

Two Readings Will Mark National Poetry Month

To celebrate National Poetry Month, GPS will co-sponsor two open poetry readings during April, 2000. They are:

☐ Poetry on the Steps of the Capitol. GPS, Georgia Writers, and the Georgia Center for the Book will sponsor an open poetry reading on

Please turn to page 5

Directions to April Quarterly Meeting



Directions to the Smyrna Community Center site of the 15 Apr 00 quarterly membership meeting:

☐ (A) From I-285 on the west side of Atlanta, take exit 11 at GA Highway 3 (Atlanta Rd.). Go north (toward Smyrna) on Atlanta Rd. exactly 3.8 miles. The community center will be on your left after you cross Spring Street. A large sign says, "City of Smyrna Community Center and Public Library".

☐ (B) From I-75 south or north, take exit #110 (Windy Hill Rd.). Go west (toward Smyrna) on Windy Hill Rd. to GA Highway 3 (Atlanta Rd.), passing Fox Creek Golf Course enroute. Turn left (south) on Atlanta Rd. and drive 6/10 mile. The community center will be on your right.

NOTE: The DOT is changing various freeway exit numbers throughout the state. The exit numbers cited here were accurate as of January. In any event, the highway and road *names* will remain the same.

Index

Application to Join	11
Board of Directors	05
Book Orders	09
Book Review	07-10
Narrative Poetry	03
New Members	04
Poetry Contests	06-08
Poetry Persons	03

Georgia Poetry Society



Society Newsletter

March, 2000

Published Quarterly

Spring Quarter Membership Meeting

Smyrna (GA) Community Center
Saturday, April 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	
Presenting Poets	11 a.m.
Dr. Janet Wondra, <i>The Georgia Review</i>	
Memye Curtis Tucker, chairperson	
Book Reviews	11:30 a.m.
Thelma Hall, chairperson	
Poetry of Edna St. Vincent Millay	11:45 a.m.
Reading by Virginia Austin	
Lunch	Noon
Marel Brown/Margery Carlson Youth Awards	1 p.m.
Rev. E. Keith Jones, chairman	
Byron Herbert Reece Award	1:30 p.m.
Herbert Denmark, chairman	
Contest Awards	1:40 p.m.
Emery Campbell, chairman	
Selection Committee	1:50 p.m.
Emery Campbell, chairman	
Adjournment	2 p.m.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Advance reservations *are required* for the catered luncheon at our quarterly meeting on 15 Apr 00 at the Smyrna, GA, Community Center. 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 07 Apr 00, to reserve your place.

Please turn to page 2

'State of the Society' Report Shows Us to be Fiscally Solvent

By Herbert Walter Denmark

This is the annual State of the Society report:

FINANCE: The society is financially solvent. The keys to keeping the society fiscally solid are:

- Having a membership of 200.
- Member donations.
- Support of contests and *The Reach of Song*.
- The continuation of the grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts.

MEMBERSHIP: I am pleased to report that 34 new members have joined the society since January, 1999. We want more. I encourage each member to bring a friend to the meetings. The quality of the guest poets, speakers, book reviews, and workshops will cause visitors to join. We have a lot of which to be proud. Let's show it off.

WORKSHOPS: We have had workshops about several poetry forms during the year: cinquain, quatrain, limerick, haiku, and sestina. The workshop on "Poetic Diction: Language of Poetry" was

excellent. My thanks to Dorothy Worth, Katherine Ward, and Emery Campbell for their presentations. I heard many positive remarks from members about our workshops.



POETRY IN THE SCHOOLS: The society is especially proud of this program, chaired by Jean Mahavier. Our members conduct poetry reading and writing workshops for teachers and students in public, private, and parochial schools. Several schools were visited during the year. More requests have been received than Jean can accommodate. Members are encouraged to call Jean and give some of their spare time to a good cause.

PAST PRESIDENTS CLUB: This organization has been formed so their expertise can continue to be used for the good of the society.

NEW PROJECTS:

- Form a team of poets to

read poetry at seasoned citizens homes.

- Recommend a member of GPS to serve on the NFSPS Board.

- Plan a semi-formal dinner and program to celebrate the society's next anniversary.

The Board of Directors has done an outstanding job during the year. Because of them the necessary work of the society is done. Their candor, foresight, diligence, sense of responsibility, and work ensured that the society remained an outstanding organization.

Thanks

Sincere thanks to Dr. Thomas W. Gable, MD, PA, of Atlanta, who donated \$275 to GPS to support the Edward Davin Vickers Contest. Dr. Gable was one of Ed's best friends.

Just the Poem, Ma'am. Not the Facts

Member poetry readings chairman Katherine Ward suggests these rules of etiquette for those who share their work verbally at the quarterly meetings:

1. Register early on the reading sign-up sheet at the meeting check-in desk. The reading is limited to the first 15 members who sign up.
2. The reading is reserved for members only. (Another motivation to join.)
3. Select one poem only for your reading. Sure, you want to share your entire genius with the group, but give others a chance.
4. Don't "explain" your poem other than to describe its type if a traditional format. Example: sonnet, etc. Some of these "explanations" (where you got your inspiration, etc.) run on longer than the poem. If it's good enough to read, it will speak for itself. Many in the audience are more interested in how you *express* your idea than its source or endless background.

Convention Bound?

We need to identify our official GPS delegates to the 2000 convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies so that their business session votes will be validated.

If you are a GPS member going to the convention in Minnesota this summer, please advise GPS President Herbert Denmark not later than 15 Apr 00 at Box 371123, Decatur, GA 30037-1123 so that he can certify you as a delegate representing GPS at the convention.

News of Georgia Poetry Persons



Goodin Communications, Springfield, MO, has named **Emery Campbell**, Lawrenceville, 1999 "senior poet laureate" for his traditional sonnet, "Walden Farewell". The firm said that Campbell captured "the wry essence of nostalgic realism", combining past, present, and future in 14 lines.

Virginia P. Dickson, Atlanta, has made a generous contribution to support this year's GPS chapbook contest which is named for her late husband, Charles B. Dickson. Charles was respected internationally as a haiku poet and wrote *A Touch of Wholeness*, *Taste of Summer*, *Fragrance of Frost Grapes*, and *Out of Cassiopeia*.

Houghton Mifflin contacted Virginia offering to purchase a haiku by **Charles**, for a textbook coming out in 2001 in a limited printing of 22,500 copies. Charles's poem will be illustrated.

Jean Mahavier, Decatur, participated in a 60-minute poetry reading for 40 residents at Briarwood Retirement Home on Lavista Road.

Jean Manning, Decatur, is the lead poet and editor's choice award winner in the International Society of Poets' 1999 anthology, *Celebration of Poets*. The National Library of Poets placed her work on page 1 of its *Outstanding Poets of 1998*. Her book, *Beyond Tide and Time*, Watermark Press, 1999, is scheduled to be reviewed at the next GPS meeting.

Jean Osborne Shaw, Decatur, was appointed to the National Committee of Arts and Humanities of Learning for Life, Boy Scouts of America. She read Christmas and millennium poems at two churches, a Salvation Army high rise, the Lions Club, and several other social gatherings. She read love poems at the society's program at the DeKalb County main library in Decatur.

Dorothy Williamson Worth, Decatur, was featured in the "People" section of the DeKalb Neighbor newspaper with a photograph and interview. She won four awards in the recent Atlanta Writers Club Contests: first prizes for light verse and short story and second prizes for serious poetry and juvenile story. She read her poetry in English and Spanish to a group of visiting Peruvian teachers. One of her poems appeared in the February

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.

Quill, newsletter of the Atlanta Writers Club. She judged a South Carolina poetry contest and had poems published in Chaparral and Lotus. One of her poems appeared on the cover of the program for the volunteer holiday party at Fernbank Museum of Natural History. She was a poetry judge for the recent Oh, Georgia! anthology published by Humpus Bumpus Books in Cumming.

Narrative Poem Need Not Tell Everything You Know

Hints on narrative poetry from Georgia Poet Laureate Bettie Sellers, Young Harris:

- 1. Your reader doesn't have to know why the characters do what they do. All you have to do is show what they do. You don't need to interpret their thoughts for the reader. Let the reader draw a conclusion as to why.
- 2. You don't have to tell the reader everything you know about the story. You don't have to give the causative factors, e.g. daddy was an alcoholic.
- 3. Distance yourself from the characters and the story in order to focus on its most telling elements. If you are too close to the story, or the persons, you might even want to create a fictitious persona to tell the story in a way that you wouldn't.
- 4. A narrative poem needs a setting. The setting must go along with the situation. It may create the situation.
- 5. Narrative poetry also needs a sense of time.
- 6. Build suspense into the poem. Don't give away the ending at the beginning or in the title.
- 7. Draw a conclusion, again not telling everything you know.
- 8. When you reach the conclusion, stop. No philosophical afterthoughts. No explanations to be sure your reader got it.

Welcome Our New Members



Jeri Grant, Stone Mountain, is a retired teacher. She read about us in the *Atlanta Journal*.

Linda Lee Harper, Augusta, earned her MFA from the University of Pittsburgh. She has been a featured speaker and reader at Paumanok Reading Series, State University of New York—Long Island, the *Georgia Review* 50th anniversary symposium, Charleston Writing Conference, College of Charleston, Spoleto, 1996, Cabin Miller Series, Washington, DC, SC Arts Commission's Reader's Circuit, 1993, 95, and 96. Her publications include *Toward Desire*, which won the 1995 Washington Prize for Poetry, *A Failure of Loveliness*, which won the William and Kingman Page Award, *Cataloguing Van Gogh*, which won the Hibiscus Award, *The Wide View*, which won the Fall Open Reading Award, *Blue Flute*, and *Buckeye*, which was the Anabiosis Press's 1998 winner. She has received three Pushcart nominations. Her work has appeared in five anthologies and her poetry has been published in numerous distinguished literary journals. Linda was recruited by **Fay Hoops**.

Ira E. Harrison, Atlanta, is an associate professor emeritus and consultant. He was recruited by **Gwen Russell Green**.

Ron Hunter, Lawrenceville, is a business analyst. He heard about GPS through a Village Writers Club poetry critique group.

Donna Jones, Statesboro, is retired from the Georgia State University English Department. She

is a former member.

Sally Kaplan, Lawrenceville, has not written poetry, but enjoys reading and hearing it. She also learned of GPS from the Atlanta papers.

Jane Stuart, Greenup, KY, is a retired teacher who writes poetry and novels. She heard about us through contest announcements.

Georgia Syribeys, Decatur, is retired. She was recruited by **Harriet Kelly** and **Memye Tucker**.

Linda Wimberly, Marietta, is a private music instructor in piano, guitar, and voice, a composer, poet, and short story writer. A 1995 graduate of the University of Alabama, she instructs in music at Kennesaw State University and is the director of music and a contralto soloist at Northwest Presbyterian Church, Atlanta. She has performed as a soloist at several metro Atlanta locations. She is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and won an award at Alabama for outstanding use of learning resources in curriculum design. Linda was granted a writing residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. Linda heard about GPS through *Poet's Market*.

Sale on GPS Books

All past editions of our anthology, *The Reach of Song*, and society-owned chapbooks, will be on sale for \$5 each at the April 15, 2000, membership meeting.

Utah Woman Takes First in the Lorraine Goreau

Theda Bassett, Murray, UT, was the first place winner (\$50) in our Lorraine Goreau Memorial Contest with "Like Lambs Frolicking". Pat Posey, Kingsport, TN, garnered second (\$30) with "The Garage Sale". Alice H. Williams, Lynchburg, VA, was third (\$20) with "Felix and Mendelsohn". The judge: Karen K. Gibson, Provo, UT. She looked at 70 entries, 36 of which came from 16 GPS members.

Tarheel Poetess Winner in Mikki Morris Contest

Lynn Veach Sadler, Sanford, NC, was awarded the first (and only) prize of \$100 in our Mikki Griffis Morris poetry competition. Judging the contest was Dr. Johnnye E. Strickland, North Little Rock, AR. Sixty entries were received; six of them from GPS members.

Glenna Holloway Takes First in Shirley U. Geste

Glenna Holloway, Naperville, IL, won first place (\$57.88) in the third annual Shirley U. Geste humorous verse contest sponsored by Emery Campbell. Her poem was "Jabba al Jabir (Yet Again!)". Gary Corseri, Atlanta, was second (\$36.67) with "The English Professor's Job Application", and Frank M. McKenney, Macon, won third prize (\$18.79) with "Robert".

John T. Baker, Colorado Springs, CO, judged the 133 entries, 60 of them coming from 24 GPS members.

Summer Meeting Slated at GA Botanical Gardens

The GPS summer meeting is planned for July 22, 2000, in the conservatory building, State Botanical Gardens, 2450 South Milledge Ave., Athens, GA. Bring your poetry and your camera.

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	Jo Ann Adkins
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
-------------------	---------------

Artistic Directors

Gwen Green
Thelma Hall
Terry Kay
Linda Schrenko
Bettie Sellers
Jeanne Shaw
Memye Tucker
Dorothy Worth

Next GPS Board Meeting Set in Downtown Decatur

The next GPS Board meeting will be Saturday, April 1st, at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room at the DeKalb County main library at 215 Sycamore St. in Decatur. For directions call 404-370-8450.

TWO READINGS

Continued from page 1

the Washington Street steps of the Georgia Capitol Building from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 1st. Show up and read.

☐ GPS and Pen & Pica Writer's Group will host an open poetry reading to celebrate National Poetry Month from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 9th, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 1929 Mount Zion Rd. in Morrow. From Atlanta, take I-75 south to the Mount Zion Rd. exit. Exit right, then turn right on Mount Zion Rd. Lost? Call 770-471-2227.

Six Poetry Workshops At Columbia High School

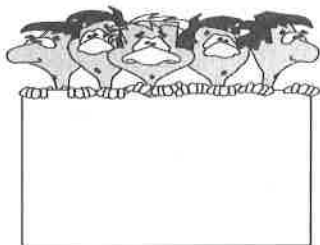
Our Poetry in the Schools project gave six poetry workshops to 8th and 9th grade classes at Columbia High school in November. Seven additional workshops are planned there.

Chairperson Jean Mahavier conducted workshops for senior classes—one an advanced placement class—at Lithonia High School in October.

Requesting workshops are Holsenbeck Elementary in Winder and Renfroe Middle in Decatur.

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 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.

Ninth Annual Edwin Vickers Contest Is Announced

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

- 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 1999 winners.
- Entry fee: \$5 first poem; all others \$1 each.
- Deadline: July 15, 2000 postmark.
- Notification: Winners announced at October, 2000, GPS meeting.
- Entries to: Carole Fessenden, Chairperson
3822 Clubhouse Pl.
Gainesville, GA 30501
- NOTE:** General contest rules published in this issue apply.

GPS Contest Deadlines

Chuck Bruehler
Deadline 15 Apr 00
Winners 15 Jul 00

Gwendolyn Brooks
Deadline 15 May 00
Winners 15 Jul 00

Octavio Paz
Deadline 15 Jun 00
Winners 15 Jul 00

Annette Peery
Deadline 15 June 00
Winners Oct, 2000

Edwin Vickers
Deadline 15 Jul 00
Winners Oct 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.

GPS Salutes Georgia's Growing Hispanic Community

The Georgia Poetry Society announces a Spanish language poetry contest honoring the late Octavio Paz of Mexico, winner of the 1990 Nobel Prize for literature. Sponsor: Herbert Walter Denmark, Decatur, GPS president.

La Sociedad de Poesia de Georgia se complace en anunciar un concurso de poesia en espanol en honor del difunto Octavio Paz ganador del Premio Nobel de Literatura de 1990. La competicion esta patrocinada por Herbert Walter Denmark, presidente de la SPG.

Prizes/Premios: 1st/primeros US\$ 50; 2nd/segundo US\$ 25;
 3rd/tercero US\$10.
 Subject/Tema: Any/cualquier.
 Form/forma: Any/cualquier. All poems must be written in Spanish. Todos los poemas presentados deben de ser escritos en espanol.
 Length/largo: 40 lines maximum/40 lineas por maximo.
 Eligibility/Eligibilidad: Open to all/abierto a todo el mundo.
 Entry Fee/
 gasto entrada: \$1 a poem/ US\$ 1 por poema.
 Deadline/fin de plazo: June 15, 2000 postmark/15 de junio del 2000, sellado de correos.
 Notification/
 Notificacion: July 2000 GPS meeting/ la reunion de la SPG en el mes de julio del 2000.
 Entries to/
 Enviar poemas a: Emery L. Campbell
 General Contests Chairman
 369 Cottage Way
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4523 USA/ E.E.
 UU. de America.

NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply except that poems must be written in Spanish. Las reglas generales de los concursos usuales de la SPG se aplican, solo que los poemas deben de ser escritos en espanol.

BOOK REVIEW

Brax's Book Reflects Tenets of Spirituality

by Ethelene Dyer Jones

Najwa Salam Brax, *Ethereal Wings*. Chadds Ford, PA, WJM Press, 1999. 68p. Illus. Order from the poet at 150-16 60th Avenue, Flushing NY 11355-5432.

Ethereal Wings is the fourth chapbook of poetry written in English by Najwa Salam Brax who was born in Aley, Lebanon, and reared in Beirut. In 1989 she began to study English as a second language. She is the author of 36 books in Arabic, and co-authored three more books with her husband, Dr. Ghazi Brax, who was her thesis director (before their marriage) for her Master of Arts degree which she received from the University of Lebanon in 1983. Each of her four English language chapbooks of poetry have wings in the title: *Wings*; *Daring Wings*; *Growing Wings*; and *Ethereal Wings*.

An adherent of Daheshism, she seeks to show through her poetry the tenets of spirituality that reflect life's wisdom and a triumphant spirit. *Ethereal Wings*, as the title implies, deals with intangibles, regions beyond the earth, the spiritual sphere, and the diaphanous, the highly refined.

Filled with Mysticism

Her poetry is filled with mythical and literary allusions, signifying her familiarity with the great literature of the world. Fantasy is very prevalent in all of the poems in this volume. The illustrations by Cathy Buburuz bear out the fantasy theme and add to the interest of *Ethereal Wings*.

In her title poem she declares: "My soul is a caged butterfly/whose earthly wings cannot fly high;/ relieve me of thick lumps of clay,/ carry me like a wind away." After a series of images of how the butterfly takes her on wings of fantasy flight, she concludes: "I'll always be

Please turn to page 8

Angela Burns Honors Her Sister with Sponsorship of Annette Rumph Peery Poetry Memorial Contest

The Georgia Poetry Society announces a poetry contest sponsored by Ms. Angela Burns, St. Simons Island, GA, in honor of her sister, Annette Rumph Peery, a writer and poet, who encouraged and inspired other writers.

- Prizes:** 1st \$100; 2nd \$35; 3rd \$15; three honorable mentions.
- Subject:** Any.
- Form:** Any.
- Length:** 80 lines maximum.
- Eligibility:** Open to all.
- Entry fee:** \$1 a poem.
- Deadline:** June 15, 2000 postmark.
- Notification:** Winners announced October, 2000, GPS meeting.
- Entries to:** Emery L. Campbell
General Contests Chairman
369 Cottage Way
Lawrenceville, GA 30044
- 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 Tietjens 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.

BOOK REVIEW

Continued from page 7

a butterfly,/fluttering in my fanciful sky."

Of the 63 poems in this collection, many have been published previously in the United States, Canada, Italy or England, and 38 of them were prize-winning poems in contests. A prolific poet, she writes because she *has* to write. That urge, spiritual in nature and part of her quest for wisdom and the triumph of spirit over the mundane often is expressed as a prayer: "Lord, make me a wing of peace./draping love with poetry.../And when a sweet breeze/blows, let me appease/wild beasts by Your grace and artistry."(p.15).

Muse Is Real

Her muse is real to her, and a companion to be welcomed and respected. In "Poets and Roses" she pens: "We, the rose petals, have poetical attar;/we find ourselves in our dreams coming from afar/Rose chalices drop down like lover's tears,/but their scent wipes away troubles and fears./Can a rose survive without light and rain?/Can a poet create without pleasure and pain?" And from "The Poet": My muse waltzes in my head;/my heart is so close to everything...I hug the outstretched branches of civilization/ and the feathered creatures of freedom and I am/under the umbrella of my muse day and night;/ like a love letter, I absorb every word/around written by the almighty Pen."

Rhymes Sometimes Forced

After reviewing a previous book by Najwa Salam Brax, I suggested to her that she consider writing in free verse. Partly due to English's being her second language, her rhymes and rhythms were sometimes forced in her traditional form poems. I note in this volume that she included several poems in free verse. "The Flight of Pegasus" is one and ends with these lines: "You are on Earth to fulfill a mission:/With the birth of each poem/there is a resurrection."

Please turn to page 10

Fine Books Available from the Georgia Poetry Society

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 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



BOOK REVIEW Continued from page 8

Congratulations to this member who keeps writing and winning prizes. Her flights of fancy make us believe that we, too, can sprout "*Ethereal Wings*" and fly with her.

Ways to Break Children from Rhyming Obsession

By Claire van Breemen Downes
Contest Chairperson
National Federation of State
Poetry Societies

As Contest Chair of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, I see a thousand student poems a year. This year's batch convinced me of something that, as a teacher, I had long suspected. Most students equate *poetry* with *rhyme*, no matter how lame the rhyme or how meaningless the verse. No rhyme, no poem.

I found - and so did the judges - many lovely, intense poems, both rhymed and unrhymed, but in too many others, students had substituted the rhyme for the poem. Since teachers use our national contest as motivation for student writing, let me offer ways of freeing students from the rhyming obsession while building a happy poetry unit around poems as contest entries.

First, counter the "Poetry - ough!" response. Remind students that some of their happiest early language encounters were poetry. Bring nursery rhymes, Dr. Seuss, etc. to share with the class. Encourage class members to bring favorites to share.

Next, read aloud a variety of vivid, lively poems. Stress free verse in selections. Brevity allows more variety: Carl Sandburg's "Nocturne in a Deserted Brickyard," James Wright's "Lying in a Hammock at William Duffy's Farm in Pine Island, Minnesota." Longer, but with fantastic rhythm, Vachel Lindsay's "General William Booth Enters Heaven" is great fun to read aloud.

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:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Reviews | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality | <input type="checkbox"/> Mailings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GPS Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Poetry Contests | <input type="checkbox"/> Speakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Critique Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Reach of Song</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry in the Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Poetry Contest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry Workshop | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Management | |



Spring GPS Newsletter Contest Award Winner

Prime Time

Every day I tended this garden.
I had several fruits that grew upon vines.
They would ripen at different rates,
some altogether in different seasons,

but they all would start small and green
then get bigger and change color.
They looked light and unsweet and hard
at first until they plumped and deepened.

There always would be a perfect time
to remove the fruit lest it get too soft
and spoil, or drop and burst its skin.
If I were right on time, my palate was blessed.

I hated to miss the right time. Sometimes
a bird or pest simply would get there first.
Sometimes important work had to be done
and got in the way of my modest harvest.

O what to say of the fruit ripened past its prime,
or the man, prepared for his calling, running out of time?

*Wesley Allen Riddle
El Paso, TX*

Vote Today for GPS Officers!

Please vote for the 2000-2001 GPS officers on the official ballot which appeared in the last newsletter not later than April 1st to Dr. Katherine Ward, Selection Committee Member, 640 Patrick Place, NE, Atlanta, GA 30328.

Threw away your last newsletter? Shame! No porridge for you tonight. But, you can get another ballot by calling Katherine at 404-250-0635 or Herb Denmark at 404-289-9428.

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



Chairman's Comment

Congratulations to Wesley Allen Riddle for his winning poem.

The poet has presented several images of fruit in various stages of development and, in so doing, has provided the reader with both visual and sensory opportunities.

He concludes with the importance of the element of timing in enjoying the fruit at its best and then extends that message into the realm of human experience in his final rhymed couplet.

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 May 00
to:

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

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 134
Tucker, GA 30084

Address Correction Requested