



# Georgia Poetry News

September 2002

Published Quarterly by the Georgia Poetry Society

**Next GPS Meeting  
on Sat, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 2002**  
at State University of West Georgia

**Driving Directions**  
to State University of West Georgia

I-20 west to Exit 24 for Villa Rica  
and Carrollton.

Left at head of exit ramp onto GA  
61 south (becomes GA 166 west)  
for 11.6 miles to SR166 Bypass.  
(Ford dealership and Ryan's  
Steakhouse on right).

Left on SR166 Bypass for 5.9 miles  
to end at Maple Street.

Right on Maple Street for 9/10 mile  
to *main* entrance of West Georgia  
(*pass west entrance*).

Down hill to round student union  
building. (Correct title: University  
Community Center).

Meeting is in room 311 on floor  
designated as "2" on elevator.

Staff assured that parking is "not a  
problem" on Saturday.

Side entrance near dumpsters is  
closest access to elevator.

Drive time from Howell Mill Road  
and I-75: about 80 minutes.

## Dues Are Due

If you have not renewed, please  
turn to page 11 now, complete the  
form, and mail it to John Ottley with  
your check. Your membership is  
important to us. If you haven't paid  
by October 15<sup>th</sup> 2002, your entry  
fee in the NFSPS contest series  
will be higher. Unpaid by  
November 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 and you're out.



**<http://pages.prodigy.net/elcampbell>**

**Georgia Poetry Society Luncheon**  
**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 2002**  
**Noon**  
**West Georgia**

The cost of luncheon at the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at West Georgia will be \$9. This includes morning coffee, pastries, etc.

To make **luncheon reservations**, please call Mary Frances at 770-392-9350 not later than **Monday, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> 2002**.

Brown baggers, or those wishing to dine off campus, need not make a reservation. There is no admission charge for the meeting. The luncheon will be served in the meeting room.

## Wanted: Webmaster

The Georgia Poetry Society is desperately hunting for a member who would like to take responsibility for our website. If you have skills in website design or at the very least some ability in editing an existing web site, please contact Emery Campbell at [elcampbell@prodigy.net](mailto:elcampbell@prodigy.net) or call 770-339-8752. This is a volunteer position, which will earn you the limitless gratitude of our organization. Think: "Résumé booster!"



## Wanted: Newsletter Editor

It's nearly time to pass the press card to a new poetry cub reporter! If you have some skill with Microsoft Word ® or some other word processing or desktop publishing tool, please consider becoming the next newsletter editor for the GPS. You'll get the privilege of being "in the know" about all the GPS activities and happenings before almost everyone else. Also you'll receive perpetual warm fuzzies of gratitude from the membership. If you are interested, please contact Keith Badowski at [thebeardedpoet@hotmail.com](mailto:thebeardedpoet@hotmail.com) or call 770 723-1011 (daytime).

## Items for Next Issue

The copy deadline for the Fall  
newsletter is **November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2002**.  
Please send all submissions to

Keith Badowski, Editor  
585 Tribble Creek Drive  
Grayson, GA 30017-1646  
Fax 770 723-0033  
Phone 770 466-2361  
[thebeardedpoet@hotmail.com](mailto:thebeardedpoet@hotmail.com)

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by John Ottley

It was a pleasure to represent GPS at the 2002 convention of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies in Coos Bay, OR. Fortunately, I was able to do this at no cost to GPS. The host chapter assembled an outstanding faculty, and I can recommend this assembly to any serious student of poetry. The 2003 convention will be in Sioux Falls, SD.

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Your board continues to view with concern the decreasing participation in some of our GPS poetry contests. Many of us feel that this is an important benefit of GPS membership. Not only that, Article II of our bylaws states that **two** of our three objectives are to:

- Stimulate a finer and more intelligent appreciation of poetry.
- Provide opportunities for the study of, and incentive for, practice in the writing and reading of poetry.

Certainly our contests contribute to those objectives. We will look for ways to make our contests more applicable, easier for "rookies" to enter, etc.

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Just a note of appreciation to Memye Tucker, who for many years has been a quiet, behind-the-scenes bulwark of our program planning. Through her wide network of personal acquaintances, she continues to make our quarterly meetings vibrant with highly talented speakers.



John Ottley  
Photo by Brenda Kay Ledford

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I am pleased to report that Karen Shelnult has accepted responsibility for the 2002 statewide youth contest. Karen is a relatively new member and her stepping forward represents another victory in our efforts to involve new persons in the society's work so as to ensure the perpetuity of GPS.

\*\*\*

I leave you with this thought garnered from Bill Stafford at the Coos Bay convention: "The poet's job is to discover what the world is trying to be."

### **Wanted: Surprise in Poetry**

If you're looking for a way to make your poetry stand out in a crowd, find ways to surprise your reader. If you succeed in ways that are good for you, they're probably good for your reader.

Tips to achieve surprise:

- At the ending, instead of resolving your poem, try opening it.
- Use an intriguing title. Example: instead of "My Mother's Kitchen" try "The Magic of Tablespoons".

- Choose words other than those which first come to mind. Example, substitute a flavor when describing a color.
- Use questions--even in the middle. Unsettling your reader is a wonderful thing.
- Shift from the original place, point of view, or time.
- Use interesting line breaks. Example:  

Today I am going to start  
looking for more beautiful  
things/  
to break.
- Pick a stunning last line.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This poetry "mini-lesson" was extracted from a workshop conducted by Judy Montgomery at the 2002 NFSPS convention in Coos Bay, OR. The work of Dr. Montgomery, Bend, OR, has appeared in *The Nebraska Review*, *The Bellingham Review*, *The Formallst*, *The Comstock Review*, *The Apalachee Review*, and *Poet Lore*.

### **The Georgia Literary Arts Festival**

The Georgia Literary Arts Festival is to be held in Centennial Olympic Park on Saturday September 28, 2002. There will be a books and arts festival hosted by Georgia Writers, Inc. A separate venue will be established for poetry readings between noon and 6 p.m.



**95th Quarterly Membership Meeting**  
**Saturday, October 19, 2002**  
**Room 311 University Community Center**  
**State University of West Georgia**  
**Carrollton, GA**

- 8:30 a.m.** Registration, coffee, juice, and rolls.
- 9:30 a.m.** Welcome & introduction of guests, John Ottley
- 9:35 a.m.** Member readings, Katherine Ward, Ed.D.  
Vice President
- 10:20 a.m.** Classical poetry, Emily Barnett  
Chairperson
- 10:25 a.m.** Break
- 10:35 a.m.** Featured speaker: Ward Pafford, Ph.D.  
"Samuel Taylor Coleridge."
- 11:30 a.m.** Readings by West Georgia Students
- Noon** Lunch in meeting room.
- 1:00 p.m.** "Arguing with Taste"  
Jane Hill, Ph.D., Professor of English  
State University of West Georgia  
and Robert Hill, Ph.D., Professor of English  
Kennesaw State University.
- 1:45 p.m.** Break
- 1:55 p.m.** Workshop: "Looking for Poetry Under Your Feet"  
Jane and Robert Hill.
- 2:40 p.m.** GPS contest results, Emery Campbell  
General Contest Chairman
- 2:50 p.m.** Announcements
- 3:00 p.m.** Adjournment
- Board Meeting  
Location TBA



**New Reach of Song: 2001 Edition**

The new Reach of Song will be ready and mailed in September. If you have not already pre-ordered and pre-paid, please contact Katherine Ward immediately for your copy! You make arrangements for your copy or multiple copies by emailing [k.ward3@juno.com](mailto:k.ward3@juno.com) or send order to: Katherine Ward, Editor, *The Reach of Song* Box 888231, Dunwoody, GA 30338. The new edition is \$10.00 per copy. Shipping: \$2.50 for first book and \$1.50 for each additional book. Make check payable to the Georgia Poetry Society.

**New Dickson Chapbook: Twin Towers, Pentagon by Norman Kent**

Twin Towers, Pentagon by Norman Kent is now available for \$6.00 per copy. Please order using the information above or see the Book Order section on page 9.

# News of Georgia Poetry Persons



**Najwa Brax**, Flushing, NY, had an article on "Successful Marriage" in Women in the Arts: Triumphs, 2002. She recently won First Place in Sky Blue Waters Poetry Contests and 3 Honorable Mentions from Northern Stars Short Story Contest, for her story, "The Mountaintop", from Hutton Publications for her story "Julia And Her Other Selves", from Poets' Study Club Poets' Roundtable's Be Thankful... Be Happy! Poetry Contest! for her poem, "Autumn Artfulness", and from Cameo 2002 Writing Competition- Category: George W. Moore Memorial for her poem, "Ghost of War".

**Frances Daniel**, Lagrange, GA, had a poem of hers selected to be included in this year's edition of O, Georgia! A Collection of Georgia's Newest and Most Promising Writers. The book release/autograph party will be October 19<sup>th</sup> from 2pm - 5pm at Humpus Bumpus Bookstore in Cumming, GA.

**Susanne Johnson-Berns**, Marietta, GA, wrote the poem "Patty's Prayer" in

honor of a close friend who died of cancer this year. Johnson-Berns had the poem published as a bookmark and gave the bookmarks out at the American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life", a 24 hour walk for cancer awareness.

**Jeanne Osborne Shaw**, Decatur, GA, won Honorable Mention in the George Dunn Contest of Poetry Society of Georgia, not to be confused with GPS, for the wittiest love poem. She won a Sixth Honorable Mention in the NFSPS Villanelle contest.

**Violet Patton**, Roswell, GA, was featured in an article in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. The article, which ran on July 24<sup>th</sup>, named Patton as "Roswell's Poet" who "comforts and counsels Roswell residents and politicians with a pen and pad."

**Evelyn Hoge Pendley**, Rome, GA, wrote "A Diamond Jubilee Review" in 1977. On Founder's Day, Berry's Centennial Celebration on January 13, 2002, eleven alumni presented this historic poem in the Berry

College Chapel. The poem is written in the voices of nine men and one woman who have served as either director or president of Berry.

**Steven Shields**, Duluth, GA, placed as a fourth honorable mention in the NFSPS ottava rima competition, sponsored by GPS. This was Shield's first award for poetry, and all the more special because it involved GPS.

**Diana Lynn West**, Rome, GA, has taken part in the Rome Area Council for the Arts Poetry Reading Nights. West has recently had poetry published in *The Old Red Kimono*. She is a member of the Rome Area Council for the Arts and the National Creative Society.

**Dorothy Worth**, Decatur, GA, has had two poems accepted for publication in the journals *Voices* and *Nature*. She served a second term as president of the Southeastern Writers Association at its 27th Annual Workshop in June at Epworth-By-The-Sea on St. Simons Island. Worth continues

to serve on the Board of Directors of that organization. She will be conducting a workshop on writing haiku at the September meeting of the Atlanta Writers Club. She continues to serve as leader of the Village Writers Poetry Critique Group, and is a member of the Board of Directors of VWG.

Three future English teachers interviewed by *Scribbles 'n' Bits*, the Georgia Council of Teachers of English newsletter, said that hearing the poetry of **Bettie Sellers**, Young Harris, was the highlight of their experience at GCTE's Rome conference.

GPS members received honorable mentions in the 2002 round of NFSPS contests. **Susan Harkelroad**, Tucker, took first HM in category #26 and **Emery Campbell**, Lawrenceville, garnered 7th HM in category #18.

**Amena Brown**, Atlanta, won one of the two NFSPS college-level scholarships and read from her work at one of the 2002 NFSPS convention meals in Coos Bay, OR. Attendees at our January GPS meeting at Morehouse College will recall this Spellman College Senior's reading her poetry.



## Welcome Our New Members

**Kathleen Craft Boehmig**, Roswell, GA, heard about GPS from Carol Madan of the Alpharetta Writer's Club. One of Boehmig's poems was published in the local newspaper of Blowing Rock, NC. She also has placed an essay in the latest edition of O Georgia! A Collection of Georgia's Newest and Most Promising Writers.

**Melba Hayes**, Jesup, GA, discovered GPS via the Internet. Hayes has won the Editor's Choice Award 1989 from the National Library of Poetry. She has also had work published in following anthologies: Many Voices, Many Lands (1989), Days of Future Past (1989), The American Poetry Anthology, and The Sound of Poetry (2001).

**Susanne Johnson-Berns**, Marietta, GA, learned of GPS through our own website. She has published a poem in *Coping*. One of her poems was also included in a Poetry.com publication.

**Patricia Lieb**, Lakemont, GA, found GPS via the Internet. Lieb is a freelance writer. She is the author of Murders in the Swampland, a collection of true crime stories. Visit Lieb's website at <http://www.geocities.com/pastylieb/>

**Laura O'Conner**, Atlanta, GA, found GPS via *The Atlanta Review's* website. O'Conner is a teacher.

**David Paris**, Flowery Branch, GA, found GPS via our website. Paris is an Exercise Physiologist.

**Debi Pearce**, Waycross, GA, found GPS via our website.

**Linda Philpot**, Hogansville, GA, learned of the GPS from Dr. Peggy Elington at the Southwest Georgia Writing Project. Philpot is a high school English teacher.

## Book Review Panel

Anyone who brings out a new book should send John Ottley a copy and he will farm it out to a member of the GPS Book Review Panel not currently assigned a book for review. Anyone who had sent Thelma Hall a copy of a book, and it has not yet been reviewed, also should send John a copy with a note to that effect.

John Ottley, Jr., President  
Box 20236  
Atlanta, GA 30325-0236

## The Sixth (2002) Annual Shirley U. Geste Memorial Awards poetry Contest

**Prizes:** First \$77.04; Second \$48.81; Third \$25.01.

**Subject:** H and U and M and O and R.

**Form:** Any form calculated to make readers roll on the floor and gasp for breath between whoops of laughter.

**Length:** 60 lines maximum.

**Eligibility:** Open to all everywhere. We know you're out there, so GET BUSY!!!

**Entry fee:** One poem free to GPS members; all other poems \$1 each (and don't try to tell us you can't afford one measly dollar; you pay that much for a lottery ticket every week, and here the odds of winning are much better).

**Deadline:** October 15, 2002 postmark.

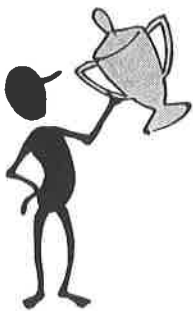
**Notification:** The chairman will announce the winners at the January 2003 GPS meeting.

**Mail entries to:**  
Emery L. Campbell  
369 Cottage Way  
Lawrenceville, GA  
30044-4523

## GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY CONTESTS

These rules apply to all GPS contests except where superseded by guidelines for individual competitions.

1. By submitting entries to any GPS contest, entrants affirm that the poetry is their own original, unpublished work to which they own all rights; that it is not currently entered in any other contest or submitted elsewhere for publication; and that it has not won a monetary award of over \$10 in any previous contest.
2. Anyone who has won higher than honorable mention in either of the two major GPS annual contests, i.e. the Byron Herbert Reece or the Edward Davin Vickers contests, may not enter that contest the following year. This specific restriction applies only to these two contests.
3. Each entry must be typed or neatly printed in English (except where noted) on one side of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, one poem per page.
4. Subject matter of poems submitted must be in good taste, contain no pornography, no sexual or racial slurs, no offensive language, and no obscenity. Winning poems may be published in *The Reach of Song*, the GPS's annual anthology. The publication goes to school and public libraries where young people may be among our reading audience. For this reason we are concerned that the anthology contain no inappropriate language.
5. Submit two copies of each poem with the name of the contest in the upper right corner of both copies. Show the name and address of the poet under the name of the contest **on one copy only**. This entry format is important and should be carefully observed.
6. Any poem entered in a GPS contest that 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. Each contest chairperson will secure judges who are not GPS members (except that youth contests may be judged by members). Entries are sent to the judges anonymously. The name of the judge for each contest will be mentioned on the list of winners.
11. The chairperson will announce the winners at the quarterly GPS meeting following the contest deadline. Winners not present will be notified and receive their awards by mail. Winners will also be posted on our web site.
12. A list of winners will be sent to all entrants who include a SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) with their submissions. Enclose a SASE with all inquiries.
13. No contestant may receive more than one monetary award in any individual contest. If a contestant is a multi-winner, he or she will receive the highest award only. Judges will choose alternates to cover this eventuality.
14. GPS reserves the right to publish, or not to publish, prize-winning poems in *The Reach of Song*. After publication by GPS, poets retain all rights.



### The 2002 Charles J. Bruehler Memorial Awards Contest Announcement of Winners

Ms. Doris Lueth Stengel served as the judge for this competition. Ms. Stengel, a native of North Dakota, is the current president of the League of Minnesota Poets and is 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of the NFSPS. She has judged numerous state and local contests. She now serves as chairperson for the Stevens Manuscript Competition.

Thirty-six poets from fifteen states submitted a total of 93 poems.

Ms. Stengel's selections are:

First prize "Wildfire" by **Dorothy Williamson Worth**, Decatur, GA.

Second prize "The Bagpipes of Scotland" by **Deanna Dusbabek**, New Orleans, LA.

Third prize "Adieu to Paris" by **Jeanne Osborne Shaw**, Decatur, GA.

### The 2002 Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award Announcement of Winners

Ms. Gwen Russell Green served as the judge. Ms. Green has organized the annual Creative Collaboration on the Southeast and is the founder of First World Writers, Inc. In 1991, she won the GPS' Langston Hughes contest. She has taught creative writing at Georgia State University and currently serves on the board for the Georgia Center for the Book.

Seventy-three poets from twenty-six states submitted a total of 201 poems for the contest.

Ms. Green's selections are:

First prize "Small Things" by **Mavis H. Harrell** of Nashville, GA.

Second prize "Corporate Decision" by **Sandra Salvaressa** of Concord, CA.

Third prize Heirloom" by **Albert Horrell** of Saint Charles, MO.

## LANDMARK POETRY EVENT FOR THE CITY OF ATLANTA

**Thomas Lux**, who inaugurated the H. Bruce McEver Visiting Chair in Writing at Georgia Tech, is back as a full-time Atlanta resident and the permanent Margaret T. and Henry C. Bourne, Jr. Chair in Poetry and Director of the McEver Chair. As a gift to the larger Georgia and Atlanta community, Lux will continue the work he started in 2001, work that will bring the finest names in poetry and writing to Atlanta from Georgia itself, from all over the United States, and from abroad.

He begins this year with the phenomenal **First Annual Bourne Poetry Reading on October 28th, 2002**, at the **Robert Ferst Center for the Arts at Georgia Tech** at **7pm**, featuring **Lucille Clifton**, one of this country's most respected and revered poets and a National Book Award Winner; **Billy Collins**, America's best-selling poet with two books having made it to the New York Best-Seller list, and the current U.S. Poet Laureate; **Stephen Dobyns**, acclaimed poet and novelist, with ten books of poems and twenty-one novels now translated into twenty languages, and two of them, films; and **Rita Dove**, one of the most-admired women in poetry, a Pulitzer Prize winner and a past U.S. Poet Laureate. This, like all other Tech poetry events, will be **FREE**.

That's OCTOBER 28th, at the ROBERT FERST CENTER FOR THE ARTS AT GEORGIA TECH, 349 Ferst Street on the Georgia Tech Campus. Reading starts at 7:00 p.m. For FREE tickets, call 404-894-9600.

### Poetry at Tech Events for 2003

**Thursday, February 6, 2003 –**  
**Stephen Dobyns**, the McEver Visiting Chair in Writing, **Thomas Lux**, the Bourne Chair in Poetry, and special guest, **H. Bruce McEver** read their poems – **The Clary Theater in the Moore Student Success Center – 4:30 pm – FREE**

**Monday, March 24, 2003 –**  
**Stephen Dobyns** presents **BOP THUNDEROUS** – featuring **Patricia Smith**, four-time National Grand Slam Champion – **The 14th Street Playhouse – 7:00 pm – FREE**

**Saturday, April 12, 2003 –Georgia Poetry at Tech Fest:** Georgia Poet Laureate **David Bottoms** will feature Georgia Poets, Atlanta Community Workshop poets, performance poets, musicians, and an open mike – **The Georgia Tech Amphitheater – 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm – FREE.**

**Saturday, June 7, 2003 – The Georgia Author of the Year Awards** in conjunction with Georgia Writers' Association. **The Robert Ferst Center for the Arts at Georgia Tech – 5:00 pm.**

### FREE Community Poetry-Writing Class

The McEver Visiting Chair in Writing, spring 2003, **Stephen Dobyns**, will teach a **FREE eight-week poetry-writing class** in the community – Learn more at <http://www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html> or E-mail [poetryattech@yahoo.com](mailto:poetryattech@yahoo.com). E-mail [ClassWithDobyns@aol.com](mailto:ClassWithDobyns@aol.com) for an electronic application or call Ginger Murchison to request an application by mail. Application deadline is January 5th.

**Cecilia Woloch** will teach an ongoing poetry workshop in an Atlanta community center for younger writers, a program that will eventually bring poets into the high schools to teach and read all over Georgia. Information will soon be available on the Poetry at Tech Website at <http://www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html>

See <http://www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html> for more information, or e-mail [poetryattech@yahoo.com](mailto:poetryattech@yahoo.com).

### THE NORTHEAST GEORGIA WRITERS CONFERENCE

The Written Word: Freedom's Foundation

Saturday, September 28, 2002  
Thurmond McRae Auditorium  
Brenau University, Gainesville, GA

Deadline for paid registration: September 14  
Cost: \$69; \$25 for students  
No registrations will be accepted at the door.

The conference fee includes the one-day session, a continental breakfast, lunch, and a wine and cheese book reception. Entertainment will include door prizes and presentations by **William A Killmeier**, nationally known soloist.

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS

**William Diehl**, author of [Primal Fear](#) and [Sharky's Machine](#)

**Charles F. Price**, author of [Using Family History to Write Historical Fiction](#)

**Margaret Britton Vaughn**, Poet Laureate of Tennessee, author of [Choice of Voice](#)

**John Perry**, Christian biographer

**Alf Nucifora**, Syndicated marketing professional

#### CONTACT:

**Mary Ellen Collier** (770) 534-6715  
**Elouise Whitten** (770)-532-3007

## The 2002 Thelma Ruth Hall Memorial Awards Poetry Contest

The Georgia Poetry Society is pleased to announce a contest to honor the memory of Dr. Thelma Ruth Hall, wife, mother, friend, teacher, and colleague who passed away on April 5, 2002 after an extended illness. Dr. Hall served the GPS as an artistic director and frequent book reviewer. She was a professor of English, head of the Humanities Department, and sponsor of the college literary magazine "The Chimes" at Shorter College in Rome, GA where she and her husband had taught since 1964. She had published 75 poems and won numerous awards for her poetry. Her chapbook titled *Among Chinese* recounted her experiences in teaching English in China on four different occasions. The Rome Area Council of the Arts named her Artist of the Year for 2001-2002. This contest is sponsored by John K. Ottley.

**Prizes:** First \$100; second \$50; third \$25. No split or honorable mentions.

**Subject:** Memories that never die.

**Form:** Any.

**Length:** 40 lines maximum.

**Eligibility:** Open to all.

**Entry fee:** One poem free to GPS members; all other poems \$1 each.

**Deadline:** November 15, 2002 postmark.

**Notification:** Winners will be announced at the January 2003 meeting.

**Entries to:** Emery L. Campbell,  
General Contests Chairman  
369 Cottage Way  
Lawrenceville, GA 30044-4523  
(No e-mail entries, please)

NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply except where superseded by these rules.

## Thanks, People of Georgia



This program is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. The Council is a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. The Georgia Poetry Society welcomes as members all persons without regard to race, gender, age, religious affiliation, national origin, political orientation, or choice of lifestyle, who enjoy writing or reading poetry. The society makes every effort to ensure that all meeting sites are accessible to persons with disabilities.



NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS

## Guidelines for Dickson Chapbook Contest

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, however a non-member may join to enter the contest. (See entry fee below.) 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. Non-members send \$30 which includes \$20 annual dues. Make check payable to Georgia Poetry Society.

**Deadline:** January 15, 2003 postmark.

**Notification:** Winners announced at the April, 2003, GPS meeting.

**Entries to:** Mr. Dustin Brookshire  
250 Epps Bridge Pkwy #1132  
Athens, GA 30606

NOTE: General contest rules published in this issue apply except where superseded by these rules.



## Fine Books Available from the Georgia Poetry Society

Each of the following books is \$6.95:

*A Book of the Charter Year, The Reach of Song* (Books available: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8), *A Book of the 10<sup>th</sup> Year 1988-89*, and *The Reach of Song* (Annuals available: 1989-90, 1990-91).

**\$7.95 each:**

*Poetry in Motion '96 Olympics Anthology*

Each of the following books is \$9.00:

*The Reach of Song* (Annuals available: 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98)

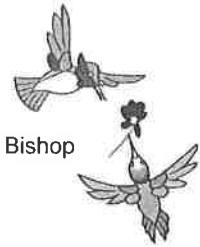
Each of the following books is \$10.00:

*The Reach of Song* (Annuals available: 1998-99, 1999-00, 2001 edition)



### Prize-Winning Chapbooks \$6.00 each

*Shadowdrifters: Images of China* by Patricia Canterbury • *Summer at the Dreamland Motel* by Lethe H. Bishop  
*A Far Garden* by Jo Ann Yeager Adkins • *A Species of Ruin* by Mildred Greear  
*Blood Kin* by Julia Evatt • *Desert Places* by Dorothy Worth  
*The Reign of the Girl King* by Rebecca Bailey • *Too Soon, as Always* by Gary Corseri  
*Life Songs* by Nell Abbott • *Twin Towers, Pentagon* by Norman Kent



### Other Books

*Message from the Blueberries and Other Poems* by Marge Carlson \$6.00  
*Vala Fastel and Other Essays* by Marge Carlson \$6.00\*

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

When ordering, please indicate the titles, total number of books ordered, amount for shipping, and total amount for both books and shipping. Shipping: \$2.50 for first book and \$1.50 for each additional book. Make check payable to the Georgia Poetry Society.

Send Order to: Katherine Ward, Editor, *The Reach of Song*  
Box 888231, Dunwoody, GA 30338

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## The Edward Davin Vickers 2002 Memorial Awards Poetry Contest

The Georgia Poetry Society is pleased to announce its 12<sup>th</sup> annual poetry competition in honor of founding president, the late Edward Davin Vickers.

**Prizes:** First \$250; second \$100; third \$50. No split or honorable mentions.

**Subject:** Any.

**Form:** Any.

**Length:** 80 lines maximum.

**Eligibility:** Open to all except 2001 winners.

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

**Deadline:** December 15, 2002 postmark.

**Notification:** Winners will be announced at the January 2003 meeting

**Mail entries to;** Grace Coates, Chairperson  
1073 Shieldcrest Way  
Forest Park, GA 30297-1122  
(No e-mail entries please).

### Current Support Staff

<b>Book Reviews</b>	Committee: contact John Ottley
<b>Chapbook</b>	Dustin Brookshire
<b>Classic Poetry</b>	Emily Barnett
<b>Featured Poet (Newsletter)</b>	Dorothy Worth
<b>Featured Speaker</b>	Katherine Ward
<b>General Contests</b>	Emery Campbell
<b>Historian</b>	Riherd Greene
<b>Librarian</b>	Ethelene Jones
<b>Library Project</b>	Marvin Heath
<b>Mailing List Expansion</b>	Margaret Langford
<b>Meeting Logistics</b>	Terry Hensel
<b>Meeting Reservations</b>	Mary Frances
<b>Member Readings</b>	Katherine Ward
<b>Membership Co-chair</b>	Mary Stripling
<b>Newsletter</b>	Keith Badowski
<b>Poetry in the Schools</b>	Jean Mahavier
<b>Presenting Poets</b>	Memye Tucker
<b>Reach of Song</b>	Katherine Ward
<b>Reece Contest</b>	Katherine Ward
<b>Strophes Reporter</b>	Jeanne Shaw
<b>Vickers Contest</b>	Grace Coates
<b>Web Site Monitoring</b>	Emery L. Campbell Julian Campbell
<b>Youth Contest</b>	Karen Shelnett

### Poetry in the Schools

If you have an interest in sharing your love of poetry with students in various classrooms in Georgia, please contact Jean Mahavier at [jmaha@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmaha@bellsouth.net).

Jean is beginning to receive requests for poets to visit during the current school year.

### Life Thoughts to Savor

No matter that you experience happiness, depression, sadness, or elation. Treat each as an honorable guest. Welcome them into your house. If it is sorrow that sweeps through your home, whisking away all your furniture, consider that it may have been sent to prepare you for new furniture. Take into account that each guest may have been sent to you as a guide.

If you go to war, pray. If you go on a sea journey, pray twice. But pray three times if you go to get married.

If you would avoid suspicion, do not leave your shoes in a melon field

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** These bits of ancient wisdom were extracted from workshops conducted by Lawson Fusao Inada. Dr. Inada, Ashland, OR, has been on the English faculty of Southern Oregon University since 1966. His book, *Legends from Camp*, received the American Book Award and was featured on CBS Sunday Morning.

**New Member Application  
and Member Renewal Form**  
Georgia Poetry Society

- New Member  
 Membership Renewal

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, members 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*.

NOTE: Only board members will have access to your address and phone numbers.

Name:  
Street (include apartment #):  
City, State, and 9-digit Zip:  
Home phone:  
Office phone:  
FAX:  
Email:  
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. Use the space below or another sheet of paper.

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:

John Ottley, Jr., President  
Box 20236  
Atlanta, GA 30325-0236.

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

We need 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



## GPS Featured Poet

### Unsure

Now that we are together  
What do I do?  
How do I keep this going?  
What do I say?  
Should I get closer and tell you  
All you want to know?  
Or should I push back and take it slow?  
I've never been this serious before, yet  
I've always dreamed of this.  
I am so happy, but I'm scared of making  
The wrong decisions.  
Please help me, Lord, for I am unsure  
Of what to do.

Beverly Denmark

### Chairperson's Comment

The title of this poem is precisely on target; the poet is uncertain about the relationship described, and questions the way in which it should be pursued. She is filled with conflicting emotions: she is extremely happy, but also frightened. She desires closeness, but feels that perhaps she should proceed with caution. She realizes that this is the first time she has been so serious in a relationship, and she acknowledges that such a situation is what she has dreamed about. Nevertheless, she is not yet comfortable enough to relax and enter into such closeness without reservation.

The reader finds in this poem a state of mind with which everyone of any maturity is familiar: we have here an emotional relationship in its beginning stages, and, while the happiness and the serious nature of those emotions are clearly present, there is in addition an element of uncertainty. That uncertainty does not apply to the emotion itself, but to the manner in which it is developed. The poet is saying "I love, but I don't know how to express that love." The final two lines clearly express the poet's need for direction.

Congratulations to the poet for an excellent portrait of human reaction to strong emotions.

Dorothy Worth, Chairperson

**NOTE:** Featured Poets are chosen by invitation. No unsolicited submissions please.

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