

Haiku Crossing

Don't forget to bring your camera to the July meeting at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia in Athens. The area will be bursting of scenes worthy of keeping on film.

This site deserves a sign: "Caution, Haiku Crossing Area".

Directions to July Quarterly Meeting



From Atlanta, take I-85 north to GA 316. Or go U.S. 78 to Athens. East on GA 316 to GA Loop 10 *south* at Athens.

Leave GA Loop 10 south to the exit for GA 15A which will be designated Milledge Avenue and Whitehall Road.

Exit right and turn right (south) on Milledge Avenue.

Drive approximately one mile on Milledge Avenue. State Botanical Garden will be on your right at 2450 south Milledge Avenue.

Disoriented? Call 704-542-1244.

Four School Workshops

Our Poetry-in-the-Schools Program gave four workshops to students in the fourth and sixth grades at Hooper Alexander Elemen-

Please turn to page 2

Index

Application to Join	11
Board of Directors	05
Book Orders	09
Book Reviews	03,04,07
New Members	04
Poetry Contests	06-08
Poetry Persons	03
President's Message	02

Georgia Poetry Society



Society Newsletter

June, 2000

Published Quarterly

Summer Quarter Membership Meeting Athens (GA) State Botanical Garden Saturday, July 22, 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	11:00 a.m.
Thelma Hall, chairperson	
Poetry Workshop: Haiku	11:30 a.m.
Dorothy Worth	
Featured Speaker	Noon
Dr. Sarah Gordon	
Professor of English	
Georgia College and State University	
(Writeup on page 2)	
Lunch	1 p.m.
Contest Awards	2 p.m.
Emery Campbell, chairman	
NFSPS Convention Report	2:15 p.m.
Herbert Denmark	
Adjournment	2:30 p.m.

LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Advance reservations *are required* for luncheon in the cafe at our quarterly meeting on 22 Jul 00 at the State Botanical Garden in Athens. The cost: \$8.50. Not eating in the cafe? No reservation required.

Call Milton Stephens at 770-358-2816 not later than 10 Jul 00, to reserve your place. Specify your choice of garden salad with chicken, chicken salad sandwich, or Thai salad. In cafe, state that you are with the poetry society.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Denmark to Continue 'Open Ear' Policy

By Herbert Walter Denmark
Thank you for electing me, Emery Campbell, Roy Carlson, and Virginia Austin to continue as president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary respectively for the 2000-01 fiscal year. It is an honor for us to serve. We appreciate the vote of confidence. The elected officers and board of directors has worked as a team to provide good programs and manage the society's business effectively.

The membership has supported our actions during the past year. Please continue your support.

My "open ear" policy will continue. If any member has an idea which would enhance the organization, don't hesitate to call me at 404-289-9428 or write to me at Box 371123, Decatur, GA 30037-1123.

Volunteers are needed for the Poetry-in-the-Schools Program. There are schools on Jean Mahavier's waiting list. If you have

some spare time, donate a couple of hours to help the youth of Georgia. Volunteers are reimbursed for mileage and lunch.



Let's have another good GPS year.

Thanks to Mary Stripling, membership co-chair, for her monetary gift to the Poetry-in-the-Schools Program.

Your board of directors voted to donate surplus copies of *The Reach of Song* to public and school libraries in Georgia. Many GPS members who attended the April 2000 membership meeting took copies to give to libraries in the cities where they live.

July GPS Membership Meeting Speaker Sarah Gordon is Expert on Famed Georgia Author Flannery O'Connor

Dr. Sarah Gordon, professor of English at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, will be the featured speaker at our quarterly membership meeting on 22 Jul 00 at the State Botanical Garden in Athens.

Dr. Gordon has taught at Milledgeville for 25 years. She has edited *The Flannery O'Connor Bulletin* since 1985, having previously been associate editor. This is the longest-running journal devoted to an American woman writer. In 2001, it will become *The Flannery O'Connor Review*.

Dr. Gordon edited the recently published *Flannery O'Connor: In Celebration of Genius* (Hill Street Press 2000) and wrote her own critical review of the author, *Flannery O'Connor: The Obedient Imagination* (University of Georgia Press, 2000).

Her poetry has appeared in

numerous journals over the years, including *Georgia Review*, *Descant*, *Florida Review*, *Negative Capability*, and *Appalachee Quarterly*. *Distances* (Brito & Lair, New York, 1999) is her first collection of poems. It was nominated for the Georgia Writers Poetry Award and received the Georgia College & Foundation's Artistic excellence Award this year.

SCHOOL WORKSHOPS Continued from page 1

tary School in May. Herbert Denmark conducted the workshops.

The children were attentive and receptive. They were eager and proud to read their poems aloud at the end of the workshop. The writing teacher asked for us to return and give additional workshops.

BOOK REVIEW

GPS Member June Owens Has Numerous Awards

Reviewed by Ethelene D. Jones

June Owens, Zephyrhills, FL, won the Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum's "Poet of the Year Award, 1998" with *Tree Line*. Three pages of acknowledgments show the numerous prizes and widespread prior publication of the poems contained in this volume.

Poet Barbara Brent Brower of Michigan, frequent winner in National Federation of State Poetry Society contests, asks in her blurb on the cover why she has not seen a copy of Ms. Owens' poems before and calls her "one of the country's greatest undiscovered poets." We, in Georgia Poetry Society, have seen her poems for at least 20 years (the age of GPS), have marveled at the frequency of her contest wins, admired her deftness as a poet, and read her poems with great interest.

Poetry is Insightful, Illustrative, and Innovative

June Owens' poetry is insightful, illustrative, and innovative. She is equally facile in both traditional and modern forms. Her perception of the ordinary surprises with extraordinary insight. She delves deeply into emotional subjects without yielding to sentimentality. With deft penstrokes she gives word pictures, sometimes dark because of subject and treatment, but never descending into despair. Her images are fresh, flowing as naturally as a stream over rocks.

Her talent is evident in every poem. In "Lost Houses", "Midnight stood behind the door." In "Dancers", their feet as agile as "leaves blown across porches." In "Seeing Through Rain", "it has a baryshnikov/sound." Outstanding images can be cited in each of the 67 poems. Her poems are spare and word-worthy, always to the point, showing adept use of language and her knowledge of poetic craft. Her images flow, but behind the freedom is the idea that they were

Please tun to page 3

News of Georgia Poetry Persons



Annabel Alderman, Nashville, GA, was one of four persons nominated for Georgia Author of the Year in the first novel category for her new book, *Family Man* (Mercer University Press).

Mary E. "Liz" Graydon, Atlanta, a former member, died March 26th.

Gwen Green, Lithonia, chairman, Creative Collaboration in the Southeast, sponsored a poetry reading in June at the Auburn Avenue Research Library.

Polly Shaw, Harrisonburg, VA, contributed \$100 to support the forthcoming edition of *The Reach of Song*.

Jeanne Shaw, Decatur, read her millennium Ester poem at three churches which later distributed copies. She read two of her poems in the Atlanta Writers Club's "spoken magazine" feature. She won an honorable mention in a Poetry Society of Georgia contest and was published in the Atlanta *Journal-Constitution's* Vent column.

Mary Stripling, Atlanta, sold her story, "Christmas Whistle" to *Modern Maturity* magazine. She placed third in the April, 2000, *Midwest Poetry Review* funtest.

Dorothy Worth, Decatur, spoke to the Village Writers Group on "How to Write a Poem". The club's newsletter published her two-part feature, *The Question of Poetry*. She was the featured reader at our open reading on the Georgia Capitol steps. Dorothy won first prizes in an Illinois poetry contest and in the Atlanta Writers Club's Josephine

Mellichamp Juvenile Book Award. Her work has been accepted by *Alive* and *Whisperings*. On Easter Sunday, she read from her work to an adult class at Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Decatur. She again taught a poetry course at the Southeastern Writers Conference on St. Simons Island.

Culbertson Takes First in the Langston Hughes

"At the Photo Exhibit", by B.R. Culbertson, Blacksburg, VA, won first place (\$100) in the Langston Hughes Poetry Awards sponsored by GPS President Herbert Denmark and his wife, Delores.

Also making it into the win column were Ira E. Harrison, Atlanta, (2nd) and Paul Breslin, Braintree, MA (3rd). Total prize payout: \$175.

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.



REVIEW OF *TREE LINE* Continued from page 2

carefully chosen to leave a picture and an identification, a *deja vu*, for the reader.

Arranged in three sections

The poems are arranged in three sections: "Lost Houses," "In the Wilderness," and "Near the Tree Line." Poems build on the three themes, often surprise, always satisfy with their insight, innovation and illustration. "In the Wilderness" might suggest untamed areas or protected forests. Instead, the reader discovers, moving across the wilderness landscape a series of inhabitants, each unforgettable, in a setting appropriate to the subject.

Ruth Daigon, editor of *Poets On*, and C.B. Follett of Arctos Press praise her style and skill, noting, respectively, her "lyric eloquence" and her "effortless flow." Follett notes: "She catches us with her music and invites us to the dance." Indeed, June Owens accomplishes just that with her poetry. Although her images are simple and taken from ordinary life, the layers of meaning require concentration and cut through to startling truths. To aspiring poets, June Owens' poetry is masterful in its craftsmanship. Learn from her how good poetry should be done. To mature poets, she will inspire awe and leave them wondering why they did not perceive similar patterns from the fabric of life as this poet so aptly weaves in *Tree Line*.

Illinois Poet Takes First in Past Presidents Contest

Deborah Nodler Rosen, Glencoe, IL, took the first prize (\$50) in the GPS Past President's Contest with "In India". Coming in second, also at \$50, was Karen Staats, Farmington, AR, with "The River of Time".

Cited by judge Richard Kahoe as "finalists" were Riherd Greene, Alpharetta; Pat Posey, Kingsport, TN; Ruth Flock, Louisville, KY; Ellen Lindquist, Atlanta; and Joan Goodwin, Keizer, OR.

BOOK REVIEW

Veal Book Combines Art with Her Poetic Deftness

By Ethelene Dyer Jones

Virginia Cole Veal combines the artist's bent for design and perspective with the poet's deftness for ideas and words to produce her delightful book of 39 poems. Whether it is a short vignette or a story-poem, each poem is impressionistic, like a painting lingering in memory after viewing.

The title sets the stage. The Mid-Night Dark anticipates that some of the poems will touch on night times in life-darkness, sadness, loss. The mid (set off with a hyphen in the spelling) indicates some past, some future. Yet the well-chosen initial proposition, "beyond," indicates an optimistic victory - a place and time farther on, a point of reconciliation, healing and light.

In her foreword, Mrs. Veal states: "It is a book of poetry that speaks to the human heart, bringing to it the message that - at the end of every sad and bitter experience is the RAINBOW promise for a brighter, better and happier day - JUST BEYOND THE BOUNDARY."

Artist is Evident

The artist is evident in the work of the book. On the cover is a collage of photographic strips, suggesting, but leaving interpretation to individual imagination. Page 8 shows a photograph of the artist with her painting, "In the Garden." Both painting and the poem by the same title are commemorative tributes to her sister and brother-in-law, Margaret Ruth and A. J. Ledford, both killed in an automobile accident in 1972 as a result of being hit by a drunken driver.

The first poem, "Awakening," is a fitting prelude to the impressionistic poetic journey. The poem creates a mood, paints a picture, lingers in memory. On the literal level, it gives a concise image. On the symbolic level, it points to a mental awakening, a dawn following a dark night.

Whether Mrs. Veal is writing of family - as in "Amelia, A Portrait," "Jincey," "Melissa at Seventeen,"

Welcome Our New Members



Jackie Aly, Decatur, is the English Department office manager at Emory. She learned about GPS through a copy of our newsletter at the Decatur library.

Dennis Bramlette, Franklin, is a former member whose active status has been renewed.

Anthony Tutman, Jr., Decatur, was recruited by **Ron Lee**.

The work of **Ellery S. McLanahan**, Atlanta, has appeared in *Fan*. He was recruited by **Emery Campbell**.

Marcia J. Roessler, Port Charlotte, FL, heard about GPS through her membership in NFSPS.

"Florence Who Suffered Much: A Rainbow," or "Beyond the Boundary" (a poem on the day of her mother's death); or of places and events, as in "Through Georgia to the Golden Isles," "Springtime Serenade," "Tall Egrets and Looney Birds," she leads the reader to see, to feel, to experience.

Introspection Characteristic

Introspection is a characteristic of Veal's poems. As she probes emotions, problems, challenges, she ties abstract ideas to concrete images, utilizing the artist's expertise with the poet's craft. This double play of sight and insight - artist and poet - operates in her poetry.

In "The Sycamore Tree," the theme is separation and adjustment after loss. This narrative poem shows juxtapositions of the literal and symbolic. In "Strange the Frozen Tears" the problem dominates but is made more potent by reference rather than revelation, by arrangement of words and by subtlety of associations. "I reached the fringes - and the stones/A wall, and walls, of frozen tears/living relics, buried deep-/thoughts too dreadful to surface./Only the anger

could." (p.43).

Introspection is strong in the title poem, "Beyond the Mid-Night Dark." The journey is not just from mid-night to dawn, but through life, its toil and perseverance. The rhetorical question remains, for poet and reader to answer: "Who knows the seed from the soil-/the heart from the mind-/or the soul from the man?" (p.26).

Unique Style

Virginia Veal has a unique and individualistic style, noted in her unusual punctuation - hyphens denoting pauses; in her repetition of words for emphasis; in her placement of words for weight. I think she did not learn this style in some writing workshop on poet's craft, but these are characteristic trademarks unique to her. Like her paintings, her poems follow her own stylistic bent.

Mid-night and Darkness may linger for a season, but her optimism finds a way. The reader gladly makes the journey from dark to light with her. "Resurrection Prayer" (p.44) is a fitting finale to the book and an inspiring benediction of faith that dawn and rainbows follow any mid-night.

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, July 8th, at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the lower floor conference room at the DeKalb County main library at 215 Sycamore St. in Decatur. For directions call 404-370-8450.

Very important business will be voted on. All board members are requested to be present.

Board members are listed at left.

Society Will Distribute Anthology to Libraries

The GPS Board has voted to distribute 100 copies of the society's forthcoming anthology, *The Reach of Song*, to libraries throughout the state.

The board also voted to postpone indefinitely action on a proposed separate chapbook containing the winning poems in our statewide youth poetry contest. Customarily, these poems are included in *The Reach of Song*.

Virginia Woman Is Tops in Byron Reece Contest

A Lynchburg, VA, woman won first place (\$250) in the GPS-sponsored 2000 Byron Herbert Reece International Awards with "Blueberry Morning". She is Alice Heard Williams.

"The Peach-Tree Switch", by Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Decatur, was awarded fourth place (\$25).

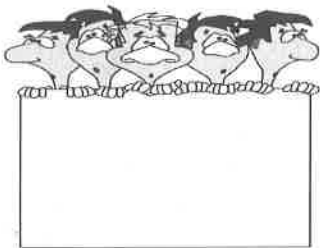
Other winners: Heather Elko, Rockledge, FL (2nd), Clarence Socwell, Ogden, UT (3rd), Patricia Grimm, Sunset, UT, (5th), and Grace Simpson, Hampden-Sydney, VA (6th). Total prize payout was \$350.

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

Edwin Vickers
Deadline 15 Jul 00
Winners Oct 00

Shirley U. Geste
Deadline 15 Aug 00
Winners Oct 00

Mikki Morris
Deadline 15 Oct 00
Winners Jan 01

GPS 21st Anniversary
Deadline 15 Dec 00
Winners Jan 01

GPS Chapbook
Deadline 15 Dec 00
Winners Apr 00

Shirley U. Geste Gets Serious about Humorous Verse

So, we're off on another quest for humongouest, humorousest poems in the universe. Ms. Geste has let it be known from beyond that she expects y'all to stop fooling around and get serious—well, in a manner of speaking—about sending in a lot more funny ha-ha verses.

- Prizes: 1st \$57.88; 2nd \$36.67; 3rd \$18.79
Subject: Humor. Wot, again?
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: August 15, 2000 postmark.
Notification: Winners announced at 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.

JoAnn Adkins Again Sponsors Mikki Morris Contest

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

- 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: October 15, 2000 postmark.
Notification: Winners announced at January, 2001, 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.

BOOK REVIEW

Ottley's Book Reveals Much about Relationships

by Thelma R. Hall
Professor of English,
Berry College
Rome, GA

John Ottley and *Midwest Poetry Review* have produced a jewel entitled *The Hope of Upstream Water*. The author describes the book as "a little collection, ostensibly on hunting, fishing, and outdoor work, but really on what these activities teach men about life..." I agree with this assessment wholeheartedly and add that the poems also teach all of us about the subtle, often surprising aspects of human relationships, about their poignant moments as well as their humorous moments.

Handles Language Skillfully

The poems also reveal the skillful handling of language to create uniquely effective imagery. It is with this last quality, style, that I want to begin.

Ottley's language is as clean and crisp as "the 31 gold coins of October" he describes in the poem "October Coins." He accomplishes this brightness and clarity through strong active verbs and concrete nouns. The concrete nouns are sometimes extended by similes to the abstract, an interesting technique. For example, in "Turning on High Final," about an aviator friend, he says, "The sky was as clear and blue/as an aviator's dream," and in "The Battle Afar Off," he says, "Egrets clustered like white suppositions." He also makes effective use of personification as in "The Work of Our Hands" when he writes,

The chain saw snorted to life, coughing smoke,
growling in a blizzard of sawdust,
amputating precise sections of trunk.

The language is also realistic in detailing people, places, and ac-

Please turn to page 8

GPS 21st Anniversary Contest in Two Categories

The Georgia Poetry Society announces its 21st anniversary competition in two categories:

- 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: Limited to members only. No more than one poem per category.
- Entry fee: None.
- Deadline: December 15, 2000 postmark.
- Notification: Winners announced at January, 2001, 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.*

Chapbook Contest Will Honor Charles B. Dickson

The Georgia Poetry Society announces a chapbook competition in memory of Charles B. Dickson, who was respected internationally as a haiku poet and wrote *A Touch of Wholeness, Taste of Summer, Fragrance of Frost Grapes, and Out of Cassiopeia*. The contest is made possible by funds from the estate of John K. and Mary Harvey Ottley and a gift from Virginia Dickson.

- Prize: GPS publishes 300 copies of the winning manuscript. Author receives 250 copies. GPS retains 50 for sale. The GPS Board has exclusive jurisdiction over printing and binding specifications of winning MS. All rights revert to author after publication.
- Subject: Unrestricted.
- Form: Any.
- Length: No more than 20 pages of poetry. One poem per page, typed on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch paper. Two copies. Poet's name, address, and phone number in upper right corner of one copy only.
- Eligibility: Open only to GPS members currently in good standing. Previously published works may be included in the manuscript. Where this applies, please include an acknowledgment page and verification that the poet owns all rights to the poems.
- Entry fee: \$10. Make check payable to Georgia Poetry Society.
- Deadline: December 15, 2000 postmark.
- Notification: Winners announced at the April, 2000, GPS meeting.
- Entries to: Jo Ann Yeager Adkins
 2826 Evansdale Circle, NE
 Atlanta, GA 30340-4810
- NOTE:** *General contest rules published in this issue apply except where superseded by these rules.*

OTTLEY BOOK REVIEW Continued from page 7

tions. This realism is especially evident in "The Bowhunter" which moves from descriptions of deer grazing beneath "sweetgum," "sassafras," and "tulip poplar," to "a booth at the 96 truck stop cafe" with greasy hamburgers, heavy cigarette smoke, and "juke box blues."

Natural World Comes Alive

Along with these skillfully handled stylistic devices, the author makes the natural world come alive with sensory imagery. In "The Advent of Purple Madness," for example, we can literally smell, taste, and see the surroundings as he describes the "oaky perfume of campfires and moldering leaves," "the banana fragrance" of an oiled rifle, and "vanilla puddles" on forest floors before telling us at the end of the poem:

It is the advent
of purple madness
of lilac isolation

leaving us to experience the color while being able only to imagine the condition. This is the case with imagery in "Let the Fields be Jubilant" when he says, "Fog moved among us/like pale drapes of remembrance," and in "As Stubble before the Wind," when he writes, "The day began on salamander legs/the minutes taking little splay-footed steps," and in "One Right Thing" when he begins "The river's skin is gray with fatigue." In "The Wicked Not Forsaken" metaphoric imagery surprises the reader in each line when he writes, "Summer licks the bitter milk/of fall...Winter smells fat sausage chains cooking/lusts for the lucent silk of snow." However, the most striking use of imagery in the volume is the poem "The Lion's Tale".

Descriptions of human relationships are memorable also as he tells us about cutting wood with his brother in "The Work of Our Hands," "Coming as close to speak-

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
_____	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, 1997-98	9.00
_____	The Reach of Song, 1998-99	10.00
_____	The Reach of Song 1999-00	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
1999	<i>Too Soon, as Always</i> by Gary Corseri	6.00

Other Books

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

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.

* Two Carlson books are \$10.00 if ordered together.

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
3090 Lee Rd.
Snellville, GA 30039

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



OTTLEY BOOK REVIEW Continued from page 7

ing love/for each other as we could." He lets us meet a special man in "Finding Mr. Right," and understand the conflicting emotions of a man in "October Coins" hoping the lover left behind will be forgiving and understand the obsessive pull of woods and streams. We sense the tingling emotions in "The Battle Afar Off" when he describes a married woman who "scalded" his blood" one September after a dove shoot, saying, "Our eyes waltzed at arm's length," "We talked without touching" and added "my fingertips were electric with longing." What I consider as a metaphor for life can be read into "More Than Watchmen Wait," describing a ride in his truck. We see a trip inside a trip - life outside and life inside - as the truck goes steadily along while his "kind turns off at side roads."

Nature predominates, is the essence of this book, and as Ottley takes us with him to hunt or fish, his focus is as much on the feel of the bark on a tree stand and the whispered flip of a line as it is on the actual act of shooting and casting. We participate as a deer escapes, "a superior being," and as an elk falls "ebbing crimson." Sometimes he leaves a stream peaceful and satisfied "with an empty creel" as he says in "One Right Thing," and sometimes he bends the will of the fish until it yields to the net, and again, in "The Riches of the Nations," he says, "I bring the creature in, beautiful in its wildness, and return it unharmed to its rippling domain." But in each instance, each encounter with nature, he can, he says, "in deep woods, touch/the fingertips of God."

Further evidence that fishing is more a spiritual quest than a physical activity is seen in "From the Farthest Corners".

The Hope of Upstream Water.
52 pages. December, 1999. Library of Congress Catalogue Number 99 97786. ISBN 0 9676698 0 4.
Available at \$8 from Midwest Poetry Review, Box 20236, Atlanta, GA 30325-0236.

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
3090 Lee Rd.
Snellville, GA 30039

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 | |



Summer GPS Featured Poet

Bessie Sees the Wrinkled Dog

One day the sharpei slipped his back yard pen
and wandered off to sniff the 'hood's delights.
He knew he'd made a major error when
to right and left lay only foreign sights.

Perplexed, his corrugated brow became
a field of worried furrows deeply etched.
He really hadn't sought explorer's fame
and now wished nothing more than to be fetched.

On learning that her pooch had fled the coop,
his mistress, loving Bess, expressed distress.
Enlisting neighbors' aid, she led a group
afield and prayed devoutly for success.

The search went on all day, a sharpei diem,
till Bess, relieved, at last was first to see 'im.

*Emery Campbell
Lawrenceville, GA*

21st Anniversary Celebration Set for August 26th

GPS will celebrate its 21st anniversary at 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 26th, at the Sage Restaurant, 121 Sycamore St. on the historic old courthouse square in Decatur.

Come, see old friends, meet

new members, dine on French cuisine, and celebrate. The cost (including coffee, soup or salad, and entree): \$14.13. For meal reservations call Milton Stephens at 770-358-2816 not later than August 12th. Need other info? Herbert 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

Emery Campbell's delightful featured poem creates an appropriately metered and rhymed Shakespearean sonnet and also gives the reader a narrative of compelling interest. His images clearly picture the event.

In addition the poet has employed the device of repetitive sound, particularly in the second line of the third quatrain: "mistress", "Bess", and "express distress". As a final touch, in the first line of the concluding couplet, he has ended with the excellent play on words, "a sharpei diem".

*Dorothy Worth
Chairperson*

Contest Is Discontinued

The consensus of the board in April meeting was to discontinue the quarterly GPS newsletter poetry contest. Instead, former contest chairperson Dorothy Worth will ask selected GPS members to submit one or more poems to be considered for publication in the space once reserved for the contest. Submissions cannot be more than 30 lines and must not have been previously published.

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

Address Correction Requested