

Georgia Poetry News



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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Atlanta poet and journalist Collin Kelley is the editor for the Georgia Poetry News.

Deadline for the next issue is June 1, 2004.

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Open Mic Changes Monthly Date

The Georgia Poetry Society Open Mic at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech will switch to the FIRST Friday of each month beginning in April. The April edition will be held Friday, April 2 with featured poet and playwright Cherryl Floyd-Miller. The open mic begins at 7:30 p.m. (sign up at 7 p.m.) and is hosted by GPS vice-president Collin Kelley (author of *Better To Travel*). The open mic is held on the second floor of the Barnes & Noble, located at the corner of 5th and Spring streets in Midtown Atlanta. Plenty of parking is available on the streets (meters enforced 24 hours a day) or at the parking deck across from the store on Spring. The store is completely handicapped accessible and there is a coffee house to purchase drinks and snacks. Come out and support YOUR open mic.

Membership Meeting is April 24 at Georgia Tech

The 101st Quarterly Membership Meeting will be held on the campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Midtown Atlanta on Saturday, April 24. President Rosemary Mauldin moved the meeting to avoid conflicts with the Easter holiday and many members who were going to be out of town at poetry events. The spring meeting will feature Ginger Murchison, coordinator for the Poetry at Tech program, who will discuss the popular reading series and read some of her own work. Our featured poet will be Tania Rochelle, whose debut collection *Karaoke Funeral*, won the Violet Reed Haas Prize from Snake Nation Press. See the full meeting schedule on Page 3.

Atlanta Women's Expo, May 1 & 2

GPS will take part in the Atlanta Women's Expo Saturday and Sunday, May 1st and 2nd. The event will be held at the Cobb Galleria and GPS will have a booth set up promoting the society, signing up new members and selling copies of member's books, as well as the new *Reach of Song*. Volunteers are needed to help staff the booth both days and members who would like to sell their work are also welcome to come and set up. Contact President Rosemary Mauldin for more details at (706) 769-5755 or by email at rsmrymauldin@aol.com. You can also visit the expo site at www.atlantawomensexpo.com.

President's Report from Rosemary Mauldin



The January meeting at Georgia Perimeter College in Dunwoody was a huge success. Thanks to GPS Secretary Mary Frances for getting the room for us and helping with refreshments. I never take for granted the people who contribute so much to this society.

The Dunwoody meeting was special since it was the 100th quarterly gathering. I couldn't help but think about all those who have made this possible. Some of them are no longer with us, but they will always be remembered and honored for their dedication and love of poetry. Our speakers at the 100th meeting were great. Atlanta Braves coach Bobby Dews entertained us with wonderful stories, we had a fun workshop with Georgia Perimeter professor Michael Hall and welcomed new members. I think the next meeting on April 24 at Georgia Tech is going to be just as exciting. I hope you can all come out and join us for the day. Georgia Tech has been incredibly supportive of GPS and we are happy to be holding our meeting there. Many thanks to our VP Collin Kelley who set up this meeting with the help of Poetry at Tech's Ginger Murchison.

When I took this position I let the board know I would be very much involved in moving the society forward. Change isn't always easy or accepted well by everyone. This past year has certainly proven that we must make changes if the society as a whole is to survive. I am proud to say that members are stepping up to the plate to make sure work is done in an honest and forthright manner. For example, our treasurer Ira Harrison has streamlined the budget process to make sure the financial integrity of GPS is maintained. Thanks, Ira! Our new P.O. Box for the contests is working very well and rather than having one contest chair, members have stepped up and volunteered to facilitate these contests. We need additional help, so if you would like to help, please contact me.

We are more involved in the community than ever before, promoting GPS in positive and upbeat ways. We co-sponsored the Roswell Roots Poetry Slam in February, which was won by M. Ayodele Heath, and it was a standing room only evening full of fun and excitement. Collin Kelley continues to host the GPS open mic each month and has built a loyal following. Collin is also bringing in nationally known poets like Cecilia Woloch, Ann Fisher-Wirth, Sandra Meek as well as emerging writers to feature. If you have not attended one of these open mics, you are truly missing out on a wonderful evening at the Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech.

For those who have asked, the new edition of *The Reach of Song* is almost complete. Cleo Creech has been proofing the pages and it should be out by late April or early May. Getting this edition out has been difficult, passed from hand to hand, and there may be some poems missing. In the transition of officers and volunteers some things have been lost and misplaced. We are striving to eliminate those problems in the future.

See you at Georgia Tech on April 24!

Saturday, April 24, 2004 * Georgia Institute of Technology

Room 2, James & Mary Wesley New Media Center (Skiles Building)

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. - Coffee, juice rolls

9:30 - 9:40 a.m. - Welcome by President Rosemary Mauldin

9:40 - 10:05 a.m. - Member Poetry Readings with Sally Kaplan

10:05 - 10:15 - Classical Poetry with Emily Barnett

10:15 - 10:45 a.m. - Special Guest Ginger Murchison (discussing Poetry at Tech, reading her poetry)

10:45 - 11 a.m. - Break

11 - 11:45 a.m. - Readings from the winners of GPS Youth Contest and awards ceremony

11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Lunch on your own (See restaurant listings or brown bag it)

1 - 1:30 p.m. Featured Poet Tania Rochelle, reading from her collection Karaoke Funeral

1:30 - 1:45 p.m. - Break

1:45- 2:15 p.m - Workshop with Jean Mahavier

2:15 - 2:25 p.m. - Contest Results and Related Announcements, Collin Kelley

2:25 - 2:30 p.m. - Announcements and Adjournment

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Board Meeting

DIRECTIONS: Take I-75 from either direction to North Avenue. Go west on North Avenue (toward Tech). At the 2nd corner west of I-75 (diagonally across the street from the Coca Cola Tower, enter the Tech campus by turning right onto Cherry St. At the dead end (Cherry St. is only one block long) turn left onto Ferst Dr.

The parking lot next to the building may be closed due to construction. When you see our POETRY at TECH sign (on Ferst Dr.), find a parking space on the street. Parking (except in attended lots) is free on the Tech campus on Saturdays, so park in any space, even metered spaces, EXCEPT: Do not park in any space marked "Reserved," "Handicapped," "Psychology Visitors Only" in any space clearly marked with diagonal lines as a "No Parking" space. You'll see the POETRY at TECH sign on the James and Mary Wesley New Media Center of the Skiles Building. Enter the side door beside the sign and go to Room 2. GPS signs will be posted.

LUNCH: There are many fast food and sit down restaurants in easy driving distance from the campus. The Varsity, KFC and Quizno's Subs are all on North Avenue, while over on 14th Street there are two exceptional restaurants: Silver Skillet and Bobby & Junes, both of which serve excellent southern cooking.

BEST WORDS, BEST ORDER
— STEVEN DOBBINS
OUTLINE ON
#25-26 COLLEGE REVIEW

GEORGIAWRITERS.ORG — JUNE 12 AWARDS CEREMONY
CORSAUD REVIEW — MURCHISON, EDITOR

Byron Herbert Reece International Competition

GPS is once again sponsoring the international poetry competition in honor of Georgia's beloved and renowned poet, Byron Herbert Reece (1917-1958). This competition is open to everyone except the 2003 winners. The subject and format is open, but there is 40 line maximum. Entry fee is \$5 for the first poem, \$1 for each additional poem. First prize is \$250, second is \$100, third is \$50, fourth is \$25, fifth is \$15 and sixth is \$10. Deadline is April 15, 2004

Countee Cullen Poetry Competition

This contest honors the legacy of Harlem Renaissance poet Countee Cullen, who was a contemporary of Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston. His poetry won many prizes and he was the second African-American to receive a Guggenheim Fellowship. Former GPS president Herbert Denmark is sponsoring this contest. The poem can be on any subject, but there is a 60 line maximum. The entry fee is \$1 per poem. First prize is \$50, \$30 for second and \$15 for third. The deadline is May 15, 2004.

Edward Davin Vickers Memorial Contest

GPS is sponsoring the 14th annual poetry competition in honor of founding president, the late Edward Davin Vickers. Please note this competition has been moved to June. The poem can be any subject or format, but with an 80 line maximum. The contest is open to all except the 2003 winners. The entry fee is \$5 for the first poem, \$1 for each additional poem. First prize is \$250, \$100 for second and \$50 for third. The new deadline is June 15, 2004.

Mikki Griffis Morris Poetry Competition

This contest honors Mikki Griffis Morris of Brunswick, GA. Mikki is a poet and staunch supporter of the arts and the GPS. The subject of the poem should be "the yearning heart" written in any form, but with a maximum of 60 lines. There is only one prize of \$100, which will not be divided. The entry fee is \$5 for up to five poems. The deadline is July 15, 2004.

Honoring Traditional Poets Competition

The subject is poet's choice, but the format has to be a recognized traditional form that has rhyme and meter (i.e. couplet, tercet, quatrain, sestet, octet, roundel, pantoum, etc.). The maximum line length is 40 and the format used for the poem must be identified on the page. Entry fee is free for GPS members, \$1 for each additional poem. Prizes are \$30 for first place, \$20 for second, \$10 for third and \$5 for two honorable mentions. Deadline is August 15, 2004

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 September 15, 2004.

(Esta competencia española de la poesía de la lengua está en el honor de la última Pablo Neruda de Chile. Observado para sus poemas del amor y trabajos políticos, Neruda es leído lo más extensamente posible de los poetas Latino-Americanos. Todas las entradas para esta competencia se deben escribir en español. El tema es amor, pero el amor de la palabra no se debe mencionar en el título o en el poema sí mismo. Hay un máximo 40-line y la competencia está abierta a todos. El primer premio es \$50, es en segundo lugar \$25 y tercero es \$10. El honorario de la entrada es \$1 por el poema. El plazo es de septiembre el 15 de 2004.)

Katherine Ward Memorial Contest

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 October 15, 2004.

Thelma Ruth Hall Memorial Contest

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 November 15, 2004.

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!**
READ THE OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS ON THE NEXT PAGE!

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.

ADDENDUM:

Please pay close attention to the maximum length for each poem as described in the contest listings. Poems that do not adhere to length will be **DISQUALIFIED**.

Member News and Other Notes

GPS will mark **National Poetry Month** with a number of events. Former GPS President **Herbert Denmark** will host a special Open Mic for GPS members on Saturday, April 17 at the Barnes & Noble in Morrow, GA. Members who would like to participate should email Herbert at lancethrower@yahoo.com. Each poet will have five minutes to read their work. The Morrow Barnes & Noble is located at 1939 Mount Zion Road. On Saturday, April 3 member **Deborah Hawthorne-Tainsh** will host a special open mic at the Barnes & Noble in Columbus, GA featuring GPS vice-president **Collin Kelley** (*Better To Travel*) and award-winning poet **Tania Rochelle** (*Karaoke Funeral*) at 7 p.m. The store is located at 5555 Whittlesey Blvd. Suite 1800.

The Georgia Institute of Technology wraps up its second season of **Poetry At Tech** on Thursday, April 1 as **Thomas Lux** presents an evening with former U.S. Poet Laureate **Billy Collins** in the LeCraw Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. This event is also FREE. For more information check out the website at www.iac.gatech.edu/poetry.html or call (404) 385-2760.

Dustin Brookshire had one of his poems selected for a chapbook from the Alabama State Poetry Society. The book, *Love Poems*, will be published this year by New Dawn Unlimited. Brookshire's poem, "Under the Moon," received an honorable mention.

Emery Campbell has won the sole prize of \$50 in the 2004 Grace Schley Knight Memorial Award contest sponsored by the Poetry Society of Georgia (not to be confused with the Georgia Poetry Society). Campbell also won a second prize, honorable mention and citation in the Pennsylvania Poetry Society's 2004 poetry contest. He also served as judge for one of the other categories of the same contest. Campbell's poem "How To Beat a Cheetah" was awarded third prize in Amy Kitchener's Angels Without Wings Foundation's 2nd annual "My Favorite Poems" contest, in the category "poems by a man." And last but not least, Campbell won two first prizes, three second honorable mentions, and two citations in the fourth quarter 2003 Jessee Poet "Poets at Work" contest. All these wins should move Campbell into a new tax bracket.

Gelia Dolcimascolo's poem, "Solo," was selected for *Golden Poetry: A Celebration of Southern Poets 50 and Older, Vol.2*, to be published in 2004 by the CAREing Center at Kennesaw State University. Her poetry also appeared in *The Art of Music, Vol.2* (Piano Press). She facilitates Georgia Perimeter College's The Writers' Circle, which was featured in an article about writers' groups in Points North (Jan. 2004).

GPS Vice-president **Collin Kelley** read with acclaimed poet Cecilia Woloch in Los Angeles at the Ugly Mug in February and also for the prestigious Redondo Poets. Kelley also read with Woloch and poet John Amen at Malaprop's Book Store in Asheville, NC in March. In April, Kelley and GPS member **Cleo Creech** will both read at the Austin Texas International Poetry Festival. Kelley has a full schedule of events to continue promotion of his Georgia Author of the Year nominated debut collection of poetry, *Better To Travel*. Visit www.collinkelley.com for details.

The Golden Anniversary issue of the Society for Technical Communication's journal has saluted GPS member **Robert Hays** for one of the 13 most significant articles on technical communication in the last 50 years. With its citation *Technical Communication*, an international quarterly, reprinted Bob's "A Rapid Debugging Technique," first published in 1979.

Jeanne Osborne Shaw read her poetry at Sounds of the Season concerts for both Christmas and Valentine's Day at Druid Hills Baptist Church. She is also writing little historical stories for *The Builder* newsletter of the church, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

MORE MEMBER NEWS AND NOTES ON PAGE 10.

STILL HERE by Lynn Robbins

(First place winner of the 2004 Annette Rumph Peery Memorial Award)

The pine would've gone unnoticed
but for the magnificent hawk
that landed there, the sturdy branch
bowing beneath his weight,
his broad tail fanned,
white wings wide-spread.
He stretched, preened, surveyed
for a minute or two before he flew
and was gone – but not,
branch still bouncing,
my eyes still seeing him there,
even now, weeks later, though the pine
sits still and seemingly empty.

It's the same with my sister,
her image burned deep from 21 years
growing up together, side by side, so that
long after she'd flown from this life,
the branch where she had perched
still shook. Even after thirty years,
and though the tree is indeed empty,
I still see her, feel her,
in all the places she ever landed,
on all the ordinary mornings
when together we played
doctor, or dolls, or beauty parlor,
thinking we would live forever.
And though not as I'd dreamed,
we have, we will.
She's still here.

Second Place Winner: The Stump by Larry Hand

Third Place Winner: Legacy by Clela Dyess Reed

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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We're on the Web!

Just Type In

Georgia Poetry Society

In Your Search Engine.

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWS
170 Boulevard SE
Apt. B-406
Atlanta, GA 30312

Contest Winners

The winners of the 2004 Annette Rumph Peery Memorial Award are:

First Place: Lynn Robbins, Alexandria, KY. "Still Here"

Second Place: Larry Hand, Alpharetta, GA. "The Stump"

Third Place: Clela Dyess

Reed, Athens, GA. "Legacy"

The winners of the 2003 Edward Davin Vickers Contest are:

First Place: Melissa L. Waller, Cloy, GA. "The Old House"

Second Place: Edward Spero Thompson, Ontario,

Canada. "Atlanta In The Night"

Third Place: Kym Gordon Moore, Charlotte, NC. "Soul Within"

GPS thanks judges Pearlean Hughes and Frank Sherwood for judging these contests.

More Member News

GPS welcomes it's new members: **Don E. Miller, JoAnn Moffitt, Lisa Allender, Ashley Powell, C. Brandon Brewer, Robert "Deuce" Douglass, Lucinda Clark, Milton Graves III and Ann Frazer Verner.** Thanks for joining us!

* * *

Pen & Pica Writers President **Herbert Denmark** has announced the "Let Freedom Ring Poetry Contest." There will be cash prizes and publication in Parnassus Literary Journal. The form is poet's choice, but the

theme must be on American principles and freedoms. Poems must be original and the author's own work. One poem per page. No offensive language or obscenities. Send two copies of each poem with name of contest in the upper left corner of both copies. On one copy only, place your name and address under the contest name. No disks or tapes allowed.. The entry fee is \$2 per poem (checks made payable to Pen & Pica. No cash!). The deadline is July 1, 2004 and winners

will be notified by Aug. 1. Winning poems will be published one time and all other rights remain with author. No poems will be returned, but will be destroyed. Send SASE for list of winners. Send entries to:

Let Freedom Ring Contest Chair
P.O. Box 371123
Decatur, GA 30037-1123

Pen & Pica meets the third Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 5241 Ash St., Forest Park, GA.

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