

Georgia Poetry News

2005 POETRY CONTEST INFO

The GPS Board is currently evaluating the contest schedule for 2005. Details will be announced after the Oct. 23 executive meeting on the status of contests for the upcoming year.

2004 DEADLINES:

Katherine Ward
Contest: Oct. 15

Thelma Ruth Hall
Contest: Nov. 15

Reach of Song now available

Copies of the GPS anthology *Reach of Song* will be available for sale at the October meeting. This edition contains contest winners and member submissions from 2001-02 and costs \$15. Mail orders are available by sending \$15, plus \$2.50 for shipping to:

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GPS Quarterly Meeting, October 23

The next Georgia Poetry Society Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 23 at The Portfolio Center in Buckhead. Our special guests will be Georgia Author the Year Award winner for Poetry, **Cecilia Woloch** (*Sacrifice, Tsigan, Late*) and a special workshop by 2003 Violet Reed Haas Poetry Prize winner, **Tania Rochelle** (*Karaoke Funeral*). Directions and a schedule are inside this edition of the newsletter. Please join us for this exciting day of poetry.

Member News & Contest Winners

The winner of the 2004 Mikki Griffis Morris Poetry Competition is **Clarence P. Sowell**, of Ogden, Utah. Winners of the Countee Cullen Contest were **Catherine Moran**, First Place; **Larry Hand**, Second Place; and **Ninette Freed**, Third Place. Visit www.georgiapoetrysociety.com to read the winning poems and see more contest results.

Welcome to our new members: **Robert J. Myers**, **A.P. Mendenhall**, **Anthony F. Gulotta**, **Charlene M. Ashendorf**, **Lisa Richardson**, **Tracy Ganger Ray**, **Tom & Shannon LaPorte**, and **Clyde Washington**.

GPS Open Mic Welcomes Maureen Seaton

The GPS Open Mic at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech continues in November with featured poets **Amy Pence** and **Jennifer Wheelock**. The date is Friday, Nov. 5 at 7:30 p.m. (sign up for open mic begins at 7 p.m.).

On Friday, Dec. 3, host **Collin Kelley** will welcome award-winning poet **Maureen Seaton**, who will read from and sign her new collection, *Venus Examines Her Breast* (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2004). Maureen's books of poetry include *Furious Cooking* (University of Iowa, 1996), winner of the Iowa Prize for poetry and the Lambda Book Award; *The Sea among the Cupboards* (New Rivers Press, 1992), winner of the Capricorn Award and The Society of Midland Authors Award; and *Fear of Subways* (Eighth Mountain, 1991), winner of the Eighth Mountain Prize. She has also collaborated with poet Denise Duhamel on the collection *Exquisite Politics* (Tia Chucha Press, 1997). She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, an Illinois Arts Council (IAC) grant, three IAC Literary Awards, two Pushcart Prizes, and the McAfee Discovery Award from *Missouri Review*.

President's Message from Steven Shields



First, a word of thanks to those of you who cast your votes for the Board and Executive Group who were inducted at the July meeting. We are honored by your support and look forward to a productive year of good poetry and support for those who produce it.

I wanted to take a moment to recap some of my remarks from my inaugural address for those unable to attend the July meeting. I laid out four goals:

1. After 25 years, it is time for some re-evaluation and realignment of GPS activities. It's important to the Board and me to ensure that whatever changes are made truly reflect members' desires. This can be accomplished through a brief survey to determine whether our GPS activities are effectively using the funds available to us.

2. I believe very strongly in our youth education programs and seek to strengthen them. I'm especially interested in youth who attend colleges and universities. I was a professor for some 20 years "up north" before coming to my senses, moving south of the Mason-Dixon line and becoming a poet (whatever *had* I been thinking??), so I have a special affinity for this group.

3. I am intent on increasing the level of volunteer activity within GPS. The sudden passing of Katherine Ward and the subsequent floundering we all have endured over *The Reach of Song* should be a potent wake-up call: We do not have good succession planning for any of our offices. The problem is one of recruitment: Too few people are doing too much of GPS's work. With a membership of close to 200, we ought to be widening the volunteer circle in some significant ways.

4. As an organization, we need to continue our elevation within the local, state and national poetry communities. Given that much poetry is connected with the academic culture, where prestige is a major determinant of respect, we need to move toward higher quality and greater visibility with our offerings.

Work toward these goals already has begun. By the time you read this, the survey should have been completed and mailed. It's my hope to have some preliminary results to share with you at the October meeting. I am deferring goal two until we have those data. Goal four is under discussion as the Board wrestles with the costs associated with *The Reach of Song*. Let me devote the rest of this space to goal three.

Continued on back page

Saturday, October 23, 2004 * The Portfolio Center, Buckhead

10:00 - 10:30 A.M - Coffee and pastries

10:30 - 10:45 A.M. - Welcome and Updates, President Steven Shields

10:45 - 11:00 A.M. - Member readings

11:00 - 11:30 A.M. - Featured Poet Cecilia Woloch

11:30 - 11:45 A.M. - Contest results, announcements for 2005

11:45 A.M. - 1:00 P.M - Lunch on your own (Mick's and other restaurants are nearby)

1:00 - 2:00 P.M. - Workshop with Tania Rochelle

2:00 - 2:15 P.M. - Break

2:15 - 2:30 P.M - Updates from committees

2:30 P.M. - Closing thoughts from President Steven Shields, Adjournment.

2:30 - 4:00 P.M - Board Meeting

DIRECTIONS TO PORTFOLIO CENTER

Heading north on I-75/85

Take the 10th Street/14th Street exit. Turn right on 10th Street. Go two blocks and turn left on West Peachtree Street. Stay in the far right lane to merge with Peachtree Street. Travel north on Peachtree Street until you pass Piedmont Hospital on the left. Stay in the left lane. At the bottom of the hill, you will see a traffic light and Mick's Restaurant on the left. Make a left at this light, onto Bennett Street. Portfolio Center is the last building on the right.

Heading south on I-75

Take the Howell Mill/Northside Drive exit, then take the Northside Drive ramp. Make a left at the top of the ramp. Go approximately three blocks and turn right on Collier Road. At the intersection of Collier Road and Peachtree Road, make a left onto Peachtree. Stay in the left lane. You will pass Piedmont Hospital on the left. At the bottom of the hill, you will see a traffic light and Mick's Restaurant on the left. Make a left at this light, onto Bennett Street. Portfolio Center is the last building on the right.

Heading south on I-85

Take the Ga. 13 freeway exit, immediately after the Cheshire Bridge/Lenox exit. Continue past the Monroe Drive exit and the ramp to return to I-85. Where the freeway separates into two routes, you will see two signs, one labeled Spring Street and the other U.S. 19/Buckhead. Take the Buckhead exit, go to the end of the ramp and turn right onto Peachtree Street. Travel north on Peachtree until you pass Piedmont Hospital on the left. Stay in the left lane. At the bottom of the hill, you will see a traffic light and Mick's Restaurant on the left. Make a left at this light, onto Bennett Street. Portfolio Center is the last building on the right.

From I-20 east or west, take I-75/85 north and follow the directions above.

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We're on the Web!

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**Georgia Poetry
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New President's Message (continued)

For what it's worth, I'm on a diet at the moment. Yet I found myself, a "sinkie" this morning, inhaling four donuts. If you've ever done something like this yourself, you may recall the simultaneous thrill of breaking the rules mixed with the self-loathing that almost immediately follows. *Why did I do that?* I asked myself. And the answer was something did it I found pertinent to the goal of greater volunteerism: I because I had forgotten to live in a universe of abundance.

The heart of any organization is its people, and nowhere is this more true than in nonprofit volunteer organizations. People who participate in such organizations almost always hear the call for greater participation, yet ignore it. It occurred to me this morning in the

aftermath of my sugar attack that their reasoning was almost always based on the same scarcity principle that led me to the sink: I didn't feel I had "enough" of something, which wasn't really true after I thought about it for a moment. "I'm too busy" is, to be polite, one such scarcity fiction. You choose to be busy with what you are busy, I've found. "I'm too old" is another canard. We need your wisdom, your experience. "I don't have (fill in the blank)" is more scarcity talking to you. "I live too far away from y'all" is only true if you happen to live where the U.S. mail, telephones or email fail to travel; a cave, perhaps.

Let me encourage you to consider the issue of abundance and scarcity and make the choice for abundance. The interesting

thing about that choice, much as is true with the decision to tithe, is that the more you give away, the more you receive. That seems counter-intuitive, but as poets you no doubt can appreciate its truth. Please help GPS by volunteering. We have several needs, mostly to begin populating the many committees which provide essential guidance for GPS and to begin building a pipeline for movement upward into the ranks. Please email me at PresidentGPS@comcast.net for specifics or see our excellent website. Don't have email or access to the website? Another piece of scarcity thinking I would gently challenge you to consider undoing as we all move forward into the 21st century.

I look forward to seeing you in October. *Sans* donut.

Steve

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