

Georgia Poetry Society



Poetry News tells of local and national poetry-related events.

Meet Your New Board Member offers a brief introduction to new board members.

Mark your calendars for the Winter Quarterly meeting on January 14th



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2023 OFFICERS

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2023 BOARD

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Sheema Kalbasi

Sharon Schroeder

Elizabeth Van Deusen

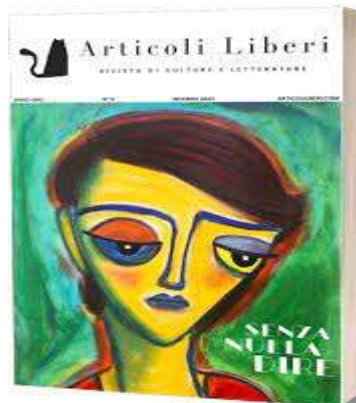
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, everyone!

It is an exciting time to be a member of the Georgia Poetry Society! We have been working with poets and the poetry communities in Augusta, Savannah and Macon. We are forging a collaboration with Melodically Challenged Radio Show to showcase the poetry of our members. Our social media channels are up and running. Check them out and join at least one.



I am excited to announce three of my poems were translated from English to Italian and have been published this month.



<https://articoliliberi.com/autori/>

We look forward to seeing you on January 14th at our quarterly meeting at Agnes Scott College!

Lucinda Clark, President

POETRY NEWS

Nationally . . .

The Letter Review Team announced their Prizes for Poetry, Short Stories and Flash Fiction are now open with a total Prize pool of \$2400 USD.

Results of the last round of prizes can be accessed online:

<https://letterreview.com/10-2/>

There is also a new Writers and Readers Comments/Testimonials section with some exciting commentary from the community: <https://letterreview.com/comments/>
Writers from all over the world are welcome to submit their works. All entries will be considered for publication. There are no restrictions on genre, subject, theme or style. Consult the Letter Review website for complete guidelines.

The Letter Review Prize for Poetry

Name: Letter Review Prize for Poetry

Prizes: \$800 USD total prize pool. First Prize is \$400 USD and publication, Second Prize is \$250 USD and publication, Third Prize is \$150 USD and publication

Entry Fee: \$15 USD for one poem, \$25 for two, and \$30 for three. You may enter as many poems as you wish.

Opens: Now.

Deadline: 28th February 2023 11:59 pm (ET).

Length: Each individual poem should not exceed 70 lines.

Further Details: <https://letterreview.com/information/>

Email Address: mail@letterreview.com

Write up: Letter Review is offering \$800 USD total prize pool (and publication) in the Letter Review Prize for Poetry for poems of not more than 70 lines. There are no subject or style restrictions. First Prize is \$400 USD and publication at Letter Review. Second Prize is \$250 USD and publication. Third Prize is \$150 USD and publication. Twenty entries will be Longlisted.

The Letter Review Prize for Short Stories

Name: Letter Review Prize for Short Stories

Prizes: \$1000 USD total prize pool. First Prize is \$600 USD and publication, Second Prize is \$250 USD and publication, Third Prize is \$150 USD and publication.

Entry Fee: \$20 USD for one story, \$35 for two and \$45 for three. You may enter as many times as you wish.

Opens: Now.

Deadline: 28th February 2023 11:59 pm (ET).

Length: 1000 - 3000 words.

Further Details: <https://letterreview.com/information/>

Email Address: mail@letterreview.com

Write up: Letter Review is offering \$1000 USD total prize pool (and publication) in the Letter Review Prize for Short Stories between 1000 - 3000 words. First Prize is \$600 USD and publication at Letter Review. Second Prize is \$250 USD and publication. Third Prize is \$150 USD and publication. Twenty entries will be Longlisted.

The Letter Review Prize for Flash Fiction**Name:** Letter Review Prize for Flash Fiction**Prizes:** \$600 USD total prize pool. First Prize is \$300 USD and publication, Second Prize is \$200 USD and publication, Third Prize is \$100 USD and publication.**Entry Fee:** \$10 USD for one story, \$18 for two, and \$25 for three. You may enter as many times as you wish.**Opens:** Now.**Deadline:** 28th February 2023 11:59 pm (ET).**Length:** Up to 1000 words.**Further Details:** <https://letterreview.com/information/>**Email Address:** mail@letterreview.com**Write up:** Letter Review is offering \$600 USD total prize pool (and publication) in the Letter Review Prize for Flash Fiction for stories up to 1000 words. First Prize is \$300 USD and publication at Letter Review. Second Prize is \$200 USD and publication. Third Prize is \$100 USD and publication. Twenty entries will be Longlisted.**Locally ...**

In case you missed it, **El Gusanito Book Festival**, sponsored by Nury Castillo Crawford's multilingual shop, [THE little BOOK SPOT](#), was held in Plaza Las Americas of Lilburn, Georgia, on December 3 and 4, 2022.

The Georgia Poetry Society had the opportunity to network with other local writers and poets. The bilingual festival gave us exposure to a diverse audience. Plaza Las Americas was the perfect setting for outreach. There was dancing, poetry reading as well as a round circle reading for children.

GPS member Randy Mazie had two family-oriented children's poetry books published this past year. The series is titled [Itches Inside My Head](#), Volumes I and II.

College students illustrated both volumes. Many of the illustrations in the second volume were created by a student from the art department at Georgia's Young Harris College.

MEMBERS, SEND ME YOUR NEWS!**Remember, the deadline for inclusion in the****Spring 2023 newsletter is March 12th.****email: newsletter@georgiapoetrysociety.org**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



GPS QUARTERLY MEETING



LUCHSINGER LOUNGE
-
ALSTON STUDENT CENTER

www.GeorgiaPoetrySociety.com

Visit our website for the Zoom link and more info!



Welcome, all! Come, Friends and Neighbors!

GPS Quarterly Meetings are open to all who are interested, though youngsters under the age of 18 years must be accompanied by an adult.

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYufuqoqTsrH911Sa-xlkLZo14ZqiA_nfS7

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meet Your New Board Member . . .

Sheema Kalbasi is an Iranian-born American poet and filmmaker whose work focuses on human rights, freedom of expression, feminism and refugees. She will serve as the Education Chair of the GPS. Let us get to know Sheema with a Q&A session.



E: *Through your experience with the Charter for Compassion, do you believe poetry transcends culture or does it define culture?*

S: I believe poetry can both define culture and transcend it. Poetry thrives in vagueness and metaphor. The poet tells things she cannot directly describe in words or rather finds too painful to do so. Poetry unpacks complex emotions, which different cultures and languages express differently-- or not at all-- into their basic universally comprehensible building blocks.

E: *As Education Chair, do you have plans for new or different involvement for GPS members?*

S: What I would like to include is to have poetry workshops on a national and international level so poets from around the United States and the globe can present their work at GPS. I would also like GPS to connect with the GenZ audience through workshops, lectures, contests and others. Last, but not least, I would like to use this opportunity to raise awareness about the unfolding events in Iran which many call a first women-led revolution.

E: *Of all your poetry, what one piece best defines you?*

S: Each of my poems represents a piece of me, my experiences, and my feelings at the time. My poem "The Passenger" represents me as someone who was not born in the United States but came here as an immigrant. The poem was selected and performed at Tribute World Trade Center, NY, by invitation in 2008.

E: *What would you like GPS members to know about you?*

S: I am very passionate about human rights.

E: *What is your favorite quote?*

S: "Be happy for this moment. This moment is your life."

-Ommar Khayyam (18 May 1048 - 4 December 1131) Persian poet and mathematician



From the Editor's Desk . . .

Poetry is multigenerational. Think, for a moment, of the first time you heard a poem recited. For most, I imagine it was in the form of a nursery rhyme. Or perhaps it was a clever mnemonic taught by an older sibling. And so we believe poetry to be a rhyming, sing-song way of telling a tale or describing Nature.

Then we later learn the rhyming style and predictable meter are really devices to help us pass information from one generation to the next. So we study epic poems—*Beowulf*, *The Argonautica*, *The Odyssey*—and marvel that generations before us committed these works to memory. In a largely illiterate society, memorization and recitation are essential skills. Without the oral tradition, these epic tales may have been lost.

Centuries passed, literacy spread, the human mind expanded. Young students are taught to read words on a page (or screen). Teachers introduce poetry in literature class. But is it enough? As I considered the journey from oral tradition to the written word, I wondered about the role of poetry in society today. Have we sufficiently instilled an appreciation of poetry? The answer came to me a resounding “YES!”

Opportunities abound for students interested in exploring their poetic natures. The Georgia Poetry Society has been involved in many such projects: poetry in the schools, poetry contests, student poetry readings, even workshops geared toward young writers. I am encouraged by these endeavors.

Keep reaching out and reaching up. As always, if there's an item you'd like to see in the newsletter—an article, write-up or special feature— send me an email. I welcome your suggestions.

Laurie Jones, Newsletter Editor

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