

# Georgia Poetry News

Summer 2004



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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 Sept. 1, 2004.

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Published Quarterly by the Georgia Poetry Society, established 1979  
[www.georgiapoetrysociety.com](http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.com)

## GPS Meeting July 24; New Board Sworn In

The resignation of President Rosemary Mauldin triggered a vote by the GPS membership for a new board. Those new officers will be sworn in during the next quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, July 24 at the Fayette County Public Library in Fayette County, GA. The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the library's Dorothea Redwine Meeting Room. Box lunches will be available from the Atlanta Bread Company. See Page 3 for more details on the meeting.

**The nominees:** Steven Shields, President; Collin Kelley, Vice-President; Lisa Allender, Secretary; and Ira Harrison, Treasurer. Board Members: Cleo Creech, Bob Lynn, Terry Hensel and John Ottley. Advisors At Large: Dorothy Worth and Emily Barnett.

## New *Reach of Song* Anthology Available in July

The much-delayed GPS anthology *Reach of Song* will finally be available in July. This edition contains contest winners and member submissions from 2002 and will be available for \$10. Because of the delay in this edition, the GPS board will discuss combining the 2003 and 2004 poems and releasing another edition by Spring 2005. GPS would like to thank member Cleo Creech for taking over the editing of the *Reach of Song* and guiding it through publication. Creech has agreed to work on the next edition as well to help bring the anthology back on course.

## GPS Open Mic Anniversary in September

The GPS Open Mic at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech will celebrate its one year anniversary with a "GPS All-Stars Reading" on Friday, Sept. 3. The evening will feature GPS poets selected by host Collin Kelley as well as an open mic. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m., with sign up for the open mic at 7 p.m. Check the website for more details and look for an email from Collin about being a featured reader at the September event. In October, the GPS Open Mic will welcome California-based poet Sholeh Wolope, who's book *The Scar Saloon* will be published that month. Wolope, who is of Persian descent, has been published in dozens of literary journals and hosts her own reading series on the West Coast.

Visit [www.georgiapoetrysociety.com](http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.com) for more details.

**President's Farewell Message from Rosemary Mauldin**

In stepping down as president, let me begin by again thanking all of you who worked so diligently to carry forward the goals and dreams that our founding poets must have envisioned for this society.

I would like to say that things went smoothly, but they did not. That is okay. As I told the members of the board, I love a challenge, and it truly was a challenge. I have no regrets. Going into this office I knew that the changes I proposed would meet opposition, and I was right. However, GPS is now a much stronger, visible and respectable organization. Change is not easy, especially for those who have become complacent with the status quo. GPS is on the cusp of reaching its true potential. We are reaching out to embrace all types of poets and poetry. We have co-hosted a slam and we have a diverse array of talented performers at our monthly open mic at Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech. Unfortunately, many of our members have not attended this exciting event. That is their misfortune.

I would like to quote someone who influenced my life greatly. His name was Hugh B. Brown and the book that I have referred to year after year by him is called "Vision and Valor." Brown often used the words of the poets to make a point. Because he said it better than I ever could, I will use his words: "The truly educated and knowledgeable man is receptive to new ideas, is free from prejudice and has the ability to distinguish between appearance and reality."

In the same vein, Emerson wrote: "It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who in the midst of a crowd keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude."

The poet Dunbar reminds us: "There are no beaten paths to glorious heights. There are no rules to compass greatness known. Each for himself must cleave a path alone and press his own way forward in the fight."

I truly believe that as we throw the weight of our influence on the side of the true, worthy and beautiful things, our lives will achieve an endless splendor. It will continue in the lives of others, higher, finer, and nobler than you can ever contemplate, especially our youth. I have been so proud of the work that is being done to let the youth express themselves. I think all the members have a desire to pass the flame to the next generation. That is what is expected of us, what our great poets wanted. I expect to hear really good things about the members in days to come.

My sincerest thanks to all of you for honoring me as president

Rosemary Mauldin, June 2004

Saturday, July 24, 2004 \* Fayette County Public Library

Dorothea Redwine Meeting Room \* 10:30 a.m.

- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. - Welcome and Farewell Address by President Rosemary Mauldin
- 10:45 - 11:15 a.m. - Member Readings
- 11:15 – 11:25 a.m. - Book Review by Emily Barnett
- 11:25 – 11:30 a.m. – Jean Mahavier, Poetry In the Schools update
- 11:30 – 12:15 p.m. - Robert Lynn discusses the book “A College President Backs Into Verse”
- 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. - Lunch from Atlanta Bread Company
- 1:15 – 1:25 p.m. - Introduction and Swearing In of New Officers
- 1:25 – 1:45 p.m. - Address by new President
- 1:45 – 2:00 p.m. - Break
- 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. - Poetry writing workshop with Collin Kelley
- 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. – Contest Results, Announcements, Adjournment
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. - Board Meeting

**DIRECTIONS:** From downtown Atlanta, take I-75 south past the airport to the Riverdale exit. This exit becomes State Highway 85. Take Highway 85 through Riverdale into downtown Fayetteville. Pass the courthouse square and look for the Fayette County Administration Building on the right. There is a fountain in front (a log cabin and fire station are across the street). Just past the administration building is Heritage Way. Turn right. Take Heritage Way until it dead ends. You'll see the library on the right. GPS signs will be posted.

**LUNCH:** Boxed lunches will be provided by the Atlanta Bread Company. If you would like a box lunch, please call Emily Vail at (770) 961- 5653 to make your reservation by July 21.

### **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.

### **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.

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, and postmark deadlines. Poems that do not adhere to specific contest guidelines **WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**.
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.

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!**

# Georgia Poetry Society New Membership Application

New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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

2004 Byron Herbert Reece Contest Winners

First Place:

***Seeming To Fall*** by Lynn Robbins (Alexandria, KY)

After a lifetime clinging to the branch,  
rubbing elbows with wind and blue sky,  
the tree's leaves at last loosen their grip and  
let go, falling to earth in October, November,  
the ground soon gold with their bodies.

But I can tell you it's not as simple as falling.  
I've been watching this maple for days  
and a thousand leaves have left the branch,  
though not one of them has simply fallen.  
In truth, they spiral, swirl, twirl, flutter, spin.  
They tumble, wiggle, wriggle and rock  
back and forth and back like a swing, while  
some defy gravity and momentarily rise,  
others dodging branches as deftly as the wren,  
though in the end all settle to the ground  
and for the first lie soft upon the grass.

And yet, while swirling and twirling downward,  
some, at about five feet off the ground, suddenly  
veer severely, sailing ten/twenty feet to the side,  
as though willfully pointing, choosing, saying:

*There. There. That's the place for me.*

And this happens inexplicably, unrelated  
to wind - like most of life's veerings, like  
my own spiraling path to the page,  
after all those years clinging to silence  
and all those years seeming to fall.

**SECOND PLACE:** *White-Throated Sparrow* by B.R. Culbertson (Blacksburg, VA)

**THIRD PLACE:** *Dear Jean* by Mark W. Maguire (Smyrna, GA)

**FOURTH PLACE:** *All my illusions* by Catherine Moran (Little Rock, AR)

**HONORABLE MENTION:** *Woodlawn* by Janet Lombard (Athens, GA)

## GPS OFFICERS

### President

Rosemary Mauldin

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### Vice-President

Collin Kelley

*collinkelley@hotmail.com*

### Secretary

Mary Frances

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### Treasurer

Ira Harrison

*iharriso@utk.edu*

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## Youth Contest Winners

### WINNERS OF THE MARGERY CARLSON MEMORIAL YOUTH CONTEST

#### Students In Grades 1-5

**First Place:** "My Lutin and I" by Cody Cornelius, Russell Elementary, Warner Robins;

**Second Place:** Untitled by Claessa Wilcox, Double Churches Elementary, Columbus;

**Third Place:** "Katie" by Stephanie Colwell, Hubbard Primary, Forsyth.

### WINNERS OF THE MAREL BROWN MEMORIAL YOUTH CONTEST

#### Students In Grades 6-8

**First Place:** "Scotland's Final Hour" by Davis Lacey, Gilmer Middle School, Ellijay;

**Second Place:** "Memories of the Past" by Whitney Burnette, Gilmer Middle School;

**Third Place:** "Life" by Sarah Guilbeau, Otwell Middle School, Cumming.

#### Students In Grades 9-12

**First Place:** "Emily" by Catherine Killingsworth, Chamblee High School, Chamblee;

**Second Place:** "Thoroughly Modern Poetry" by Wei Ho, Chamblee High School;

**Third Place:** "Memory of an Unknown Lake" by Tiffanie Patrice Jones, Chamblee Charter High.

Thanks to contest coordinator Karen Shelnett and judges, John Bush, Debbie Scamihorn and Eileen Doherty.

## Member News

GPS welcomes new members **Marissa McNamara, Lynn Pederson and Jacinta V. White.** Welcome aboard!

GPS member **Angie Burns**, who created the Live Poets Society club at Christ Church Frederica on St. Simons Island, said the group has published its first anthology, *Imagination's Flight*. The book sells for \$15 plus \$2 for shipping. It has 130 pages that include

pictures of Christ Church and the cemetery. Books can be ordered directly from Burns by writing to 167 Burns Landing, St. Simons Island, Ga., 31522.

**Herbert Denmark, Jeanne Osborne Shaw, Beverly Denmark and Janice Denmark** served as judges for the Georgia River of Words Poetry Contest. River of Words is an international Art and Poetry project with

the theme of watersheds. .

**Jean Mahavier** gave a short talk about my poetry and creative writing classes at a teaching conference in Austin, TX in March to an audience of nearly 300 university faculty members.

**Emery Campbell** won first prize with his poem "My Life and Hard Times" in the 2004 contest series of the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

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