

Fall/Winter
2003

Georgia Poetry News

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Atlanta poet and journalist Collin Kelley is the new editor for the Georgia Poetry News. Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 31, 2003.

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Apt. B-406
Atlanta, GA 30312
or
georgiapoetrynews
@hotmail.com

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www.georgiapoetrysociety.com

Open Mic at Barnes & Noble @ GA. Tech

The Georgia Poetry Society has joined forces with the new Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech to present a monthly open mic session. The open mic will be held the second Friday of every month at 7 p.m. at the store, 48 5th Street in Midtown Atlanta. Poets should arrive by 7 p.m. to sign up and readings will begin at 7:30 p.m. Readings will be limited to two poems each. Collin Kelley will be the host for the inaugural event which takes place on Friday, Sept. 12. He will read from and sign his debut volume of poetry, *Better To Travel*, accompanied by the Grammy-nominated Jennifer Perry Combo. For future events, Kelley, GPS and Barnes & Noble will bring in special featured poets to showcase their work. For more information, visit the GPS website or call Kelley at (404) 230-1995 for directions and details. GPS encourages members who live in the metro area to take advantage of this new open mic session.

New GPS Website, Mailing Address Debuts

GPS members who use the website for updates and to learn more about contests can now visit our new site, www.georgiapoetrysociety.com. The website will be updated on a regular basis with information about meetings, contests and member news. Plans are in the works to feature GPS members' poetry on the new site. Stay tuned for more announcements and be patient as we work out the bugs at the site. The society also has a new mailing address for contest entries, payment of dues and general correspondence. That new address is Georgia Poetry Society, P.O. Box 28337, Atlanta, GA 30358. The address for the newsletter will remain 170 Boulevard SE, Apt. B-406, Atlanta, GA 30312.

Pages at Phipps is Sept. 28

GPS will take part in the annual Atlanta Literary Festival on Sunday, Sept. 28 during "Pages At Phipps." The event will be from 1 to 3 p.m. in the atrium area of the mall, located on Peachtree Road in Buckhead (just across from Lenox Square). Former Georgia poet laureate and GPS member Bettie Sellers will be the featured speaker. Sellers will be followed by a series of readings by GPS members. There will also be an open mic session for the poets. The festival is easily accessible from Georgia 400 (north or south) or has ample free parking in the Phipps Plaza deck. There are restaurants inside the mall and a food court. The Atlanta Literary Festival is a week-long celebration of the written and spoken word. For more information on the festival, visit www.atlantaliteraryfestival.com

President's Report from Rosemary Mauldin



The meeting at the University of Georgia on July 19 showed what great members we have in this organization. When our guest speaker, T.R. Hummer, didn't show up, the members volunteered and came through admirably.

Emily Vail reviewed her three books, while Herbert Denmark and Emily Barnett read from some wonderful works. Thanks also to Cleo Creech, a new member who stepped forward and read from some of his work. Cleo and Collin Kelley also took over the production of Mildred Greear's chapbook, "At The Edge," which won the Vickers Award. The chapbook should be out by the time you read this. Cleo is also working on his first book of poetry which he hopes to have out early next year. Our members are truly doing great things.

Everyone enjoyed the music and poetry of Aaron Rogowski. Everyone was a little uncertain what this young man would bring to our meeting, but we were all delighted. I know we will be hearing good things about Aaron in the future.

During the board meeting we discussed getting a post office box that will be a central mailing point for GPS. The post office box is now set up and receiving mail. All of the contest entries will now come to this box before being sent on to our new contest chairman, Dennis Heller. Mary Frances and Ira Harrison are handling the post office box. They will get the checks out of the envelopes and make sure all the contest entries are properly marked before being sent on to Dennis. This should make his job much easier. Thanks to Ira and Mary for taking on these extra duties.

This year we have also seen a growing interest in the society from the younger generation. They are asking what can the society offer me and to help me with my writing. They are web-savvy and want an outlet for their creativity. As a result, we have finally set up www.georgiapoetrysociety.com. The new site will be updated regularly and have a more modern appearance. Collin Kelley has stepped in to take on this task. If you have events you want posted or member news to report for the website or newsletter, get in touch with Collin by email or by phone.

In closing, I would like to alert members to ignore any derogatory emails that have been copied and sent out in the last month or so. Not everyone wants change. I ask for your positive thoughts and understanding for those unhappy with the current changes.

I am available to you by email at rsmrymauldin@aol.com or by phone at (706) 769-5755.

See you in October at our meeting in Young Harris.

October Meeting Guest: Bettie Sellers

Bettie Sellers will be the featured poet at GPS's October meeting. Sellers is the former state poet laureate and professor of English at Young Harris College. She has published four volumes of poetry including *Wild Ginger*, *Liza's Monday and Other Poems*, *Morning of the Red Tailed Hawk* and *The Bitter Berry*. She was also co-producer on a documentary about Byron Herbert Reece.



15.23
GPS

Quarterly Meeting Schedule

99th Quarterly Membership Meeting
Saturday, October 18, 2003
Wilson Hall, Young Harris College

- 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Registration, coffee, juice, and rolls.
- 9:30 - 9:35 a.m. Welcome and introduction of guests:
Rosemary Mauldin, President.
- 9:35 - 10:20 a.m. Member readings, Sally Kaplan.
- 10:20 - 10:25 a.m. Classical poetry, Emily Barnett.
- 10:25 - 10:35 a.m. Break.
- 10:35 - 11:30 a.m. Featured speaker: Former Georgia Poet
Laureate Bettie Sellers
- 11:30 a.m.-Noon Book reviews from Herbert Denmark and Emily Barnett.
- Noon - 1:00 p.m. Lunch in meeting room.
- 1:00 - 1:45 p.m. Guest Poets: Janice Moore & Nancy Simpson
- 1:45 - 1:55 p.m. Break.
- 1:55 - 2:40 p.m. Workshop by Janice Moore, "Finding Your Poem."
- 2:40 - 2:50 p.m. GPS contest results:
Dennis Heller,
General Contests Chairman.
- 2:50 - 3:00 p.m. Announcements and Adjournment.
- 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Board meeting.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Atlanta: Take I-75 North to I-575/Hwy. 5/US 76 through Canton, Jasper, Ellijay, Blue Ridge, Blairsville to Young Harris (easiest way);

I-85 North to I-985/Hwy. 365, left on Hwy. 52 to US 129 North to Cleveland, Hwy. 75 North through Helen, US 76 West through Hiwassee to Young Harris; or

GA 400 to the end, straight ahead on two-lane county road (Longbranch Rd.) and right on Hwy. 52/115 to Cleveland, Hwy. 75 North through Helen, US 76 West through Hiwassee to Young Harris.

The cost of the catered luncheon at this meeting will be \$6.00 per person, which includes morning coffee, juice, and pastries. To make luncheon reservations (required), please call Emily Vail at (770) 961-5653 no later than Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2003. Brown baggers or those wishing to take lunch off-campus may do so at no charge, nor do they need to make a reservation. While we ask that you make reservations for the catered lunch to secure a correct head count, advance payment is not required. Luncheon tickets may be purchased at the door. There is no admission charge to the meeting proper.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mildred Greear's award-winning chapbook, *At The Edge*, is now available for purchase. Greear won the 2003 Vickers Chapbook Competition sponsored by GPS. The contest judge, Dr. Christine Cozzens of Agnes Scott College, said Greear's poems created a "language and rhythm all their own" and that she was "instantly engaged by the ease of Greear's poetic diction and by the utterly convincing joining of language and ideas in each poem." Greear made GPS history by being the only member to win the chapbook competition twice. The limited edition book was designed by Cleo Creech. The chapbook can be purchased for \$6 (plus \$1.50 for shipping). Send checks or money orders to:

Terry Hensel
P.O. Box 999
Alpharetta, GA 30009

**MORE BOOKS FOR
SALE ON PAGE 8**

New Members & Member News

GPS is proud to announce that we have nine new members who have joined us since the last newsletter was published. The new members include: **Ronald M. Owens Sr.** of Savannah, **Bobby Dews** of Edison, **Michelle Davis** of Newnan, **Audrey R. Chenkin** of Zephyrhills, FL, **C. Cleo Creech** of Atlanta, **Elizabeth A. Axelberg** of Decatur, **Dennis Albert Heller** of Bainbridge, **Linda S. Boone** of Williamson, and **Adrian D. Drost** of Roswell. Welcome to all our new members.

* * *

GPS newsletter editor and webmaster **Collin**

Support Staff

Book Reviews: Rosemary Mauldin, Dr. Peggy Ellington, Lois Kaufman.

Contests: Dennis Heller (Chrm), Nancy Klotz, Grace Coates

Classical Poetry: Emily Barnett

Featured Poet Selection: Dorothy Worth

Librarian: Ethelene Jones

Kelley will launch his debut volume of poetry, **Better To Travel**, on Friday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Fayette County Public Library in Fayetteville, GA. Kelley will be backed by the Grammy-nominated Jennifer Perry Combo. On Thursday, Sept. 25, from 7-9 p.m., Kelley will sign **Better To Travel** at Peachtree Highway books in Candler Park, and then on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 8:30 p.m., Kelley and the band will be at Java Monkey in Decatur.

* * *

Ira Harrison led a poetry workshop in July at the Southwest Regional Library in Atlanta. He talked about GPS, hosted

an open mic and was filmed for FGTV.

* * *

We warmly welcome **Dennis Heller** as our new poetry contest chairman. The New York native is the author of **Life What An Adventure, Pan-A-Ramic Thoughts** and the forthcoming **Yankee Poet**.

* * *

Jean Mahavier is looking for more GPS volunteers to help with the Poetry In The Schools program. Contact Jean at (404) 633-3129 or jmaha@bellsouth.net. Those interested can go and observe with another poet. Students and teachers love being able to talk with a real poet.

Library Project: Marvin Heath

Mailing List Expansion:

Margaret Langford

Book

Sales/Promotion: Terry Hensel

Meeting

Reservations: Emily Vail

Membership Co-chair: Mary Stripling
Newsletter &

Website: Collin Kelley

Poetry In The Schools: Jean Mahavier

Reach of Song: Debra Gordon

Strophes Reporter: Jeanne Shaw

Youth Contest: Karen Shelnett

Presenting Poets: Dr. Memye Tucker

Edward Davin Vickers Memorial Poetry Contest

The Georgia Poetry Society is pleased to announce its 13th annual poetry competition in honor of founding president, the late Edward Davin Vickers. The prize is \$250 for first place, \$100 for second and \$50 for third. The poem can be on any subject and in any form, but with an 80-line maximum length. The contest is open to all, except 2001 winners. The entry fee is \$5 for the first poem, \$1 for each additional poem. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2003.

Katherine Ward Memorial Award

This contest is in memory of Dr. Katherine Ward, a long-time and active member of GPS and former editor of the anthology, *The Reach of Song*. The first prize is \$100, second prize is \$35 and third prize is \$15. The subject is the loss of a loved one and can in any form, but with a 40-line maximum. The contest is open to all. GPS members can enter one poem for free, \$1 for each additional poem. The deadline is Oct. 15, 2003.

Thelma Ruth Hall Memorial Award

Thelma Ruth Hall was a long-time member of the GPS, serving as artistic director and frequent book reviewer. She was a professor of English, head of the humanities department and sponsor of the Shorter College literary magazine. She won many awards and published a chapbook on her teaching experiences in China. The subject of this contest to honor Hall is memories that never die. Any format is allowed but with a 40-line maximum. The contest is open to all. First prize is \$60, second is \$25 and third is \$15. GPS members can enter one poem for free, \$1 for each additional poem. The deadline is Nov. 15, 2003.

Pablo Neruda Spanish Language Poem Award

This Spanish language poetry contest is in honor of the late Pablo Neruda of Chile. Noted for his love poems and political works, Neruda is the most widely read of the Latin-American poets. All entries for this contest **must be written in Spanish**. The theme is love, but the word love should not be mentioned in the title or in the poem itself. There is a 40-line maximum and the contest is open to all. First prize is \$50, second is \$25 and third is \$10. The entry fee is \$1 per poem. The deadline is Sept. 15, 2003.

First Ever LOL Limerick Contest

The GPS has a sense of humor, but we want to know if YOU have one. This is GPS's first-ever limerick contest. The subject is "funny ha-ha, not funny peculiar." The limerick should also be kept clean (meaning nothing starting with, "There was a young girl from Nantucket..."). The contest is open to all. There is a five-line maximum and the entry fee is \$1 per poem. First prize wins \$75, second gets \$50 and third wins \$25. The deadline is Nov. 1, 2003.

Contest Rules

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. Anyone who has won higher than honorable mention in either of the two major GPS annual contests, 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 competitions.
2. 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 annual anthology of the GPS. The anthology 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.
3. Each entry must be typed or neatly printed in English on one side of 8 1/2 x 11-inch paper, one poem per page. 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.
4. Supplementary guidelines for individual contests will give prize amounts, entry fees, eligibility, subjects, forms, length limitations, postmark deadlines, and to whom to send entries.
5. Make checks or money orders for entry fees payable to Georgia Poetry Society, not to the contest chair.
6. Any contest receiving fewer than ten entries may be cancelled. In this event relevant entry fees will be refunded.
7. 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. The chairperson will announce the winners at the quarterly meeting of the GPS following the deadline. Winners not present will be notified and receive their awards by mail. A list of winners will be sent to all entrants who include a SASE (Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope) with their submissions. Enclose an SASE with all inquiries.
8. 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.
9. The GPS reserves the right to publish, or not to publish, prize-winning poems in *The Reach of Song*. After publication by the GPS, poets retain all rights. Poems will not be returned. All non-winning poems will be destroyed.
10. Any GPS contest entry that does not comply with the above guidelines may be disqualified.

NEW CONTEST MAILING INSTRUCTIONS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

All contest entries **MUST** be mailed to the new GPS post office box:

Georgia Poetry Society
P.O. Box 28337
Atlanta, GA 30358

The name of the contest **MUST** be written on the outside of the mailing envelope **AND** on the entry fee check in the "For _____" line that is on the bottom left-hand side of all checks or on a money order. Your contest entry may be returned if these instructions are not followed. **ALL CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY. NO CASH ACCEPTED!**

BESSIE SEES THE WRINKLED DOG by Emery Campbell

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.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS: This poem is an excellent example of a sonnet. The rhyme and meter are precisely done, and the development of the story it tells leads the reader to the concluding couplet, which provides the expected denouement. In addition, the language chosen reflects not only the dog's feelings, but also those of his mistress, in an excellent description that makes the setting and the story come alive. At times, in writing a formal poem, the poet will try too hard to be sure all the rules are followed, and the resulting poem does not succeed in presenting a story in the best possible way. In this sonnet, however, the poet has not only given the reader the beginning and end of the story; he has also made it more visible. The first line of the couplet is particularly well done. It concludes with the descriptive phrase, "a sharpei diem," which of course rhymes with the Latin phrase meaning "seize the day"--carpe diem. A truly delightful poem. ~ *Dorothy Worth, Chairman of Featured Poet Selection*

Underclassmen by Aaron Rogowski

I'm failing yet another test/My knee's stuck to the bottom of another desk/The pain is building up
inside me/As last rights echo through my skull/My sick heart undergoes a slow decay/Till
nothing's left inside me/Living in the aftermath/Fresh wounds on my soul/If my locker's been
broken into again/I'm gonna lose control/What is wrong with these underclassmen?/How can they
smile when the sun hangs so low?/And all I feel is heartbreak to be stuck in school again/Last
year there was nothing wrong/Our love was new/And only the good songs played on the
radio/Soon the politics began/Every bell was like an air raid siren/Screaming out its warning to all
below/'Cause you were content to be teacher's pet/While I wanted an antihero/Our romance
turned to malicious intent/Every hallway was ground zero/What is wrong with these
underclassmen?/How can they smile when the sun hangs so low?/And all I feel is heartbreak to
be stuck in school again/And to all new generations/Don't be a slave to public education/You can
save your heart/And bring the system down/Just get it home-schooled wherever it may be found.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Aaron Rogowski delighted members with this song, and others, at our July meeting. He is a poet and musician and we look forward to hearing more from him in the future.)

Poetry At Tech Returns

The Georgia Institute of Technology will put down its slide-rulers and calculators again this fall as a second season of **Poetry At Tech** gets underway on Thursday, Oct. 9. **Thomas Lux** will present the Second Annual Bourne Poetry Reading featuring **Edward Hirsch, Marilyn Nelson** and **Ellen Bryan Voigt** at the LeCraw Auditorium in the new Dupree College of Management, Technology Square, 800 West Peachtree St., Atlanta. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. and is FREE. No tickets or reservations required.

Then on Monday, Nov. 17, there will be readings by Georgia poets **Anthony Kellerman, Eric Nelson** and **Larry Rubin** in the Clary Theater in the Moore Student Success Center. The time is 4:30 p.m. and is also FREE and open to the public.

Looking ahead to Thursday, Feb. 5, 2004, the McEver Poetry Reading will feature **Thomas Lux, H. Bruce McEver** and **Patricia Smith**. Another reading will be Tuesday, Feb. 24 featuring **Brooks Haxton, Jeffrey McDaniel** and **Vijay Seshadri**. Both will be FREE events and held in the Clary Theater at 4:30 p.m.

Wrapping up the season will be an evening with U.S. Poet Laureate **Billy Collins** on Thursday, April 1, 2004 in the LeCraw Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. This event is also FREE.

A number of workshops are also planned throughout the season including Jan. 24, 2004, with **Patricia Smith**; Feb. 21 with **Brooks Haxton**; and March 21 with **Vijay Seshardi**. The workshops will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at a location to be announced. Those interested in signing up for one of the workshops should request an application by e-mailing McEverWorkshops@aol.com or by calling Poetry at Tech at (404)385-2760. Leave your name (spell it, please) and complete address, including zip code. Applications will be sent by Nov. 21 and will be due back, postmarked by Dec. 31, 2003. For more information check out the website at www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html or call (404) 385-2760 or e-mail ginger.murchison@lcc.gatech.edu.

Books For Sale

The Georgia Poetry Society has books for sale. *The Reach of Song, 2000-2001* anthology featuring contest winners and members' poems is available for \$10. The 2001-02 winner of the Charles B. Dickson Memorial Chapbook Award, *9/11 and Still Counting* by Norman Kraeft, is available for \$6.

When ordering, please indicate the titles, total number of books ordered, and the total amount for each book including shipping. Shipping charges are \$2.50 for the first *Reach of Song* and \$1.50 for each additional copy. The chapbook can be mailed for \$1.50 for one copy, 75 cents for each additional copy. Make checks or money orders payable to the Georgia Poetry Society and mail to:

Terry Hensel
P.O. Box 999
Alpharetta, GA 30009

Georgia Poetry Society New Membership Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

E-MAIL: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

Students please list age (optional) _____, school _____, 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.

How did you hear about GPS: _____

We need your help at GPS. Which activities would you be interested in (check all that apply):

- Book Reviews Poetry Critique Panel Management of Meetings
 General poetry contests Speakers Hospitality Poetry In the Schools
 Planning of Meetings Publicity *Reach of Song* Poetry Workshops
 Mailings Membership Youth Poetry Contest

GPS membership dues are \$20 annually for an individual, \$35 for a family and \$10 for students. A lifetime membership is \$300.

Complete this form and enclose your check or money order made payable to the Georgia Poetry Society and mail to:

Georgia Poetry Society
P.O. Box 28337
Atlanta, GA 30358

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Ira Harrison

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We're on the Web!

Just Type In

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GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWS
170 Boulevard SE
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Contest Winners

The winners of the 2003 Byron Herbert Reece Awards are:

First Place: Mike Casey of Dublin, Ireland.

Second Place: Dr. Diana Lynn Farmer of Decatur

Third Place: David L. Byrn of Prescott, AZ

Fourth Place: Carol

Leavitt Altieri of Madison, CT.

Fifth Place: John Ottley, Jr. of Atlanta.

Sixth Place: Lynn Veach Sadler of Sanford, NC.

The winners of the Countee Cullen contest are:

First Place: Carol Leavitt

of Madison, CT.

Second Place: Katherine F. Larsen of Bountiful, UT.

Third Place: Eugene Shea of Hanna, WY.

Visit the website to read some of these winning poems(www.georgiapoetr society.com).

More Member News

Debra J. Gordon of Smyrna has agreed to take over publicity and production for the GPS anthology, *The Reach of Song*. She has many ideas to promote the book and GPS.

Jeanne Osborne Shaw's biography was selected for the 2004 edition of Marquis' *Who's Who In The World*. Jeanne writes for the NFSPS newsletter, *Strophes*.

Past presidents **John Ottley** and **Emery Campbell** attended the National Federation of State Poetry Societies (NFSPS) convention in Sioux Falls, SD, in June.

About Our Organization...

The Georgia Poetry Society is supported in part by the Georgia Council for the Arts, which is a partner of the National Endowment for the Arts. GPS welcomes all persons without regard

to race, gender, disability, age, religion, national origin, politics, or choice of lifestyle. The GPS makes every effort to ensure meeting sites are accessible to those with disabilities.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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