# Georgia Poetry Society

## Newsletter

June, 1998 — Published Quarterly


## GPS Members Promote 99 Convention Crowd

**By Emily Blake Vail**

By the time of our July 18th GPS general membership meeting, several GPS members will be able to report on the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) annual convention in Utah.

I will be taking to Ogden brochures describing the hotel which will be headquarters for the 1999 NFSPS convention which we will host in Atlanta, a promotion piece on our program, and a folder on Atlanta attractions. I hope these will sell many of the Utah delegates on coming to Atlanta in 1999.

My thanks to John Ottley for his help in getting two of these pieces together; Roy Carlson for the third. John will have completed almost all of his duties as executive director of the College of Diplomates of the

**Please turn to page 2**

## Member: Key Your Read to Role of Place in Poetry

Our July 18th quarterly meeting will feature a special members' reading in the morning. In line with our afternoon featured speaker's theme, "The Role of Place in Poetry", every member who attends is requested to bring a poem which centers on a specific place. You may bring your own poem, or one by a favorite author on the same theme.

Our lunch for this meeting will be a "country picnic". Everyone is urged to dress casually.

Our featured speaker is the distinguished Dr. Thelma Hall, a professor at Shorter College in Rome.

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## Summer Quarter Membership Meeting

**St. Augustine Church Parish House**
**Morrow, GA**
**Saturday, July 18, 1998**

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| NOTE: See page two for directions. | |
| Registration, coffee, refreshments | 9:30 a.m. |
| Call to order, announcements, welcome | 10 a.m. |
| Emily Vail, president | |
| Welcome new members | 10:15 a.m. |
| Mary Stripling, co-chairperson | |
| NFSPS Convention report | 10:20 a.m. |
| Book reviews | 10:30 a.m. |
| Ethelene Dyer Jones | |
| Members Readings | 11: a.m. |
| Grady Thrasher, chairman. | |
| Dr. Katherine Ward | |
| Lunch | Noon |
| Reservations *required.* See below. | |
| Featured Speaker: | 1:15 p.m. |
| Dr. Thelma Ward | |
| "The Role of Place in Poetry" | |
| Contest awards | 2 p.m. |
| Emery Campbell, chairman | |
| Installation of Officers | 2:20 p.m. |
| Adjournment | 2:30 p.m. |

### *LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

Advance reservations *are required* if you wish to have lunch with the membership at our quarterly meeting on 18 Jul 98 at St. Augustine Church in Morrow. The cost of the catered luncheon will be $10 a person.

Call Milton Stephens at 770-358-2816 not later than 16 Jul 98, to reserve your place.

NOTE: see page 2 for directions to the site.

*President's Message*

## Thus the Masters Describe Poetry: How about You?

**By Emily Blake Vail**

"Poetry is the imaginative expression of strong feelings, usually rhythmical...the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquillity."

—William Wordsworth

"I wish our clever young poets would remember my homely definitions of prose and poetry; that is, *prose:* words in their best order; *poetry:* the best words in the best order."

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Poetry...a criticism of life under the conditions fixed for such a criticism by the laws of poetic truth and beauty."

—Matthew Arnold

"Poetry is the record of the best and happiest moments of the best and happiest minds."

—Percy Bysse Shelley

"...speech framed...to be heard for its own sake and interest even over and above its interest of meaning."

—Gerard Manley Hopkins

"An actual poem is the succession of experiences...sounds, images, thoughts, emotions..through which we pass when we are reading as poetically as we can."

—Andrew Bradley

"...the rhythmic, inevitably narrative, movement from an overclothed blindness to a naked vision."

—Dylan Thomas

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

—Edward Arlington Robinson

"The art which uses words as both speech and song to reveal the realities that the senses record, the feelings salute, the mind perceives, and the shaping imagination orders."

—Babette Deutsch

GPS members, do you have your own or a favorite definition. If so, please share.

## Your Directions to Site of the Meeting in July

St. Augustine Episcopal Church, site of the 8 Jul 98 quarterly meeting, is at 1221 Morrow Rd in Morrow. From north or south on I-75, take exit #76. Turn left (across expressway) onto Georgia Highway 54. Go to second traffic light and turn left on Morrow Road. The church is 6/10 mile on the left, directly across from the Pope Dickson Funeral Home.

Parking is available on the grounds. Signs will direct members to the Parish House.

**CONVENTION REPORT**
**Continued from page 1**

American Board of Orthodontics on August 1st and will take over a chairman of our NFSPS convention planning committee. His last two career assignments have involved convention planning.

I am also grateful to five other members who have worked with me these past weeks, attending committee meetings, and contributing time and suggestions in the planning experience. They are Emery Campbell, program chairman; Herbert Denmark, publicity; Roy Carlson, scheduling and finance; Jean Mahavier, youth; and Carole Fessenden, entertainment. These persons cannot do the job alone. We will need the broadest participation from the GPS membership. Please help if you are called on. Better, volunteer without being called.

I cannot write about the convention without mentioning my friend and mentor, Margery Carlson, who so wanted to be a part of this activity. It is with a full sense of loss that I try to fill her shoes until August. As we move ahead, making plans and doing what we can, it will be to her honor that we have a "smash-bang" Georgia meeting. We need your participation and enthusiasm to promote POETRY, a *sine qua non* in our lives.

## Tennis Tops in '97 Morris

There were 31 GPS members and 103 non-members who entered the 1997 Mikki Griffis Morris Memorial Contest, which is sponsored by Ms. JoAnn Yeager Adkins, Decatur, GA.

Only one prize ($100) is awarded in this contest. The winner was Donna Jean Tennis, Montgomery, AL, for "'After Images' (A Tribute to James Dickey)".

## *See a Clip? Snip It*

If you see something in your local paper about GPS, or one of our members, please clip it out and send it to:

ROY CARLSON
BOX 71
SNELLVILLE, GA 30078-0071

# News of Georgia Poetry Persons

**Emery Campbell**, Lawrenceville, won the top prize ($150) in *Midwest Poetry Review's* "Unfulfilled Expectations" contest.

* * *

**Carole Fessenden**, Gainesville, won first prize for poetry in the Northeast Georgia Writers' (NGW) annual spring writers' contest.

In March, she conducted a poetry workshop for NGW.

At the Decatur library in April, Carole read original poetry at the GPS program of poetry readings commemorating National Poetry Month.

* * *

*Tree Line*, the first full-length collection of poetry by **June Owens**, Zephyrhills, FL, will be published this year by Prospect Publishers, Oklahoma City. The book's title is from her first place poem in the GPS 6th annual Ed Vickers Contest.

* * *

**Jeanne Osborne Shaw**, Decatur, won the "About Holes" contest of the Poetry Society of Georgia for a poem about the tunnel under the Thames River.

She read poems in the GPS program at the Decatur Library, Borders Book Store, Decatur Arts Festival and in/dinner-theater at Druid Hills Baptist Church.

Her bio will be in the 53rd edition of *Who's Who in America*, 1998.

* * *

**Nancy Thompson**, Marlton, NJ, who writes as Anne Tomerlee, continues teaching through Borders Book Store. She gave a professional reading at the "University of the Arts" in Philadelphia. She dedicated a reading by 16 poets at Borders to former GPS President Marge Carlson.

Nancy has been accepted to the faculty at Markheim Arts Center in Haddonfield, NJ, where she will teach two poetry/story telling classes for children 6-9 and a poets roundtable for persons 18 and older.

* * *

**Dorothy Williamson Worth**, Decatur, read three poems at the annual "spoken magazine" at the Atlanta Writers Club in March. She was the featured poet at a reading co-sponsored by GPS at the DeKalb Library System in April on the occasion of National Poetry Month.

Also in April, she was among several GPS members who read their poems at Borders Books and Music in Buckhead.

Additionally, she had poems accepted by *Twilight* and *First Voice*.

She presented a poetry workshop to a local group and read several of her poems to a class at Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

## Thanks, People of Georgia

This publication is funded in part by a grant from the taxpayers of Georgia, made possible by the Georgia General Assembly, and administered by the Georgia Council for the Arts.

The Georgia Poetry Society welcomes as members all persons who enjoy writing or reading poetry without regard to race, gender, age, religious affiliation, national origin, political orientation, or choice of lifestyle. The society makes every effort to ensure that all meeting sites are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have special needs, and wish to attend the meetings, please call Joanne Bishop at 770-934-3075

## Poetry in Schools Project Reaches 1,500 Children

**By Jean Mahavier**
Chairperson
Poetry in the Schools

This year our GPS Poetry in the Schools project visited classes in seven schools, giving poetry workshops to more than 1,500 elementary and middle school students. At four of these schools we were "back by popular demand".

In addition to the workshops, we gave each school poetry books for their media centers, including a copy of the Manningham winners, and encouraged entries in our statewide youth poetry contest.

We began asking teachers to complete an evaluation form this year. It was a great help.

**Observer Program**

Our observer program lets members see without having to participate. This has produced additional volunteers.

On top of these efforts, Betty Maine, Gainesville, reads poetry to kindergarten and first grade classes weekly.

**First NCS Workshops**

In April, Thomas Haynes and I participated in the first workshops conducted under the aegis of the National Creative Society (NCS). These were for grades 2-6 in a Rome elementary school.

Emily Vail, Roy Carlson, and I attended a program at Shorter College in May where students earned certificates for participating in NCS. A special award was presented posthumously to Margery Carlson for helping start NCS.

# Welcome Our New Members

NOTE: We did not receive any news about new members this month.

## *'Hip' Poets Read Sans Love Beads*

Poetry is "hip" according to the DeKalb Library system. Or, so sayeth the front page of the March 27th *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* DeKalb County supplement, referring to an upcoming "evening of poetry" reading at the central Decatur Library in April. Several GPS members read their work, albeit not clad in leisure suits, love beads, or headbands. Despite that, it was a great evening of verse. An evening of great verse?

Dorothy Worth, who may never have visited the Haight-Asbury district of San Francisco, much less lived there, was, nonetheless, the featured speaker. Her book, *Desert Places*, won the GPS 1996 chapbook award.

The *Journal-Constitution* went on to reveal that the DeKalb Library system was one of 44 systems chosen to participate in the Urban Libraries Council's 30-30-30 program. No, that isn't a supercharged deer rifle, but, rather a project to have 30 poetry readings in 30 days at 30 different public libraries during National Poetry Month.

GPS got a nice plug in the story.

A briefer item on the same event appeared in the *Where You Live* feature of the main *Journal-Constitution* for March 30th. GPS also was mentioned there.

Other groups participating included International Black Writers & Artists, Inc.; First World Writers, Inc.; and WAOK Radio Poets' Corner and Voices of Light.

## Governor Miller Proclaims Poetry Month in Georgia

Noting that "poetry serves as a positive and creative expression of language for people who enjoy communicating a specific emotional response through meaning, sound, and rhythm" (whew!), the Honorable Governor Zell Miller officially proclaimed April as Poetry Month in Georgia.

His proclamation stated that GPS is an educational and literary organization dedicated to the writing and appreciation of poetry in America.

The governor, himself a poet, knows whereof he proclaimeth.

## GPS Readers Are Included In Decatur Arts Festival

Further celebrating April as National Poetry Month, a contingent of GPS stalwarts read at Borders Books & Music in Buckhead on April 26th.

They were Emery Campbell, Herb Denmark, Tom Haynes, Ethelene Jones, Jean Mahavier, Jeanne Shaw, Emily Vail, and Dorothy Worth.

Not to be outdone, another group of GPS members read poetry in the literary arts tent during the Decatur Arts Festival on May 23rd and 24th in front of the old courthouse on the Decatur square.

They were Emery Campbell, Herb Denmark, Tom Haynes, Jeanne Shaw, Emily Vail, and Virginia Veal.

# Children's Book by Angela Burns Links Alphabet and Geography

*Ants, Nanny Goats and Zebras: Poems for Elizabeth.* Written and illustrated by Angela Burns, St. Simons, GA: Watermarks Publishing, 1997.

**By Ethelene Dyer Jones**

This delightful children's book was written for the author's granddaughter, Elizabeth McLeod Burns as a third birthday gift on 26 Dec 97. This book, by "Angiemama" a retired teacher of kindergarten and primary grades, reveals the author's keen awareness of what pleases children.

The book appeals to a child's anticipation. An alphabet book, it leads the reader or listener to wonder what animal, fowl, or insect will claim the next letter.

The auditory appeal is strong. Written in rhyme, and with a lilting rhythm, it is definitely a read-aloud book. In easily memorized verse, the book lends itself to a "read-it-myself" approach.

The book has visual appeal. The creatures have character. We can empathize with Nanny Goat who had to reprimand kids Nick and Ned, or with the Xerus in Zimbabwe where both animal and nation have strange-sounding names.

Its educational appeal provides a fun way to learn the alphabet. With built-in phonics and mnemonics, vocabulary is strong and challenges a young child. As an early science

**Please turn to page 5**

# 1997-98 Board of Directors

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| **Officers** | |
| President | Emily Blake Vail |
| Vice-President | Dorothy Williamson Worth |
| Secretary | Joanne Bishop |
| Treasurer | Roy Carlson |
| **Poetry Contests** | |
| General Chairman | Emery Campbell |
| Reece Awards | Betty Maine |
| Vickers Award | Carole B. Fessenden |
| Marel Brown | Keith Jones |
| Newsletter Contest | Dorothy Worth |
| **Editors** | |
| Newsletter | John Ottley |
| *Reach of Song* | Ethelene Dyer Jones |
| Chapbook | JoAnn Adkins |
| Strophes Reporter | Jeanne Osborne Shaw |
| **Quarterly Meetings** | |
| Book Reviews | Ethelene Jones |
| | Thelma Hall |
| Hospitality | Joanne Bishop |
| Meetings Manager | Milton Stephens |
| Member Readings | Grady Thrasher |
| Presenting Poets | Memye Curtis Tucker |
| Programs | Dorothy Worth |
| Reservations | Mllton Stephens |
| **Support** | |
| Chaplain | Pat Zeller |
| Historian | Riherd Greene |
| Archivist | Thomas Haynes |
| Librarian | Ethelene Jones |
| Membership | Mary Stripling |
| | John Ottley |
| Parliamentarian | TBA |
| Public Relations | Herbert Denmark |
| | Robert W. Hays |
| **Projects** | |
| Poetry in Schools | Jean Mahavier |
| Special Events | Herbert Denmark |
| **Artistic Directors** | Terry Kay |
| | Dr. Linda Schrenko |

## Next Board Meeting Is Set June 27th 'on the Farm'

The next GPS Board meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, 27 Jun 98. Directions:

I-85 north to GA 316.

East on GA 316 to GA 53.

Turn right on GA 53. Go to Watkinsville, crossing US 78 enroute.

In Watkinsville, look for Main Street, which will be a right turn between a Hardee's and Oconee State Bank.

Go 3/10 mile on Main Street to a traffic signal and turn hard left at the "Town Centre". You will be on Barnett Shoals Road, but there is no street sign to confirm it.

Drive 3.5-to-4 miles, passing a white paddock fence on the left just before getting to McRee's Mill Road. Turn right on McRee's Mill Road. (There is a street sign this time.)

Go 1.7 miles on McRee's Mill Road to a 4-way stop at Flat Rock Road. Turn left onto Flat Rock Road.

Go 1/2 mile onto Flat Rock Road to the Sunnybank pasture gate on the left. A small sign reads, "Sunnybank-2851". Turn in at the gate. Follow the gravel drive 1/3 mile to the farm house.

Disoriented? 706-769-6299.

**BURNS BOOK**
**Continued from page 4**

book, it teaches an appreciation for nature. Geography is introduced with musical names of some countries.

Along with Ann Ashford's *If I Found a Wistful Unicorn* (Peachtree 1978), Ruth Tiller's *Cinnamon, Mint, and Mothballs* (Harcourt-Brace, 1993) and Joan Anson-Webber's *Snuggles* (Cherokee, 1995), Angela Burns's *Ants, Nanny Goats and Zebras* should take its place in the corpus of children's literature. I anticipate that it will be bought as a gift by grandmas and mothers, and recommended by primary teachers and children's literature professors.

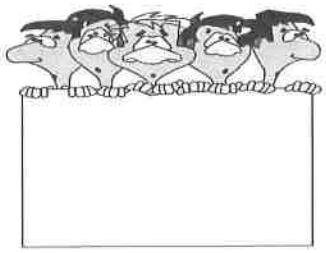
The book may be ordered for $7 plus $2 shipping from the author at Route 9, Box 280-B. St. Simons Island, GA 31522.

# These Rules Apply to ALL Georgia Poetry Society Contests

1. By submitting an entry to a GPS contest, you affirm that the poetry is your own original work to which you hold all rights, is not currently submitted for publication, or entered in any other contest, has not previously appeared in any publication, and is not a previous winner of higher than honorable mention in any other contest.

2. The Byron Herbert Reece Awards, and the Edwin Davin Vickers contest, are *not* open to anyone who has won higher than honorable mention in the previous year's contest.

3. Write each poem in English. Type, or neatly hand write, it on one side of an 8.5 x 11 inch sheet of paper. One poem per page.



4. Subject matter of poems should be in good taste. No pornography, sexual or racial slurs, offensive language, or obscenity. Winning poems may be published in *The Reach of Song*, our annual anthology which goes to school and public libraries. Students are among its readers.

5. Send two copies of each poem. At the upper right corner of both: name of the contest. On ***one copy only***: your name and address under the contest name.

6. Any poem entered in a GPS contest which does not comply with these rules may be disqualified.

7. Poems will not be returned. Non-winning poems will be destroyed.

8. Make checks for entry fees payable to Georgia Poetry Society, *not* to the contest chairperson. Send entries with fee to the chairperson announced in the rules of each contest.

9. A contest receiving fewer than 10 entries may be canceled and the fees refunded.

10. We use qualified judges who are not GPS members. Exception: entries in the society's annual statewide youth contest may be judged by GPS members.

11. Winners will be announced at the quarterly GPS meeting following the contest deadline. Winners not present will be notified by mail.

12. Enclose a SASE to receive a winners' list.

13. You may not win more than one monetary award in any individual contest. If you've been selected for more than one monetary award, only the highest will be awarded. (Judges choose alternative winners to cover this situation.)

14. We reserve the right to publish (or not to publish) prize-winning poems in *The Reach of Song*. After publication, all other rights revert to you, including the right to publish the poem elsewhere.

## Georgia Poetry Society's19th Anniversary Contest

The Georgia Poetry Society announces its annual anniversary competition in two categories:

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| Category I | Formal verse (metered and rhymed poetry: sonnet, villanelle, etc.) *Name the form on your entry.* |
| Category II: | Free verse (any form other than metered and rhymed). |
| Prizes: | 1st $25; 2nd $15; 3rd $10 in each category. |
| Subject: | Any. |
| Length: | 40 lines maximum. |
| Eligibility: | Open to members only. No more than one poem per category. |
| Entry fee: | None. |
| *Deadline:* | *July 25, 1998 postmark.* |
| Notification: | Winners announced at October, 1998, GPS meeting. |
| Entries to: | Emery L. Campbell, General Contests Chairman<br>369 Cottage Way<br>Lawrenceville, GA 30044 |

## *GPS Contest Deadlines*

**19th Anniversary**
Deadline 25 Jul 98
Winners Oct 98

**Ed Vickers**
Deadline 31 Jul 98
Winners Oct 98

**Shirley U. Geste**
Deadline 25 Sep 98
Winners Jan 99

**Mikki Morris**
Deadline 25 Nov 98
Winners Jan 99

## Mikki Morris Contest Honors Staunch Arts Supporter and Major Contributor to the Georgia Poetry Society

The Georgia Poetry Society is greatly indebted to JoAnn Yeager Adkins for again sponsoring a poetry contest honoring Mikki Griffis Morris, Brunswick, GA. Mikki is a poet and staunch supporter of the arts. She has contributed incalculably to Georgia writers and to the Georgia Poetry Society.

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| Prize: | $100. One prize only, not to be divided. No honorable mentions. |
| Subject: | The yearning heart. |
| Form: | Any. |
| Length: | 60 lines maximum. |
| Eligibility: | Open to all. |
| Entry fee: | $5. Maximum: five poems. |
| *Deadline:* | *November 25, 1998 postmark.* |
| Notification: | Winners announced at January, 1999, GPS meeting. |
| Entries to: | Emery L. Campbell<br>General Contests Chairman<br>369 Cottage Way<br>Lawrenceville, GA 30044 |
| *NOTE:* | *General contest rules published in this issue apply.* |

### *Holloway First*

Winners in the "Georgia on My Mind Contest were:

First prize ($25): Glenna Holloway, Naperville, IL, "Georgia Genesis".

Second prize ($15): Marge Carlson, Snellville, GA, "No Contest" (posthumous).

Third prize ($10): Dick Stahl, Davenport, IA, "Writing into Georgia".

*Book Review*

## Farley/Moore Book of Southern Recipes Delights Senses, Especially the Palate

**By Thelma R. Hall**

*Like a Summer Peach: Sunbright Poems and Old Southern Recipes*, edited by Blanch Flanders Farley and Janice Townley Moore, is a book that delights the senses. Deidre Scherer's fabric and thread images give a receptive warmth to this Papier Mache production. While our minds feed on the poems, our senses feed on the rich colors and delectable recipes throughout the book. Moreover, Memye Curtis Tucker's poem, "Your Poems Have Been Lost in the Mail", and Peter Davison's poem, "Peaches", let us feed on the poems themselves. Taste Memye's:

I am not fooled.
Someone is feasting in secret on my words,
crunching my semicolons.
Behind some door he is tasting sounds.
filling himself, image by image.
He holds my lines to the light—
sea mist falls on his tongue.
All night his lips move with stolen dreams,
his lover
tastes my salt.

And Peter Davison's begins:

"A mouthful of language to swallow,"
and proceeds,
What English can do: ransack
the warmth that chuckles beneath
fuzzed surfaces, smooth velvet
richness, plashy juices.
I beseech you, peach,
clench me into the sweetness
of your reaches.

Blanche Farley's poem, "Soufflé", depicts a mother and daughter whose shared experience is as warm and sweet as the sweet potato soufflé prepared. And Judson Mitcham remembers his mother and the past and present sustenance she has given to him. He calls her on the phone to describe the soup he has cooking on the stove—to assure her that indeed he is eating—and ends by saying

There are times
like tonight, when the silence we allow
on the telephone holds for us both, I believe,
such a difficult case, it is almost grace.

Both Bettie Sellers and Andrea Hollander Budy write of eating alone. But while Bettie steeps "shrimp and rice in dry vermouth", and says, "No one is here to sit with me,/wine poured, napkin folded so,/ and eat," we sense that this is a comfortable aloneness. Andrea Budy, on the other hand, making stew in winter cold, says,

If only he
would open this door, how different
the falling of light
how autumn, not winter, the stew.

So, while we mentally spread the raspberry preserves on muffins and Sally Lunn Bread and die a "delicious death" like the wasp which dived into Janice Moore's cheesecake batter, we also feast on words which leave us hungry for more. Because of this, we need to pick up this book and read it often.

## Shirley U. Geste Contest Offers Whooping Bonus

Considerably less bored and more buoyed than last year in view of the success of the Shirley U. Geste Memorial Awards, that Humongous Humororus Poetry Competition of 1997, the Georgia Poetry Society announces the new, bigger, better, humongouser, and humorouser second annual, 1998 edition of this already legendary contest. Miz Shirley would have been proud of all you inspired comedic poets out there who responded to the 1997 appeal with an outpouring of nearly 150 entries.

For the 1998 competition, our aim is at least to *double* the number of entries! Yup. And, as an incentive toward this achievement, the sponsor, still steadfast in wishing to guard his/her (no, not the Lady Chardonnay) anomalousness, will add an additional 50% to the prizes (already increased by 15.783% from 1997, *ne vous déplaise*, Mr. Greenspan) cited below if 300 or more entries are received by the deadline.

Poems must be comical, absurd, blithe, droll, diverting, jocose, waggish, ridiculous, mirthful, or side-splitting. Better still, *all* of the above.

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| Prizes: | 1st $57.88; 2nd $36.67; 3rd $18.79 |
| Subject: | Humor (why must we keep repeating this?) |
| Form: | Any. |
| Length: | 60 lines maximum. |
| Eligibility: | Open to all, the more the merrier. |
| Entry fee: | One entry free to GPS members; all others, $1 a poem. |
| *Deadline:* | *September 25, 1998 postmark.* |
| Notification: | Winners announced at January, 1999, GPS meeting. |
| Entries to: | Emery L. Campbell<br>General Contests Chairman<br>369 Cottage Way<br>Lawrenceville, GA 30044 |
| *NOTE:* | *General contest rules published in this issue apply.* |

## Seventh Annual Ed Vickers Contest Is Set for 1998

The Georgia Poetry Society announces its seventh annual poetry competition in honor of founding president, the late Edward Davin Vickers.

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| Prizes: | 1st $250; 2nd $100; 3rd $50. No split prizes or honorable mentions. |
| Subject: | Any. |
| Form: | Any. |
| Length: | 80 lines maximum. |
| Eligibility: | Open to all except 1997 winners. |
| Entry fee: | $5 first poem; all others $1 each. |
| *Deadline:* | *July 31, 1998 postmark.* |
| Notification: | Winners announced at October, 1998, GPS meeting. |
| Entries to: | Carole Fessenden, Chairperson<br>3822 Clubhouse Pl.<br>Gainesville, GA 30501 |
| *NOTE:* | *General contest rules published in this issue apply.* |

*Book Review*

## Bruce Souder Relates to Larger Community

**By Thelma R. Hall**

Bruce Souder's book, *Fitting the Pieces Together*, was published in 1995 by Road Publishers, 33412 Lankford Highway, Painter, VA 23420-0431.

In it, the poet divides the poems to reflect not only individual experiences, but also to reveal how this self relates to the larger community of the arts, travel, and faith. Through his long interest in poetry, he has been instrumental in fostering poetry in many aspects of his life, from directing Dellbrook-Shenandoah College Writers Conference for 13 years to incorporating his poetry into his sermons and in his capacity as past president of the Poetry Society of Virginia. He is now professor emeritus and archivist at Shenandoah University .

**Wide-Ranging References**

Souder's poems make wide-ranging references, from Whistler's mother to Socrates, from a hobo-like Jeremiah; from Jesse Helms to Jesus. They also reflect wide-ranging travel, from the waiting room at Goodyear and a booth at

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## Reece Contest Draws Total of 264 Entries

The 1997 Byron Herbert Reece International Awards drew a total of 264 entries from 23 of the United States and three from overseas. The contest was judged by Clarence P. Socwell, Salt Lake City, UT.

The winners:

First: ($250) John Ottley, Atlanta, GA.

Second: ($100) Dr. Jeffrey DeLotto, Ft. Worth, TX.

Third: ($60) Dorothy W. Wright, Honolulu, HI.

Fourth: ($25) Dr. Bettie Sellers, Young Harris, GA.

Fifth: ($15) David Hightower, Cassville, GA

Sixth: ($10) Glenna Holloway, Naperville, IL.

# Fine Books Available Now from The Georgia Poetry Society

## BOOK ORDER FORM

| No. of Books | Title | Price |
|---|---|---|
| _____ | A Book of the Charter Year | $6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 1 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 2 | Sold Out |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 3 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 4 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 5 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 6 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 7 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, Book 8 | 6.95 |
| _____ | A Book of the Tenth Year, 1988-1989 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1989-1990 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1990-1991 | 6.95 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1991-1992 | 9.00 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1992-1993 | 9.00 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1993-1994 | 9.00 |

**The above books may be ordered at a special clearance price of any three for $18.00, plus shipping (see below for shipping information).**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1994-1995 | $9.00 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1995-1996 | $9.00 |
| _____ | The Reach of Song, 1996-1997 (in progress, available 6/98) | $9.00 |
| _____ | Poetry in Motion: 1996 Olympics Poetry Anthology | $7.95 |

### PRIZE-WINNING CHAPBOOKS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Shadowdrifters: Images of China* by Patricia Canterbury (1989) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *Summer at the Dreamland Motel* by Lethe Hunter Bishop (1990) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *A Far Garden* by Jo Ann Yeager Adkins (1991) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *In Soft Wings* by John Curbow (1992) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *A Species of Ruin* by Mildred Greear (1993) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *Blood Kin* by Julia Evatt (1994) | $6.00 | _____ |
| *Desert Places* by Dorothy Williamson Worth (1996) | $6.00 | _____ |

### *How to Order*

Total for books ordered $ _____

Shipping (see below) $ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED $ _____

How to compute shipping cost: include $2.50 shipping for first book. Add $1.50 for each additional book.

Clip and mail order to Ethelene Dyer Jones, Editor, *The Reach of Song,* Box 120, Epworth GA 30541-0120

Ship to:
Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

## *Membership Renewal Form*

NOTE: This form is only for current members. The *new* member application appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Your Georgia Poetry Society dues for 1997-98 were payable 01 Jul 97. Unpaid members are dropped 01 Nov 97. Dues are $20 annually for individual members, $35 for a family, and $10 for students. There's a new category of life membership for $300.

To pay your current year's dues, complete this form and mail with your check or money order, made payable to the Georgia Poetry Society, to:

Mr. Roy Carlson, Treasurer
Box 71
Snellville, GA 30078-0071

Name: _____ FAX: _____
Street (include apartment #): _____
City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____
Home phone: _____ Office phone: _____
*NOTE: Only board members will have access to your address and phone numbers.*

Dues enclosed: $ _____

Do you wish to make an additional contribution to GPS? $ _____

Total enclosed: $ _____

We need your help with the work of GPS. Please check the activities below in which you would be willing to serve:

- ☐ Book Reviews
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ GPS Newsletter
- ☐ General Poetry Contests
- ☐ Poetry Critique Panel
- ☐ Poetry in the Schools
- ☐ Poetry Workshop
- ☐ Publicity
- ☐ Meeting Management
- ☐ Meeting Planning
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Speakers
- ☐ *The Reach of Song*
- ☐ Youth Poetry Contest

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

**SOUDER BOOK**
**Contuinued from page 8**

McDonald's to New York, Martha's Vineyard, and to Jerusalem, where, by the way, he has a striking image of the "silent walls of Jerusalem/one terror-blast from oblivion."

**Range of Tones**

His poems also have a wide range of tones, from the playful "Apologia for a Beard" to the poignant "Irene" to the little comic ironies in the poem, "Serendipity at Goodyear."

To this reviewer, Souder is at his best when he allows the images to explain themselves, such as in "Morning in the City":

> Long before morning pours
> a sunshine wash across
> the city, converting surfaces
> into halls of mirrors,
> garbagemen preempt my wakeup
> call and shatter my rest
> with strident voices, clanging
> pails, and backup bells.

My favorite of Bruce Souder's poems is "Early Summer: an Alpine Epiphany", which is written in clean, precise traditional verse. In it, he lets the natural imagery and the poet's wonder at nature's power rise above any personal concern. We believe him when he says,

> Here on the Alpine heights no winds that blow
> can devastate the flowers that want to grow.

*Fitting the Pieces Together* has something for everybody and can be read on several levels.

## Moving?

Address change, including *nine*-digit ZIP code and phone/fax to:
Georgia Poetry Society News
28 Springlake Pl., NW
Atlanta, GA 30318-1646
or fax to
404-352-8417

# New Member Application

Georgia Poetry Society

Your membership benefits include:

- Opportunity to read your work to an appreciative audience at our quarterly membership meetings. These meetings also feature presentations by notable poetry figures, networking with other poets, and, ocasionally, poetry workshops.
- Our quarterly newsletter, featuring news of poetry contests.
- Publication of one or more of your poems in *The Reach of Song*, our annual anthology.
- Membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and its newsletter, *Strophes*.

Name: _____ FAX: _____
Street (include apartment #): _____
City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____
Home phone: _____ Office phone: _____
*NOTE: Only board members will have access to your address and phone numbers.*
Occupation: _____
If you are joining as a student member, please list your age (optional) _____, the name of your school _____, and your grade _____.
Help your fellow members to know you by listing publications in which your work has appeared, significant literary or other prizes you have won, presentations you have given, etc. _____
_____
_____
_____.
(Continue on another sheet if you wish.)
If this is an application for family membership, please list the other family members who will be included (see below):_____.

Your Georgia Poetry Society dues are $20 annually for individual members, $35 for a family, and $10 for students. Life membership is $300. NOTE: family membership may include parents and dependent children residing in the same household with the parent(s).

To join, complete this form, enclose your check or money order, made payable to the Georgia Poetry Society, and mail to:

Mr. Roy Carlson, Treasurer
Box 71
Snellville, GA 30078-0071

We need your help with the work of GPS. Please check the activities below in which you would be willing to serve:

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- ❑ GPS Newsletter
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- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Meeting Management
- ❑ Meeting Planning
- ❑ Mailings
- ❑ Membership
- ❑ Speakers
- ❑ *The Reach of Song*
- ❑ Youth Poetry Contest

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

*Book Review*

# Critic Says The Pickup Poets' Anthology Gives Readers a Definite Pick Up in Spirit

*Anthology of Poetry & Short Fiction of the Pickup Poets Society.* Sunnybank Press. C1997. Poems and prose by Holly Barrios-Gayman, Terry Hensel, Grady Thrasher, III, and Dr. Katherine Ward. 115P. Hardbound. $14.95. (Book is sold out. It may be reprinted.) Contact Grady Thrasher, III, 1550 Spalding Dr., Atlanta, GA 30350.

**By Ethelene Jones**

The four writers in the Pickup Poets Society have one common denominator: each drives a pickup truck or 4WD vehicle, hence the name of their poetic support group. All four are GPS members.

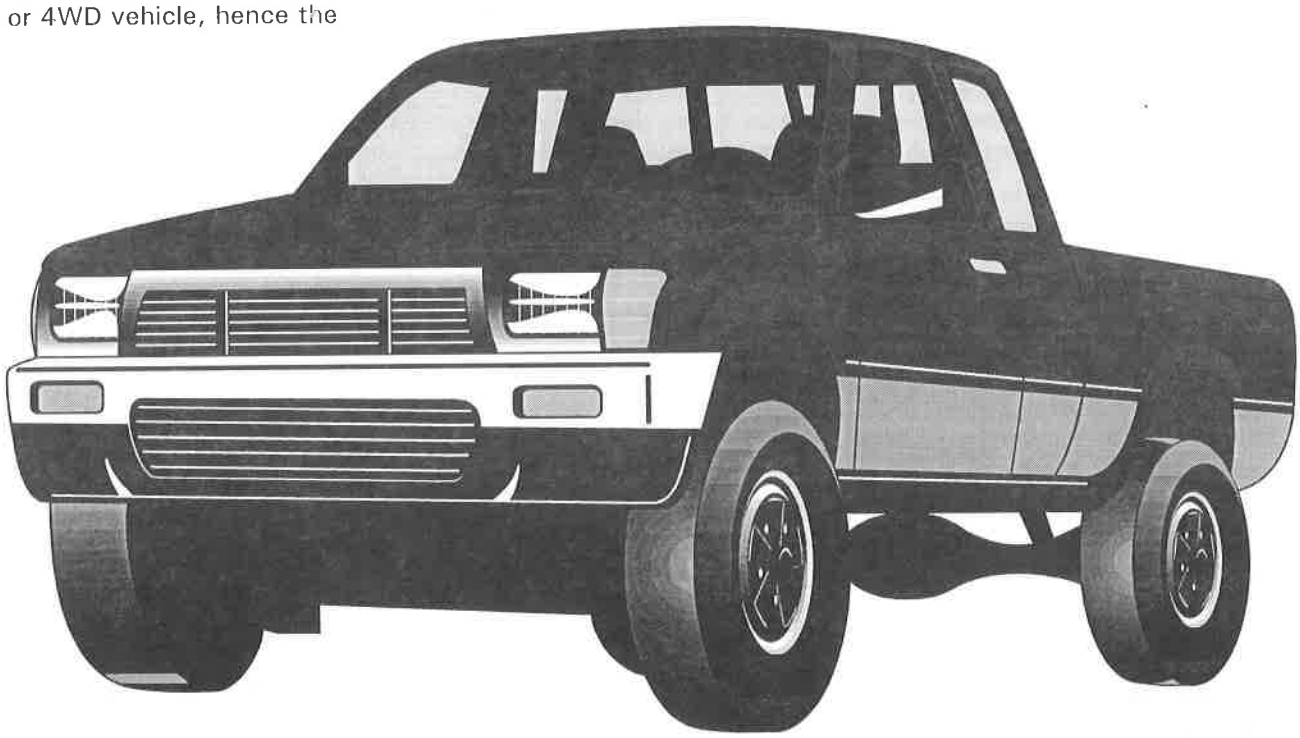
Holly Barrios-Gayman is a horticulturist and garden/landscape designer. Terry L. Hensel owns and operates a mechanical contracting firm. Grady Thrasher, III, is an attorney in Atlanta who also owns Sunnybank Farm in Oconee County where, he says, his heart resides. Dr. Katherine Ward is a private practice counselor, psychologist, and therapist who teaches psychology and education courses at Kennesaw State University and the State University of West Georgia at Carrollton. She grew up on an Iowa farm.

**Each Loves the Outdoors**

All four have a deep love for, and appreciation of, the outdoors. Each enjoys creative writing.

Although the short fiction in this anthology is delightful, and is a bonus for any reader of the book, this review will deal only with the poetry.

Holly Barrios-Gayman has nine poems in the book. Especially touching is "Dear Mother--A Love Letter:



"It lifts my soul/to see the gifts/ you've given me/become my banner,/as I dance to the beat/of that different drummer."

In "Hale Bopp" she luxuriates in "comet dust" reaching back to "people of the Nile" as "Its ice and gas and graceful trail/...binds its timeless flight." Her "Blessing" lauds "My friends are my garden to pick and choose."

**Roses as Motif**

Three poems have roses as motif. In "Wild Roses" she contemplates the "Wild roses tumble from mounds along the terrace row...untended beauty." Nature provides her metaphor; she provides a fresh new way of looking at common sights and seeing the extraordinary.

Terry Hensel contributed 17 poems to the collection. Terry's style is traditional and contemporary. "In Tune" is a villanelle; his subject, Olympic rowers. His repeated lines are: "The taut strings of muscles ply the oars in tune./The shell sings the music of the afternoon." The skill of the poet in this fork is counterbalanced with the rowers' expertise. In "Fleeting Moments", the poet paints the transience of four scenes: a hawk in flight, morning sun, a fox with pups in lair, and a father and son at a baseball game.

"Heron" takes flight and is contrapuntal to the pensive man on the seashore who seeks understanding even as the heron aims for height and distance.

In "Dad", at ages 73 and 37, father and son finally speak the same language. In "At the Edge", the seashore is setting for the seeker whose "pen lumbers". He

Please turn to page 13

PICKUP POETS
Cotinued from page 12

feels at a loss when all nature "knows/Where she is going."

Hensel wrote "The Pickup Poets" Song" which tells how the group got together for mutual help.

Of the four poets, Grady Thrasher, III, can be termed the traditionalist. With his rhythmic rhyming poems, he writes convincingly of the affairs of life. Often pensive in mood, he makes the reader feel, "I've been there, done that."

*They are honest, writing about what they know, see, experience.*

In "If I Had Spring Mornings to Live Over", he laments: "I would not stay in bed asleep./I'd take its treasures one by one/And hold them in my heart to keep." In "Spring" he expresses a like sentiment "for all the unseen springs gone by."

**Reminiscent of Shelley**

"To a Bluebird" is reminiscent of Shelley's "To a Skylark". In "Cardinal" Thrasher sees and describes the bird and thinks of "men with appointed worth/Who presume to speak for God on earth,/To enhance their image and their fame/Take your color and your name."

A poignant poem is "White Roses", the bush a gift of one departed: "The blossoms blush in the quiet hush/...And dewdrops swell and fall like tears."

Dr. Katherine Ward wrote 17 poems for the book. In "A Small Voice" she observes: "My ears become my vision/gifts of sound/ sharpening into symphony/...Two birds can teach me about Love." In "A Song of Sacrament", sights and sounds in nature lead the poet to proclaim: "God is gracious/Life is Good."

**Striking Images**

Her "Children and Poetry" poses the question of creativity. Does it begin at birth? The gift, like a child, needs nurturing. Her images are striking.

"Creek Symphony" is alternatively a blanket in which the poet "snuggles" and is "wrapped round" to a full heart chamber "pulsing" to musical melodies whose "orchestra of sounds crescendo,...then adagio." Her vignettes are rich: "I am a jonquil/brilliant gold./ Monarch wings touch my petals."

A favorite of this reviewer is "In Celebration of My Father." In this poem, Ward lauds her Iowa farmer father. She asks, "What survives...and who?" "And at what price is this precious worklife lost?/ Farmers answer with their grief."

**Keen Observers**

Common bonds, other than their vehicles, emerge. They all are lovers of nature and keen observers. They are honest, writing about what they know, see, experience. Their "mutual aid society" has worked its magic.

They dated their poems. As critic, I can see a progression of improvement which salutes the benefits of peer encouragement (and criticism). In many of their poems is the element of catharsis: life's experiences, even though sometimes bitter, can be elevated to hope and serve to renew faith.

Pickup Poets, you give your readers a definite pick up in spirit!

*As critic, I can see a progression of improvement which salutes the benefits of peer encouragement (and criticism).*

## Board Votes to Make New Name 'Legal and Official'

It's official. Well, almost.

After a year or so of using the communicative name, Georgia Poetry Society, your board has voted to initiate formal name change proceedings to adopt the new name legally.

The old legal name: Georgia State Poetry Society. A good one, but oft confused with Georgia State University.

In other actions, the board voted to:

☐ Add the name of former president Margery Carlson to the title of the statewide youth poetry contest.

☐ Establish a separate rhymed and metered poetry contest in honor of Marge.

☐ Elected as officers for 1998-99 Emily Vail, Morrow, for a second term as president; Grady Thrasher, Atlanta, as vice president; Virginia Austin, Lithonia, secretary; and Roy Carlson, Snellville, for a second term as treasurer.

## Jeanne Osborne Shaw Wins First Prize in the Peery

The 156 poems entered in the Annette Rumph Peery Memorial Contest came from 51 GPS members, and 39 non-members. The contest is sponsored by Ms. Peery's sister, Angela Burns, St. Simons Island, GA.

The winners:

First prize ($100): Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Decatur, GA, "Triad of Names".

Second prize ($35): Helen F. Blackshear, Montgomery, AL, "Millie Terrell Oliver 1807-1892".

Third prize ($15): Lynn Veach Sadler, Sanford, NC, "A Fly on the Wall of the Elephant's Graveyard".

Honorable mentions:

Sandra Lake Lassen, West Jefferson, NC, "Full Circle".

June Owens, Zephyrhills, FL., " The Snow Pieta".

Virginia Buelke, Citrus Springs, FL, "In My Own Coin".

*Book Review*

## Jane Johnson's New Work Moves Easily from Philosophy to Theology to Laughter

Johnson, Jane H., *Love is Lighter than Air.* A chapbook of 24 poems. c1997. Order from Jane H. Johnson, 755 Stokeswood Ave., SE, Atlanta, GA 30316. $4 plus $1 S&H ($5).

**By Ethelene Jones**

Author Jane H. Johnson has the MA degree from the University of Georgia in anthropology. She founded and edited the departmental newsletter while a graduate student and wrote curriculum materials for a project on native Americans. She was public relations secretary and newsletter editor for the Wheelchair Club of Gwinnett County and served for a year as editor of *The Rolling News*, the newsletter of Paraplegics, Inc.

She credits much of her ongoing interest in poetry to the encouragement received from Georgia Poetry Society members, She has been published in *The Reach of Song*, Christ Church *Communiqué*, and *Westwind Review.*

Since age six, Jane Johnson has fought Freidrich's Ataxia, an hereditary neurological disease.

**Two Probing Questions**

The theme poem, "Love is Lighter than Air", asks two probing questions:

☐ 1. Why must we be content with echoed lies and pale discernment?

☐ 2. Who, then, really knows love?

Her thesis maintains that, although love is lighter than air, we can know it well because God wants us to know and share it.

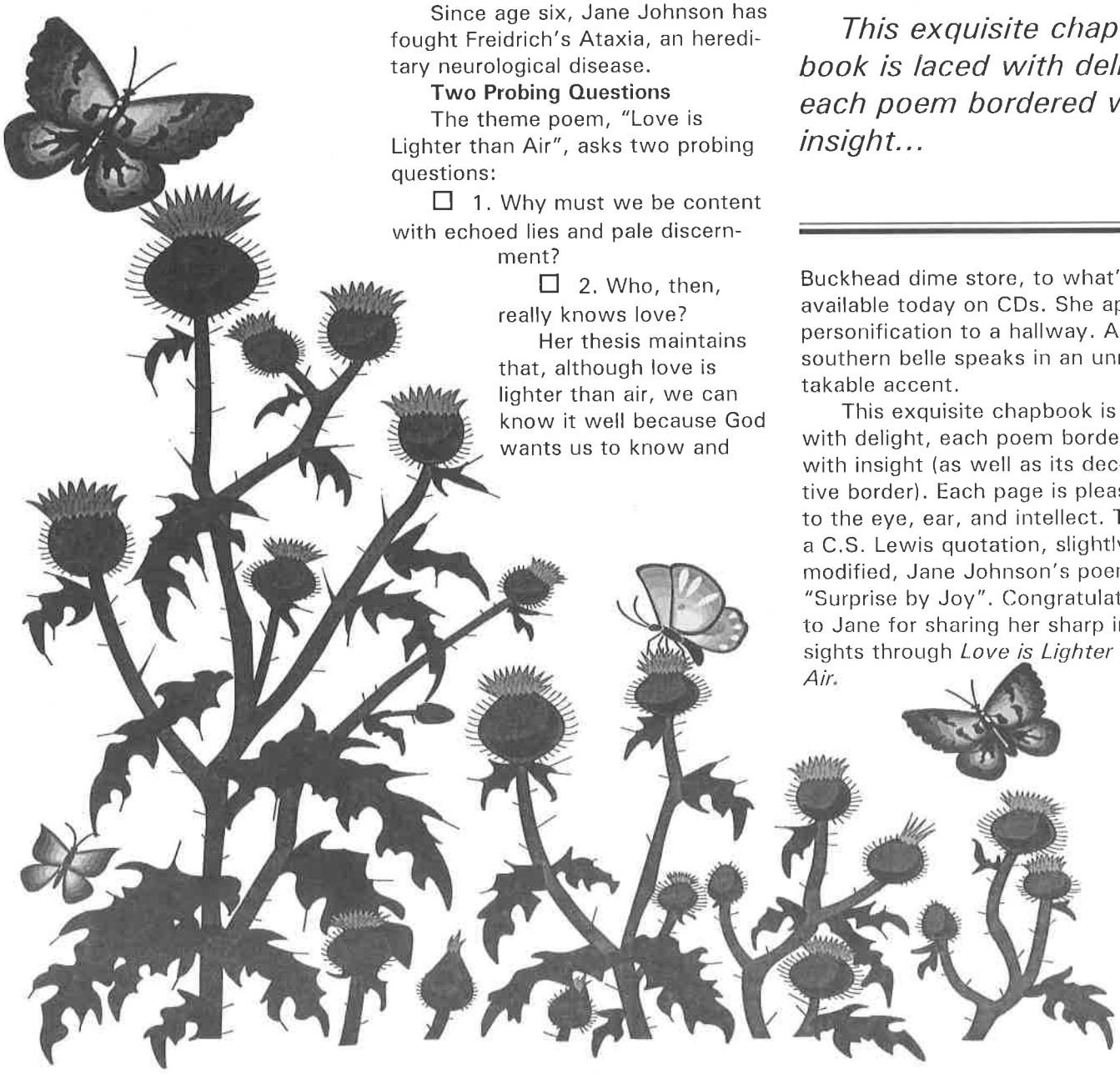
In her poems, she moves easily from philosophy to theology to laughter, event satire at times. Some of her poems are short two- or four-liners. In them, the reader keenly senses that in brevity is the soul of wisdom—and wit.

**Range of Subjects**

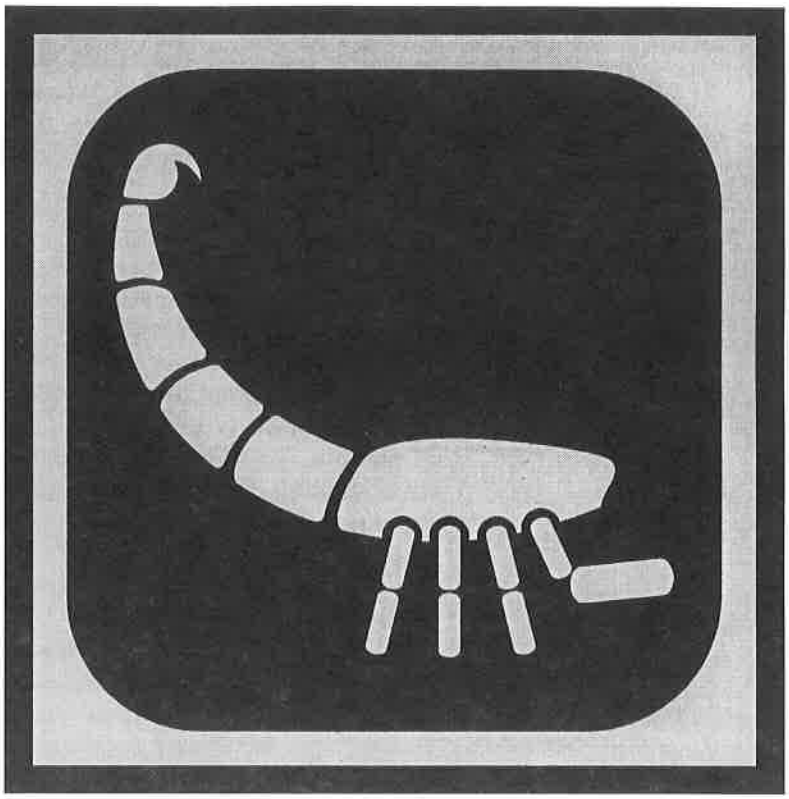
Her subjects range from charity, to a romantic restaurant, to a Buckhead dime store, to what's available today on CDs. She applies personification to a hallway. A true southern belle speaks in an unmistakable accent.

*This exquisite chapbook is laced with delight, each poem bordered with insight...*

This exquisite chapbook is laced with delight, each poem bordered with insight (as well as its decorative border). Each page is pleasing to the eye, ear, and intellect. To use a C.S. Lewis quotation, slightly modified, Jane Johnson's poems "Surprise by Joy". Congratulations to Jane for sharing her sharp insights through *Love is Lighter than Air.*



# Your Best Poetic Intentions toward Convicts Can Backfire with Terrifying Consequences



So much for the milk of human kindness.

A California woman notes that she has been terrorized by a convict, the second such incident in a year.

A Georgia con saw her name in our newsletter and wrote asking for help in getting school books for fellow prisoners interested in learning to read.

The woman sent some books and began getting letters from the con. The letters took a frightening turn when he addressed her as "Dearest Betty" (not her real name) and signing them, "Love, Byron".

The woman immediately stopped writing back and mentioned the incident to someone who knew lad Byron. The fellow was able to extract an apology from the convict who subsequently stopped writing.

Despite the movie, *Shawshank Redemption*, good guys are few and far between behind bars. These guys have a lot of time on their hands and many opportunities to become seriously confused between fantasy and reality when it comes to dealing with people on "the outside".

They have no idea of the impact of a casual comment on unsuspecting women who may have tried to be helpful out of sympathy.

We're not giving members' street addresses and phone numbers any longer in the newsletter—only cities. If you're a GPS member (who's not in jail) and want to welcome a new member with a note or call, get in touch with a board member for the person's address.

And, if you're thinking about being nice to a con, it can be like trying to pet a scorpion. They're not known for licking your hand.

## If You Snoozed, You Lost as ROS Goes to The Printer

Editor Ethelene Jones sent the copy and layout for our annual anthology, *The Reach of Song, 1996-1997*, to the publisher April 20th.

Ms. Jones notes that, if you hadn't returned the proof of your poem for the anthology to her by then, it was too bad because everyone had plenty of time to respond.

This year's edition will have 173 pages. Subjects of the poems are as varied as the personalities and experiences of the poets.

Poems that have won a prize in GPS contests conducted during that year comprise almost half the book; poems from members the remainder.

Interestingly, of 200 members eligible to contribute a poem for consideration, fewer than half chose to do so.

The books will be mailed to those who placed advance orders when they arrive from the printer, hopefully by the end of this month.

You didn't reserve a copy? Use the order blank on page nine.

Your support of this project by purchasing the book is vital to maintaining its viability.

### *Smith Stars in Starburst*

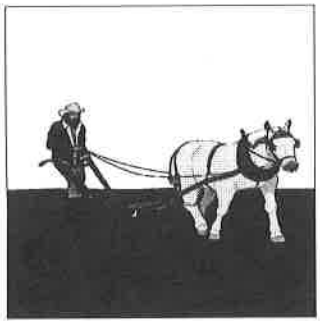
Patricia Darden-Smith, Vidalia, won the Editor's Challenge Award in Volume 6 (1998) of *Starburst Journal* and honorable mentions in two of the 1997 volumes. She took a second place in the magazine's January-February contest. Her winning poem will be published in the Editor's Preference Awards of Excellence next year.

# Newsletter Poetry Contest

Back to the Land

I hear the call of fertile land
that nurtured me through my fears,
and paced me to the brink of man
with symmetry unspoiled by years.
It was here in the rolling hills
I played as a barefoot boy,
and felt the touch of kindred fields
sown with many seeds of joy.
I feel the lure of the homestead
that sheltered and patterned me,
and encased for me a soft bed
with dreams of infinity.
There beneath the delicate sky
I made my promise to earth,
and now my thoughts at random fly
back to the hills of my birth.

*M. Rosser Lunsford*
*Eatonton, GA*



## Chairperson's Comment

Congratulations to M. Rosser Lunsford, Eatonton, GA, for his winning poem this quarter.

His poem evokes both nostalgia and promise for the future. His rhyme is easy and natural, his images of the land of his birth bring to the reader a clear vision of his "rolling hills".

The choice of this quarter's winner was particularly difficult because there were so many entries. My thanks to those members who so graciously noted that I might hold their entries for future consideration.

Dorothy Worth
Contest Chairperson

Newsletter Contest Rules: limited to members only. Must be an original, previously unpublished poem no longer than 30 lines and no more than 50 characters a line, including spaces. Put your name on the poem.

Send not later than 10 Aug 98 to:

Dorothy W. Worth
GPS Newsletter Contest Chairperson
1399 Vista Leaf Dr.
Decatur, GA 30033

Georgia Poetry Society News
28 Springlake Place, NW
Atlanta, GA 30318-1646
404-350-0714
FAX 404-352-8417

Address Correction Requested

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY