

**GPS Calendar is Set  
for Year 2001-02**



**Summer**

Newsletter copy due: 01 Jun 01  
 Dues payable: 01 Jul 01  
 Board meeting: 21 Jul 01  
 Membership meeting: 21 Jul 01

**Fall**

Newsletter copy due: 31 Aug 01  
 Board meeting: 20 Oct 01  
 Membership meeting: 20 Oct 01

**Winter**

Unpaid member drop: 01 Nov 01  
 Newsletter copy due: 30 Nov 01  
 Board meeting: 19 Jan 02  
 Membership meeting: 19 Jan 02

**Spring**

Newsletter copy due: 01 Mar 02  
 Board meeting: 20 Apr 02  
 Membership meeting: 20 Apr 02

**Directions  
to April  
Meeting**



From Atlanta, take I-85 north to GA 316.

East on GA 316 to GA Loop 10 south at Athens.

Leave GA Loop 10 south at 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.

Entering the gate, drive approximately 5/10 mile and bear left. Then park in first lot on your right. Stairs at end of lot lead down to visitor's center. Meeting will be in Classroom "A" at visitor's center.

Disoriented? Call 704-542-1244.

**Index**

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

# Georgia Poetry Society Newsletter



<http://pages.prodigy.net/elcambell>

March, 2001

Published Quarterly

## Spring Quarter Membership Meeting State Botanical Gardens, Athens, GA Classroom A--Visitors Center Saturday, April 14, 2001

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	
Classic Poetry Reading	10:25 a.m.
Katherine Ward, chairperson	
Poetry Readings by Members	10:30 a.m.
Katherine Ward, chairperson	
Youth Poetry Contest Awards/Reading	11 a.m.
Herbert Denmark, chairperson	
Chapbook Contest Award	
JoAnn Adkins, chairperson	
Byron Herbert Reece Awards	
Katherine Ward, chairperson	
General Contest Awards	
Emery Campbell, chairperson	
Book Reviews	11:45 a.m.
Thelma Hall, chairperson	
Lunch	Noon
Featured Speaker	1 p.m.
Barbara Ras (See page 4)	
Executive Editor, UGA Press	
Poetry Form: ottava rima	1:45 p.m.
Emery Campbell	
Adjournment	2 p.m.

### NO LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS

You will be on your own for lunch on 14 Apr 01 at our quarterly membership meeting which will be held at the State Botanical Gardens in Athens. Accordingly, *no advance reservations* will be necessary.

Your dining choices: 1. A la carte in the cafe on the lower floor of the visitor center where we'll meet; 2. brown bag; or 3. go outside the gardens for lunch.

## Several Goals Achieved in Last Two Years

By Herbert Walter Denmark

Snowflakes and a cold, cut-to-the-bone wind gripped Smyrna on January 20th. Inside the warm, cozy Smyrna Community Center, GPS had an overflowing crowd for its membership meeting. Extra chairs had to be brought into the community room.

Ah, poetry is alive and well in Georgia.

Credit for the attendance has to be shared with dynamic poet Ron Colombe, the engaging speaker, Dr. Akiba Harper, candid editor Lawrence Hetrick, and the venue.

Dr. Harper made a substantial gift to GPS by donating copies of *Langston Hughes-Short Stories* edited by Akiba Sullivan Harper. Funds from the sale of these books will support our Poetry-in-the-Schools Program.

\*\*\*

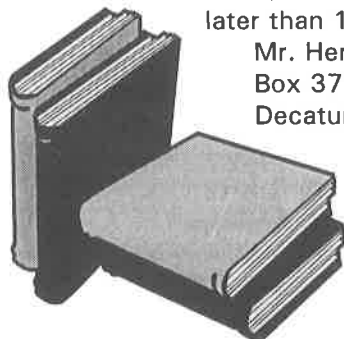
Thank you, GPS, for giving me the opportunity to serve as president. The two years passed quickly. The elected officers and board of directors worked together to accomplish our mission. Several goals were achieved because of our teamwork. The membership's cooperation was outstanding. I salute you.

Special thanks to Emery Campbell, vice president, Virginia Austin, secretary, and Roy Carlson, treasurer.

The society is fiscally solvent and has a growing membership. Please support President-Elect John

## Herbert Denmark Gathering Books for NFSPS Archives

President Herbert Denmark is gathering poetry books published by GPS members to be added to the NFSPS archives at Baylor University. If you want your book included, bring it to the 14 Apr 01 meeting at the State



Ottley who takes office July 1st.

\*\*\*

If you are so inclined, bring a donation to our Poetry-in-the-Schools Program to the April 14th meeting. Donors will receive the aforementioned Langston Hughes book and *The Reach of Song, 1998-99*.



\*\*\*

Awards in our statewide youth poetry contest will be presented at the April 14th meeting. Bring a student to share in this ceremony and, hopefully, get enthused about writing and reading poetry.

## Keith Badowski is Named New Editor of GPS News

Starting with the July issue, Keith Badowski, Grayson, will edit the *GPS News*. Copy deadlines appear in the calendar on page one. Please send items for consideration to Keith at:

MR. KEITH BADOWSKI  
585 TRIBBLE CREEK DR.  
GRAYSON, GA 30017-1836  
FAX: 770-723-0033

Keith also will serve our society in a two-year term as a director-at-large.



## GPS Officers are Elected for Our 2001-02 Positions

The following nominees have been elected to serve GPS for a year, beginning 01 Jul 01:

President: John Ottley, Atlanta.

Vice President: Katherine Ward, Atlanta.

Secretary: Sally Kaplan, Lawrenceville.

Treasurer: Price Fessenden, Gainesville.

These officers also will serve on the board with the following directors-at-large:

Keith Badowski, Grayson  
Emery Campbell, Lawrenceville  
Herbert Denmark, Decatur  
Ira Harrison, Atlanta  
Dorothy Worth, Decatur

Currently, there are 186 members in good standing. A ballot was mailed to each.

Required for election: 95 votes. Votes received to date: 114 "yeas", no "nays", and no write-ins.

### Poet's Dream

From out my pencil's endless scribbling  
flow iambs by the gross,  
each one a proud prosodic sibling.  
From out my pencil's endless scribbling  
soulful; verse, beyond all quibbling,  
to perfection presses close.  
From out my pencil's endless scribbling  
flow, iambs, by the gross.

Riherd Greene  
Alpharetta, GA

EDITOR'S NOTE: above is the way Riherd's poem *should have appeared* in the last issue.

## News of Georgia Poetry Persons



**Emery Campbell**, Lawrenceville, placed third in the Ohio Poetry Day Association's Greater Canton Writers Guild contest and garnered an honorable mention in its Steven J. Lee Contest. He read poems from James Whitcomb Riley and "A Visit from St. Nick" at the Gwinnett History Museum's annual Victorian tea. Emery, and others from the Lawrenceville writers group, also read regularly from their work at the museum's monthly Grounds and Sounds coffee house night.

\*\*\*

**Gary Corseri**, Atlanta, winner of the 2000 GPS chapbook contest, has been named poet of the year by Georgia Writers, Inc.

\*\*\*

**Herbert Denmark**, Decatur, was the host of an open mike poetry reading and book signing commemorating Black History Month and Langston Hughes's birthday at Barnes & Noble in Morrow. Dr. Akiba Harper was the speaker. Herbert is one of three co-writers of "If It's Monday, It's Mayretta", a play staged at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Jonesboro.

\*\*\*

Sparrowgrass Publishers has brought out *Earth is a Splendid Place*, by **Barbara Sampson**, Blairsville. Barbara taught English and journalism at Hiwassee Dam High School prior to her 1979 retirement. The *Cherokee Scout* said her 64-page book's themes range "from a teacher's aims and emotions to fundamental questions all humans ponder".

\*\*\*

**Jeanne Shaw**, Decatur, read three Christmas poems and a Valentine's poem at Druid Hills Baptist Church and a New Year's poem at White Oak Hills Baptist Church. Her biography appears in

the 2001 *Who's Who in America*. Her prize-winning poem was published in the 1999 *Encore*, the NFSPS anthology. She won the Poetry Society of Georgia's Monday Prize for a lyric, took first in the Atlanta Writers Club's light verse contest and third in its serious poetry contest.

\*\*\*

In the Atlanta Writers Club's fall contests, **Dorothy Worth**, Decatur, won first prizes for serious poetry and short story; second prize for light verse, and third prize for juvenile story. She took second place in a California poetry competition.

Her work has appeared in *Harvest* and on the program cover of Fernbank Natural History Museum's Volunteer Guild awards celebration.

### 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. GCA funding sources: GA General Assembly, National Endowment for the arts, and other private and public sources.



### TO THE EDITOR

## How Can Distant Member Help with Work of GPS?

As one of GPS's oldest members and a retired educator, I applaud all of our ambitious, on-going efforts.

Have you ever thought of an easy order sheet in the back of *The Reach of Song* in case someone sees a copy and wants to order? How does one obtain a copy unless one knows a member? Is it available in any bookstore? Even though I am a long-time Georgian, I knew nothing of it until a member told me some five or six years ago.

Now to my 2001 resolutions. Could some kind, experienced member make a list of ways that less mobile members who have intelligence, desire, and time can be more contributive? All I have been able to do are keep up with my dues, gain two members, participate in various contests, contribute to the anthology, buy four copies annually of the current volume and build up a sizable library of previously published GPS anthologies and chapbooks.

I always enjoy the newsletter and truly wish I could attend meetings. I think I would enjoy deeply the reading of poems before the group. The truth, however, is that my automatic wheelchair is the extent of my mobility.

Most sincerely yours,

Barbara R. Sampson  
Blairsville

### **Member Needs a Lift**

Barbara Sampson, Blairsville, drives her wheelchair just fine, but it won't go all the way to Atlanta. She needs a ride to the quarterly meetings.

If you can help, please call her at 706-745-6319.

Others looking for rides? Let us hear from you.

## Statewide Youth Contest Winners Are Announced

Winners in the Margery Carlson/  
Marel Brown statewide youth poetry  
contests are:

### Elementary School Grades 1-5

1st (\$15) Savannah Schnall,  
Duluth Montessori School, Duluth.  
Teacher: Chris Ambroso.

2nd (\$10) Kathryn Conklin,  
Avondale Pattillo School, Decatur.  
Teacher: Robi Lamb.

3rd (\$5) Daniel Horenstein,  
Cedar Hill School, Lawrenceville.  
Teacher: Nancy Craddock.

HM: Raheel Merall, Duluth  
Montessori; and Marie Hopkins,  
Avondale Pattillo.

Judge: Jean Mahavier.

### Middle School Grades 6-8

1st (\$20) Steffany Marlow,  
Model Middle School, Rome.  
Teacher: Angie Yancy.

2nd (\$15) Jesus Garcia, Babb  
Middle School, Forest Park. Teacher:  
Laurence Guerra.

3rd (\$10) Dao Tran, Freedom  
Middle School, Stone Mountain.  
Teacher: James Mills.

HM: Chelsea Nowakowski, St.  
John Neumann, Duluth; Trey Nun-  
nery, Christ the King, Atlanta; and  
De'Aerin Whatley, Babb Middle.

Judge: Jeanne O. Shaw.

### High School Grades 9-12

1st (\$25) Nalini Abhiraman,  
Chamblee High. Teacher: Diane  
Lynn, Farmer.

2nd (\$20) Hannah Johnson,  
Druid Hills High. Teacher: Sherrie B.  
Crow.

3rd (\$15) Trap Seabrook, Druid  
Hills High. Teacher: Sherrie B. Crow.

HM: Amanda Lanier and Casey  
Paschoaloti, Frederica Academy, St.  
Simons Island; Tyiesha Berger, Cross  
Keys High, Atlanta; John Dixon,  
Henry Grady High, Atlanta; and  
Hilary Coor, Brookwood High,  
Lawrenceville.

Judge: Dorothy Worth.

## Welcome Our New Members



**Charles and Maggie Hunt Cohn**,  
Austell. Maggie, a former member  
renewing, is a published and prize-  
winning poet. Charles has written  
poetry as well.

\*\*\*

**Elizabeth Corbin**, Marietta, is a  
distinguished member of the Inter-  
national Society of Poets. She notes  
that writing is a "new endeavor and  
I look forward to expanding my  
horizons." She learned about GPS  
from a newspaper article.

\*\*\*

**George de Man**, Atlanta, is in  
advertising and marketing. He was  
the founding president of the  
Atlanta Botanical Garden and is a  
life trustee. George co-chairs the  
Emory University Literary Collec-  
tions Board. His work has appeared  
in *Southern Living*, *Southern Ac-  
cents*, *Carolina Gardener*, and  
*Competitive Edge*. His books:  
*Helena: the Ridge*, *The River*, *The  
Romance*, *The Feather in the  
Snowflakes* (poems), and *The  
Talisman* (poems).

\*\*\*

The **Davis family** (Angela,  
husband, Zettie, Jr.; son, Zettie, III;  
and daughter Myiah, Stone Moun-  
tain heard about GPS from **Stacy  
Saraydar**.

\*\*\*

Former member **Neil Fraser**,  
Atlanta, has reinstated his member-  
ship after an absence due to pro-  
longed illness.

\*\*\*

**Jean Grau** (Kraus), New Or-  
leans, works in sales. Her work has  
appeared in *Scimitar and Song*,  
*Yearbook of Modern Poetry*, Hart-  
ford *Courant*, 30 editions of the  
*National Library of Poetry, Anthol-  
ogy: America at the Millennium*,  
*Best Poems and Poets of the 20th*

*Century, International Library of  
Poetry, Anthology: Poetry's Elite*,  
and *Best Poems of the Year 2000*.  
One of her poems will be displayed  
on an upcoming website to be  
opened by the *National Library of  
Poetry*. Another of her poems will be  
included on a recording of 33 poets  
entitled *The Sound of Poetry*. "My  
best acceptance ever," she writes,  
"was the one which won a prize  
from GPS."

\*\*\*

**Ellen Lindquist**, Atlanta, is a  
professional writer whose work has  
appeared in *Many Mountains Mov-  
ing* and *Small Pond*. One of her  
poems was nominated for *Skylark's*  
26th Pushcart Prize. She has been a  
featured reader at Callanwolde. Ellen  
learned of GPS from **Dorothy Worth**  
at a Village Writers meeting and  
applied through our website.

## Exec Editor of UGA Press Is April Featured Speaker

Barbara Ras, assistant director  
and executive editor of the Univer-  
sity of Georgia Press, will be the  
featured speaker at our 14 Apr 01  
meeting at the State Botanical  
Gardens in Athens. Her book, *Bite  
Every Sorrow* (LSU Press), won the  
Walt Whitman Award and, later, the  
Kate Tufts Discovery Award. An-  
other book, *Costa Rica: a Traveler's  
Literary Companion*, is a translated  
collection of Costa Rican short  
fiction.

Ms. Ras has been honored by  
the Loft, San Jose Poetry Center,  
Villa Montalvo, and others.

Her work has appeared in many  
magazines, including *Georgia Re-  
view*, *Massachusetts Review*,  
*American Scholar*, *Orion*, *Denver  
Quarterly*, and *Boulevard*.

## 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	Katherine Ward
Vickers Award	Carole Fessenden
Youth Contest	Herbert Denmark

### Editors

Newsletter	John Ottley
<i>Reach of Song</i>	Katherine Ward
Chapbook	Jo Ann Adkins
Strophes Reporter	Jeanne Osborne Shaw
Featured Poet	Dorothy Worth

### 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 at Wesley Chapel Library

The next GPS Board meeting is Saturday, 31 Mar 01, at 10:30 a.m., in the meeting room at the Wesley Chapel Library, 2861 Wesley Chapel Road, Decatur.

Directions: from Atlanta, go east on I-20 to Wesley Chapel Road (exit #68). At the head of the exit ramp, turn right (south) on Wesley Chapel Road. Cross Rainbow Drive. Approximately 1/4 mile past Rainbow Drive, the library will be on your right. Lost? Call 404-286-6980.

## GPS School Workshops Teach Poetry to 850

By Jean Mahavier

Chair, Poetry in the Schools Project

An estimated 850 students have attended our in-school poetry workshops this school year.

Since the January GPS membership meeting, workshops have been conducted for pupils at Menlo Elementary/Middle School, Druid Hills High, Atlanta, and Bert Rumble Middle School, Warner Robins. GPS members participating in these with me were Ruth Berman and Elizabeth Allan, Atlanta; and Emily Barnett, Marietta.

Rumble Middle will conduct a poetry contest using GPS-donated tee shirts and other goodies as prizes.

Additional workshops are planned for Davis Middle, Flowery Branch, North Gwinnett High, and an Atlanta "shelter" school,

Our GPS communications are paying off! The Druid Hills teacher saw an article in our winter newsletter. The North Gwinnett faculty member visited our website. Davis Middle students who came to my door selling things were accompanied by a teacher who overheard me telling the young solicitors about poetry in the schools. Herbert Denmark set us up with the "shelter" school.

Call me at 404-633-3129 to volunteer to teach a workshop.

## Page 526 in *Poet's Market* is Worth Checking Out

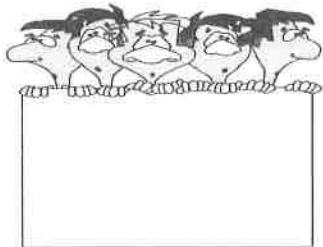
Check it out, dude.

Bottom of page 526 in the current edition of *Poet's Market*, a *Writers Digest* book which is *the*

definitive guide to publications which use poetry and also to leading poetry organizations.

## 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.

### 10th Annual Vickers Contest Honors Founder of GPS

The Georgia Poetry Society announces its 10th 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 2000 winners.

Entry fee: \$5 first poem; all others \$1 each.

Deadline: July 15, 2001 postmark.

Notification: Winners announced at October, 2001, GPS meeting.

Entries to: Carole Fessenden, Chairperson

3822 Clubhouse Pl.

Gainesville, GA 30501

(No e-mail entries)

**NOTE:** General contest rules published in this issue apply.

### GPS Contest Deadlines

Marge Carlson Memorial

Deadline 15 May 01

Winners 21 Jul 01

Proudly We Serve

Deadline 01 Jun 01

Winners 21 Jul 01

Octavio Paz

Deadline 15 Jun 01

Winners 21 Jul 01

Edward Vickers

Deadline 15 Jul 01

Winners 20 Oct 01

## 'Proudly We Serve' Contest Honors Vet Robert Miles

The Georgia Poetry Society announces the "Proudly We Serve" poetry contest, honoring Robert Miles, a retired soldier who served in Vietnam, the retired communications chief for the Georgia Emergency Management Agency, a community activist, and writer. The contest is sponsored by GPS President Herbert Denmark.

Prizes: 1st, \$50; 2nd \$25; 3rd, \$15.  
Subject: Any.  
Form: Any.  
Length: 40 lines maximum.  
Eligibility: Open to all.  
Entry fee: \$2 first poem; \$1 all others.  
*Deadline:* June 1, 2001 postmark.  
Notification: Winners announced at July, 2001, GPS meeting.  
Entries to: Emery L. Campbell  
General Contests Chairman  
369 Cottage Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4253

*NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply.*

## Carlson Contest Honors Beloved GPS Past President

This contest, honors the late Margery Carlson, distinguished GPS past president. Margery was instrumental in conceiving and leading implementation of the first ever Olympic Games poetry contest in conjunction with the 1996 centennial summer games in Atlanta. She also was the driving force which led GPS to sponsor the highly successful 1999 annual convention of the National Federation in Atlanta, although she passed away before seeing the event come to fruition. Born in South Africa, Margery was a prolific poet and writer and a staunch pillar and tireless servant of GPS. Her dedicated and always accessible presence is missed sorely by her family and wide circle of friends.

Prize: \$100 (one prize only).  
Subject: Nature  
Form: Any.  
Length: 40 lines maximum, no minimum.  
Eligibility: Open to all.  
Entry fee: One poem free to GPS members; all other poems \$1 each.  
*Deadline:* May 15, 2001, postmark.  
Notification: Winners announced at July, 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.*

### *Fessenden Gives Program on Nobel Laureates*

Carole Fessenden, Gainesville, presented a program on two women poets who have won the Nobel Prize in Literature for Poetry. They are Nelly Sachs, Germany, poet of the Holocaust; and Gabriela Mistral, Chile. Her presentation was in March in Atlanta for Lifespan's study of women Nobel laureates in literature since 1909.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Corseri Work, Like Prism, Often Catches New Light

By Dr. Thelma R. Hall  
Professor of English  
Shorter College

It is a privilege for me to review Dr. Gary Corseri's chapbook, (*Too Soon, As Always*), a gem which, like a prism, catches a new light each time it is held up and studied or merely read for pleasure. The title comes from a poem by a 7th Century Japanese poet, Empres Jito, from which I will quote: "Spring already gone/And summer is upon us/Too soon, as always."

Corseri is the literary editor of *d'Arts*.

Dr. Roy Schwartzmann, who judged the 1999 Charles B. Dickson chapbook competition and subsequently wrote the introduction for this winning entry, points out Corseri's use of bone imagery throughout the chapbook: "bony brittleness, breakage, fragility, durability, support, disintegration, whiteness, bones hidden within the body, stretching skin tautly, buried underground, or exposed to the bleaching sun."

#### **Striking Imagery**

This imagery is striking and obvious, for things do pass away, "too soon, as always," but while flesh decays, leaving trails of white bones, the recognition of life lived in the present moment also makes a prominent statement within this small volume. Within this present moment, there is an awareness that things, like rain, a "fool bird," butterflies, and people like Aunt Gianetta, the poet Basho, and even a seemingly worthless son eating raisins is seeking to find the essence of life, the center core of being, within these quickly receding moments of time.

As the butterfly's eye in the lovely haiku "Iris" falls between the two leaves to find/the iris' tear," and spring rain, in the poem by that name, touches every leaf, blossom and rooftop softly and gently as if to

Please turn to page 8

## Entries for Octavio Paz Contest Must be in Spanish

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.

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 la SPG.

Prizes/Premios:	1st/primero 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, 2001 postmark/15 de junio del 2001, sellado de correos.
Notification/ Notificacion:	July 2001 GPS meeting/ la reunion de la SPG en el mes de julio del 2001.
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 aplicar, solo que los poemas deben de ser escritos en espanol.

### CORSERI BOOK Continued from Page 7

say to the reader, "feel what it is like to be rain." A bird, in the poem "That Fool Bird," which has awakened the poet at 5 a.m., wants us to forsake false dreams/and see the world we can't—." The bird, he says, has "flown the coop of himself/while I'm pinstriping,/fast-talking, corporatizing" and so can "see the forest of the parking lot/but miss the trees." Living fully in the present moment while we "move toward love" as Aunt Gianetta did, or while "Yum Yum Yum!" eating raisins while "All day the earth is spinning," as in the semi-humorous poem "Raisins," finding the essence of being is the essential ingredient to life.

A shocking flip side to the idea of finding the essence of being is the poem "Teleology," in which a son comments upon his father's decimation of his mother's spirit. He begins the poem with the line, "My father loved spiders" and proceeds to describe both the intricate beauty and deadly poison that comes from the spider - the delicate, precise, webs the father admired and the deadly aim the poison could take. Then he ends the poem by saying "Father shut her mouth up with a web. ./I saw my mother's passions ebb./And father ate her up, the insides first."

Another brutal depiction of a relationship destroyed is "Divorce Is a Rite of Passage." In this poem,

what might have begun as a union of two like minds and hearts ends in a bitter divorce process that describes the couple of "Suspending bodies in acidic foam" as if they have become a grotesque scientific experiment. One person has a knife and "the little murderous grin" indicates that this is the only emotion left. The essence of this couple's life together has been destroyed. They have become "mere spectators, bystanders."

### Thought-Provoking Poem

One of the most thought-provoking poems in this collection, and whose essence I probably have only begun to tap is "Redemption of the Stone." In it he describes one "stretched on a rock by a rocky river," "naked as a bob cat," proud of his tight body honed by "axe and wedge splitting the birch to kindling." As he wonders "how the body makes a home of stone," the reader marvels at the difference between this narrator and the corporatized outer man who could not see the trees in "That Fool Bird." The poem ends with a perplexing death of the narrator by gunfire as perhaps a symbolic statement that death of one life must precede the merging of flesh and stone. Then, and only then, could he say, "I leapt into the stone."

### Images Reverberate

Images of life and death, ultimately the same, reverberate throughout this small volume as Corseri moves the reader from the deceptively simple image of the opening poem "Iris" to the increasingly complex imagery of "Redemption of the Stone," "Sagada," "Basho in Vermont," and "On a Print by Hiroshige." Each poem calls upon us to be more than "spectators, bystanders," whether we joy in catching the essence of life, as did the butterfly and the rain, or run awestruck from the cave filled with skeletons in "Sagada." Ultimately, he sees life and death as one.





*Ottava Rima  
For NFSPS Form*

By Emery Campbell

The GPS-sponsored competition in the 2002 NFSPS poetry contest series will be the ottava rima.

Originally, it was an Italian or Sicilian form made up of an unspecified number of eight-line stanzas in iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme of abababcc, dededeff, ghghghii, etc. for as many stanzas as one chooses to put together. This represents a challenge, certainly.

GPS will call for eight five-line stanzas (40 lines total) on any subject with the above rhyme scheme. No rhyme word may be used more than once.

The poem must be written in strict iambic pentameter, i.e., five consecutive iambs per line. An iamb, or metric foot, is made up of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. Thus, "won/der where/ my wife/has gone/to shop" is iambic pentameter, whereas, a line like, "Why can't Sybil babysit with Elie?", may have the requisite 10 syllables, but it does not follow the above-stressed pattern and thus does not qualify as an iambic pentameter.

An example of the contest form appears at right.

Big Mama's Cool Cafe

Big Mama's Cool Cafe at Main and Green draws avid clientele from high and low. Their menu taps the vein of haute cuisine that brilliant chefs, beginning years ago, have long enriched with dishes which their keen, creative talents bred to steal the show. You shouldn't miss the chance to try the fare; it's worth the trip by road, by boat, or air.

For instance, on my recent trek to town, I lunched on free range possum potted pie with septic cornballs roasted golden brown, a treat to warm the heart and please the eye. And, by the way, the place enjoys renown for condiments well laced with Spanish fly. Another meal I could have had that day: aged gopher goulash (with a free breath spray).

Big Mama's has both booths and counter stools; the food and service really can't be beat. My second cousin Jimmie fairly drools on merest mention of the poached game meat they serve in curried favor style, midst pools of bubbly soapapilla, semi-sweet. And every time he eats there—well almost, he orders as dessert their fruit compost.

Hors d'oeuvres that you perhaps have never tried are breasts of fresh-picked nits just off the vine; they're dipped in spicy butter, then deep fried. Mulled Maalox consommé might suit you fine; Aunt Jill liked that so much she nearly cried. The drink of choice is juice of eglantine, and Thursdays, Mama's offers special thrills: a brace of crawfish claws with all the frills.

The list of Mama's joys goes on and on; we haven't cited fungus salad plate or gizzard dumplings a la mode de Caen. Then, too, the snails in mint sauce are first rate, nor must we overlook broiled neck of swan, and if you skipped deer mousse you'd be ingrate. Suffice it just to say in closing phrase that Mama's sterling fare rates highest praise.

*Emery Campbell  
Lawrenceville, GA*

## New Member Application

### Georgia Poetry Society

Your member benefits include:

- Four membership meetings a year, featuring presentations by notable poetry figures, networking with other poets, and, occasionally, poetry workshops.
- Opportunity to read your work to an appreciative audience at these meetings.
- Quarterly newsletter, presenting news about our poetry contests, new members, member accomplishments, reviews of books by members, and programs of upcoming meetings.
- 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:

- 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



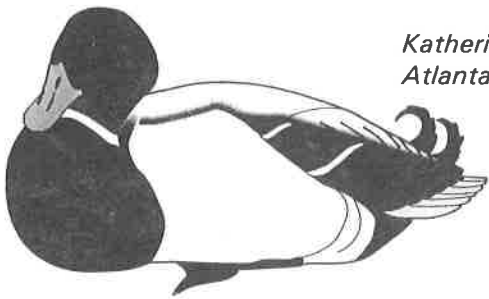
## Spring GPS Featured Poet

### Awaiting the Winds

Arranged like black notes  
on a green page  
thirteen hunker, shoulders  
tucked into hidden wings,  
black-shoed feet peeking  
beneath full ready-for-winter  
October bellies.

John Deere's landscaped lake  
floats before their dreaming  
eyes and nodding heads.  
Awaiting the winds of migration,  
the mallards rest as stones  
practicing stillness.

*Katherine Ward  
Atlanta, GA*



*NOTE:* Featured poet chairperson Dorothy Worth will ask selected GPS members to submit one or more poems to be considered for publication in this space. Submissions cannot be more than 30 lines and must not have been previously published.

Georgia Poetry Society News  
28 Springlake Place, NW  
Atlanta, GA 30318-1646  
404-350-0714  
FAX 404-352-8417  
<http://pages.prodigy.net/elcampbell>

## *Chairperson's Comment*

Dr. Katherine Ward has presented in this poem a striking image of mallards poised for migration.

Her opening line is a graphic simile, and she immediately proceeds to complete the portrait of birds with a detailed description that reveals not only their position and appearance, but also their inner state of preparedness for what awaits them.

The second stanza is equally as specific in its description of both the place where they wait and their state of being. The reader is able not only to see the birds in their setting, but also to share their feelings.

The poem concludes with another well-chosen simile, plus a concluding line that once more makes the birds come alive for the reader by the use of a verb that embodies intent.

The poet has created in these lines a totality of experience that is both memorable and rewarding.

Dorothy Worth  
Chairperson

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

Address Correction Requested

