

## GPS Selected as Finalist for Chamber Abby Award

The Arts & Business Council of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce selected GPS as a finalist in competition for the 1999 Arts Education Award.

Thomas D Hills, Atlanta city president, Wachovia Bank, and chairman of the 1999 Abby Awards, stated that our "strong leadership and contributions to the arts community in metro Atlanta" brought us to the finalist level.

Mr. Hills went on to commend GPS for its "many contributions to the quality of life in Atlanta".

## Directions to January Quarterly Meeting



**From Atlanta**, go I-285 to US 78 east (Stone Mountain exit) to Snellville. Cross GA 124 (Scenic Highway). At 3/10 mile beyond GA 124, turn right on Henry Clower Boulevard. At 3/10 mile, turn left at first traffic signal onto Lenora Church Road. The Snellville office of the Walton Electric Membership Corporation will be on your right at 2.9 miles at 3645 Lenora Church Rd. Free parking.

**From Athens**, US 78 west to Snellville. Before crossing GA 124, turn left onto Henry Clower Boulevard and proceed as above.

**From Lawrenceville**, GA 20 to GA 124 to Snellville. Left (east) on US 78. At 3/10 mile beyond GA 124, turn right on Henry Clower Boulevard and proceed as above.

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# Georgia Poetry Society



## Society

### Newsletter

December, 1999

Published Quarterly

## Winter Quarter Membership Meeting

Walton Electric Cooperative  
Snellville, GA

Saturday, January 15, 2000

NOTES: Directions at left. Lunch reservation info below.

Registration, coffee, refreshments	9:30 a.m.
Call to order, announcements, welcome	10 a.m.
Herbert Denmark, president	
Welcome new members	10:05 a.m.
Mary Stripling, co-chairperson	
Poetry in the Schools	10:10 a.m.
Jean Mahavier, chairperson	
<i>The Reach of Song</i>	10:20 a.m.
Katherine Ward, editor	
Poetry Readings by Members	10:30 a.m.
Katherine Ward, chairperson	
Book Reviews	11 a.m.
Thelma Hall, chairperson	
Sestina Workshop	11:30 a.m.
Emery Campbell, contest chairman	
Lunch	Noon
Featured Speaker: Kodac Harrison. lyricist	1 p.m.
(See story on page 5)	
Contest Awards	2 p.m.
Emery Campbell, chairman	

### LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Advance reservations *are required* for the catered luncheon at our quarterly meeting on 15 Jan 00 at the Walton Electric Co-op in Snellville. The cost: \$5. Not eating the catered lunch? No reservation required. Brown baggers welcome. Directions at left.

Call Milton Stephens at 770-358-2816 not later than 09 Jan 00, to reserve your place.

## GPS Sponsoring Spanish Language Poetry Contest

Recognizing the growing size and importance of Georgia's Hispanic community, GPS is sponsoring a Spanish language poetry contest to honor Octavio Paz (awk TAH vyo Pahs), a Mexican poet who won the 1990 Nobel Prize for literature. He was born in Mexico City.

The *World Book Encyclopedia* notes that his work was influenced by Aztec mythology, Asian philosophy, symbolism, and surrealism. His best known poem is "Sunstone" which speaks of loneliness and

Please turn to page 2

## Some Don't Like to Enter Poetry Contests

By Herbert Walter Denmark

In reply to Mr. Thomas Lynn, whose letter expressing disappointment with Georgia's showing in the NFSPS contests appeared in the last issue, I say rest easy. Georgia had more winning entries than many states. Some states had none, although that doesn't indicate that there aren't good poets there.

GPS poets aren't in competition with poets from other state societies. Poets are in competition with poetic excellence, not other poets.

Winning awards in poetry contests is good for poets who have that as a priority. A significant number of GPS poets don't.

There are seasoned GPS members who never have entered a contest. They choose to enjoy the many other benefits of membership, such as workshops, poetry readings, and high-quality speakers. Some members prefer to work in our Poetry in the Schools project. They get more satisfaction from reading to wide-eyed, attentive children, and hearing them proudly read freshly created poems, than from winning a contest. Many poets submit their work for publication, making it ineligible for our contests. Yes, poetry contests are but one aspect of GPS.

On the other hand, I encourage those poets who like to enter contests to continue their quest for awards. GPS currently is sponsoring

### SPANISH LANGUAGE

Continued from page 1

people's search to be with others.

Octavio's talents were not limited to poetry. He wrote essays on literature, philosophy, and anthropology.

His deeply felt opinion of the expression, "Mexican poetry", appears in the book, *New Poetry of Mexico*, edited by Mark Strand. Eliot Wineberger translated some of Octavio's poetry for the book, which is in the DeKalb County Library System.—Herbert Denmark.

a contest in the annual NFSPS series. We believe that contests are good for many poets and I challenge GPS members to work on those



rhymed sestinas and flood our NFSPS contest with entries.

If you enter a contest, but don't win, it doesn't mean you aren't talented. Judging a poetry contest is a subjective endeavor. Judges bring their personal likes and dislikes to the process. They are comparing your poem with all the others submitted. If one judge doesn't like your poem, don't give up. The next one may.

### Poetry Day Weekend

GPS had an active National Poetry Day weekend in October.

Poetry books written by GPS members were donated to the Spruill Regional Library in Alpharetta.

A quarterly membership meeting in Snellville coincided with the weekend. Dr. Dabney Hart, an authority on the poetry of C.S. Lewis, was the featured speaker and Dorothy Worth gave an excellent workshop on "Poetic Diction: Language of Poetry".

A poetry reading was held at the main DeKalb County library in Decatur.

DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Diane Levetan proclaimed October 17th National Poetry Day in DeKalb.

### GPS Anniversary Celebration

Fifty-one persons attended our GPS 20th anniversary program in November in Decatur. Participants dined on French cuisine, chatted enthusiastically with fellow poets, and enjoyed an outstanding program.

Past presidents attending included Bettie Sellers, Frank

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## Return This Official Ballot Not Later than April 1st

The GPS Selection Committee presents the slate of officers listed below for the year 2000-01. If elected these individuals will serve for the fiscal year beginning 01 Jul 00 and ending 30 Jun 01. A space is provided for write-in votes. Please note, however, that the bylaws require write-in candidates to have been formally seconded and expressed their willingness to serve. Please so indicate for any names you write in.

Please sign and return this ballot not later than 01 Apr 2000 to:

Dr. Katherine Ward, Selection Committee Member  
640 Patrick Place, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30328.

The balloting results will be announced at the spring GPS meeting in mid-April 2000. The newly elected officers will officially take up their duties on 01 Jul 00 although their installation ceremony may not take place until the summer GPS meeting in mid-July, 2000.

### FOR PRESIDENT

Herbert W. Denmark

\_\_\_\_\_

### FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Emery L. Campbell

\_\_\_\_\_

### FOR SECRETARY

Virginia H. Austin

\_\_\_\_\_

### FOR TREASURER

Roy Carlson

\_\_\_\_\_

Print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

## News of Georgia Poetry Persons



**Emery Campbell**, Lawrenceville, may be rightfully titled "King of Contests" this month. Goodin Communications and Penny Peep-hole Publications selected him as 1999-2000 senior poet laureate from among 733 entries. The Ohio Poetry Day Association selected his *Contest Chairman's Lament* for first prize and chose his *Okra's Not OK, OK?* for an honorable mention. The New Horizons Poetry Club put him in a tie for second place. He took first place in the West Virginia Poetry Society's annual contest.

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**Jeanne Osborne Shaw**, Decatur, had two poems accepted by *Mid-west Poetry Review*. Her bio will appear in the Marquis millennium edition of *Who's who in the World*. A letter to the editor was published in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. She read one of her poems in the Thanksgiving service at White Oak Hills Baptist Church.

\*\*\*

**Mary Stripling**, Atlanta, won second prize in poetry at the Southeastern Writers Association. Also, she placed second in the inspirational writing category with a story.

\*\*\*

**Dorothy Williamson Worth**, Decatur, won first prize in the 1999 Edna Muedt Memorial Award sponsored by NFSPS. She also took third place in the Poetry Society of Michigan contest, another in the 1999 NFSPS series. She won third prize and first honorable mention for formal verse in the 1999 Illinois State Poetry competitions. Dorothy taught a travel writing course at the Southeastern Writers Assn. workshop on St. Simons Island and a course on Spanish literature at Mercer Senior University in Atlanta. She recently presented a travelogue

and slide show at Oak Grove UMC in Decatur. She serves as poetry editor for *The Quill*, the Atlanta Writers Club's newsletter which featured one of her poems in October. Another poem has been accepted by *Cosmos*.

### Tell Us When You Go

Moving?

Be sure to get your new address to John Ottley, membership co-chairman. Since he wears two hats, this also will take care of updating your newsletter mailing label. If you have the four-digit extender for your new ZIP code, your newsletter will get to you faster. So says the USPS, at least.

John Ottley  
28 Springlake Pl., NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318-1646  
Phone: 404-350-0714

### 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.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

McKemie, Jerry Zeller, Ethelene Jones, Dorothy Worth, and Emily Vail.

Rev. Grover Jones gave a blessing. Adina Banks read a welcoming poem. Barbara Hegyesi presented a poem for the occasion. Emery Campbell read a memorial to Edward Vickers, first president and founder, written by Jo Ann Adkins. Emily Vail read a memorial to past president Margery Carlson. Ethelene Jones gave GPS historical highlights. Rev. and Mrs. Keith Jones offered musical selections. Ms. Worth introduced featured speaker Bettie Sellers, Georgia's poet laureate, whose excellent address concluded the program.

### ByLine Chapbook Contest

ByLine Chapbook Competition offers \$200 plus 50 free copies of the selected MS. Deadline: 01 Mar 00. Entry fee: \$12 per MS. 24 to 30 original poems should center on a single theme. For more info:

ByLine Chapbook Competition  
Box 130596  
Edmond, OK 73013-0001

### Y2 Kontests?

*EDITOR'S NOTE:*

Due to a communications breakdown, a cardinal sin in the lowly cult of editorship, the fall and winter newsletter poetry contests had to be combined. Our apologies to Dorothy Worth, contest chairman. We have self-administered the lash as best as our arthritic arms could reach around back with the cat.

## Welcome Our New Members



**Dawn Radford**, Wilmington, NC, is a writer and a writing instruction consultant. She was recruited by **Polly Shaw**.

\*\*\*

**Wesley A. Riddle**, El Paso, TX, got to know us through Poets and Writers and information on our contests. His work has appeared in *Poet's Domain*, *American Tanka*,

*Fragments*, *The Social Critic*, *Genteel Giant*, and numerous anthologies. He reviews history books and other non-fiction works.

\*\*\*

**Bonnie Williams**, Cumming, is retired. She was recruited by **Marylou Parrish**.

\*\*\*

**Jaime Wright**, San Jose, CA, is a loan officer.

## Tips on How You Can Win More Poetry Contests

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This was excerpted from an article by Tom Tilford, a former editor of *Midwest Poetry Review*.

Poetry contest judges deliberately ask three questions:

- What is the poet trying to achieve.
- Was it achieved?
- Was it worth doing?

If it wasn't worth doing, there's no need to pursue the other questions.

Contest entrants should choose a worthy theme—love, loyalty, compassion, patriotism—one which appeals to the deeper emotions.

Treat a serious theme seriously. Don't apologize for inexperience. Look at it as a "fresh and original viewpoint".

Be original. See the contest theme from a fresh viewpoint. Even an insane one.

Ask whether what you have written is the same old thing said in the same old way. Use your thesaurus and dictionary.

Set a mood and retain it throughout your poem. What you write must sharpen the judge's perception of the contest theme. Dare to take a chance.

Be aware of rhythm.

The work should be subject to several interpretations. Does it illustrate universalism?

The quality of thought counts more than the subject. You don't have to tell everything you know.

The poem must have motion. It must go somewhere. It needs a beginning, a middle, and an end. Be sure not to go beyond the end.

It almost goes without saying that your spelling, grammar, and syntax must be flawless.

Be careful with adjectives. They can be the crutches that aid a crippled noun to its deathbed. Vital, active verbs and creative nouns are the lifeblood of living poetry.

Don't preach. Let your images do the work. Your picture is worth 10,000 sermons. Effective use of metaphor is the highest degree of poetic art.

Lastly, have a tough hide. Your work may look great to you and it may be great, but you're going up against the work of others. Judges are fickle. That's what makes a horse race. If you don't win this one, don't get depressed. Don't take it personally.

Then, enter again. The next judge may go bonkers over you.

## Shaw Takes First Place in Peery Memorial Awards

Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Decatur, was the first place winner (\$100) in our 1999 Annette Rumph Peery Memorial Awards Contest. Susan Harkleroad, Stone Mountain, took second place (\$35). Marguerite T. Watkins, Lynchburg, VA, was third (\$15). Total poems submitted: 68; 45 from 12 GPS members, 23 from 12 non-members. The judge: Collie Owens, poetry editor, *The Chattahoochee Review*.

## Worth Snags Two Prizes in GPS 20th Anniversary

In the formal verse category of our 20th anniversary contest, June McNaughton, Decatur, swept first prize (\$25) with *Renaissance*. Dorothy Worth, Decatur, came in second (\$15) with *Time of the Roses*. Leona Martin, Homer, was third (\$10) with *Grace*. In the free verse division, Dorothy Worth's *Ghost Town* took first place (\$25). *Bronc in a Cow Camp*, by Sybella Snyder, Inverness, FL, took the \$15 second prize. Laverne McCarthy, Blair, OK, was third (\$10) with *Ghosts*. Ten entries arrived for the formal verse category; 15 for free verse. The judge: Theda Bassett, Salt Lake City, UT, former president, Utah State Poetry Society.

## Love Poetry Reading Is Set for February 12th

GPS will sponsor an afternoon of poetry reading to celebrate the Valentine season. The emphasis, naturally, will be on love.

It's free (the reading, that is) and open to the public at the DeKalb County main library, 215 Sycamore St., Decatur, from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, 12 Feb 00.

Show up, sign up, speak up. Bring a special friend.

The library is convenient to MARTA and accessible to the handicapped.

## 1999-2000 Board of Directors

### Officers

President	Herbert Walter Denmark
Vice-President	Emery Campbell
Secretary	Virginia Austin
Treasurer	Roy Carlson

### Poetry Contests

General Chairman	Emery Campbell
Reece Awards	Herbert W. Denmark
Vickers Award	Carole B. Fessenden
Youth Contest	Keith Jones
Newsletter Contest	Dorothy Worth

### Editors

Newsletter	John Ottley
<i>Reach of Song</i>	Katherine Ward
Chapbook	Joan Anson-Webber
Strophes Reporter	Jeanne Osborne Shaw

### Quarterly Meetings

Meetings Manager	Terry Hensel
Book Reviews	Thelma Hall
Hospitality	Joanne Bishop
Member Readings	Katherine Ward
Presenting Poets	Memye Curtis Tucker
Reservations	Milton Stephens

### Support

Chaplain	Rev. Grover Jones
Historian	Riherd Greene
Archivist	Thomas Haynes
Librarian	Ethelene Jones
Membership	Mary Stripling
	John Ottley
Parliamentarian	Price Fessenden
Public Relations	Robert Hays

### Projects

Poetry in Schools	Jean Mahavier
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### Artistic Directors

Terry Kay
Linda Schrenko

## Next GPS Board Meeting at Roy Carlson's Home

The January 8th board meeting will be at the home of Treasurer Roy Carlson, 3090 Lee Road, Snellville, at 10 a.m. An observer from the Georgia Council for the Arts is scheduled to be present. Maximum board attendance is urged.

Driving directions are similar to those for the Walton Electric Membership Corporation, but you will go beyond the EMC.

**From Atlanta**, go I-285 to US 78 east (Stone Mountain exit) to Snellville. Cross GA 124 (Scenic Highway). At 3/10 mile beyond GA 124, turn right on Henry Clower Boulevard. At 3/10 mile, turn left at first traffic signal onto Lenora Church Road.

You will go about 5 miles on Lenora Church Rd. For the last 1/2 mile before reaching Lee Road, you will see Lenora recreational park on your right. Turn left on Lee Road and enter the first driveway on the right. After entering the driveway, you will see two houses. The one on the right is Roy's.

Disoriented? Call 770-972-1247.

**From Athens**, US 78 west to Snellville. Before crossing GA 124, turn left onto Henry Clower Boulevard and proceed as above.

**From Lawrenceville**, GA 20 to GA 124 to Snellville. Left (east) on US 78. At 3/10 mile beyond GA 124, turn right on Henry Clower Boulevard and proceed as above.

## Owens Takes Vickers 1st

June Owens, Zephyrhills, FL, won the first place (\$250) in the 1999 Ed Vickers Memorial Poetry Award with "Sitting on the Roof of the Bon Aire Apartments Eating Ice Cream with My Mother". Ed Weir, Dunwoody, took home \$100 with his second place winner, "Memorial Day". Coming in third for \$50 was Evelyn Ritchie, Richmond, VA, with "Tryst Cabin". The judge: Dr. Gary Kerley, adjunct English professor at Brenau University and Gainesville College.

## January Speaker Harrison Makes "Beatnik Blues"

Kodac Harrison, featured speaker at the 15 Jan 00 quarterly meeting, is a southeastern musical treasure. He's fronted several bands and made a number of recordings, including "Hard to Stop a Train" and a CD, "In Search of the Blue Groove". He learned guitar in his senior year at Georgia Tech and got an MBA from Tulane. He calls his music "beatnik blues".

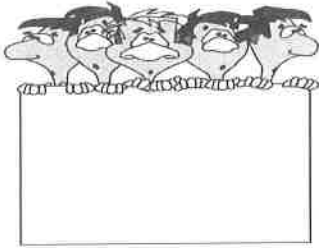
Mr. Harrison describes himself as a poet who makes music and a musician who makes poetry.

Primarily a song writer, he "writes his pieces any way they come". Sometimes the lyrical idea comes first; sometimes the music.

An acoustic guitarist and baritone, Mr. Harrison performs as a singer or spoken word artist.

# 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 except where noted. 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.

## Contest Honors Past Presidents of GA Poetry Society

The Georgia Poetry Society is pleased to announce a poetry contest sponsored by Ms. Bettie Sellers, Poet Laureate of Georgia, to honor all past presidents of the Georgia Poetry Society.

Prizes: 1st \$50; 2nd \$50.  
Subject: Any.  
Form: Any.  
Length: 40 lines maximum.  
Eligibility: Open to all.  
Entry fee: One entry free to GPS members; all others, \$1 a poem.  
*Deadline:* February 15, 2000, postmark.  
Notification: Winners announced at April, 2000, GPS meeting.  
Entries to: Emery L. Campbell  
General Contests Chairman  
369 Cottage Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044

## GPS Contest Deadlines

Byron Herbert Reece  
Deadline 31 Jan 00  
Winners April 00

GPS Past Presidents  
Deadline 15 Feb 00  
Winners April 00

Langston Hughes Awards  
Deadline 15 Mar 00  
Winners April 00

Chuck Bruehler Memorial  
Deadline 15 Apr 00  
Winners 15 Jul 00

Gwendolyn Brooks  
Deadline 15 May 00  
Winners 15 Jul 00



## Any Form of Poetry is Acceptable in Bruehler Contest But Maximum Number of Lines per Poem is Forty

A group of his family and friends are pleased to sponsor a poetry competition in memory of the late Charles J. "Chuck" Bruehler, a co-founder, with Edward Davin Vickers, of GPS. Formerly employed by Ace Mailing Service, Smyrna, Mr. Bruehler frequently read his poetry at the quarterly meetings. A native of Beresford, SD, he lived in Atlanta 25 years before moving to Phoenix, AZ, where he remained active in poetry

- Prizes: 1st \$50; 2nd \$25; 3rd \$15.  
Subject: Any.  
Form: Any.  
Length: 40 lines maximum.  
Eligibility: Open to all.  
Entry fee: One entry free to GPS members; all other poems, \$1 each.  
*Deadline:* April 15, 2000, postmark.  
Notification: Winners announced at July, 2000, GPS meeting.  
Entries to: Emery L. Campbell  
General Contests Chairman  
369 Cottage Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4523  
**NOTE:** *General contest rules published in this issue apply.*

## Byron Herbert Reece International Awards in Memory of Beloved and World Renown North Georgia Poet

The Georgia Poetry Society announces its annual international poetry awards in honor of the late Georgia poet, Byron Herbert Reece, 1917-1958. Reece loved the north Georgia mountains and became famous for his lyrical poetry about nature, the human spirit, and the passage of time. Also, he was noted for poems in the ballad form and for two novels.

- Prizes: 1st \$250; 2nd \$100; 3rd \$50; 4th, \$25; 5th, \$15; 6th, \$10.  
Subject: Any.  
Form: Any.  
Length: 40 lines maximum, no minimum.  
Eligibility: Open to all except last year's winners who are ineligible for one year.  
Entry fee: \$USD 5 first poem, \$USD 1 each additional poem.  
*Deadline:* January 31, 2000, postmark.  
Notification: Winners announced at April, 2000, GPS meeting.  
Entries to: Byron Herbert Reece Awards  
Herbert Denmark, Director  
Box 371123  
Atlanta, GA 30037-1123  
404-289-9428  
**NOTE:** *General contest rules published in this issue apply.*

## You Asked: How on Earth To Do a Rhymed Sestina?

Among the sponsors in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies annual lineup of contests is none other than the Georgia Poetry Society. Ours is a rhymed sestina in iambic pentameter. Afraid to enter due to unfamiliarity with the form?

Well, we're your newsletter and we're here to help you.

Contest Chairman Emery Campbell found the following in a 1998 *Writer's Digest* issue by Michael Bugeja:

The sestina six, six-line stanzas and a three-line envoy (ending stanza). You must use the same six words, or their homonymic counterparts, at the end of their respective lines in a complex pattern. In the envoy, you must use three of your end-words at the ends of the lines and the remaining end-words elsewhere in each line of the envoy according to a specific pattern.

Add rhyme and meter and you get the most complex form in English. (Hey, whoever said this was going to be easy?)

In a rhymed sestina, which the GPS contest is, you designate each end-word of the first stanza with a number and a letter (indicating the same rhyme-sound). For instance, the symbols 1A and 3A mean that the word at the end of the first line rhymes with the word at the end of the third line.

The scheme has two basic rhymes, distributed in an alternating pattern.

First stanza: 1A 2B 3A 4B 5A  
6B

Second stanza: 612345

Third stanza: 561234

Fourth stanza: 456123

Fifth stanza: 345612

Sixth stanza: 234561

Envoy: 236 (with 541 included, one per line).

Your end words are going to appear often in your sestina, so you

Please turn to page 8

## Herbert and Delores Denmark Sponsor New Contest Honoring the Prolific Literature of Langston Hughes

The Georgia Poetry Society is pleased to announce a poetry contest sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Denmark to honor Langston Hughes (1902-67), a prolific writer of poetry, songs, and books. He wrote hundreds of poems and published several volumes of verse. Among his honors and awards were the Witter Bynner Prize for poetry excellence, a grant from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Anisfield-Wolfe Award, and the Springarn Medal. He was a Rosenward and Guggenheim fellow.

- Prizes: 1st \$100. 2nd \$50. 3rd \$25.  
 Subject: Any.  
 Form: Any.  
 Length: 60 lines maximum, no minimum.  
 Eligibility: Open to all.  
 Entry fee: One entry free to GPS members; all others, \$1 a poem.  
 Deadline: March 15, 2000, postmark.  
 Notification: Winners announced at April, 2000, GPS meeting.  
 Entries to: Langston Hughes Awards  
 Herbert W. Denmark, Chairman  
 Box 371123  
 Atlanta, GA 30037-1123  
 NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply.

## The GPS Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Contest Honors First Black Woman to Win Pulitzer Prize for Verse

The GPS is pleased to announce a poetry writing competition sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Denmark to honor Gwendolyn Brooks who, in 1950, became the first black American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for a book of poetry. Among her other awards are two Guggenheim fellowships, an American Academy of Arts and Letters prize, the Eunice Tietjeans Award from *Poetry* magazine and the merit award of *Mademoiselle* magazine.

- Prizes: 1st \$50; 2nd \$30; 3rd \$20.  
 Subject: Any.  
 Form: Any.  
 Length: 40 lines maximum, no minimum.  
 Eligibility: Open to all.  
 Entry fee: One entry free to GPS members; all other poems, \$1 each.  
 Deadline: May 15, 2000, postmark.  
 Notification: Winners announced at July, 2000, GPS meeting.  
 Entries to: Emery L. Campbell  
 General Contests Chairman  
 369 Cottage Way  
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4523  
 NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply.

## RHYMED SESTINA

Continued from page 7

want them to have special qualities. First, they should be common enough to serve different sentences. For example, you won't get far with *obstreperous* which is apt to grate on the ear or call attention to itself after the second use. Your words also should have different meanings or work in different ways, such as noun, verb, and adjective. Example: the word *fast*.

According to Bugeja, the richness of the English language is in the homonym rather than the rhyme. Repeating end-words can bore readers quickly, but homonymous words change meaning and intrigue listeners.

You should have at least two or three of them in each sestina. Other examples of homonyms: *wishes* (noun and third person verb) and *beam* (verb and noun).

If you hated word problems in school, here is an example of a Bugeja sestina:

### SETI Sestina

NASA technicians send you best wishes:

Make us a megajoule particle beam.

We seek messiahs on microwave dishes.

How do you turn off a cancerous gene?

Replenish an ocean with edible fishes?

*This is a beacon, Please intervene.*

*This is a beacon, Please intervene.*

Biotechnicians may e-mail their wishes

to aliens online by particle beam, awaiting an answer on Microsoft dishes.

How do you turn off a cancerous gene

when people are frying mercurial dishes?

Our messiah forgives us and fishes.

Please turn to page 10



## Fine Books Available from the Georgia Poetry Society

<u>No. of Books</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Price</u>
_____	A Book of the Charter Year	\$6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, Book 1	6.95
_____	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 10th Year 1988-89	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, 1989-90	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, 1990-91	6.95
_____	The Reach of Song, 1991-92	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1992-93	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1992-93	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1993-94	9.00

**Special clearance offer:** order *any three* of the above books for only \$18.00 plus \$2.50 shipping for first book and \$1.50 for each additional book.

_____	The Reach of Song, 1994-95	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1995-96	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1996-97	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1998-99	10.00
_____	Poetry in Motion '96 Olympics Anthology	7.95

### Prize-Winning Chapbooks

1989 <i>Shadowdrifters: Images of China</i> by Patricia Canterbury	\$6.00
1990 <i>Summer at the Dreamland Motel</i> by Lethe H. Bishop	6.00
1991 <i>A Far Garden</i> by Jo Ann Yeager Adkins	6.00
1993 <i>A Species of Ruin</i> by Mildred Greear	6.00
1994 <i>Blood Kin</i> by Julia Evatt	6.00
1996 <i>Desert Places</i> by Dorothy Worth	6.00
1998 <i>The Reign of the Girl King</i> by Rebecca Bailey	6.00

### Other Books

<i>Message from the Blueberries and Other Poems</i> by Marge Carlson	6.00
<i>Vala Fastel and Other Essays</i> by Marge Carlson	6.00*

\* The two Carlson books are \$10.00 if ordered together.

TOTAL OF BOOKS ORDERED	\$ _____
SHIPPING (see below)	\$ _____
TOTAL OF BOOKS AND SHIPPING	\$ _____

Shipping: \$2.50 for first book and \$1.50 for *each additional* book.

Make check payable to Georgia Poetry Society.

Send order to: Dr. Katherine Ward  
 Editor, *The Reach of Song*  
 640 Patrick Pl., NE  
 Atlanta, GA 30328

## 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 1999-00 were payable 01 Jul 99. Unpaid members are dropped 01 Nov 99. 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



## RHYMED SESTINA Continued from page 8

*This is a beacon, Please inter-  
vene.*

Bubble technicians are transmit-  
ting wishes  
to Point Omega whose particles  
beam  
cable on backyard microwave  
dishes.

"How do you turn off the video,  
Jean?"

"How do you turn off the video,  
Jean?"

She fries him a pan of mercurial  
fishes.

*This is a beacon, Please inter-  
vene.*

A biotechnician reports that he  
wishes  
to bypass the megajoule particle  
beam  
and cure a pandemic in petri  
dishes.

"Sears is having a sale on its  
dishes."

"Wal-Mart is discounting  
buttonfly jeans."

"Jimmy Hoffa swims with the  
fishes."

*This is a beacon, Please inter-  
vene.*

"Your personal psychic will  
satisfy wishes."

"Scotty is fixing the transporter  
beam."

Make us a megajoule particle  
beam

to see the messiah on micro-  
wave dishes,  
discover a cure for the cancer-  
ous gene,  
feed the plebians by splitting  
two fishes.

*This is a beacon, Please inter-  
vene.*

Our technicians are patenting  
wishes,

mutating fishes by particle  
beam,  
while Jean in her kitchen  
washes the dishes  
and SETI wishes that stars  
intervene.

## New Member Application

### Georgia Poetry Society

Your member 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, occasionally, poetry workshops.

Our quarterly newsletter, featuring news of poetry contests.

Two of your poems will be considered for publication in *The Reach of Song*, our annual anthology.

Membership in the National Federation of State Poetry Societies and its newsletter, *Strophes*.

Name:

Street (include apartment #):

City, state, and 9-digit ZIP

Home phone:

Office phone:

FAX:

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.

If this is an application for family membership, please list the other family members who will be included.

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 is limited to 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

How did you hear about the Georgia Poetry Society? \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Fall/Winter GPS Newsletter Contest Award Winners

### Follow the Dots

Give time the kiss of authenticity.  
Make moments real beyond imagining,  
coin with a gilt relief, true to the thumb.  
For years cannot be defied—they smother,  
cloy with the bulk of their remembrances.  
Only brief time can be called to account.  
Therefore, preserve truth's magnets  
lightning bugs in your memory jar.

*Janet Lombard  
Athens, GA*

### Bardic Bridges

I am a builder of the bridge  
spanning the river of dreams,  
and as I mortar  
brick to brick, stone to stone,  
I often rest  
to watch the travelers on their way.  
I see adventure in their eyes,  
anticipation on their faces  
and awe in their hearts.  
Oh, the restless ones are there  
as are the moles, venturing forth,  
and I wonder  
why the lines of travelers never cease;  
but then I see an unending host  
of builders  
mixing mortar, placing bricks.

*Thomas Lynn  
Lawrenceville, GA*

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



## **Chairman's Comment**

Congratulations to the winners of the combined fall/winter newsletter poetry contest.

Both are examples of poems that present excellent poetic diction as well as similes and metaphors which create the images each poet chooses in a way that makes them come alive for the reader.

Who can forget the "lines of travelers" along the "rivers of dreams" or the "lightning bugs" in the memory jar?

Please continue to submit. Be sure to indicate whether your submissions may be held for future consideration.

Dorothy Worth  
Contest Chairperson

Newsletter Contest Rules:  
limited to GPS members. 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 15 Feb 00  
to:

Dorothy W. Worth  
GPS Newsletter Contest Chair-  
person  
1399 Vista Leaf Dr.  
Decatur, GA 30033

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Address Correction Requested