anthology goes to every member, with the cost included in membership dues. The Newsletter goes to members quarterly. Strophes, the quarterly publication of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, is mailed quarterly to all members. And members have the privilege of attending and participating in the quarterly meetings which are aimed at furthering poetry and poetic expression. There are other benefits, but these are a "bargain" for the \$15.00 annual membership fee.

Please renew today! The Society needs you--you need GSPS!

Editor's note: Fall, 1988, GSPS Contest Winners'

3 List not available for this Newsletter.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF MEMBERS

Charles Dickson won five first places, four second places, one third, one fifth, one sixth and five honorable mentions in the national contest of the Florida State Poetes Association. He also won five first places in contests held only for those who attended the annual FSPA Convention in Ocala; in the Alabama State Poetry Society's fall contest, three fourth places and five honorable mentions; third, fourth and fifth places in a Poets at Work contest; second prize and an honorable mention in the Withlacoochee Poets (Florida) 1988 contest; second prize in Parnassus fall haiku contest. He had four poems and an essay on cinquains in Pine Needles. He judged the quarterly JFA contest. He had poems accepted by Piedmont Liteary Review, Manna, Parnassus, Cicada, and Haiku Zasshi Zo.

June Owens is Editor South of the newly-fomed Shirt-Pocket Press which publishes Bard, an "elegant" small quarterly publication with the twenty best poems published quarterly. For more information and entry requirements, contact June at P. O. Box 1585, Zephyrhills, FL 34283-1585. Send SASE, # 10 envelope.

Marel Brown teaches a creative writing class at the Regency House on a twice-a-month basis. She has been published recently in The Senior Tribune, the Pen Woman, and The Builder.

Herbert Walter Denmark is president of Pen and Pica Literary Society of Morrow, Georgia. At its October meeting, featured speaker was **Dr. John Ransom Lewis, Jr.**, GSPS member and poet laureate of Georgia. **Mr. Denmark** wrote a review of the GSPS Reach of Song, 1987 for the Clayton County Friends of the Library.

Dorothy Williamson Worth has been named a member of the newly-formed Literary Panel of the A. R. T. Station in Stone Mountain to represent poets. She has been selected for inclusion in the 1988-89 International Directory of Distinguished Leadership. She has had poems published in Georgia Journal, the Georgia State University Review, the

Mississippi Poetry Journal, the Poetry Jacksonville 1988 Anthology, in Designs for Poetry, and in the 1987 NFSPS Prize Poems Anthology. She has a poem to appear in the memorial collection, Celebrating T. S. Eliot (Wyndham Hall Press, December, 1988).

In addition, she has won the following awards: first prize in the 1988 Animal World Award by the Florida State Poets Association and a first honorable mention in that Association's Poets Award; first prize for a Shakespearian Sonnet in the Mississippi Poetry Society's 1988 National Contest, as well as a second and a third prize in two other categories; fourth prize in the Indiana Contest of NFSPS' 1988 National Competition, fifth prize in the Wisconsin contest, and eighth prize in the Arizona contest. In the Atlanta Writers Club 1988 spring contest she won first prize for an essay, first prize in the Georgia Magazine human interest story, first prize for an article, first prize for a group of religious poems, and second place in the Byron Herbert Reece Award. In the Alabama Poetry Society's 1988 National Contest, she won first place in the Onzelle Faust Templin Memorial competition, and fifth prize in the Ralph Hammond contest. She won the 1988 Juvenile Book Award of the Atlanta Writers Club.

Jeanne Osborne Shaw had two prize poems published in the yearbook of the Poetry Society of Georgia. She had a poem in the Fall issue of The DeKalb Literary Arts Journal and two accepted by Sunday, the magazine of the Lord's Day Alliance of the United States. One of her poems was read at Druid Hills Baptist Church in a sermon broadcast on radio and television. She also read her poetry in one of the classes there.

Daniel Veach is Executive Director (with Capers Limehouse) of Poetry Atlanta and publishes a monthly newsletter and an annual directory, The Poet's Phone Book. For information contact him at 920 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30306 (404-378-4099).

***"We are each responsible
for our own actions...and
just as importantly,
for our own reactions."***

**—Jack Miller
President of Quill Corp.**



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CONTEST RULES, 1989

GENERAL:

All poems submitted to Georgia State Poetry Society Contests must be original and unpublished. Poets may not submit more than five poems in each contest. The same poem cannot be entered in more than one contest at a time. Poems must not be currently submitted for publication or entered in any other contest, or have won any award other than "honorable mention" in any previous Georgia State Poetry Society contest.

ELIGIBILITY:

Contests are open to all unless otherwise indicated.

SUBMISSION FORMAT:

Type all poems single spaced or double spaced on one side of an 8½ x 11" sheet of paper. Submit **two copies**. On both copies put the contest name in the upper right hand corner. Put your name and address on one copy under the contest name.

PUBLICATION RIGHTS:

Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc. will request from contest winners the right to publish poems in The Reach of Song. However, all publishing rights to winning poems remain with the authors. Poems winning "Honorable Mention" will not be published. No manuscripts will be returned. Copies of non-winning poems will be destroyed.

PAYMENT:

Make all checks for entry fees payable to Georgia State Poetry Society, Inc.

DEADLINES:

Entries must be received by the deadlines indicated for each contest. Receipt of entries will not be acknowledged.

NOTIFICATION:

Winners will be announced at the next scheduled meeting of the Georgia State Poetry Society following the contest deadline. Winners not present at the meeting will be notified by mail. Those desiring a list of winners, enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) with entries.

SEND ENTRIES TO:

Neil L. Fraser
Contest Chairman
Georgia State Poetry Society
440 Forest Hills Drive, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30342



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GEORGIA STATE POETRY SOCIETY CONTESTS - SPRING, 1989

1. THE RUBY BARTON BELL COWART AWARD

The Georgia State Poetry Society is sponsoring a contest in honor of Ruby Barton Bell Cowart, Atlanta poet, writer, teacher, member of the DAR and Colonial Dames of America, and widely-known for her inspirational talks and speeches.

SUBJECT: Zest for Life

FORM: Any form; twenty-five line limit.

PRIZES: First - \$35.00; Second - \$15.00; Three Honorable Mentions

JUDGE: Allan J. Aycock of New York City, poet, writer, and grandson of Ruby Cowart.

DEADLINE: March 10, 1989.

ENTRY FEES: One entry free to GSPS members; additional entries, \$2.00 each. Non-members - \$2.00 per entry.

SPONSOR: Prizes and sponsorship provided by Virginia Cole Veal.

2. EMILY DICKINSON CONTEST

A contest requiring three short poems with a total of 40 lines.

SUBJECT AND FORM: Any

PRIZES: First - \$25.00; Second - \$15.00; Third - \$10.00.

JUDGE: Emily Vail

DEADLINE: March 10, 1989.

ENTRY FEES: Free to GSPS members; \$2.00 each to non-members.

SPONSOR: Prizes and sponsorship provided by Emily Vail.

(Note: Follow Contest Rules, 1989, page 5 for the above contests.)

3. NEWSLETTER POETRY AWARD

ELIGIBILITY: For GSPS members only.

SUBJECT: Any, within the bounds of good taste.

FORM: Any.

LINE LIMIT: Maximum, forty lines; no minimum.

FEE: \$1.00 handling and publication fee for each poem submitted.

DEADLINES: Quarterly by February 15, May 15, August 15, November 15.

MAIL ENTRIES TO: Julia Evatt, GSPS Newsletter Poetry Award, P. O. Box 751, Ellijay, GA 30540.

PRIZE: "Best" will be published quarterly in newsletter; "Best" of year by members votes, will receive a special citation.

(Note: Follow Contest Rules, 1989, page 5 for Newsletter Contest)

GPS NEWSLETTER AWARD WINNERS

by Julia Evatt

Of the nine poems entered in this quarter's contest, most used trees as the central image, specifically winter trees. But only two named a tree, and they were pines. Is it that bare trees are harder to identify?

"Phases" by B. Ashley Parker, Sr., is built on concrete images that awake the same nostalgia the poet feels at approaching winter. While nothing exactly happens in the poem, everything does. We're taken back to springtime petunias, summer fireflies, to a time Grandma quilted against coming winter. All this, as might be seen on a television screen, as in time-lapse photography.

"My Renaissance" by Grace Haynes Smith is a perfectly formed sestina, a fixed form you may want to try. It's a great poetic exercise. The biggest problem is repetition of images and ideas, if you're not careful, because of the repeated end-words. It may be wise to select words that will serve as more than one part of speech, and/or have various meanings.

Ms. Smith's sestina unrolls like passing time, her repeated end-words not so much changing meaning as their emotional impact upon the poet. While her poem is in iambic pentameter, the usual metrical form, you may wish to try hexameters or trimeters. Vary the rules as you wish, except for the arrangement of the end-words and the line count. Why not see what you can do with sestina form?

PHASES

B. Ashley Parker, Sr.

Beneath ominous gray skies
Brown leaves of autumn snuggle
As they blanket sister's petunias.

Crickets and fireflies perform
Their final farewell, and
Lazy dust prepares
To be swept from Summer's
Dormant T. V. screen.

Bubbling hot chocolate
Will soon melt cottony
Marshmallows, and Grandma's

Patch-sewn quilt, unpacked,
Will smell of mothballs, time,
And Mamma's attic.

An isolated ember winks
From the cobblestone fireplace
Encouraging Pappa's thrusts
As snow spits at his glistening axe;
Its blade dulls against wild cherry logs
As they're quartered--
Like the seasons.

Winter dawns rapidly.

MY RENAISSANCE

Grace Haynes Smith

The clouds are like spun candy. After dark
There is an odor in the dewwet dawn
Like old moist stacks of papers. Bluish mist
Is spreading out in streaks above the trees;
Through it there shines a few left-over stars.
The porch leads me into the soft-gray light.

In night sky, I felt saddened, small and light.
I look up now into sky-eyes; the dark
Of earth-blues disappears among the stars.
I do not understand why in the dawn
I should be happy, but I am. The trees
Seem gently touched, like Dresden, in the mist.

I see sky-windows slip through yellow mist;
It brings remembrance of another light,
The face of one beloved and gone. The trees
Gold-sheened and newly wakened in half-dark
Give me a rollercoaster lift. The dawn
Returns a sunrise-love beneath old stars.

The sky is like white china now; cold stars
Are almost gone; the ground is graygreen mist
As of wet tortoise-shell which even dawn
Will not bleach out for hours, so slow the light.
The earth is not made up entire of dark
But of an inching brightness in the trees...

Something seems loosed, untroubled in the trees,
Less lonesome, less abandoned by the stars.
A cleanness, lavished lazy from the dark,
Waves like the tail of some pleased cat. The mist
Lifts, and a sense of planted peace stays. Light
Wrinkles like chimney-smoke across the dawn.

The new-lit oaks speak softly in the dawn
As when a youth I crawled into the trees
And wept the loss of love. The morning light
Is healing, striking through old fog, old stars.
Now I throw back my head, forget the mist
And sing a sunlit phrase sprung from the dark.

My healing moment comes at dawn--last stars,
Blue heads of trees uplifting from the mist,
Then sudden light, renaissance after dark.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

For Membership Year 7/1/88 - 6/30/89

(For renewal of membership, fill out, clip, and mail, with dues - \$ 15.00 individual, \$25.00 for family, to)

Virginia Dickson
GSPS Membership Chairman
3012 Bren Mar Way
Doraville, GA 30340

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

Amount enclosed _____ Check _____ M. O. _____

Contribution \$ _____ for _____

(Sponsoring contest, matching grant, other)

Suggestions: _____

I volunteer for: _____

GSPS BOOKS ORDER FORM

The Reach of Song, Book 7, 1987

Back issues of The Reach of Song, Book 1 (1981), Book 3 (1983), Book 4 (1984) Book 5 (1985), and Book 6 (1986) [Book 2 is sold out]. Please specify which Book Number when ordering.

The Poems of Daniel Whitehead Hicky

Price (includes mailing costs)
\$7.50 each for one or two books
\$6.50 each for three or more books

Total # books Price each Total amount

_____ @ _____ = _____

Make checks payable to Georgia State Poetry Society and mail to:

Jo Ann Yeager Adkins
Special Funds Chairman
2826 Evansdale Circle, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30340

Please include your return address mailing label with your order.

Members and friends, do libraries and schools in your community have copies of The Reach of Song? To insure publication of future volumes of the annual anthology, your orders for additional copies are needed. Dues-paid members receive a free copy of the annual anthology concurrent with their membership year.

Fannin County High School
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Blue Ridge, GA 30513

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