

# GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY: SERVING GEORGIA'S POETS SINCE 1979  
VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3: FALL 2006

## North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer To Speak as NC Poetry Society Joins Historic Sandburg Celebration

Members of the North Carolina Poetry Society have been invited to join the Georgia Poetry Society for the Celebration of Carl Sandburg's Poetry on October 21 in Flat Rock, NC, and North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer will present her poetry and speak on "Sandburg as Poet" at the historic event.

Connemara, the picturesque lakeside home and goat farm of Sandburg for the last 22 years of his life, will be the setting for a memorable program centering on the life and literary work that won Sandburg two Pulitzer Prizes, one for history and one for poetry.

The Saturday program--a great meeting for spouses, children and friends, as well--will feature a tour of the Sandburg home and the operating goat farm, Sandburg's poetry recited in the amphitheater by actor Christopher Lynn, a presentation by Poet Laureate Byer, and a picnic/member poetry reading on the rock where Sandburg was often inspired to write. Each member of the two state societies may read one poem on the rock where Sandburg wrote and worked. A special guest will be local historian Louise Bailey, age 91, who was Sandburg's typist in the late 1940s.

Byer, Georgia native, studied at Wesleyan College, Macon, and at UNC-Greensboro with Allen Tate, Robert Watson and Fred Chappell. Her first book of poems, **The Girl in the Midst of the Harvest**, appeared in 1986 in the Associated Writing Programs Award Series. **Wildwood Flower** (1992) won the Lamont Poetry Prize of the Academy

of American Poets. **Black Shawl**, her third, was selected for both the Roanoke-Chowan Award and the Brockman-Campbell Award. **Catching Light** (2002) was nominated for the L.A. Times Book Award in Poetry and won the SEBA Best Book of the Year in Poetry. She will read from her newest (2006) volume, **Coming to Rest**. Her work has appeared (or will appear) in **Georgia Review of Poetry**, **Carolina Quarterly**, **Atlantic Monthly**, **Cortland Review** and **Crab Orchard Review**. She lives in Cullowhee, NC with her husband and their four dogs.

Lynn recently moved with his family from New York City to Asheville. He has performed in Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera", TV's "One Life to Live", frequently at Flat Rock Playhouse, the state theatre of North Carolina, at PlayMakers Rep in Chapel Hill and the North Carolina Theatre in Raleigh.

Flat Rock is approximately three hours drive from downtown Atlanta and is 30 miles north of Greenville, SC. Members are urged to arrange car pools to this unique meeting. Because of the fall foliage season, overnight reservations are urgent for those wanting to stay over

Friday and/or Saturday in Flat Rock or nearby Hendersonville, N.C. Hendersonville/Flat Rock motels include: Highland Lake Inn, \$129 to \$249, 800-762-1376; Holiday Inn Express, \$107, 828-698-8899; Day's Inn, \$93, 828-697-5899; and Red Roof Inn, \$99, 828-697-1223. For a listing of 78 motels and B&Bs in the area, visit [www.historichendersonville.org](http://www.historichendersonville.org) or call 1-800-828-4244.

For more information contact Bob Lynn, 770-876-2904, [rllynn@adelphia.net](mailto:rllynn@adelphia.net) or Sandburg home: 1-828-693-4178; [www.nps.gov/carl](http://www.nps.gov/carl).

Box lunches (\$10 each) and guided tour tickets of home (\$5 each) should be reserved and paid by October 17 to VP Clela Reed, 185 Red Fox Run, Athens, GA 30605. Phone: 706-546-9554. [clelareed@gmail.com](mailto:clelareed@gmail.com).

### Inside this issue:

Agenda for 111 <sup>th</sup> Meeting; Message from President Ron Self	2
110 <sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting Review	3
Reach of Song; Poetry in the Schools; Member News	4
Recognizing our Georgia Poets	5
Contest Information	6
New Member Application	7
Contest Information, Con't	8

## GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY 111<sup>TH</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA

### Joint Meeting, Georgia and North Carolina Poetry Societies Connemara, Sandburg Home, Flat Rock, NC Saturday, October 21, 2006

- 9:15 A.M. Arrive at National Park Service parking lot; begin ¼ mile walk up hill to Sandburg Home (van available for those needing assistance)
- 9:30 A.M. Fellowship in Garage/Meeting Room, adjacent to Home for members of Georgia and North Carolina Poetry Societies
- 10:00 A.M. Welcome, Introductions—Ron Self, President, GPS and Pat Riviere-Seel, President, NCPS
- 10:10 A.M. Featured Poet: Kathryn Stripling Byer, Poet Laureate of North Carolina
- 10:35 A.M. “Sandburg as Poet”—a commentary by Poet Laureate Byer
- 11:05 A.M. Adjourn to NPS Amphitheater
- 11:15 A.M. Evening at Connemara: “Ever a Seeker---a Poet Finding Voice”, Christopher Lynn as Carl Sandburg; NPS Amphitheater—(or Garage in case of inclement weather)
- 12:00 Noon Box Lunch Picnic\* where Sandburg found inspiration (blankets provided) GPS and NCPS Member Poetry Readings (limit one poem per member)
- Meet Local Historian Louise Bailey, age 91, Sandburg’s typist in late 1940s
- (In case of inclement weather, performance will be in garage)*
- 1:00 P.M. Group I (max. 15) —Guided Home Tour\*\*/Videos/Bookstore; Goat Farm Visit (on your own)—
- Allow 1-1 ½ hours total
- 1:30 P.M. Group II Guided Home Tour/Videos/Bookstore/Goat Farm Visit (on your own)
- 2:00 P.M. Group III (if needed) Guided Home Tour/Videos/Bookstore/Goat Farm Visit (on your own)
- 3:00 P.M. GPS Board Meeting in the Garage/Meeting Room

\* **Box lunches (\$10 each)** and **Guided Home Tour Tickets (\$5 each)** should be reserved and paid by October 17 to Vice President Clela Reed, 185 Red Fox Run, Athens, GA 30605. You may contact her by telephone (706)-546-9554 or by e-mail, [clelareed@gmail.com](mailto:clelareed@gmail.com). Make checks payable to Georgia Poetry Society.

\*\* **Directions from downtown Atlanta:** Drive North on I-85 to Greenville, SC. At Greenville, turn left (North) on US Highway 25 (Whitehorse Road). Go about 30 miles. At the sign directing you to Flat Rock, turn left on Highway 225. About four miles later, just before entrance to Flat Rock Playhouse, turn left on Little River Road, one block to Sandburg entrance parking lot.

### A MESSAGE FROM RON SELF, PRESIDENT, GEORGIA POETRY SOCIETY

Three things, again, this time.

*First*, come to Connemara October 21st. Bob Lynn and Clela Reed have done an outstanding job putting together what will be an unforgettable quarterly meeting at Carl Sandburg’s North Carolina home. We’ll experience something of a place and lifestyle that inspired great poetry. We’ll see and hear a dramatic one-man show created especially for us, and we’ll each have a chance to read a poem of our own at the place where Sandburg drew inspiration as we enjoy a gourmet picnic lunch on what I know, or at least hope, will be a glorious autumn day in the mountains. See the meeting notice article in this newsletter or consult <http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org> for more details. (Check out the creative work of our webmaster, Freddie Riley.)

*Second*, do something more than just be a member of GPS. Let your voice be heard. Write a poem and enter one of the contests open for submissions right now. Contest Chairman Deuce Douglass has secured an impressive

panel of judges. Volunteer to be part of a GPS program, Poetry In the Schools, or the new traveling road show. Organize a local poetry group in your hometown or neighborhood. Get together with your fellow poets and workshop your poems. Talk to your local library or coffee shop about an open mic poetry night. Take a handful of your favorite poems and read them at a nursing home. Or, how about writing your own personal history of GPS, recollections of past members, past meetings, and send it to GPS for the archives. We might find room for some of your memories in the newsletter or on the website.

And, *third*, just like last time: Share Your Membership. To survive and thrive GPS must have a steady stream of new members. People come and, sadly, people go. As I write this, I have on my desk a copy of a GPS membership directory from 1983. Two hundred and fifty names are listed. Today we have barely half that number. We're working on new recruitment ideas, but the best recruitment tool has always been current members spreading the word, inviting friends and neighbors to join. We've made it easy for you to do just that this month. A new member application form is included in this newsletter. Cut it out, give it to a friend. Someone you know would enjoy being a member of GPS. They just need to be asked. Make it happen.

As always, let me know how we're doing. Send your thoughts, ideas, brickbats and roses to me at [smrws@aol.com](mailto:smrws@aol.com) or P. O. Box 2184 Columbus, GA 31902; or, call 706-221-4370. I'll even come to visit if you ask. Thanks for being a part of the Georgia Poetry Society.

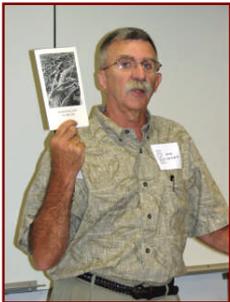


Ron

*P. S. Did anybody write a poem about Bob The Horse who pulled the carriage for our July meeting?*

## COLUMBUS HOSTS 110<sup>TH</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING

The 110<sup>th</sup> Georgia Poetry Society (GPS) meeting, held in Columbus in July, exceeded expectations. Over 50 members and guests attended and enjoyed members reading their poetry.



In addition to the member readings, Deuce Douglass (*at left*) presented his chapbook, **Marshmallow Staircase**. This is Deuce's first publication of his "personal favorites... written over the past 40 years". He is a retired career intelligence officer with the U.S. Army. He is also a Master Gardener. Active in the local writing community of Columbus, Deuce both creates and instructs.

Linda Ames presented the anthology, **A Community Speaks: Art, Poetry, and Prose** by the Rivertown Poets and Storytellers entitled. This collection of writing and artwork by Columbus and Chattahoochee Valley residents was published in 2005 and covers the categories of Columbus as a Rivertown, Family Connections, Random Thoughts, and For the Children. The anthology, edited by Deborah Hawthorne-Tainsh, is also dedicated to the memory of David and Deborah's son, Patrick Tainsh, who died in 2004, serving our country in Iraq. Freddie O'Connor Riley, Jean Copland, Hilde Holmes, Stephen Self, Bob Gross, Deborah Tainsh, and Linda Ames, contributors to this anthology read several poems.

Bob Lynn, Editor of the 2005-2006 GPS anthology, **The Reach of Song**, unveiled the book to the members and presented the Awards of Excellence. First Award went to Mildred Greear for her poem, *Benches*. Second Award went to Terry L. Hensel for his poem, *In the Dark of Morning*. Third place was a tie among three members. They were Ann F. Verner for *Winter Rain*; William G. Griffin for *Fire and Ashes*; and, Peggy Ellington for *Letter I will Never Send*.

Everyone enjoyed lunch at President-elect Ron Self's home in the historic Columbus District after a fun ride in a horse-drawn carriage from the Coca-Cola Space Science Center. Upon returning to the Center, those who remained after the meeting enjoyed an amazing hour's program about the birth of the universe, from the great void through the "Big Bang". It was spectacular.

*(See additional photos, bottom of Page 8.)*



## REACH OF SONG SELLS OUT



The 2005-06 edition of **The Reach of Song**, unveiled in July, sold out. Editor Bob Lynn said a second printing of the newest edition may be *printed if as many as 20 copies are ordered*. To get on the waiting list or to order back issues, write Lynn in care of the Georgia Poetry Society, P. O. Box 2184, Columbus, GA 31902.

Copies of the 2001-02 and 2003-04 are still available at \$5 and \$10 respectively.

The deadline for up to three member poems for the **2006-07 Reach of Song** is February 15, 2007 and may be submitted after Sept. 1, 2006. Please address your correspondence to Bob Lynn at the above address or online at [rllynn@adelphia.net](mailto:rllynn@adelphia.net). **Previously published poems will not be accepted.**

## GPS'S "POETRY IN THE SCHOOLS" PROJECT

Any GPS member who would like read poetry in a school or work with students can contact Jean Mahavier, who heads the Project. Public or private schools or groups of home-schoolers all appreciate our no-charge visits. Please contact Jean by e-mail: [jmaha@bellsouth.net](mailto:jmaha@bellsouth.net) or by telephone, (404) 633-3129.

## GPS MEMBER NEWS

- **Larry Hand**: "No money or publishing credits, but I did get First Honorable Mention in the **Poets' Forum Magazine** for Robert Frost's '*Acquainted with the Night*' Contest with my Terza Rima Sonnet: '*A Sonnet in Bathsheba's Sorrow*'." Congratulations, Larry!
- Congratulations also, to **Jeanne Osborne Shaw** who won the Georgia Senior Poet Laureate Award in a tie of two of her poems in the regional judging of the Senior Poets Laureate National Organization.
- **Tina Simms** says her new book, **A Second Spring**, is hot off the press and ready for you to order; that is, if you like her "*particular brand of outside-the-academic-loop poetry*". Some of the poems are new--like her memorial poem for Coretta Scott King--but most appeared in previous chapbooks. Paperback, 124 pp. Available only on line ([http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore/book\\_detail.asp?isbn=0-595-41101-0](http://www.iuniverse.com/bookstore/book_detail.asp?isbn=0-595-41101-0)).
- **Connie L. Martin** from Riverdale, Georgia went on a Writer's week retreat during September with a friend to St. Maarten to become more organized so that she could "*put my poetry, that I have been writing for years, into booklet form. The current issue of The Reach of Song published one of my poems "The Lippanzoner", which was also published in Japan many years ago by the Abiko Quarterly. Seems to be a favorite with publishers. Hopefully, I will do better at getting some more work out.*"
- **Steven Owen Shields** has a blogspot at <http://stevenowenshields2.blogspot.com/>, entitled **The Daimonion Chronicles**. He invites you to peruse and enjoy his poetry, commentaries and photography. You can leave a note for him to post, as well.
- Poets in the Columbus, Georgia-Phenix City, Alabama area enjoyed an evening of poetry at the Chattahoochee Valley Regional Library on Thursday, September 7. Steven Owen Shields was the featured poet and read from his book, **Daimonion Sonata**. Thank you, Steven; we enjoyed your poetry.

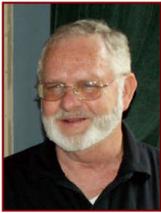
This "Open Mic" event is held the first Thursday evening of each month, hosted by Ron Self. Over 20 attended in September. One young woman had her first opportunity to read her poetry in a public setting and was thrilled to be a part of the evening's activities.

At the end of each Open Mic evening, someone will select the first line of a poem and attendees are encouraged to use that line in a poem of their own. This month, since the Georgia Poetry Society will be visiting Connemara, Carl Sandburg's final home, the assignment was to use the first line from any of Sandburg's poems. A link to several of his first lines can be found at:

<http://www.bartleby.com/231/index3.html>.

## RECOGNIZING OUR GEORGIA POETS

**Larry Elton Hand**, a native of Jeff Davis County, Georgia is the last of four sons born to Carlos Hand and Gertrude Williams Hand. Larry's fraternal and maternal ancestors helped pioneer the Jeff Davis County area, dating back at least to 1820.... During his career, Larry worked public relations and earned numerous awards in writing, editing, layout, and photography. He received the first Michael Graznak Award from the Cooperative Editorial Association (CEA), recognizing him as the most outstanding young communicator of 1977 for U.S. and Canadian cooperative-based businesses. After a two-year period as a freelance writer-photographer, Larry turned to technical writing and wrote computer hardware and software user guides and on-line help systems for Atlanta-area companies.



In late 2001, Larry's first novel, **Whiskers on Pine**, was published; it focuses on a young South Georgia tobacco cropper who faces a serious coming-of-age crisis in 1960 when he thinks he needs to shoot a cousin, which could lead to a bloody family feud. Larry is currently working on his second novel, **The Live Oak**, a story about a tree possessed by the spirit of a slave whose master nailed him to it and left him there to die.

Larry lives in Woodstock, Georgia, with his wife, Midge. They have four adult sons. When he isn't reading or writing, Larry likes to hike, or take long walks through the neighborhood, where it is said he talks to himself a lot. (See Larry's website: <http://www.larryhand.com>.)

**Alice Teeter**, originally from Winter Haven, Florida, began writing poetry when she was in the fourth grade. After college at Florida Presbyterian/Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, she moved to Atlanta -- just for the summer. She says, "What a long strange summer it's been! I have continued writing poetry and working as a graphic production artist and massage therapist, but not in the same place."



Alice now lives in Pine Lake, Georgia, near Stone Mountain and dances and continues to write poetry and plays.

**Ira E. Harrison**, Ph.D., a very prolific poet and storyteller, resides in Atlanta, Georgia. Born in Pennsylvania, he came south to earn several degrees in numerous subjects (Psychology, English and Humanities, Anthropology, Sociology, Education, and Public Health and Behavioral Sciences).



His interest in poetry and writing began early and he won awards in high school and college contests. In the recent past, he won second prize in the Georgia Poetry Society's Langston Hughes Poetry Contest. Ira's poems have appeared in numerous publications. He has published several books: **The Mothers: The Nine Black Mothers** (1998); **Beautiful Black Women**, and **Acts of Joy: The Poetry of a Relationship** (2002); and most recently, **B.A.A.D.: Beautiful African American Daughters** (2005) and **Poetry and Prevention: A Little Ounce is Worth** (2006).

Ira enjoys reading poetry; he has read in a number of Atlanta-area settings. He has served as Judge in the Georgia River of Words Poetry Contest. He has also conducted poetry workshops in and around the southern region. Ira is a member of the Academy of American Poets as well as GPS.

## CONTEST INFORMATION

Deuce Douglass, Contest Chair announced the individuals who will serve as judges for the Georgia Poetry Society poetry contests for 2006-2007. They are:

☛ **Kathryn Stripling Byer** Kathryn Stripling Byer grew up in southwest Georgia, graduated from Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and earned her Master of Fine Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied with Allen Tate, Fred Chappell, and Robert Watson. Her books of poetry include **Catching Light**

(2002); **Black Shawl** (1998); **Wildwood Flower** (1992), which was the 1992 Lamont Poetry Selection of The Academy of American Poets; and **The Girl in the Midst of the Harvest** (1986), which was published in the Associated Writing Programs award series.

Byer's poems have appeared in **Arts Journal**, **Carolina Quarterly**, **Georgia Review**, **Hudson Review**, **Iowa Review**, **Nimrod**, **Poetry**, and **Southern Review**, as well as numerous anthologies. Her essays have appeared in **Bloodroot: Reflections on Place** by Appalachian Women Writers (1998), **Dream Garden: The Poetic Vision of Fred Chappell** (1997), **The Boston Globe**, and **Shenandoah**.

Byer has received writing fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council. She is poet-in-residence at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

☞ **Chris Forhan**: Forhan is an Assistant Professor; he received his MFA from the University of Virginia and MA from the University of New Hampshire. He specializes in poetry and has published two full-length collections, most recently *The Actual Moon*, *The Actual Stars* (2003).

His work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *New England Review*, *DoubleTake*, and other literary magazines, as well as several anthologies of contemporary poetry. He has received the Katherine Bakeless Nason, Samuel French Morse, and Pushcart prizes.

☞ **Paul Allen**: Allen teaches poetry writing and writing song lyrics at The College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina, where he has taught since 1974. Published in numerous journals and anthologies, his work includes **American Crawl** (Vassar Miller Poetry Prize, UNT Press, 1997) and the chapbook, **His Longing: The Small Penis Oratorio** (2005), a sequence of metaphysical conceits. Another poetry collection, **Ground Forces**, is scheduled for 2008 publication with Salmon Publishing Ltd. (Ireland). He has also produced a CD of poems and songs, **The Man with the Hardest Belly**, available on Napster. He is twice recipient of the South Carolina Arts Commission's Individual Artist Fellowship in Poetry.

☞ **Nick Norwood**: Norwood's work has recently appeared in **The Paris Review**, **Southwest Review**, **Pleiades**, and **Ekphrasis**. When Norwood published **A Palace for the Heart** in 2004, he did not know this book of poems would lead him to appear two years later before one of Europe's largest gathering of respected scientists.

Norwood, a Columbus State University English professor, will be featured in a dramatic presentation on his book's subject, King Ludwig II of Bavaria, during the July 15-18 Euroscience Open Forum in Munich. This second annual event is staged and promoted as a science festival to bring together Europe's leading scientists and interested members of the general public. Current issues related to scientific research are presented through exhibitions, symposia, talk shows and cultural events.

*"I'll be performing in a one-act play and reading one of my poems, which has been incorporated into the play,"* Norwood said. Norwood's participation was solicited by one of the forum's organizers, University of London physics professor Jean-Patrick Connerade, who as a poet under the name "Chaunes," wrote the play especially for the event. *"(Connerade) noticed my book when it came out and he's asked me to be in this performance,"* said Norwood, who will be joined on stage by French-German actress Sophie Daull and the French poet Sylvoisal. *"The play is based on an interview with the ghost of Ludwig II, held in a visitation room of 'Purgatory,' and conducted by two biographers. I play 'Biographer Number 1,'"* added Norwood.

The performance will be part of a larger, special panel on Ludwig that Euroscience forum organizers have planned. Ludwig, one of Munich's most famous sons, is known as the "Mad King of Bavaria" for what historians cite as his unrestrained obsession for building extravagant castles during his reign. *"It turns out Ludwig also was interested in science and his famous castles employ what was at the time the very latest in technology,"* said Norwood, who was also invited to a reception on the first evening of the conference for honored guests, including Germany President Horst Kohler.

Norwood's appearance at the forum, coincidentally, will represent a break from a June 22-July 26 study abroad program in which he will teach literature at Schwabisch Gmund, Germany.

Norwood joined the CSU faculty in 2002 and teaches a variety of writing classes. A 2006 CSU Educator of the Year finalist, he has published a second poetry book, **The Soft Blare**, and has additional works in progress including two novels and a collection of short stories.

*(Continued on Page 8, See **Judges**)*

## New Member Application Georgia Poetry Society

Georgia Poetry Society dues are \$30 annually for individual members on a fiscal year basis running from June 30 to June 30. Persons joining after April 1st will be credited as members for the following fiscal year without any additional dues. A family membership, limited to parents and dependent children residing in the same household, is available for \$40.00. Student and active duty military memberships are available for \$15.00. Life memberships are currently \$300.00.

NOTE: The information you provide here may be included in a directory of members circulated to members of the Georgia Poetry Society. Do not include any information you do not want included in the directory.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or P.O. Box: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Office or Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print very carefully): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your hometown newspaper (to be used for press release):

If this is an application for family membership, please list the other family members who will be included in this membership:

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On the back of this form list publications in which your work has appeared, if any, and any prizes you have won or any significant activities as a poet.

How did you hear about the Georgia Poetry Society?

Type of Membership: ( ) Individual \$30.00 ( ) Family \$40.00 ( ) Life \$300.00

( ) Student \$15.00 ( ) Military \$15.00

If you are joining as a student, please list your age \_\_\_\_\_,  
the name of your school \_\_\_\_\_ and your grade \_\_\_\_\_.

Volunteer: I would like to help GPS with \_\_\_\_\_.

To join: Complete this form, enclose your check in the proper amount, and mail to Georgia Poetry Society, P. O. Box 2184, Columbus, GA 31902.

<b>From:</b> <b>Georgia Poetry Society</b> <b>PO Box 2184</b> <b>Columbus, GA 31902</b>  Email: <a href="mailto:georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com">georgiapoetrysociety@yahoo.com</a> URL: <a href="http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/">http://www.georgiapoetrysociety.org/</a>	<b>To:</b>
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**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

*Ron Self (President); PO Box 751, Columbus, Georgia 31902; [SBRWS@aol.com](mailto:SBRWS@aol.com), (706) 221-4370*

*Freddie O'Connor Riley (Webmaster): [Combak1@wmconnect.com](mailto:Combak1@wmconnect.com)*

*Linda Ames (Editor, GPS Newsletter): 4816 Saint Francis Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31904; [liam0439@yahoo.com](mailto:liam0439@yahoo.com)*

**Judges** (Continued from Page 6)

✦ **Tony Morris:** Morris, a North Carolina native, spent his childhood in the Appalachia Mountains of North Georgia and Eastern Kentucky. Much of his poetry and fiction reflects this region's influence on his imagination. He moved to California in his early teens, then returned to North Carolina in his early twenties, where he has spent the past 25 years of his life. Until his mid-30s, Morris worked a series of odd jobs (bicycle repairman, window glazier, encyclopedia salesman) and ended up spending the last ten years as a machine operator in a paper factory before he started writing.

In 1992, Morris quit the factory job, started to college, and found a life in journalism. He began writing poetry in 1995, and decided to apply to a writing program to allow himself more time to work on his creative writing. He earned a Ph.D. in English from Florida State University, and currently works at Armstrong-Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA where he teaches composition and journalism courses, and serves as Managing Editor of Southern Poetry Review.

Morris's first book of poems, **Fugue's End** (2004) won the 2004 Mary Belle Campbell Poetry Book Award; his most recent book is, **Back to Cain**, published in 2005. Morris's poems have been awarded the Louisiana Literature Poetry Prize, and the Tennessee Writers Alliance Poetry Award; and, have 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**, to name a few.

Other notables regarding contests:

- Please pass the word to all Georgia Poets. The NFSPS rules for 2007 are now displayed through the following link: [http://www.nfsps.com/poetry\\_contests.htm](http://www.nfsps.com/poetry_contests.htm). The newest Strophes newsletter is also available through the same site. By the way, the Georgia Poetry Society contest is now Contest Number 4.
- Due to a very limited number of votes and the large number of suggested names for the re-naming of the GPS newsletter, there were no winners. Thank you to those who participated with suggestions and votes.



William G. Griffith

Keith Badowski

Terry L. Hensel

Mildred Greear

Mary Frances

Colette Paul