

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Volume 28 Number 1

DR. TONY MORRIS AND DR. LYNN VEACH SADLER, AWARD-WINNING POETS TO SPEAK AT 109TH QUARTERLY MEETING



Dr. Lynn Veach Sadler

We're pleased to announce that the winner of our 2005 chapbook competition is Lynn Veach Sadler. She and judge George DeMan will present work from it in the April meeting.

Formerly a college president in Vermont, she distinguished herself in academia by earning the Extraordinary Undergraduate Teaching Award and the Distinguished Women of North Carolina Award for Education.

Her academic publications include five books and over sixty articles. She has since turned her attention to creative writing and is widely published in poetry and fiction.. Her full-length poetry collection, *Like a Dragon's Mouth*, is forthcoming from RockWay Press. One of her stories was published in Del Sol Press's Best of 2004: *The Robert Olen Butler Prize Anthology*. *Not Your Average Poet* was a 2005 Silver Medalist in the University of Tampa's *Pinter Review Prize for Drama*.

She writes both free and traditional verse. Though the latter is generally out of wide favor, she likes the challenge, finding it harder to write good formal verse than good free verse.

Dr. Sadler earned a BA from Duke University and an MA and PhD from the University of Illinois.



Dr. Tony Morris

We look forward to Workshop Presenter, Dr. Tony Morris, poet, essayist, editor, reviewer. Dr. Morris's first book of poems, *Fugue's End* won the 2004 Mary Belle Campbell Poetry Book Award, published by Birch Brook Press in September, 2004. His most recent book of poems, *Back to Cain*, was published by The Olive Press in October, 2005.

Morris's work has been published in over fifty national journals, including: *Spoon River Review*, *Hawaii Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *River Styx*, *Meridian*, *The Sewanee Theological Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *Potomac Review*, *Nimrod*, and many others.

Dr. Morris earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University in 2000, and currently works at Armstrong-Atlantic State University, in Savannah, GA where he teaches creative non-fiction and journalism courses, and works as the managing editor of *Southern Poetry Review*.

Since the 109th Quarterly meeting is a combined meeting with the Poetry Society of Georgia, we will be able to meet other Georgia poets.

Please Join Us
for the
**109TH
QUARTERLY
MEETING**

Saturday,
April 22, 2006

Los Robles Gallery

101 East 34th
and Drayton Streets
Savannah, Georgia

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THE PREZ SEZ...

As most of you know, my term as President is coming to an end. After our April meeting in Savannah, the election of new officers takes place. Those elected take over in July.

It seems impossible that my two-year term in office is nearly over—*there's still so much to do*, I think. But it's time for fresh legs and fresh thinking. I'm also looking forward to returning to the full-time composition of my own poems.

I am concluding my term savoring a delicious irony about GPS. While the Society has seemingly gained much from me during my time with you, truly it is I who have gained from you.

What I mean is this: If you want proof positive that the Almighty has a sense of humor, you would have to understand what a dramatic shift occurred during my presidency in my thinking about "service."

As a struggling young college professor, my annual performance was



Steven Shields

evaluated on teaching, research and service. I was always rated "excellent" on those first two.

But when it came to service work—committees, time spent working with professional associations, student advising and mentoring—my perspective wasn't just "no," but "hell, no." I thought if there was a bigger waste of time in the world than committee work, I couldn't imagine what it could possibly be.

True to form, as I began my presidency, I began it with every intention of delegating most of the "real" work to "somebody else." For, you see, I hadn't asked to be President at all. Instead, I had been persuaded that I was that "right guy at the right time at the right place." It was my ego that said "yes."

The only problem was that I soon found out that there wasn't "somebody else" or, if there was, "somebody else" would soon vanish for one reason or another and leave me responsible for yet another task on an ever-expanding list of things I found myself doing for GPS.

At one point I was not only your President, but also acting Vice President for program planning and the website, membership chair, newsletter editor, contest coordinator, acting editor of *The Reach of Song*, the guy who picked up and distributed mail, and the

guy who made that miserable coffee at the quarterly meetings.

Here's the kicker: It would be easy to lament this on any of several fronts, to grouse about the unwillingness of others to help GPS.

Instead, I gradually came to see this state of affairs as a personal lesson of sorts, a challenge to a selfish grasp of my own time and energy. And as I did, I discovered something valuable: Call it "the joy of service."

It's a counter-intuitive thing: Like people who never save a dime because they put savings last after all their bills are paid, they eventually have to learn, counter-intuitively, to pay themselves first. When they learn to do that, *that's* when they become wealthy, regardless of what the bank-book says yet

How that translates to GPS is like this: Some members think their priorities should exclusively lie in constructing their own poems, and that the business of running GPS is best left to "somebody else."

But were they to become more involved in service, they might be surprised to discover their poems improving!

How? Well, maybe their focus would broaden, their poems seem less alienated, less self-preoccupied. Maybe they'd be lucky, as I was, to meet wonderful poets whose insights into their work came at a critical

STEVEN SHIELDS

juncture in the development of their verse.

But this sounds suspiciously like a quid pro quo, doesn't it? *If you do this, you'll get that.* That's not what I'm saying.

What I'm saying is that you have to go into the act of service expecting nothing, with empty hands. And that, seemingly, is what makes people resist doing it. It was what I was afraid I was going to have at the end: A lot of time spent on everyone else's poems when my own were being neglected (and this in the year when my debut book appeared).

But when your expectations melt to zero, that's when the counter-intuitive thing actually happens. That's when the benefits emerge. If you go into service expecting something, you get nothing. Service, then, has to be selfless. I discovered, to my amazement, that when it was, it was amply rewarded.

And as the lesson unfolded, as if by magic, volunteers emerged to relieve me of all these extra positions.

Here's hoping you too discover the joys of serving GPS. Had I found it sooner, I would have been a better professor. But I am truly the better poet for it now.

See y'all in Savannah!

GPS: KEEPING POETRY ALIVE FOR STUDENTS

We have had some wonderful visits to schools this year and have others in the planning stage: Two area middle schools have asked for poets to talk to students at their annual Career Day this Spring, an activity we have done for a couple of years now. Hasty Elementary School in Cherokee County is scheduling poets to work with students in May after their testing is done for the year, Columbia High School in DeKalb County has requested a second visit in mid-April. I have my hopes up for hearing from other schools once teachers find time for visitors after testing is over.

Last Fall six poets spent a full day at Columbia, one of our "regulars" where we go year after year. Another is Cliff Valley

School, a private elementary school where we have an annual Poetry Week (pix on the website): four mornings working with students in the classroom followed by the Friday all-school assembly where students read their poems. Menlo, another school we regularly visit, is a combination elementary-middle school in Chatooga County. They always invite poets for an entire day, and two poets worked with at least 10 classes in October. Later in the year Noonday Christian School in Marietta had two poets for a morning and three poets went to Atlanta Academy in Sandy Springs (more pix).

So despite testing schedules, we are active. I want to thank Elizabeth Allan,

Anne Bucky, Thomas Haynes, Will Kenyon, and Marian McDonald for joining me in working with students.

The following ended a thank-you letter to GPS:

"I am grateful to the Georgia Poetry Society for maintaining a program that brings poets to schools and keeps poetry alive for students.

Sincerely,

Michael Edwards, Director of Elementary Learning, Cliff Valley School"

Yup, that's what we do, and we love it!

Jean Mahavier, Chair
jmaha@bellsouth.net

MONTHLY OPEN MIC READINGS AT TALL TALES BOOKSTORE

For the last few months the GPS has been sponsoring a monthly evening of poetry at the Tall Tales Bookstore next door to the Kroger supermarket in the Toco Hills shopping center near the intersection of La Vista and North Druid Hills Roads in Atlanta with the kind permission of Ms. Marlene Zeiler, the shop's owner. It takes place on the third Friday of every month and is hosted by Emery Campbell. It is free and open to the public. Reminders are posted on the GPS website at www.georgiapoetrysociety.org and on www.poetryatlanta.com, both of which are regularly updated.

As a one time only exception, the April open mic will be on the fourth Friday, April 28th, instead of the usual third Friday, because the latter is so close to the date of the Savannah quarterly meeting on the 22nd. The featured reader on the 28th will be Terry Hensel. Open mic Signup begins at 7 p.m. Readings start at 7:30 p.m. with the open mic portion of the event. Readers are asked to read about two poems—or five minutes' worth in principle—but longer pieces may be OK depending on how many people sign up. Next on the program is a featured reader who presents 20-30 minutes of his or her own work

Readers who have books of their poetry to sell may bring them to the store. Payment is made to the shop's cashier, and the book store gets 40 percent of the selling price. Ms. Zeiler might agree to take books for sale on consignment; this would have to be discussed with her. Featured readers at recent sessions have included Steven Shields who read from his book *Daimonian Sonata*; Emery Campbell who read from his book *This Gardener's Impossible Dream*; Jenny Sadre-Orafai; John Ottley, a past GPS president; and Lee Passarella, a senior editor of the acclaimed journal *Atlanta Review*. The featured poet for the March 17, 2006, event was Herbert Demark, one of the founding members of GPS and a past president of the society.

Members of the GPS are especially urged to participate. Attendance at some of the sessions has been disappointingly low. *Let's all turn out to support this worthy initiative.*

**THE 109TH QUARTERLY MEETING
OF THE GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY**

**A combined Meeting of the *GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY* and
the *POETRY SOCIETY OF GEORGIA***

will be held

Saturday, April 22, 2006

at

Los Robles Gallery

101 East 34th and Drayton Streets

Savannah, Georgia

- 09:30 — 10:00 Registration, coffee, pastries, and sign up for member readings
- 10:00 — 10:05 Welcome by GPS and PSG Presidents
- 10:05 — 10:45 Combined member readings
- 10:45 — 11:00 BREAK
- 11:00 — 11:30 FEATURED PRESENTATION: Poetry Society of Georgia Chapbook Series
- 11:30 — 11:45 Reception for PSG chapbook presenter
- Lunch* 11:45 — 01:00 PM
- 01:00 — 01:15 Announcements
- 01:15 — 02:00 FEATURED PRESENTATION: Georgia Poetry Society Chapbook Series
- 02:00 — 02:15 Reception for GPS chapbook presenter
- 02:15 — 03:00 WORKSHOP: "The Revision of Poetry" by Tony Morris
- 03:00 — 03:15 Closing thoughts from Presidents
- 03:30 — 04:30 GPS Board Meeting



108TH QUARTERLY MEETING FEATURED

DR. JOHN STONE, JENNY SADRE-ORAFI AND KRISTINA SIMMS

First, my appreciation to those of you who braved the elements to attend the 108th Quarterly Meeting of the Georgia Poetry Society at Emory University. We had a group of about 40 in attendance, and I was pleased by the time of our late-afternoon session at the Manuscript and Rare Books Archive that we still had a hearty group of about 15 members. You may have noticed that our morning presenter, **Dr. John Stone**, was able to join us for our afternoon reading session and also accompanied us to our session at MARBL. Our thanks to him, to afternoon reader **Jenny Sadre-Orafai**, and to our workshop presenter **Tina Simms**. Special thanks to **Steve Ennis** of MARBL, whose excellent presentation gave us all a real eye-opener on the world of literary manuscript collecting (it was awe-inspiring for me to see William Carlos Williams and W.H. Auden's first self-published books, and to see what were probably millions of dollars worth of rare manuscripts lying before us). Many thanks also to **Jacque Aly** for making our arrangements, and to **Terry Hensel** for providing refreshments. All in all, we had a pretty terrific meeting! If you weren't able to make it, you missed a good one.

Steven Shields

* * * * *

DR. JOHN STONE

Dr. John Stone, born in Mississippi, is a graduate of Millsaps College in Jackson. He received his M.D. degree from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He trained in medicine and cardiology at the University of Rochester and Emory University in Atlanta. In 1969, Dr. Stone joined the Emory medical school faculty and is now Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) Emeritus.

Dr. Stone has published several collections of poetry, a collection of essays and edited an anthology of literature and medicine during a career in which he has taught both English literature and medicine at Emory and at Oxford University, England. He received the Governor's Award in the Humanities (1992) and was selected Best Clinical Professor at Emory three times. He often teaches for Emory College, including the British Summer Studies Program in Oxford, England (Creative Writing and Literature in Medicine). Dr. Stone has read and lectured at celebratory events at over 150 institutions in 39 states and given named lectures at Yale, Stanford, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Brown, and the Mayo Clinic. In April 2003 he received the Mastership designation (MACP) from the American College of Physicians. His work has received a Literature Award from the Mississippi

Letters twice. Miami University, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and Albany Medical College have each granted him an honorary degree.

Dr. Stone has written five books of poetry: *The Smell of Matches; In All This Rain; Renaming the Streets; Where Water Begins: New Poems and Prose*. In 2004, he published *Music From Apartment 8: New and Selected Poems*. Dr. Stone's book, *In the Country of Hearts: Journeys in the Art of Medicine* (1990, 1994) is a collection of essays about the human heart, both as a physiological organ and a metaphorical symbol of life and emotion.

Dr. Stone is co-editor of *On Doctoring: Stories, Poems and Essays, 3E* (Simon & Schuster), which is presented annually as a gift from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to students entering U.S. medical schools. Over the last 13 years, more than 200,000 copies have been distributed to American medical students.

* * * * *

JENNY SADRE-ORAFI

Jenny Sadre-Orafai, who has written for 17 years, writes both poetry and prose. Her first chapbook, *Weed Over Flower*, was published by Finishing Line Press in 2005. Her poetry has appeared in the following publications: *Wicked Alice, Poems Neiderngasse, SubtleTea, Lily, Verse Libre Quarterly, can we have our ball back?, Red River Review, Ink Pot, Churchyard, Plainsongs*, and others. Her prose has appeared in *Rock Salt Plum and Seal*.

Jenny has hosted numerous open mics across the country that includes a Barnes & Noble's Open Mic for four years. She enjoys competing in slams and has a 3-1 slam record. She has also recorded a spoken word album.

Jenny Sadre-Orafai lives and writes in Kennesaw, GA. She currently teaches English composition at Kennesaw State University by day. By night, she writes poems and pursues her MFA at Georgia State University.



MILEAGE EXPENSES

Institute of Arts and

President Steven Shields and The Board of Directors of the Georgia Poetry Society wish to remind members that mileage expenses are *not* reimbursed by the Society, and that no liability is incurred by

the Society for anyone traveling on behalf of GPS.

This includes travel to Board meetings, membership quarterly meetings, the Poets in the Schools program, attendance at monthly open mics and any other GPS activity.

Because GPS is a 501(c) non-profit "public charity," members with mileage expenses should instead claim them as an allowable deduction for charitable mileage on personal income tax forms.

ENTRIES FOR 2005 REACH OF SONG

One hundred and thirty-five poems were submitted by the February 15 deadline for the 2005 Reach of Song, which will be unveiled at the July 22 quarterly meeting of the Georgia Poetry Society.

The entries are now in the hands of Evaluators Beth Gylys of Georgia State University, Dr. Wilson Hall of Shorter College and Bob Lynn, new Reach of Song Editor.

"We thank the members of GPS for this remarkable response. By June 19, we hope to inform entrants concerning member selections," said Lynn.

In addition to the section member poems, The Reach of Song will also print winning poems in GPS-sponsored contests for 2005.

ROBERT LYNN AND HERBERT DENMARK HEAD UP NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The terms of several GPS officers end in July.

As you know, our usual method for officer selection is the use of a Nominating Committee and this year's Nominating Committee consisted of Robert Lynn and Herbert Denmark. Their charge was to locate the next President, Vice-President, Secretary, and three Board at Large. We thank them both for agreeing to serve on this important committee. The work of the Nominating Committee is complete, so please watch for the election ballot following the April meeting.

Reminder: Self-nominations will be entertained from the floor during the annual business meeting in April. Though we are all busy, please let us imagine beyond the daily bustle to make GPS a service priority.

GPS SEEKS HISTORIAN/ARCHIVIST AND WEBMASTER



Steven Shields has received numerous boxes of historic documents pertinent to GPS, which requires the assistance of a GPS Historian to order, consolidate, and properly archive.

Aside from a short narrative that once accompanied a grant re-

quest, to Steven's knowledge there exists no definitive history of GPS. If anyone were interested in helping GPS with this activity (especially charter members or any aspiring graduate thesis writers), please tell us..

GPS also needs someone who is willing to take on the challenge of running the GPS website. If you love working with

computers and would enjoy this type of "work", please email Steven. Details are on the website at: www.GeorgiaPoetrySociety.org.



110TH QUARTERLY MEETING

Plans are under way for the 110th Quarterly meeting to be held in Columbus, Georgia. The date is July 15 at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. "Poetry Under The Stars" will be the theme.

MEMBER NEWS

BOB LYNN

Bob took a first, two thirds and six honorable mentions at the annual awards banquet of the Poetry Society of Oklahoma on March 11 in Oklahoma City. Lynn, a native Oklahoman, won the Marg McAlester Awards for his poem, "Mesquite Christmas".

Lynn also had his poem, "Lazarus", accepted for publication in "Time of Singing".

EMERY CAMPBELL

The Southern Humorists organization announced in March that Emery won first prize in their limerick contest for his poem, "Lenore". The limerick has been posted on www.southernhumorists.com. His prize is a golf shirt; this is a mixed blessing as Mr. C. will now have to take costly golf

lessons so that he can wear the shirt in proper surroundings!

Emery announced that his poem, "Correspondents I" was published in Volume 5, Issue 1, 2005 of The Raintown Review, issued January 2006.

Emery has had a poem in his book, "This Gardener's Impossible Dream" nominated for the Pushcarts.

The Pushcart Prize—Best of the Small Presses series is the most respected literary project in the USA. The series began in 1976 and has continued publication every year since. See www.pushcart-prize.com. That's three Pushcart nominations in two years, folks, which is very good for any state poetry society to be able to claim. Good luck to Emery!

GPS Past President Rosemary Mauldin of Athens is still recuperating from a serious auto

accident in October. She was hit by a teen-age driver, was in ICU for two weeks, and has had extensive physical therapy and rehabilitation. She thanks GPS members for their expressions of concern and prayers. She hopes to get back to GPS meetings in April or July. Also she wants to be able to promote poetry in Athens area high schools. Rosemary may be reached at Rsmry-Mauldin@aol.com, 706-769-5755, or 1473 Aycock Road, Bishop, GA 30621-1146.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF EVELYN PENDLEY OF ROME (2 OCTOBER 2005)

LOOKING FOR NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE. PLEASE SEND MEMBER NEWS TO EDITOR, GPS NEWSLETTER.

POETRY CONTEST WEBSITES

- April Deadlines: <http://www.madpoetry.org/contests/april.html>
- May Deadlines: <http://www.madpoetry.org/contests/may.html>
- June Deadlines: <http://www.madpoetry.org/contests/june.html>
- July Deadlines: <http://www.madpoetry.org/contests/july.html>

COOL POETRY WEBSITES

For beginners or those less familiar with the many forms of poetry, see:

- Poetry from the Heart: <http://members.cox.net/berniehpoeetry/index.html>
- Poetry Forms and Terminology: <http://thewordshop.tripod.com/forms.html>
- Suzy's Sanctuary: <http://members.optushome.com.au/kazoom/poetry/villanelle.html>
- Preditors and Editors: <http://www.anotherealm.com/creditors/>

POETRY CONTEST

Larry Hand notes: Just a reminder to any Georgia Poet who enjoys a good "traditional" poetry contest, this "terza rima sonnet" idea seems pretty interesting. We still have three weeks to whip one up.

Poets' Forum Magazine's Robert Frost "Acquainted With the Night Award Form: Terza Rima sonnet. ("Acquainted With the Night" is a famous Robert Frost terza rima sonnet and the award is given to honor Robert Frost and also to point poets toward a reference poem.)

Deadline: April 15, 2006. \$2 per poem or 3/\$5. Check must be payable: Madelyn Eastlund.

- Must not have been published.
- Two copies. One to contain name and address of poet. Name of contest in upper left corner on both.
- \$30, \$20, \$10. SASE for report please!
- Top poem published in Summer issue of Poets' Forum Magazine (second may be published)
- To: "Terza Rima Sonnet". Attention; Debby Award poem will be published in Poets Forum Magazine. Send entries to Poets' Forum Magazine, Attention: Debby Box 640387, Beverly Hills, Florida, 34464.
- **Very important: Mark envelope Terza Rima Sonnet.**

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Georgia Poetry Society
PO Box 147,
Duluth, GA 30096

<http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/>

Georgia Poetry Society:
Serving Georgia's Poets Since
1979



GPS MEMBERSHIPS AND DUES

Membership renewals will be due on July 1, 2006 for the 2006-2007 year. Due currently run from July '06 through June '07

- \$30 annually for individual poets;
- \$40 for families.
- \$15 for students with current school photo ID.
- \$300 for Lifetime Memberships.

Until our online membership activation feature is ready, please mail check of money order with your name and contact information to the Georgia Poetry Society, PO Box 147, Duluth, GA 30096.

Thanks, and we look forward to having you join us.

**CONTEST:
NAME THAT NEWSLETTER!**

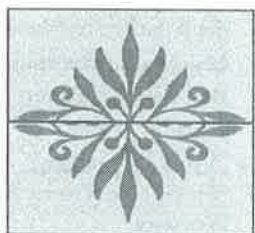
Submissions are being solicited from members of GPS to give the newsletter an official name title.

Please send your best ideas to Linda Ames, Editor, GPS Newsletter by email:

liam0439wulfdotter@knology.net

or snail mail:

4816 St Francis Avenue
Columbus GA 31904



Introducing New GPS Newsletter Editor

Hi! I am Linda Ames, I retired from the State of Georgia in June 2005 after more than 24



Linda Ames

years of employment at West Central GA Regional Hospital, one of the state's regional psychiatric hospitals. During those years, I worked as senior secretary, medical librarian, quality management associate and operations analyst.

Part of my job description during the last eight years at the hospital was to serve as the editor of the hospital's monthly newsletter, *Regional Reflections*.

Originally from South Dakota, I am a Yankee-turned-Southerner when the US Army transplanted our family in Georgia in 1957. South Dakota remains tucked deeply inside my heart, yet I am a true lover of the southern ways.

Since retiring, I volunteer with the Columbus Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness as Secretary, Director of Consumer Affairs, newsletter editor and webmaster (still trying to master the last item!).

When I am not otherwise involved, I enjoy photographing a variety of subjects and then editing my digital photos in Adobe Photoshop Elements and ArcSoft PhotoImpression, or reading and dabbling in some form of writing. Most of my experience in writing has been of a journalistic nature, so writing in other formats is new.

I look forward to providing the Georgia Poetry Society with a professional document each quarter. *Please feel free to comment or offer suggestions as you may see fit.*

Thanks! Linda
liam0439wulfdotter@knology.net